

**State Tribal Economic Development Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES \*DRAFT\***  
**August 6, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Shawn Real Bird- Chairman (Crow Tribe), Richard Sangrey-Vice Chairman (Chippewa Cree Tribe), Jason Smith (Director of Indian Affairs), Andy Poole (Montana Department of Commerce), Mike Fox (Fort Belknap Indian Community), Terry Pitts (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Cheryl Reevis (Blackfeet Tribe), Rodney Miller (Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes, Liz Ching (Governor's Office of Economic Development), Delina Cuts the Rope (Fort Belknap Indian Community)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Representative Lea Whitford (HD16 & Blackfeet Planning), Rhonda Fenner (Governor's Office of Indian Affairs), Trudi Skari (Montana Department of Administration, Montana Broadband Program), Philip Belangie (Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Indian Equity Fund)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Heather Sobrepena-George

**WELCOME/PURPOSE OF GATHERING:** Commence at 9:20am. Chairman Shawn Real Bird; Prayer Richard Sangrey.

Quorum established: 9 voting members present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none

**APPROVAL OF JULY 25, 2013 MINUTES AND ACTIONS THEREON:**

*Motion made by Richard Sangrey to adopt the July 25, 2013 meeting minutes after taking out the title of "Dr." in front of Terry Brockie's name. Seconded by Mike Fox. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.*

**REPORTS:**

- 1) **STEDC Budget-** Heather presented the proposed SFY 2014 STEDC and Montana Indian Language Preservation Pilot Program budget. In the STEDC budget there is approximately \$70,000 in personal services and \$30,000 in the operating expenses. It was also noted that \$36,000 was deposited into the Commission's special revenue account as matching funds for the 2017 Indian Equity Fund. A handout was included in the packets showing the current contributions and future contribution scenarios for each tribal government.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Indian Equity Fund (SFY 2014 Guidelines)**

*Motion made by Andy Poole that each tribal government, including the Little Shell Tribe can award up to a total of \$14,000 of Indian Equity Fund to eligible applicants from their reservation or Little Shell community. Second Richard Sangrey. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.*

*Motion made by Mike Fox to fund a best practices conference with each tribal government's small business technical assistance provider at the same time as STED Commission meeting, by dropping off the two off-reservation grants totaling \$14,000. The technical assistance providers would come back to the STEDC with input of best practices. Seconded by Cheryl Reevis. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.*

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*Motion made by Jason Smith motion to have Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Browning host the STEDC/ Technical Assistance conference. Seconded by Mike Fox. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.*

*Motion made by Jason Smith to approve a higher ranking for applications that may have higher leverage including debt or equity as part of match. In addition this activity will increase awareness, support, and utilization of lending from financial institutions, especially Native Community Development Financial Institutions, tribal revolving loan funds, available credit programs, and banks. Those applications which have a higher leverage to grant match ratio will rank higher than applications that do not have leverage. Seconded by Mike Fox. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.*

*Motion by Richard Sangrey to recommend that the following criteria be added for those applicants that have received previous awards:*

- *Different collateral or leverage,*
- *New technology,*
- *A new product or line of products,*
- *A new service or services.*

*Seconded by Terry Pitts. All in favor. Motion passes.*

Additional changes to the Indian Equity Fund:

- 1) Application Submission Procedures- The amount of submitted applications would decrease from three copies to one copy. An email (vs. regular mail) submission option would be added.
- 2) Application Schedule:

APPLICATION SCHEDULE	DATES	FUTURE
TA Best Practices Conference Schedule	Sept to Oct	As needed
Application Period	August ??-Oct 31	These dates need to be moved up so that everything is contracted and underway by the time Legislature convenes.
Program Review	Nov 30, 2013	
Local & State Committee Review	Dec 31, 2013	
Director Review and Approval	Jan 14, 2014	
Contracting	After Jan 14, 2014	

Note: Commissioners would like to see potential changes or documentation to review or present to their respective councils and programs prior to the meeting. If necessary send documents twice and follow-up with a phone call to assure receipt of documents for review.

**LUNCH**

**EXECUTIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION:**

It was decided that the Commission would postpone strategic planning until the technical assistance best practices conference so that individuals could attend the TERO roundtable coinciding with the Native American Development Corporation Economic Development Conference. Some ideas were touched on including:

- Legislative Strategy-

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- Concern over preserving the priority tribal government portion of the ICED funds (questioning of competitive process, data-employment results, perception of set-aside for tribal governments, accountability)
- Show a return on investment of this biennium's appropriation: Having project managers present and showcase supported businesses to the Legislature
- Education of Legislature: Identifying barriers, demonstrating the economic condition on reservations, documenting the unmet need. Rather than pursue \$800,000, ask for \$5 million.
- Partner with other entities and stakeholders to leverage & legitimize ICED activities-- perform an impact study of the ICED funds and the economic situation on each reservation by working with colleges or other external entities to lend credibility, rather than just the tribes and ICED telling their own story.
- Small Business Success-
  - Identify barriers- funding, lack of commercial business locations and spaces for rent, need for more technical assistance

**CLOSE/ADJOURN:** *Motion made by Richard Sangrey to adjourn the meeting at 2pm?. Seconded by Mike Fox. All in favor. Unanimous approval.*