

ATTENDEES:

Present:

Shawn Real Bird, Chairman, Crow (Apsaalooke) rep.
Russell Boham, Little Shell Chippewa rep.
Caroline Brown, Fort Belknap rep.
Jennifer Perez Cole, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs rep.
Ronald 'Smiley' Kittson, Blackfeet rep.
Jerry Lamb, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity rep.
E.T. 'Bud' Moran, Confederated Salish & Kootenai alternate rep.
Andy Poole, Dept. of Commerce rep.
Heather Sobrepeña-George, staff

Absent:

Lawrence 'Jace' Killsback (unexcused)
Rodney Miller (excused)
Richard Sangrey (excused)

Public:

Rep. Shannon Augare, Rural Dynamics, Incorporated
Tina Begay, American Indian Business Leaders National
Philip Belangie, Dept. of Commerce
Emmie Davis Bird, Blackfeet
Turk Cobell, Native American Tribal Energy Co.
Lesia Evers, Dept. of Commerce/ Indian Country Economic Development Program Manager
Joe Fox, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council member
Adam Gill, Rural Dynamics, Incorporated
Karen Heisler, Rural Dynamics, Incorporated
Paul McEvers, Blackfeet Council member
Wayne McFarland, Native American Tribal Energy Co.
Terry L. Pitts, Flathead (Confederated Salish & Kootenai council member
Roger Running Crane, Blackfeet Council member
Judith Spang, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council member
Maxine Spang, Northern Cheyenne Natural Resources Board
Theodora Strong, Native American Tribal Energy Co.
Michael Sweeney, Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance
Ted White, Bresnan Communications
Sue Woodrow, Federal Reserve Bank
Scott Cromwell, 360 Architecture
Marina Little, 360 Architecture

WELCOME/ PURPOSE OF GATHERING – *Shawn Real Bird*

Discussion: (9:10am) Shawn Real Bird asked if we could add Sue Woodrow of the Federal Reserve Bank to the agenda to relay information on the final phase of implementation of the Secured Transaction Act for the Crow. The commission agreed to add Sue Woodrow to the agenda.

OPENING – *STEDC Member*

Discussion: (9:05) Russell Boham called the meeting to order and opened the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: Smiley Kittson thanked the staff for putting on the Tribal Leaders Summit and introduced his council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION THEREON- *Shawn Real Bird*

Approval of minutes from 11/06/07 meeting:

Discussion: None

Motion made by Andy Poole to approve the minutes from the November 2007 State Tribal Economic Development Commission meeting. Seconded by Jerry Lamb.

Vote order:
Unanimous

The Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance- *Michael Sweeney*

Discussion: Michael Sweeney, a board member at large for the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance presented on behalf of the MTTA board. The 10 active board members (with each tribe represented) have assumed the key coordinator responsibilities, since Dyani Bingam has left the alliance. The board has proposed to continue with the 2-day Tourism Training Blitz with 6 major speakers and 2-3 tourism business owners from each reservation to be held at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls. The \$16,000 budget still stands and the itinerary is the same as in the original proposal.

Question (CB) How do you plan to market so that enough people know about it?

Ans. A board member represents each reservation and is responsible for finding 3 individuals each from their reservation for the training. There is no fee to attend (travel stipends for attendants are available). The bulk of attendants will come through the tribal reps. Little Shell via James Parker Shield will also be soliciting 2-3 tourism business owners also. Nothing has been posted yet because the funding is not in place.

Question (CB)- Can the training take more than 2-3 attendants per reservation?

Ans. - As long as the total number doesn't go beyond economic scope of budget for training. In MTTA's experience, it has been hard to even get these numbers.

Question (JPC)- Please clarify portions of the budget; there is \$6,000 honorarium for instructors in addition to \$3,000 for travel at a total of \$9,000. This is a significant portion of the budget, isn't this rather high?

Ans. The per diem and mileage at \$3,000 is high because the price of gas and the quality of presenters (i.e. Curley Bear Wagner).

Question (JPC)- If the budget were to be more balanced, could more slots be made available for participants?

Ans. More funding needs to be in travel stipends for participants- possibly a \$250 per participant upgrade. MTTA is having a meeting on April 25th in Great Falls, he (Sweeney) will present this option.

Question (JL) What is the date of the training?

Ans. June 3rd & 4th- (date already confirmed with the facility and partners). The date has been tentatively discussed with instructors and participants. The workshops will take place at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, and a "how-to" guided tour coach will take people to the 1st People's Buffalo Jump.

Question (SRB)- Dyani said that there would be other grant funds and in-kind for this project. What are they?

Ans. Financial partners are the state (\$50,000 to tribal tourism projects on each reservation), operational support from Montana Parks Challenge, and G&G Advertising with the *Seven Lodges*

Visitor Guide. A National Parks Service grant is about 2/3rds utilized (printing of 7LV guide). Also, MTTA has a draft agreement with Montana Travel for the Tribal Ambassador Trainings.

Question (SRB)- What type of stability can you provide since Dyani Bingam, the Executive Director is gone?

Ans. Henry Thompson, the secretary treasurer oversees the funding.

Question (JL)- Do you have enough time to put the conference on without a coordinator?

Ans. For 3 years MTTA has focused on the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, the board knew that after the bicentennial, they would move into tribal tourism training. All the board members would step up. Michael Sweeney chairs the committee that would be putting the training on.

Question (SK)- Dyani's presentation said that the trainings would start in spring on individual reservations, [does] this proposal bypass the important months to train on each reservation for this tourism season?

Ans.- The STEDC funded workshop was originally planned for April and then moved to June. The other individual workshops would have to be conducted after the initial workshop over summer. Another option would be to partner with the Travel Montana Workshops that are going to each reservation and hire a consulting firm or organization to conduct the individual tourism trainings. For example, Major Robinson (N. Cheyenne) has a consulting business that helps develop tribal businesses. His operating entity is a prime example that could put the training on.

Question (JPC) Are you referencing Major Robinson's private business or the work he does through the non-profits he's associated with?

Ans.- It would be through Major Robinson's private business with his wife.

Question (SRB)- What is the guarantee that if Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance were to go defunct due to lack of funding and leadership, the STED commission could defend it's action of having supported MTTA?

Ans. Michael Sweeney personally can guarantee that MTTA will follow through with the training.

Question (SRB)- The intent of the commission is to service all Indians on all reservations. Even if every tribal tourism person attending this training had materials, it would not maximize services to Indian country. How can you maximize the training and outreach to tribes by summertime?

Ans. The *Seven Lodges Visitor Guide* will be distributed before summer. The training will be done for summer. ITRR (?) is conducting surveys on the reservation, evaluating the interest in travel to reservations. There's a concentration of effort to develop tribal tourism in Montana that is led by Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance. No other organization is combining the evaluation of tribal tourism, training for it and promoting it.

Question (SRB) Who is the interim director?

Ans.- No coordinator will be hired until fall. Michael Sweeney is the one responsible for seeing the training through and it is currently not requiring a full-time position.

Question (SRB)- As stated by Caroline Brown, how do we get the tourism services to the tribal members that need it the most? We don't want to delay these services.

Ans.- MTTA couldn't put together a workshop on every reservation before summer.

Question (SK)- Doesn't it makes more sense to have higher contact with individuals on each reservation, rather than 2 to 3 representative businesses from each reservation? The main objective of the training, per Dyani, was to go to each reservation by spring and that is why he [Smiley] supported it.

Ans- This training has been developed further, as far as funding and planning, than the Travel MT, Tribal Ambassador individual workshops. If this proposal were not approved, then MTTA would move forward with Travel Montana to do the individual Tribal Ambassador workshops.

Question (SRB) Asked Michael if he would like to leave while the commission discussed MTTA's proposal.

Ans. Yes.

Further Discussion COMMENTS:

- **LOCALITY/TRAINING ON RESERVATIONS:** It's more important to have trainings on each reservation to reach more people. For trainings to take place on each reservation is better than in Great Falls. If we believe tourism training on reservation should be a focus, then the Great Falls location is not ideal. The funding could meet more people on the reservation. The trainings would be more effective if they broke out into Indian country.
- **BUDGET:** Concern about budget- the training looks very pricey.

TRIBAL AMBASSADORS TRAINING: Can we use the funds to support on-reservation training that will occur already with MTTA and Travel Montana? If we could support the Travel Montana and MTTA Tribal Ambassadors endeavor, how would that occur? Should we revisit funding this organization in the next fiscal year? If we were to fund a venture with Travel Montana, it should be put forth in a proposal.

- **CAPACITY:** The issue is that the presentation the commission originally voted on to fund was presented by an executive director who was the driving force of the organization. The training will not have the same impact without her. Board members filling in administrative functions do not usually meet the capacity and needs of an organization. There have been no assurances heard today that make one believe otherwise. Dyani did a lot of groundwork for these trainings, is the intent of the trainings the same as she had presented? The issue is there is no executive director. As a commission, we are burdening MTTA's board members to be accountable for this training and they are not paid to do this work. Also, do they have enough funding to get through the entire year and does that affect the viability of this organization? How can they meet the priorities that were stated in proposal?

Motion made by Russell Boham to rescind the \$16,000 due to the significant change in the scope of the original proposal due to resignation of Dyani Bingam. Seconded by Jennifer Perez Cole.

Vote order:

Shawn Real Bird	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bud Moran	Abstain
Russell Boham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Smiley Kittson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jerry Lamb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andy Poole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer P Cole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Caroline Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Approval of minutes from 02/20/08 meeting


Discussion: None

Motion made by Andy Poole to approve the February 2008 State Tribal Economic Development Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by Jennifer Perez-Cole.

Vote order:

Unanimous

REPORTS- Heather Sobrepena-George

 **Fiscal Report:** Approximately \$45,000 remain between the 515005 and 515008 funds that need to be committed prior to the next fiscal year.

Jennifer Perez-Cole made a motion to expend the remaining \$45,000 by dividing the remaining funding equally among those tribes applying (for up to \$10,000) via application by close of business on May 30, 2008 with a requirement that a final report be submitted for any outstanding FY07 \$4,900 STEDC grant. Seconded by Russell Boham.

Vote order:

Unanimous

Further discussion: Heather will draft a letter from the commission detailing the available funds and requirements to be sent to the tribal chairs and the STEDC members.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Internal Management Procedures- Heather Sobrepena-George

Discussion: Not discussed.

Vote order:

No action taken

First People Youth Entrepreneurship Camp Follow-up-Adam Gill & Rep. Augare & K. Heisler

Discussion: The commission has already received the original proposal. Staff, selection committee, selection criteria, budget, University of Great Falls full ride tuition scholarship commitment and application are outlined in the new information with attached resumes of camp facilitators. It is Rural Dynamics, Inc. hope that the elements of this camp can be replicated in subsequent years in camps that occur in each tribal community. Experts in the field have designed the camp according to the best practices available at this time. Rural Dynamics has been able to secure 20 full tuition scholarships to the University of Great Falls for the 20 youth participants. Partners include MIBA, the Dept. of Commerce, the University of Great Falls, the UGH Students in Free Enterprise, and Rural Dynamics Incorporated who all advised in the design and planning of the camp. A contribution of \$16,000 to the camp from the STED commission would be matched by the in-kind contribution of the partners' planning and camp design, a W.K. Kellogg grant as well as full tuition scholarships for successful participants. Regarding the budget (Adam Gill) the costs allocated to transportation scholarships, lodging and food ensure that there is no cost to the students for this camp. The largest line item is food because it is the most costly item (3 meals/day + snacks for 20 students and instructors for 6 days). A larger cost than anticipated for facilitator occurred because the selection committee chose all three facilitators rather than

just one.

Question (AP) - Please talk about the work of the committee that employs best practices for this type of youth entrepreneurship.

Ans. Participants from each tribe were invited to a series of facilitated meetings. The facilitation process covered main topics of interest for tribal youth entrepreneurship and then was broken down into subsections. From that facilitated process and identification of key components and subcomponents, each day and activity of the camp was planned.

Question (RB) - You're asking \$16,000 from the STED commission. Where's the remainder of funding coming from?

Ans. W.K. Kellogg foundation.

Question (CB) - How will the participation from each reservation be handled for the students?

Ans. Two youth from each tribal community, including Little Shell and urban Indian representatives will be represented. Two slots will be left over for at-large placements for outstanding students.

Question (SRB) – Would the commission like to table any motion on the proposal until all funding requests are heard?

Ans. Yes

Motion made by Smiley Kittson to support the Rural Dynamic Inc. First People Youth Entrepreneurship proposal at \$16,000. Seconded by Caroline Brown.

Vote order:

Shawn Real Bird	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bud Moran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Russell Boham	Abstain
Smiley Kittson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jerry Lamb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andy Poole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer P Cole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Caroline Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further Discussion: Russell Boham made a motion to strongly recommend to the Montana Indian Business Alliance (MIBA) and their agents to establish a legitimate organization prior to any further requests for funding from the State Tribal Economic Development Commission. Seconded by Andy Poole. Also Bud recommended that camps like this that deal with tribal youth also need to work with tribal colleges and the state university system.

Vote order:

Unanimous

 STEDC Statutory Requirements (2/20/08 recommendations follow-up)- HSG

Discussion: Heather pointed out the different versions of a state funding form (versions 1 through 3) included in meeting packets that range from basic to detailed information. These forms will be given to state agencies for each program that potentially provides assistance to tribes. The hope is to develop a reference for tribes to more easily access state programs and funding, similar to the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*, at a state level. The commission will look over the forms and give feedback at the next meeting.

Vote order:

No action taken

Bresnan Update- Ted White

Discussion: Ted White would like to know how the commission and the tribes would like the information presented to them. Information contained in the individual reports contains proprietary information about fiber to home (not hub) design and tribes may want to keep that information confidential. Ted could give a generic update of project status to the commission with more detailed information to tribal council/project coordinators. The commission concurred with this two-fold update approach. In regards to the status of the walk outs- both Northern Cheyenne and Crow have been completed. Judy Spang expressed concern that the Northern Cheyenne Council is not aware of any Bresnan walk-out because the Northern Cheyenne commission member has not presented information on this project to the council or the people. Proprietary information is important to the Northern Cheyenne and should be shared with the council. Ted White showed a generic map of fiber design for Northern Cheyenne and Crow which will switch out into Billings. Ft. Belknap, Ft. Peck, Chippewa Cree and Blackfeet will switch out into Great Falls. CSKT will switch out into Missoula. Ted inquired after a letter of intent from CSK tribal council- a letter of intent from CSKT hasn't been sent to Ted, but has been verbally committed. Bud will follow-up with Loren Peterson (CSKT point of contact) and council to make sure that a letter gets to Ted. Andy Poole clarified that the source of the money for these individual walk-out/feasibility assessments are only available through the Certified Regional Development Corporations and the Big Sky Trust Fund. In order to get for the money, the CRDC has to apply for it. Therefore, the appropriate CRDC should be at the meetings between the tribe(s) and Ted White because they are the third party who will be applying for the funds.

Question (CB) - Have you gotten a letter from Ft. Belknap? Who is the point of contact for Ft. Belknap? Caroline has briefly informed the council of the project however is there any other information that can be shared with council and appropriate individuals?

Ans. Jerry Lamb and Ted have been working on a contact. Ted will email the Bresnan presentation to Caroline and she can share it with council. Ted and Caroline will set up a time for Ted to come present to the Ft. Belknap council.

Vote order:

No action taken

Further Discussion: Ted informed the commission that if anyone knows of individuals interested in communications, Bresnan has the Emma Bowen foundation which is for minority interests, has a 2-4 year internship program specifically for minority interests. Also, Bresnan in partnership with the Small Business Development Corporation can help with advertising.

12:00 WORKING LUNCH

NEW BUSINESS

Native American Tribal Energy Corporation (NATEC)- Turk Cobell, & Wayne McFarland

Discussion: NATEC is native owned company that has been in operation for 1.5 years. NATEC is a partner with Admiral Energy. NATEC's mission is to assist tribes in developing a sustainable economy through energy development. The Montana region has some of the best wind potential and a supportive governor whose vision is clean/green/sustainable energy development. NATEC and tribes' cultural views of the land are synonymous with renewable/green energy development. Financing, tribal ownership, stable tribal government, purchasing power and transmission are all hurdles of energy development that NATEC can help individual tribes overcome. NATEC's model is 100% tribal ownership by tribe. Changes

in tribal government are dealt with as necessary. Alternative energy development is an economic engine that is almost assured success. NATEC has some creative ways to assist in the power purchasing process to ensure power buyer(s). Also, NATEC as a negotiator can bring an understanding of tribal governance and sustainability to the entire process. NATEC's tribal energy development model brings high-tech employment opportunities to tribes. Energy usage can also be assessed. NATEC's engineering firm brings \$1B in revenue in energy infrastructure development to the table. Energy projects vary from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal or traditional- from the resource assessment, permitting, and environmental assessment to a fully functioning power generation plant. Montana has enormous potential for coal development. NATEC considers every aspect of clean coal development, including carbon sequestration because at some point coal is going to be burned and give off excess carbon. NATEC has coal, carbon sequestration, natural gas, and gas turbine projects are all underway across the US. Construction revenues are \$550 M (through partnership). Bonding capacity for NATEC projects is due to the partnership with Admiral Energy.

Question (CB) Does NATEC review prior energy development feasibility studies and is there a cost?

Ans. - A preliminary assessment probably would not cost, because NATEC's goal is to do the development/project.

Questions (RB) - You referred to a stable tribal government, what's your definition?

Ans. A council capable of making a decision and a process that ensures continuity.

Question (SRB) - Is there a possibility to meet with tribes such as Northern Cheyenne and councils (e.g. William WalksAlong who was unable to attend this meeting) who may be interested in clean energy development.

Ans. NATEC can get to each tribal community in Montana if the tribes are interested.

Question (Judy Spang) - A waiver of sovereign immunity is a concern for the Northern Cheyenne. The council won't move forward on projects that require a waiver of sovereign immunity, what does NATEC do in that kind of scenario? Northern Cheyenne is very cautious about having potential developers present to tribal council (who are the representatives of the people), because any kind of development is a decision of the people and the development companies present at the request of council, not vice versa. On a recent ballot decision, the Northern Cheyenne people voted for energy development, but on that same ballot, they voted against coal bed methane development. Not all tribes are going to embrace energy development in the same way because all tribes are different.

Ans. Sovereign immunity is a separate issue than Universal Commercial Code (UCC) or Secured Transaction Act development. NATEC won't ask a tribe to waive their sovereign immunity. NATEC will come and present if they are asked.

Vote order:

No action taken

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame- Scott Cromwell & Marina Little

Discussion: Scott Cromwell and Marina Little gave a presentation on the *Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame*. The site is located in Wolf Point. The design team is composed of all Montana businesses except for the exhibit designers. There are no native firms working on the project. The *Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame* wants to get as much information as possible from the tribes. The project is divided into 12 districts headed by 12 trustees that are gathering historical information from their region. How can 360 architecture make contact

with the tribes to get their cowboy, rodeo'ing, parading, traditional Indian games and oral histories included in the exhibit material? There is potential for great input by Indian rodeo'ers and professional/world class Indian cowboys who are local heroes and legends whose stories aren't told at other venues, who need to be acknowledged. Also, there is a cultural component of Indian cowboys that need to be preserved. Either 360 Architecture or district trustees can be contacted with any information or potential contacts. The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame is continually taking nominations for induction into the hall. Council committees that handle tribal rodeo events are good tribal points of contact. Smiley Kittson (Blackfeet) and Terry Pitts (Confederated Salish and Kootenai) offered to work with 360 Architecture on gathering Indian cowboy information for their tribes. The Coordinator of Indian Affairs offered to gather tribal rodeo committee information and pass it onto 360 Architecture.

Vote order:

No action taken

Youth Entrepreneurship Program/American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL)- Tina Begay

Discussion: Tina Begay presented a proposal asking for support and expansion of materials and chapters for AIBL. AIBL has been in operation for 10 years. The bulk of the proposal is to redesign chapter materials for younger grades so that they are school policy and procedure compliant, and to do two site visits per school. Currently AIBL can serve 200 students; this proposal would add 100 students to serve 300 annually. The budget is for the project period: May 1, 2008-April 30, 2009.

Budget	Description
\$ 5,000.00	Project Coordinator
\$ 5,000.00	Update Chapter Materials to be age appropriate.
\$10,000.00	Travel to conduct two site visits to schools 20 @ \$500 each
\$ 600.00	Office Supplies \$50 a month
\$ 600.00	Postage \$50 a month
\$ 600.00	Telephone \$50 a month
\$21,800.00	Grand Total

Question (AP) - The write up is a three year program, is it feasible to do funding per year?

Ans. The proposal targets 12 schools the first two years and ten schools in the third year. Not all the targeted schools are going to develop AIBL chapters. The budget is based on an initial visit and then a follow-up visit for those schools that decide to develop AIBL chapters. The material development will all occur in the first year and the outreach will occur over three years.

NOTE: Jerry Lamb disclosed that he was a former Executive Director of the AIBL. With that being said, he thinks it's a good idea for STEDC to support Indian businesses and Indian organizations whenever we can. In all areas of development, we [as Indians] need to see ourselves.

Question (SRB) - On the budget, do we have to address or eliminate the salary for the Project Coordinator?

Ans-No, per Andy Poole.

Further Discussion COMMENTS:

- **SUPPORT:** We need to support this project. This project is STEDC's vision.

- **FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** These programs that help kids are critical to the economic development of tribes. This program provides our kids' opportunity to develop their expertise in business plan processing- we have business leaders now that can't read a pro forma; we need to get beyond that point.
- **LOCALITY/ ON RESERVATIONS:** We need to have this available locally in our schools. This program is exactly what we need to fund- statewide, high impact. It's like planting a seed in the youth, in our own communities.
- **IMPACT:** Our kids are the leaders of tomorrow. We don't have a lot of our own role models, this gives them more exposure
- **CAPACITY:** AIBL has been in operation for 10 years. Recently, the nationwide AIBL organization had a youth business competition. Students from Arlee, MT won that nationwide competition.

Motion made by Russell Boham to support the American Indian Business Leaders proposal at \$21,800. Seconded by Bud Moran.

Vote order:
Unanimous



ACTION ON ANY UNRESOLVED OR TABLED ITEMS

Report from tribes about UCC/Tribal Business Codes- STEDC members

Discussion: Sue Woodrow of the Federal Reserve is offering free services- to give tribal councils background information on the Tribal Secured Transaction Act (TSTA) - what it is/what it does. The presentation is done in partnership with the Tana Gormley of the Secretary of State's office addressing the lien filing system. The TSTA is model legislation developed by the Uniform Law Commission that addresses non-real estate property rights law and opens doors to credit and capital. Crow (Apsaalooke Nation) is the first nation to adopt the model law, in which the Secretary of State's office is providing a lien filing service. This partnership with the Secretary State's office makes it easy for lenders and others (liens, security interests) and is free for the tribe. The TSTA is significant because it gives business partners security. South Dakota is modeling the partnership between Crow and the state of Montana and is finalizing a compact with the Oglala Sioux/ Pine Ridge. Minnesota and Oregon are considering such compacts. Some tribes have secured transaction act laws that may be outdated. In the case where no tribal law exists or the law is outdated- whatever law that is most relevant and applicable takes precedence. More uniformity between tribes' secured transaction laws not only lowers lending rates but also increases business potential. The Federal Reserve is also hosting a training workshop on 4/28 for commercial lenders (banks) in the communities that serve Crow. (Lenders will be given a copy of the law, how-to Implementation and presentations) in hopes of seeing credit flow into Crow country.

Question (SK) - [Smiley endorses the work of the Federal Reserve and agrees 100% that development of tribal secured transaction laws are good. It is being discussed at Blackfeet.] Will you come up to Browning?

Ans. Yes

Statement (BM) - Flathead will get in touch with Susan to schedule a presentation.

Statement (JL)-The work that Sue and the Federal Reserve are doing fits the mission of STEDC. Jerry cautions to present only at a tribe's invitation. If there's any way we [STEDC]

can partner with the Federal Reserve that would be great.

Question (RB) - When you talk about jurisdiction, are you talking about tribal law jurisdiction?
Does it also cover subject law jurisdiction?

Ans. - If a tribe hasn't fully implemented tribal law covering consumer issues, other law will fill in the gap and fill the void. Tribal courts can agree to acknowledge or not acknowledge the jurisdiction of another law. By a tribe adopting its own law it asserts sovereignty; Montana courts will follow the jurisdictional law in place. Under state UCC (Part. 9) there is a provision that parties can agree to the transaction where the law will apply. Tribal law differentiates between consumer and business transactions. All consumer protections apply under tribal law. If a tribe has a consumer protection law in place for tribes, then tribal law will apply.

Statement (JS) Northern Cheyenne has developed its own secured transaction codes and has followed the developments of the National Conference of Commissioners on State Laws (Uniform Law Commission). [She cautions] that Northern Cheyenne will take a close look before adopting the new model tribal secured transaction act because 1) it isn't necessarily a sovereignty issue and 2) TSTA may not be the best approach for tribes to develop business.

Ans. The secured transaction act is only a model. Tribal councils need to look at each provisions of the model and consider whether or not that section of the model is in their best interest. Tribes are welcome to add, subtract, or even take a different approach than the tribal secured transaction model, but it does provide a real solid basis for developing or even updating a tribe's transaction codes. In 2000 tribes approached the Uniform Law Commission to draft a model for tribes. Maylinn Smith from the University of Montana Law School was the reporter for the drafting committee on secured transaction law and that is part of the reason why tribes in Montana have been exposed to the of the Tribal Secured Transaction Act model and are leading the charge. Tribal participants on this commission are Maylinn Smith, John Paris, Wynona Sengle, Truman Carter, Tim Evans, and several California tribes.

Statement (CB) Fort Belknap has secured transaction codes that were updated in 2001, modeled after Northern Cheyenne. [Caroline] has passed on the information on to tribal council and they are agreeable to have Sue Woodrow come in and provide information. Their tribal judge has attended the judicial training.

Vote order:

No action taken

STEDC Funding priorities for FY 09- STEDC members

Discussion: The next meeting needs to be a dedicated discussion about 1) the allocation of funding between the 515005 and 515008 budgets 2) the evaluation of key economic development factors, and 3) the development of a standard grant specifications, application and evaluation processes for leftover STEDC funds (after priority tribal objectives are funded).

Vote order:

No action taken

Next Meeting- Heather Sobrepena-George

Discussion: The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2008:

E.T. 'Bud' Moran made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Russell Boham.

Vote order:

Unanimous

3:00 ADJOURN