

## 1.22.09 STEDC MEETING (CONFERENCE CALL)

**Members Present:** Shawn Real Bird, Chairman (Crow), Joe Durglo, Vice Chairman (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe), Richard Sangrey (Chippewa Cree), Caroline Brown (Fort Belknap), Rodney Miller (Fort Peck), Russell Boham (Little Shell), Jennifer Perez Cole (Office of Indian Affairs), Lesa Evers (Governor's Office of Economic Development, Andy Poole (Department of Commerce)

**Members Absent:** Joe Fox Jr. (Northern Cheyenne), Ronald 'Smiley' Kittson (Blackfeet)

**Staff Present:** Heather Sobrepena-George (ICED), Lora Williams (STEDC)

**Public:** Chantel McCormick (Energy Promotion and Infrastructure Office/ Montana Department of Commerce)

**WELCOME/ PURPOSE OF GATHERING-** 1:30pm

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS-** none

**APPROVAL OF 11.18.08 MINUTES** \*motions of note below

***Motion made by Joe Durglo to approve the 11.18.08 meeting minutes. Seconded by Andy Poole. Unanimous approval.***

## REPORTS

### 1. ICED/ STEDC BUDGETS REPORT (tab # 3 in packet)

Andy presented a \$1,514.09 catering bill from the Governor's Tribal Leaders Reception. ***Russell Boham made a motion to pay for the catering of the Governor's Tribal Leaders Reception. Lesa Evers seconded. Unanimous approval.***

Caroline Brown asked what projects have been funded to date. She also wanted clarification on whether the \$24,000 Other Expenses category in the STED budget is what is used to fund projects for which different organizations have made proposals to the STEDC. Andy clarified that it has been done a couple of ways in past. The \$24,000 "Other Expenses" part of the STEDC budget has been used to pay 1) year-end Tribe/STEDC mini projects or 2) additional Statewide Indian Country Economic Development (SWICED) projects. Heather clarified that the ICED budget is different than the STEDC budget. At this point, about \$17,000 remains in the 62100 Other Expenses category of the STEDC budget. Most all of the ICED Project Budget has been committed to the following activities:

- \$560,000 to tribal priority economic development ([ICED](#)) projects
- \$24,000 for [Indianpreneurship](#) training on each reservation
- \$126,000 to fund 17 [Indian Equity Fund](#) applications (2 per reservations and 1 at large).

## REPORTS CONTINUED:

\$496 remains in the ICED project budget. Discussion ensued among Commission members about what the STEDC needs to accomplish vs. having people and groups coming to STEDC to request funding. Caroline Brown would like to follow up on the [Monetary Contributions Report](#) and continue working on an economic analysis of the private sector on reservations. She would like to explore having someone like Paul Polzin (retired) or the [Bureau of Business and Economic Research](#) at the University of Montana pursue a more in depth and comprehensive analysis. ***The Commission agreed to put discussion of a further economic analysis on the next meeting's agenda.***

### 2. BRESNAN FINAL REPORT (tab # 4 letter & final report with packet)

The Bresnan Final Report was included in the packets. Caroline Brown pointed out that [Bresnan](#) has not been to Ft. Belknap yet. Lesa Evers told the group that she has had recent conversation with Ted White and her understanding of where Bresnan is at in the process is that they (Bresnan) have completed 2 feasibility studies with Crow and Northern Cheyenne. Bresnan is coordinating with Lesa and the tribes to set up meetings to present the studies to each tribal council. Bresnan's next step is to work with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Blackfeet. Then Bresnan would come to Fort Belknap and other interested tribes. Lesa will collaborate with Caroline and [Ted White](#) to get a proposal time pinned down. Rodney Miller pointed out that Bresnan did have interest at Fort Peck, but Bresnan has sold out to a local service provider, Nemont.

### 3. ICED GRANTS UPDATE (tab #5 in packet)

Status updates of the ICED grant contracts were included in tribal member's packets. If members would like more information, contact Heather Sobrepena-George

### 4. STEDC GRANTS UPDATE (tab # 6 in packet)

Status updates of the STEDC micro-grant contracts were included in tribal member's packets. Heather encouraged members to close out their STEDC contracts early if the projects are complete. If members would like more information on the status of their STEDC contracts, contact Heather Sobrepena-George.

### 5. STEDC/ICED/IEF BIENNIAL REPORT (tab # 7 in packet)

The STEDC/ICED/IEF Biennial Report included in the packets is an update of what STEDC, the Indian Country Economic Development Fund and the Indian Equity Fund have done primarily over the last two years. It covers the [State Tribal Economic Development Commission](#) accomplishments and summaries of recommended projects in the [Indian Country Economic Development](#) (ICED) Program and the [Indian Equity Fund](#) (IEF). The intent is that the report could be used as a tool to present the accomplishments of these collaborative programs. The group decided to provide comments and recommendations by January 30<sup>th</sup> to Lorae and Heather.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL LEADER'S RECEPTION- EXPENSES (covered above)

### 2. TRIBAL ENERGY PROMOTION/BROCHURES- INTRODUCE CHANTEL MCCORMICK

[Chantel McCormick](#) is a Senior Energy Development Specialist with the Governor's [Energy Promotion and Development Division](#) housed at the Department of Commerce. Chantel works directly with energy developers who are interested in working in Montana. The Energy Office has a comprehensive information packet that is given to developers that covers coal, biological, geothermal, and wind resources throughout the state. Chantel has been to the reservations with Lesa Evers visiting with the tribes about the Energy Office and thought it may be helpful to develop a packet similar to Montana's energy packet highlighting tribes' individual energy resources. Initial information on tribal resources has been pulled together with demographic, labor force, and geographic pieces.

A few members expressed concern over marketing the tribes' energy resources. Each tribe has a different expectation of how they may want their information presented (if at all). Shawn Real Bird also expressed concern over the current [Tribal Energy Resource Agreements](#) (TERAs) Energy Bill and how that may affect a tribe's ability to develop its energy resources. Caroline Brown recommended giving the tribes an opportunity to review the current brochure along with a mockup of the proposed tribal resource brochure and decide individually if this is something they want to do. Other members concurred with this proposal. Joe Durglo further suggested sending out an email summary of the proposed project to each of the STEDC members which they could then in turn share with their tribes. Chantel welcomed this opportunity.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - *HB 158 Tribal Eligibility for ED & HB 162 Remove Coal Board Grant Limitation (tab # 9 in packet)*

The STED Commission wrote a letter of support for [HB 158](#) which would expand tribal eligibility to apply for Category II Planning Funds of the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund. Currently, tribes can only apply directly to the Category I Economic Development Project Funds. Category II funds must be applied for through Community Resource Development Corporations (CRDC's). The STED Commission also wrote a letter of support for [HB 162](#) would remove the 7% cap on Coal Board Trust grant funds to which tribe's are currently limited. Both of these bills passed the first reading of bills in the Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications (FRET) Committee. ***Update: HB 158 passed the House and was heard in the Senate Finance and Claims Committee on 3/19/09. HB 162 failed in executive action in the FRET Committee.***

### 4. 2009 MIBA CONFERENCE (tab #10 in packet)

Heather informed Commission members that the [MIBA](#) Conference would be held in Missoula, April 19-21, 2009. Information was included in distributed packets.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES/ STATUTE MATRIX UPDATE (tab # 11 in packet)

Included in the packets is the latest incarnation of the Goals & Objectives and Statute Matrix that Loraie is working on. This will identify activities of Commission in the context of the statute

### 2. 20X10 INITIATIVE- COST ANALYSIS (tab#12 in packet)

Included in the packets is information on [GoToMeeting®](#) which is for conducting remote location meetings with access to a central presenter's computer. The other information that is included is the [METNet](#) or [SummitNet](#) video-conferencing options that are available in locations across the state. Tribes have access video-conferencing facilities at their tribal colleges. These are some of the energy saving initiatives that could help save on travel away from home and bring the Commission closer to the 20% energy usage reduction goals of Governor Schweitzer's [20x10 Initiative](#).

## ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer reminded Commission members of the State of the State Address on January 28th. ***Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Sangrey. 2nd by Russell Boham. Unanimous approval.***