



**LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN  
SERVICES**

900 Court Street NE, Room 167  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1347  
(503) 986-1067

**MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** September 11, 2019

**Meeting Location:** Oregon State Capitol, Hearing Room 50

**Members Present:**

Cheryle Kennedy, Chairwoman, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (LCIS Chair)  
Brenda Meade, Tribal Chairperson, Coquille Indian Tribe (LCIS Vice-Chair)  
Louie Pitt, Government Affairs Director for Raymond Tsumpti, Tribal Chairman,  
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs  
Dee Pigsley, Tribal Chairman, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
Don Gentry, Tribal Chairman, Klamath Tribes  
Doc Slyter, Tribal Chairman, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw  
Arnie Roblan, Senator  
Jackie Mercer, CEO, NARA Northwest (non-voting)

**Members Absent:**

Eric Hawley, Tribal Chairman, Burns Paiute Tribe (Tribal Government Business)  
Gary Burke, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian  
Reservation (Tribal Government Business)  
Dan Courtney, Tribal Chairman, Tribal Board of Directors, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of  
Indians (Tribal Government Business)  
Bill Hansell, Senator (Legislative Business)  
Tawna D. Sanchez, Representative (Legislative Business)  
Sherrie Sprenger, Representative (Legislative Business)

**Staff**

Mitch Sparks, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Indian Services  
Adrienne Fischer, Commission Assistant, Legislative Commission on Indian Services

**In Attendance:**

1. Danny Santos, Governor's Task Force on Cultural Items
2. Sheronne Blasi, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
3. Amanda Hess, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla
4. James St. Martin, Lakota Club
5. Sara Morrissey, Travel Oregon
6. Harry Dalgaard, Travel Oregon
7. Paul Evans, State Representative
8. Kate Sappell, Travel Oregon
9. Michelle Liberty,
10. Dustin Buehler, Governor's Deputy General Counsel
11. Misha Isaak, Governor's General Counsel
12. Jason Miner
13. Jen Andrew
14. Shevaun Gutridge
15. Adam Becenti, Oregon Department of Human Services
16. Shana Radford, U.S. Census Bureau (by phone)

**Welcome**

**Chairwoman Kennedy** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the members and guests.

**Invocation:** Chairman Don Gentry gave the invocation.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Commission members approved the minutes for the May 15, 2019 LCIS meeting. There was one abstention.

**Staff Report:**

**Mitch Sparks, Executive Director:** Director Mitch Sparks greeted the Commission and commented on the importance and wide scope of the Director's work. One of the first tasks taken up was education on the history of Oregon's Tribes, their lands and their culture. He also worked to familiarize himself with Tribal employment, law enforcement, Tribal enterprises, health care and Tribal courts. With days of starting, he was introduced to the work of archaeological permitting and the inadvertent discovery of human remains. This has been challenging work, and the help and guidance of the Tribal THPO offices has been very appreciated. He has been working through the 2019 session bills and has begun work with the State Police on a HB 2625 concerning missing and murdered Native American women. He has been invited by Representative Sanchez to participate in a new ICWA workgroup with a goal of introducing a new legislative concept in the 2020 Session. As LCIS director, he has begun attending the cluster group meetings and has so far been to the Public Safety and Health and Human Services meetings. He is very impressed with the important information discussed at these meetings.

HB 2040 adds an Indian health worker representative to the Traditional Health Care Workers Commission. HB 2267 requires CCOs to conduct community health studies and have a tribal liaison and creates a Tribal Advisory Council of ten members. Mr. Sparks wants to make sure that Tribes are notified before those selections take place. HB 2270 is the Governor's tobacco tax increase bill will set aside 10% for Tribes to focus on care and prevention. Finally, SB 134 requires CCOs to post behavioral health treatment options on websites for addictions and mental health treatment. The workgroup for HB 2625 has been working to assemble task force members called for in the legislation. The first task will be to visit each Tribe for listening sessions. HB 3376 adds Tribes to the eligibilities list for SPIRE grants.

Mr. Sparks has been meeting with key contacts around the state as well as other important contacts including, federal and regional contacts. He plans to visit each Tribal headquarters in the next 60 days and continue to work with the various workgroups and plan for the upcoming session. He looks forward to continuing to service Oregon's Tribal Nations and thanks the Commission for this opportunity to service.

## **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – ADAM BECENTI**

Adam Becenti introduced himself as the Director of Tribal Affairs at the Department of Human Services. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present and looked forward to receiving input on how the department is doing. He was hired to supervise a staff of three during a big transition at the agency. Relationship building is a focus. His position oversees the liaison work of the agency's five departments: child welfare, developmental disabilities, aging and people with disabilities, self-sufficiency, and vocational rehabilitation. Mr. Becenti shared about the make up of the office and the core value of their work.

Mr. Becenti's has focused his first months in the position on understanding what has worked well and what needs improvement; what relationships have been maintained and which ones haven't and need to be. He has looked at past policies and procedures and tried to understand where they are now and where they should be. Some things that have noticed is that there is a need to shift attention to child welfare. Oregon is not alone in the nation, but it needs effort and attention. He spoke of education of partner state agencies and the importance of Tribal sovereignty and Tribal consultation.

Indian Child Welfare has been an important ongoing issue. They are often facing work being done for Tribal communities that is not done in the Tribal context. They are trying to integrate Tribally based practices. The services should reflect the people that they serve. There is a lot of good work being done by the Tribes themselves, so the Agency strives to also be a good support to that work. DHS does not want to declare what the solution should be, rather they are striving to listen and shine a light on things that are already being done and working well.

They have created a document to show the outcomes in Tribal communities. The at-a-glance document shows actual outcomes compared to desired movement. Some of the actions and priorities of the agency consist of evaluating urgent matters and those current solutions for them in favor of sustainable responses that are culturally relevant and respectful. They are looking at realistic goals. They are looking to target breakdowns in the system to come up with realistic solutions.

Mr. Becenti ended his presentation by asking Commission Members what they would like to see from DHS.

Chair Gentry thanked Mr. Becenti for his approach and noted that the Klamath Tribe has been working with the State. The Klamath Tribes will host an ICWA conference in October. The Tribe has been working to improve their own efficiencies in working on these matters and partnering with State. He noted that they really appreciated the State's approach and efforts in this area.

Senator Roblan stated that he was heartened to hear about the efforts of DHS. He then asked how children are identified to be eligible for ICWA. Mr. Becenti responded that it is determined through the Tribes, but DHS will do much of the preparatory work in looking at family history and background information. This applies to all federally recognized Tribes. They first identify ICWA eligible children by either asking the child or their parents or guardians. If the answer is yes or unknown, they then do the work to investigate the family history and help the Tribes properly identify.

Chair Kennedy spoke about the Indian Child Welfare Act, passed in 1978 and which she helped work on. This came about due a concern about children being placed into homes by the State that were not set up culturally to meet their needs. The children were going through a lot of trauma due to those placements. So, it was mostly about placement preference. She acknowledged that this is a tough area to work in. She noted that that training of court staff is a big deficit in the State. She spoke of the situation of a family who was not from an Oregon Tribe and wondered if a large portion of the ICWA cases in Oregon were from not from Oregon Tribes. Mr. Becenti replied that this was information they were trying to gather. She was for their annual budget and Mr. Becenti replied that that was something he has not had a lot of exposure to but noted that he didn't find that there was a lack of funding for many of their activities so far. Chair Kennedy then asked what the average amount spent on a child in placement and then what is the average cost on Indian children in out of home placements. She also wanted to know why there was an overrepresentation of Indian children in the State system. Additionally, she asked about the recruitment process and how are Native American homes being sought after. There could be a lack of information for Tribal families. She also noted that she has experienced a lack of information making it through to the counties. Funding flows to counties, not Tribes, so the counties need to be aware of the information pertinent to the Tribes. She then asked if the nine tribes of Oregon could set up a body to provide services. Mr. Becenti said that in relation to figures of amount spent, he could research those numbers and follow up with Commission Members. They are currently working on the recruitment piece and are not

doing as well as they could be. They are moving to work with Tribal partners and evaluating their current practices to see how they can improve. They are looking at the barriers to certifying foster homes and other things that may prevent Native families from becoming foster homes. They also want to look at the things that the Tribes are doing well and learn from that. He noted that he would pass information along to the Director about the lack of information at the County level. He also noted that the prospect of contracting with the Tribes has been talked about, but not fully explored.

Chair Gentry noted that their families in their communities face hardships due to past missteps, while they are currently otherwise healthy families. This even happens with grandparents who wish to care for their grandchildren.

Senator Roblan spoke of the passage of SB 13 last session and his hope that the education coming from that will help foster pride among native children and help non natives learn about the Tribes.

Mr. Becenti ended by speaking about the efforts of Rep Tawna Sanchez and others to work on legislation to formalize ICWA as a standard that is followed in the State of Oregon. Senator Roblan asked that the draft of that legislation be provided to the LCIS chair. Chair Kennedy also noted that she was looking forward to seeing the DHS report. Vice-Chair Meade noted that she would like to see the number of Oregon Tribal members that the case reflects and the time to receive services. Mr. Becenti noted that they are looking to better capture that information and make it available to the Tribes and address the lack of prevention services up front in the area of prevention. They would like to make it less likely for children to end up in foster care.

## **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS – SHERONE BLASI**

Ms. Blasi shared that she was here to talk about the new Tribal Veteran Program at Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and the pass-through funding available. She acknowledged the significance of this day, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and the enormous contributions of Tribal veterans.

She also paused to recognize the work that has already been done by the Tribes. Tribal representatives who work to provide information to Tribal Veterans about their earned benefits with the Federal VA. A lot of this work is already happening for Tribal Veterans, but this new program takes it farther by providing an opportunity for Tribal Veterans to work on the reservation directly with a Tribal Veterans' Service Officer who become accredited and can file claims for benefits. ODVA received funding in this most recent budget to do several things. They can hire a Tribal Coordinator that would work at ODVA who would understand the needs of Tribal Veterans and that individual would work across the State with all ODVA's partners. They would also provide pass through funding to go to the Tribes like how funding goes to Counties. Currently, Tribal Veterans must go to the Counties to file claims and identify services available to them. This funding can go to Tribes who have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ODVA. Ms. Blasi noted that she

would welcome the opportunity to meet with each of the Tribes and further discuss how this program could benefit their Tribal Veterans.

Commission Member Slyter mentioned that he often hears from other Tribal Veterans that the amount of time it takes to get paperwork done can render treatment for injuries less effective as the condition could continue for so long. Ms. Blasi noted that Tribal Veterans' representative will be able to help address some of those issues. Commission Member Gentry asked if the certification was a Federal certification. Ms. Blasi replied that it was. Those individuals would be trained by ODVA and have access to ongoing training. He also asked about the MOU. Ms. Blasi shared more details about the agreement. It is an agreement to partner and includes items such as minimum hours for the office. The MOU is currently written to be 1000 a year which is less than full time. Vice-Chair Meade asked to clarify whether they had finished administrative rules for this program and where the agency was in the hiring of a Tribal Coordinator. Ms. Blasi shared that the rules were mostly complete but had not been submitted yet. They have been working to complete the position description for the Tribal Coordinator position and would love to share that with the Tribes. Vice-Chair Meade asked if the Tribes could be consulted during the hiring process and Ms. Blasi welcomed that. Senator Roblan emphasized the need to consult with the Tribes early in the process.

#### **OREGON COMPLETE COUNT – SHANA RADFORD & ASA WASHINES (Via Phone)**

Ms. Radford introduced herself and apologized that she was not able to be there that day and referred the presentation over to the Oregon Tribal Liaisons who were meeting. Asa Washines greeted the Commission. Angela from Siletz and Laura John, Tribal Relations Director for the City of Portland were also on the call. This morning was the group's first meeting of the Indian Country Subcommittee for the Oregon Complete Count Committee. They are working to get the Tribes ready for the Census. They have been talking to people around the State and are working towards mobilization. The Census begins on April 1, 2020. This national effort to collect data happens every ten years and is essential for representation. Federal funding is distributed based on this information for many things including transportation infrastructure. The State of Oregon also has the potential to gain a seat in Congress. Districting lines will be drawn from this data. There are people involved in this process from all levels including Federal, Regional and State levels. Governor Brown convened the Oregon Complete Count Committee for this purpose. Within this committee they have designated positions for each of the Tribes. The representative from Siletz, Warm Springs and Klamath are the Indian Subcommittee Co-Chairs. They are working with Tribal Communities throughout the State to make sure everyone is aware and involved. They have a training coming up at Chinook winds and are looking to convene an Indian Country Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Meade asked if they felt there would be any issues ahead of the April 1<sup>st</sup> start date. Mr. Washines responded that they have been working Oregon's We Count which is the main hub. They have been able to secure funding for outreach to Tribal Communities. Commission Member Gentry spoke about preliminary canvassing in Chiloquin and that it

was noted that there are some requirements that might make it difficult to count everyone. There are many homes there that do not have a street address posted on the home, which could be an obstacle. Chair Gentry noted that it was their understanding that they are not supposed to knock on the door if there is no street number posted. Ms. Radford responded that she had not heard about that issue and that she would follow-up with the Klamath representative. This was an important issue to bring up and one of the ways in which having representatives from the Tribes is extremely beneficial. Tribal Members can attend those surveys and help with those kinds of issues. Chair Gentry noted that there are probably many more issues that they are not yet aware of in addition to ones they are aware of such as homeless Tribal Members. It is important to count everyone. Ms. Radford noted that this was a reason that it would be important to hire Tribal Members for this work and that it was also important to identify and communicate issues as quickly as possible so they can work on solutions.

Senator Roblan asked if there was a way for the Census and the Tribes to share information, specifically Tribal enrollment lists. Tribes know who their members are, so they could verify the census lists to make sure all their members have been counted. Ms. Radford responded that they do have a system to update their master file, but there are still gaps which is why they do address canvassing. They also work with the Tribes to fill in some of those gaps. They don't ask for enrollment information, but they do work closely with the enrollment department. They do share information with the Tribes.

Mr. Washines noted that they are looking for Tribal Member and Leaders to attend the upcoming training at Chinook Winds. Louie Pitt asked if there was policy on information sharing, specifically with ICE. Mr. Washines responded that the Census Department does not share information according to the Deputy Director of the Census Bureau. Ms. Radford continued that the information from the survey become aggregated statistical data. People's private data is protected.

#### **LAKOTA CLUB – Jim St. Martin**

Jim St. Martin introduced himself to the Commission and thanked them for the opportunity to be there. He shared that he was born on the Burns Paiute Reservation, but was taken to live with a white family and he thus completely lost his culture. He told the Commission what happened in his life after that point to bring him to where he was today. He worked for the Burns Paiute Tribe, Siletz, Grand Ronde and Umatilla. Mr. St. Martin began work testifying on ICWA cases and was told that he should attend a youth talking circle at the Oregon State Police. He spoke about meeting with people there who shared their life experiences that he recognized those experiences as his own. It was this that inspired him to look at anger management training. He spoke about working with the Department of Corrections and his efforts to create a reentry program like the women's program called Red Lodge. The program has ultimately not been supported by the Department. He is currently looking to set up a 501(c)(3) to do the work of reentry preparation and ensuring religious rights are protected. They want to ask the Commission to help with this work, because there has been a lack of consistency and support. The

program he runs is based on anger management as well as self-discovery. He then shared information about Native American representation in the system.

Chair Pigsley shared that she appreciated his presentation and noted that the Siletz Tribe had applied for a grant to assist those getting out of prison but were not able to get the grant. There are many people from the Tribe behind bars. She noted that the Tribes Charitable Donation Board would entertain an application from the Lakota Club for support funds. Chair Gentry spoke about his awareness that they have issues with the State on this issue and that he has thought that the Nine Tribes should take more of a role as it affects so many of their people. They could come together to work on these issues and communicate with the Governor. He feels that this may be a much bigger issue, even beyond the Lakota Club.

Director Sparks noted that with the permission of the Commission, the Department of Corrections reentry leadership would make a commitment to be at the next Commission Meeting to address these issues. Mr. St. Martin stated that he would like to see the Department hire a Native person to do the work of the Tribal Liaison and noted that the person in that role must understand the people they are working with. Senator Roblan expressed that he just found out that there is a committee working with Senator Dembrow and Senator Wagner on prison education. He would like to them Mr. Martin's contact information so he could share information with them. Chair Meade thanked Mr. Martin for his presentation and noted that this is unfortunately a subject close to home for many of their people. Director Sparks will share Mr. Martin's contact information so that the Tribes can have the opportunity to join the board of the non-profit, Red Road to Reentry, that he trying to get started.

\*Break for Lunch\*

### **Commission Member Reports:**

**Senator Roblan:** Senator Roblan began by thanking Tribal leaders for attending the Oregon Coastal Economic Summit. One of the highlights of the event were the Tribal presentations. He has heard a lot of great feedback from attendees. He is impressed with Grand Ronde's program on the Hatfield Scholarship which is open to all Tribal Members. They have started a new one this year called the Junior Fellowship. It was awarded to a Junior student from Willamina. She was able to spend time with Tribal Leadership and Tribal Lobbyist. Senator Roblan also was able to invite her to the Capitol. He noted that they are coming up on the Short session and he is allowed one bill as a Senator. He is involved in the new committee on mental health where he is meeting with the committees on welfare and judiciary. The Governor is putting together a group to focus on this issue. He is also on Natural Resources, full Ways and Means, Education Subcommittee and is the co-chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation. He shared that he spoke with Chair Kennedy about connecting with the Leadership of the House and Senate about LCIS having a few bills that they could propose instead of them going through the Legislators on LCIS. He announced that he will be deciding on whether to seek reelection. After this term.



Commission Member Mercer thanked Senator Roblan for his efforted to get the Tribal Based Practices bill passed. Co-Chair Meade thanked Senator Roblan for his efforts on the Oregon Coastal Economic Summit and all his work for the Tribes. Chair Slyter also thanked him for his efforts.

**The Klamath Tribes – Chairman Don Gentry:** Chairman Gentry thanked Senator Roblan for his work and noted that they may be able to connect on working to address the misuse of an Oregon law which hinders the Tribes ability to protect their water rights. This should be a concern to anyone with senior water rights across the State. Senator Roblan noted that there was a new Committee on Water in the House. This has been a difficult issue for the Tribe. The head of economic development for the Tribe has now taken the role of Planning Director. Therefore, the Tribal Council has had more direct oversight of their businesses and are looking to restructure their economic development department. They are also very pleased with how the new hotel is doing. It has exceeded everyone’s expectations. There is a new manager at the Travel Center. They are thankful for the people that they have leading their organizations. They are working to provide good services for their members. They have made positive steps with the State to protect water quality and endangered fish. They are also planning to meet with State Representatives to discuss funding for positions to address water quality. They have long standing concerns regarding hunting and fishing rights and hope to develop a more sovereign to sovereign relationship with the State.

**Coquille Indian Tribe - Chairperson Brenda Meade:** This is the Tribe’s 30<sup>th</sup> year of Restoration. Chair Meade thanked everyone who was able to attend the celebration. She spoke about Senator Roblan’s legislation that reminds us that termination wasn’t very long ago. They can’t forget those treaties that were never ratified and promises that were never kept. They are still fighting today to maintain their cultural identity and historic information. She noted that it has been incredible to see the work that Commission Members have done. Tribal Council has stepped back in this 30<sup>th</sup> year to think about their priorities. Their work is about taking care of their people. They are planning a holistic wellness center and plan to break ground in 2020. It will be built in the center of the reservation. They are still talking about public safety collaborations with the State and County. Coquille officers are doing incredible work, but they are lacking support from the County and State. She noted that this weekend is their salmon celebration. The Coquille Tribe made the decision to become a participating agency with FERC regarding the Jordan Cove Pipeline. They are continuing to ask for consultation with FERC, so this was a way to get their concerns addressed.

**Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – Chairman Delores Pigsley:** Chairman Pigsley thanked Senator Roblan for his work on the Coastal Economic Summit and noted the hard work of Rosie Shatkin form his office. She spoke about the Run to the Rogue which happened recently, and it was the largest turn out they have had in previous years. The Tribe is close to finishing construction on a housing unit in Portland. Of the 59 units, 19 will go to Siletz Tribal Members. They appreciate the work of NARA, NAYA and the City of Portland to make this happen. There has been concern about how SB 13 will be implemented and whether the people teaching the curriculum be able to learn the material

well in the time they will have. They attended the Treaty Days at Warm Springs. She noted how great the weather has been for all the recent Tribal events. They are building a replica dance house as well. She spoke about the concerns about Chemawa. The Tribes met and agreed to a meeting with the Assistant Secretary there. They are hopeful for something good to happen.

**Confederated Tribe of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians – Chairman Doc Slyter:**

Chair Slyter noted that they recently held a salmon ceremony at the lighthouse. They are currently the only Tribe in the country that has a lighthouse. This is the first year that they have included a breakfast at the event. He spoke about meeting a representative of the Water Resources Department during the Coastal Economic Summit. Water quality has been of great concern to the Tribe, especially the subject of green algae. The water quality is being affected by Forest Management. It is seriously concerning when they are told to keep pets and children away from the water. He questioned the attention and funding levels dedicated to this issue. They have been responding frequently to people breaking in to their sweat lodge and have begun to maintain stricter security measures. The Tribe recently held elections and welcomed two new Tribal Council Members to join the two that were elected at the last election. Chief Brainard has been Chief on Tribal Council for the last 12 years. They are working to constantly improve operations and relations with neighboring towns. Chair Pigsley shared some issues they were looking at concerning water and treatments. All Commission Members indicated water was an important issue and they were all willing to help in any way they could, but it was imperative to have the attention and financial support of the State.

**Commission Member Jackie Mercer:** Commission Member Jackie Mercer began by reading a story shared by a member of her staff about a 12-year-old Nez Perce youth. They were not happy to be taken to treatment and refused to participate in group. This youth would often require their own staff member because they would refuse to go to school and meetings and had other issues that required the utmost confidentiality. They continued to work with them one on one for several months. Today they shared with the State that upon coming to treatment they had no engagement with culture, and they have now found their culture. They were able to attend their cultural camp and were so happy to be back. They have asked for an extended stay as they would like a little more time there before returning home. This youth is now the lead on the NARA youth drum. Ms. Mercer thanked the Commission for the honor of being able to do this work. They have seen 84 youth since they have been open. 25 percent of the youth in this program have been Oregon Tribal members. They have started an outpatient program for the youth when they leave. The average length of stay is 120 days. They have just passed the Oregon site review. Ms. Mercer wanted to share what everyone's support means. They continue to work with the State for funding because they only pay for room and board for four youth. They are also advocating to bill at a rate that would allow them to have more staff. There are a small number of youths, but they need a larger staff for safety and effectiveness. She proposed Commission Members visiting the site.

FMAP is going and five or six of the Tribes are working through the program. She also noted the concept of an Indian managed care entity and felt that it would be wonderful for

Indians in the State. Chair Kennedy noted that Jackie was an integral part of the hiring of a new Director for LCIS and thanked her for her efforts.

**Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs – Louie Pitt, Governmental Affairs Director:** Mr. Louie Pitt spoke about the water crisis at Warm Springs and noted that they were able to receive funding from the Legislature that they hope to leverage for Federal dollars to address the crisis. Tribal Council hopes to emphasize the Federal trust responsibility up front. Roadside safety has been a concern to the Tribe, and they have widened road shoulders to make it safer for motorists who break down. There have been budget reductions to the Tribes departments. They anticipate that the upcoming session will be consumed with the clean energy bill and the Tribe is still very interested in the language bill and would like to see more funding for this work. He also spoke about the State's effort to address a hundred-year water plan. The Tribe will be sponsoring the upcoming canoe journey. He is confident that they will make it work. The Treaty of 1865 is set to be nullified. There is good support for this. The gorge is talking about meeting their treaty obligations on the Columbia River. The acknowledge that they are responsible for housing. He noted that he had been planning to draft an outline about what Legislative Counsel needed to know about Indian Country. There is a need to educate.

#### **Governor's Office: Cultural Items Task Force – Dustin Buehler**

Dustin Buehler introduced himself as the Governor's Deputy General Counsel. With him were Jason Miner, Natural Resources Policy Director and Misha Isaak, Governor's General Counsel.

Jason Miner spoke about the Governor's three natural resource priorities. The first is climate, second is water and third is wildfire. Concerning water, they have launched a Governor's Vision for a Water Future. Several Agency Directors presented on the topic at the Coastal Economic Summit and he was presenting to LCIS to continue that conversation and update the Commission. The vision is connected to the integrated water resource strategy which was updated in 2017 and is the basis of the Governor's hundred-year vision. They want to consistently invest in water quality and quantity in both natural and built infrastructure. Water infrastructure across the State is showing its age and they need to develop an approach to invest in health, economy, safety and environment. They have asked State Agencies for what data they currently have that can help inform on what areas are most challenges. They are also looking for gaps in the data. They want to ask the Tribes what they can share with the State about what the State may not know. It has been said that this can echo Transportation investment. They would for the State to see water as they see transportation, vital for communities and that we need to make significant and continuing investments to bring them up to date. They also feel that the local communities most affected have buy in and decision-making powers.

They are still in phase one of this plan which means they are listening and learning. Mr. Miner would like to commit to one on one meeting with Tribal Leadership and staff and plans to follow up with a letter asking for those meetings. He has asked the Director of

OWEB to help in this effort. They also plan to carry out other stakeholder sessions. Four or five water academies are also planned around the State to help educate local leaders about water and educate themselves with what local leaders can teach about water.

Chair Pigsley noted that Siletz had been dealing with a water issue and that the response always seems to be very slow. Larger cities typically receive more attention and action for their water issues. She asked that this water plan be carried out as soon as possible and that it not take years and years for these improvements to be made, especially in rural areas.

Chair Gentry noted that he would like to see a reckoning with past management and water quality issues. There are legacy issues affecting this issue. For Klamath their water rights and Treaty rights are very important. The Tribe lacks the land area but would be interested setting standards as a state. Ability to exercise their Treaty Rights is very important and there is a moral imperative to meet those requirements. They have specific, definable needs for water. This needs to be more than a feel-good collaborative process. Tribal people need to know that their needs will be considered.

Chair Meade appreciated that this was coming to the Commission as a draft and would like to see Tribes added as cooperating entities. They look forward to one on one meetings.

Chair Slyter noted that this topic has been at the forefront of discussion for this Commission meeting. He reiterated his earlier comments about algae on the lake and looks forward to connecting on these issues. He noted that water infrastructure was understandably important but the water in the infrastructure needs to be healthy.

Chair Kennedy added that she was thankful this was a draft document. It is beneficial to have a vision written down that includes the Tribes as Sovereigns and that their voice speaks from the United States Government. Water is part of their authority. The other question would be how to elevate the Tribal voice in the future planning and discussions. Perhaps some of these discussions could happen on Tribal lands. The Tribes have been here for thousand of years and it is important to listen to the Tribes and what they know.

Senator Roblan noted that it has been ten or fifteen years. Many of the problems have been in rural Oregon. All the coastal lakes have been dealing with algae. It is well past the time that this issue takes center stage. He emphasized that this is not a rural versus urban issue, it is a survivability issue. He stated that the Tribes have always taken responsibility for the health of the environment and it's time for the rest of up to adopt that outlook for the environment that supports us.

Mr. Miner next spoke to the Commission about the naming of a natural area after a former Secretary of State. This would largely be an honor that wouldn't involve any changes to the area short or a sign. The wanted to raise this issue with the Commission so that they can address any concern. Chair Kennedy asked if there was a process for Tribes that wanted to show honor to someone. Mr. Miner noted that there two different ways to approach naming

of an area. One was an informal approach like this one, where the name would not show up on official maps or forms. The formal approach would require applying to the National Registry of Named Places. It is a longer approach that take up to five years.

Senator Roblan noted that he appreciates that this idea has come before the Commission before any decisions were made and sees this as an acknowledgement by the Executive branch that all of Oregon is Indian Country not just Reservation land.

Dustin Buehler stated that he was there to update the Commission on the Cultural Items Task Force. He is happy to inform the Commission that they are training approximately forty agency tribal liaisons to be the point person assisting the Task Force in their work. They are currently in a six-month period where they are looking around their agencies for items of cultural significance to the Tribes. In mid-November they will have the first reports from that work. The agencies have all been very receptive and enthusiastic about this work.

Chair Meade noted that the work has been moving a good pace and she is looking forward to seeing the reports. She emphasized that this work and the reports are just the beginning of the work. The Tribes have all been well represented on this Task Force. She appreciates the time and energy that has been put into this work. Higher education is the next step for the task force. Education is key and this process is also a way to communicate to all the people of the agencies, not just leadership.

Mr. Miner shared that there is a task force called the environmental justice task force that has a dedicated seat for LCIS. This person can be a member of LCIS, or a person appointed by LCIS. They report on environmental issues quarterly and submit an annual report. They are meeting in Astoria this week jointly with the sustainability board. They would like to fill the LCIS seat. Commission Member questioned Mr. Miner on issues surrounding the task force.

Misha Isaak proposed an idea for the Commission's consideration. Under Oregon Statute, public officials are subject to gift restrictions. There are good reasons for this and there are several exceptions this rule. Gift giving is an important part of the culture of Oregon's Tribes. The way the Governor's office handles receiving things such as Pendleton Blankets, is by accepting the gift on behalf of the office. Those gifts are property of the office and will remain when the Governor leaves office. It has been emphasized that Tribal members don't consider those things gifts to the State but to the individual it was given to. Mr. Isaak proposed introducing an amendment to allow gifts of cultural significance from the Tribes under a certain amount.

The Governor is beginning work on a new initiative around domestic violence. She is interested in putting together a task force and presenting policy proposals to the Legislature. This is an issue that affects all communities and economic classes. They will be in contact with each of Oregon's Tribes to find out who would be interested in participating in that initiative.

Mr. Isaak shared that the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla have graciously offered to host the Annual Summit this year and that it will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This event has always been a priority for the Governor, and it is expected that she will be able to attend the whole Summit.

**Travel Oregon** - Sarah Morrissey introduced herself as the Public Affairs Manager at Travel Oregon. With her were Harry Dalgaard who is the Director the Regional Cooperative Tourism Program and Michelle Liberty who has recently contracted Services with Travel Oregon. They plan to provide an overview of the Agency and what they do and then end with a discussion on opportunities for partnership. They are a semi-independent State Agency and are directed to bring visitors into the State to drive development. They are overseen by Governor Brown and have nine Commissioners. They have adopted a Strategic plan and their vision is a better life for all Oregonians through strong, sustainable local communities that welcome a diversity of explorers. They have shifted from a destination marketing agency to a destination marketing and management agency. The aim to improve the visitor experience in smart and sustainable ways. Ms. Morrissey gave a brief overview of the agency's structure. The State began investing in Oregon's Tourism in 2003 with HB 2267. In 2016 HB 4146 was passed and increased the state lodging tax. The funds received primarily go straight back to the communities. Since the passage of HB 2267, the tourism industry has continued to grow. Direct employment is up 37%, employee earnings are up 111%, visitor spending is up 89% and state and local tax receipts are up 128%. There are over 115,000 Oregonians employed directly or indirectly in the industry. Mr. Dalgaard spoke about the Regional Cooperative Tourism Program (RCTP) which is contained in the Global Strategic Partnerships program. The RCTP aims to disperse the lodging tax back out to the regions and they do that through regional partners called RDMOs which are regional destination management organizations. The Global Strategic Partnership team also encompasses Industry Services, which handles meetings and events, and Competitive Grants which runs four grants processes, as well as Strategic Partnerships. The State is divided into seven regions. There is a corresponding RDMO for each of those regions. Those regions are given money on a pro rata basis. Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) work at the local and community level. Travel Oregon communicates to RDMOs who communicate with Local DMO and then Local businesses and organizations. They encourage local businesses and attractions to connect with their local DMOs which puts them in the line of communication with RDMOs and Travel Oregon.

Travel Oregon works with RDMOs to create two-year based plans. They go out to survey every other year and vet the resulting plans with local stakeholders. This is a great way for Tribes to emphasize any programs they are running. Travel Oregon also runs a grant program which is divided into to three programs. They have recently awarded a medium size grant to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for downtown revitalization and would like to see additional applications from all of Oregon's Tribes. The Agency also runs the Oregon wine country license plates program. Mr. Dalgaard shared that they are running a Rural Tourism Conference and wanted to invite each of the Tribes to attend this

event. The Global Strategic Partnerships team works to build partnerships and would like to establish relationships with the Tribes.

The global sales team works to sell the idea and concept of Oregon to a broad international audience. China is the number one incoming group outside of Canada. The global marketing team works with a Portland marketing firm and target the active adventurer. Travel Oregon operates welcome centers throughout the State and notes that this would be a great way to educate visitors about Oregon's Nine Tribes. The Marketing group also works to advertise attractions in the State with major publications.

Michelle Liberty introduced herself and noted that she has worked in tribal tourism since 1998. The goal of her work is to work with the Tribes and Travel Oregon to grow the partnership so that both entities can benefit and help tourism throughout the State and on reservations. She noted that she was looking forward to visiting each of the Tribes.

Chair Pigsley noted that she has attended the Governor's tourism conference but has noted that the Tribes and what they have to offer are never talked about. She noted that the Tribes had developed a booklet that features information and photos about each of the Tribes. They do wonder why they Tribes are not featured in anyway. Chair Pigsley also asked if they tracked information about where international visitors visited in the State. Mr. Dalgaard shared that they invest in something called Visa view. Any transaction on the ground. The point of entry is generally Portland and then it radiates out from there. Ms. Morrisey noted that they have recognized that Tribal voices have been missing and they aim to meet with each of the Tribes individually to see what travel products are existing and what their interest is in partnering. They want to increase the Tribal voice. Senator Roblan spoke to other areas in the Pacific Northwest that are actively pursuing tribal tourism. He noted that Oregon will miss out if they don't embrace tribal tourism.

**Representative Paul Evens** – Representative Paul Evans introduced himself and shared that he was there to talk about a bill that was to fix the SPIRE grant program. He noted that the percentage of Native Americans serving in the military is the largest of any ethnicity and this was especially true among Native women. HB 3376 was passed because when they were putting together the original measure in 2017, they thought the Tribes would be involved. He noted that the Tribes of some of the most advanced emergency preparedness planning in the State. It was an oversight that the Tribes were not included in this bill. The function of this program is to forward deploy equipment in places known to need them long term for state or regional disasters. It is based on a Federal Government Program. This program ensures that everyone can work together, and that useful equipment is distributed well. They put together a five million dollar ask and agreed to buy only ten different kinds of things. For instance, they will buy only one kind of generator so that they can work together. Then a town can apply for a generator instead of the money for a generator. Reverse osmosis water purifiers and vehicles are other examples of what would be available. This program uses the State's purchasing power and ability to deploy. Representative Evans also noted that they need to make sure that there are personnel that are pre-certified for skills needed in an emergency. He noted that this pre-deployed

equipment can be used for the cost of use maintenance by the local governments until it is needed in an emergency. Representative Evans spoke about the structure of the Office of Emergency Management and its inclusion in the Military Department. He noted that this is not the optimal place for this office because of fundamental changes in how the National Guard operates. They are looking to locate offices structurally where they can be most effective for the current issues the State faces. Representative Evans shared that he was appearing before the Commission because the Tribes do this type of work so well and he wants to ask for their involvement. Representative Evans then spoke to the need for safe strategic locations to be of use during an emergency. Chair Meade thanked the Representative for appearing before the Commission and noted that this was an important topic for the Coquille Tribe. They know that they need to be able to take care of not only Tribal members, but also others in the community. They also know that they need to be prepared for events that are not the big earthquake. Tribes would like to see a dedicated cluster for emergency management. They have also asked the Governor's office for a dedicated liaison with a travel budget to do this work. The Tribes will be there doing the work and they need help coordinating across the space of the State. Representative Evans then spoke about issues pertaining to veterans. Veteran housing is an issue of concern, especially for Vietnam veterans. It was noted that there is an especially large Native American representation among Vietnam veterans. The Federal Government has been reluctant in recent years to build military cemeteries, but has been willing to fund State efforts, so there is a movement for Oregon fill this role. HB 3025 and HB 3027 concern the creation of the Northwestern carbon sink. This would push for a billion trees to be planted in Oregon. Ethiopia planted 360 million trees in one day. Other countries have done this work. The UN has provided funding for some of this work. Representative Evans noted that this was an issue of National Security.

#### **Commission Member Reports Continued:**

**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde – Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy:** Chairwoman Kennedy noted that the Tribe has just recently held elections and the three incumbents were reelected. They have instituted a measure whereby they ask for input from their membership in advisory votes. There were seven on this ballot. The one that received 80% of the vote was on housing and homelessness. The Tribe is looking at what resources are available to address this problem. Chair Kennedy noted that she appreciated the Legislative members of the Commission and hoped that the other members would be able to join at the next meeting. They help move the issue forward. Chair Kennedy shared that a goal of the Commission is that all of Oregon's State Agencies really remember the Tribes and involved them in the process.

Chairwoman Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.