

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)
**MINUTES OF THE
NATIVE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**
Thursday, September 3, 2009 – 4:15 p.m.
Show Barn • 3003 N Thanksgiving Way, Lehi, Utah

Members Present:

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Chair
Rep. Jack R. Draxler, House Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Dennis E. Stowell
Sen. Luz Robles
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Jay F. Seegmiller
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Policy Analyst
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Chelsea Barrett, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Van Tassell called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Rep. Draxler outlined several issues that were discussed during the Native American Summit prior to the meeting.

The Committee introduced themselves and the areas of Utah which they represent.

2. Dialogue With Tribal Leaders

Mr. Rupert Steele, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, explained the Tribe's efforts to continue education through the Native American Summit and other educational training involving government agencies. Mr. Steele explained his concerns with treatment of tribal identification cards, access to Medicare benefits, and urban Native Americans struggling to acquire affordable housing. He distributed "Utah Tribal Leaders Regarding Tribal Commitment to 'Nation Building'" and "Utah Tribal Leaders Resolution."

Ms. Lora Tom, Chairwomen, Cedar Band Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, and Mark Echohawk, Attorney representing the Cedar Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, distributed and presented "The Cedar Band of Paiute Indians Tax Code."

Ms. Janine Borchardt, Chairwoman, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, explained that several bands compose the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. She discussed issues with adoption procedures under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Ms. Qalthouca Tom, Indian Peaks Band, Paiute Indian Tribe, expressed concern for land management of the different bands.

Mr. Kenneth Maryboy, Navajo Nation Councilman, Navajo Utah Commission; Mr. Clarence Rockwell, Executive Director, Navajo Utah Commission; Mr. Alex Bitsinnie, Navajo Mountain Chapter; and

Mr. Willie Grayeyes, Project Specialist, Ts'ah Bii Kin Chapter, Navajo Nation, distributed and explained "Resolution of the Navajo Utah Commission of the Navajo Nation Council," "Report From Navajo Mountain Chapter to the Navajo Nation," and "Articles of Incorporation of Utah Dineh Corporation." They requested support of federal legislation related to royalty money and addressed the need for assistance with roads, water shortages, post office and zip codes, public safety, and waste management.

Mr. Leo Manheimer, Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission, requested contact information for committee members.

The Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation explained that it will submit its concerns to the Committee in writing.

Mr. Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman of the Business Committee, Ute Indian Tribe, expressed interest in tribal members' access to Medicaid and Medicare.

Ms. Ella Dayzie, Executive Director, Indian Walk-In Center, explained the importance of mental health awareness and requested support for the Indian Health Improvement Act.

Ms. Eileen Quintana, Title VIII Coordinator, Mapleton School District, advocated for Native American education in schools and communities.

Ms. Janet Canyon, Salt Lake City School District, advocated for Native American education programs in schools. She expressed her support for legislation pertaining to preserving the Navajo language and heritage.

Mr. Thomas Rogers, Gassing Native America, expressed concern for toxic gasses and chemicals effecting Native American's lands.

3. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Draxler moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Aagard absent for the vote.

Chair Van Tassell adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.