

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE**

**NATIVE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 13, 2012 – 5:00 p.m. – Room 450 Capitol Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Chair  
Rep. Jack R. Draxler, House Chair  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Luz Robles  
Rep. Michael E. Noel  
Rep. Douglas Sagers

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Casey O. Anderson  
Rep. Kay L. McIff  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Michael E. Christensen, Director  
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Secretary

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Van Tassell called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Sen. Casey Anderson and Rep. Christine Watkins were excused from the meeting.

**2. Division of Indian Affairs Report**

Ms. Shirlee Silversmith, Director, Division of Indian Affairs, distributed and discussed "Utah Division of Indian Affairs 2012 Annual Report." She reviewed some of the activities of the Division of Indian Affairs, including the Native American Summit held last August and the recent training offered at the American Indian Caucus Day. She discussed the plans for Indigenous Day to be held on November 19, and Rep. Draxler asked that staff forward to committee members an invitation to this event.

**3. Possible Native American Draft Legislation**

Ms. Silversmith reviewed proposed legislation regarding the Utah Tribal Leaders Definition, which would allow for fair representation for tribes bordering another state. She answered questions from the committee regarding consolidation of the proposed draft legislation. Ms. Owen clarified that two of the items, excluding the Utah Indian Education Act, which she has not seen, could be combined. Rep. Draxler offered to sponsor the proposed bills. Ms. Silversmith continued by discussing proposed legislation concerning the Utah Native American Remains Review Committee Membership, which would remove time limits for membership on the Remains Review Committee.

**3. Native American Remains Review Committee Report**

Ms. Julie Fisher, Department of Heritage and Arts, distributed the American Indian Remains Report and committed to informing committee members of the dates and times for local, upcoming remain interment ceremonies.

#### **4. Indian Health Report**

Ms. Melissa Zito, American Indian/Alaska Native Health Liaison, Department of Health, introduced Dr. Marc Babitz, Director, Division of Family Health and Preparedness, and distributed the Indian Health Report. Ms. Zito reviewed efforts to establish a government to government relationship through a formal Tribal Consultation Policy.

Ms. Zito and Dr. Babitz also distributed two pamphlets: "What is the CHIE?" and "Healthy Families and Communities are Important to Us." In response to a question from Sen. Robles, Ms. Zito reported on the Clinical Health Information Exchange, the number of Native Americans in Utah enrolled in Medicaid, and the federal Affordable Care Act's effect on the Department of Health and the Native American population.

In response to a question from Sen. Jones, Ms. Zito discussed the diabetes prevention steps being undertaken by the Department of Health, including training of community health representatives and the Baby Your Baby program. Ms. Zito and Dr. Babitz distributed copies of the Baby Your Baby health keepsake "Protect the Circle," a booklet given to expectant Native American mothers.

#### **5. Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund Report**

Mr. Keith Heaton, CPM, Director Community Development Grants, Department of Workforce Services, Housing and Community Development Division, distributed and discussed the "Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund Report."

#### **6. Navajo Revitalization Fund Report**

Mr. Heaton distributed the "Navajo Revitalization Fund" report and discussed the status of unfinished Navajo housing projects, some of which are up to five years old.

Rep. Draxler asked about the decline in revenue reflected in the report and whether that was a result of the oil fields being depleted. Mr. Heaton stated that the figures reflect the reduced 2010 prices rather than a decrease in oil production.

#### **8. Other Business / Adjourn**

Rep. Noel moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jones was absent for the vote.

Chair Van Tassell adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.