**NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE TOURISM ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 10, 2016**

**UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE – CAFETERIA CONFERENCE ROOM**

The meeting was called to order by facilitator: Mike Mabin, President, North Dakota Indian Business Alliance and President, Agency MABU at 10:00 am.

Present: Les Thomas, Vice Chair, Turtle Mountain Heritage Center; Brenda Robertson, Grants Administrator, Spirit Lake Tribal Planning; Darian Morsette, Director, MHA Tourism; Jason Morsette, Special Projects, MHA Tourism; Mike Mabin, President, North Dakota Indian Business Alliance and President, Agency MABU; Stacey LaCompte, Executive Director, North Dakota Indian Business Alliance; Dean Ihla, Tourism Development Manager, ND Tourism; Claudia Berg, Director, ND State Historical Society; Natasha Gourd, Grant Writer, Spirit Lake Planning; Cynthia Antelope, Tribal Planner, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and Kwangsoo Park, Assistant Professor, Hospitality and Tourism Management Department, NDSU.

**Formulizing the Organization:**

It was advised that NDNTA will be blanketed under the United Tribes of North Dakota – United Tribes Technical College. The Alliance will follow the governing body of the United Tribes of North Dakota.

**OPEN DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH EACH TRIBE PRESENT GIVING A REPORT OUT ON CURRENT TOURISM DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THEIR PRESPECTIVE RESERVATION.**

**Promise Zone:**

USDA – RD announced that Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and Spirit Lake Nation have been awarded the designation of the Promise Zone. Turtle Mountain will be the lead organization. Holiday Van Sciver, USDA RD, Tribal Outreach Coordinator, has been appointed as the lead representative of the 12 federal programs that will be collaborating with the Tribes.

**Nomination and Election of Officers:**

First order of business: Number of Board Members. After discussion it was decided to have 2 representatives from each of the North Dakota Tribes and 1 from Trenton Services. This shall consist of a total of 11 voting Board members with 6 needed for a quorum. The advisory committee (non-voting members) shall be unlimited members.

**President:**

Darian Morsette nominated Les Thomas for President. Jason Morsette seconded. Les stated that he is willing to accept the position of President, if voted in favor. No further nomination was presented. The vote was placed on the table. All those in favor of Les Thomas as NDNTA President. Voting: Ayes: 6 – Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**Vice-President:**

Les Thomas nominated Darian Morsette as Vice-President. Jason Morsette seconded. Darian stated that his is willing to accept the position of Vice-President, if voted in favor.

Cynthia Antelope nominated LaDonna Allard. No Second. Died due to a lack of a second.

No further nomination was presented. The vote was placed on the table. All those in favor of Darian Morsette as NDNTA Vice-President. Voting: Ayes: 5 – Nays: 0 – Not voting: 1. Motion carried.

**Secretary / Treasurer:**

Brenda Roberson nominated Natasha Gourd as Secretary / Treasurer. Les Thomas seconded.

Cynthia Antelope nominated LaDonna Allard. No Second. Died due to a lack of a second.

No further nomination was presented. The vote was placed on the table. All those in favor of Natasha Gourd as NDNTA Secretary / Treasurer. Voting: Ayes 5 – Nays: 0 – Not voting: 1. Motion carried.

**Board of Directors (Voting Members):**

**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate:**

*(Not in attendance, Jason contacted Tamera St. Johns and Elias Mendoza. They will need a letter from the Board appointing them to present to the Tribal Council.)*

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe:**

Jennifer Martel

LaDonna Allard

Cynthia Antelope (Alternate)

**Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation:**

Jason Morsette

Darian Morsette

**Spirit Lake Nation:**

Natasha Gourd

Fransico Delataz

**Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian:**

Les Thomas

Lyle Poitra

**Trenton Services:**

*(Not in attendance. The Board will contact them.)*

All those in favor of the two named representatives from each of the North Dakota Tribes. Voting: Ayes 6 – Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

**Advisory Committee (Non-Voting Members):**

Claudia Berg, North Dakota State Historical Society

Dean Ihla, North Dakota Tourism

Kwangsoo Park, North Dakota State University

Representative from United Tribes Technical College

United Tribes of North Dakota

Scott Davis, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

Stacey LaCompte, North Dakota Indian Business Alliance

Mike Mabin, Agency MABU and North Dakota Indian Business Alliance

All those in favor of the named representatives of the Advisory Committee. Voting: Ayes: 6 – Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

**Tribal Resolutions & Tribal College Letters of Support:**

**Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian:** (Les Thomas reported)

Received Letter of Support from “Turtle Mountain Community College” – Dated May 20, 2016. (See Attached)

Resolution was approved in Council – waiting for signatures.

**Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation:**

Resolution was passed by the Economic Development Committee. Legal will review it. They need the minutes to this meeting to provide to Legal.

**Spirit Lake Nation:**

Received “Spirit Lake Tribe Resolution No. A05-16-253 – dated June 1, 2016. (See Attached)

Received Letter of Support from “Cankdeska Cikana Community College” – dated June 6, 2016. (See Attached)

**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate:**

Not Present at this meeting. Jason Morsette will contact them.

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe:**

Stacey LaCompte will contact them.

**Checklist for Starting a Business in North Dakota:**

Mike Mabin provided the Board with a checklist for starting a business in North Dakota. Board took actions steps for each of the areas.

1. **Choose a business name:** “North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance”
2. **Determine the organization’s mission:**

**The Mission Statement:** “The mission of North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance is to protect, promote, preserve and educate the world about the culture, history and environment of our sovereign nations. The North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance (NDNTA) will promote and educate through sustainable tourism while developing economically for our people and nations.

**Vision:** “To enhance and promote Tribal Tourism as a means of economic development and growth for all North Dakota Tribal Nations, while maintaining respect for sovereignty, tribal traditions and lands.

1. **Determine the organization’s legal structure:** “This will have to be determined after NDNTA meets with the United Tribes of North Dakota to see how they are structured.”
2. **Set up By-laws and Articles of incorporation:** “There are by-laws from the past, which will be updated”.
3. **Determine key roles (Board of Directors/Officers, etc):** “This will be determined at the next Board of Directors meeting.”
4. **Secure support from key partners:** “Board Members are already securing Resolution of support from the Tribes and Letters of support from the Tribal Colleges.”
5. **Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) – U.S. Department of Treasury (Form SS-4):** Secretary / Treasurer will apply.
6. **Register your business with the State to secure your articles of incorporation, as well as to register your trade name – ND Secretary of State:** “NDIBA will complete this document and have it ready for signatures at the next meeting”.

Additional steps to start a Business:

1. **Identify funding sources/revenue streams:**
   1. NDIBA Marketing Grant
   2. Promise Zone
   3. ND Tourism
   4. Department of Transportation
   5. North American Coal
   6. Tribes
   7. Casinos
   8. USDA RD
   9. State Legislation
   10. Community Foundation
   11. Bush Foundation
   12. Bremer Foundation
   13. Ford Foundation
2. **Register a domain name – Create a logo and set up a website – Register social media profiles:** “This will be done by Agency MABU and the NDIBA Marketing Grant”
3. **Create a Business / Marketing Plan:** “This will be done with the assistance from George Washington University.”
4. **Open a business bank account – set up accounting system – See IRS non-profit status:** “Assigned to Secretary / Treasurer Natasha to complete”.
5. **Mailing address:** “Secretary / Treasurer Natasha will open up a Post Office Box in Spirit Lake, which she can have access to.”

**LOGO:**

Agency MABU Team will come up several concepts for the Board to review. The Board recommended the Logo should have representation of all the 5 ND Tribes and the State. Maybe utilize the Buffalo, as it recognized at the nation level, representing our people. Maybe utilize Eagle Staffs.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by:

Stacey LaCompte, Executive Director, North Dakota Indian Business Alliance.