

# NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE TOURISM ALLIANCE

May 18, 2020 at 10 am  
Phone Conference  
Board of Directors Meeting

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## MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am by President Les Thomas

### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** Les Thomas- President, Turtle Mountain Band  
Selina LaFontaine- Secretary, Turtle Mountain Band  
Jen Martel – At Large, Standing Rock Tribe  
Doug Sevigny, Treasurer, Spirit Lake Nation  
Collette Brown, Spirit Lake Nation  
Barb LittleOwl, Standing Rock Tribe

Quorum Determine

#### **NOT Present**

Tamara St. John – Wahpeton Sisseton Oyate – Excused  
Jason Morsette - MHA- Excused  
Darin Morsette -Vice-President, MHA Nation

#### **NDNTA Advisory Committee Members**

Anna - GW  
Fred - ND State tourism  
Warren Hawk

#### **Others Present**

Eric Grey Cloud

### 3. Opening Prayer by Les

Agenda Review – No Conflict of Interest

Les would like to move from new business f. to c. for Anna to be able to address her topics on agenda without waiting. Stacey was not present and Les asked to strike from the agenda which was c. on new business.

Doug makes the motion. Jen seconds the motion. **All in favor, NO Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

Les makes the statement that if anyone wants to change/or add to the agenda as we proceed, they can.

Approval Of Agenda

Les asks for the Approval of the Agenda. Les calls for the motion. Doug makes the motion. Jen

seconds the motion. **All in favor, NO Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

Agenda accepted at 10:30am. Discussion held.

Meeting minutes - Les explains that Selina notes are locked up at her office and can not go in at this time to retrieve them at Sky Dancer Casino. Les stated to Selina to please have these minutes typed up and to the board for approval.

Treasurer's Report - Tabled.

#### 4. New Business

##### a. Update next phase of work: 2021 (Anna) (see attached)

Anna summarized the next phase of work with GW and NDNTA and also explained about the extension request because of Covid 19.

##### b. NDNTA/GW Tourism Recovery Training (Anna) (see attached)

Anna went over the training of the tribes who are working with GW on developing their product and how each tribe is doing amazing work.

Fred Walker stated that working with America for you is super helpful as he has worked with the company.

Doug stated that he was having trouble with writing in the document. Anna stated that she will help troubleshoot with him to fix.

##### c. GW/Match NDNTA \$5,000 for NDNTA Project (per Les)

Les states that he and Anna had a discussion about the part-time contract for hire so NDNTA can have that individual in place. Les invited Anna to inform the rest of the Board. Anna states that with the next phase of work NDNTA will need to have that person in place to help set up the process for NDNTA. NDNTA will need to have those policies approved. 501 c 3 status back on track. Training this person along with some of the board members as long as it fits within the budget.

Anna stated that GW through the BIA grant can match NDNTA \$5,000 for hiring and training this person.

Anna stated that a sub committee to help move things along smoothly for the contracted person.

Les asks for the motion to approve the \$5,000 match. Barb makes the motion and second by Doug. **All in favor, NO Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

Anna stated she will have a draft of what will be needed for NDNTA to move forward in the next regular meeting.

##### d. Update from Fred Walker, Global Marketing Manager/AC (see attached)

Oversee offices are looking at not much travel for the remainder of the year. Fred has been on numerous webinars and countries are staying close to home with getting their own economies going.

Fred stated that from these many discussions a list of what the overseas travelers would still like to see when here and a lot of Native American experiences are still on their lists.

Fred stated that we are all re designing our experiences to meet the requirements because of the Pandemic. This is the perfect time to really develop your product to fit the outdoors, food etc.

Fred mentioned that his team plans to revisit our tribal communities and re-engage and ask to take some videoing, Images and some data and mentioned for us to do a small snip pit of some of what will be offered.

He also recommends we tell our stories in person, keep in mind not to give away the family secret... food for thought. Fred stated that he will not tell our stories for us but will tell them what we want for him to say as it is our story to tell.

Fred mentioned that Italians are really interested in our medicinal medicines and plants.

Fred said the selfie stories are a great building of content and will even help him learn but stresses again to not give it all away and to the snip pits.

It was mentioned by Fred, website is the key with state tourism and social media so keep that in mind.

he requested us to reach out to him and please keep him updated on our work. Fred was invited to continue to join our meetings.

e. Update with UTTC BODs

Les informed the Board that the UTTC meeting was cancelled due to covid 19. He or Darian will reach out to give an update.

f. Proposal to get into the ND Governor's Budget. Discussion

Les asks the board to come up with stuff we would like to put in the proposal to be in the governor budget and to send their information to Selina so that it can be put together for Darian and Him to take to the Governor.

Les states that we are not going after the state tourism budget, we are going after our own budget to be allocated so we can hire people to make a tourism department back in our tribes as they dont have money to do so.

Doug asked so the money we are asking for is for our tribes. Les stated Yes, Selina stated that it would make more sense to ask for NDNTA and some projects with the state, like maybe Cultural sensitivity and who will do this Les.. Les states the board. Selina states it should be committees coming from each as she would work then with her local team and this needs more discussion. Les stated it has to be done before july.

Collette stated that she would also like more details on what exactly would NDNTA be asking for Operational or Community engagements within the state and a committee would need to be formed from different areas.

It was mentioned as an Ex. 100,000 for marketing and staffing and also we would need to show our books and where else are our funding coming from.

Les stated for this to be placed back on our next agenda.

g. Board Member Recommendation-Discussion/Vote - Barb LittleOwl - Standing Rock

Barb has informed the board that Eric Grey Cloud is now the Tribal Planner and is requesting for him to be placed on the board as she was only (acting) as it stated in their resolutions that the SR tribal planner will be placed on the NDNTA as a representative from their tribe. Bard asked if she can be placed on our advisory committee as she would still like to be involved. Barb makes the motion to the board to replace her with Eric, who is also on conference call. Doug second the motion. **All in favor, NO Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

Barb is now on the Advisory Committee and Eric is now on the Board. Selina asked Eric to tell the board more about some of his work he has done in the past which can help the NDNTA.

Eric thanked the Board for our time and stated that he is glad to be a part of NDNTA and some of his past work was fund raising for UTTC while he was there and has helped his tribe with economic development in recent past. The board welcomed Eric.

#### 5. Old business

- a. Consultant Hire (ED Position with Job Description and or Project Manager)  
(Selina, Anna/Stacey) - Already covered by new business c.
- b. Legal counsel & draft policy review (Les) Les stated that because of Covid 19 he is having issues with contacting them. He will have more information at the next meeting.
- c. Strategy/work plan Recap from meeting with ED Hall III (new sanitary rules for tribal tourism.- Selina stated this was left on the agenda from the cancelled meeting that would have followed the phone conference with Ed and she also stated these are being addressed in the training with GW.
- d. Grant Funding Sources - Les state that we should send to Selina any grant opportunities for NDNTA to possible go after. Les stated that Lyle Poitra, a grant writer for TM is willing to help write grants for a fee and will submit to the BODs a proposal. Lyle also helped with the beginning of NDNTA forming as a non profit.

#### 6. Tribal Updates - Tabled

#### Adjournment

Les asks for a motion to adjourn. Eric makes the motion to adjourn. Second by Doug. **All in Favor, No Abstentions, Motion Carried Adjourned at 11:15am.**

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: February 4, 2020