



*Tuesday-Wednesday, January 26-27, 2021
Minutes of the General Business Meeting
Virtual Meeting*

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

- Chairwoman Laurie Ann Cloud (Nez Perce) started by welcoming all those in attendance. Executive Director then provided a brief overview of the meeting logistics.
- Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Laurie Ann Cloud (Nez Perce) AT 9:12 AM. Laurie Ann asked a special request to remember all those we've lost during the pandemic, including our dear friend Elena Bassett.

Invocation

- Provided by Colville Housing Director Douglas Marconi, Sr.

Roll Call

- Conducted by Executive Director, Charles Anderson. Only members in good standing (2021 dues paid) were called.
- Present (17): Colville, Coquille, Fort Hall, Grand Ronde, Lower Elwha, Lummi (Proxy), Metlakatla, Nez Perce, Puyallup, Quileute, Siletz, Skokomish, Spokane, Squaxin Island (Proxy), Suquamish, Upper Skagit, and Yakama.
- Absent (13): Burns Paiute, Chehalis, Cowlitz, Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Kalispel, Muckleshoot, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Quinalt, Samish, Swinomish, and Tulalip.
- With 17 of 30 members present, Charles announced that a quorum was established.

Approval of the Agenda

- MOTION: Sami Jo Difuntorum (Siletz) to approve the Agenda; second by Taryn (Fort Hall); MOTION approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of the Minutes

- Minutes of the previous meeting were provided to the membership prior to the meeting, and are available on the NWIHA website. MOTION made by Sami Jo Difuntorum (Siletz) to approve the minutes of the September 22-23, 2020, Business Meeting; seconded by Joani Dugger (Grand Ronde); MOTION approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

- NWIHA Treasurer Joan Dugger presented the Treasurer's Report, which was provided to all participants prior to the meeting, and is available on the NWIHA website.
- MOTION made by Sami Jo Difuntorum (Siletz) to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Larry Winders (Skokomish). Prior to the vote, Larry asked that the NWIHA CPA responded to a question by Charles regarding our large accumulated surplus; the CPA there was no reason for concern with respect to losing the 501(c)(3) status. MOTION approved by unanimous consent.

AMERIND Liaison Update/Report

- AMERIND Liaison Ron Ryan (Metlakatla) presented the AMERIND Report. The full report was included in the documents provided to all attendees and is available on the NWIHA website, as are the Amerind presentation slides.
- Ron stated that there is some concern at this time as to whether or not the Annual AMERIND/NAIHC meeting will be held as scheduled in May in Hawaii. Members will be kept informed regarding this as decisions are made.
- Because of approximately \$600,000 in fire losses at Colville, NWIHA will not receive a fire loss incentive award this year (2021). However even with considerable losses this year, AMERIND remains fiscally strong.
- Charles asked when the decision regarding the May meeting will be made. Ron doubted a decision will be before April. If the meeting is cancelled, Charles suggested moving the NWIHA April meeting back to May.
- There were no other questions from the attendees.

NAIHC Liaison Update and Report

- NAIHC Liaison Sami Jo Difuntorum presented the report which was provided to all attendees and is available on the NWIHA website, as are the NAIHC presentation slides.
- Sami Jo described how the pandemic has financially affected NAIHC due to the inability of having in-person events, such as the annual convention. NAIHC has responded by looking to a number of grant opportunities. Sami Jo expressed serious doubt that the annual meeting will be held in May, she thought it likely that it would be moved to October.
- Sami Jo provided an overview of the NAIHC Legislative Committee meeting process, the format of which she expects to be revised. Members will be kept informed about any changes.
- NAHASDA reauthorization has been stalled in the Senate, but Sami Jo is optimistic that now it may move forward.

- Former Chairman Gary Cooper has left Cherokee Housing and is no longer the Chair. Vice Chair Adrian Stevens is now the Acting Chair.
- Sami Jo previewed the NWIHA Legislative Committee discussion that will be held on Wednesday, which she feels is very important for the organization.
- Richard Arthur (Nez Perce) asked a question regarding the Asian Pacific Islanders issues that have been raised by President Biden’s transition team. Sami Jo stated that NAIHC has provided Native American priorities for the transition team, including NAHASDA reauthorization and seating an Indian housing interagency advisory committee.
- There were no other questions from the attendees.

ATNI Liaison Report

- ATNI Liaison Shonn Leno (Grand Ronde) presented the report, which is available on the NWIHA website.
- The last ATNI meeting was held October 5-8, 2020, and during that meeting Shonn presented the two resolutions provided by NWIHA, and they were approved by ATNI and forwarded to NCAI.
- There were no questions regarding this report.

Other Business

- Laurie Ann introduced the topic of the Housing Counselor Certification requirements as expressed in a Tribal Letter dated December 18, 2020. Laurie Ann asked if the membership has any opinions or comments in this matter that they would like NWIHA to take forward to HUD.
- Several members expressed comments, both pro and con. MOTION by Sami Jo Difuntorum, second by Quileute, to have the Executive Committee draft a resolution for ATNI expressing the comments of the membership, with the consensus seeming to be that tribes and TDHE’s should have the option of individually defining Counseling for their programs. Adopted by unanimous consent. (Later it was determined that the deadline for submitting resolutions had passed, so no further action was taken.)
- Former NWIHA Executive Director Joe Diehl, provided an overview of an online auction program, with the proceeds going to the NWIHA Youth Scholarship program. After discussion, the consensus was that NWIHA should proceed with continuing discussions with Joe Diehl to participate in this endeavor.
- Associate Members were given an opportunity to speak at this point. Associate Members Erika Price (Akana), Rick Novak (Worldwide Structures), Ivi Gabales (Rice Fergus Miller Architects), James Gutierrez and Doug Chapiewsky (HDS), and Eleanor Manning (Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker) provided updates.

Meeting recessed at 11:28 AM.

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

- Chairwoman Cloud called meeting back to order at 9:02 AM.
- Erin McTigue, Tribal Indoor Air Quality Coordinator for EPA and Aileen Gagney (Tribal Healthy Homes) provided updates regarding health and safety issues related to indoor air quality. This presentation is available on the NWIHA website.
- NWIHA Vice-Chair introduced Colleen Dushkin, Executive Director for Alaska Association of Housing Authorities (AAHA), and Chris Colerok, AAHA Legislative Committee Chairman and Cook Inlet RHA Director of Public Policy. Colleen and Chris provided information on AAHA's very successful Legislative Committee process. This presentation is available on the NWIHA website.
- Sami Jo and Laurie Ann followed up with the NWIHA goal to implement a Legislative Committee early in 2021. This will require volunteers from the membership, and Charles will follow up with a request to the membership to volunteer.
- NwONAP Administrator Tom Carney and staff provided an update on NAHASDA and other HUD Programs. NWONAP's presentation is available on the NWIHA website.
- Ed Goodman, Partner with NWIHA member Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker, LLP, focused on one aspect of COVID-19: the legal challenges in how tribal housing programs can carry out their mission of providing much needed shelter for low-income tribal families. Ed discussed changes in applicable employment laws, additional funding and the restrictions that apply, eviction moratoria, and issues for potential legal liability.

MOTION made by Ron Ryan to adjourn; seconded by Joani Dugger (Grand Ronde);
MOTION approved by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 12:38 PM.