

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIAN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 10, 2021**

MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ms. Rollings called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Leann McCallum
Lonyx Landry
Ruby Rollings
Ryan Ray
Tracy Foster-Olstad
Trina Mathewson
Wilverna Reece

Del Norte County Representative
Trinity County Representative
Humboldt County Representative
Del Norte County Representative
Trinity County Representative
Humboldt County Representative
Siskiyou County Representative

Members Absent

Dena Magdaleno
Fred Case

Member at Large
Siskiyou County Representative

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Jace Baldosser, a Blue Lake Rancheria representative was the only guest.

IV. APPROVE AGENDA

Ms. Foster-Olstad motioned to approve the agenda; Ms. McCallum seconded;
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

V. APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Foster-Olstad motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 13, 2021; Ms. Reece seconded; **MOTION** carried by unanimous vote.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director

NCIDC staff has continued implementing social distancing around the office and while seeing clients for services. We have implemented phone intake procedures for clients and provide curbside delivery of vouchers and other documents to clients. Masks, gloves, and sanitizing supplies are all being utilized by staff. We are taking this very seriously and following both the federal and state mandates and guidelines.

We are also continuing to hold our Council meetings electronically. The meeting is however, still open to the public. Any person wishing to be a part of the Council meeting is welcome to come to the NCIDC Eureka office, where they would be seated in the Council Chambers. They would be able to watch the electronic meeting on the large screen TV in this meeting room, and allowed to participate during the public comment period. All guests would be expected to follow social distancing protocols. The Council Chambers are large enough to accommodate three to four individuals with proper separation. If more guests than that were to attend, the staff would relocate the public viewing to the third floor theatre area of the Carson Block building which is a larger space that can accommodate more people while still maintaining over six feet of separation between each guest.

CSBG (Community Service Block Grant) – Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed an Expenditure/Activity Report for CSBG LPA grant number 21F-4103 through July 31, 2021, with total expenditures of \$7,382.97. Our limited purpose agency funds pay for the core functions of the agency and in support of all other programs (*copies in Council packets*). There was further discussion.

Mr. Gehr and the Council also reviewed an Expenditure/Activity Report for CSBG SA grant number 21F-4104 through July 31, 2021, with total expenditures of \$74,778.86. We are starting to get executed contracts back and start to process the reimbursements. (*copies in Council packets*). There was further discussion.

Mr. Gehr and the Council also reviewed the Expenditure/Activity Report for CSBG Discretionary grant number 21F-4456 through July 31, 2021, with total expenditures of \$0.00. These funds have not yet been utilized (*copies in Council packets*).

Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed an Expenditure/Activity Report for CSBG CARES LPA grant number 20F-3742 through July 31, 2021, with total expenditures of \$10,698.21 (*copies in Council packets*). This contract is for the additional core functions as they relate to the pandemic and management of the cares process. There was further discussion.

Mr. Gehr and the Council also reviewed the Expenditure/Activity Report for CSBG CARES SA grant number 20F-3743 through July 31, 2021, with total expenditures of \$102,678.20. These funds are being utilized for Covid-19 related direct emergency services statewide (*copies in Council packets*). We are currently gathering information for another round of PPE distribution to Tribes and Tribal organizations statewide. We have 48 sites participating for this round of PPE distribution. We are also running

commercial advertisements encouraging vaccination in the American Indian populations. We currently have two one minute spots running on the Native FNX channel between the hours of 4 pm to Midnight. There was further discussion.

Mr. Gehr and the Council also reviewed the Expenditure/Activity Report for CSBG CARES Discretionary grant number 20F-3743 through July 31, 2021, with total expenditures of \$165.05 (*copies in Council packets*). There was further discussion.

CARR FIRE (National Dislocated Worker Grant code 1186) – Mr. Gehr and the Council discussed and reviewed the Carr Fire monthly report for the month of July 2021 (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed a WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1186 Sub grant Agreement AA011047, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$259,013.90 (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr discussed with the Council the ongoing difficulties that continue to halt the work on this project, ranging from a lack of eligible participants to shutting down the crews due to COVID-19 exposures. This NDWG is also nearing the end of the contract term. There was further discussion.

2018 MEGAFIRES Workforce Development (Butte County National Dislocated Worker Grant) – Mr. Gehr and the Council discussed and reviewed the monthly report for the month of July 2021 for the 2018 Megafires Workforce Development component grant code 1140 (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr explained to the Council that the Megafires has two components. The first is the Workforce Development component, which covers the training and job readiness component. Once the crews have finished that component they move into the Temporary Jobs component where we put them to work on a work site where they can gain experience to then go out and find permanent employment. Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed a WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1140 Sub grant Agreement K9111522, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$262,285.53 (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed a WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1202 Sub grant Agreement AA011047, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$0.00. This is the 2nd increment that has not yet been utilized (*copies in Council packets*). There was further discussion.

2018 MEGAFIRES Temporary Jobs (Butte County National Dislocated Worker Grant) – Mr. Gehr and the Council discussed and reviewed the monthly report for the month of July 2021 for the 2018 Megafires Temporary Jobs component grant code 1203 (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr and the Council discussed and reviewed a WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1203 Sub grant Agreement AA011047, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$317,950.43. This is the 2nd increment (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed a WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1210 Sub grant Agreement AA111058, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$0.00. This is the 3rd increment that has not yet been utilized (*copies in Council packets*). There was further discussion.

2019 STORMS (Severe Winter Storms National Dislocated Worker Grant) – Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed the monthly Report for the month of July 2021 for the 2019 Severe Winter Storms (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr and the Council

reviewed a WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1216 Sub grant Agreement AA111058, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$42,540.45 (copies in Council packets). There was further discussion.

2020 COVID (2020 Disaster Recovery COVID NDWG) – Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed the monthly report for the month of July 2021. The monthly report covers both the COVID NDWG Temporary Jobs component grant code 1195 and the Workforce Development component grant code 1196 (*copies in Council packets*). Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed the WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1195 TJ Sub grant Agreement AA011047, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$52,650.99 (copies in Council packets). Mr. Gehr and the Council also reviewed the WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1196 WD Sub grant Agreement AA011047, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$5,306.12 (copies in Council packets). This is specifically to fund the sanitization technicians and the humanitarian aid workers responding to the national COVID-19 pandemic disaster. The participants work to sanitize public spaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19, package and distribute COVID-19 PPE, and refer members of the public to health and wellness assistance resources related to COVID-19. There was further discussion.

2020 September Wildfires DR NDWG – Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed the monthly report for the month of July 2021. The monthly report covers both the 2020 September Wildfires DR NDWG Temporary Jobs component grant code 1212 and the Workforce Development component grant code 1213 (copies in Council packets). Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed the WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1212 TJ Sub grant Agreement AA111058, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$0.00 (copies in Council packets). Mr. Gehr and the Council also reviewed the WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 1213 WD Sub grant Agreement AA111058, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$0.00 (copies in Council packets). Mr. Gehr informed the Council that no services were provided this month because staff are still working to establish worksites. We have also continued reaching out to potential worksites, recruiting participants, and processing applications. There was further discussion.

CA AIRRP (California American Indian Rapid Response Program) – Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed the WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures for Grant Code 541 Sub grant Agreement AA011047, through July 2021, with total expenditures of \$105,561.42 (copies in Council packets). There was further discussion.

Da'luk Youth Program – Mr. Feliz informed the Council that he has been with the Da'luk Youth Program since July 2020. The Da'luk Program is excited to offer virtual Youth groups for students in 7th – 9th and 10th – 12th grades for Tribal youth from both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties this academic year. Mr. Feliz also discussed with the Council that Alisha Johnson, a longtime NCIDC staff member will be joining the program this semester as part of her internship with the HSU Social Work program as she pursues her bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University in Social Work. Ms. Johnson will be assisting Mr. Feliz to co-facilitate the virtual Youth Group meetings. Mr. Feliz also discussed the BARCID Media virtual event held August 2nd – 5th. Eleven Tribal youths, ages 12-17 registered for the 4-day event. BARCID Media is

a Native owned and operated media outfit and supports Native American actors actresses and animators. One of the speakers during the virtual event was Karen Jade Myers. She is from the Wichita Tribe and she is currently working on a Martin Scorsese film about historical colonization practices in Oklahoma. Another one of the speakers was an animator for the Disney Channel TV show Nicolette Ray, who is Acoma Pueblo. The presenters spoke to our youth about their careers, health and wellness, how they maintain their mental health, what they do to take care of themselves and the struggles they had as youths growing up. We have started planning a Tribal youth summit with eleven North Coast Tribal community partners that is scheduled to take place at the end of October. Events and information about the Da'luk Program are regularly posted on our Facebook page, Twitter feed and Instagram and Mr. Feliz informed the Council they could follow and like these social media links to learn more about the Da'luk program.

ACLU – Mr. Gehr informed the Council that Ms. Marshall the ACLU Staff member has resigned. Ms. Rain has taken a full time job with HSU. She is now teaching 15 units full time for HSU and has submitted her letter of resignation to the agency. We are reviewing the job description and working with ACLU to recruit a replacement staff member. There was further discussion.

CARSON BLOCK – Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed and discussed the finalized letter that was sent to the City of Eureka. This is a formal request to convert the \$3.6 million CDBG loan to a grant and offer of a one-time \$250,000 payment as part of the conversion process. The letter also covers the history of the building and the restoration project, NCIDC's partnership with the City and the rationale for converting the loan to a grant (copies in Council packets). We have been discussing financing options with US Bank and AEDC to provide the necessary funding to complete Carson Block Restoration Project and complete the unwind of the tax credit process. AEDC has offered to extend our existing loan and offer a second loan to cover the current needs of the unwind. There was further discussion.

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) – Mr. Gehr and the Council reviewed the list of the 48 Tribes in our LIHEAP program, showing how much of each Tribal allocation has been expended for the FY 2021. We have informed our Tribes and we are actively processing applications for our spend down (*copies in Council packets*) There was further discussion.

LIWAP (Low Income Water Assistance Program) – Mr. Gehr and the Council discussed the new LIWAP program. It is similar to the LIHEAP program except instead of energy assistance, we can assist with water and wastewater bills that are passed due. We will be offering this to our 48 Tribes that we already distribute the LIHEAP program to. There was further discussion.

CENSUS 2020 – Ms. Richeson and the Council reviewed and discussed the Census data that has been released. They have only released the redistricting data as required by law. Ms. Richeson compiled the data for our four county service area and census tracts that contained Tribal offices and gave the Council a summary report including charts which showed an increase of the Native populations. One of the charts examined the 2010 and 2020 total number of people who marked that they are

American Indian or Alaskan Native, alone or in combination, which means that they are either 100% American Indian or Alaska Native, or they are American Indian or Alaska Native combined with one or more other races. The number of American Indian or Alaska Natives in California has nearly doubled and increased for each county in our service area. Another chart showed the population of American Indian or Alaskan Native people alone or in combination increased in number for each census tract except the tract containing the Tsnungwe Tribal office, and the percentage increases were significant. In addition, the percentage of those increases from the 2010 census to the 2020 census by county were significant in each county except Trinity County. Finally, we examined the change in the proportion that the population of American Indian and Alaskan Native people alone or in combination is of the total population by county and census tract in our region. The proportion of the total population for this racial group increased for each county except Trinity County, but the proportion increased in all of the census tracts. We will share more data as it becomes available, but we feel our efforts to increase the representation of American Indian or Alaska Natives in the census is apparent (*copies in Council packets*). There was further discussion.

Written program activity reports for Humboldt, Del Norte, and Siskiyou County were included in the Council packets for their review.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Foster-Olstad motioned to approve the Executive Director's report for September 10, 2021; Ms. Reece seconded; **MOTION** carried by unanimous vote.

B. Fiscal Report

Mr. Byfield and the Council reviewed and discussed the July 2021 Financial Report. During this discussion the statement of financial position was reviewed as well as monthly statements of revenue and expenditures for NCIDC's grant contracts (*copies in Council packets*).

There was no public comment.

Ms. Reece motioned to approve the July 2021 Financial Report; Mr. Landry seconded; **MOTION** carried by unanimous vote.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Vaccination Policy – Mr. Gehr and the Council discussed President Biden's speech in regards to his new six point plan that he is implementing through a variety of administrative policies and executive orders for vaccine mandates, continued social distancing, masking, testing, variety of other things related to the pandemic. There were things in his speech that are directly relevant to NCIDC as a federal contractor. The full authorization of the vaccine and the President's

mandate for federal contractors places us in a position to implement new policies to carry out the intent of the Executive Order of the President. In order to begin compliance, we will need to ask that new hires be able to show either proof of vaccination or submit a legal accommodation request. The vaccination policy would follow the federal and state mandated accommodations for people who demonstrate sincerely held religious beliefs or have disabilities documented by a medical professional that prevent them from getting vaccinated. There was further discussion.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Mathewson motioned to implement a vaccine policy to require proof of vaccination or submission of a legal accommodation request for medical or religious reasons for all new hires; Ms. Reece seconded; Ms. Rollings abstained; **MOTION** carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Holiday Food Cards 2021** – Mr. Gehr and the Council discussed the changes we have made to the Holiday Food card distribution. Last year we gave sheets with a code number to the Tribal staff and representatives and they would give them to identified families in need. The problem is we didn't end up utilizing all of the codes for the cards during the program. The agency continues to develop and improve our distribution system so as to maximize the service to the community while collecting the required information required by the State under our contract. Staff is requesting the Council's approval to distribute them differently this year. We want to propose this year that we go ahead and stage our food card distribution program to be targeted at 600 households, supplemented with vouchers in the river corridor where there are no Grocery Outlet stores, which matches the numbers that we have received/distributed in the past. We would not limit each tribe to only a certain number but rather on a first come first served basis. We would give each of the Tribal entities in our four county areas fliers where they can simply tell their clients or members to apply online with a link to the intake rather than doing specific serial numbers. They could also call in to the office if they do not have internet access and staff would assist them in filling out the online intake. We would distribute them, one per household/address to households that are eligible on a first come first serve basis to our four county area. There was further discussion.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Foster-Olstad motioned to approve opening up the food cards distribution to our four County area on a first come first served basis; Ms. McCallum seconded; **MOTION** carried by unanimous vote.

B. Carson Block – Mr. Gehr, Mr. Byfield and the Council discussed the prospect of requesting a supplementary loan in order to make modifications to the second floor center space to make it rentable. It is 6300 square feet. It has a kitchen, some private, some not private offices, a boardroom and a bunch of cubicles. We have had multiple perspective renters come in to look at it, however the lack of privacy in the offices has always been an obstacle when attempting to rent the space. We discussed this with the AEDC and we are already going to borrow about \$300,000. They would be willing to add another \$100,000 in there to give us the capital to fix the space upstairs and make it rentable. The rental income would more than offset the extra debt service cost of borrowing \$100,000. There was further discussion.

Mr. Gehr and Mr. Byfield also informed the council that they completed the unwind of the historic tax credit partnership with US Bank and the agency wired the \$305,000 to US Bank that was authorized by the Council at the last meeting. There was further discussion.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Foster-Olstad motioned to approve the supplementary loan in order to make modifications to the second floor center space; Ms. McCallum seconded;
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

IX. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

There were no requests for assistance.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT / INFORMATION / THANK YOU

There was no public comment / information / thank you.

XI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., by teleconference.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Reece motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Ray seconded; **MOTION** carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Trina Mathewson
Council Secretary

Prepared By



Cheyenne Souza
Executive Assistant