

Executive Director's Report for the Period

January 16, 2015 – May 15, 2015

Submitted by Sherry L. Rupert to Nevada Indian Commission Board

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Administrative

- The Commission received a resignation letter from Commissioner Greiner creating a General Public vacancy on the Nevada Indian Commission.
- Commissioners John Hansen and Kathleen Quasula were officially sworn in as Commissioners at the January 15, 2015 Board meeting.
- Attended Governor's Cabinet meetings on January 21, 2015 and April 22, 2015; and, Cabinet Team meetings on February 4, 2015 and May 6, 2015.
- Budget
 - On January 15, 2015 the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy initiative was mentioned by Governor Sandoval in the State of the State Address, Nevada's Tribal Leaders were recognized, as well as Mr. Erwin McQueen, a veteran and Ely Shoshone Tribal Member.
 - The Nevada Indian Commission budget accounts (2600 and 2601) closed on Saturday, May 2, 2015. **Please refer to attached handouts.**
 - SB 63 (creating the Nevada Indian Commission's Gift Fund; designating the Commission as the coordinating agency for certain discussions regarding activities at and uses of the buildings and grounds of the former Stewart Indian School; and providing other matters properly relating thereto) was introduced in the Senate Government Affairs Committee on February 20, 2015 and passed out of the Committee on February 27, 2015, with Senate Final Passage on March 5, 2015. The bill was assigned to the Assembly Government Affairs Committee and was introduced on March 19, 2015. There was a suggestion for a small amendment to the bill that would not change the intent. The amendment changes the approval of the sale of the donation from the Executive Director to the Board of Commissioners. The Senate Chair approved of the amendment and it was sent to the Governor's Office. SB 63 was signed into Law with a signing ceremony on Thursday, May 14, 2015
 - AB 15 Creates the Account for Protection and Rehabilitation of the Stewart Indian School (BDR 18-360) – The bill originated out of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division and would sell two parcels of land at Clear Creek, with proceeds going into a separate account for the protection and rehabilitation of the Stewart Indian School. Though funding from the sale of these two parcels will not be enough to rehabilitate the entire campus and its 50 plus buildings, this additional source of funding for the school would provide for urgent repair and maintenance on buildings.

We commend the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and State Lands Division for their innovative thinking and efforts to collaborate with sister agencies to protect the Stewart Indian School.

- The \$3 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) request for the construction on Buildings 1 and 2 at the Stewart Facility did not make it onto the list of projects that the State Public Works Board recommended the Governor include in his budget. The Governor did request that \$297,923 be set aside for the Stewart Indian School. The funds will be used for design and construction documents for Building #2, the Welcome and Information Center and toward a master plan document for the Stewart Complex.
- The NIC was served with a subpoena of our records relating to a lawsuit against the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC). The subpoena requested documents that pertained to the NIC's discussions with and recommendations to the NDOC in regard to the religious rights and Administrative Regulations that affect American Indian inmates.
- The NIC has also been asked by the NDOC to file an amicus brief in an appeal (on the use of sweatlodges) that has gone to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The NIC will be working with the American Indian spiritual and tribal leaders on the document.

Projects

- A full report on Stewart-related items will be given under Agenda Item XIV.
- The Nevada Indian Commission hosted the 2015 *Tribal Legislative Forum* at the former Stewart Indian School in Carson City, NV on Thursday, January 15, 2015. The Forum included former legislators (John Ocegüera, former Speaker of the Assembly and Senior Vice President, Nevada Operations, Strategies 360; Ernie Adler, former State Senator, attorney and lobbyist; and former State Assemblywoman, attorney and candidate for Lt. Governor, Lucy Flores) that shared their expertise, experience and provided tips to make this a more effective session for tribal governments. Attendees included Tribal Leaders, advocates and American Indian organizations.
- The Commission also coordinated the *Nevada Tribes Legislative Day*, February 10, 2015 at the Legislature. The day is meant to recognize and pay tribute to the history and culture of American Indians and their contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of Nevada and the United States. It is also an opportunity to share information on important issues that affect the tribal communities and about the Tribes in general and how we, meaning the State and the Tribal nations, can work more closely and meaningfully. There were approximately 250 in attendance and over 30 legislators that attended throughout the day.

Presentations/Meetings/Miscellaneous

- At the last NIC Board meeting a group of concerned tribal citizens presented to the Commission in regard to the U.S. Forest Service and BLM clear cutting Pine Nut trees in the Sweet Water Range. Since that time, I have met with Cory Hunt and the Bi-State Sage-Grouse Conservation Executive Oversight Committee on the issue. At this meeting I was able to convey the importance of the pinion-juniper to Nevada's American Indians and their concerns regarding removal in culturally sensitive areas. The group decided it best to take a holistic approach to

resource management that would focus on the ecosystem balance, including the pinion-juniper. It was also decided that the Nevada Indian Commission would assist in the coordination of a Resource Workshop in August or September of this year to bring all parties together. We will use an inter/intra-agency advisory council coalition to collectively plan the workshop.

- The Nevada American Indian and Alaska Native Education Summit was held March 15-17, 2015 at UNR. This is the eighth year that the Nevada Indian Commission has partnered with the Nevada Department of Education and UNR to share best practices and American Indian cultural resources and information with Nevada's educators. This is the first year, though that the planning committee included a mobile workshop on the first day to take educators around the Lake Tahoe Basin to learn about the Washoe culture. We were accompanied by a tribal tour guide and visited the Donner Memorial State Park, Meeks Bay Resort (managed by the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA), Cave Rock and the Stewart Indian School. The mobile workshop provided a one on one learning opportunity that will better assist our state's educators with teaching about the Washoe people; learning about the Washoe people directly from the Washoe themselves.
- I was interviewed by Riley Snyder of the Associated Press about the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy initiative. Mr. Riley is very interested in the project (received some initial history of the Stewart Indian School in his journalism class at UNR) and would also like to do a follow up story as the initiative progresses.
- Spring Stewart Indian School Tours and Presentations:
 - **May 1, 2015**
 - St. Viator Elementary School at Stewart Indian School (75 attendees)
 - **May 13, 2015**
 - Nate Mack Elementary School at Stewart Indian School (90 attendees)
 - **May 14, 2015**
 - Carson City Leadership Institute at Stewart Indian School (25 attendees)
 - **May 20, 2015**
 - Presentation on the Stewart Indian School to the Leisure Hour Club (75 attendees)
 - **May 28, 2015**
 - Sandy Miller Elementary School at Stewart Indian School (Est. 150 attendees)

Upcoming Events

- IPW Travel and Trade Show, May 31-June 3, 2015
- Stewart Father's Day Powwow, June 19-21, 2015 – Carson City, NV
- Western Governors Association Conference, June 24-26, 2015 – Incline Village, NV
- National Congress of American Indians Mid-year Conference, June 28-July 1, 2015 – St. Paul, MN
- I have been notified by the Nevada Day Parade Committee that I have been chosen as Co-Grand Marshal of this year's Nevada Day Parade! The theme this year is "Nevada: One State, Many Cultures."