

Green Ribbon Commission (GRC) Tribal Stakeholders Meeting 8.31.2023

Welcome from WEDC Secretary Missy Hughes and Deputy Secretary Sam Ridders

GRC Commissioners present: John Brogan, Sandra Henry, Sean Kennedy, Sara Conzemius, Pamela Boivin, Kamaljit Jackson

Katelynn, DOA, stand in for Maria Redmond

Mark Webster – meeting facilitator and guide

Overview of the GRC August Guiding Principles meeting

Tribal Stakeholders Introductions

- Cara Kulhanek – Forest County Potawatomi - grants community
- Chris Caldwell – President - College of Menominee Nation
- Chris McGeshick – Bad River Community; alternative energy resources and sustaining and protecting the environment.
- Jeff Bowman - Bay Bank, owned by Oneida Nation – any resources developed for tribal communities will be helpful
- Jacob Pankratz – advisor for GO
- Philomena Kebec – Bad River Tribe; need utility based options
- Shane Dixon – Menominee Tribal enterprise
- Tana Aguirre – Oneida Nation gov't affairs
- Colin Kafka – ECWRPC - Menominee - Resiliency for Menominee
- Kaycee Wayka – works with Pamela Boivin
- Melissa Arik – Red Cliff – Planner & Grant Writer
- Michael Troge – Energy Project Manager – Oneida
- Michelle Beaudin – LCO
- Morgan Gerk – Red Cliff – Planner & Grant Writer
- Laura Moranda – Bad River
- Rob Czynpinski – Red Cliff – ED Planner
- Ryan Greendeer – no intro – Ho-Chunk Nation (Google)
- Sharon Waukau – Menominee – Economic Recovery Coordinator
- Victoria Flowers – Oneida Nation
- Jerrald Hauber – no intro - Forest County Potawatomi Community (Google)
- Marci Hawpetoss – Menomomie Indian Tribe – grants team

Concerns were raised by those in attendance as to this being a Tribal Consultation as that language notates a meeting with the Tribal Governing Board and scheduling that meeting goes through very specific channels as government to government relationships. Only leadership speaks on behalf of the tribes.

The Vision Statement was shared with the group

A question was raised on the cultural competency of the process.

- Commissioner John Brogan recognized that the commissioner is aware that there are other views that are needed.
- Commissioner Sandra Henry recognizes that sustainability looks different depending on community and language and opportunity will look different.
- Commissioner Sara Conzemius echoed Sandra's points and reiterated that the commission is aware that a lot of voices were missing.
- Commissioner Kamaljit Jackson said that simplification of language is critical.

How do we propose to gain cultural competency?

- Sam Ridders said WEDC and the state will administer the funds and on the ground work will be leveraged with communities they serve, for example native CDFI's.

A comment was made on transportation energy space and needing to reduce tail pipe emissions.

There is a need for financing for big energy projects as they're usually for big companies and not tribes. They need to find 20% match for projects with the federal government.

There was a report for the Lake Superior basin that said they don't have the workforce because they don't have the housing.

There is a hope that the Green Innovation Fund can support tribes holistically and systemically.

Define what clean energy means. Use EV and other tech that support lower emissions. If WEDC has some influence on utility costs that would help. Having it Made in WI may leave out some tech.

Questions about measurements and what are the metrics and baseline for water quality, air quality, soil quality, etc.

There are policy shifts needed to utilities for tribes with solar.

Don't throw money at something and expect it to be solved.

Keep the grant applications simple. Not all tribes have grant writers.

Sam Ridders wrapped the meeting up looking at the timeline for the commission.