

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Zoom/Primary Administrative Office, Sparks, Nevada

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the Special Meeting of Tuesday, September 8, 2020 to order at 5:21 pm.

ROLL CALL: Secretary/Treasurer, Eugene Mace, Sr. called the roll: Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle, present; Vice-Chairwoman, Nedra Crane, present; Secretary/Treasurer, Eugene Mace, Sr., present; Council Member Phillip Frank, present; and Council Member, Steven Crane, present.

STAFF: Linda Quinn, Finance Director; Rachael Youmans, Natural Resources Department Director

GUEST: David Thomason, Crystal Harjo; and Adam Burpee; FEMA

This meeting was to introduce Ms. Harjo, Mr. Burpee, and Mr. Thomason in regards to FEMA and the up-coming things with FEMA and dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a previous conference call via Zoom the week of August 31, 2020. They touched base on some things that are available. Ms. Lone Eagle wants to keep everyone in the loop with partnerships and with anything FEMA could do to help SLPT.

Ms. Youmans thanked them for the follow-up documents they sent after the initial meeting and for the follow-up meeting. She said it was great to get on the same page and thanked them for their help.

Mr. Mace asked what was covered in the previous meeting.

Mr. Adam Burpee, Federal Coordinating Officer from FEMA, Region 9 in Oakland, California said his primary purpose of engagement is to help try build the nation to nation relationship between the federal government and the Tribe. It happens that there is a pandemic going on and is a great reason to come together.

There is quite a bit going on in terms of policy and opportunities whether it is Cares Act, Treasury Funding, or FEMA program. It is overwhelming. Sometimes the paperwork can be an obstacle in of itself. Having that inside view of how the programs fit together and what opportunities there are puts them in the position to offer some interpretation of the complex and convoluted information out there. It is overwhelming. His approach is to build a relationship and listen to what the Tribe has going on. He wants to know what are the things that are most pressing for the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe. There are multiple programs from many federal agencies and volunteer organizations out there. He would like to take the concerns of the Tribe and find programs that fit within FEMA but can also assist with contact information, etc. for other federal agencies. He asked what the most urgent needs of the Tribe.

Mr. Mace mentioned that due to distancing and the current housing at the Reservation

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only a few people have been scheduled to be there at time from the Natural Resources Department. He asked if FEMA could help with housing out there.

Mr. Thomason recapped the information he had, with the Chairwoman's permission, on the status of the Tribe. He is the Tribal Liaison for Nevada and Ms. Harjo is the main Tribal Liaison. He is there on site for a month. At this point, SLPT has not applied for any public assistance. He sent Ms. Youmans the form and information on how to fill it out. He sent information regarding sheltering and also transportation needs information. An example of this is that since they used Tribal vehicle to pick-up supplies from the FEMA warehouse, the mileage is reimbursable. If assistance is needed to talk to FEMA people, he will be the person to aid in connecting the FEMA person and the Tribe. He will find the FEMA contact for the Tribe.

Mr. Thomason heard that emails and communications were going to the wrong spot. The problem could be that Ms. Lone Eagle changed her name. Mr. Burpee will get the proper contact information and get the information input into the FEMA system.

Ms. Harjo asked what name was used when to sign the Intent for Public Assistance letter for the Tribe, this is usually the one that becomes the point of contact. It is believed that it was signed by the Chairwoman. Both sides will look for the paperwork to confirm this. The Recovery and PA (Public Assistance Program) team has a weekly webinar every Wednesday at 2:00 pm. They go over the PA process and highlights some bulletins. Ms. Harjo can send them a link to the FEMA website to see all the bulletins. The main point is to get into the Portal to sign up and start the paperwork and enter projects.

It was confirmed that Ms. Lone Eagle did sign the letter with her current name. It was stated that there have been no communications since the letter was sent, not even an acknowledgement of receipt. It was sent to the address on the form. Ms. Harjo said it is a totally different funding source through the State of Nevada rainy day fund, not the Public Assistance. Ms. Harjo will help them to file with the proper funding source. It is overwhelming.

It was advised to document everything at the time it happens. It will be of great help later.

Ms. Youmans stated that SLPT is a unique situation with the Administration in town and the Reservation four hours away. Emergency management issues are different than other tribes.

FEMA is there for handling emergencies, but also have the components with grants for things like marking the electrical lines so they can land medical emergency helicopters.

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Mr. Thomason said that they are hiring someone to help handle the long-term concerns of designated tribes. They will be able to assist with FEMA and other federal agencies.

Mr. Burpee said there is a lot of training and resources available to the Tribe.

Ms. Youmans said that taking care of the Reservation goes together with taking care of the members even though they are not in the same physical place.

Mr. Thomason said this should not be an issue with FEMA.

Ms. Lone Eagle explained the location of the Tribal members with approximately 70% in the Reno/Sparks area with 30% in other locations. There is approximately 200 members.

There was a discussion of Public Assistance and the ways it can be used. One concern is taking care of the homeless after COVID. There are sheltering options. There is less administrative burden if the Tribe goes through the State. Issues and concerns noted are: Housing, transportation, Fire on the Reservation, and marking powerlines. These items sound as if HMGP-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is outside of the scope of the pandemic, may be useful. Ms. Harjo mentioned the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and PDM-Pre-Disaster Mitigations could also be of use. She will get the Council more information. They are pushing for tribal involvement.

Mr. Mace has a concern about the people traveling through the Reservation that do poaching and vandalism. The Tribe cannot seem get to any law enforcement. If there is a problem, the Council can call the BLM police who are two hours away. It would be nice to have regular patrols.

Ms. Harjo listed things she will look into for SLPT.

- She will send email regarding the BRIC and PDM programs
- She will look at getting Public Assistance initiation
- She will ask about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in Humboldt County.
The Tribe can do one on their own or annex to the county which might be easier.

As concerning food for the members, there are food banks all over the metro area but transportation is an issue. The Nevada Indian Commission has been working on that end. She will check with them to see if they can help.

Ms. Harjo asked what the planning, training and exercise needs of the Tribe are in terms of management.

Ms. Lone Eagle stated emergency management is on board whether through the state

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or federal perspective of being engaged or involved with Summit Lake Paiute Tribe. There really has not been any emergency management for some time now because of lack of funding or only dealing with the BIA. They often feel they are at the bottom of the pile. Wildfires are a concern at the Lake. Ultimately, having that partnership and having that goal and building the relationship is wanted. This is something that has been lacking. This relationship is unique for the Tribe as a whole and could help in providing what we can for the Tribal Members.

Ms. Crane thanked them for coming.

They were glad to come.

Ms. Lone Eagle stated that as far as the pandemic goes the issues for the Tribal membership were the homeless, not having enough food for their families, more than one family in a household. Providing what is possible is a big deal. This was the focus since the pandemic.

Ms. Harjo said they are gathering information from their partners and districts regarding sheltering for COVID or hazards. SLPT is unique. How would the member go about finding shelter in the case of a disaster evacuation event such as a wild fire or mass flooding. Ms. Crane said that they would probably go to a relative or a friend's home. Ms. Lone Eagle said it was possible that some people would head to the Reservation except for a lack of transportation. Ms. Harjo said this the type of information they need.

It was also mentioned that people go to the Reservation not knowing if anyone will be there. This happens during Burning Man because SLPT does not have the resources to monitor the Reservation. This is how poaching and vandalism occurs.

Mr. Burpee said they also like to look at elderly populations, those people who are particularly vulnerable such as people with disabilities or no transportation.

Mr. Thomason summarized what would be done:

- Ms. Harjo will handle the BRIC issue
- Mr. Burpee will get the Council the Tribal contact point for the feds
- Ms. Harjo will work the Public Assistance piece in regards to the state
- Mr. Burpee will reach out to voluntary organizations so he can forward resources. If the Council needs something, they can call him.

Mr. Thomason, Mr. Burpee and Ms. Harjo left the meeting.

OPEN FORUM:

Ms. Youmans said the American Fisheries Society meeting is virtual this year. There

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are several sessions that would be interesting to attend. Several sessions to help get caught up on the current technology and the current science of different fisheries techniques. She is asking to have herself and two employees attend. This can be funded out the BIA fisheries budget or NFWF Funds 141 or 122 or 102. There would be no travel expenses.

It is the consensus of the Council to approve the attendance of Mr. Youmans and two of her employees at the American Fisheries Society virtual training.

There are a lot of horses on the Reservation right now. There are two groups of them wreaking havoc. One group of horses is on the west side of the Reservation coming from Toll House Canyon. They come down to the Lake every day. There about 50 of them. NRD is in the process of building a boundary fence on the former public land which will begin on September 14, 2020. They are working with the BLM to push the horses out before completing the fence. The second location is Tule Spring. They are hammering the spring and have destroyed a bat detector. So, we hope that the BLM can help push them out the south boundary before completing the fence.

She has talked to the Wild Horse and Burro Specialist to see if this is a possibility. He said yes about the boundary fence and will take a look at Tule Spring. He is requesting a written letter giving him permission to come remove the horses. Ms. Youmans has drafted a letter for Ms. Lone Eagle to sign.

It is the consensus of the Council to grant permission to remove the horses.

Ms. Quinn presented the latest information on the Cares Act of what things the funds can be used for and that the Tribe cannot give a per capita payment. There is even a federal matching.

For everyone on Grants Solution: Ms. Lone Eagle, Mr. Mace, Mr. Frank, Ms. Crane should have invitations to log on to the system. They are needed in order to complete the reporting for Cares Act Funding. They will do this at the next meeting. They need to be logged in.

Property Update: The extension on the escrow is October 25, 2020. There are two banks, Nevada American Bank and Rural Community Assistance Corporation. They need an attorney to do an Attorney's Opinion Letter to verify SLPT is a federally recognized tribe. This is a loan requirement.

Ms. Lone Eagle has granted permission to schedule a building inspection.

Wes Williams is a Native Attorney that does Real Estate Law. He says he worked for SLPT in 2000. He is willing to do the real estate things and the Attorney's Opinion.

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She will have the terms from two banks shortly.

There is a tentative meeting Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm to choose a bank.

MOTION: Vice-Chairwoman Nedra Crane moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Steven Crane seconded the motion. Chairwoman Rand Lone Eagle called the vote: 4 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINED. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

CERTIFICATION

I, Eugene Mace, Sr., Secretary/Treasurer of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribal Council, hereby certify that the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 Special Council Meeting, as corrected, were approved by the Council during a duly held meeting September 19, 2020 at which there was a quorum present, and the Council voted:

4 - FOR 0 - AGAINST 0 -ABSTAINING, Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle did not vote because there was not a tie vote.

9/23/2020
Date

Eugene Mace, Sr.
Eugene Mace, Sr.
Secretary/Treasurer
Summit Lake Tribal Council