

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Primary Administrative Office, Sparks, Nevada

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle called the Special Meeting of Wednesday, March 15, 2023 to order at 5:00 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: Housing Manager, Austin New Moon; Natural Resources Director, James Simmons; and Natural Resources Fish/Wildlife Biologist, Rebecca Carniello

GUESTS: Tribal Members Maria Navarro, Anahi and Xochitl Vazquez, Lorraine Watson, Page Linton, Susanna, Anna Rodriguez, Celina Gonzales, Lisa Stearns, Tuppe Mogo'ne, Andrea Rodriguez, Raina Morningstar, Trisha, Crystal Ortega, Elaina Northrup, Melissa Eller and Thalia Dick

This meeting was to discuss funding opportunities (GRID) and discussion on how to spend the 2021 ARPA funds received.

Ms. Carniello discussed the proposed submission of a funding opportunity from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Section 40101(d) Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid. For the application they need to submit criterion and objectives for the use of the funding. Solid plans to utilize the funds would be made after the funding is approved. NRD wants to present the ideas they already have and ask the membership if they have and additional ideas.

Ms. Carniello stated that the money has already been allocated to states and tribes. All you have to do is apply for it. This grant can be used for all sorts of projects.

Mrs. Lone Eagle asked what NRD had come up with in regards to utilizing that money.

It is mostly for the sub-grantees, but she outlined some of the objectives NRD would have for the projects. Mrs. Lone Eagle shared the Zoom screen with Ms. Carniello to make her presentation on the objectives of GRID grant.

Background:

The Tribe must subgrant to "eligible entities" to execute projects. Eligible entities include:

- Electric grid operators
- Electricity storage operators
- Electricity generators
- Transmission owners or operators
- Distribution providers

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- Fuel suppliers

There was a summary of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Section 40101(d) Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

- The Formula Grant Program is funded through the BIL
- The Program is expected to provide \$2.3 billion in grants to state and tribes over the next five years.
- The goals are to strengthen and modernize power grids against disruptive events
- The Summit Lake Paiute Tribe's first year allocation is expected to be \$33,730 with additional allocations each year for four years.

Project Criteria

Top priority is resilience projects that:

- Benefit the most Tribal members
- Best serve low-income and energy-burdened Tribal members
- Address grid infrastructure vulnerabilities to extreme weather events
- Have the greatest capacity to reduce duration, severity and number of people impacted by power outages
- Are easily maintained and operated
- Do not pose significant negative impacts to the environment

Eligible projects

- Weatherization technologies and equipment
- Fire-resistant technologies and equipment
- Monitoring and control technologies
- Undergrounding of electrical equipment
- Utility pole management
- Relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors
- Vegetation and fuel-load management
- Use of construction of "distributed energy resources" (DER) for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events including microgrids and battery-storage subcomponents
- Adaptive protection technologies
- Advanced modeling technologies
- Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations and other systems
- Replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables

Proposed Objectives and Metrics

Objective 1: To ensure that critical facilities are not impacted by disruption events by using a portion of total funding to install backup electric/solar generators with battery

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storage to enhance system adaptive capacity during a disruptive event.

Metrics

- Capacity in kilowatts (kW) of battery storage and electric generators
- Ability of the generators to reduce the frequency and duration of disruptive events

Objective 2: To reduce frequency and consequences of extreme weather condition (e.g., extreme temperatures, wildfires, winter storms, etc.) causing disruption to normal grid operations and critical facilities within the Reservation

Metrics: Frequency of electricity disruptions of one hour or more in the years prior to project implementation in comparison to the years following project implementation

Objective 3: To increase skilled workforce within the Tribe by assuring that any installed resilience measures can be operated and maintained by Tribal members and employees where possible

Metrics: Number of employees and Tribal members trained to operate and maintain any installed resilience measures

Objective 4: Invest in modernization of the grid infrastructure to enhance energy resilience, increase electrification, and address evolving system needs

Metrics:

- Miles of transmission lines improved with resilience measures to mitigate impacts of disruptive events
- Number of residences and critical facilities served by transmission line and substation resilience improvements

Ms. Carniello stated that NRD is looking for feedback from the Tribe asking if there are additional projects, objectives or criteria the Tribe should consider including and what other metrics might be best tracking program objectives.

Mrs. Lone Eagle asked the Council if they had any feedback.

Mr. Mace said they were talking about the airstrip and that the power lines went across it. This would be dangerous. They were thinking of moving the power lines so they could put in an airfield in case of a tragedy/emergency.

Mr. Crane talked about power poles and putting them in to get power to the residents out there. Ms. Carniello said there are only two poles out there and they are close to the field station.

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Ms. Crane said they should put in poles on the other side of the field station where they could put in any type of housing in the future. Mrs. Lone Eagle said only the homes near the field station have any power. It would be good to extend that with four or five more poles and solar power.

Mrs. Lone Eagle asked if anyone one in Zoom had any questions on the proposed GRID application. Someone asked if this grant could be used for a road. That was a good question. Mrs. Lone Eagle mentioned that NRD had a transportation grant and was asking for more funding. They talked about a rerouting of the road.

Ms. Linton asked who supplies the power out on the Reservation. The answer was Harney Electric. Ms. Linton asked if the Tribe would need to go through them to get the power they want. Mrs. Lone Eagle replied that with this GRID application process they are not there at infrastructure yet. They are still trying to get membership feedback. This would be a step they would need to take as the deadline for submission of the application is March 31, 2023. This is still the planning with only objectives. They are not at the stage to start hard plans contacting Harney Electric or other agencies. They are saying that if SLPT is awarded this grant and funding available, this is what SLPT's planned project is going to be.

Ms. Watson asked does not SLPT still have their own utility company. Mrs. Lone Eagle said not that she was aware of. Ms. Watson said that was how they got established to get electricity was to be their own utility company. There is one resident who pays SLPT for electric, which SLPT in turns pays to Harney Electric.

One question in the chat asked about the wildlife. Ms. Carniello said that the criteria is that the projects do not have any effect on the wildlife. She also mentioned that having the poles underground would be better especially for the raptors.

Ms. Linton asked where this would be on the Reservation. It is a good question. Ms. Carniello said it would be "to be determined" (TBD). They have not gotten too far into planning. As previously stated, they have to apply for the funding first. They just need objectives now. Then, when they get the funding, it can be set in stone. There would be another public process and hearing more project ideas from the local utility companies. Ms. Linton said that the Natural Resources Department that works up there would have a better point of view as to where things can be located on the Reservation. She feels their opinions would be great for this also.

Mr. Simmons commented about how the criteria is not to affect the wildlife. He feels that there should also be a criterion not to affect any historical or cultural sites. This should be considered when determining locations. Mrs. Lone Eagle stated that there is not a lot of room in the field station for developing within the compound. SLPT needs to expand

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outside of the field station and think long term where these things will go.

It was commented that instead of an air strip, a helicopter pad might be better. Mr. Frank said that he thinks that they wanted to have it on the west side near the big water tanks because there are no power lines out there. Ms. Crane said that is why they wanted the airstrip out there because of power lines.

One member said that he always wanted to learn to fly a plane. Mrs. Lone Eagle said that if and when they get to the point of working on an airstrip or helipad, they would need to see if any of the members wanted to get pilot licenses, then they would incorporate it.

It was asked if they would get generators. There are a few electrical generators at the field station.

Mrs. Lone Eagle asked for any further questions. She stated that time is short to submit the application as the deadline is March 31, 2023 to apply for this funding. She does not want to miss the opportunity to get this funding. They are giving everyone the opportunity to dive into this opportunity. Moving forward, once SLPT is awarded the funding, there will be additional meetings and input and getting it out to the membership for input into the ongoing process moving forward.

Mr. Mace said he liked the idea that they had four years to come up with the program and accumulate into a bigger project. Mr. Simmons agreed that it was good to have time to bank it until they come up with the right solutions. Mr. Frank said, as for space, there is the new land that they acquired and fenced north of Cold Horse Canyon that has some flat area in the rolling hills. There is quite a lot of land back there.

Ms. Carniello asked if the objectives were okay. It was the consensus of those present to go forward with the objectives for submittal.

Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle introduced herself and the Council members Vice-Chairwoman Nedra Crane, Council Member Steven Crane, Secretary/Treasurer Eugene Mace and Council Member Philip Frank.

Mrs. Lone Eagle took back the Zoom control.

Mrs. Lone Eagle stated that next on the agenda was a discussion regarding ARPA. As some may know, SLPT was awarded a little over \$3 million. In 2021 they drafted some resolutions on how the Council felt they were going to spend those funds.

In 2021

- Two payouts to the membership of \$2,000 each for those 18 or older
- Continued servicing Emergency Rental Assistance and Utilities awarded

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Housing, without tying it to HUD or other the programs in that Department, an allocation of \$220,000 to continue rental assistance and utility payments if it did not pertain to HUD or they did not qualify under HUD's guidelines at the time.

- Some salaries in between, but not very much
- The intent, at the time, was also look to acquire a development of apartments or duplexes to house Tribal members regarding preventing homelessness or having some income, additional housing facilities for the membership with the question of on or off reservation

Since there was a majority of members here, it was the Chairwoman's idea to bring it to the table because Council has not really made a final decision on how to expend what is remaining in ARPA. She wants to make sure that the Council hears from the membership and take their input into consideration in how to finalize the funding of this ARPA money. She explained that SLPT was hit with the audit last year because the money just sat there. It was a good chunk of money. In dealing with the auditors, that did not look good because other tribes had received the same amount of funding or more and had spent it so it was not on their books. She does not want to go forward this year into next year's audit with this still on the books. That is why it was on the agenda and so they could talk about it. She asked how the members present would like to spend this money. She asked the Council if they had anything further to say.

A Tribal member stated that she knew other tribes were having dispensaries built as revenue for their tribes and wondered where SLPT was with that. Mrs. Lone Eagle stated she knew that six to ten years ago it was declined by the Tribal Council to build a dispensary and was not on the radar at the time. She also knows that that is the outlook or view of other tribes on having some type of revenue and to build a compact or dispensary on or off the reservation. Since the SLPT Reservation is so remote, she does not see anyone going out to the Reservation to use a dispensary. They would have to think outside the box and build one in town. There are many dispensaries in town already.

Someone else mentioned having housing, like an apartment complex. Ms. Crane said that the Council has been talking about this from the very beginning, to have an apartment complex to house members and generate a little revenue at the same time.

She was asked what that would entail. If they go the route of a housing development of some sort, you need to factor in the upkeep of the property after the money is spent. You need to factor in taxes, maintenance, insurance. This is an ongoing expense after the money is spent. There needs to be a long term thought process.

Ms. New Moon mentioned the idea of education, summer camp or school break childcare assistance.

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Mr. Mace said that when they thought about housing, they thought about the revenue taken in would take care of maintenance. Then they thought of the position of a manager to manage the place but it cost too much. They are looking at the cost of one to see what they can afford. They are talking to real estate agents and finding out what is out there. He thinks housing is the best. Ms. Eller said housing is a good deal whether it is a duplex or four-plex just to get started, to get their foot in the door and see what it takes to maintain and manage it. There are a lot of aspects to consider with that. It would be good to have for emergency assistance, for members just coming into town or losing their homes as a place to live. Mr. Mace said you never lose on real estate because it always increases in value.

There was a question of what was going on with the ranch by the Reservation. She asked if there was a bid in to buy the Soldiers Meadows ranch and possibly use it as a guest ranch or B and B. It would make an expensive retreat.

Mr. Mace said that the Council had made an offer but SLPT was turned down. Mrs. Lone Eagle said SLPT is working with the Nevada Land Trust on something different but she will look into that. The father has passed and it is now owned by the children. The children have never liked working with the Tribe. They have not talked to them. Aaron Peskin of Great Basin Land and Water (GBLW) is working with the Tribe to have a meeting. The answer has been an automatic no from the children since SLPT and GBLW have tried to work with them. The ranch is owned by BTAZ from Omaha, Nebraska.

Celina Gonzalez talked about purchasing a gas station or partnering with someone. There was a suggestion that the gas station be near Gerlach, Nevada and Burning Man and have showers and car wash. Also suggested was storage facility for Burning Man participants to store their bikes, etc.

Someone asked what the parameters were for ARPA funding. Ms. New Moon explained. It is fairly broad, but there are restrictions especially for housing which is income restricted. Some things do not have income restrictions. If anyone is interested there is a final rule packet which is rather large which she can send them. The money must be obligated by December 31, 2024 with a plan of what they will do with it and the money has to be spent by December 31, 2026. She detailed what things were implemented with money spent. The Council has talked about apartment complexes, duplexes and such for quite some time. There is overcrowding in the area but this only helps those in the Reno-Sparks area. They had domestic violence issues requiring a safe house and homelessness. There are multiple families that are overcrowded with six plus people in a three-bedroom unit where most are adults. They want to get everyone out on their own, but the problem is that apartment complexes are very expensive. SLPT was awarded close to the \$3.5 million but that is not what is left. Around \$2 million of that has been either spent or obligated. So, there is closer to \$2

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million that they need to determine what should be done with it. One of the things that they are looking at in regards to an apartment complex is cost sharing. They recently looked at a two-unit duplex turnkey ready for \$910,000. That is a lot for two units. They are looking at other financial resources. There will be a presentation of one option at the March 18, 2023 Regular meeting at 8:30 am, if the members are interested in attending, a presentation on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). It is investors who get their money back. They invest in new construction or building renovation to like new. SLPT could then secure ten to fifteen units. With this SLPT would provide 20% or the \$2 million. It would still be low-income housing with restrictions but not the same at HUD. They want to help the membership long-term.

The payouts to the membership help but not long-term. They discussed child care assistance, but this would be short-term. They are also looking at internet for two years. It depends on what the memberships wants. There is also educational assistance like tutoring, educational things for children to do, summer camps. Ms. New Moon said they would like to send the funds directly to the educational facility. Ms. Eller commented that if the money is given directly to the member, that member can spend it how ever they want even if they do not use it for educational assistance or internet service. Ms. Eller said the children are the future of the tribe so how the tribe invests in them is important. Mrs. Lone Eagle stated that the count for minor members is 71. The total membership is 284. Ms. Eller conceded that some people do not have children, but they are the future of the tribe. Ms. New Moon said that they do not need to spend all the funds on education. There are several things they can do. Council wants to know what the membership wants as they try to finalize plans.

Another thing that the Council has heard from members is that is there is no where for them to reside when they want to travel to the Reservation. The Council has had many discussions about the lot across from the field station and adding homes there, and also improving the living conditions for the staff working out there as they are the ones there the majority of the time, more the most members, adding a place open year-round. Also helping add homes on land assignments and possibly having homes that the members can rent out for the time being for camping, etc. Someone mentioned that the staff should get something for all the time they spend out there.

Someone suggested putting in a small casino. It was commented that Tribes are not allowed to have casinos. They can only have a few slot machines. Mrs. Lone Eagle explained a recent discussion with the Nevada Indian Commission and a few Tribal leaders and people from the Gaming and Entertainment Industries. They told the tribal leaders present that there were only six tribes that have an interest in having a gaming compact where Reno-Sparks would oppose the other Nevada tribes having a gaming project. In Las Vegas, Nevada there are the Seminole and San Manual Tribes that own two casinos on the strip, but they are not Nevada Tribes. They are coming into Nevada already having other casinos and resorts, and other industries in the gaming industry.

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There is a law because of the taxes and everything.

It was asked then the tribe needed to have a plan in place. Mrs. Lone Eagle said August or September, but need to start putting everything together in May.

Someone mentioned the food cards that were given out when COVID started were very helpful. Someone else suggested monthly stipends for food based on the size of the family. Food assistance is allowable. Ms. New Moon is looking into business for revenue. The project has to relate in some way to COVID. There has been talk of a pop-up clinic, but this is tough because they do not know how it would be used or how often it would be utilized. As was stated before, they could do something for the staff that worked through the pandemic for the membership in the form of a bonus or premium pay.

Mrs. Lone Eagle asked for any further questions.

A member had a question. She is trying to buy a house, but they make too much money for assistance. She wondered if there was any way to get help with it. They cannot get help anywhere because they make too much money. Mrs. Lone Eagle said she does believe that this is a line item allowable to spend ARPA money on per the Final Rule.

Ms. New Moon got a copy of the poll questions. The ranking would be one to seven, one being the highest priority and seven being the lowest priority. This is to give the Council some guidelines to see what to pursue and how to pursue it. Any other ideas can be written on the bottom of the poll. Nothing is set in stone.

The people on Zoom can click poll to pull it up on their screen.

Ms. New Moon has form for cleaning bundles which should have the supplies for a year. Only one bundle is allowed per household/address. She gave a list of some of the supplies included in the bundle which will be sent directly from Amazon. There is no deadline. The bundle will be shipped to the address on the form so be sure it is the correct address. The bundle form will be sent out with the NRD newsletter in April or ask Ms. New Moon and she can send a form.

The people on Zoom and the people in the meeting filled out the poll.

Ms. New Moon said they will work on tabulating the poll and should have it ready for the Regular Council meeting Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Mrs. Lone Eagle thanked everyone for coming.

There will be something going out to the membership about the camping event June 3

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and 4, 2023. Detailed information and questions will be included. The NRD and Council are excited to hold this event. It is an overnight event at the Reservation. NRD needs to know how many people to plan for, so RSVP please.

Mrs. Lone Eagle asked for any questions, comments or concerns.

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 6:41 pm.

CERTIFICATION

I, **Eugene Mace, Sr.**, Secretary/Treasurer of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribal Council, hereby certify that the Minutes of the March 15, 2023 Special Council Meeting were approved by the Council during a duly held meeting April 15, 2023 at which there was a quorum present, and the Council voted:

__ - FOR __ - AGAINST __ -ABSTAINING, Chairwoman Randi DeSoto did not vote because there was not a tie vote.

Date

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