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STATE OF NEVADA

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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS

**Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Commission on Minority Affairs was held on Monday, March 20, 2023. Pursuant to public notice, the meeting was conducted in person and telephone conference.

**1. OPENING**

- A. Call to order & Roll Call – Chair Taylor, Staff  
This meeting was called to order at 9:36am.

Commissioners in attendance: Kathleen Taylor, Angelica Villarta, Jose Melendrez, Jon Lau, Amy Shaw, Nic Steele, Gabriela Wyett, Mercedes Krause

Commissioners not in attendance: Yerania De Luca

Members of the Public in Attendance: Janet Serial with NAACP, Erika Hernandez with PUC, Marcel Shaerer, Deputy Director for the Department of Business and Industry, Michael Murray.

- B. Silent Meditation & Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Taylor  
C. Land Acknowledgements – Commissioner Krause

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. COMMISSION BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

- A. Approval of February 20, 2023, meeting minutes (for possible action)  
Commissioner Melendrez Moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Krause second, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Submission of comments from NCMA to OMB statistical standards for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity data across Federal agencies (for possible action)  
The Commission will send public comments to OMB on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Wyett moved to approve, Commissioner Steele second, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Director Reynolds statement for Commission Legislation Activities  
Chair Taylor read a statement provided to her from Director Reynolds on legislative activities,

*“We are to remain neutral on all legislation except our own. We don’t support or go against legislation. The Commission should not endorse any legislation except their own. They may testify and educate committees and issues in the legislation and provide background information. We work with the Governor’s Office on all legislation.”*

Commissioner Krause asked for clarification on the statement, Chair, Vice-Chair and the Management Analyst provided clarification.

D. Development of Commission Handbook Update  
The Chair, Vice-Chair and the Management Analyst have been working diligently in the development of the handbook. The Management Analyst will be pulling policies and procedures from Business and Industry and add those policies that apply to the Commission and its members to the handbook. The purpose of the handbook is to create guidance from the Department to the Commission. The handbook will have scenarios as examples on can and can’t does.

E. BDRs to track  
Chair Taylor read the BDRs that the Commission should be tracking provided by the Management Analyst, Commissioner Krause provided additional BDR’s focused on education and Native Americans. Chair also provided additional BDRs.

F. NCMA Academy update  
Chair Taylor provided an update of the launching of the academy. The Commission can use the conference rooms at the  
Commissioner Wyett, aside from getting a panel together, what is what we are really trying to do? What is our end goal with the academy?  
Commissioner Taylor, to have a program that leverages awareness of the mission and purpose and activities of the Commission on Minority affairs. The academy would be the platform of the Commission. It will provide us with a structure to collaborate with other organizations. Example, it could be a workshop about being lender ready for launching your business. Is basically leveraging our strength as a Commission. Also, leveraging different relationships that we have with other potential partners in the Community and provide that to the community.

The Management Analyst added that the Commission will use the academy to ensure the duties of the Commission as established by statute are being completed and that the Commission is serving the people as established by statutes.

Chair Taylor, I did look at our by-laws, our statutes, as well as figured out how we can accomplish these goals and how can we do what we are supposed to do. Also, helped to provide content and data points for our annual Governor Report. It is basically how we can work smarter versus harder in order to accomplish our goals and objectives and do what we are supposed to do as a Commission as well.

Commissioner Wyett, I have a recommendation, I think one of the most important ones would probably be to have a workshop around the legislative process.

G. Subcommittee updates (for discussion and possible action)

a. Education – Commissioner Krause

Commissioner Krause highlighted the calendar of rural reports, Eureka County.

Their total enrollment is 348

Total schools 3

Graduation rate is 73%

Next month she will be sharing Humble County School district.

Highlights from the Washoe County school district meeting were addressed

Commissioner Krause was able to bring 6<sup>th</sup> grade students along with Principal West to attend the tribal day at the legislation.

Commissioner Krause provided highlights of the issues and matters that are being discussed during legislation.

b. Legislative – *Commissioner Taylor*

Invited Asher Killian, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB, to present at the Commission's April meeting to ensure that the Commission and the Department of Business and Industry are properly informed of the Commission's new BDR submission process to LCB, as it pertains to AB302 (2021), the relevant portion codified as NRS 218D.217.

Provided testimony for NCMA budget enhancement for rural travel as part of the NCMA Rural Outreach Initiative. Current budget \$7,987.00 Request for FY24 \$10,613 and FY25 \$10,613.

- Testimony was provided, in-person, on 2-15-23 for Budget Hearing with the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Committee on Finance, and Subcommittees on General Government.
- Director Terry Reynolds was present at the meeting and provided support for the NCMA budget enhancement request.

a. Housing – *Commissioner Taylor*

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced more than \$794 million in Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) formula funding for eligible Native American Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to carry out affordable housing activities in Tribal communities.
- Eligible activities include housing development, operation and modernization of existing housing, housing services to eligible families and individuals, crime prevention and safety, and model activities that provide creative approaches to solving affordable housing challenges.
- 17 Nevada Tribal Communities received funding ranging from \$87,000 – 2.8M
  - NV Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Owyhee \$2,710,279
  - NV Duckwater Shoshone Tribe Duckwater \$576,822
  - NV Ely Shoshone Tribe Ely \$823,389
  - NV Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Fallon \$1,827,215
  - NV Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes McDermitt \$778,103
  - NV Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians Las Vegas \$87,122
  - NV Lovelock Paiute Tribe Lovelock \$207,757
  - NV Moapa Band of Paiute Indians Moapa \$480,717
  - NV Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Nixon \$2,105,680
  - NV Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Reno \$1,682,631
  - NV Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Sparks \$87,122
  - NV Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians Elko \$1,412,827
  - **NV Walker River Paiute Tribe Schurz \$2,804,034**
  - NV Washoe Tribe Gardnerville \$1,689,063
  - **NV Winnemucca Indian Colony Reno \$87,122**
  - NV Yerington Paiute Tribe Yerington \$1,025,148
  - NV Yomba Shoshone Tribe Austin \$377,584
- Nevada receives \$42,072,560 in annual grants for affordable housing , community development, and homeless assistance from HUD to fund programs  
Topic: Resources

for Starting a Business.

- **\$23,158,196.** The Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, counties, and insular areas to develop stronger, more resilient communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income people.
- **\$12,843,420** The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) is the primary Federal tool of States and local governments to produce affordable rental and owner-occupied housing for low-income families. HOME funds a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people.

- **1,995,196** *Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)* provides funds for homeless shelters, assists in the operation of local shelters, and funds related social service and homeless prevention programs.
- **\$4,075,748** The Housing Opportunities for Persons With HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program provides stable and permanent housing assistance and supportive services to low-income people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

C. Steele provided highlights to a housing program that allocates funding to Indian Tribes.

b. Community Liaison – *Commissioner Villarta*

Sheriff Kevin McMahill did a Meet and Greet with about 30 of his Area Command and Department Leadership to meet with a is getting Henderson, MesquiteN. Las Vegas

c. Workforce Development – *Commissioner Villarta*

“Jeremy Aguero of Applied Analysis moderated a fireside chat with Sam Joffray President & CEO of the Las Vegas Super Bowl Host Committee and Ryan Erwin, Chairman of the Las Vegas Super Bowl Economic Development Committee. The group noted the big game is expected to create \$1+ billion in economic impact and approximately 5,000 jobs for the Greater Vegas region. But they say the exposure for the city will be more important than the money. “The eyes of the world will be on Las Vegas,” said Erwin. “I believe we can turn this single event into a long-term economic development project for this community, so it isn’t just a one-time influx of money. Our goal is to turn this into an opportunity to showcase this city to businesses who aren’t already here.” (Resource: <https://lvgea.org/community-leaders-gather-for-annual-state-of-economic-development-event>) Employers looking for the next generation of talent are invited to attend a CCSD Student Showcase on Monday, March 20. Employers will have the opportunity to meet highly skilled students who are getting ready to graduate and enter the workforce.

H. Management Analyst Update (For discussion and possible action)

The Management analyst attended the MSI Week at UNLV, on April 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a Mental Health conference at CSN in the Cheyenne Campus.

Commissioner Krause will be attending the Reservation Economic Summit from April 2 – 6. We have left \$5,000 of our budget.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:** Comments or items of discussion (for discussion only)

Chair Taylor stated, Commissioner Steele shared with the Commission that President Biden signed on February 19<sup>th</sup> an executive order to strengthen racial equity and support for underserved communities across the federal government. This is a fact sheet from the White House, and it basically speaks to how this this executive order it includes Call launching a new

annual process to strengthen racial equity and support for underserved communities, It empowers federal equity leaders, strengthens community partnerships and engagements, invest in underserved communities improves economic opportunity in rural and urban communities addresses, emerging civil rights risk, and promotes data equity and transparency, so this executive order, we may want to look at it and see how we can align our activities, with our strategic plan, or just in general, our mission and vision, so this is an excellent type of framework, that we could look at, uh, to align with our word duties as well as commissioners.

Chair Taylor, for the April meeting we are going to provide a review of our quarterly performance. This is where our activities and reports come into place. Please each subcommittee do a summary of check and balances with the progress of accomplishing your goals within the strategic plan.

Chair Taylor, we have nine people that are interested in Commission vacancies, four out of the nine have submitted their application.

Management Analyst, provided guidance on state procedure for interviews. With the authorization of the Chair, Commissioners that would like to be part of the interview panel will email the management analyst to be included in the process.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deputy Director Scaherer invited the Commission to the Small Business Resource Fair that will take place at the Sahara West Library on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **6. NEXT MEETING:**

Monday, April 17, location TBD

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wyatt moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Steele second. The meeting adjourned at 11:19am.