

Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission
Friday, April 8, 2022
Remote Meeting by Zoom
With Audio Stream for the Public

Commissioners Present by Zoom:

Newell Lewey (Chairperson), Sarah Medina, Ezekiel Crofton-Macdonald, Richard Rosen, Sandra Yarmal, Darren Ranco, Bob Checkoway, Sam St. John, Bert Polchies

Staff Present by Zoom: Paul Thibeault (Managing Director), Rachel Bell (Projects Coordinator)

Guests Present by Zoom: Judson Etsy-Kendall, Maria Girouard, Kate Russel

Public: By audio stream

Review of Agenda

Commissioners reviewed the draft agenda. A request from the Passamaquoddy Tribe for a statement in support of Rep. Jared Golden's bill, *Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act*, was added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes- Commissioners reviewed minutes from March 2, 2022.

Motion: Sarah Medina made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted.

Seconded by Bob Checkoway. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Paul Thibeault summarized the written financial report. There were no questions.

Staff Report: Paul Thibeault referred commissioners to the written report outlining administrative work and other projects that took place from the March 2nd meeting to the present.

Fishing Report Update: Judson Etsy-Kendall provided an update on the progress of the fishing report. A copy of the nearly completed final draft had been sent to commissioners prior to the meeting, and there was some discussion of this draft. It will be reviewed by the Natural Resources Committee at their next meeting.

Legislative Update: The Legislative and Policy Committee provided updates on the Tribal/State bills that MITSC is monitoring or has provided testimony on. The commissioners discussed the Passamaquoddy Tribe's request for MITSC to provide a statement in support of Rep. Jared Golden's bill, *Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act*, which would amend section 1735(b) of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA). It was decided by consensus that Paul and Bob would draft a letter stating MITSC's historic positions on section 1735(b) of MICSA.

Wabanaki REACH: Guests, Maria Girouard and Kate Russel, of Wabanaki REACH, presented their new truth-telling project, *Beyond the Claims, Stories from the Land and the Heart*. The project focuses on the long and complicated history of the Maine Indian Land Claims, which still deeply impact folks in Wabanaki and Maine communities today.

Administrative Update: The expiration of commissioner terms was discussed. Tribal commissioners indicated that they would contact their Chiefs regarding reappointment. The commissioners also discussed the potential search for a new director. That issue was referred to the Administrative Committee for further consideration.

Meetings: Commissioners discussed returning to in-person meetings, with a decision that the next MITSC meeting will be held in-person at UMO on Friday, May 13th with a remote attendance option. Staff will follow up on arrangements.

Motion to Adjourn: Bob Checkoway made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bert Polchies. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned.