**Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

 **Remote Meeting by Zoom**

**With Audio Stream for the Public**

**Commissioners Present by Zoom**:

Paul Downing, Bob Checkoway, Kevin Hancock, John Banks, Bert Polchies, Sandi Yarmal, James Cote, Ezekiel Crofton-Macdonald, Richard Rosen, Sam St. John.

**Staff Present by Zoom**: Paul Thibeault (Managing Director)

**Public:** By audio stream

**Review of Agenda**

The draft Agenda was reviewed. A new agenda item was added regarding potential state-based responses to recent national ICWA developments.

**Future Meeting Schedule-** Commissioners reviewed the prior discussions regarding a meeting schedule.

**Motion:** **Kevin Hancock made a motion to have three more regular meetings in 2021 in June, September, and November. Seconded by James Cote. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Proposal to Amend the Settlement Jurisdiction**- The Commissioners discussed the recent meeting of the State Members with Governor Mills. The Commissioners discussed the recent Op Ed by Congressman Golden regarding the need to amend the jurisdictional provisions of the Settlement. The draft of the pending “omnibus” bill to amend the Maine Implementing Act was discussed. It was noted that the bill contains several provisions specific to a role for MITSC that were carried over from the prior LD 2118. The Commissioners were informed that a public hearing on the bill is already scheduled for May 4 even though the bill has not yet been finalized and referred to committee. No decision was made regarding MITSC testimony on the bill. Paul Thibeault stated that he would circulate the printed bill when it becomes available.

**Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting-** After discussion, there was a consensus to invite Andrew Butcher of the Maine Broadband Coalition to make a presentation at the next meeting.

Paul Thibeault provided some background information concerning the pending Wolfden mining project. He stated that representatives of Wolfden and the Natural Resources Council of Maine have offered to make presentations to MITSC.

**Motion: After discussion, James Cote moved that Wolfden and the NRCM be invited to the next meeting for presentations and questions. Seconded by John Banks. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Recent ICWA Developments:** There was discussion about a recent federal Court of Appeals decision in Texas that struck down part of the ICWA. Bob Checkoway stated that Governor Mills had brought up the possibility of MITSC working in collaboration with others to develop a state-level response if subsequent court decisions that apply in Maine might impair the ICWA in Maine. One possibility is enactment of a “State ICWA “statute, like what some other states have enacted. There was discussion and a consensus that Bob Checkoway and Paul Thibeault should do some follow-up regarding what collaborative actions MITSC might take, and that this issue should be added to the 2021 MITSC Work Plan.

**Executive session on Personnel Matters:** The executive session was moved to the May meeting agenda.

**Motion to Adjourn: Bert Polchies made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by James Cote. The motion was approved, and the Chairperson adjourned the meeting.**