

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

May 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Gwen Spotted Horse

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Debra Charette	X		
Norma Gourneau	X		
Eva Foote		X	
Torrey Davie	X		
Serena Wetherelt, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X		
Silver Little Eagle	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:	11	1	

Quorum Established

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I have a couple. Today is the Lame Deer School Board election. Just want to remind everyone to please go vote. I think there is 2 seats. Well, there's 8 altogether, I think. Just want to remind everyone to do that.

AUDIENCE: Where are they all being held?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: At the ARG.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I think there's 4 or 5.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: You have to be a registered voter so take your ID. The other thing that I wanted to mention, we had a walk on Sunday for MMIP. I actually called Law Enforcement and asked them for traffic control but nobody showed. I wanted to make mention of that. Torrey and Tiger had to direct traffic and stop semis at the roundabout.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Our dog roundup. The individual that's going to do our site, he has a malfunction with his pickup so he hasn't been down. There was a rescue group in here over the weekend, right Silver? That took over 40 dogs but we haven't started out side yet and probably won't start out side until the pickup gets fixed but we are going to re-do the poster to let everybody know. We won't have a 24-hour hold. We don't have that capability right now or other resources. That's my announcement for this morning. And the MMIW parade was a good turnout. Trying to keep that awareness up. Be safe and know where you are at. Take care of each other.

ITEM #1 – INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE UPDATE

ACTING CEO, SABLE KERZMAN: Good morning everyone. Thanks for letting me be here today. It's good to see you all. I am here to give the May report for the Indian Health Service; Northern Cheyenne Service Unit. I handed out the document that I've been giving out since January. It has some updated numbers for visit totals for the primary care, urgent care, dental, PT and optometry. Visits on there. The only thing, I guess, worth mentioning that the difference in trend with the service unit is if you'll take a look at the dental numbers. They are about half of what they were in February and that's due to the fact that we were only down to one dentist which was Dr. McCracken, as the general dentist. We do have Dr. Hill. She's a pediatric dentist, however, she's been out on extended medical leave. We are hoping that she's going to be returning next week. So, hopefully, we'll be able to open some access up for the pediatric dentistry needs. PRC, I wanted to spend a few minutes just to talk about PRC. Purchase Referred Care so you guys are all aware of kind of what's going on across Indian country. Basically, what we're seeing across I.H.S. in general, nationally, but also in the Billings area, is we're having to take a closer look at our PRC spending; our budget. Because a lot of our Covid money that we had previously is now gone. So, the Covid money is gone. Anything that was not spent previously was reallocated or taken. I just wanted to make sure everybody was aware that this also happened at the same time that I.H.S. redid their medical priority level rating. You guys are probably accustomed to or remember the old I.H.S. medical priority level. It was a 1 through 5 and there were different things that fell under different categories. For example, if you needed, if you had a fracture and you needed to see an orthopedic urgently, that's a level 1. That's something that could affect your mobility or your function of a limb. It's basically, level 1, is services that are life threatening, loss of vision. Things like that. Level 5 services, down at the bottom, are things considered like cosmetic. Not medically indicated. So, those would be alternative therapy; cosmetic therapy. Things like that that are not a necessity to medical living. The old 1 through 5 system is no longer being utilized. Effective in January, they changed to a different rating system which actually looks more at core functions of life vs. things that we can justify would be good for somebody's medical care. It's a reorganization of the numbers, basically, and they added in a letter category with those numbers. I'll definitely bring you guys a copy next time so we can kind of go through and look at it. But, mostly just for your awareness,

I needed everybody to know that this medical priority level rating system with I.H.S. nationally has changed. When you look at, on the right-hand side, where it says medical priority funding level, that use to say 4 and now it says 3. The reason is, we just realigned it to fit into that new medical priority level rating system. Just for clarity on that. Does anybody have any questions about that? I'll give a more thorough explanation,

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE:

ACTING CEO, SABLE KERZMAN: So, basically, they took. I should have actually brought you a copy Deb so I could show you. They define instead of a life, limb or vision they changed it to core function of living. So, meaning you need this to actually sustain life.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: You don't need your hand but you can still live without your hand.

ACTING CEO, SABLE KERZMAN: Correct. Yes. So, that would be like a priority 1A. So, it goes to a priority 1B, 1C, priority 2. So, it basically took the long list and kind of turned it sideways.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Did they say this would help or did they

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: So, what it did, it's actually a good thing. What it did, it actually added some capability for what we can cover through PRC. I think it's actually going to be good thing. There's going to be some things that we can actually cover referral wise that we weren't able to cover previously. We're still working on some of the details internally for Northern Cheyenne. Every service unit was tasked with basically looking at how this would affect their referrals and their functions. I think it's going to give us the ability to maybe justify some referrals that previously we wouldn't be able to. They would have fallen in the 4 or 5 categories. But, what it does also, is we're still working within the same budget. So, that's really the key. It's going to come down to the budget and what we can afford. We're really trying to stick to our weekly spending limit, which we've actually decreased to try to stay within the budget. We were overspending previously quite a bit because we had excess Covid funding. So, with the excess Covid funds, we funneled all of the money through PRC so that it would go to the patients. Well, now that we're having to kind of tailor things back, get back more in our normal operational budget, anticipating the Covid funding is completely expended then that's really going to define what we can cover through PRC. So, I think it's a good and maybe we won't see the benefit until our budget has some more bulk. You know, until we have some more money in there. Probably the next fiscal year we might then be able to start looking at how those priority levels are going to actually trail down to the patient.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Ok.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Any other questions on that? I know it's a lot of information but I mostly just wanted to introduce it today and then we'll keep talking about it as the year goes through. On staffing, we have 180 funded positions. We did get several positions added to our organizational chart. So, these numbers are kind of changing and they'll continue

to change over the course of the year depending on the needs of the service unit and what we are able to fill. You can see 71 of those positions are vacant right now. That gives us a 39% vacancy rate, which is very high. You know, anybody running an organization or agency, especially in healthcare can understand that operating with a 61% staffing model is not ideal. I can say, what we've done is adjust some of our services or we've adjusted some of how we do thing to still be able to accommodate all of the patients that come in our door. We talked about those urgent care numbers before being over 1,000. That's why. The urgent care really is where a lot of our patients are accessing care that are still needing to see a doctor. We're continuing really just to prioritize recruitment and retention right now. That's our number 1 priority. We are filling, of those vacant positions, 21 are filled by contractors and those are all medical contractors right now. So, we haven't filled any clerical, administrative or any other staff vacancies currently. For the bottom of the page, I did list out the positions that were filled just in the last quarter. That's been a major, major undertaking so I wanted to make sure that you all take a look at that so you can see who the new medical staff that we have on are. Julia Blanks is the new nurse practitioner. I talked about her at the last meeting. We just hired Joseph Haugen Jr. as our transportation coordinator. So local tribal member. Glad to have him. Doctor Davida Hemmy is in the urgent care. Jessica Jarrett is a new family nurse practitioner. Doctor Luckman is a new general dentist. So, she just started last week and she actually is starting to see patients today. I went and saw her this morning before I came down and I think everybody is really, really going to like doctor Luckman. She's great. Doctor Lunger started in the urgent care as a part-time physician. Abdalla Mohamed, he is a pharmacist. Patrick Wolff is a nurse that actually joined us. He was a contract nurse that worked with Doctor Rodriguez. Some of you might know Patrick. He switched from being a contractor for two years and he joined us permanently last quarter.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Is Cooper still around?

ACTING CEO, SABLE KERZMAN: She is. Yeah. Jenny is still there.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Is she leaving?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Not that I know of. I know she going to be taking a leave of absence for a personal family reason but then she'll be coming back. She's still there. I think she's leaving, actually Norma, next week. A couple of things I wanted to mention really quick. Deb, I can tell you want to ask me something. I just wanted to mention that we've been working with the Tribal Health Director, Kayla and Kim Dahle, on this school-based healthcare program. We've had a lot of questions and trying to interface with making sure that their systems and what they're doing and their processes were able to also tie into those and none of our patients are, you know, that there's not any gaps between when a kid is seen in the school-based healthcare program and then when they come see a physician at I.H.S. We want to make sure that, you know, their records, we are able to access them both ways. We have a system in place to share information if needed. We just want to make sure that everything that they're getting in the school-based healthcare system, which I think is a really great program, by the way. They're going to be able to do a lot of things that we're not able to reach. We just want to make sure that they're kind of working in collaboration, together. We had a meeting last week. It was a pretty big meeting. They had Ann -----, the provider, come. She met with her Exec

team and Kim Dahle and a couple other people. We just went through, kind of scenarios and talking about, you know, first steps in seeing a kid to last steps. What if they need this and went through some things. We already had identified some things that are definitely; they are going to need either a; we're going to form a MOA or MOU of some type. Also, we want to try to find a way where we can share documentation. Probably by release of information from the patients.

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: Would that be like online. Like, you can access their charts online or is it they just have to come and share it with you.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Yeah. So, we actually can't access their system. They're using a medical record system called DAPHNE and we don't have that capability. So, it is going to require some interfacing. Probably, you know, it might be a matter of Ann actually coming on site or us vice versa in figuring out how to use that. Some of it might also just be paper, you know, faxing and things like that. We'll have to figure the details out. It was good to hear her perspective on how she's seeing this School-Based Healthcare program kind of role out. I think it's going to be a really good thing for the kids and families.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: The PRCS, that doesn't, you can't use that?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: The PRCS Program?

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Yeah. The software that you guys use.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Yeah. We use RPMS and DAPHNE, it is a totally different. It's like a, kind of a private software app and so we don't have it for the Indian Health Service. But, what we're looking at is

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: So, they can't access it either?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: There is potential for them to access our system but we won't be able to access theirs. So, that kind of what we're working on is developing that piece of. Let's say a kid gets a physical, for example, in the school-based healthcare program, which is coming up really soon. We are going to need access to that because let's say they come back and they're like, hey, I need to see a doctor. They said I have a heart murmur on this physical. We need some sort of documentation of that so that we can follow up on it. So, that is the piece that we're trying to set up right now. One other thing. We're going to host a job career fair this summer. I just wanted to put that bug in your ear and make sure that if any of you guys had any ideas or anything that you wanted to add, I think that would be super helpful. I think what we're going to do is actually have some computers set up and actually walk people through the USA Jobs website and do some of those things. I had a lot of feedback that that's the barrier. That's kind of where we're losing people is in the actual online application process. So, we're going to try to get some HR people come and help. I'll be sending dates out with some information and of course, I'll include you guys on that too. I think it's really important that we start to do these things. It's something I feel that we haven't done very well, you know, locally for some time. It's something we can definitely do better to try to do some of the outreach events for 8 hours,

you know. Get out to the students and let them know what job opportunities we have for medical.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: I think that would be really good. That's kind of one of the things with USA Jobs is what needs to be done. They don't go through every -----.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Right. We've had people accidentally answer a question wrong not knowing it was a yes or no questions and it disqualified them. So they didn't make through the process to HR. Yeah. Just little things like that.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Yeah. Just let us know the dates.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: I will. Any other questions? I know this was brief but Melissa is looking at her watch. I really appreciate your time, your attention. Of course, if anything comes up, feel free to reach out to me.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Thank you for update. At least then we'll be able to answer questions when people come to us about the PRC.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Right. And with the PRC. I think the consistent message we can have overall is that yes, things are changing but it doesn't change the care that is being provided and it doesn't change the ----- that's being referred. It's all just in the background paperwork.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Before we move on to item #2 I just have a few add ons. The first add on is the, to add on the amended agreement with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for the Tribal ID's. It's the enhanced Tribal ID. It was a 2-year contract but they are extending it.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, how does it work now? They accept the information and send in the application.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Victoria Haugen sets up the interview. They do the interview, there is a questionnaire; they put all of that information into the system and it goes to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and then it goes into Homeland Security. Homeland Security does the background investigation and then it gets approved. Once it gets approved, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe gets the ID and they send it back to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: It takes about 3 months to get your card back.

MOTION TO ADD THE PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE TO THE TRIBE

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Norman Gourneau.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			

Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'd like to make a motion to add the Law & Order Consultant to the agenda.

MOTION TO ADD CONTRACT WITH LAW AND ORDER CONSULTANT

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #2 – BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS UPDATE

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Good morning. Councilwoman Fisher is handing out the report. For Realty, it's been mostly business as usual. I know I mentioned this in the past. We still have our ongoing right of way renewal project. I know, I spoke with Councilwoman Gourneau briefly before the meeting started concerning the appraisal with TRECO. Evaluation for the substation and transmission lines. The initial plan was TRECO was going to get a contract with an appraiser but now the board from TRECO decided not to move forward. I know the Tribe's attorney, Chestnut, has been communicating with Monte Banks. As far as Range, Bighorn Electric will continue to work on the right of way renewals for that portion. For Agriculture, we pretty much completed our primary allocation. We had a few

stragglers that we sent out 10 day show causes. Some of those got tied up, paid, so we'll be processing cancellation letters for those ones. We've gotten through the advertisement for the 2nd round. I'm hoping by next week we'll have grazing permits out the door for the 2nd round. If we can get those back, we can start processing invoices for those next week. I've had some communication with the Grazing Board Chair, Gene Small. While we're doing that, I think we are going to go ahead and assess with what we, the applications and what the board considered for the 2nd round. We're going to start working on surplus for the 3rd round also. I've put in a few calls for that and from Gene to see if we could get the advertisements out. I think we can do the same for the 3rd round. I know I did send some information to Councilwoman Gourneau about the Range unit ownership where the buffalo roam. With Probate, it's mostly been business as usual there. I'm going to try to get a more specific update from either the Region or OHA. The backlog is always an issue and concern. I think there's still, it's something Covid really impacted, there's still a need for more judges. They continue to try to get more judges so they can have more hearings sooner than later. Forestry has been mostly business as usual. I know Alonzo has been coordinating with Meadow -----, the Tribe's contractor, Climate Trust. As far as the Tribe's Carbon Agreement. I've been communicating with Brian on that. I'll make a note to ask for another update.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, I asked Tracy Spang if he could send us a list of access roads so we could prioritize those. I've stated this last year, as well, it's fire season and if those roads can't be accessed with the equipment that is needed to fight fire, we're screwed.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Ok. I'll follow up with Tracy on that.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I just asked him to write them down for us. The ones that are really bad.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Ok. I'll make sure that I get that information back to the council. I'll follow up even with the President. I know last year when this was an issue, we did have a meeting on it and we did provide information. We met with transportation and roads department. So, I'll get a status from the fire and forestry departments.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: We can get an update from Janis too. If they did anything with the roads last year.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: They did some improvements last year. I appreciate roads doing that last year. But I know some of those roads have serious issues. Some are flooding with water and are starting to washout again. I think the big thing for us too is obviously ----- plus our trucks, they are not the easiest things to drive. But like I was mentioning, I'll get an update on the Tribe's Carbon Agreement. I know the regional director has been getting updates from Central office. I'll just repeat again; the Tribe's Carbon Agreement is something that has to be reviewed by the Central office solicitor. The Tribe flushed that out in the first place. Sent 2 letters. Brian has been following through on it. He keeps me in the loop on it. Trying to get ready for fire season. Fire season. Tracy has been working on the annual plans. I know I'll be sitting down going over some of those with him. I know there's at least one of those that the President has to sign so I'll be scheduling a meeting to concur.

Bringing some more AD's back on. Getting them fire ready. Had to dispatch some staff to Fort Totten Agency to assist with fire operations there. I know staff has been at some training. The Regional officers been offering fire training through the Regional office. Social Services. One highlight I wanted to mention is we are going to start having CPT meetings again. I was told that was something that was helpful, as far as networking in the past. I don't know if it went away or got stalled during covid but the Agency used to facilitate those meetings. So, ----- Baxter is our Social worker and he is in a temporary promotion for the supervisory social worker. He's working on getting those facilitated with I.H.S. and Tribal programs here. As far as that goes to, he did go to a meeting at I.H.S. concerning development of child protection services. We are going to be. I just talked to Sable when she was here. I'm going to be having a meeting with her. We started our IIQ contract with Social Services. It's specific to the Agency now. The prior 2 years it was a Regional contract. We, I think along with 2 other Agencies, just felt like it would be better if we had our own system. What that is, I think I mentioned it in the past, we have allowed staffing here if we had government contract, the contract would provide social workers to provide social services. The workers come from around the country. We have one that moved here, living in Hardin and the other one lives in Billings. They're MSW's and we are looking at adding another one. We just met with the contracting officer yesterday. Looking at our budget but amending it for one more contractor because it's still continues to be a challenge for us to get social services reps and social workers hired and we are already in the third quarter of the fiscal year. For Human Resources; we do have one social worker that's currently advertised on USA Jobs right now. For those folks on the live, if you know any folks locally or anyone interested in applying for social work at the agency, I'd appreciate that. That has been open continuously for quit a while. We met with HR and moving that to a DU position. Initially, they are advertised as an Indian Preference but if we can't get any Indians to apply then we expand it to non-Indians to apply for the positions. We are supposed to be getting a social services rep cert soon. Hopefully we'll be able to make a selection from that. But that is another announcement that has been on USA Jobs for quit a while. I guess, since we are in a public venue here, if you know of any tribal member, community members, anyone that is interested in applying for social services rep, you know, obviously the qualifications aren't as extensive as the Social Worker where you have to have an MSW. We are in need of 2 more Social Services Reps. We have the Range Tech still advertised on USA Jobs. We met with HR to amend those to a temporary position, you know, since the Tribe is in the process of contracting the Range Program. We did hire, like I mentioned, a Range Land Management Specialist. He's permanent. He is aware of the Tribe contracting the Range Program. That's still out there on USA Jobs. It was open continuous. I just looked at it before the meeting started. Debra is going to send another email to HR to remove that because we hired for that position. Just yesterday, we did have a secretary position for Social Services get advertised yesterday. That's another one. If you know of anyone interested in applying. The custodial worker. That is another position we have open for quit some time. So, if you know of anyone else that's interested. We have been trying to, you know, we send them over to HR, President's office and even TERO when we have new advertisements announcements come out. We're working with HR to get the Maintenance Facilities Manager advertised. We're waiting on classified positions descriptions for Equipment Operator for Fire; Forester position, which is going to be a new position; and like I said, amending that Range Technician to temporary; and Forestry Technician. We did have a ----- report. I did mention it at the last meeting, the Deputy Superintendent closed last Friday. So, I am looking forward to a cert for that. It's been a long time coming so we'll see how it goes. Our

carryover funds are pretty much expanded with the exception of welfare assistance/social services and facility funds. We're on schedule to get those obligated by the end of the third quarter. Our TPA program have received all their FY2024 funding. We're waiting on our final distribution for some of our agency programs that are funded from base and project funding. The last update I received from the budget office. Hopefully that'll be soon. I think they said the end of April. Hopefully it'll be real soon. Funding; resolutions; supplemental funding requests, I know we have been getting supplemental one-time funding requests. I know there's a couple with carryover funding. The Native Act. I know I've talked with the President on that. She's been following up on that with Tourism. The Land Board one, Alicia and Councilwoman Gourneau, the one for the homesites. If we can get the proposal for that one. I think it's just a good point to make. We are in the third quarter. We've made the Regional Office aware that we're working with the Tribe to get those ----- distributed. Just want the Tribe to be aware also. Just a little pressure, I guess I can say, from the Regional Office as far as getting those funds expended. We want to get them expended. I just got one report on the Rosebud Lodge late last week. So, I'll be following up on that request from Rosebud Lodge. We did get one for the Buffalo Program so we'll be processing that one. Brandon did drop that one off so we will be processing that one for the buffalo herd. As far as Self Determination, I don't have the exact date but I want to say it's been a couple weeks now. But, I did send that letter over to the council. The proposal for the Range Program included a fund status report and an inventory listing and a contract application. So, I just wanted to mention that.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: We'll be submitting the Tourism Grant one as well.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Ok.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, the one for Range Program, you sent it to all of the council.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: What's that?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Did you send it to all the Council?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: The letter? I did. Yeah. I sent the letter over on just basically listing out what we need for the proposal to contract the Range Program. And, you know, like I said, I attached the fund status report, inventory listing and a contract application. I just want to make it known, we'll just wait for whenever you folks submit it. I know once the Tribe submits the proposal we are on a 90 day clock as far as negotiations go. The facilities program. I know we had some old business last month. We had a discussion about the assessment for the adult detention center. I apologize. I know I kind of got thrown for a loop last month but we were really out of the loop when we had this discussion a couple of weeks ago when I talked with Councilwoman Gourneau before the meeting started. Myself and the Region were really out of the loop on that assessment being requested for the adult detention facility. That has been approved. When I checked the last email or update that I got from the Regional Director, it was supposed to be scheduled by the end of last week. So, I'm going to go back and get an update from the Regional Director on that. He is on weekly calls with Central Office so he did ask Central office to please keep us in the loop on when it's going to be scheduled. Once I do receive that information I will forward it to the council.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Just as a reminder, we had some conversations with the Regional Director when he was down here.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: And then our audit is underway.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Who?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: The auditors. They will be going through everything they need to go through.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: We can have it submitted to the clearinghouse by June 30th.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Great. That's good news. Thanks for mentioning that Councilwoman Gourneau. I just want to thank the council for making time. I just want to say I appreciate the Regional Director coming out. As far as that goes, Susan Messerly, the Regional Director, her detail got extended as the acting director for the ----- HR. Leslie Shakespear, he's the Superintendent from Wind River but he's the acting Regional Director. So, his detail got extended for another 120 days. So, he decided to make, he's making rounds out to the reservations and Agencies. He was out here a couple of weeks ago and just wanted to thank the President and Vice President for making time for us and the council. I was really glad I got to go out and spend some time at Crazyheads with you folks. Some old business that I had, I know we had some of the discussion about lot or homesite, really not so much homesite but lot leases and trespass. Specifically, behind the Boys and Girls Club. We did follow up on that. We are going to be doing that straight across the board. I've reminded staff about that and I've asked them to do that. We need to make lot lease compliance, homesite lease compliance and trespass more of a priority. I know that's a priority for the council. We did send out another letter for compliance check, trespass letters out. One of the letters came back not deliverable. We send them out by certified mail but we'll be doing the posting or trying to serve them personally or get an updated address. I'll keep you posted on that.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: If you do get it, can you compile a list for us so we can share it?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Yup.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I would like to see, especially for these lots. I'd like to see expiration dates for the ones that have been assigned because I don't think the majority of them have met the deadline. I think it's 6 months of occupancy.

SUPERINTENDENT LONEBEAR: I know that is something that I have stressed to the Realty department. Councilwoman Gourneau gave that newer 2021 resolution that scaled it back to 6 months. I have staff monitoring that, you know, to make sure people, or they're getting on their developing. We noticed in Realty that homesites are different for a lot of people.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: And we don't want it to where they can just put a trailer there.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: I know, like I mentioned before, our Realty working sessions that we are having now. You know, it started with the review and the corrective action plan. We've expanded that with other business functions at the agency. We've run into tracking law now and one of the things are starting to get a head of now is sending out expiration letters. We are getting ahead of them but the standard we want to meet is getting them out of your lot, homesite lease is expiring.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Ok. I have one last question. Are you going to have rookie school?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: I can check and make sure.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: To go back to the homesite issue. I think it's important that we get the zoning done because, you know, we're trying to develop this business district and we get more mobile units popping up everywhere. So, I think it's important that we get the zoning done.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: I know, I think I has some discussion with some of the council.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: On the land use plan.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Yes. If you folks have a draft of the land use plan that we can get a copy of that.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: We'll schedule a meeting with the BIA and the stakeholders so that we can get moving on the land use plan. At least the zoning part of it.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: I know I have an update tomorrow with Serena. The supplemental one time funding they submitted. Alicia is on travel this week. I'll be over here meeting with you all in the President's office. I think it would be good for the council to hear and the staff, I guess, the guidance and policy that the supplement funding request be used for.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Will that be tomorrow? At what time?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: I think it's at 2 o'clock. But, that's all I have for now.

ITEM #3 – BUDGETS

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the modification and or adoption of certain budgets for the expenditures of available funds. These are the program budgets for fiscal year 2024.

Program Budgets FY 2024

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
New	EPD – Lame Deer Creek	\$ 30,000.00
New	Tribal Youth Program	\$ 99,948.00
773	Tribal Consistency fund	\$ 733,000.00
801	SORNA	\$ 169,516.39

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN
BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #4 – MINUTES

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'll make a motion to approved March 18, 2024 minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVED MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2024 REGULAR SESSION

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Norma Gourneau.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			

Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'll make a motion to approve March 28, 2024 minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 28, 2024 REGULAR SESSION

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #5 – NATIVE NATIONS SURVEY

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Item #5, she is still on her way so I would like to move that one down. We'll move #5 down to where #13 was. #13 will be tabled. I would like to make a motion to table #13. We'd like to attend the Land Board meeting prior to presenting this.

MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #13 ON THE AGENDA.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			

Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #6 – TR 2100 WATER RESEARCH PROJECT

SHANNY SPANG GION: Thank you Tribal Council and everyone for allowing me to spend some time with you this morning. I do want to ask for maybe just a quick moment of silence for the young man who passed this past weekend. I know the school has been doing a lot of things to address that for support for the students. It just weighs on you, you know, sometimes. I just want to have just a quick moment of silence for his family. Thank you again. This is such a privilege to be here with you. I have been living away from home for three years now. About as old as my toddler is. I'm just really excited to think about and continue to serve our tribe and community in ways that I can from a higher ed institution, where I'm a tribal scholar in the College of Natural Resources at University of Idaho. I've held that position for about three years now. I'm in a PhD program in Natural Resources with a focus on how we look at water; how we treat it; and how that translates and governance and decision-making processes. So, in previous years I did more of water science specific questions using, for instance, stable isotopes of hydrogen and oxygen to kind of tell the story of where water flows and when. I did that study on Rosebud Creek about seven years ago. Now I'm taking more of a broader approach and looking at water from a critical and indigenous water geography lens. I think it's important to kind of ground how we see water; view water; and how that shows up in our decision making and frameworks we live in like the Clean Water Act and the tribes water use codes. How those show up in those policies and decision-making processes is really important. It sets the whole stage for how we even ask research questions from there. So, I'd like to take some time just to walk you through my draft dissertation proposal. This is in draft form. I'm actually presenting this to my committee, as well, on Thursday. I'll just quickly introduce my PhD committee. My primary advisor is Dr. Cornell Idol. She is a research professor who is housed at the hall Idaho. My other committee members are Dr. Phillips Stevens. He's San Carlos Apache and he's the director of the American Indian studies program at U of I. He is an anthropologist. The other committee members, Dr. Kate Berry, she's a geography, geographer and geography professor at University of Nevada, Reno. My other PhD committee member is in house at CNR, Dr. Mary Angles and she has research specialty in water and also education. So, they've been very supportive as I've been thinking through these different ways of engaging water, really, since I've been in Idaho; since I've moved. So, I'm really grateful to have it culminate into a dissertation proposal for you guys to kind of review, think with and hopefully to what end. I have a slide called to what end, and hopefully I can explain situating my dissertation into how I intend to do future work with the tribe and be of service to our community even being out at university. So, if you could go to the next slide. So, when I talk about negotiating a multiple ontology of water, ontology is just our reality, how we think about water. I would say, when I asked water science questions using western science, that's one ontology. That's one reality of water that I chose to

engage this and use. We have multiple ontologies of water. I would say even within our tribe we have multiple ontologies and understandings of water. So, it's my aim to think through that and come to an understanding myself and help to define that so it sets the framework for the rest of my dissertation. I'll quickly go through. This is just a quick agenda giving you a background of my study, the aim, all the way through methods, analysis, timeline and discussion if you all have questions. Next slide please. I apologize if I talked really fast. I think this is like my first time on live TV. But just a quick, telling you just the background of the study. You know, I did work for the tribe for about 10 years in different positions that dealt with tending to water and knowing that we engage with these different water frameworks. So, when I say water frameworks, that's really these federal laws that provide funding for us to tend to water. That includes the Clean Water Act. That includes BIA funding. That includes your Bureau of Reclamation. There's a whole lot of funding that also kind of tells us how to look at water. So, as I was working for the tribe, I became just a little bit critical of that and really questioning, well, where do our knowledges show up in water; how we tend to water in our jobs. We were going by these amazing ways of engaging and monitoring with western science but I still couldn't make that connection. So, that made me return to grad school about eight years ago. But, I do know from that work and building my own understanding overtime that our values do show up in those frameworks. They're just not necessarily explicitly down and stated right but we're engaging and living those values as we're working through these frameworks. So, that's what I am excited about is describing for myself an ontology of water based on a concept and word that was shared with me through my master's thesis. I was able to create what's called the local meter waterline and I named it and pardon my pronunciation but Burt Medicinebull helped help me name it----- and he said it roughly translates to Indigenous living water. So, I'm excited to kind of think with that concept or ontology of water to define the rest of my studies but also how I define going forward and engaging and kind of research or project with water. Next slide please. So, this research aim, I think you have it in the kind of quick summary that I sent out with my agenda request, but ultimately, I really do want to understand how we think with water at multiple scales. So, even within our own families; within our community; within our tribal governments; formal governance frameworks and how we reform relationships to water particularly in our decision-making processes. It's particularly relevant amidst a changing climate. I mean, we have, one of the things that I've been involved in is an energy water justice project where we're taking kind of a critical look at how even the nation is transitioning to what they call clean energy. I've recently learned that there really is no clean energy. You're taking minerals from somewhere and affecting someone's community to make our batteries for our phones and everything else. So, what does adjustment transition to clean energy look like for us at Northern Cheyenne. I think that would be an amazing project to think forward with. Even just asking the question, how much energy does it take and where does that energy come from to power our municipal water systems and how are we going to transition when that power is transitioning to something else? So, those are the kinds of questions I'm excited to look at moving beyond my dissertation. I just want to say it's particularly relevant in the changing climates. How we're moving. How we're taking care of our water and ensuring access for our community and our community members. Next slide please. So, these are three research questions that, again, knock on wood, my committee approves in two days. These three questions frame the three chapters that would become my dissertation. One, again, I kind of already talked towards the ontologies of water. How we think about them; how we theorize them; how we live them; how we define them. Taking one particular concept in ----- and

trying to describe that in my first chapter. Then the second chapter kind of takes a look at how we mobilized our ontologies of water when we were going through our water rights settlement negotiations. We were given a framework to work with them, which is the Western Water Rights structure of first in time, first in right. But, as our leadership and as our community was moving through that time, I'm really curious how we enacted our own knowledges of water and being able to describe that and tell our own histories. This is contemporary history that's very significant and has ramifications into the future about how we might, for instance, share shortages of water going into the future with others in the ----- that were with them. The last. So, that second chapter's kind of looking towards the tasks and trying to characterize and understand how people thought through those processes. The third chapter started looking forward. So, if you might recall, we have a wonderful Tongue River 2100 project that was approved through council a few years ago, I think, right Jason? We've been working on it for two years now with USGS. It's a wonderful project. Thinking about trying to develop these different scenarios into the year 2100 and looking at water availability in the Tongue River and saying, what's going to be available given these different inputs to these scenarios and what's going to change. How are we going to change our governance and decision making and to what end? I mean, I know that development might still happen on the Tongue River. For instance, maybe there might be more irrigation, maybe there might be food sovereignty efforts. I also think about our, I guess, our plant relatives. You know, are we going to be thinking about them in our decision making and hoping that we can sustain their habitat for willow and other plants that grow in wetland areas. That's one piece that sits close to me. So, those are roughly the three chapters. I won't be going into any particular quantitative data with TR 2100. That's sort of already happening right now and I can give you guys an update after my presentation on that particular project. Next slide. So, this is the conceptual framework I'm thinking in. It's a geography concept of a hydro social cycle. So, I'm trying to write my dissertation and think with the cycle of, not only, how water shows up physically and how we define it through chemistry, like H₂O. The technology that we navigate. So, they have infrastructure research on here but I also think of these frameworks as forms of technology. So, the frameworks I'm talking about, again, are the Clean Water Act and the Western Water Law and navigating those along with the social component of how we navigate and think through ----- relations and how we organize ourselves as Northern Cheyenne people but also how we, how our ontologies the water interact with those frameworks that are outside of our decision-making processes. That includes for the State of Montana; that includes Bureau of Indian Affairs; and how our management of water structured with those particular agencies. Bureau of Reclamation is also another one I am kind of curious about. They have some say in kind of how if the tribe were considering water marketing for instance. But just to know that hydrosocial cycle, the definition is right there on the bottom, about how we make and remake each other over space and time. Space and time is sort of important to think about, as well, because the way we experience time as Cheyenne is very different than linear time that we might measure otherwise in this mainstream society we're in. There're some wonderful indigenous scholars that I'm learning from about ----- temporalities and how we might describe how we move with our water knowledges across our own -----temporalities that extend beyond linear time. Next slide. So, this is sort of my first thinking of all of these theories and macromedias that come up and where and how I might employ them and how they intersect. It's just a quick diagram showing critical indigenous research methodologies that reflect paying attention to your relationship's, responsibilities, respect, reciprocities and accountabilities to your own community. But also, I like thinking with

indigenous feminisms knowing that as a Northern Cheyenne woman there's particular and different ways that we have accountability to water. A critical theory gets to decolonial emancipatory nature. So, it's not just embracing a western social science method and supplanting it onto thinking with Northern Cheyenne water. It's really taking a critical lens to like well how are those methods structured and how can I transform those to make them useful for us because a lot of social science methods weren't made for us. So, we're left to figure that out with academia and how to adapt them. It all lies, I think, within not only sociohydrology and hydrosocial cycles but this broader discipline of Indigenous critical water geography. There's lots of folks I think particularly impersonation and non-native folks who are thinking about ontologies of water within a geography context and I'm hoping to build with that work. Next slide please. So, you might say ok. Well, that all sounds ok. The theory and whatnot but the methodology that I'm thinking with particularly is critical autoethnography. So, if that situates me as someone who is also affecting the research process. There's no way that you're not affecting it. Even when you're applying say of our qualitative method, that might, others might think is objective, I don't believe in objectivity. I think that, as researchers, we all impact the research process in many different ways. So, I'm employing a critical autoethnography to talk to about my own experiences and my own positionality and that will frame my research and dissertation. I'm also, compared to a case study, which is like a western construct of a method, I'm thinking with and using an environmental kin study which gets a little more to the relationality and responsibilities that we have that are deeper than any typical research project that one might engage. Critical place inquiry is also a methodology proposed by Dr. Etuch and others who talk to why and how and why place is important. You can't just take a method and come into and try to practice somewhere and leave. Lastly, felt theory, which acknowledges that we are emotional beings and that it gives the framework for us to talk through and think through our stories with the emotion that comes with it. What does that translate to? So, most of my dissertation, actually all of it, is going to be qualitative this time. It's not going to be quantitative. I'll be employing the conversational method and Indigenous storytelling through semi structured interviews with anywhere from 2 to 10 people over the course of the summer. Then doing a narrative inquiry with document analysis. I don't think anyone has ever gone back and looked at all the documents that were created during the time that we were engaging and negotiating our water rights. So, a lot of that is housed at the tribal college library. I'm really excited to dig through those because there are different communications that we did internally, as well. I mean, there were news letters to the community and how we represented ourselves in that but within community is something that I hope to tell the story of. I'm really excited to tell those stories because I think we all learn and know and grow up with things that really ground us in our identity and they can be those long stories from way back. I think it's also important to tell the stories now. Like who was doing what and how did they engage it and how did they make the difference for our community. It's not even being from a critical lens it's really from how can we share this story to show how we navigated this and give a deeper context then just what was written in the compact. I think there's a deeper story there that needs to be told. So, I'm really excited to see that actually. Next slide please. So, my analysis again is going to be framed by Kin Study, Felt Theory and Critical Place Inquiry. The actual data, qualitative data, will be generated through interviews and that document analysis but also using my personal experience to triangulate a thematic analysis. There's kind of some nice software's out there. Thinking of using Envigo 14. It's a really good quantitative software management that I can use. I'm just really hoping that political ontologies of water and how they are have been and been mobilized

from historical contemporary and future context is what's going to come of this dissertation. Again, the reflectivity of the work, I think that's inherent to qualitative research. So, I will be likely engaging in reflexive thematic analysis. Just trying to come up with the theme. What am I hearing from these interviews? What am I reading from these documents? What are those primary themes and what do they mean? How did people engage and move through those? So, next slide. So, I've been thinking about this and done my literature reviews and everything over the past couple years. So, I've gotta get on a pretty fast horse. This proposed timeline kind of reflects that where I will be submitting an IRB application to the tribal college to approve my questions for the interviews, for instance. Throughout the summer I'll be gathering data. That includes the documents, scanning them and being able to house them on my own external hard drive. Conducting these sorts of interviews through conversation methods and then beginning my analysis into the fall and coding them. So, again, I talked about analysis and using a software to code those themes and begin writing my dissertation toward defending it just over a year from now. Next slide please. So, I kind of alluded to this but it's like to what end. I think research by us, for us is important. We have so many wonderful, wonderful thinkers lately and with our youth coming up, it's even just important to engage them and ask them how would you want to go about this? How would you see yourself doing research for your community and to what end? Honestly, I really want to get those 3 letters behind my name so that I can do other research that's more applying. So, for instance, looking at those municipal water systems and asking, well how much energy does it take to run those and what's characterizing our groundwater that it comes from? What's the capacity of that before it starts dropping and we start potentially losing access to that resource? So, that's my to what end. I need those 3 letters behind my name to do some real good applied research back home. So, lastly, living accountability to community, I have to make these academic products that include a dissertation, that include probably 3 publications ideally and academic journals. But, what's more important, I would say, to me is how I'm sharing this with community. One of the things I want to do is and our GIS story map that kind of tells the histories and is easily applicable and to have audio and video and photos to tell the story of how we're thinking with water across both watersheds. So, that's think that's all I have for you. Ray, is that right? Yeah. So, I say thank you. There's my family with me and a wedding last summer and they've been my support and have graciously moved with me. That was a huge ask of them. So, yeah, thank you all. I'm open for questions. I realized it was probably longer than I meant. If you don't have questions, I'd love to quickly move into an update on the TR 2100 project.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I have one question.

SHANNY GION: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: When are you coming back to the Tribe?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: How fast can you get this done. Thank you so much. Your presentation was awesome.

SHANNY GION: Thank you. I can't tell how it means to even just sit here and share with you the thinking and musings I've been able to do in the academic space, if you will. I just, I always come back here though and that's one thing I told my committee is, cool, you're my committee but I need to go present this to my community first. So, I really appreciate that. If I may ask, as I come back, I would love to do updates as I'm moving through this PhD journey. My university may ask for a tribal resolution of you supporting or approving my research and I may be coming back to you for that if that's ok.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yes.

SHANNY GION: Ok. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I like your approach on how you view and think about water. So, will your study focus on a particular source like the rivers or the creeks? I would recommend actually look more to like springs. The communities are dependent upon those springs. I guess I would like to see your analysis of that.

SHANNY GION: Yeah. That's a great point Norma. I actually was thinking with springs and that would definitely be, I think, one of the focal points of where I want to understand how we live with water and how we respect water entities that are there. I learned a lot through my previous grad experience and springs would definitely be a good and critical component to my research. The future discussion on the Tongue River side, that's not just the river. The water we see is one thing but the water we don't see, I think, is something we have to pay particular attention to. You know, knowing where springs are and why they leave. I mean, I think it's more than climate change. I think it's more in our cosmologies about when they leave and what that means. It's really interesting to look at. I looked at TSR's a long time ago when I was working for the Tribe. A lot of people chose their land allotments based on where our springs were. I found an old list that had the Cheyenne names of the springs. So, like eventually trying to bring those back into being and living and talking them in Cheyenne would be pretty amazing itself, I think. So, yes. I may come back to you. I promise next time I should be faster. Thank you so much for listening. Even if you have question down the line, I have my email there. I can share my cell phone number or we can zoom. Whatever you would like to do. I'm just moving forward with it and excited to engage water that way. I think it kind of relates really well to how we frame research going into the future.

COUNCILWOMAN LITTLE EAGLE: I really appreciate your transparency and also, like, being a good example of ethical research on the rez.

SHANNY GION: Thank you. Thank you Silver. That means a lot. I do try to take that really seriously. It would not emotionally, everything. It would not feel right to not do it this way.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

SHANNY GION: Thank you so much.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Congratulations and keep working hard.

SHANNY GION: Yes. Thank you. I know. I will. I am enjoying my time up there getting to know some of the Tribes and other folks. Hoping to bring, maybe, partnerships together. We'll see where that goes. If I could have 2 more minutes. I just want to give a quick TR 2100 update. So, I will email, maybe Edina, a recent poster that our PI made. We presented it at AGU, which is this massive conference that happens in December but it gives a really good outline of the project and kind of where we are. So, we have these monthly meetings and right now we're talking through calibrating a model. There's a lot of data massaging when you have to make these decisions. Let's say you have historical data but you only have 10 years at one monitoring site. Then maybe you have 15 years at another monitoring site. There are ways to kind of calibrate those together to combine them to have that as an input for the model in developing these water capability scenarios. That's what we're kind of talking through right now. I want to quickly put on your radar for our next outreach and community engagement meeting for this project. It will be July 10th through the 12th. I figured after the pow wow probably would be better than trying to squeeze it into the busy time of Battle Where the Girl Saved Her Brother and the 4th of July. So, we're planning to come afterwards. When I say we, our partners, there's a guy from DNRC who will be coming. Our PI, Theodore Barnhart. He is a USGS Scientist from Helena. We plan to do these evening community meetings in Lame Deer, Birney and Ashland. I would love to figure out ways to combine that with district meetings to kind of be able to share what this project is doing with the community that way. That's all I have for it but again, I will send that poster to Edina. It gives a really good outline of kind of what the project is and where we're at. Thank you.

ITEM #7 – SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE W/ PIERCE HOMES

KAYLA GRINSELL: Good morning. We are requesting authorization and approval to sole source purchase with Pierce Homes and Commercial Buildings to purchase a multi office building to house tribal health administration and programs.

WHEREAS the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health is in dire need of a new building to house the Administration and certain other departments in the current Tribal Health building due to the condition of the current building; and

WHEREAS Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health has the funds to purchase a modular building and the Indian Health Service has approved the use of the funds for the purpose of purchasing a modular building to house Tribal Health Administration and some programs; and

WHEREAS Pierce Homes and Commercial Buildings has the capability to construct a c=modular building that will meet the needs of the Tribal Health; and

WHEREAS procuring a building for the Tribal Health is time sensitive as the current Tribal Health building presents health risks to those working in it; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health Commissioners has approved and recommends the Tribal Councils approval of a sole sourcing contract with Pierce Homes and Commercial buildings to

construct a specialized building to house Northern Cheyenne Board of Health Administration and departments; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Tribal Council hereby authorizes and approves Tribal Health to enter into a sole source contract with Pierce Homes and commercial buildings for the purchase of a modular office building to house Tribal Health Administration and some Tribal Health programs.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE WITH PIERCE
HOMES AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO PURCHASE A MULTI OFFICE
BUILDING TO HOUSE TRIBAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAMS**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #8 – SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH MOBILE LIFE LINE

KAYLA GRINSELL: We are requesting authorization and approval to sole source a contract with Mobile Life Line to purchase a mobile clinic to extend services to the communities.

WHEREAS, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health received CRRSAA/PPPHCEA funding and the Indian Health Service has approved its use to purchase a mobile clinic to be used to provide services in the local communities on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation; and

WHEREAS, Mobile Life Line has the capability to provide the mobile clinic that will meet the needs of Tribal Health; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health Commissioners has approved and recommends that the Tribal Council approval of a sole source contract with Mobile Life Line to provide a mobile clinic; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby authorizes and approves Tribal Health to enter into a sole source contract with Mobile Life Line for the purchase of a mobile clinic; and

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH MOBILE
LIFE LINE TO PURCHASE A MOBILE CLINIC TO EXTEND SERVICES TO THE
COMMUNITIES**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #9 – CDKC BOARD COMPOSITION

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Ok. So, this is the follow up resolution to the one that was passed to suspend 2 CDKC board members. I would like to strike the 4th and 5th whereas. I gave everybody a copy of the e-mail ----- regarding the accreditation. It's a report that they did. They did interviews regarding accreditation and the authority that the council does have over the college. This resolution, the current board members, this will give them a directive to review their policies to, I guess, figure out a way or to structure the college where it's, there's more continuity and it's stronger. Because the elections now, don't, there's not much interest for them. So there's opportunity for them to appoint or for the council to appoint. On the page in the back, I want to revise that *it's therefore be it resolved*. But, that the sentence on the top, I just wanted to revise that to how we do the resolutions for board appointments and the president can open it up for 10 days. That's my motion.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: They're on. There's only a few that work because they're shorted out.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Could I say something Madam President.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Yeah.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Good morning Tribal Council. Before you guys take any action on this it was brought to my attention. You know, it seems like when I got on the court bar down there, I've been getting a lot of clients that have problems with programs, you know. Whether that's with administration or whether that's tribal council. This particular subject came to my attention, and I realized by some of the actions that you guys are taking, you guys are violating your own tribal laws. There're resolutions that were passed that are in place. The college actually has autonomy. I've brought several complaints for housing, you know, other programs that had the same autonomy.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Dana, if I could interrupt you.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Can I finish first.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Before you go on about autonomy and everything else, we researched the whole process. There was legal advice regarding this. So, it's not, we're not. There was information, false information given out saying that it would be detrimental to the accreditation of the college.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: I ain't talking about the accreditation. I'm talking about the tribal laws that are in place. There's resolutions that are in place. There's board policy.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Have you researched.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: We're not in a hearing though. We're not in a hearing right now.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: I understand that. I'm just trying to remind you guys that there are laws in place. I'm not trying to get in no pissing match with anybody, you know. Just want to remind you that there are laws that you guys kind of overstep and overlook.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I made a motion Melissa.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: There's a motion on the floor.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I appreciate you for bringing that up. That the council has laws and policies that we are supposed to follow but then the college also does too. They have policies that are strictly related to them keeping their accreditation and following those policies for the betterment of that school. So, the actions that we took pertain to individuals that did not follow their own policies and I feel like all the blame is being put on the council for violating something that ----- but those individuals violated their policies. I don't see anybody complaining or bringing up that fact. So, you made a good point. We have policies but so does the college. So, we took action based on what we thought was the best interest for the council and the college to maintain their accreditation. So, we have a motion on the floor. We're voting.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: The least we could do is discuss it. You guys work for the people. We are the people.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: But, those people are supposed to follow policy too.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Yeah, they are but you guys overstep them boundaries by not letting them take care of it.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: They had 2 years to take care of it.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Did you direct the board to take care of it? Did you direct the President or whoever. I don't know

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Dana, did you ask questions?

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: You should know that information. We have that information. We based our decision on that information that was submitted.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: There's a whole process.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: But. I mean, I didn't look at it in detail, detail. But, I mean, there's tribal law.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: This has to do with laws. It does. It has to do with

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: But their plan of operations is set up so they can take care of it

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: We read those policies. We read their charter. We read their policies. We read the recommendations from the accreditation court. We read the findings. We did those things.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: You guys have an attorney who represents both entities.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Who is that? Who is it?

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Brian Chestnut. Doesn't he represent the college?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: No.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Doesn't he represent the college?

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: No. He's not representing us in this issue.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: He's not representing you in this issue?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: And the other thing is, their policies. We had to step in because their policies for any disciplinary action on a board member has to be unanimous, which is ridiculous.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Actually, they changed it to 3. There were minutes to that.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: That's a whole other thing.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, we have a motion on the floor.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: The only this that I would like to add to this or change is that paragraph number 5 where it has the ----- temporary appointment until they figure how to come back with their plan. But, it's to advertise like we do for regular boards and for 10 days.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: So, you want to do a 10 day solicitation?

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL REMOVING CHIEF DULL KNIFE COLLEGE (CDKC) BOARD MEMBERS BARBARA CLUBFOOT AND JACQUELINE TANG, DIRECTING THE CDKC BOARD TO REVISE ITS BYLAWS AND POLICIES, AND TEMPORARILY APPOINTING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President		X		
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse			X	
Melissa Fisher	X			

8 vote(s) Yes	1 votes No	1 Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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ITEM #10 – YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

COUNCILWOMAN LITTLE EAGLE: I'd like to make a motion approving a resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council establishing a Northern Cheyenne Tribal Youth Advisory Board as well as its functions.

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council deems it necessary and convenient to establish a Board to facilitate the efficient operations of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Youth Council; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to define the functions of the Youth Advisory Board and to fulfill the functions of said Board;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council establishes the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Youth Advisory Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council hereby adopts the attached board manual of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Youth Advisory Board.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tribal Council hereby repeals and rescinds in whole or in part, any resolutions or ordinances that may conflict with this resolution.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
ESTABLISHING A NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
AND ITS FUNCTIONS**

Motion made by Silver Little Eagle. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			

Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #11 – 2024 POW WOW COMMITTEE

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council appointing the Northern Cheyenne 4th of July Chief's Powwow & Rodeo Committee for the year 2024.

COUNCILWOMAN LITTLE EAGLE: Can we add the pageant coordinator on here?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Oh yeah. And I'll put the lead security coordinator and pageant coordinator on here. Who is it?

COUNCILWOMAN LITTLE EAGLE: Devin Killback.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Ok. Cameron Russell will be security. So, that's my motion.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Who's going to do registration?

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Are we having a hand game?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah. We'll pass this and then have a meeting.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPOINTING THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE 4TH OF JULY CHIEF'S POWWOW & RODEO COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2024 INCLUDING THE PAGEANT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear			X	
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				
Nizhoni Friesz	X			

Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand			X	
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

8 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	2 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #12 – NCTHA RENT CEILING CAP

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I have a resolution before you to re-instate the ceiling cap for the Northern Cheyenne Housing Authority low rent units.

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: Is this the plan? Just to keep the cap? I think there's a more sustainable solution like doing a minor increase because if you go to high like we have right now all the people are going to move out who can't afford it and we're going to be right with the same strapped budget. A modest increase would be more sustainable over time.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I just want to re-instate the ceiling cap and we need to come to an agreement.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: How was this initially supposed to happen? Was it supposed to be a gradual increase?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: They should have proposed it to us,

COUNCILWOMAN SPOTTEDHORSE: So, with the ceiling cap, will it be still high?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: It will go back to where it was before.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN DAVIE: There's an analysis that needs to be done based on actual statistics from here. There's also a number of reasons why this needs to happen. I'm sure there was retaliation of some sort as far as like. They're saying that they've been able to increase their wages because people are paying their rent and stuff

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: They haven't taken into account the ones that have current accounts.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: You know, the significant, financial hardship. The homelessness, you know, we have tribal members who have lived in these homes for many, many years who. I mean, you know, a family in Busby who had to move out of their home. Luckily, they had a family member who had a house available for them to rent. But, they had

nowhere to go. You know, I had people moving into my community that lived there for 10 days that moved right back out because they couldn't afford that rent. We have homelessness. We have people with financial hardship. With them raising this, we have more people who have become homeless.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: How many times has Norma brought up or everybody's brought up how many homes are boarded up. Now, we have homes that are empty because of the rent.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Not to mention the fact that those houses that haven't been maintained in years and that's a portion of their rent. I mean, people will put in work orders and nothing gets done for years. There's a number of reasons why this is necessary. The big thing is the statistics. I was told that basically they were generating their statistics from the counties and we all know that you can step across that rez line and yearly income per household goes up about \$80,000 dollars. There's statistics outside the reservation that are irrelevant to this place because we have 80% unemployment. The household income is probably about 3 or 4 thousand dollars on average if you actually took the statistics and actually took the time to do the study.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: There's other steps that we'll need to take with this. Just is just a band aide to try to fix the problem. I keep saying, we need to go visit the powers that be in Denver to figure out a plan because there's people who've lived in their homes for 20 plus years and they have paid an outrageous amount with the rent. The people who are current on their rent, they should own those homes but that's a whole other thing that we are going to have to address. We do need to either invite them to sit down with the board because anytime that we get, any time that we can sit down with the board it's with Rodney present or Joe present.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I have a question. What was the rent ceiling prior to this?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: It was 15 percent but there was a ceiling cap. So, I am just requesting that the cap be re-instated. So, in the letter, if you read the attached letter, it says that the ceiling rent was 15 percent. They lifted the cap and they started charging that 15 percent of your income. After this first year is what Troy said, is after this first they are going to increase it 3 more percent, to 18 percent. So, we want the cap back on, re-instated, the cap.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: So, they wouldn't actually be paying the 15 percent that's there? They're just going to be paying. I think for like a 5 bedroom it's like \$295.00 and right now, most of them are over \$1,000.00 with the 15 percent.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Those houses are about 50 years old and the maintenance has been very little on those homes or none.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: It's not just about the rent here. The prices on everything is going up like food. That's why people aren't paying what they are supposed to be paying. Just like me, I help all my kids on their bills. I still barely get by.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: They based their study on Colstrip. That's a coal mining town. That's what they based their study on. Their market study or whatever it was.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: If they base their study, there's a mine north of us. There's a mine southwest of us and then there's mine northwest of us. So, you know, we're surrounded by mines.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: taking statistics from the place where you have a school. where there's a school and a mine. Where people are making over 100K a year and comparing it and using it to base your rent and all of your, every decision you make based on something that is so. I mean, it's not like this. I mean it's like this. We're talking, we're talking. You're imposing rent on people that don't have the money. So, naturally what's gonna happen is those people are either, one, you know, be non-compliant and stay in those units until the cops have to take them out or they're just gonna move on their own accord because they can't afford the rent. But, which leaves us with a bunch of empty apartments, houses and homeless people. We are already having a problem with homelessness on the reservation. I'm sure we don't want to making it worse by imposing a, what I just read was a, was a 15% increase that took place in October of 2023 that will increase to 18% by April of 24, which is already passed. So, it was, there's supposed to be another increase. I'm not sure if that was stopped or not. I mean, it's like beating a dead horse, you know.

COUNCILWOMAN SPOTTEDHORSE: We got multiple people already getting eviction notices because they can't keep up with the rent.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, therefore be it resolved that effective June 1 the rent ceiling cap for the Northern Cheyenne Housing Authority low rent units is hereby reinstated and therefore be it resolved this supersedes any action of the Northern Cheyenne Housing Authority. That is my motion.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Do you want to leave that date on there?

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Can I say something? Are you guys gonna go back and adjust it from October 1? Because there's probably some people that are \$10,000 in delinquencies because of this rent hike. According to Federal, State and local, even Housing, they are supposed to have 60-day notices before they adjust any rents, up or down. They had their meeting September 5th, 2023, and they enacted it on October 1st, 2023. So, it caused, I guess, a big panic and uproar. Our people are, you know, disgruntled. Like you said, they are finding other ways to move out, where they're gonna go, you know. I would like to request that you guys, you know, retro activate it to September, or October 1st and have them re-adjust their rent because they violated every HUD Housing due process by not giving them a 60-day notice. I have clients that are very disgruntled about that.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: So, just take it back and put it towards the

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: Have them re-adjust it to where, like it never even happened because they violated their own policy and due process. They're supposed to give them a 60-day notice.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: What are we going to do about the payments that have already been made?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: The whole mess. It's just a whole. It's a mess. Part of it stemmed from them not doing their job on the compliance part of it. And then you have maintenance. They don't provide maintenance to those homes. It's just a whole, like a huge snowball. But, the ones that have made their rent, I don't know how we could get it back to them because they're coming forward. What they're doing is they are coming forward with huge back rent invoices or whatever they use. From years, years back.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, if we retro it back to 10/1 and for those who have paid that large amount of rent, it would be a credit towards their rent.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: You going to put that language in there.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, I would like to amend my motion and make it effective or retroactive to 10/1/2024 or 10/1/2023.

DANA EAGLEFEATHERS: One more thing to add to that Councilwoman Fisher. When I went down and met with Rachel, who is the Occupancy Division Manager. It was on April 12th I asked for the occupancy policy and she handed it to me. I said, this is what's law, right? This is what you enforce? She said yes. I said, because I believe in the black letter of the law. She said, yes, this is what I enforce. I opened it up and on April 12th that rent cap whatever was still under policies. She hasn't been given an amendment or minutes or anything. They are kind of in violation of their own policies. So, retroactive, it would only make it right for the community.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Also, put in there that rent paid will be credited to their account.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Can we set some dates to try to schedule a meeting?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yes. So, that's my motion.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL RE-INSTATING RENT RATE CEILING ON NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY LOW RENT UNITS. IT WILL ALSO BE RETROACTIVE TO OCTOBER 1, 2023. THE RENT PAID WILL BE CREDITED TO THEIR RENT ACCOUNTS.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			

Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	2 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #13 – NATIVE NATIONS SURVEY

HEATHER SOBREPENA: Thank you President Wetherelt and members of the Council. I'm here today to present the analysis of the survey of Native Nations that the Northern Cheyenne Tribe participated in utilizing fiscal year 2019 financial data. Essentially what you see in front of you is the slide deck of the report as well as this hard copy of the report that I am going to present. I need to let you know that the views expressed are my own and not that of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis or the Federal Reserve System. So, if I say something that is not in line with the Federal Reserve, that is all on me. So, introducing myself again, Heather SobrepENA. I am the Engagement Director for Center for Indian Country Development with the Minneapolis Federal Reserve. I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe as well as the Crow Tribe. Don't hold that against me. We're gonna just briefly go over the executive summary as well as the report contents, as well as revenues and expenditures and then talked about some of the data limitations that we found in the survey. Can everyone hear me ok? So, I just first wanted to start out in the executive summary to talk about why we did this project. CICD is a data and Research Center of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve System and what we've heard over and over from tribal leaders is that there's just simply not enough information available for tribal governments to be able to make decisions by being able to do comparative analysis to other jurisdictions. So, we have undertaken a major data initiative to address these data gaps and part of that with this survey with Native Nations is a way to address that data gap in addition to the the data tools create. So, one of the things that was shared with us is that tribal governments need better information on how they can manage revenues and expenditures in order to identify areas of opportunity and analysis and priority with policymakers. So, hopefully this is an opportunity for Northern Cheyenne to think about like a year on year comparisons or survey year to survey year. We recognize that tribal governments are not the same as other local jurisdictions and we're not trying to equivocate that here. Tribal nations excerpt sovereignty over their financial resources by determining what those revenues and expenditures will be. That sovereignty is focused on really tribal citizens that benefit from the provision of services. So, let's see some key findings. So, some key findings that we found is that tribal governments provide a wide range of services on par with those provided by state and local governments. The revenue streams vary greatly across the participating tribes that participated in the survey. This is not rocket science. We know taxation is not a primary source of revenue for tribal governments and that's something that we want to be able to show data around since it is a primary source of

revenue for other governments. Tribal enterprises are a key source of revenue and oftentimes fill that gap where governments might have taxes to provide that revenue source. Most of the tribes that participated in this pilot survey, about 80% receives some revenues from investment income, sales and service revenues, as well as TERO revenue. So, if you're thinking about ways you can use this information. You could use it for comparative jurisdictional analysis of your revenues and expenditures in comparison to say Rosebud County, Bighorn County. If you wanted to think about other jurisdictions like what's going on in Miles City or Ashland. Those are other areas that we could potentially look at. We hope that this survey is really the data to help import policy conversations with other jurisdictions. I should say that this is a tool that's specifically. This report is specifically for Northern Cheyenne. Nobody else gets this report. In fact, we can't share this report with anyone else because we made that commitment to keep your data confidential. If we were to talk about the data in any way or form, we could not identify. So, this report is for you to use however you see fit. It can help assess financial conditions and identify opportunities as well as help to think about and prioritizing budgets and financing resources as well as performing governance and program evaluations. Often times there's not enough capacity to do performance evaluations, program evaluations. This information, like I said, is unique to Northern Cheyenne. We tried to put this together so it's accessible. Anyone can give this presentation. Any member of the council or the legislative branch can give this presentation. It's important that Kristi, the treasurer. It's looking at fiscal year 2019 data. So, the report is in 4 main sections. We identified local comparison of governments to compare to put that on a map with Northern Cheyenne. We look at revenues in 6 broad categories. Because this was an initial pilot for 2023, we'll talk about some the data limitations. I'm not gonna go to heavily into that other ----- and what those limitations are. So, if we look at that local comparison, the sources that we are using for this data or the source that we are using for this data is HUD Indian Housing Block Grant Program fiscal year 2019 data as well as the American Community Survey 5-year data from 2015-2019. I will say that for some we are looking at doing the survey again with 2022 information and have drastically simplified the questions. From about 100 questions to 50 and also recognizing that where possible we're using tribally sourced data. For example, if we wanted to look at enrollment data for Northern Cheyenne, that is something that the Tribe, itself, had in a report, that would be a source of data. So, Northern Cheyenne overlapping with Big Horn County and Rosebud County showed a population of 10,496 enrolled members with just a little under half living on the reservation at 4,827 individuals with 92.5 on the reservation identifying as Native American. This is significant. You don't see this on other reservations in terms of the population being that high. I would say for other reservations, and this is public data, you see it somewhere in the range of 30. So, high concentration of Native American population. That could have something to do with land ----- here. So, Bighorn County has a total population of 13,000 with 67% identifying as Native American. Rosebud just coming with around 9,000 with about 40% Native American. I know I'm standing between you and lunch, so I'll try to get through this as quickly as possible. So, as I mentioned, we'll look at revenues first. We'll first look at sort of the high-level major source categories. Then we'll look at taxation. Then intergovernmental transfers. Then we'll finally talk about tribal enterprise data.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: This is 2019, right?

HEATHER SOBREPENA: For 2019, yes. The reason we chose 2019 is because we didn't want to start out on a novelist year with ARPA funding coming in and you know, recovery funding coming in. We felt like that was probably not the best way to sort of set a baseline for what tribal treasuries looked like. So, we wanted something pre-pandemic and we recognized that 2019 was way, way back there. It was like a lifetime ago. So, Northern Cheyenne's revenues are substantively different from that of local governments. If you look at that slide that shows comparing revenues by major source categories. Northern Cheyenne received a majority of revenues, about 97 percent, from categories that were not asked about on the survey. So, I think, we only gave gratitude to all of the Tribes who participated in the survey because they helped us identify. Some of our categorization just didn't really fit, as much as we tried to identify like the major categories. Sometimes the way revenues came in were split across those so it was not easy for individuals like Kristi to say specifically that this was just one distinct source of revenue. So, for that reason, that's why the gray category shows up significantly for Northern Cheyenne. I will say that the 2 slivers that you can sort of see there are other revenue are taxes, which is just a tiny sliver, licenses, fees and other receipts and tribally owned enterprises/joint ventures. About 3% is that taxes, licenses, fees and other receipts and when you compare this to, again, we're not saying anything new but we just have the data here to say it. That taxes for tribal nations, specifically Northern Cheyenne, are significantly less when you compare it to other forms of government. If you look at the diversity of revenue streams across tribes. What we have here is a key map. So, all the tribes who participated in the survey, we ranked those with the key map of what showed the most to the least and alongside that was ----- and Northern Cheyenne identified what they collected. In FY2019, Northern Cheyenne had investment income, TERO revenue, private donations, transfers or distributions received from tribally owned enterprises, gaming fees, self-insurance revenue and settlement income. So, looking at the taxes as revenue source. This is just going to sound like a broken record. But, if you look at Northern Cheyenne and all corresponding tribes in Montana, the pies are similar. So, there's 1.9 percent tax revenue for Northern Cheyenne and then all the make up revenue is from all other resources. Very similar Montana and if you compare that to other local governments, you can see the significant difference between that tax revenue. When we look at a specific ----- case of tax, nearly all of those are collected through intergovernmental tax agreements. So, thinking about what is the tribe's sovereign authority to impose taxes. So, of that 1.2 million, all of that was through a negotiated compact with the State of Montana. When you look at all other Tribes in Montana, they have a total of the Tribes aggregated with a total of 7.9 million and \$400K that was collected directly by tribal government. So, most of that tax revenue is coming through some agreement with another entity and in this case, the state of Montana. So, the types of tax revenues, no surprise here, motor fuels and tobacco tax are what Northern Cheyenne collected. Again, this is another heat map just to see where our participating tribes did collect tax revenue. Both of these are through intergovernmental agreement. One of the things that was raised from my awareness is that I believe starting in, I'm not sure if it's state fiscal year 2022 or 2023 but there's a canvas tax that will be negotiated with contracting. That's potentially another source of revenue in the future. A key thing here that wasn't reported is intergovernmental transfer revenue by source. Intergovernmental transfer of revenues is a significant source for tribal governments. So, these are things like grants or reimbursement for services received from other governments. If you look at all responding tribes in Montana that amount was \$74.6 million and of that, the blue section \$71 million about 96% was from Federal sources and about 4% was from State sources. So, since Northern Cheyenne did not report any Intergovernmental

transfer revenue, we can't say it here, but I would imagine that the tribe is receiving transfer revenues from Federal and State as other sources of revenue. Finally, if we look at revenues from tribal businesses or tribal enterprises, Northern Cheyenne identifies about a half a million from tribally owned enterprises and then \$61.3M from all other sources. You can see a comparison here with other responding tribes in Montana where they had about \$38 million or 9% in revenues from tribally owned enterprises. A small portion from taxes and the majority from all other sources besides taxes. Moving on to expenditures. This is also another section where Northern Cheyenne provided yes/no answers to these questions. I think this just speaks to the opportunity to identify the sources but then also not have to provide the amounts. If that's what was desired. So, for that reason we can identify what types of expenditures occurred. Northern Cheyenne didn't provide line item amounts for each expenditure reported. So, rather than doing a comparative analysis to other jurisdictions, we'd provide an analysis of what their spending ----- So, if they look at this heat map that is in 2 columns, tribal governments manage a wide range of services. Again, those areas are 100%, which is the kind of darker mustard color, were identified by all of the participating tribal governments as areas of expenditures. You can see where Northern Cheyenne identified that the Tribe expended funds in those areas. So, the heat map is kind of, it's in 2 columns but if you think about it like from left to right or darker to lighter to the grey, that would be the entirety of the expenditures. I don't think anything to surprising here in terms of central administration, cultural programming and preservation, health care facilities, program and other spending and then housing community and economic development. I think it's also interesting to point out at the bottom of the second column that the majority of 60% of the responding tribes have expenditure and categories that the survey did not ask about specifically. In the end, I would just say that for the pilot, it was a great opportunity for us to learn and so, we ----- up with categories to be much more higher level so that we can be able to do some of those comparisons without eliminating categories. So, if you compare reported expenditures by category. Again, Northern Cheyenne did not provide those but you can see that Bighorn and Rosebud County spent a significant portion on all other categories as well as. Actually, if you flip to the local comparisons of selected expenditures, you can see what peaks for those three ----- descriptions of Rosebud and Big Horn. So, Big Horn spends the most of Law Enforcement, legal and corrections. Which is that mustard, yellow color. Then health and hospital facilities followed by utilities and transportation. Rosebuds peaks were utilities and transportation, which is a very broad category. It includes highways, airports, sea and inland ports, parking facilities, storage and then solid waste management. So, kind of a kitchen soup category. Then for Rosebud, health and hospital facilities and government administration, which is light blue and that gray color kind of tie for that third place. So, thinking about the data limitations, we place a premium on data consent practices and preservation of tribal anonymity. So, participants were free to choose which survey questions they did and did not provide dollar amounts. So, for that reason there are certain numbers that we were unable to analyze just due to small sample size and recognizing that the potential unique number could potentially make a tribe identifiable. So, for that reason, like you might have wanted to see the average total expenditure in tribal aggregate but we couldn't do that because we just have limited information to be able to provide that information. But, also, U.A. Census of government which happens every 5 years has some limitations. Not all the cities, counties and governments complete the U.S. Census version of the survey and they may not respond to all of the items. That also creates a data limitation for us. Basically, what that means is that going forward, we are piloting phase 2 of the survey and we are working with a couple of our National

Organizations. One of which, I believe, Northern Cheyenne Tribe is a member. We are looking at 2022 expenditures and revenues. So, there's another opportunity to take another stab at this if the Tribe is interested. I will say, Phase 1 was a significant learning period for all of us so we really thank you and each of the tribal governments who participated. We are hoping that we have a larger comparison group. In terms of next steps, our goal is to be able to publish an article about the aggregate data not identifying individual participants. If you did want to potentially be identified as a participant, we would ask you for your permission to quote you in the article. But, even then, would not reveal specific information. We wouldn't talk about any individual tribe's numbers. I am not gonna go through the remainder of the slides about CICD because we gave out that presentation in the first go around. I don't prefer to talk about us but I would love to hear if you have any questions or comments. It's a lot to digest.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: I think we'll have to look at it. We'll probably have to contact you if we have any questions.

HEATHER SOBREPENA: Yeah. Absolutely. So, Kristi Harris, was the primary contact for Northern Cheyenne who filled out the survey. So, I think it would be helpful to share the results back with her. That's a decision that the council needs to make so that she can sort of see. I think she would probably be the one who is well positioned to analyze, does this make sense, did we get enough out of the answers that we input to be able to do some analysis. Then to think about is Northern Cheyenne interested in doing the survey again. We are going to look at fiscal year 2022 revenue and expenditures. We took what was almost 100 questions and took it down to 50 recognizing that it was a huge burden of time for the primary and secondary respondents to try to sort through that information. We want this to really be accessible for you ----- financials instead of having to dig into real specific pieces. We've also added some sections that we think could be helpful but then again, everything in the survey is really yes, no, unsure where to find the answer. We're not forcing any responses.

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: What are some of the main ways that other Tribes are using this information?

HEATHER SOBREPENA: Some tribes are using and taking this information to have conversations with other local governments. So, either with incorporated cities or towns that are on the reservation to talk about tax revenues, revenues that are spent on utilities and infrastructure; utilities, transportation and infrastructure. Just getting a sense of what they're spending on that versus what tribes are spending on that. Also, you know, around the taxation conversations and compacting, this could be used as an opportunity to inform the tax negotiations that the Tribe has with the State. Recognizing that Tribal lands that are in trust are not taxable the same way that land in fee land is taxable. So, that is a primary source of revenue that tribes can't avail themselves to or don't want to avail themselves to but just recognizing that that's a significant revenue source for other jurisdictions that fund their goods and services. So, when you don't have that in the tribal government, there has to be a way to sort of fill that gap and a lot of times, the way tribes are doing that is through tribal enterprises. Is that helpful?

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Thank you.

HEATHER SOBREPENA: Yes. Absolutely. In the back, at the very end, there's some contact information, some other data tools. I would definitely check those out. We have these really cool native community data profiles and if you scan the QR Code, it'll take you right to their page as well as some other tools that might be helpful. I'd love to get your sense of how accurate the tribal economic zones are.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN LIMBERHAND: Thank you.

HEATHER SOBRETERENA: Yes. Thank you.

ITEM #14 – AGREEMENT WITH PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

WALLACE BEARCHUM: I had the tribe's attorney review this amendment that we have with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Everything is in order here. There is a resolution approving the amendment. We are just extending the amendment for a couple more years and it'll automatically renew after that. Pretty simple.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Can you give a quick update. How is the ETC Program working. I mean, how is it going?

WALLACE BEARCHUM: Yeah. Yeah. We are up and running. Appointments are constant every week. We send our requests down there. They ship them back to us and we get them out to the tribal members. It's up and running.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: There was a couple questions this morning when we added it on. One was the funding source. Is it your BIA funding that you're using to fund this or what? Or where is the funding?

WALLACE BEARCHUM: Yeah, we have a meeting tomorrow at 2 p.m., if anybody can make it, with the BIA. So, we put in a funding request.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Are you not charging for the cards?

WALLACE BEARCHUM: No. The first 1,000 are free. They were purchased already ahead of time.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: That was a question. How much was it for those first 1,000?

WALLACE BEARCHUM: I would have to go back and look.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Ok. Could you just give me the information and I'll update them.

WALLACE BEARCHUM: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Ok.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Once you apply, how long does it take to get the card back?

WALLACE BEARCHUM: As soon as we apply, we usually send in a request in later on that week and the following week they mail them back to us.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Part of that is, they have to wait for a certain amount, right?

WALLACE BEARCHUM: Yeah. Like 10/15

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: You have to send in a batch?

WALLACE BEARCHUM: Yeah. A batch.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I make a motion to approve his resolution.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENE TRIBAL COUNCIL
APPROVING AN AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH PASCUA YAQUI
TRIBE FOR TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION CARD SERVICES**

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear				X
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #15 – CONTRACT WITH LAW AND ORDER CONSULTANT

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: You have before you a resolution to contract with a Law and Order Consultant. The United States has breached the above duties owed to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its people in many ways, including by: (1) maintaining inadequate staffing levels; (2) failing to respond to calls for service; (3) failing to investigate crimes; (4) failing to refer cases for prosecution; (5) failing to maintain adequate local and regional detention facilities; and (6) failing to provide adequate rehabilitative services. The Tribe has a lawsuit pending in United States District Court in Billings, Montana against the United States to compel the United States to fulfill its law enforcement obligations and other relief. The Tribe and Consultant have negotiated a proposed April 13, 2024 contract for Consultant to consult to the Tribe regarding the lawsuit. The Tribal Council recognizes that because of the specialized nature of the unique professional services provided by Consultant and the desire to improve law and order on the Reservation. It is in the Tribe's best interest to deviate from the regular procurement process under Section 1(A)(3) of the Procurement and Purchasing Manual and hire Consultant. My motion before the council is to deviate from the regular procurement process to hire consultant to assist the Tribe to improve law and order on the Reservation and that the Tribal President is authorized and directed to sign the contract with Consultant, and to take any actions consistent therewith. That's my motion.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH LAW AND ORDER CONSULTANT AND DEVIATE FROM THE REGULAR PROCUREMENT PROCESS TO HIRE THE CONSULTANT TO ASSIST THE TRIBE.

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear				X
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Nizhoni Friesz.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

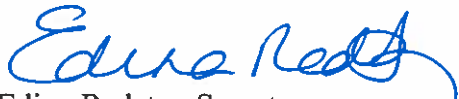
	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear				X
Debra Charette	X			

Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice-President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MEETING ADJOURNED @ 12:26 P.M.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council with 11 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstention on this 15th day of July 2024.



Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe