



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
All presentations, handouts, and attachments are posted to the TIBC Webpage under Meeting Materials.	3
Opening Remarks.....	3
Tribal Co-Chairs Opening Remarks	3
TIBC Protocol.....	3
Late Drawdowns.....	3
Year-End Carryover	3
Land into Trust and PILT	4
Labor Force Report Timing and Use.....	4
Section 105(l) Lease Agreement Guidance	4
White House Council on Native American Affairs.....	4
Small Tribes Supplement Program.....	4
Contract Support Costs and the Office of Management and Budget	4
Indian Trader Act Regulations	4
Tribal Shares as they Relate to Contract Negotiations.....	5
Tribal Transportation Program and the Obligation Limitation	5
Land Into Trust for Sacred Sites and Practices.....	5
Tribal Ecological Knowledge and Habitat Restoration.....	5
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Opening Remarks	5
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Staffing.....	5
Boarding School Initiative.....	5
Protection and Restoration of Tribal Homelands Consultation Sessions	6
Buy Indian Act Proposed Rule	6
Land Title and Records Office Final Rule.....	6
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Draft Regulations	6
FY 2022 Appropriations.....	6
Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC).....	7
Indian Affairs Administrative Updates.....	7
Year-End Distributions.....	7
Continuing Funding Resolution for FY 2022.....	7
Section 105(l) Lease Agreements.....	7
BIE Construction	7
Public Safety & Justice Construction	7



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Hiring Underway	7
Bureau of Indian Affairs Update and Discussion	8
FY 2022 Indian Affairs Budget	8
Ongoing Pandemic Health and Economic Effects	8
Office of Emergency Management.....	8
Vaccine Mandate for Federal Employees.....	8
Fee-to-Trust Strike Team.....	8
American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding.....	8
BIA Data Position.....	8
BIA Office of Field Operations	8
Water Filtration Systems for Potable Water –	9
Water Needs, in General.....	9
Bureau of Indian Education Update and Discussion	9
Update.....	9
Heat and Air Conditioning	9
Administrative Costs vs. Indirect Costs Rates.....	9
Bureau of Trust Funds Administration Update and Discussion	9
FY 2022 Budget Request.....	9
Land Buyback Program	9
Indian Land Consolidation Program.....	10
Beneficiary Services	10
Call Center Capacity during Pandemic	10
Online Account Access for Beneficiaries.....	10
Boarding School Initiative and American Indian Records.....	10
Trust Officer Vacancies in Local BIA Offices.....	11
Protocol Discussion	11
Proposed Changes.....	11
DOI Signature.....	11
Legislative Update	11
Update.....	11
FY 2022 Budget Update and Discussion	11
Update.....	11
Small Tribes Supplement.....	11
Boarding School Initiative	11
Overview	11



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Collaboration and Support.....	12
Developing MOUs to Further Collaboration.....	12
Initial Report Expected April 2022	12
Spiritual Needs of the Initiative.....	12
Tribal Historic Preservation Officers	12
Parochial Schools, Mission Schools, and HBCUs	13
New/Old Business.....	13
FY 2023 Tribal Budget Submission	13
TIBC protocol.....	13
Labor Force Report.....	13

Executive Summary

All presentations, handouts, and attachments are posted to the [TIBC Webpage](#) under [Meeting Materials](#).

The Tribal/Interior Budget Council (TIBC) convened virtually September 21-22, 2021.

- On September 21 and September 22, 2021 a quorum was present and official business was conducted.
- On September 21, 2021, the [June 2021 TIBC Meeting Minutes](#) were adopted.
- The September 2021 TIBC meeting reviewed funds for the American Rescue Plan, discussed the prospect of an infrastructure reauthorization and supplemental investment bills, reviewed the House-passed appropriations for Indian Affairs Programs, received updates from Indian Affairs Bureaus and the front office, and discussed the Department of the Interior’s Boarding School Initiative.

Opening Remarks

Tribal Co-Chairs Opening Remarks

TIBC Protocol – Tribal leaders discussed updates to the Protocol document for TIBC, expressing hope that the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (AS-IA) would sign the document, once amended and resubmitted. Certain operations of TIBC and its subcommittees were not clearly reflected in the Protocol. Tribal leaders supported an opportunity to better define these processes before submission to the AS-IA for signature.

Late Drawdowns – Tribal leaders in certain BIA Regions were receiving funds for draw down with little time left in the fiscal year. Tribal leaders hoped that funds will be made available for draw down earlier in time and support the staffing needed to make those funds available, timely.

Year-End Carryover – Tribal leaders discussed the fiscal year 2021 year-end close out activities taking place at Indian Affairs, requesting if there were any carryover funds and any identified use for those funds.



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Land into Trust and PILT – Tribal leaders supported improved land into trust processes under the current Administration, reiterating their support for Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to address certain loss of tax revenue arguments put on by non-tribal entities that delay taking land into trust.

Labor Force Report Timing and Use – Tribal leaders asked for an update on the American Indian Labor Force Report, asking, ‘what is the intended use of the data once collected by the federal government?’

Section 105(l) Lease Agreement Guidance – Tribal leaders continued to express interest in the development of regulations for the payment of tribal leases associated with BIA Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) agreements. Tribal leaders request an update on the process at the next meeting, including information on timing and processing.

White House Council on Native American Affairs – Tribal leaders requested that the Assistant Secretary carry a few high priority issues to Tribal leaders into the council for discussion. One item is the coordination between the Department of Justice and Indian Affairs on public safety and justice issues and program. Another issue is the coordination between Indian Affairs, the Census Bureau, and the Department of labor on data issues so that there can be a more accurate assessment of Indian Country and associated federal policy. Last, Tribal leaders believe that it is critical that Tribal leaders be engaged as part of the Council and express hope that the AS-IA will carry those wishes forward to the Council.

Small Tribes Supplement Program – Tribal leaders hope that the President’s Budget Request will include an increase for the Small Tribes Supplement program (formerly “Small and Needy”) to bring all of the eligible Tribal governments’ bases up to the \$160,000 and \$200,000 minimum thresholds for base funding. Tribal leaders asked that the AS-IA look into why tribal governments are still not receiving funds to meet that minimum base funding threshold. The base threshold has been a target number since the 1990s and has not increased. Tribal leaders expressed hope that the Administration would consider those amounts and whether they are adequate after more than 20 years.

Contract Support Costs and the Office of Management and Budget – Tribal leaders asked for the AS-IAs support in working with OMB to ensure that Contract Support Costs (CSC) calculations are not skewed by CARES Act and ARP funding in the negotiation of CSC rates. Tribal leaders ask that the amounts be eligible to exclude from the base for the purpose of calculating CSC, if the Tribe so chooses. AS-IA Newland agrees and does not want Tribes to be punished for receiving emergency funds.

Indian Trader Act Regulations – Tribal leaders ask that the administration take a look at the Indian Trader regulations for updates. Indian Affairs replied that it wants to be sure that it is defending tribal jurisdiction and promoting economic development, which means that the benefits of Tribal economic development flow to tribal communities first. The Administration will be looking at solutions to promote those policies and outcomes.



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Tribal Shares as they Relate to Contract Negotiations – Tribal leaders asked that Indian Affairs provide clear data and guidance on the distribution of resources on the Operation of Indian programs including methodologies for calculations. Specifically, commenters believe that negotiations are not representative of need within the contracting Tribe for certain programs. Tribal leaders hope to build data on actual programmatic needs to produce better budgets and, ultimately, improved contracts. The AS-IA invited commenters to please schedule with him on these issues so that Indian Affairs may learn more about what tribes are facing in operation of their Self-Determination and Self-Governance contracts. The ability to enter into agreements is constrained by the amount of appropriations that are received, but Indian Affairs expressed its desire to hear about the unique issues that each Tribe may face so that the Administration can develop the best solutions.

Tribal Transportation Program and the Obligation Limitation – Tribal leaders expressed concern that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) still subjects the Tribal Transportation Program to the Obligation Limitation and its deduction of TTP funds, each year. The TTP program used to be exempt from the deduction calculation prior to enactment of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which continued through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. During the 116th Congress, the House proposed a solution to restore the protection of limited TTP dollars from the deduction of tribal funding in the Moving Forward Act. However, the IIJA does not include this protection for TTP. Tribal leaders note that the obligation limitation keeps taking more and more from TTP funding and ask that the Administration advocate for a solution to this continued loss in funding for Tribal surface transportation infrastructure. Indian Affairs thanked Tribal leaders for that comment.

Land Into Trust for Sacred Sites and Practices – Tribal leaders ask that Indian Affairs work to prioritize applications for putting land into trust for sacred sites, practices, and burial sites. Tribal leaders understand that there are complex issues that arise with taking land into trust, but believe that land for these traditional uses or protections should be a “no-brainer.” Indian Affairs agrees that the process should not be as difficult, expensive, or as long as it is and invite Tribes to reengage in that process to develop improvements to make the process work better for Indian people.

Tribal Ecological Knowledge and Habitat Restoration – Tribal leaders note that Tribal Ecological Knowledge has been in practice for millennia, but ask that the Administration empower Tribes to implement those practices.

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Opening Remarks

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Staffing – Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (AS-IA) Bryan Newland discussed hiring key Office of the AS-IA positions, thanking Tribal leaders for their support in his confirmation. Assistant Secretary Newland expressed hope for a day where meetings can take place in person again.

Boarding School Initiative – Indian Affairs is working to send an initial report to the Secretary by April 1, 2022. Indian Affairs is in the process of gathering hundreds of thousands of



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

documents and going through those documents. Indian Affairs will be holding consultation sessions to clarify the process, generally, and to discuss the treatment and protection of information obtained, including compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The work between now and April 1, 2022, is the first step.

Protection and Restoration of Tribal Homelands Consultation Sessions – In a [September 10, 2021, Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) (DTLL), Assistant Secretary Newland announced four consultation sessions, seeking input on the protection and restoration of Tribal homelands. The September 10 DTLL included a framing paper posing ten questions for consideration as part of these consultation sessions.

Buy Indian Act Proposed Rule – The Department of the Interior (DOI) has proposed revisions to the regulations implementing the Buy Indian Act. The Buy Indian Act provides DOI with the authority to set aside procurement contracts for Indian-owned and controlled businesses. The revisions would eliminate the restriction on Indian Economic Enterprises from competing on certain construction contracts issued under the Buy Indian Act, expand Indian Economic Enterprises' ability to subcontract work subject to Buy Indian Act, reduce the potential for fraud and abuse of acquisitions subject to the Buy Indian Act, and give greater preference to Indian Economic Enterprises when a deviation from the Buy Indian Act is necessary, among other updates. Consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native corporations on this proposed rule will be held Wednesday, December 1, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET. Please register in advance [here](#). The proposed rule is available [here](#).

Land Title and Records Office Final Rule – On August 16, 2021, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) published its [final rule](#) revising BIA regulations governing the Land Title and Records Office (LTRO) to reflect modernization of the LTRO. The LTRO maintains title documents for land held in trust or restricted status for individual Indians and Tribes (Indian land). This rule replaces outdated provisions and allows for more widespread efficiencies by reflecting current practices, while creating a framework for future LTRO operations.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Draft Regulations – Indian Affairs recently completed its first consultation period of draft NAGPRA regulations at 43 C.F.R. part 10, which provide a systematic process for the disposition and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. First consultation period on draft NAGPRA regulations closing up. A link to the Tribal Leader Letter can be found [here](#). The Draft Rule Summary is found [here](#), and the Draft Rule Text is found [here](#). Additional information can also be found on the NPS website [here: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/regulations.htm](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/regulations.htm).

FY 2022 Appropriations – Assistant Secretary Newland is encouraged to see that the House Appropriations bill for FY 2022 Indian Affairs programs largely follow's the President's FY 2022 Budget Request to Congress. Indian Affairs continues to work with Congress to implement the President's plan in FY 2022 and in the future. Additionally, Indian Affairs is going to continue its dialogue on advance appropriations.



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) – The Department of the Interior's [Detailed Plan for Improving Implementation of E.O. 13175](#) includes recommendation to establish a Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee to assist Interior in meeting its stated goals in the plan.

Indian Affairs Administrative Updates

Year-End Distributions – Indian Affairs is busy getting money out before funds expire. Indian Affairs does not expect any significant amount of funds to be unspent. A clearer picture of any carryover funds will emerge in the coming days, with a discussion of any carryover funds that can take place at the next TIBC meeting.

Continuing Funding Resolution for FY 2022 – Indian Affairs is preparing for the passage of a Continuing Resolution (CR), but will be requesting exception apportionment for Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) “base funding” accounts for tribal governments that receive funds on the federal fiscal year. For Tribes operating on the federal fiscal year (begins Oct. 1), TPA programs will be funded at 100 percent of the FY 2021 enacted amount, except that Indian Affairs will be allowed to implement base transfers prior to grant of the exception apportionment, which will improve distributions and reduce labor spent adjusting for base transfers after apportionment.

Section 105(l) Lease Agreements – Indian Affairs completed its joint consultation sessions on Section 105(l) Lease Agreements in August, with the comment period officially closing September 13, 2021. Indian Affairs will be comparing its notes from the sessions with Indian Health Service and working to chart a path forward with the goal of transparency and consistency where it makes sense. Indian Affairs will follow up with its next steps with Section 105(l) Lease Agreements as final comments are processed. Tribal leaders asked how many leases there are, currently. Indian Affairs said that approximately 30 leases are executed on an annual basis as of September 2021.

BIE Construction – Indian Affairs was able to complete reconstruction of three BIE schools this fiscal year, helped by the additional funding received through energy development revenues taxed under the Great American Outdoors Act. [P.L. 116-152](#). Indian Affairs has also increased the total amount of deferred maintenance it could address each year by about 20 percent. Indian Affairs representatives stated that it takes about \$65 million to construct a replacement school, for a total bill of approximately \$4.5 billion to replace all of the schools in poor condition, acknowledging that construction inflation will most likely cause this estimate to rise. Tribal leaders followed up by asking if any of the construction funds were available to establish new BIE schools. Indian Affairs representatives responded that the funds are available for reconstruction of existing BIE schools and not for the establishment of new schools.

Public Safety & Justice Construction – Indian Affairs is in the process of developing an assessment and capital investment process similar to that implemented for BIE schools so that Indian Affairs can identify construction priorities with funds made available.

Hiring Underway – As of the September 2021 TIBC meeting, Indian Affairs is in the process of advertising and hiring a new Director of the Office of Budget and Performance Management and



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Associate Chief Information Officer, in addition to the creation of a new Deputy Associate Chief Information Officer to address IT modernization needs across facilities, including BIE schools.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Update and Discussion

FY 2022 Indian Affairs Budget – The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Director Darryl LaCounte expressed excitement over the FY 2022 Budget Request to Congress and mentioned that the BIA is also going to work to reveal how much more is needed for Indian Affairs programs.

Ongoing Pandemic Health and Economic Effects – Director LaCounte brought to attention that many areas still have high unemployment rates and other challenges affecting Tribes that will remain a focus at the BIA.

Office of Emergency Management – The BIA is reorganizing the Office of Emergency Management to operate under the BIA Director. The Office used to be in the Office of Justice Services. This move re-organizes labor in the Office of Justice Services to promote programmatic efficiencies and elevates the Office of Emergency Management to report to the BIA Director.

Vaccine Mandate for Federal Employees – President Biden released a vaccine mandate for federal employees, including contractors, requiring that staff and contractors be fully vaccinated by November 8, 2021.

Fee-to-Trust Strike Team – The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is putting together a fee-to-trust strike team, modeled after a past timber strike team and its designed to address backlogs. The intent behind the strike team is to get all Indian Affairs staff to adhere to a standardized process and increase efficiency. Tribal leaders asked if there has been any discussion about Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for land taken into trust. The BIA responded that there have not been any discussions as of September 21, 2021, but it is not off the table.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding – The BIA is working to interpret the use of ARP funding provided to Indian Affairs as broadly as possible in favor of tribal sovereignty. The BIA believes that empowering Tribes to come up with the best use of funds is the best way to approach the ARP Funding

BIA Data Position – The BIA has been working on developing and soliciting applications for a data position within the BIA. that will monitor, track, and keep data associated with BIA program activity, specifically noting data deficiencies that limited the ability to respond to the Pandemic. The BIA welcomes comments on ways to work appropriately with Tribes in the collection and use of data. The development of new positions takes time; however, the process is moving forward and the BIA looks forward to filling those positions.

BIA Office of Field Operations – The BIA Office of Field Operations is now located out of Albuquerque and operated by Deputy Director Bart Stevens. Deputy Director Stevens hopes to promote accountability and responsibility throughout BIA field operations, emphasizing responsiveness to tribal inquiries and communications.



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Water Filtration Systems for Potable Water – Tribal leaders asked for solutions for potable water that include the installation of filtration systems that deliver much more clean water with less waste than delivering potable water by container. BIA responded that the supplemental appropriations that were provided are for the delivery of potable water and do not include infrastructure projects. BIA also noted that machines that produce potable water could be purchased to tie to their water source. BIA asks that Tribes with potable water needs to reach out to their Regional Director.

Water Needs, in General – Tribal leaders wanted to note for the record that water needs are not only for human consumption, but for crops and livestock, as well as for fighting forest fires. Tribal leaders understand the intent behind the potable water in the ARP, but wanted to raise these other needs and concerns for BIA consideration.

Bureau of Indian Education Update and Discussion

Update – To view BIE’s detailed update, click [here](#).

Heat and Air Conditioning – Tribal leaders noted that limitations on funding for BIE schools result in not enough fuels or sufficient equipment to address extreme temperatures for students in the classroom. BIE responded that the FY 2022 request includes additional resources to address these issues, which remain a priority of BIE.

Administrative Costs vs. Indirect Costs Rates – Tribal leaders asked if the school systems are on ‘indirect cost rates’ or ‘administrative cost rates.’ BIE responded that the calculations are done on administrative cost rates, per the Code of Federal Regulations. Tribal leaders followed up by asking if, in BIE’s opinion, the amount is cover true costs or are they under-recovering. BIE responded that it believes they are covering the true costs, and there is a provision that allows the agency to recover overpayments to Tribes and schools. BIE stated that this mechanism is to ensure that all needs are considered and ensure that administrative costs payments are made at 100 percent.

Bureau of Trust Funds Administration Update and Discussion

FY 2022 Budget Request – The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) requests \$110 million for FY 2022. The House Mark-Up provided \$109 million, and the FY 2021 enacted amount is \$108 million. For perspective, the amount provided for BTFA (formerly the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, “OST”) was as high as \$130 million.

Land Buyback Program – the Land Buyback Program established by the *Cobell* settlement and statute is winding down, ending in November of 2022. The last offers will be going out in May of 2022. As of September 2021, there is about \$107 million of the \$1.9 billion remaining. Approximately \$49 million of those remaining funds are for the land purchase activities and \$58 million is for implementation activities. While implementation funds appear relatively high, it is due to running a lean operation, using approximately half of the allowable administrative expenses. This allowed for some transfers of funds from the implementation side over to the land buyback side. BTFA is in the process of assessing whether additional funds can be transferred



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

from the administrative side to the land buyback side of activities. BTFA’s goal is to have effectively zero funds available in November 2022, with some funds remaining available for the necessary wind down of the program. To date, \$1.6 billion in land has been purchased, equivalent to 2.9 billion acres and 1.1 fractionated interests consolidated as of June 2021.

Indian Land Consolidation Program – The BIA has requested \$150 million in a new account to reestablish a modified Indian Land Consolidation Program. This funding recognizes the ongoing need to continue to address fractionation on Indian lands as the LBBP program, established as part of the *Cobell* Settlement, ends.

Beneficiary Services – BTFA is exploring solutions to improvements to beneficiary services, including increasing staffing and self-service kiosks to be installed where there are high volumes of requests for information associated with Beneficiary services. While different in function than an ATM machine, the kiosks are intended to provide beneficiaries access to information and immediately connect beneficiaries with a video call center. The Kiosks are also expected to have scanners so that if certain documentation is needed for a beneficiary, it can be securely provided to BTFA using the Kiosk. The first Kiosk is intended to be deployed at Ft. Peck and if beneficiaries like using them, BTFA would expand their availability.

Call Center Capacity during Pandemic – the switch to remote work during the pandemic required BTFA to implement new solutions to manage the call center. Short term solutions had less capacity than the system that was at the Albuquerque Call Center, but a recent switch was made to another call center platform to allow for a greater volume of callers to be on the line. In the near future, BTFA will be implementing a call center platform that will provide the necessary services on days where call volume is significantly higher than usual, such as on “oil and gas” days.

Online Account Access for Beneficiaries – BTFA has been working to implement online account access for beneficiaries. This will allow beneficiaries to check their balance by phone or computer. BTFA expects this functionality to reduce call center requests, for which about 30 percent of the call volume are requests for basic information that could be provided through an online account system, if the beneficiary so chooses.

Boarding School Initiative and American Indian Records – In addition to managing money, BTFA manages American Indian Records and the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR). BTFA has been tasked with getting access to boarding school records, which are largely in paper, and digitizing those records. There are an estimated 39,000 boxes that may contain records relevant to the Boarding School Initiative, with approximately 2,500 to 3,500 pages per box. This equates to approximately \$137 million pages of potentially relevant data to address. BTFA will be using Artificial Intelligence or machine learning systems to assess those datasets, but the volume of work is still very large. The papers need prepped for digitizing, so that they are not damaged by scanners. BTFA is working on a mapping of boarding schools and putting together a dataset of other records repositories that may have relevant records for the initiative. Those records are often not digitized, so BTFA is working to identify those resources so that they can be digitized and accessible.



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Trust Officer Vacancies in Local BIA Offices – Tribal leaders are concerned that many of the Trust officer positions in the BIA Regional and Agency offices are vacant, which is causing a backlog on services, including assistance with wills. Tribal leaders also comment that with the pandemic, there may be an increased volume of fractionated land issues. BTFA responded that when buyouts were offered for retirement of staff, there was a significant volume of Trust Officers that accepted the buyout and it is responding to that need to increase staffing, including designing latter paths between positions with similar skillset so that internal recruitment and retention increases, in addition to external recruitment efforts. BTFA has been trying various alternatives to increase staff recruitment for entry level positions, including offering positions at higher pay grades, lower pay grades, and benefits such as offering to pay student loans. However, it has continued to be difficult to hire for those positions in certain locations.

Protocol Discussion

Proposed Changes – Tribal leaders discussed a few proposed changes to the previously submitted protocol document that are designed to provide clarification on existing processes. Tribal leaders would like to take those proposed edits and revisions back to the Tribes in their region for their review and comment to circle back to submit at the next meeting.

DOI Signature – Tribal leaders hope to submit the protocol for DOI signature and seek DOI's prompt action on review and signature.

Legislative Update

Update – To view the National Congress of American Indians' Legislative Update for the Tribal/Interior Budget Council, click [here](#).

FY 2022 Budget Update and Discussion

Update – To view the Office of Budget and Performance Management (OBPM), Budget Formulation and Financial Management Division Chief Sharon Omps' detailed update, click [here](#). To view the latest BIA Comp tables, comparing enacted spending to TIBC Recommendations to the House appropriations bill for BIA, click [here](#); for the BIE Comp table, click [here](#).

Small Tribes Supplement – Tribal Leaders noted that the amount provided in the House Mark is not consistent with the BIA's Budget Request for FY 2022, which was intended to provide the funds necessary to bring all tribes up to the minimum base threshold of \$200 thousand in Alaska and \$160 thousand elsewhere. The amount recommended by the House was \$2 million less than requested. Indian Affairs responded confirming that assessment of the House's actions.

Boarding School Initiative

Overview – Residential boarding schools were established with the intent to erase their Tribal identity. It was a tragic and harmful part of our history, and Indian Affairs knows that there is not a native person in America whose lives have not been shaped by this past in some way. We still see the effects and are still healing from the harm in many ways. Secretary Haaland has directed Indian Affairs with the great honor of working to put together the history and support the healing



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

of the tragedies that occurred at these boarding schools. Indian affairs acknowledges that this effort is going to take a lot of hearts, a lot of minds, and dedication of time to address this healing. To view the Secretary’s initial memo on this initiative, click [here](#).

Collaboration and Support – Indian Affairs thanked the BTFA for its work on this initiative, noting that resources to begin this were limited. The Administration has also been working with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, respecting their independence but collaborating to advance the goals set forward by Secretary Haaland. Schools and religious entities have also reached out to support the effort. If you have any information that would support this initiative, please email the official Indian Affairs inbox that was created to receive input and collaborative support at BSI2021@bia.gov.

Developing MOUs to Further Collaboration – Indian Affairs is in the process of developing standardized Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for collaboration for different entities like nonprofit entities, Tribes, and local and state entities to be able to access all of the information that may be available and promote partnerships for people who would like to contribute to this initiative.

Initial Report Expected April 2022 – Indian Affairs expects to submit its initial review of information and findings to the Secretary for consideration by April of 2022. Indian Affairs is looking at ways to share information where it is legal and culturally appropriate because it understands that there is a lot of interest in the findings and promoting healing from the past.

Spiritual Needs of the Initiative – Tribal Leaders thanked the Administration for all of its work on this initiative and wanted to mention that in addition to the physical part of the work, there must be an understanding of the spiritual part of the healing, as well. Tribal leaders note that any time anyone leaves this physical world, they are sent to the spiritual world, and there are traditional ceremonies that the Tribes partake in. These traditional ceremonies are not solely conducted by the Tribal government, but by the traditional and cultural people within their Tribe. It is hard to understand for outsiders, but we need to be very cautious of how we proceed in this process. All of our relatives that have passed on into the spirit world left this world and were put under ground with no blessings, with no spiritual efforts in place to release their spirit in the right way. Tribal leaders urge that one of the first things that must happen is that we need to honor our relatives in the right way. When we speak to the spiritual side of ourselves and each other, we invoke the spirits of our ancestors, and we ask them to please take the spirits of our children. There are proper ceremonies to do all that, and Tribal leaders note that their spirits must be restored in the appropriate way. Tribal leaders want to share with Indian Affairs that if we are true to our spirit, we will be successful in how we move forward. Tribal leaders are comforted that Secretary Haaland will know the importance of what they are talking about. Indian Affairs thanked Tribal leaders for that comment and agree that we must follow the lead of our spiritual people on this and do the right thing.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers – Tribal leaders note that Tribal Historic Preservations Officers are instrumental to moving this process forward, and that many of the Tribal Historic



TRIBAL/INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL – September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Preservation Officers are spiritual people. Tribal leaders expressed the value and importance of these Officers and ask for resources to support this initiative in a culturally appropriate way.

Parochial Schools, Mission Schools, and HBCUs – Tribal leaders ask how the Administration is working to address native students who were sent off to parochial schools and other institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities like Hampton, in Virginia. Tribal leaders discussed how many Native students were sent to these schools and graves exist with our native ancestors buried there. Tribal leaders ask that the Administration please also check these schools. Tribal leaders want to bring their relatives home. Indian Affairs thanked Tribal leaders for their comments and acknowledged that there are sites that the Administration must work to gain access to as part of the ongoing initiative. Administrative representatives have been engaged in a considerable amount of research on these institutions and making connections with these entities.

New/Old Business

FY 2023 Tribal Budget Submission – The June 2021 TIBC meeting was a budget formulation meeting. A budget was finalized on June 14, 2021 and submitted to the Secretary on that same day. To view the FY 2023 Tribal Budget Submission, click [here](#).

TIBC protocol – send that out to voting members for review and comment. If there are comments send them to Tyler Scribner at tscribner@NCAI.org. The protocol document will be addressed at the subsequent meeting to finalize the proposed changes with a quorum present. Then, submit to the AS-IA for signature.

Labor Force Report – Tribal leaders noted that there was not discussion and a status update on the Labor Force Report and where the Department of Labor and Indian Affairs are at with this report. Tribal leaders agreed that this could be discussed at the November TIBC meeting.