



May 7, 2024
Minutes of the General Business Meeting
Sequim, WA

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Sami Jo Difuntorum at 8:35 AM.

Welcome and Invocation

A welcome and invocation was provided by Albert Fletcher, Jamestown S’Klallam Chairman Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council and Tribal Veterans Representative, and member of the Vietnam Veterans Band of Brothers.

Introductions – those in attendance were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Roll Call

- NWIHA Secretary Diana Phair called the roll of members in good standing (2024 dues paid).
- Members Present for Roll Call: Burns Paiute (Proxy), Chehalis, (Proxy), Colville, CLUSI, Coquille, Fort Hall (Proxy), Grand Ronde, Hoh, Jamestown S’Klallam, Klamath, Lower Elwha, Lummi, Metlakatla, Muckleshoot, Nez Perce, Nisqually, Nooksack, Port Gamble, Quileute, Siletz, Spokane, Squaxin Island, Stillaguamish (Proxy), Tulalip, Umatilla (Proxy), Upper Skagit, Warm Springs, and Yakama.
- With 28 members present for Roll Call, out of 41 paid members, Sami Jo declared a quorum was established. NOTE: Kalispel and Makah arrived after Roll Call, making 30 total present for the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda. (Note: the Agenda and Consent Agenda items can be found on the [NWIHA Website](#).)

- **MOTION** made by Roseann Fonzi (Quileute) to approve the agenda as presented; second by Liz Kuntz (Squaxin Island). Motion approved without objection.
- **MOTION** made by Anne Cook (Coquille) to approve the Consent Agenda items; seconded by Jennifer Hutto (Lower Elwha). Motion approved without objection. The Consent Agenda included:
 - Approval of Minutes of Business Meeting September 12, 2023.
 - Approval of Statement of Activities for 12 months ending December 31, 2023.
 - Approval of Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2023.

Reports (Note: all reports can be found on the [NWIHA Website](#).)

- **Executive Director:** Charles Anderson went over the logistics of the meeting, including encouraging all members to visit with the Exhibitors, and announced the Silent Auction of Mariner tickets donated by Kanso Software, and the lunch and tours sponsored by Rice Fergus Miller.
- **Executive Director Training Program:** Brandi Liberty of the Luak Group provided an update of the training, mentoring and certification program funded by a grant from Myer Memorial Trust. The full report is available on the [NWIHA website](#). The focus at this time is the mentoring program, and Luak is looking for those experienced housing professionals who are interested in being mentors to those new Directors who would like to receive mentoring.
- **NAIHC Update:** Sami Jo Difuntorum, NAIHC Liaison, went over the highlights of her written report which can be found on the [NWIHA website](#). Also, new NAIHC Director Douglas Marconi, Sr. provided a presentation on the work that NAIHC is doing.
- **ATNI Update:** Shonn Leno, ATNI Liaison, went over the highlights of his written report, which can be found on the [NWIHA Website](#).
- **AMERIND Update:** Derek Valdo (Amerind CEO) provided his report and the report of NWIHA Liaison Ron Ryan. It was announced that NWIHA will be receiving a \$13,000 incentive payment this year. The AMERIND report can be found on the [NWIHA website](#).

Executive Committee and Liaison Appointments

- Sami Jo Difuntorum announced that she has appointed Kenneth Ruthardt (Klamath) to be the Vice Chair. Jennifer Hutto (Lower Elwha) volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee in an At Large position.
- **MOTION** made by Diana Phair (Lummi), seconded by Roseann Fonzi (Quileute) to approve the appointment of Kenneth Ruthardt to be the Vice Chair for the remainder of the term expiring in September of this year. Approved without objection.
- **MOTION** was made by Joan Dugger (Grand Ronde), seconded by Liz Kuntz (Squaxin Island) to fill the vacant EC position for the remainder of the term expiring in September of this year. Approved without objection.
- **MOTION** made by Jennifer Hutto (Lower Elwha), seconded by Roseann Fonzi (Quileute), to serve as the Alternate NAIHC Liaison for the remainder of the term expiring in September of this year. Motion approved without objection.
- Sami Jo asked for volunteers to fill the remaining Alternate Liaison positions (AMERIND and ATNI) but received none.

Members Roundtable Discussion

The discussions centered around drafting resolutions for the upcoming NAIHC Annual Convention in June. One resolution topic suggested by Sami Jo was with respect to the Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements that are expected to be enforced soon. Ed Goodman and Carie Baermann (Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker) provided an overview of the requirements, and the status with respect to the request for either an extension or an exclusion for tribal programs.

After much discussion, four resolutions were considered for adoption. They are summarized as follows:

- **Resolution 2024-01.** Requests the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs to compile a report on the number of IHBG-funded units currently under management by tribes and TDHE's with the purpose of requesting additional funding for the operation and maintenance of IHBG funded housing units. **MOTION** made by Joan Dugger (Grand Ronde) and seconded by Ama Tuato'o (Muckleshoot) to adopt Resolution 2024 -01, as drafted. Approved without objection.
- **Resolution 2024-02.** Supports and encourages the United States Congress to increase both the NAHBG under Title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.) and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, to 4% above FY 24 enacted amounts. **MOTION** made by Joan Dugger (Grand Ronde), seconded by Dale Schrock (Colville) to adopt Resolution 2024-02. Approved without objection.
- **Resolution 2024-03.** Urges HUD and the OMB to provide a permanent blanket waiver for all HUD-funded awards for tribal housing programs that apply to BABA requirements, or at minimum, waive implementation of BABA for tribal housing programs while HUD undertakes a feasibility study to determine the full impacts of the BABA requirements on tribal communities. **MOTION** made by Richard Arthur (Nez Perce), seconded by Liz Kuntz (Squaxin Island), to adopt Resolution 2024-03. Approved without objection.
- **Resolution 2024-04.** A resolution introduced by member Shirley Jones (Tulalip), which urges HUD to consult with tribes and TDHEs prior to issuing the NOFOs related to affordable housing to ensure that they do not include elements that would constrain them from participation. **MOTION** made by Shirley Jones (Tulalip), seconded by Diana Phair (Lummi) to adopt Resolution 2024-04. Approved without objection.
- The resolutions will be forwarded to ATNI for consideration, and then on to NAIHC for consideration at the Annual Conference in June.

Presentations

After lunch, the following presentations were provided:

- **Census Bureau Presentation.** Alaina Capoeman, Tribal Relations Specialist for the US Census Bureau, and Victoria Montgomery, Geographer for the US Census Bureau, provided a two-part training on how tribes can access detailed demographic information to be used in grant applications and other purposes.
- **NwONAP Presentation.** Tom Carney, Administrator, David Boyd, Grants Management Director, and Greg Rowe, Grants Evaluation Director, provided an update on the latest HUD-funded programs, including updates on the Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program and the Section 504 requirements.

Meeting Concluded at 4:24 PM.