

**BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council
Notes, November 30, 2005**

Call to Order, 8:25 a.m.

Opening Prayer, Lee Sprague

Introduction of attendees, non-council representatives.

Mr. Cason noted that the discussion yesterday was earnest and productive. He mentioned that two meetings ago, we realized this advisory council was behind the power curve in developing an advocacy strategy to affect budget formulation targets for FY 2008. The council is moving forward in changing the format and process.

Mr. Hall thanked Mr. Cason and noted the improved working relationship with the tribal representatives and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

FY 2008 Priorities Presentation

Powerpoint presented by Tiffany Cheuvront. Powerpoint presentation available from aebarb@ncai.org.

Subcommittee recommends 4 priorities for consideration:

- Public Safety/Justice
- Education
- Community/Economic Development
- Contract Support Costs

Mr. Ken Davis moved to accept the recommendations and requests from the Budget Subcommittee. Seconded by Kathy Kitcheyan.

Discussion: Questions were raised on the inclusion of connectivity and IT capabilities, which was discussed yesterday by numerous federal representatives yesterday. Mr. Davis accepted clarification and directed the subcommittee to clarify the inclusion of IT and substance abuse.

Mr. Lee Sprague voiced support for this process, but suggested that the erosion of our base budgets is a critical issue. By picking these priorities, we are in no way endorsing cannibalizing the rest of the the BIA base budget. He suggested that the Budget Subcommittee carry this message.

A comment was raised that these priorities shouldn't be numbered. The priorities don't capture all the priorities of Indian Country.

Mr. Tim Martin said the Subcommittee just captured some catch phrases yesterday and brought them up for discussion today. Developing the hook and message will take more work.

Ms. Tiffany Chevront said the themes were intended to provoke thought and combine themes that were in common between the tribes and the federal government.

Mr. Cason said he is in concert with the subject matter. He said it's true that this list doesn't reflect the individual needs of all the tribes. Part of the problem of the current budget advocacy process is that 562 tribes all approach the Hill with their individual needs. This attack on the Hill becomes noise. Tribes have a critical mass problem on the Hill. Mr. Cason thinks it is important to prioritize to send a fairly common message. Indian Country has to reach at least *half* of the people on the Hill to get anything accomplished. Mr. Cason suggested that we do prioritize the 4 areas. Hypothetically, the Congress or OMB may only find \$50 million to give Indian Country. It would be important to be able to say, for instance, we want the first one and the fourth one. These are the mechanics of doing budgets.

Mr. Tim Martin said Mr. Cason's comments are in concert with the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee cannot exactly prioritize these four priorities among themselves because, today, the prioritization of these categories is premature.

Mr. Pat Ragsdale noted that IHS and BIA are the prime service providers and funding streams to tribes and BIA should try to dovetail with the Indian Health Service.

Mr. Brian Burns said these four initiatives are about community planning. He said if we go down the path of community planning, we can tie in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Art Senclair said we tried to get these four priorities without putting them in ranking. He noted this is the first time we'll meet with OMB with an Assistant Secretary and Central Office and he thanked Mr. Cason for setting up this meeting. He said we'd like to meet with OMB before ranking.

Mr. Cason said we should rank these initiatives before meeting with OMB. We should figure out what's the biggest bang for our buck. OMB is much like Congress in that sense. We should demonstrate what the benefit will be with this plan. The Budget Subcommittee needs to know, at least qualitatively, what tribes want the most. He suggested that we figure out what tribes want.

Mr. Tim Martin asked for clarification. The Subcommittee looked at tribal, federal, and regional director priorities. He asked if the federal team and tribal team both want to pursue the proposed recommendations.

Mr. Cason responded that these were his top four priorities and he believes the Subcommittee's recommendations reflect a consensus with federal and tribal sides. Mr.

Mr. Cason offered the federal team the opportunity to give input on the Budget Subcommittee's recommendations if they did not agree with the priorities.

Mr. Bill Benjamin from Great Plains said these categories miss land issues, e.g. noxious weeds and prairie dogs. Without money to put into land to make money, tribes lose out.

Mr. Cason asked if he was suggesting we add natural resources stewardship or drop one of these issues and add natural resources stewardship.

Mr. Benjamin responded it would be best to add, not replace, one of the categories.

Mr. Stan Speaks said he agrees adding the land issues.

Mr. Tim Martin said, other than contract support costs, the other three are broad categories. Under community and economic development could fall cadastral surveys and other land issues. Natural resource stewardship is a subcategory of community/economic development.

Mr. Terry Virden said that the way the budget is formatted, he doesn't think land management should fall under economic/community development. He suggested we add a separate category.

Mr. Ragsdale said unless we specify natural resources development, it will not be picked up or be noticed by OMB.

Mr. Tim Martin asked the federal side if it was their opinion that natural resource development could support community/economic development.

Mr. Cason responded that we will eventually have to be specific about programs within these categories. OMB will want to see specificity in what we're proposing. At that point, we'll have to prioritize in detail. Right now, it doesn't matter how we fold these categories, which can fit in each other at this point.

Mr. Tim Martin moved to amend the motion to include Natural Resources in lieu of Community/Economic Development. Ken Davis was amenable to the amendment to his motion. Kathleen Kitcheyan agreed to the amendment to the motion.

A comment was made that if you replace community/economic development with natural resources, we have less of a people, or human face, profile.

Mr. Cason said we have to keep in mind what sells on the Hill and to OMB. Community and economic development is more intriguing and attractive. Natural resources is necessary but would be less appealing to the Hill. Congress may have less incentive to fund cadastral surveys, for instance.

Question called. Motion to accept the Budget Subcommittee's FY 2008 Budget Priorities recommendations and requests carries unanimously.

Next Steps Discussion:

Budget Subcommittee will follow up. Mr. Tim Martin suggested the Subcommittee meet with Mrs. Mary Jane Miller and her staff to come up with specifics in advance of the meeting. The Subcommittee agreed that the OMB meeting will be a joint federal and tribal meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Darrell Seki to nominate Mr. Lee Sprague to be a member of the Budget Subcommittee. Mr. Joe Garcia seconded. Clarification: Mr. Tim Martin noted that we may need to address the representation of the Budget Subcommittee, which is now a permanent and productive Subcommittee. Mr. Joe Garcia said we should lay out some logistics about how email and communications will take place and who will pay. Mr. Joe Garcia said we should look at other agencies' approach and what their successes are based upon. Mr. Tex Hall invited Mr. Joe Garcia as NCAI President to attend the meeting with OMB on December 7, 2005. Mr. Lee Sprague will take the place of Jay St. Goddard on the Budget Subcommittee.

Question called. Motion carries.

Participants at the Dec. 7th OMB meeting: Art Senclair, Brenda Fields, Tiffany Cheuvront, Rick Gay, Ron Allen, Lee Sprague, Tex Hall, Joe Garcia.

Mr. Pat Ragsdale discussed the Working Plan and the need to develop substantive and quality GPRA goals.

Facilities Improvement and Repair, 10:21 a.m.

Presentation by Jack Rever, Director, Office of Management Support Services, Facilities Management and Construction on Use of Facilities Improvement and Repair Funds.

Old Business, 10:37 a.m.

The Advisory Council went over the Action Tracking document, which was revised July 28, 2005, and distributed to the Advisory Council.

Mrs. Mary Jane Miller went over the budget action timeline.

Discussion: a tribe asked how to host the August 22, 23 meeting. Any tribe interested in hosting a meeting should write Mrs. Mary Jane Miller a letter expressing interest. Mr. Art Senclair noted that this Advisory Council's documents could be posted on the NCAI website and distributed electronically.

Data Management Update, 11:00 a.m.

Powerpoint presented by Tiffany Cheuvront. Powerpoint presentation available from aeb@ncai.org.

Mr. Cason proposed that if Indian organizations want to do things, it would be on a fee for service basis. Ross Swimmer asked if Indian organizations and fee for service projects will ever sunset. If we put this in a fee for service category, it is not a grant, said Cason. Tribes may do something for BIA and charge a specific fee for service.

Discussion on Protocol Document

Mr. Cason raised some issues with the current BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council protocol, which the Council can address at the next meeting, February 22 – 23, 2006:

- He suggested that this council should be called the “DOI/Tribal Budget Advisory Council” because the meetings include the Office of Special Trustee.
- He brought up issues regarding membership and balance between tribal and federal representatives.
- He asked if we should have two chairs on each side, tribal and federal. He proposed there be federal chairs of Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and Office of Special Trustee.
- Elections: he asked if we should have elections at the first meeting in a fiscal year.

He proposed removing the following Subgroups currently included in the Protocol:

- funding distribution formula
- judicial subgroup
- TPA Carryover
- Contract Support Cost

PART and Data Management could be merged.

Mr. Ken Davis suggested Mr. Cason bring proposed revisions to the February 22, 23 national budget meeting and that the Protocol be included as an agenda item.

Resolutions

1.) Mr. Art Senclair moved to accept the “**Resolution of the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council Approving the Budget Format as proposed by the BIA**” and seconded by Mr. Robert Smith. The Amended to delete the final two resolves and minor edits.

Motion carried unanimously.

2.) Mr. Joe Garcia moved to accept the “**BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council Resolution on Administrative Holdbacks of BIA FY 2006 Funds.**” Seconded by Tarpie Yargee. Discussion. Jim Cason offered an amendment to the 6th “whereas” statement and to remove the 8th “whereas” statement. Amendments accepted by Mr. Garcia and second.

Motion carried unanimously.

3.) Motion made by Lee Sprague and seconded by Chief Justice Yazzie to pass resolution **“Exemption of BIA FY 2006 Budget funding from Additional Across-The-Board (ATB) Rescissions”** as a tribal caucus resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned, 12: 17 p.m.