

**Tribal Interior Budget Council
March 22-23, 2017
Washington Plaza, Washington, DC**

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Invocation

Roll Call

Agenda amended to move Rocky Mountain region’s presentation to 2:20 pm on March 23, 2017.

Approval of meeting minutes for November 8, 2016. Motion made and adopted.

Opening Remarks

Mike Black: We’re two months into the new Administration. I am currently the Acting Assistant Secretary. Secretary Zinke was confirmed on March 1st so he’s in about his third week as the Secretary. We’re still in that process of shaping the Administration and the priorities of the Secretary and how he’s going to manage and operate the Department of Interior. Right now he is the only confirmed political in the department. The questions that keep coming up is the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, which is a primary concern of all of us. Right now I don’t have any information to share, any timeframe. You’re watching the same things that I am as to how long it’s taken to get even some of the cabinet secretaries confirmed. So it may be some time before we see a permanent assistant secretary coming in.

I'll be in this position until they tell me otherwise and I plan to carry out the duties to the best of my ability and serve as I have in the past. We don't have a deputy assistant secretary, we don't have a principal deputy assistant secretary. We're down some councilors. That means carrying forward the mission of Indian Affairs and our service and our trust and treat obligations to the tribes. The new Administration is trying to kind of get their hands around what's been going on, what their mission is going to be, what their priorities are going to be going forward so there's been a few things that have happened that aren't unusual in any new Administration. And one of them was the document freeze. It really isn't a document freeze that's out there. There's a process we've got going on right now so any incoming or outgoing to states or tribal leaders, the Department wants to know what's coming in, what the issues are so that they match up with their priorities and policies but we are able to get things going.

Everybody's starting to get a handle on what's going on so processes are continuing to move forward. The hiring freeze that's out there, we're in about somewhere around 60 days into that. It's a 90 day hiring freeze but we have been able to get exemptions to some of those. Our law enforcement programs have been exempted from the hiring freeze, career seasonals which includes our firefighters, our temporary workers for construction and other programs in the summers have been exempted. We're working on exemptions for our teachers and our education staff so that we can continue to provide those services as well. We've been doing a few other things regarding the Indian Trader Act regs. We just wrapped up our final round of consultations on that last week. The comment period will be open until April 10th or April 12th so if you have comments or haven't had a chance to weigh in on that yet, please get that stuff in to us. April 10th is the deadline for that. Restoring tribal homelands, fee to trust, we are continuing to move forward on the fee to trust actions that are before us right now. We may be doing some changes in procedural things moving forward but right now we are continuing to move forward on all that.

The land buy back program is continuing to move forward. So far under that program we're somewhere around two million acres have been consolidated for tribal ownership. So it's been an extremely successful program. We just completed a roundup at Blackfeet Agency, our Blackfeet Reservation. 399,000 equivalent acres were purchased up there and put into the tribe's ownership. On the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, we just completed or we've been in process of doing consultations and we have a report to Congress due April 14th based on those consultations.

The White House Council on Native American Affairs, we're looking forward to briefing the Secretary on the White House Council so that he understands his role as the head of that council and get his feedback from how the Administration and the Secretary wants to move forward with the White House Council.

We continue to move forward on the BIE reform. We've completed phase one, we're currently in process of trying implement phase two which is a lot of our administrative programs, HR. We're also putting some focus on more on data collection and data gathering to ensure that we have the information that we need for our education programs.

The first day that Secretary Zinke came onboard March 1st, he visited the Indian Affairs Office. He sat with us and our Indian Affairs leadership for about an hour and went through what his priorities are and what his message to us was. He emphatically says he wants to support tribal sovereignty, wants to support tribal self-determination, wants to support tribal self-governance and he wants to be able to work with tribes and ensure that we are able to move those things forward.

Infrastructure will be a high priority for the Secretary as well as the Administration, as well as job creation, economic development. He comes out of Montana. He's had the experience of working with a number of the tribes over there through his congressional days and he wants to be able to continue to do that.

He's got a very good message about wanting to be able to put resources to the lowest level, to be able to ensure that we've got the resources out there that we need and that Indian Country has it where they need it for the people that are on the ground. So we'll see how that shapes moving forward. The presidential executive order on a comprehensive plan for reorganizing the executive branch, there's a couple things in there that I wanted to highlight for you. It's a proposed plan to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of federal agencies including, as appropriate, to eliminate or reorganize unnecessary or redundant federal agencies. Within 180 days of the date of this order, the head of each agency shall submit to the Director a proposed plan to reorganize the agency, if appropriate, in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of that agency.

One of the other things here it talked about is the proposed plan shall include, as appropriate, recommendations to eliminate unnecessary agencies, components of agencies or agency programs to merge functions. The one thing I really wanted to kind of highlight there to is the Director shall publish a notice in the Federal Register inviting the public to suggest improvements in the organization and functioning of the executive branch. I haven't had a chance to really visit with the Administration and the Department to date on this order and how we're going to implement it but tribal consultation I'm assuming is going to be a key part of any recommendations that would go forward for Indian Affairs.

Reach out to the Secretary and others to make sure your voices are heard on what your priorities are, what's important to all of you. The fact that the Secretary wants to fight for Indian Country and make sure that we sustain some of the progress we've made in the past I think is important and your voices will continue to be important in that process.

Chairman Seki: What's your view of President Trump's Interior budget proposal?

Mike Black: There are still a lot of unknowns as how this is going to go. There's still a large emphasis on infrastructure and infrastructure improvements, which is critical to Indian Country. As you see in the blueprint, the Department is at about a 12 percent reduction level. The budget itself is embargoed so we can't get into the details of what's there and what effects it may have. Olivia Ferriter from the Department will be able to talk a little bit more about the process and what's going on but it's embargoed right now so we really can't do a lot or can't talk about the details of it with you.

Comment: all tribes should be consulted on this because it's very serious for tribes to hear what's going to happen. What role is Secretary Zinke taking across the agencies? The streamlining is occurring across all federal agencies so it's not just happening at Interior. What is Secretary Zinke going to do in his role as Chair of the White House Council on Native American Affairs to make sure that all the secretaries understand the consultation requirement and that it's not just at Interior? And then the second one is what we heard from tribal leaders this morning was the real desire to meet with the Secretary and others like you said hearing the voice but what's the best way to do that because I know right now they're in the transition period and I think folks are wondering how to get those meetings because I don't think they've started to occur yet.

Mike Black: I haven't had the chance to sit down with the Secretary and discuss this executive order and what it means for us in the Department and for Indian Affairs. As far as getting meetings with the Secretary, I can try to assist with that if you get something to me. There is also the scheduling office for the Secretary. He's only in about his third week here. They are trying to get all of their processes in place for communication and scheduling and everything. But you could reach out to his scheduling office with a meeting request as well. But if you include like myself on that we can help to encourage those types of meetings.

President Begay: Has Secretary Zinke developed any kind of definition of what he means by sovereignty? Are there any guiding principles that have been developed that give guidance to how policies are developed, Indian policies, or implemented? It would be good to know what he means when he says sovereignty, his definition of that. Is it removing federal support, because we're sovereign, we should be able to generate our own income, our businesses economy, so forth. We should be able to address our educational needs, infrastructure needs without a lot of input from or even funding from federal government. Sovereignty...what does he mean by sovereignty? How he will relate to Indian tribes, whether it's treaty tribes, non-treaty tribes, large land base.

Mike Black: I'll take that message back to him. I wouldn't want to speak for him on exactly what his definition of that is but I can tell you how I took it when talking with him is to support the fact that tribes are sovereign nations and sovereign governments and supporting that ideal and removing whatever barriers may be in place, working with tribes to further your goals, your economic development, your opportunities.

Sam Thomas: The last day and a half we've been meeting here through subcommittees and the full tribal caucus. My opening remarks are on the tribal caucus and the subgroups.

- The tribal caucus has concerns over the hiring freeze, about the number of positions that are vacant including political appointees, Assistant Secretary of the Interior. We feel that that's kind of a slow process and they'd like to see it speeded up if any way possible because the people that are not benefiting from it is the sub-recipients of the programs.
- The budget, concern about potential 12 percent cuts to the Indian Country programs. We'd like to see the TPA's Interior Indian Affairs budget held harmless, prioritize the BIA budgets within the Department of Interior.
- Tribes want to be part of the infrastructure opportunities but not at the expense of our tribal sovereignty.
- The executive order on reorganization of the agencies, tribes want to provide input on any reorganization effort meaning that there'll be beginning and ongoing consultation or other opportunities for the tribes to weigh in on the input of the organization of the agency.
- The interagency council is very important to tribes so we'd like to ensure agency coordination, tribal representation on the council would be very important.
- Treaties and ordinances. Tribes make decisions about impacts to their own lands and it should not be delegated to the states to do that on behalf of tribes.
- Secretary Zinke, an invitation to our April meeting. We're having a special meeting here in DC on April 12th and we're going to send out a second request for him to be in attendance 'cause we feel he needs to hear directly from the tribes about the prioritization of the BIA budget and other issues in Indian Country.

- The TIBC budget proposal for road maintenance. The Roads Subcommittee will put forth and identify some proposed action for how we spelled out the unmet need and unmet obligation for that program.
- The data management subcommittee discussion. The Indian Economic Data Workshop will be held on July 24th, the day before TIBC meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona.
- There'll be a 2019 budget survey. Important to continue to refine and have reliable standard formulas, updated DOI 2018 to 2022 strategic plan which is on hold but the Indian Affairs is working on their strategic plan. Will hold consultations nationwide on topics and issues related to the data.
- The budget subcommittee met and discussed the survey for FY2019. Results and concerns about feedback from regions, issues with the survey in, recommendations to improve the process. The budget subcommittee meeting will meet again as I addressed earlier on April 10th, 11th and 12th and it's important for TIBC representation as strong tribes will report to ASEA on April 12th in which on April 12th as I identified we'd like to see the Secretary present at the reporting out of the results for FY19.
- The education subcommittee. First meeting developing purpose and scope of the committee. It was a well-attended subcommittee. Some of the strategies that were looked at within the subcommittee is that there's a situational ask in that no BIE schools or program funding have been up there with the exception of Johnson O'Malley. So we're looking at BIE to participate in that state or other states that don't have BIE opportunity. The committee wants to be involved with reorganization of the BIE in what will be the best for Indian Country. We support updated Johnson O'Malley counts that have been frozen since the mid '90s and 20 percent census data has 700,000 kids that eligible missing a lot of students in the count. This equates to about \$62 per student to a minimum of approximately \$1,500 per year.

DOI Budget Update

Olivia Ferriter

We are anticipating the final resolution on the 2017 budget and we're working on the submission of the detailed budget for 2018. As early as June is when we'll be starting to work on the FY19 budget. We have a handful of political beachhead appointees who have come in. None of them are in permanent positions right now and there are no other permanent political appointees other than Mr. Zinke. We do have career staff in all of the vacant political positions and together we are working with the political team to advance the mission. The Secretary has expressed and continues to express his strong support and appreciation for Indian Country. His first trip to the field was back home to Montana where he met with the Blackfeet Nation at Glacier National Park and had a traditional tribal blessing.

Last week President Trump released his budget blueprint for 2018. It laid out only the discretionary funding and not really in any detail. There was nothing about mandatory programs. It was made clear to us that the budget emphasizes his campaign promises, the boost military programs, a pretty big cut to foreign aid, prioritizing border security, veterans healthcare and school choice. The proposal does promise to take a very hard look at current programs and to eliminate redundant or overlapping or programs that are considered ineffective. In the Interior blueprint there were three programs that were recommended for elimination – none of them were from Indian Affairs – in order to increase defense spending by approximately \$54 billion. There was that amount of decreases to non-defense spending. Some of the agencies that were plussed up were Department of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs. Agencies that would take the larger cuts are Environmental Protection Agency at

roughly 30 percent, more than 20 percent reduction for Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor and over 16 percent cut to Health and Human Services.

By comparison, the President's budget requests \$11.6 billion in 2018 for the Department of the Interior. This is a \$1.5 billion reduction over 2017 or roughly a 12 percent cut. So we didn't take as hard of a hit as other departments but it is still significant and we are still working on the details of what will be in that final budget which we do expect will be released sometime in mid-May. I can't give you the specifics.

The only thing that was released last week was a really barebones, what's called a skinny budget, and the details are still in the works. But you can see from the blueprint what the priorities are, kind of writ large. It focuses on Interior's core mission which includes meeting our trust responsibilities and other commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The blueprint itself emphasizes support for tribal sovereignty and self-determination. There will be some reductions in Indian Affairs programs but these are not spelled out as of yet and there were no details on those that were in the blueprint.

Interior's budget also prioritizes strengthening America's energy security so there are some increases proposed for programs that supports responsible development of oil and gas, coal and renewable energy on public lands and offshore as well. For wildland fire, the budget provides the full 10 year average for wildland fire suppression and the Secretary himself has made it a priority on fuel management. So at the same time we are having to identify \$1.5 billion in reductions. This is across Interior but it's not necessarily that every organization is taking a 12 percent cut so it varies according to which bureau or office. Indian Affairs is a priority for the Secretary.

On the 2018 budget moving forward, we are working right now to get the final details then we'll be getting back with both senior leadership and with OMB. We don't have an exact date for the delivery of the budget to the Congress although we've been told to expect mid-May. The President proposes the budget to the Congress and the Congress acts and so it's a very first step in a very long process and we don't yet know anything about the hearings with the committees. We did get a call yesterday on Energy and Water Appropriations and that committee funds the Bureau of Reclamation so they are starting to look at a hearing schedule but we have not seen anything yet on Interior's schedule. So I just want to emphasize to you that your input to the Congress as they deliberate these proposals is very important. It's our experience that the subcommittees listen to you, they put a lot of stock in what you say and we will often hear back from them things that you have said to them. For all of these budgets—'17, '18 and '19—a good thing to do is keep in touch with those members.

It's also our experience that its concern and support for Indian Country is very much bipartisan which is a good thing. We're also waiting to see if there is going to be an infrastructure initiative. We hear different things about this but we've tried to be as prepared as we possibly could be should Interior be included in an initiative like that. We would expect to include tribal infrastructure priorities in any proposal that we would be put forward. On 2017, the appropriations process is very much still underway. The President's campaign after the election requested that the Congress not do a full year CR so they passed a continuing resolution only until the end of April and so they've been working really kind of fast and furious in recent weeks trying to come to some agreements between the House and the Senate versions. We know that they would like to have a conclusion to that but I don't think any of us know exactly what is going to happen.

When the blueprint was released last week, the Administration made a request for additional funding in 2017 in order to provide \$28 billion for the military and for the border wall. So part of this, \$18 billion of that would come from unspecified cuts in discretionary programs, in other words, on the non-defense side. We don't have any idea of how that might impact us but that it does represent a 3.5 percent reduction from the current budget caps for non-defense spending. Because we're so close to the end of the continuing resolution, it's really not clear how the Congress will deal with that request.

On FY 2017, the House and the Senate initial marks for Indian Affairs were pretty good. The last Administration's request, which was the 2017 request, was for \$2.93 billion for Indian Affairs. The House mark is \$2.87 billion and the Senate mark is \$2.85 billion. So kind of right up there and hopefully since their marks are so similar to one another that they can come to some agreement on that. We could end up with a full year continuing resolution. The committees are looking at how to cluster some of these remaining appropriations bills so you could see one gigantic bill which they call an omnibus or some smaller bills that group just a few agencies and they call those minibuses.

On the hiring freeze, we are expecting to get some guidance from OMB on workforce planning and on lifting that hiring freeze. We have gotten some exemptions already but we expect with the lifting of the hiring freeze later on in the spring that we'll be back to being able to make some good decisions on that. Likewise on the call for restructuring, we are waiting for guidance on that. The main thing we have heard from our Secretary is that he's very much interested in putting resources out on the ground where people live and where they work versus Washington DC and bigger places where it's not the folks on the ground. It may be that there is really nothing that gets restructured on Indian Affairs. You could see some larger proposals to move things around even at departmental level, between departments or within, things across bureaus and in certainly programs within bureaus. None of that is set in stone. I think many of us who have gone through restructuring in the past, particularly at the Department of the Interior where we have seen the rise and fall of certain agencies in the past and we in the more recent past had the split up of the Minerals Management Service into three different organizations.

I encourage you to speak up, particularly if there are federal register notices that come out about the larger plan. I think all of us are committed to good government, to serving the people as best we can and making the best use of taxpayer dollars that we have.

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah): I just wanted to say that while we're looking at the budget and these cuts, within DOI the tribes are always having to vie amongst the other agencies and bureaus or the other bureaus in Department of the Interior and it is unfair because we're the only entity that actually has the human condition that we have to deal with on a regular basis as tribal leadership. And we administer in our homes all of the programs and services that the federal agencies have so while we're looking at these other cuts that are mandatory, they are impacting our bottom line budgets internally and therefore we need to have other resources. We're looking to Interior to hold Indian Country harmless because we're going to have to figure out ways to continue to support the programs and services that are taking the hits whether it's from our HHS or some of the other areas that have been identified. If they need to cut \$1.5 billion out of DOI, take it from the other guys that are just doing like the rocks and the minerals. But also I was wondering whether or not the Secretary would be able to support or host tribal roundtables to hear from the tribes directly and at secretarial town halls. That would be one way for him to get the full sense and breadth of the diversity of Indian Country because while he is familiar with the North and the Great Plains, I don't believe he's familiar with the tribes that are east of the Mississippi and certainly not in the Northeast. So

we need to be able to make sure that he understands the full capacity and the full weight of his responsibility and the obligation to our tribes from Alaska to Florida and Main to California. Thank you.

Olivia Ferriter: You can put in an invitation for scheduling town halls. The Secretary hasn't even I think walked the entire building yet. He's down meeting my budget office so I'm not even sure that other than Indian Affairs he'd been anywhere else yet on the fourth floor. But certainly they are accepting invitations and so I would propose something like that.

Darrell Seki, Chairman: Our concern is about a two sentence on the BIA budget that was presented, the \$11.6 billion you're talking about. The second sentence says, 'Reduction to recent initiatives.' Are they talking about the Tiwahe Initiative?

Olivia Ferriter: I can't tell you that specifically because they did not provide those kinds of details. So those details won't come out until mid-May.

Russell Begaye: Navajo would like to propose a resolution that BIA budget not be cut. Navajo Region asks that a resolution be entertained by this body for the BIA budget to remain as proposed. Number two is that we do like the House budget, \$2.89 billion I believe. The Senate being \$2.85 billion, Administration \$2.39. I think we need to support the House budget proposal. We are underfunded and always, historically we have been.

Seconded by AJ Not Afraid. Motion carries.

Denise Desiderio: I wanted to ask a question about the infrastructure conversation that you had. You said that if there's an infrastructure framework that comes out of the Administration that tribes or Indian Affairs infrastructure projects will be included. How are you going to make that determination and what will that process be for tribes to provide input and is there a framework currently in process?

Olivia Ferriter: No. But we would work through Indian Affairs to get that kind of input. But we don't have any guidance yet on what an infrastructure project might look like. The kinds of things that we have looked at to date have been more along the lines of construction needs and deferred maintenance kinds of things—roads and that sort of thing. It's just really not clear what a larger infrastructure package might look like and also what the details would be. For example, we have heard that some of it might involve private leveraging for example. So thinking about doing road improvements by putting in toll roads is an example. I'm not talking about Indian Country but that's just an example of the kind of thing that's being looked at. But we don't have any specifics at all.

Denise Desiderio: So one thing that we are just kind of cognizant of is that this private leveraging is a real conversation right now and that works for some tribes and they're able to do that in their communities but we want to make sure that anything that comes out of Interior, any recommendations will work for all tribes. So we're looking for those programs that will benefit infrastructure across Indian Country and not just specific projects that pit tribes against tribes. So that's just something we would want you to be aware of.

A.J. Not Afraid: As I read the '18 blueprint, correct, the President's budget clearly states that the reduction in Indian Affairs would be pertaining to various projects for specific tribes. That's what sets the decrease. How much is Tiwahe?

Hankie Ortiz: I was just going to share some background information with regard to Tiwahe. In 2015 when it first started, there was \$5 million for social services and \$5 million for Indian Child Welfare Act and then in FY16 there was an additional \$5 million for social services and there was some funding for tribal courts and OJS and I don't have the OJS numbers off the top of my head. But that's all we know. There was additional funding proposed for '17 but of course we have not received that so what we have is '15 and '16 and those are the numbers.

Darrell Seki: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to follow up on his comments on the budget for the Tiwahe Family Initiative. That program is to reduce poverty, violence and substance abuse. 2015, like she said, social services got \$5 million, ICWA got \$5 million, job placement training \$5 million, a total of \$10.5 million. 2016 social services got a quarter million, tribal courts \$5 million, law enforcement \$3 million, a total of \$12 million. And then the proposal by President for 2017 was \$12.3 million for social services, \$3.4 million for ICWA and \$1 million for child placement, tribal courts got \$2.6 million, nothing for law enforcement but housing got \$1.7 million and the total amount for proposal for 2017 is \$21 million. Total amount is \$43.5 million will be cut if it's eliminated.

OST Update

Deb DuMontier Deputy Special Trustee: First, facilities; making sure that we have security and safety for our staff and an appropriate office environment. It is one of the things that Secretary Zinke has talked about—making sure that we have the local support, and it's also important to employee morale. Accessibility to those buildings for our beneficiaries is important and we're challenged with an aging infrastructure. We have also had the opportunity to do some cross training between OST and BIA of social services making sure that the social workers have the tools and accessibility to our system so that they can appropriately manage the supervised accounts for our beneficiaries.

We've had an initiative for financial education and our Director of Financial Education in our Field Operations Program Brian Ross has been reaching out to the Tiwahe Project. The Indian Land Consolidation Act Recoupment Fund, some of the tribes participated in the earlier pilot projects for purchasing fractionated interest; similar elements to the land buy back purchasing from willing sellers for market value, title with the tribe. The difference was there was a lien on the income. This past November the Administration waived the lien and so now we, OST and BIA, have been working on how do we get those funds back to the tribes. And all of these initiatives are being spearheaded by Jim James who's here today and he'll be participating today and tomorrow. He's our Deputy Special Trustee for Field Operations.

My topics today are going to be the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, an update on Sections 304, which was OST's functions and 305A, appraisals as a single entity. We started in August through October and we had provided listening sessions on all of Title 3, which included the establishment of an undersecretary, OST's functions and descriptions, appraisals as a single entity and then the minimum qualifications for an appraiser. Over the course of the summer and fall we had 10 consultations and one listening session. We received approximately 80 different comments regarding the consultations and we do have all the transcripts and comments posted on our website shown here. Pursuant to the feedback that was received, an in depth analysis, a legal review, the continuing application of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994, the Secretary did submit a decision letter to Congress and

in her letter she indicated that she was continuing the operation of OST as a single entity in the Secretary's office.

She explained the importance of having a dedicated office for the management of the trust funds and beneficiary services. So in regards to Section 304 which required that the Secretary provide the functions of OST and a decision, we see that as being satisfied at this time. But we still have the next step and the Secretary did recognize that appraisals as a single entity was something that could move to a different office. The legislation in ITARA provides that within 18 months, which is December 21st of this year, that appraisals will be administered by a single entity within the Department of Interior. Secretary Jewel however deferred on where that single entity would reside. She felt that it deserved further analysis by this Administration so we have brought that issue to the current Administration and we are continuing to review it. We have an internal team to determine how do we meet those legislative requirements for administering appraisals. We also had in Section 305B and C a requirement to have a rule published in the federal register no later than June 21st, that identified the minimum qualifications of an individual to do an appraisal. If that individual met those minimum qualifications, then that appraisal was not required to have any additional review or approval by the Secretary and the appraisal would be considered final. So that was an effort to streamline and expedite the appraisal process. That rule has been published. It was published in November. I know the current Administration is continuing to look at the proposed rule. One of the things that we were reminded by the current Administration that for every new regulation we're to eliminate two existing regulations. The solicitors will continue working on what format but there should be something published in meeting the deadline as far as the minimum qualifications of an appraiser.

Data Management Subcommittee Update

George Bearpaw

The data management committee, we had one main topic that we discussed. It's a workshop that's going to be set up in the July TIBC meeting. The Office of Policy Analysis with the Department of Interior is planning an economic development data workshop at the July TIBC. Since this was part of the data management committee item, we agreed to make it part of the data management meeting. So in lieu of the committee meeting for July, this one day workshop will be held prior to the actual meeting of the TIBC which will be July the 24th, 2017.

The workshop, the purpose is the data needs of the tribes. This is primarily economic development information but it also includes census. Census will be at this meeting. We had a lot of questions that came up yesterday in the meeting regarding census for the next rollout of the complete national census. A lot of it dealing with reservations, the numbers on the reservations so I think those will be addressed at this meeting. The other thing too is that NCAI will be presenting at this meeting. They're going to talk about the pilot project that they've got---Tribal Self-Service Data and so there'll be a lot of other presenters at that meeting. The agenda is I think being finalized. There are a lot of national speakers that are going to be doing the presentation during that one-day workshop. Again, it's going to be July the 24th, the day before the actual TIBC.

Some of the old business items that we discussed, one was the DOI strategic plan. Like everything else that's been discussed with the new Administration, we do not have any specific new guidance on the national strategic plan. That will be forthcoming in the next several months. But in lieu of that, we also discussed the Indian Affairs strategic plan. We're still going forward with that. We are trying to finalize

visits to the regions to talk with not only the regional folks but also with the tribes on what they think is the need of each one of the regions regarding what should be in the strategic plan and what they expect in the strategic plan. We hope to have this Indian Affairs strategic plan that will roll up into the DOI strategic plan. The last strategic plan had several sections regarding Indian Affairs but there was nothing that you could really look at in the way of specifics. I think we got only two or three pages within the Interior's strategic plan. We plan to make this more of an Indian Affairs strategic plan where you can actually reference the information that's included in those sections. We do have a one sheet that identifies the schedule for each one of the regions.

We discussed the charter for the Data Management Committee. The old charter was centered around the Tribal Data Exchange. The Tribal Data Exchange went away with the Chickasaw Agreement so that's no longer a valid initiative for the Data Management Committee. We plan to update the charter to where it's more in line with what we're doing now. We will discuss at the next Data Management Committee meeting to finalize the draft and update it for the committee.

Russell Begaye: Can we get a copy of the Indian Affairs Strategic Plan?

George Bearpaw: That's what we're working on with this effort. It's not developed yet. This effort here will actually put the meat on that plan. We will get the release out as soon as we can with all of the different areas that we're going to be touching on. May 16th I believe is the first one.

So the main focus of going out to the regions is actually to help build the framework so the tribes have direct input into what that framework looks like, what the goals look like, what the priorities look like and then from there we would obviously reach back to put additional meat on that and get it more fleshed out. There isn't a current Indian Affairs strategic plan. So we're really building this from the ground up right now.

Mr. Chairman, as far as the Secretary, we expect that the overall DOI strategic plan to come from him, the new Administration. So that's what the wait is for the DOI plan, the strategic plan. Last year, if you recall, we gave out to the TIBC in several meetings the overall plan. It had a schedule on it but now we're waiting on the new Administration to pick that up and put their initiatives on it, put what their requirements are going to be and what the new schedule's going to be. So that's what we're waiting on. But in the meantime we're working with the tribes to get advance of that to do an Indian Affairs strategic plan and so we'll be looking for that as we meet with the regions and the tribes.

Kitcki Carroll:

Even though there was only pieces of that that was specific to Indian Country, it wasn't clear on whether they were measuring their performance as trustee or whether they were measuring what we were performing on in carrying out services. Does the timing make sense to focus on an Indian Affairs strategic plan that ties back to a DOI strategic plan that probably isn't going to be existing much longer 'cause their own priorities are going to be the focus of their own strategic plan? We need to be clear on what period is this covering. But this is our opportunity to make sure that what they are measuring is correct. Their performance as federal trustees and that they are measuring things at this level instead of at the granular level. In terms of what we do, they should be measuring things that are applicable to a sovereign nation—unemployment rates, growth GDP rates, high school dropout rates and that sort of thing.

Olivia Ferriter: If I might add to that because I have performance as part of my duties and the need to update the Department's strategic plan. With every inauguration, even if we are in a second term of a president, with every inauguration we are required to update our strategic plan framework. So that will be an activity for the whole department and for across government over the course of this year with the expectation that the new plans would be ready to go with the release of the FY19 budget. So at the departmental level we have talked to all the bureaus about coming up with what their thoughts would be for doing a refresh for any new measures and that sort of thing and then we'll be going through a process working with the new political leadership as they come onboard to update that. There will also be an effort to identify what's called high priority performance goals. We had a couple of those over the last administration that were focused on Indian Country and so this would be a good time if you have some ideas about what those might look like relative to Indian Country, certainly please work with Indian Affairs to bring those forward for us. Thank you.

Kitcki Carroll: As a starting point pull those recommendations from the last round because they probably wouldn't have changed that much.

Chris McGeshik: The last time we worked on this it was time and effort for several tribal leaders and organizations to provide that input for the Interior Department Strategic Plan. We had it at the Partners in Action Conference in Sault St. Marie, Michigan. We had a special session after our conference just so that we could address the DOI strategic plan as well as look at the BIA strategic planning process. We wanted to make sure that these deliverables are something that we both have in common not just a one-sided.

Mike Black: We're not really asking everybody to redo anything that's already been done. There's been a lot of input and a lot of stuff that's already been developed that will be incorporated into the process and then we will definitely be working with the Department to make sure that the tribes' comments are incorporated.

Jeannine Brooks: We take those comments to the Department, but if we want to change this into something, we have to come up with something to replace it with. We can't disagree with what's there unless we have something to put in their hands to replace. That's what we want to come out and work with you to come up with, something that profiles both sides—the tribal side and our side—that works. If we develop an IA plan, and start working through it, by the time it comes to update the DOI plan, we should have some good solid measures in place that everybody can see themselves in, that we can get buy-in to, and we will actually hopefully have some data to back it up. That's another thing when we go to DOI. If we give them a measure and we say baseline, they don't like that. They want to have something that has meat to it that they can already profile. So this is an issue for us as well. So what we're trying to do here is get everybody in on the development of this so it becomes a cohesive everybody's plan not just a central office plan, not just a regional plan, not just a tribal plan that we can all see ourselves in and work towards an end goal. And whether we design it just by tribal government or human services or if we tier it down to the lower level for things that we don't see in a DOI plan, we can also capture things in our Indian Affairs plan that of course they won't profile in a DOI plan but maybe tribes want accountability for. But they can't put everything into a DOI plan that we could put into our plan. So that's the thought behind this: that if we can get our own good plan going, that's the way it used to be years ago and we stopped and DOI started doing all the strategic planning for all bureaus. But by doing this you have an Indian Affairs plan that can hold accountability for all programs whereas they can't profile everything there. It's just going to be that top level that they see as their

priority. And what might be a priority to us may not be a priority to the new Administration but still we should have some accountability for it in Indian Country. So that's what we're trying to do here. We want to work with you guys to make something that works for everybody. This isn't intended to be consultation. This is actual workshops. We want everyone to roll up their sleeves and get down in this and figure out what works.

George Bearpaw: Just one more comment before I conclude here. What Kitcki is point out was exactly the way the Indian Affairs strategic plan was done in the past. In fact there are some old copies that we've been looking at that actually does the same thing that's been pointed out here so that is or that was in place several years ago but they quit doing the Indian Affairs specific strategic plan and we want to recreate that so that it's in line with what the current thinking is of the tribes and also the regions.

Education Subcommittee Update

Tara Mason: Yesterday we hosted our first Education Subcommittee Task Force. Right now we are just at the beginning phases. We were joined with Director Deerman and Deputy Director Stevens and so I want to thank the BIE for being present at that first meeting. In the course of the next month they will be designating a co-chair for this subcommittee. We are going to start working on addressing the purpose and making sure that we have a clear agenda and reason for us to be meeting quarterly. So we have a lot of things on our agenda that are coming up. We're going to start looking at the appropriations for infrastructure because we know that's a critical need. And then we're also going to start weighing what's happening in the Alaskan Region and starting to gather some numbers and some data and looking for some of the legislative reasons on what's preventing some of the additional BIE dollars up in that area. We also have a few things that will be discussion items on our next agenda but from that, that's basically kind of where we're at in the starting phase and we are sending out and coordinating with subcommittee between now and our May meeting. So if there's any questions or if there's anything that you'd like to know, I'm open for questions. But other than that, just want to thank everybody here.

Budget Subcommittee

George Bearpaw:

We settled on April the 10th and 11th for the Budget Subcommittee to meet and to formulate a budget for the FY19 budget and the 12th is the report to the Acting Assistant Secretary. I believe we set it at 4:00. We also talked about the lack of guidance for this budget formulation process. In normal years we would already have a green book that we could use as a guide and we would have some instructions to go along with that.

The caucus agreed to follow the earlier 19 instructions that we gave out. We also talked about the blueprint from the current Administration, the new Administration. We discussed at length yesterday to see if we can't use some of those to enhance the budget as it goes forward for '19. We should be ready to present this at the next TIBC. And we will be getting out notices on that meeting to everyone and everyone's welcome to participate. We normally do it either in person or in the past we've done it also by WebX so we'll have a good session for those two days. We also talked about the current ongoing review that NCAI is doing through a contract of our budget formulation process. NCAI gave a good update on where we are with that. At the July meeting there will be a report issued by the contractor and from there I think it's up to the TIBC as to what they want to do to go to phase two which would be

the actual review of the budget formulation process and hopefully to be done by the end of this fiscal year. The contractor is Kepner-Tregoe and they provided a handout at the meeting. It's in the book handed out to all TIBC representatives.

The '19 budget formulation survey was also discussed for the '19 process that went out to the regions. It's a work in progress. It's going to take a lot more education for the regions as well as the tribes on the utilization of that. This next budget cycle we hope to develop that into an app to where it's a user-friendly to where you can enter all that information and have it come out with a budget for that region.

Kitcki Carroll: We also talked about achieving clarity in the budget survey. The goal of this budget survey is to identify what the federal obligation is. If the federal government has an obligation to roads within your reservation, what does that look like? Not offset by philanthropic dollars you get, state/local/community dollars that you get. And what we asked for them to do then is to get to that number, to use some industry standards. In the social services arena, what is the appropriate social worker to citizen ratio for proper social service rendering? What is that for a five mile square radius compared to within a 500 square mile radius. We've got some ways to go to get to that point but that's the task of this effort: to identify what that variance is between what they are funding and what they should be funding not offset by any other dollars because that question came up about when people were filling out that survey. Do they need to show any dollars that they are putting in themselves? No because you shouldn't have to put those dollars in. Hopefully the Kepner-Tregoe group will pick part of this up in the work that they've been tasked to do.

Jeannine Brooks: I had a meeting with the regional budget officers this morning and we went over a lot of this same topics. They have agreed to assist us in stepping out into the field because that was one of the things that was brought up. Tribes know on the ground, doing these projects, what the proper calculations would be better than what maybe our central office folks would. The land base should have been put in along with the cases to social worker. So they have agreed that if we would put it out as a formal data request type, they would set up workshops where they would work with tribes to come up with what would be an appropriate calculation in your world doing this program so we can come back and try and refine what the calculations should be used for this. And going forward we are going to separate them. Your actual budget formulation ranking will be separate from an unmet needs survey and we're going to turn them into an application so it's easier to use. That's the direction we're going. It won't be so long and cumbersome.

Comment: A request was made for a comprehensive budget table after every budget justification is released. And then secondly, in the attempts to stay on top of this, if we could get another updated comprehensive funding table after the Congress approves their appropriation bills, that would be helpful.

Pacific Region Presentation

Good morning. Robert Smith, Chairman of the Pala Band of Mission Indians Pacific Region. Also with me is Russell Attebery, Tribal Chairman Karuk Tribe. Chairman Neil Parone, the Tule River Tribe, Gary Santos, member from the Tule River Tribe and Amy Dutschke, Regional Director Pacific Region. We have 104 tribes, 17 self-governance tribes, four agencies—Central Cal, Southern Cal, Palm Springs and Northern California. We went through the budget formulation process to try to save money. We had eight webinar utilizing efforts to distribute information while reducing travel costs. This effort appeared

to work out well. We had one statewide meeting conducted in Central California with the state to discuss statewide priorities. Our priorities for California first is tribal government, aid to tribal government. Next is Human Services, Indian Child Welfare Act. Third is tribal government, road maintenance. Number four is Human Services, Housing Program, TPA. And then Human Services, Social Services. At this time I'm going to share my time with Russell Attebery, Chairman of Karuk so he'll carry on. Thank you.

Russell Attebery: Besides the priority areas we always list success stories and I think everybody was aware of the Oroville Dam disaster that happened this year. There were three tribes involved in that. In February 2017 California endured one of the heaviest winter rainstorms in decades. The Oroville Dam is the highest dam in the United States. The dam was built in 1962 and comprises more than 85 million cubic yards of earth. The large crater formed a spillway to do large amounts of water releases. By February 10th, 2017 damage to the spillway had grown to a hole of about 45 feet, 300 feet wide and 500 feet long. The water continued to be released from the spillway but preparations were made to use the emergency spillway for the first time in dam history. Due to extensive damage to the main spillway, the emergency spillway was activated. The original thoughts that there would be no threat to safety of residents but the overflow of the emergency spillway started and the water spewed out into the nearby hills. Butte County in Northern California ordered immediate evacuation due to hazardous situations with the emergency spillway. Failure of the spillway could have caused uncontrolled releases from Lake Oroville. More than 180,000 people were evacuated including three tribes in the immediate area. The Pacific Region immediately started making contact with the affected tribes to assure their needs were met. In addition, coordination was made with the State Office of Emergency Services and other local tribes. On February 13, 2017, two employees who exemplify the high quality of commitment with the Pacific Region, Mr. Greg Perry and Mr. Matt Flying put themselves in harm's way and mobilized the affected area to meet the incident team leaders and assess the needs on the ground with local tribes. These two individuals were able to keep the region advised of the situation as well as providing assessments of local needs. We were able to coordinate needs and deliver the needed supplies to the tribal members in evacuated areas. On February 14, 2017 the evacuation order had been lifted allowing residents to return to their homes. We had a large number of tribal evacuees who had relocated to a tribally owned mobile park above the dam who continued to maintain evacuation area for a couple days. We were able to work with Red Cross to provide food. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services to coordinate bedding, heaters and other supplies during the period. We are grateful that no one was injured during the evacuation and we did not need to initiate further emergency command as a result of the situation. Working with local emergency service agencies we were able to provide needed services to tribal members while making sure their safety was of foremost concern.

We were thankful that nobody was injured and it was a disaster but it could have been a lot worse and the Pacific Region was able to reach out to those tribes that were affected, help the tribal members and provide a lot of safety measures that helped take care of the families.

The Karuk Tribe in Northern California was affected when the timber industry went down. Our Trex program is called a Fire Tribal Exchange and our DNR, Natural Resources Program, set up a fuels reduction program and they had worked on it for many years and now they do training for different agencies. Every year fire crews, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife and other agencies come out to attend the Karuk Tribe's Fire Tribal Exchange. So they do this training and it's a training to help reduce the fuels for future fires. So when I say this could be an enormous success story, it's for the future that we want to seek funding for the opportunity to co-manage the forest with this program and it's been very, very

successful. In the future this program could lead to a restoration project in these forested areas where as we all know the economy was lost 25 years ago. These small towns in forested areas were booming towns that were able to provide proper education, jobs and it's been gone for 25 years.

The reforestation project would include possibly a lumber manufacturing plant that at one time in my hometown of Happy Camp, California, where there was three mills in a small town. But they were all privately owned. This exchange could be a community project. This project could bring in jobs where the community or the tribes could operate this and provide jobs for local people and at the same time have a reforestation project going on. We faced 50 to 75 years of mismanagement of these forests and this is why we have those fires, those devastating fires. We hope that it one day becomes a precedence for other tribes to do the same thing. And the goal is to bring economy back to these areas. The Karuk Tribe for thousands of years had their fuels reduction programs intact, but 75 years ago it was taken away and we weren't allowed to use fire to reduce fuels. Now we have a tinder box.

Eastern Oklahoma Presentation

Eddie Streater, the Regional Director for Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office.

The two tribal representatives here are Greg Pitcher and Jefferson Keel. We have 20 tribes in Eastern Oklahoma. We stretch from the border of Texas all the way into Kansas so we have quite a width and breadth of Oklahoma and a lot of diversity inside of that breadth. With the help of our Budget Officer Kelly Harjo we went out to each tribe in our region and met with them individually to go over the new budget process. And to that end we have an annual budget meeting at the regional office where all the tribes came in and we sat down and they came up with the prioritization this year for the 2019 budget. And as those stand number one was Indian Child Welfare Program, number two was aid to tribal government, three was social services, four was criminal investigation and police services and five was tribal courts. And that was what was decided on.

[Video]

Midwest Region Presentation

Darrell Seki, Chairman of Red Lake Nation: The United States and its agencies have a trust responsibility to Indian nations, which must be honored regardless of political disputes over budget cuts. The BIA has a unique position among federal agencies because in addition to administering programs for Indian nations, BIA officials are also trustees for tribal people and tribal resources. This trust relationship has involved from the original contact between the immigrants and the Indian nations. In many cases it's rooted in treaties. Many Indian nations are parties to treaties with the United States. Treaties are contracts, which must be honored. Even if they are old, there is no excuse for the BIA and other agencies of the United States to disregard treaty responsibilities by failing to articulate to Congress on behalf of Indian nations in the forceful words required of a trustee. It is totally unacceptable for the BIA and other federal agencies, representatives to withdraw from their duties as trustee to Indian people and permit Congress to provide inadequate resources to meet legitimate tribal needs.

Treaty responsibilities of the United States should not be treated like federal programs that are routinely set aside through political horse-trading because treaty responsibilities are very different than federal programs. As trustees, representatives of the federal government have a unique and high responsibility

to Indian nations and Indian people that necessarily requires a higher level of scrutiny than the scrutiny that is given to ordinary budget decisions. Because tribes have very limited opportunities to derive revenue through taxation, other revenue sources available to non-Indian worlds, self-governance and other BIA funds form the core funding that tribes rely upon to meet the needs of their members. To further complicate the impacts of BIA budget cutting, other federal agencies that tribes utilize to access supplemental resources such as USDA, Health and Human Services, HUD, the EPA are also facing deep cuts. It is time that we elevate tribal needs above the fray of the usual budget fights because of the superior responsibility that the federal government owes to Indian nations. The BIA should lead the charge on formulating a policy that elevates the discussion of funding for Indian nations with the force of a trustee that respects the trust responsibility that exists between the United States and Indian nations.

Tammi Poitra, Acting Regional Director for the Midwest Region: Also here today is Chairman McGeshick who will be presenting as well this morning. The Midwest Region also has two alternate reps. Aaron Payment from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe and Tara Mason from White Earth. The Midwest Region is comprised of 36 tribes and nearly 200,000 tribal members through Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Our region is rich in natural resources. We have five Great Lakes as well as a sixth Great Lake located up in Red Lake. Water, fish, wildlife and forest abound and they are important to us.

The Midwest Region budget formulation meeting was held December 5th and 6th at Mystic Lake Conference Center. Representatives from the Midwest tribes, 36 tribes, were in attendance this year. The first day of our meeting included an overview of the 2019 budget process and a demonstration of the new survey tool as well as tribal leader budget discussions. The second day included a budget roundtable for all attendees, and budget subgroup breakout sessions, which we have about nine groups in total for the Midwest Region. These followed up with three day sessions of WebX with our tribes as well as another maybe three or four additional WebX throughout the last couple of months. So they're very active up in Midwest Region. Our tribal leaders will lead those WebX sessions throughout that process.

Through this exercise the Midwest Region identified \$216 million in unmet obligations for the region. The requested top 10 budget priorities were scholarships, adult ed, social services, tribal courts, road maintenance, criminal investigations and police services, ICWA, CTGP, Johnson O'Malley, natural resource programs and aid to tribal government.

We were pleased to see that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's first hearing on Capitol Hill was with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 8th to discuss Indian Affairs priorities for the Trump Administration. We are optimistic that Indian Affairs and BIA budget will be one of the top priorities. Secretary Zinke specifically mentioned the ongoing struggle tribes have with high unemployment, the lack of business opportunities, the deplorable state of reservation infrastructures including schools, housing, roads and bridges and our excessive road maintenance backlog and the opportunity that now exists for the Administration to foster economic development, improved infrastructure in Indian Country working shoulder to shoulder with tribes. Our next two slides relate to these comments. We propose a \$143 million BIA initiative in fiscal year 2018-2019 for tribal jobs recovery and relief to be distributed to tribes as a TPA general increase. This increase would be similar in concept to the TPA general increase Congress provided in fiscal year 1998 which at the time was for social and family needs relief. As a general increase tribes would have the flexibility to determine how to use the funds consistent with the title of the initiative. This initiative is in line with President's pledge to create more jobs, would enable

tribes to promote job recovery and growth. It also provides significant and lasting relief for tribal TPA programs which have suffered significant erosion in the last decade from across the board rescissions and sequestration. This initiative is similar to what we proposed at November 2015 TIBC which was adopted. The only difference is a larger funding amount. We again ask for TIBC support of these 2018-2019 budgets. Secretary Zinke mentioned the deplorable state of the reservation infrastructures—housing, roads, bridges and our excessive road maintenance backlog. When you look at the funding history of BIA's road maintenance and housing programs, we can see why: decreasing funding levels, no consideration for inflation, BIA documented maintenance backlogs of over \$200 million. FY2019 budget request for road maintenance should be at least \$57 million. The 2019 budget request for housing should be at least \$40 million. President Trump has cited several initiatives that are priorities for this Administration that fall within some BIA budget categories. BIA law enforcement recently determined our need to be \$1 billion. Significant increases are needed for water resources, environmental quality programs. A Goal for the Tiwahe Initiative is safer communities. Funding for Tiwahe is currently about \$22 million. There are currently six pilot tribes and the BIA is hoping to increase that to 11 tribes this year and 20 tribes the following year. But we need more funding to do this. BIA asked for additional \$21 million in 2017. We ask you to find a way to make that happen. We recommend additional \$40 million in 2018, additional \$50 million in 2019 to keep building this important initiative.

Look at the total percent increase in funding of the largest Interior agencies over a 10 year period from 2004 to 2013, the year of sequestration. The BIA has been getting the short end of the stick in Interior budget increases. It is important that Secretary Zinke be made aware of our concerns that BIA has not fared as well as other Interior agencies when developing the annual interior budget requests. 2018 is probably on the fast track so the FY2019 budget process is where we might have the most impact.

In 2016 the President requested 12.4 percent increase for BIA compared to 8.3 percent for the Interior. In 2017 we saw a similar situation true at a smaller level. We believe when the Secretary puts forth the strong funding request for BIA, it assist Congress enacting stronger BIA budgets. We think advocacy through TIBC has played a role. So whereas the comments of Secretary Zinke and others in March 8 were promising in terms of identifying the need for stronger BIA budgets with Interior, we need to continue to push this at every opportunity.

Tribe's government service programs have experienced steep decline for many years. For instance, all tribes' TPA accounts were permanently cut by 16 percent back in 1996. These same programs were permanently cut an additional eight percent from 2000 to 2013 from at least 14 different rescissions to pay for things like tax cuts, wars, hurricanes, even technology upgrades. Tribes lost an additional five percent in 2013 to 2016 from sequestration. That means from 2000 to 2016 tribes' TPA funding was subject to cuts totally 13 percent.

The 2008 request was one of the highest after Congress hammered the Bush Administration for its failures to fully fund fixed costs so in 2008 they actually used the realistic figure. But the Obama Administration and OMB were one of the worst offenders in underfunding fixed cost and pay cost. Part of the reason no doubt is the Budget Control Act and sequestration. Pay costs become part of the base and recur every year so when OMB is trying to trim budgets, this area has been a target. But it's unfair because these are uncontrollable costs. Just ask the BIA Budget Office how they cover their fixed cost shortfall. They take the money from other programs. Consider this: The 2017 fixed cost request for BIA was \$5.3 million, the lowest amount in recorded history and the entire Department of Interior it was only \$33.9 million, \$8 million less than \$41.3 million requested for just the BIA back in 2008.

It's clear there has been an effort on the part of OMB and two administrations to cap fixed costs including pay costs. Congress scolded the administration about this but since sequestration and the Budget Control Act, they have kept quiet. Since 1998 most TPA increases have been pay costs but because of the actions of the Administration and Congress because pay costs are cumulative, tribes and BIA have lost many millions of dollars. But the Administration should fully fund fixed and pay costs in 2019 at the level of at least \$45 million. To begin to meet the significant unmet needs in Indian Country we recommend about \$500 million in 2018 and an additional \$500 million in 2019. In other words, 2019 should be \$1 billion above 2016.

Chris McGeshik: I want to thank Chairman Seki and everything that he's done and the words that he spoke earlier were correct and that was the first half of our presentation. I want to thank the other regions for giving up and donating some time for our presentation today. Tammie Poitra is our Acting Regional Director. She also is doing a great job for us and Scott Sufficool was there doing a good job for us as well after Diane Rosen retired. Diane Rosen, she did a lot for me as a tribal leader to bring me into where I need to focus my efforts as a tribal leader and this Tiwahe Initiative was one of those and I'll always respect Diane for letting me know about this Tiwahe Initiative back probably just almost two and a half years ago now. This is probably one of those programs that's going to be on the chopping block. But it is a program, if we all look at it as something that each and every one of our 567 tribal communities is going to benefit from, it's going to be the knowledge that these core group of tribes worked through to help benefit our children. We need to protect them. As a tribal leader I'm dealing with seven to 33 ICW cases in a given year, not including the outlying areas where we have additional cases for a small community of 1400 tribal members that are enrolled; we have sometime upward of 60 to 70 cases involving our children and families. But to protect them and to provide them the resources and support that they need, this Tiwahe Initiative takes addresses the silos from all these other departments and agencies so they are working together. They're developing that program so that we as tribes that aren't actually part of that Tiwahe Initiative can learn from what they've garnered with the expense and the program funds that these tribes were provided. My community is benefiting from the Tiwahe Initiative even though I am not a directly funded tribe for a complete Tiwahe program. Do I want the Tiwahe program? Yes I do.

I want to see the Tiwahe program exist in each and every tribal community because if we can do that, we are going to protect our kids, we're going to protect our families and all the resources within each and every department within our community. You look at all of those programs that we put up there on the top 10. Who can tell me that not one of those programs is not a part of the Tiwahe Initiative? Which one of those programs does not have a role in protecting our kids, our families, our elders and the future for our communities? Every one of them. Even roads has an obligation to our family. We need to make sure that we protect all of these resources and focus on our families and our kids. We have written testimony and we provide that and I just want to say when it comes to the Tiwahe Initiative, I live it as a tribal leader.

Some tribes may have staff that take care of these issues and these concerns within your communities but when you have to sit there and work through and get up in the middle of the night and take care of some of these kids because issues are going on where they need that protection, that's our job. We do that and other people don't see that. I was a foster parent, foster family in my lifetime. My son and his wife are now foster parents and foster families and we need more of those, each and every tribal community. I'll guarantee if we went around this room right now, every tribe that's represented here is

going to say, 'Yes, we need more foster families. We need more foster care. We need more health and education dollars for these families,' because that's where the bottom line is. Take care of these kids.

Everything else will come into play after that. But we all have that responsibility in the Department of Interior, the federal government, all of your agencies. Every single agency has that responsibility as well and I think taking that silo effect away from that we can really protect those kids. My son just adopted a child from a tribe in South Dakota and he got a call Friday that there was another child that was going to be born or was born on last week Friday and that it'd be coming to him on Monday. And I tell him, I said, 'Hey, there's a lot of heartbreak involved in being part of taking care of families.' And he experienced that heartache. We were working Sunday before I left to come here. We were working to set up for a brand new baby girl that was born where the family could not take care of her; they had drug issues. That family alone had dealt with law enforcement, dealt with the social service programs, dealt with education programs and yet we could not save that commitment. And when that child was going to come to my son's house, on Sunday afternoon after we got everything taken care of and I was leaving, he gets a call. No, the family decided that they're going to take care of the child now. So he and his wife went through that heartbreak. And I told him, 'this is part of the system. This is part of the process. For one, you adopted a child from another tribe out in South Dakota. I can tell you right now that as a tribal leader for my community, I would not have allowed that adoption to take place. That's just my tribe's feeling and that's my commitment to my youth.'

They worked through a process where he is now going to bring Leonard, and I can say his name now because he is adopted, but he's going to take Leonard right back to that community at least three times a year to visit with family. And now that's a commitment. It's not funded. But Leonard is going to know his true roots, he's going to know his true tribal culture and yes we can make him Ojibwa but he's Sioux. That's what this is all about. This Tiwahe Initiative is working together, getting our departments, our entities working together and the federal government needs to do the same thing because it can be successful and it will be successful.

We need people to stand up for our kids just like I see in other presentations. ICW, law enforcement, social service programs, education. If we can do that, we're going to succeed and in the Midwest Region we're going to support the Red Lake Tribe and we're going to allow them to continue with this Tiwahe program because what they're doing is working. They have law enforcement needs, they have tribal court needs and if we can fund those programs the way they need to be funded, it's going to succeed.

One of the things that stands in our way is grants.gov. Having to provide additional information and we talk about data all the time. It exists in each and every community but the data is different and when we support and provide data for my community, it's not going to be the same data that you have. It's going to be different but the need is still there, it's a different need, I have different programs. I don't have every program that every other tribe has. Let's provide the funding, let's provide the initiative, look at our data and provide the adequate funding across the United States to all 567 tribes.

Eastern Region Presentation

Bruce Maytubby: I'm a member of the Chickasaw Tribe of Oklahoma and the Eastern Regional Director. In cooperation with the United South and Eastern Tribes Organization, the Eastern Tribal Leaders and the Regional Budget Team, we engaged in one of our most inclusive efforts to date to engage the tribal leaders in the budget formulation process. It was a pretty significant exercise and probably one of the

best attended of those that we have had. I would like to introduce our representatives. Kitcki Carroll and Cheryl Andrews-Maltais will carry our presentation forward.

Kitcki Carroll: Our region is the area where the first dawn and the first light first touches Indian Country. I want to acknowledge the BIA Central Office for working with us within this body to work towards a improved budget process, one that gets closer to really identifying what that unmet obligation is. We know that there is still more work to be done in that arena but we are appreciative of them listening to us and having open ears and having dialogue with us to get closer to that point.

Part of what we want to do today during our presentation with our federal partner is to change the name of this game, to start using language that reflects who we are. If somebody can come back to this body in a future meeting and identify where all 567 tribal nations are located within the boundaries of the United States, our region, our organization will provide lunch for that day. Pizza, Swedish meatballs, we will provide lunch that day. Our geographic footprint is tremendous. So the very diversity that you find across Indian Country, you also find within our region.

The thing that I would note though that's important that we must be careful to not allow this to just evolve into a conversation about poverty, because this isn't just an issue about needs. Poverty is the consequence of those obligations being unfulfilled and being unmet. So in addition to the budgetary answers to some of these social ills that plague our community, there's another part of the solution that the federal government needs to understand is on the regulatory side.

There is an opportunity on the federal side to deal with regulatory barriers that get in the way. We must not only look at the budgetary side of the equation but also those regulations that get in the way from us from achieving economic independence as well. Our response rate was somewhere in the area of 44 percent I think is what was reported out.

The next area was scholarships and adult education. On the scholarships and adult education side it also is a falsehood and a myth out there to assume that every tribal nation citizen has the same means and access to financial support for its students. So these dollars are especially important to achieving our educational goals for our communities.

Our region identified Indian Child Welfare as another priority. We share the same experience that every other region is experiencing with our children and the fact is because we are under resourced in this area we do not have the necessary resources to deal with this and to make sure that our youth are not slipping through the cracks. We know that on a state-by-state basis the attention and the expertise that states have as it relates to the ICWA law varies across the country.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates, the CASA program, could help. Most of these state social service workers do not understand the law, they ignore the law and unless you have somebody that really understands the nuances of it, they will slip through the cracks. The threat that is very present right now is that cases challenging the inherent sovereign rights of tribal nations are making their way up the circuits all the way to the Supreme Court. They are trying to erode the very basis and bedrock of our existence. The reason why this is relevant is courts often refer to tribal courts as lacking, as deficient, as ineffective, and if there is not proper investment in tribal courts, even with the passage of laws such as TLOA, VAWA, if our court systems aren't strong, our opponents use that against us and they speak to the weakness of our courts. So it is critically important that the federal government understand that as

we are working in our relationship with states and other governments that we have strong court systems that are reliable and respected.

Aid to tribal government, this is used for a multitude of programs ranging from economic development, tribal constitutions, planning, government and ordinances, etc.

When Secretary Zinke had his first interaction with his staff within the Department of Interior, he made a comment about the budget, at the time the Administration had just given some general guidance about a 10 percent across the board cut. He spoke about his top three priorities: “reduce the National Park Service backlog, increase employee morale and authority, and to promote American Indian sovereignty. Regardless of political party, our duty as Americans is to uphold our trust responsibilities and to consult and collaborate on a government to government basis with tribes from Main to Alaska.” These are all good comments. But our job working with our federal partners is to make sure that those promises are fulfilled.

It’s easy to say things, but it becomes much more challenging when those negotiations are going on in the back room. So we have to do very strong advocacy to make sure that BIA is at the top and not second to the bottom. For those of you who aren’t aware, there was a report issued back in 2003 from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. It was a ‘Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country.’ There is an effort to update that. It was actually supposed to be released in summer of last year but because of U.S. Commission funding issues that they had going on, that report has still not been released.

And it’s already been said numerous times but we say it every time that we have an opportunity for a public record, fulfillment of Indian Country funding is a trust and treaty obligation. As such it should not be viewed as social welfare addressing unmet needs. It is appropriate for the United States to handle its obligation via mandatory federal funding.

Southern Plains

Ronnie Thomas, Vice Chairman of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas serving as the Southern Plain representative. Angela Thompson is of the Pawnee Nation who’s our other representative who could not be here today due to extenuating circumstances. Also present is Dan Deerinwater, our Regional Director.

The Southern Plains Region consists of three states—Kansas, a portion of Oklahoma and the majority of Texas. There are five field offices consisting of 24 tribes, 20 reservations with about 480,000 acres of land. Tribal enrollment is up to about 120,000. Total number of federal programs funded are 41 with the total employees numbering 225.

We were tasked with developing a funding request that included an eight percent increase. After meeting with the tribal representatives of Southern Plains and going through historical data, we decided that there are three that we’re generally concerned with: scholarships and adult education, social services and Indian Child Welfare.

Our first priority deals with the rising costs of obtaining higher education. In the Southern Plains Region there are 719 colleges and universities. 227 of them are public with 492 being private institutions. The average in-state tuition is about \$4,800 with the out of state tuition cost upwards to \$15,000. In order to

offset these costs, this is where we decided that it is of the utmost importance to educate our people. They need to know what's going on throughout this nation and hopefully they come back to work for the tribes after they gain their experience. 40 students out there because of the inadequate funding we receive from the scholarships that the BIA offers. Some of this is supplemented by gaming revenue which is allocated to the educational portion of tribes. What we were striving to achieve was to avoid these students getting into debt. This request of about \$18 million will assist our tribal students in many ways and it will serve about 7200 students which is roughly six percent of our tribal enrollment.

Our second priority is Indian Child Welfare. Last week the federal district court of the District of Arizona dismissed the case of AD versus Washburn, which challenged the constitutionality of ICWA's application to Native American children in the state of Arizona's foster care programs. This was a very good ruling. This will increase the caseloads that our social workers face. What we need rolls up into our first priority with educating these social services workers and this will go along into priority number three because there are inadequate resources and the caseloads can get quite immense for your case workers. There are an estimated 120 workers per 17 clients. This staffing level would help reduce the caseloads that are affecting the children in the Southern Plains Region.

It's difficult to put a monetary value on assisting our tribal children, our elders, the handicapped and disabled. It's hard for me to comprehend how to address these issues when it seems that we are always facing these budget cuts. To get qualified personnel it costs money and that is one that we are looking at pretty heavily.

Pawnee Nation sued I think the oil and gas company like due to the increased earthquake activity that's occurring in their area due to fracking. My concern is that all that saltwater disposal and whatever chemicals that they're using are going to get into the aquifers underneath and that will really impact all of our people. It's just not Dakota Access Pipeline, it's all throughout Indian Country that will be affected somehow and someday.

Johnson O'Malley. There was a comment made that the proposed cost should be up in excess of \$1,500 per student instead of the \$62 to \$66 that's currently being paid out now. How will impact aid be affected in the budget in the Department of Education? Adult education, there needs to be regulations revised to help those ones who are out of the service areas so that they can receive help.

Other concerns are the discretionary versus mandatory funding issues; all funding to tribes should be mandatory. The federal government has their responsibilities to all tribes.

But in light of all the problems that we see with the funding levels, trying to address our tribal concerns, we have success stories. The Cheyenne Arapaho Higher Education Scholarship Program serves 240 students a year. Within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation there has been a 30 percent increase of the tribal members who receive this higher education assistance. And then within the Pawnee Nation, over the past five years there are 255 students who receive this educational assistance. Gaming revenues do fund some of these programs and hopefully we can adequately address the federal funding issue that's at hand now. Other success stories involve the Cheyenne Arapaho's Indian Child Welfare program and also the Pawnee Nation who continue to move forward despite the inadequate levels of federal funding. So with that I conclude this portion of the Southern Plains presentation of the budget formulation process.

Southwest Region

Terry Aguilar, former Governor from the Pueblo San Ildefonso: I represent the Southwest Region and we represent the 25 tribes and pueblos in the Southwest Region and those pueblos within New Mexico. We comprise about five million acres in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado and we share the border with the Navajo Nation.

With that, the introductions that we have from the All Pueblo Council of Governors which met on February 25th in which all 19 pueblos were able to meet and we talked about the budget formulation for FY2019. I've been doing this process for about two years now and one of the unique opportunities about doing this presentation is seeing the different people, seeing the different chairmen and the issues and one of the things that I've really learned and I really enjoyed about this process is learning about every single region's unique issues and successes.

Mr. Walker and the individuals we work with and all the 19 pueblos as well as Jicarilla and Mescalero were able to work with the BIA in developing this budget formulation. We had everyone submit a budget formulation except for two pueblos and the only reason they didn't get it done is because of the timing of the year. But that meant that everybody had input into this budget formulation.

Southwest Region's 10 priority...program priority. Scholarships. One of the things that we run into in the Southwest Region is go get educated, just don't come back home because it's very difficult to work for your own people.

Social services. We all have a need for the social services in the Southwest as well as criminal investigations.

Indian Child Welfare Act, the Johnson O'Malley and Aid to Tribal Government. Three of the most important programs that as tribal officials and tribal leaders that we deal with on a daily basis.

Tribal courts. We've got to keep funding this. This needs to be a priority every single year.

Consolidated tribal government, agriculture and the forestry. Very important program for the Southwest Region and they all put it as a priority.

This is really the presentation of Southwest. The Southwest, the governors and the pueblos, they wanted to make sure that it was stated that we all try to stick together. If you're sticking together, if you do that bundle of sticks, it's hard to break and so that's what's key. We all have to stick together, we all have to develop these priorities and that's why I think that if anything comes out from today in the TIBC that we've learned is as a region we should all try to think about what's going to go to the Secretary of Interior? We understand the budget priorities but we've worked with Mr. Black for the past couple years.

Great Plains Region

Tim LaPointe, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Plains

Nancy Greene-Robertson

Matt Vogel

Courtney Two-Lance

Our staff that put a lot of time into this. Ernie Pourier, our Budget Officer, Dannie Dougherty, our Deputy Regional Director and we worked with the team through the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Association to put this presentation together.

Nancy Greene-Robertston: I want to thank the TIBC body for listening to our presentation today. The Great Plains is a very strong voice with the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Association. All the chairmen coming and all the information shared and it goes down to the tribal level. And then what happens is the tribes take initiative to enhance whatever project it is.

Matt Vogel: Thank you regional directors and tribal leaders that are here today. And I do have to apologize that Chairman Frazier was unable to make it due to some unforeseen events. The Great Plains Region is composed of 16 tribes. Our estimated tribal enrollment's 223,000 and our reservations encompass a little over 15 million acres. As the Great Plains we truly emphasize that treaties define our unique relationship with this United States government. Our treaties were here before the United States Constitution. We believe that the United States recognizes the importance of those treaties, especially with their articles that refer to our treaties and treaties with other nations as the supreme law of the land. The interests of the Great Plains Region must be protected not only based on those treaties that we have with the United States government but the impacts that those trust obligations have on our tribal members. We have full-fledged governments that encompass every aspect of a regular full-fledged government that not only takes care of our folks through our social programs but also we need our infrastructure programs, our law and order and also our tribal governance. If you take one of those aspects out, you weaken the rest of the system. By not funding us at our full level or our full need, you open us up to possible weaknesses in that whole system and how that operates.

Another thing that I think would be important is to keep the Annual Tribal Nations Summit for tribal leaders and the Secretary and the Trump Administration. I can't stress this enough but large land-based tribes and full-service tribes that we have in our region are extremely dependent upon making sure that we get our needs met so we don't sacrifice the well-being of our tribal members. One other thing I'd like to bring up about the Great Plains Region is we had an expansive treaty territory and unfortunately through the history of the United States government we were diminished down to what we are today and I'd like to say personally that I think it was strategically that we were set in the locations we were to minimize our economic development opportunities which twofold challenges us to continuing and supporting our tribal members. One last thing is needs base and regional priorities and funding would better serve the diverse needs of tribes as opposed to national priorities that favor collections of smaller tribes. We have a great opportunity with the strategic plan and that we get it right that BIA fully encompass every region and their respective needs so that we can get a better understanding of what our regions are, what those needs are and address those needs appropriately.

Courtney Two Lance: These are the 10 preferred programs of the Great Plains Region. Based on history with our grandfathers and especially one battle that we are always reminded of, the Battle of the Little Bighorn, our grandfathers were strategic and successful and they always remind us that we're the one nation that this government could not defeat because they were strategic. And if we look at all of our needs from all of the regions, they're kind of similar but without the strategic plan, the budgets that are and the measures that were put in that strategic plan, are they really realistic? The tribal leaders here are bringing realistic needs. They show pictures, they bring data but the goals, are they realistic in that strategic plan? If we looked at it, no. So I'm glad after the first two days meeting with the budget and

data committee that we are going to have meetings out in the regions and when we do come back here we will come with positive outcomes, realistic, attainable so we know that we can improve the lives of all of our tribal members on our nations.

Our first program is tribal courts. With the Tiwahe Initiative, without that, without that pilot project you were not able to make the lives of your children or your families better. But with those tribes that are dealing with what little money we do have, how are we supposed to do that? So when we do our strategic planning sessions in these few months here, we need to come up with measures that all tribal courts and listen to all tribal courts. Our tribal court has an attorney general, Supreme Court as well as current administration; we have a backlog for our tribe of 5,000 cases. But we can show the need and we can show the funding problems. But we need to measure outcomes. That's one thing that we would like to see with these strategic plans and the budget.

Our next one is road maintenance.

Moment of silence for Big John Smith who passed away earlier.

He worked for 30 years to make everybody see the importance of road maintenance and how stagnant the funding was for 20 years. And this last meeting it was supported and received an increase. Big John was there to be a part of that and he also encouraged me by saying, 'Keep getting involved. Stay involved. Keep going because there's other issues that need to be addressed for our people.'

It's not fair in our state for the state to give \$7,000 per mile per year and our funding for road maintenance for Indian Country is \$650 per mile per year. That's not right and that's not fair and we're telling our people, 'Your roads are safe,' when they are not. But when it comes to strategic planning for your regions to help increase the funding and to help protect your programs from possible budget cuts or elimination, let's change the measurements. The denominator shouldn't be if 29,600 roads are in acceptable condition, let's use a realistic number and say how many miles of roads were you able to maintain with the money you received? That's more realistic. And then how many roads were you not able to? So just remember that or think about that when it comes to this strategic session.

For scholarships and adult education, I'm hoping with the Bureau's involvement or when we start to work with our region we come up with realistic measures to protect scholarships because we have a lot of our tribal members that do go out and they become those specialists, they become those professionals and they want to come back to the reservation but now we're going to have to figure this out.

Social services—the one issue that was from our region was general assistance. We ran out of GA so that was a priority amongst our chairmen. We need to address that. And we also fund our HIP program out of this. We have 1,390 applicants for this HIP program but we only got funding to do four projects. And that's just one tribe. The other issue out of social services was burial. For last year for my tribe we had 181 deaths and we were not able to assist everybody so some of that money came out of our general fund. There's different parts to social services—ICWA—our measures need to be realistic and they have to match what that strategic plan says but to break it down program by program and be realistic because the need is there. Indian Child Welfare Act is another issue under social services.

South Dakota reports Indian children represent about 50 percent of children in foster care, although they only comprise 13 percent of the state's population. But yet, the state doesn't help us with anything. Actually they'll fight us. So I'm glad even though one of our children is going to learn that yes, this other nation, we are all related.

Aid to tribal government for our tribes in the Great Plains Region, one thing that is funded out of there for us is enrollment and one thing that I kept hearing over these past two days is we need accurate reports, we need data for that. The tribal enrollment and service population data that is needed, that information develops the GPRA measures. Those measures provide funding to all of our programs. There used to be a report, the American Indian Population and Labor Force Report. But that responsibility was taken away from the tribes and I don't know why but I'm asking in the strategic plan that it be given back to the local agencies and the tribal enrollment offices because we are the ones that know who our people are. They're not going to give that and be honest about that in the census. So we have to depend on that.

The next one is Johnson O'Malley. On the Education Subcommittee, they discussed the student count. Just for my tribe, 6,520 applicants for last year and they only serviced about like from \$35 to \$90. If we went by the number that they talked about yesterday to fund per child, we would actually need \$9,792,000 for JOM. And speaking with a representative out of Las Vegas, we have 40 Oglala Sioux tribal members that live there and are part of their JOM program and they were only afforded \$16 and that's just a book and a pencil and a bag. That doesn't really help them. So we have to really look at Johnson O'Malley because we do have tribal members everywhere.

Criminal investigations and police services. This one, there was a review done years back and they did go into every tribe, every program to see how criminal investigations is utilized by those programs. The reports came back, there was an increase, they were separated, everything but there's still not enough cops for some of our reservations. And I have a tribal council from Oglala Sioux Tribe. I'd like him to speak on this because he was one of our chief of police.

Rich Greenwald: I'm a second term councilman from the Pioneer District of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. I spent 25 years of my life in uniform working along with Jason and some of his staff at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and also back home with my tribe. We had 22 homicides in the last two years, where small children the age of three and under being murdered by their own parents, meth related too. Two weeks ago we had a bust of 20 pounds or \$20,000 of heroine. We never even seen heroine before and now that's come in. You add all these cuts up that are coming and the disparity that's already there, children starving. We have in Pine Ridge 20 police officers and the Bureau of Indian Affairs back in 2008 itself said if it was going to run Pine Ridge it would need 120 police officers. When you have such a small force of burnout, you have corruption.

We have drug dealers from Colorado coming in and trying to take over our reservation right now, from Minneapolis trying to take over our reservation and they're succeeding. People in our community are so scared they stay home. The mental health part about it, cutting mental health, when these people start getting fried because of the meth that they're doing, eventually we're going to see deaths. We're already seeing deaths from overdose from meth. People's hearts just froze up. Three or four of them this year, people died from meth overdose. Now we're dealing with heroine.

The last thing you need is a failing law enforcement or court program and that's what we have. If we don't put extra emphasis on these programs, these places will be taken over just like we're being taken over. For the Bureau of Indian Affairs, let's get past politics. When you have a program failing like ours, we expect you to come in and fix that. Thank you for sending the officers that you did but it's just a matter of time before the murders start picking up again and things start happening again.

I wanted to make sure I come and talk about our law. So I wanted to share that with you and thank you and thank Courtney for coming up and speaking and bringing our minds together on how we're going to address these issues.

Courtney Two Lance: The next one is corrections and detentions. The one thing I would like to suggest is when we have programs like this or services like this on the Tiwahe Initiative can you please insert in there that the tribes that do have these services that we can put in a request for proposal for some of those funds. And that way we can address what we need to address because we are going to be short funded.

On our final recommendations I want encourage and support all tribes to meaningfully participate in the DOI strategic planning sessions this year, engage in efforts to tie appropriate resources strategically to achieve meaningful outcomes. There was also one other thing that we need input on from the tribes and is that Indian Trade Regulations with our issues that happened in North Dakota with our tribe Standing Rock and the DAPL situation. When they are allowed to illegally enter our jurisdictions, our land, why do we have to give the state money, tax money because when we do have a leak and we do have a break, they're not going to give us any money to help address that impact to our water or to our reservation. So we need to have input on that law because we need to protect our resources. Thank you for listening and I'm really excited for the strategic planning sessions that will be happening. Thank you.

Navajo Nation

Sharon Pinto, the Navajo Regional Director. Our region is located in Gallup, New Mexico and we have five agencies that spread across the Navajo Nation. Navajo consists of portions of the state of Arizona, New Mexico and southern Utah. 27,000 square miles and about 17 million acres that we have trust responsibility over. Population of around 339,000 enrolled members. And the tribe operates currently 18 Public Law 93-638 contracts.

And I think that's really what needs to be understood and emphasized throughout all of these presentations is that the mechanism utilized to transfer these funds to these tribes is through these 93-638 agreements and embedded in those agreements are the trust responsibility tied to managing those contracts and administering those contracts and they are an arm of the federal government. The tribes, through these programs, serve as an arm to the federal government to ensure that these services are provided to the tribal communities and protecting the natural resource assets. In addition to these 18 contracts, we also have 30 plus 297 grant schools and BIE schools that we manage and operate and have responsibility to ensure that the safe school operations are carried out in these schools for the educational purposes of our students who go through the system.

We did conduct the tribal formulation and back in December with the full participation of the Navajo Nation tribal staff, the government officials, tribal council members and since December we've had a

number of exchanges in our formulating that budget package which we had submitted to Central Office as well.

Everyone else has said up to now that it's very difficult to pick and choose what the priorities are and which program sits higher than another program. Nevertheless they did engage in the process and again, as it has through the years, the number one priority is law enforcement. Navajo Nation recently lost a law enforcement officer last week because of responding to a domestic violence situation and not necessarily having the immediate support for that backup and as a result we lost an up and coming really good law enforcement officer, very young individual. A lot of this is tied to our trust responsibility as it's outlined through those 93-638 contracts and to be funding less than a fourth of the need results in these types of situations. And so we do what we can to throughout the year partner with our OJS folks and try to bring attention, try to highlight different programs and how can we bring about better deterrents as well as these other programs that we look at such as educational programs and how do we utilize all of these other programs to help support that deterrents effort given that the funding support is very, very minimal. So thank you for allowing us to have these comments. We have the chief of staff from the Navajo Nation President's Office here representing the report as well as the Navajo Nation council, budget and finance committee chairperson, Mr. Seth Damon who will also provide the rest of the presentation.

Arbin Mitchell: Our presentation will cover the budget priorities, where we put the eight percent from the 2016 enacted and then also the proposed unfunded obligation. Then we have a couple of success stories.

With Navajo we have the top 10: Law enforcement patrol, criminal investigation, detention, adults and juvenile tribal courts, welfare assistance, forestry program, water development, fish and wildlife, environmental quality, scholarship and home improvement.

With Navajo, we have the four pillars within the office of the president and vice president and the executive branch. One of the pillars is veterans. The other pillar is youth and elders and then infrastructure and jobs.

Number one, public safety and justice and on top of the FY16 the eight percent we put \$4 million into the law enforcement. When you add the \$33, 297,000 to the \$4 million it totals out to \$37,294,000 and we have subcategories under this law enforcement. We have 27,000 square miles for these police officers to cover the Navajo Nation. The national benchmark is 2.5 police officers per 1,000 population. Navajo Nation is .08 per population with a base budget of \$19 million. We have current full time employees of 222 commissioned, 67 civil officers. What we need within Navajo is 640 full time employees, 520 commissioned, 120 civil for 2.5 so we can come up to the national average. FY19 proposed increase for additional 20 commission officers.

For adult detention we need an increase of \$780,000 for adult detention then also for juvenile detention \$383,000. On the adult detention we operate six facilities, a total bed of 345. We provide 24 hour service day to day supervision to ensure safety and well-being. Request an additional \$780,000 to fund 15 additional correction officers with fringe benefits, operating and supply.

On the juvenile side we operate a total of 98 beds. We serve an estimated 5,000 juveniles. We request \$383,000 on top of what we get to fund eight juvenile corrections officers with fringe and salary benefits and with operating.

Number four is welfare assistance. We received \$21 million in FY2016. We're requesting an additional \$4 million. This is to provide service for displacement of children, adult, elderly and residential in-house institution and foster care group home, provide emergency, general and burial assistance. Child welfare assistance: we serve 5,512 children, an increase of 1,000 for 2016. Child residential foster care, special need expense increase by \$1.38 million. We request 100 percent funding to provide service to Navajo families for burial assistance, adult residential, foster care and children residential care.

Number five through eight is under natural resources. For forestry department we're requesting an additional \$138,000. For water resources \$1.2 million. For wildlife and parks program \$641,000. And then for EQ program \$19,000. And we have the justification for the number six, water monitoring inventory of \$420,000.

Number nine, scholarship and adult education, we're requesting an additional \$1.2 million on top of the \$11 million that we receive. The increase will provide 187 additional awards of \$5,000 to each Navajo college student pursuing a college degree or a vocational certificate. The actual need is \$64.3 million. 12,866 applications times \$5,000 per academic year. That's how many applications that we receive—12,000 per semester. A shortfall that we have in scholarship is \$51.7 million. And then a success. We tie the success and the monies that we get. A total of 1,491 students graduated in spring 2016 with a college degree or certificate. Approximately 25 percent of those who received award in 2015. The next priority is home improvement program. We received \$970,000 last year. We're requesting an additional \$1 million to this program here. The \$1 million will add six more houses, build six more houses to what we get from the \$970,000 that we got last year.

We're requesting \$28,308,000 for road maintenance.

So under this human services we're requesting an additional \$39 million. And then we have the justification for the unfunded obligation.

Seth Damon, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee for the Navajo Nation: Here are the guidelines of the unmet needs and how Navajo Nation needs to work in order to function.

Welfare assistance is assistance for helping our foster family kids, our elderly programs to keep them in nursing homes and a lot of things that presented before us I heard this morning and that's our family burial assistance too as well. The burial assistance program right now, we do not have enough money. We really had a shortfall of approximately \$6.5 million. We have a scholarship problem that we can't get enough of our individuals to schools. We have a need of \$64 million, but we are requesting \$12 million with that eight percent increase.

We have a HIP program, Housing Improvement Program, that's really diminishing and we really want to get more additional dollars in that area too as well, specifically on the base needs for our elders. Right now an average caseworker across Indian Country has anywhere from 80 to 160 cases for one case officer. The average individual that a municipality court has anywhere from 30 to 40 cases. On the Navajo Nation we have one case officer working 160 cases for ICWA cases.

Alaska Region

Rick Harrison: Aid to tribal government -- we have 228 tribes in Alaska and this is a very critical funding source for them. In many cases this is their only funding to operate their governments. Another one is ICWA. An overarching issue of budgeting is that costs in Alaska are high.

Sam Thomas: In Alaska a lot of our tribal members utilize traditional and customary lifestyle. Fuel becomes a very important commodity in being able to gather their food to eat and trap, hunt, fish, sell their furs to a furrier. The people that do live in the geographical isolated areas are very creative in living that lifestyle so it's one of the things I wanted to identify to you folks that it's a challenge.

Housing Improvement Program: the BIA is making a difference as we continue to complete renovation on new houses, projects throughout Alaska. There are four categories of housing grants. Category A-- \$7,500 in safety or sanitation repairs in the house. Category B—up to \$60,000 for renovation which will bring your house to a standard housing condition. Category C—modest house can only be provided once. And Category D—assistance towards the purchase of a modest house, maximum of \$75,000.

Social services where support of fund increase would be used for providing consistent assistance for children and families, elders, training tribal staff to operate the array of social service programs, program operations instead of closing down when funds are exhausted or not to even start a program due to the little funds.

Small and needy. The Alaska Region's increase of small and needy funds will support the tribes' ability to provide a viable self-governance, receiving the intended minimum base rate of \$300,000 for small and needy tribes as needed. This will increase the tribes' ability to create a stable tribal government and exercise their authority on sovereign nation.

Top programs as identified by the region: Aid to tribal government, social services, Indian Child Welfare Act, small and needy, Johnson O'Malley, tribal courts, scholarships, education grants, housing improvement program, job placement and training and economic development.

We have 228 tribes in our region, 142 tribes participated in the budget survey with a 62 percent response. But I think it will get better as we all acknowledge that. I'd just like to thank Rachel and the others that do work behind the scenes and Jeannie and George and everybody that does that, copulates the data and puts it into action. Now all we've got to do is get more money for these surveys.

Western Region

Michael Dallas: Terry Rambler from the San Carlos Apache Reservation wasn't able to make it today. It's an honor and a privilege to be here this morning amongst tribal leaders and staff that are here just representing the tribes that we have here in the Western Region. I wanted to acknowledge those that took numerous hours of collecting this data. I wanted to acknowledge Travis Lane from the Assistance Director of ITCA, Bryan Bowker from the Western Regional Director, Michael Nutter, Budget Analyst, Tyrone Shippen, regional staff.

The BIA Western Region is comprised of 42 tribes and provides services for approximately over 496,000 tribal members and encompasses a total land base of just over 12.6 million acres. Throughout the state of Arizona, Nevada and Utah tribal lands and resources are as diverse as the people. As we heard that

each tribes are different and unique from one another. Tribes face numerous challenges in providing critical programs and services that are necessary to ensure the welfare of our people.

These issues are especially challenging due to the rural and remoteness of our communities. In light of discussion around the need for infrastructure, development may work for some tribes across the U.S. but would not work for many tribes located in the Arizona, Nevada and Utah region. With the BIA having the primary responsibility of the United States to meet its trust responsibility to the 567 federally recognized tribes, all the line items in the BIA budget are critical. Tribes served by the BIA Western Region participate in the annual budget formulation to ensure that our priority programs are protected from funding cuts. However, this priority system does not reflect the real day to day needs as we've all seen of our tribes how each BIA line item is critical to achieving our self-determination goals. We request that all items in the BIA budget be increased. Additionally we oppose any budget cuts that are made to the BIA budget. Back home the message is received from the BIA representatives that because a certain line item was not priority, it was perceived that the body recommended funding cuts. This body should make it very clear that we do not support any funding cuts and should be the primary message whenever and to whoever this message is sent to. In light of a new Administration, this should be made loud and clear and that's for every other region too that this message needs to be continued to push forward.

The Western Region budget formulation team collected responses from the online survey to analyze that each tribe and agency budget submission to identify the top 10 priorities. The team factored in and weighed ranking of the performed programs and unobligated amount requests. All budget requests were incorporated to the budget formulation proportion to an eight percent funding increase. The presentation identified the top 10 priorities and highlighted the top five programs. The top 10 programs are the tribes served by the Western Region and the funding required based on an eight percent increase.

Road maintenance is identified as the highest priority in the Western Region. The rural and remoteness of our tribal communities require the need for safe and reliable roads. Unfortunately this is not the case as a result our people suffer from incidents of motor vehicle crashes, lack of access to health facilities and economic and community development challenges. In any issue this has to do with the intersection of transportation and the livelihood of our people. Currently only 5.6 percent of our roads are considered in acceptable condition. In the budget formulation process we intended to show a success story around the road maintenance since it is our highest priority. Unfortunately due to inadequate funding we could not find a success story. And just to note on that, we had contacted a tribe to ask for a success story that is really moving forward and some of the funding that they received just to light on that was they weren't being sarcastic but they said, 'We were able to use that funding that we received to buy shovels and brooms and maybe some signs.' At the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community there was a lot of snow up north and so they had to release some water through the Bartlett Dam. When this water came through, it had an effect on these roads here.

For criminal investigation and police services, tribes support an increase in funding for criminal investigation and police services. Many communities are geographically isolated and need support to address high crime rates including established substations on their tribal lands. Many tribes lack housing which has a huge impact on the ability of BIA and tribes to recruit and retain law enforcement. As a result, many tribes do not have 24 hours seven day a week policing in their communities. This is a travesty. Tribes in their budget formulation and in the years past continue to report that police response

time can sometimes be at least one hour to almost eight hours. Additionally IT infrastructure and outdated equipment make this challenge even harder. Tribes are challenged with analyzing criminal records in an effort to make informed decisions when addressing and prioritizing certain crime. Tribes continue to face an uphill battle in combating the manufacture and distribution of meth and other elite drugs affecting our communities.

Tribal courts. Tribes need strong tribal court systems. Conservative think tanks across the U.S. continue to allege that tribes lack the rule of law and as a result take a position that tribes should come under jurisdiction of the state. With a conservative Administration and Congress, we are concerned that this could become a reality. Tribes need to demonstrate that tribal courts are just as sophisticated and have the ability to protect the rights of citizens under the U.S. Constitution. But we cannot do this if we don't have sufficient funding. We should have the resources to assert our true sovereign rights to govern our people including the ability to enforce our laws. Tribes must be able to fully support the tribal courts with an adequate staffing including judge, prosecutors, public defenders and probation officers. Other costs associated with tribal courts include monthly fees for professional services and transportation. Many of these associated costs leave insufficient funds for operation of the tribal court. Additionally tribes struggle to support new opportunities with the passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

With the need for strong tribal courts comes the need for strong correction and detention facilities in the Western Region. There are two BIA facilities and one holding facility and eight tribally run facilities. Of the eight tribal run facilities, six include juvenile facilities. The lack of accessible detention facilities for both youth and adults require additional funds and resources for contracting with other local facilities in placing juvenile and adult offenders. Oftentimes there can be a limit of contracting beds in other facilities. As a result prisoners are often released or must be transported to other outlay facilities. Increased funding would be used to support staffing and update obsolete equipment and computer software.

Social services serve the tribes' neediest population including children and elders. Social services facilitates the reunification of families whose children have been removed for safety reasons, improve the safety conditions of families to prevent the removal of children and investigates allegations of child abuse or maltreatment. Tribes are in need of more staff for case management but are challenged with offering competitive salaries compared to non-Indian agencies. Training is needed for foster care parents and for families of life skills and prevention program. There continues to be a need to address alcohol and substance abuse issues in tribal communities. And none of these services can be provided without the need of transportation services. Increased funding for social services would result in the less child removal, keeping elders healthy and a safe reduction of recidivism. This concludes our budget here. Again, I would like to thank everyone here and thank those that helped us. There was many hours that went in place to putting this together. Again, thank you.

Northwest Region

Stan Speaks, Regional Director:

Chairman Allen never misses a TIBC meeting, especially a tribal budget priorities allocation meeting. But he had other commitments that he just could not get out of so we forgive him. But we do have Mr. Abrahamson, our other tribal representative from the Northwest that will make the presentation and he will also represent the 45 tribes, 24 self-governance tribes, 21 638 tribes, two commissions, the

Columbia River Indian Fish Commission, Northwest Indian Fish Commission and the Columbia Basin tribes. We did have a good representation of tribes in preparation for this budget presentation and as a result of that our budget staff had an opportunity to put together what we think was a good booklet.

Greg Abrahamson, council member of the Spokane Nation: With our priorities from the Northwest, we represent 45 tribes and 14 agencies and seven tribal organizations there. The tribes that participated was Jamestown S'Klallam, Klamath Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Spokane Tribe, Shoshone Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Point to No Point. We have the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Columbia Basin Tribes Coalition there.

On behalf of the 45 tribes of Northwest Region we are pleased to participate in the FY2019 budget formulation process with the Indian Affairs and Department of Interior and to present testimony which is reflective of our collective goals and objectives. Meaningful tribal input into this budget formulation process goes beyond just an annual national budget meeting. The direct involvement of the tribal governments in the budget development process and the commitment and active participation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs officials were a result in improved documented and stronger Indian Affairs budget submission that more accurately addresses the socioeconomic and cultural conditions and needs of American Indians Alaska Natives. The tribes in the Indian Affairs must strive to work in partnership with the Department of Interior and Office of Management and Budget in order to achieve our overall goals and continued advancement in tribal sovereignty rights, empowerment in tribal governments and enhancement of quality of life of our Indian communities. The Bureau of Indian Affairs must remain committed to support these goals for Indian people.

Our priorities. Number one is trust and natural resource management. And we did it a little bit different than some of the others so in our trust and natural resource management we had Fish and Wildlife and Parks. We proposed \$18 million with \$11,970,000 increase. The water resource program which is proposed at \$16,500,000 and we had \$176,000 increase. Water management, planning and pre-development, that was \$420,000 increase. Forest program is a \$14,500,000 proposed and we had a \$679,000 increase. Our forest projects which include the National Interagency Fire Center, the Burned Area Emergency Response, BAER and the Burned Area Rehabilitation, BAR. And that was a \$3,837,000 increase. This last year we've had on our reservation 25 percent of it in the last two years burned. The year before we had numerous tribes, the Colville Tribe, the Warm Springs Tribe, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Yakima Tribe and Spokane Tribe, they all had devastating fires and in Washington State we had some of the highest in history of fires there.

Number two is the trust and real estate services. Water rights negotiation and litigation: the proposed is \$13 million; we had a \$1,479,000 increase.

For the tribal courts we have proposed for \$11,500,000 and it was a \$3,289,000 increase. A lot of us are improving in our economic development and a strong court system are important for such development.

Number three is public safety and justice. Proposed was \$12 million. And criminal investigations and police services is \$3,443,000 and our tribal courts is \$3,289,000 increase there.

Four is our education. In scholarships and adult education we had proposed \$10 million with a \$4,736,000 increase. And we all know that our education within our youth is vitally important there and with the increased costs of colleges and the books and everything it is vital that we increase there so we can get all of our people educated and educated in the right manner. In our Johnson O'Malley we have an increase of \$2,725,000. And ISEP formula funds we have \$8 million proposed with \$120,000 increase.

Our fifth priority is human services and our social services are proposed at \$7,500,000 with a \$1,268,000 increase. That helps with our elders, women and children equally. It's a common problem. Just this last week we had a young individual, a tribal member's grandson passed away in her back trailer due to a drug overdose. We've been fortunate with some of them with our police services with having the medicines to where they bring them in and when they've overdosed and be able to bring them back to life.

In our Indian Child Welfare Act which is part of our fifth priority is proposed at \$7 million with a \$685,000 increase.

And our sixth priority is community and economic development within the Indian loan guarantee and the subsidies. Proposed is \$5,904,000; we didn't have an increase on that one there so we just would like to see it be redone. This program helps build tribal economies and their communities within their reservations there.

I do thank you and appreciate the time of being able to get up here on behalf of the 45 tribes and I just wanted to make sure that the tribes that did participate got on the record of what their priorities are there and we do have it as the region's priorities also so thank you.

Rocky Mountain Region

Chairman A.J. Not Afraid, Chairman Clint Wagon and Chairman Roy Brown. Roy's with the Northern Arapahoe Tribe, A.J.'s with the Crow Nation, Clint is with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. There are eight tribes within the Rocky Mountain Region and seven agencies. A little over six million acres of trust land within those reservations and I will turn it over to the tribal reps.

[Video]

Clint Wagon with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe: Our priority seven from the Rocky Mountain Region, we're looking at \$2.6 million is the request, \$184,000 as the increase. Some examples that we're looking at in the transportation area, examples are cracked ceiling, transportation is important. We know in the area of Montana and Wyoming, we know there's vast road mileage and so it's one of those things that we know it's a challenge.

About a month ago the temperatures got high in our area and we flooded and so the challenge was that everything's still frozen. It's just following the roads basically. In a lot of the areas other tribes again, it's all about the maintenance.

Aid to tribal government, the request is \$1.3 million, an increase of \$184,000. We're looking at support within the tribal governments. In Wyoming, we have 2.2 million acres, and 14,000 members between the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapahoe Tribes. This is a large population, a lot of land, not enough money.

A. J. Not Afraid: The last two on the increases is detention and wildlife and parks. With the detention and corrections, the majority are condemned in Rocky Mountain Region. Second equipment, staffing, training up staff, staff development is very crucial because any time we have our members incarcerated they should be handled with care. Not only care but in the past we've seen where the Bureau contracted with a third party for incarceration and those programs were good because now instead of focusing on eliminating meth, that agreement with that correction facility facilitated somewhat in rehabilitation. Once you place those individuals back into the communities in that same environment it continues to creep back in and then they're back in that same lifestyle.

That contract is no longer in place but we did see it as a top 10 priority because rehabilitation is a lot longer than just three months. Kudos to the BIA and OJS for that program. One of the major problems were when this facility was brought into its fruition as to the government working with the third party, our reservations are so far spread out that if you were in jail in Browning, Montana or being incarcerated there, they would transport you to this third party facility. This third party facility comprised of a lot of tribes in one. The existing facilities are very poor.

Wildlife and parks. The Rocky Mountain Tribes as well as Great Plains and other tribes share a common interest in native foods such as deer, elk, the natural habitat, buffalo. Without having good management, we're not eradicating the illnesses. This is the Crow's number one diet. We ask collaboration with the Bureau to make sure we maintain these assets. If it weren't for food stamps, a lot of us Indian nations would have had a tough time surviving. But going back to our natural food source, our diet, we tend to find that it reduces diabetes and other sorts of illnesses so we're venturing back into those areas as well.

Darryl LaCounte: I'd like to thank my budget officer, Randi Adams. She did a fine job and thank you to the Chairman but I want to say even though he's been on the job since November 29th, he was able to hack that video. The Arapahoe flag showed up with the Blackfeet tribal councilman.

Roads Presentation

Leroy Gishi: It's been a year since the subcommittee was organized under the direction of TIBC for the purpose of establishing a process, the purpose being providing recommendations on how to justify and be able to look at a responsible budget going forward for purposes of the road maintenance program.

Our co-chair of our subcommittee, Mr. Big John Smith, passed away in January. He had a tremendous impact on transportation, both from a construction standpoint and maintenance standpoint.

His passion was transportation and in that area his passion was road maintenance. Thank you, Big John.

We talked about reviewing the recommendations that were made in Rapid City and a follow up in November. The need for data has always been one of the key aspects of how are we going to be able to provide good recommendations as the subcommittee to the full council. There has been some work done by the tribes, primarily the Great Plains Tribe, working with the Great Plains Region on developing the first steps to beginning the process of providing data to support information that can be utilized and not only can be used on a national level, regional level but also within each specific tribe itself.

In the FAST Act was a reporting requirement. This survey was put together by the Great Plains Region transportation folks, the budget folks, the statistician from a national level working with the tribes to generate not only the questions but also to have an influence on what kind of information that we would be gathering if we were going to have a reporting process that would be helpful for road maintenance. Road maintenance is not a construction program, it's primarily driven through the procedures associated with Indian self-determination, which is limited reporting, rightfully so.

There were four 2016 recommendations from this subcommittee. Of those in particular there's two that have resurfaced for clarification. But all of those recommendations and responses are in the handouts that you have. The two that we're looking at is making the road maintenance a separate budget category, budget activity and by doing that giving it greater visibility and significance. The other one was number three, require reporting costs for maintenance activities and that was one where we had the follow up with the actual development of the survey itself since last fall.

The other recommendations: elevate road maintenance to budget activity; emergency maintenance funding pool; report costs on maintenance activities; deferred maintenance report, how that report can be incorporated into the Green Book.

The one follow up recommendation by the subcommittee is to request that the BIA provide a clarification on the recommendation response for the BIA regarding recommendation number one: the separate budget category and activity.

In 2016 with the FAST Act the Congress required every entity to report on what we call projects and activities associated with the tribal transportation program and based on the funds that are received for that year. This was our first year in 2016 doing that, the implementation. Federal Highway took the lead on that, developing through their IT staff the ability to be able to report that. It went well for the first year. There were about 98 percent of the tribes reported. There were a number of training sessions, a webinar, to help individuals maneuver their way through this process.

Congress asked us to report on is projects and activities. Construction projects are a big part of this report but there are other elements and activities that we do on an annual basis as part of the program, such as safety, transit, administration. Maintenance is identified as one of the activities to be reported on. Planning and the project name and the status if there's a project out there and then the number of jobs created and the number of jobs retained. That is information that Congress wanted to be reported, similar measures from the Recovery Act.

Federal Highways has not completed their report. 430 entities reported they were planning on using tribal transportation program funds for road maintenance. Not all of them did but this is what they put on their plans for the year. The plans in itself is part of a requirement. The approximate tribal share, the amount of funds those 430 entities received in terms of what they were planning to use of their program for road maintenance, was about \$340 million. Of that amount, the amount that they planned on using was \$55 million. They planned to use \$55 million of their \$340 million of those tribes to do and perform road maintenance. The eligibility for that though is much different than the BIA program because it includes tribal roads, county, local municipalities, any roads which the tribe deems is important to have to maintain or to assist or participate in maintaining or that entity who is performing the work in this case.

So of that 430, there's 240 tribes who expended funds in 2016 on road maintenance activities. Of those 240 entities, they actually spent \$37 million. So they planned on spending \$55 million and only 240 did expend some funds and when they did they expended \$37 million.

Next, the Draft Road Maintenance Survey was developed specifically for road maintenance activities. It was developed again by the Great Plains Region of the BIA and the tribes in the Great Plains Region. It's designed to be able to assess what tribes have as priorities, how they do it, whether they have the equipment, whether they maintain an inventory of roads, how they track performance. The workgroup wants to be able to begin developing further recommendations on how to begin reporting the information.

This will be inclusive for both tribally owned roads and BIA owned road, which is important. This is our first presentation that we've done relative to this.

Lunch Break

Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee report

Jason Thompson, Acting Director for BIA OJS: Kee Allen is not here this week nor is Ron Allen.

About ten days ago, Houston Largo, a young officer in the Navajo Nation was shot and killed. Houston Largo was last year's IACP Officer of the Year, a young star. Since that time we've had BIA officers fired on during a pursuit in Rocky Mountain and had an officer in California shot in the chest. Fortunately his vest stopped that. That's in the last 10 days.

Law enforcement is changing and it's changing rapidly for us.

Historically Indian Country was a little bit insulated. We were not so susceptible to kind of the tides of perception out in the community but that's changing for us. That's changing for us in Indian Country as well and so I want you to be aware of that.

Public safety in my mind is arguably the most fundamental of government services. If you don't have good public safety in your communities, it's very difficult to think about economic development or any of those other things because people don't feel safe to engage in your communities. The resources in Public Safety and Justice fund all three of our justice systems. We've got law enforcement, tribal courts and then detention programs. Tribal justice support is our courts. We've been conducting tribal court assessments for the last number of years.

In '13 we had three of those done, '14 we had nine, all the way up to in 2016 we had 35 total done and so far this year there are 16 of those done. These are ways that we come out and do assessments at your tribal court programs and then try to provide funding at least from OJS tribal courts to try to address some of the shortfalls that you have and so that's where we're at with the assessments that we do.

Divisional drug enforcement: if you look back in 2011 we had 722 total cases worked. In 2016 we're up to 5,093 cases. Drug related arrests, 1,103 in 2011. In 2016, 5,723.

It is not your imagination that drugs are becoming more and more critical to us. In five, six years total we've almost quadrupled, five times in some cases the number of arrests, the number of drug cases that we worked in Indian Country. We're aware of drug problems because we see the exponential growth.

In 2017 BIA drug agents have already worked over 160 complex drug investigations. This is March 23rd, 160 complex. Already over 160. DEA agents seized about 97 grams of heroin, \$11,500 cash. This has just been in the last few weeks. That's a huge seizure for us as far as heroin is concerned.

Corrective Action Support Team is a program that we developed that allows us to put our lieutenant and captain all the way up to associate director level folks together to come out to some of your law enforcement agencies and our law enforcement agencies. They dig into your report writing, they dig into the scheduling that you do, they look at your patrol cars, they look at your uniforms, everything that you do and try to spend enough time at that location to correct those things.

We used to go out and do inspections and send you a report with no follow until the next year's report. Now we come out and spend two weeks to fix those things, at least to the extent that we possibly can we fix those things over that period. CAST is Corrective Action Support Team. We've done 18 of our agencies. We've done four 638 or tribal of those so far. We do those on request. You can send us a request to do that and we'll schedule you to have CAST come out.

Violent crime trends over the last eight years for Indian Country were down 15 percent. They were down 15 percent. Beginning in 2014-15 and continuing into '16, those numbers are climbing rapidly. The last time that I was here with Kevin Martin we showed you how our crime numbers are very consistent with our funding numbers. If our funding goes up, crime numbers go down. If our funding goes down or stays stable, crime numbers go up and I think that this highlights that, indicates that very well. We've not had any real increases to law enforcement since around 2010-11.

Our reporting changed and that may contribute to that to some degree, certainly with a steep climb. We are not on the decline any longer.

Back in 2009 we had a total of 587 employees. 2017 we're up to 757 total employees. Now the bulk of those in '10 and '11, whenever we got those increases, is where the bulk of those happened. But you can see the increase from '16 to '17 is almost 30 employees. That's mostly corrections officers filling new detention locations, new corrections centers that are opening. But what we have basically done now is hired ourselves out of funding. We are now at a place where we've outgrown our budget. We don't have funding anymore to hire to fill vacancies. What that's forced us to do this year in 2017, even though there was a federal hiring freeze, we were waived from that but we've had to institute our own hiring freeze because that coupled with what we've had to do with the protests has really depleted our budget.

Our '19 priorities as best we know today based on what we know is going to be about our core functions: police officers and investigators, replacing patrol cars and computers and firearms, those things that we've not gotten budgets for in the last several years to be able to replace. Detention and corrections, there's going to be more correctional officers to ensure staff and inmate safety. Replace transport vehicles, computers, uniforms, bedding. That is our priorities for '19 not knowing what our position is going to be there, not knowing what funding is going to look like at that time for us. Our core has to be our focus to make sure that police and corrections and tribal courts are our key.

Comment: formal request that that invitation to the Budget Subcommittee be extended to the full TIBC body and if so, is the Bureau in the position to support the travel of those TIBC representatives who choose to come to that meeting?

George Bearpaw: Travel is handled by the regions. We can look at it. We will offer the WebX again though too for anyone that cannot travel.

Right after this meeting we will send a notice out to all the TIBC of the 10th, 11th and the 12th meetings and start disseminating some information for those members that want to attend those meetings.

New Business

Resolution: "Uphold the Trust and Treaty Obligations in the FY 2018 Federal Budget".

Seth Damon, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee made that motion on behalf of the Navajo Nation to adopt. Seconded by Chris McGeshik. Motion carries.

Resolution online: http://www.ncai.org/2017_TIBC_Budget_Resolution_on_FY_2018.pdf

Old Business

Amber Ebarb: Refer to the action tracking document. The first action is about the third party contract with Kepner-Tregoe. The other actions taken were more housekeeping. One was to select Tara Mason as the chair of the education subcommittee. The Education Subcommittee met and they plan to expand their purpose statement for the education subcommittee. And the other official motion was setting up the emergency meeting on February 16th which we held here in DC.

George Bearpaw: We plan to have some conference calls with the contractor with Sam, Ron and myself and with NCAI. They want to ask us some questions about the process and see where we go from there. Now they have asked for specific information from us already. This'll be the first chance that I'll get to talk to them or that my staff will get to talk to them and so I'm curious as to see where they are at and where they're going but as far as I know, they're on track with the contract. They would like to present at the July meeting and right now the contract that they are currently on is just the analysis portion of it. The phase two part of that will be the actual review of the formulation process based on what they have come up in the way of analysis and the steps that they're going to take to analyze or complete that contract.

Amber Ebarb: Yes, their project statement is at the back of the booklet, which describes what will be in their report. They have laid out a process as part of their business improvement assessment method, the CQI method, to develop recommendations on how to improve the TIBC budget formulation process specifically for FY 2020. You can see the deliverables. They also describe some of their methodologies, including interviews with TIBC stakeholders so tribal representatives. The conference call with the tribal co-chairs and BIA, George Bearpaw, is to make sure that their outreach methodology makes sense for the Tribal Interior Budget Council. While they have put together this plan, it's always a good idea to touch base with the major stakeholders through the co-chairs. Deliverables include this report, suggested measures of impact and success, approaches to improved information gathering on needs, mapping out how the process is right now. They're developing a description of what's happened so far with the budget formulation process on FY19 and then suggested methods and formats for reporting

performance. Then the first report will be given to TIBC in July; the second portion of their proposed work would cost more money, and that's the key question to TIBC, whether to fund an implementation of the recommendations. This first part, the report that will be provided in July is their recommendations and the second portion which is not approved yet by TIBC to be funded would be helping TIBC implement their recommendations.

Kitcki Carroll: So if I could just make a friendly request or nudge of my colleagues around this table. We come to TIBC four times a year and one of the things I often hear as a criticism is there's a lot of talk that goes on here but then no action that follows up. If everybody recalls, I think a couple years ago it was when we were first starting to tackle the changes in the budget process, there was a request and I even believe it was supported via resolution for each of the regions to put forward recommendations to improve the budget process as they saw it and I think the turnout response rates, that was somewhere in the area of four, maybe five regions actually responded to that. So we can come here and just complain and not be engaged in the solution. Here is an opportunity for us when the regional call comes your way about how do we improve this process, what are the challenges you are experiencing, there's no reason that it should be anything less than 100 percent engagement for all 12 regions. If it's something less than that, then that's on us. The accountability's on us to engage in the process to be part of the solution to have a budget process that we are happy with. It starts with this engagement of an outside entity to come in and assess what the problem is, what the strengths are and to go from there.

Comment: The one thing good about these contractors, I think one is former OMB. They should know the OMB process so I'm curious to see how they do their work and like you said, to kind of get a hold of what kind of tools that they're going to use, the questions. So next week we should have a good idea of what they're going to be using in the way of questions for us and for their future going out to the field and how they gather the information.

Closing Remarks

Mike Black: Thanks to all of the regions and the regional reps and the budget officers and the regional directors out there for pulling together the presentations that we saw throughout the day today. I thought they were all exceptional. They all struck home to me as far as the importance of the different programs. I heard a very resounding them around social services and law enforcement and I think those are all areas that we all know and appreciate; road maintenance and the rest of it. But I'll look forward to getting some of the compilations of all of that stuff from our budget folks and we'll probably be able to discuss those either at the April 12th meeting or when we get back together here in May. Again and as soon as we have information on what happens with the Assistant Secretary and other appointments. But thanks again and thank you all for all the support you've given us over the years and we look forward to working with you and look forward to the upcoming meetings. Thank you.

Sam Thomas: I thought it was a great meeting. Some of the reforms that are potentially coming down in the Bureau of Indian Education, when they tend to the education subcommittee, I think there are some positive actions coming out of there. And then there's the road maintenance issues, how do we get it into a viable place within the budget. Our deferred maintenance list is going backwards instead of resolving some of the issues out there. We signed a resolution to be held harmless within the budgetary process.

Motion made by Chris McGeshik that the Trump and his Administration have a sit down with this committee as he as President has sat down with other committees and organizations and ethnic groups and races and their organizations. Seconded. Motion carried.

A.J. Not Afraid made a motion to tailor a similar request to Zinke and invite him to the table. Seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned.