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DOI Strategic Plan Tribal Consultation 10-30-2013

1

DOI STRATEGIC PLAN TRIBAL CONSULTATION
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

1:10 p.m.

Reported by: Gervel A. Watts, CERT*D

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1 A P P E R A N C E S

2 Alaska Natives/Tribal Participants

3 Rick Balston, Alaska Region

4 Edward Thomas, Alaska Region

5 Diane Buck, Acting Tribal Government Officer for
the Eastern Oklahoma Regio

6 Chris Redman, Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office

7 Tim LaPointe, Great Plains Regional Office

8 Bruce Loudermilk, Great Plains Regional Office

9 Carol Jordan, Great Plains Tribe

10 Leo Hamilton, Rocky Mountain Tribe

11 Rusty Stafne, Rocky Mountain Tribe

12 Gordon Jackson, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

13 Jo-Ellen Cree, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

14 Jennifer Dale, Midwest Regional Office

15 Tammie Poitra, Midwest Regional Office

16 Tom Gorenflo, Midwest Regional Office

17 Clarence Hudak, Midwest Regional Office

18 Cheryl Arviso, Navajo Region

19 Marie Eastman, Navajo Regional Office

20 Jackie Jackson, Southern Plains Tribe

21 Michael Gawhega, Southern Plains Tribe

22 Gary James, Southern Plains Tribe

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3

1 A P P E R A N C E S

2 Alaska Natives/Tribal Participants (Cont'd)

3 Rolanda Talley, Southern Plains Tribe

4 Courtney Burgess, Otoe-Missouria Tribe

5 Bill Walker, Southwest Regional Office

6 Mr. Ochego, Southwest Tribe

7 David Eagle, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

8 Santo Marford

9 Washington, D.C. Participants

10 Richard Beck, DOI, OPPM

11 Spike Bighorn, Bureau of Indian Affairs

12 Terry Parks, Bureau of Indian Affairs

13 Thomas Thompson, Bureau of Indian Affairs

14 Ira New Breast, Bureau of Indian Affairs

15 Jack Stevens, OPPM

16 Marv Keller, DECRM

17 Emerson Eskeet, OFMC

18 Gail Shumaker, Central Budget Office

19 Whitney Antone, BIA, Office of Trust Services

20 Anne Pardo, Environmental Resource Management

21 Judy Wilson, OFECR

22 Les Jensen, Housing Improvement Program

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1 A P P E R A N C E S

2 Washington, D.C. Participants (Cont'd)

3 Michael Oliver, OIEA

4 Jose Saavedra, OIEA

5 Teddie Penland, OPA

6 Thomas Koenig, OPPM

7 Melvin Gilchrist, OPPM

8 Brenda Cannon, OPPM

9 Wanda Meierotto, Indian Land Consolidation
 Program

10 Heidi Gordon, Indian Land Consolidation Program

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. CANNON: At this time, what I would like
3 to do is to ask all callers to place their phones on
4 mute. And also, I would like to ask that you not put
5 us on hold because if you put us on hold, then we'll
6 hear music in the background, and that will be
7 disruptive to the proceeding.

8 We will first have introductions and then
9 that will be followed by meeting protocol, comments
10 from Mr. Kevin Washburn, the assistant secretary of
11 Indian Affairs, a presentation from Dr. Beck, the DOI
12 Office of Planning and Performance management
13 director. And then suggestions and comments from the
14 program -- the Central Office Programs, and then also
15 from the tribes.

16 Please note that throughout this procedure
17 today, the word "tribes" in the discussion also
18 reflects Alaska natives. In addition, the term "DOI"
19 and "the department" is used throughout the session
20 when referring to the Department of the Interior. We
21 will begin introductions by region. I will call out
22 each region and then we will have the tribes from that

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6

1 region state their name and their tribal affiliation.
2 And then also spell their first and last name and the
3 tribal affiliation so the reporter can record it
4 accurately. This will be followed by the BIA
5 Regional.

6 Individuals who are also on the call, you
7 would state your name and your title. Once we have
8 completed with the regional introductions, we will
9 have introductions of DOI and Indian Affairs
10 participants here in the Washington, D.C. area.

11 Please remember to speak loudly, because,
12 again, the session is being recorded. Also, in
13 addition to introductions, what we ask is that for the
14 tribal individuals who are on the call, we ask that
15 you would submit your email information by sending an
16 email to us at spconsultation@bia.gov. By you giving
17 us your email address, this will ensure that we get
18 you a copy of the procedure that is going on today,
19 the tribal consultation.

20 So let's begin with the region. We have
21 first, Alaska tribes. Any tribes from Alaska?

22 (No response.)

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7

1 And if your phone is currently on mute, when I call
2 your region, don't forget to take it off. Alaska. No
3 Alaska tribes?

4 (No response.)

5 Alaska region.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Alaska here. Central
7 Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

8 MS. CANNON: Okay. Could you please state
9 your name?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Phoning in for Edward
11 Thomas. He'll be stepping in any moment.

12 MS. CANNON: Okay. And could you also spell
13 your tribal for the recorder, please?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: C-E-N-T-R-A-L --C- O-
15 U-N-C-I-L -- T-L-I-N-G-I-T -- H-A-I-D-A Tribe.

16 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Is there anyone
17 from the Alaska Regional Office?

18 (No response.)

19 Okay. Eastern Region Tribe.

20 (No response.)

21 Eastern Regional Office?

22 (No response.)

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8

1 Eastern Oklahoma Tribe?

2 (No response.)

3 Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office.

4 MS. BUCK: Diane Buck, Acting Tribal
5 Government Officer.

6 MR. REDMAN: Chris Redman, Chickasaw Nation.

7 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Great Plains Tribe.

8 MS. JORDAN: Carol Jordan, Acting Realty
9 Officer, for Robert Shepherd, Chairman, Sisseton
10 Wahpeton Oyate. S-I-S-S-E-T-O-N -- W-A-H-P-E-T-O-
11 N -- O-Y-A-T-E.

12 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Great Plains
13 Regional Office.

14 MR. LaPOINTE: Hi. This is Tim LaPointe,
15 Deputy Regional Director, Trust Services. Bruce
16 Loudermilk, the regional director, will also be in
17 attendance.

18 MS. CANNON: Okay. Midwest Tribe.

19 (No response.)

20 Midwest Regional Office.

21 MS. DALE: Jennifer Dale, Sault Ste. Marie
22 Tribe of Chippewa Indians, for Aaron Payment,

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9

1 Chairperson.

2 MS. POITRA: Midwest Regional Office, Tammie
3 Poitra, Deputy Regional Director, Trust Services.

4 MR. GORENFLO: Chippewa Ottawa Resource
5 Authority, Tom Gorenflo.

6 MR. HUDAK: Clarence Hudak, Sault Ste. Marie
7 of Chippewa Indians, administrative assistant for
8 Aaron Payment, Chairperson.

9 MS. MARFORD: Santo Marford (phonetic)
10 filling in for Leonard Mindee (phonetic). From
11 (inaudible)

12 MS. CANNON: Okay. Navajo Tribe.
13 (No response.)
14 Navajo Regional Office.

15 MS. EASTMAN: This is Marie Eastman. I'm
16 sitting in for Carlene Zajicek, the GPRA coordinator.

17 MS. CANNON: Northwest tribe.
18 (No response.)
19 Northwest Regional Office.

20 (No response.)
21 Pacific Tribe.
22 (No response.)

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10

1 Pacific Regional Office.

2 (No response.)

3 Rocky Mountain Tribe.

4 MS. HAMILTON: Leo Hamilton for Peck,
5 sitting in for the newly elected Chairman, Rusty
6 Stafne.

7 MS. CANNON: Okay. Rocky Mountain Regional
8 Office.

9 MS. CREE: This is Jo-Ellen Cree, the
10 governor coordinator -- co-coordinator I should say.

11 MS. JACKSON: Gordon Jackson, Deputy
12 Regional Director, Indian Services, Rocky Mountain.

13 MS. CANNON: Southern Plains Tribe.

14 MR. GAWHEGA: Michael Gawhega, Otoe-
15 Missouria Tribe, Executive Director. And Gary James,
16 Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Finance Director. Jackie
17 Jackson, tribal planner, Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

18 MS. CANNON: Okay. Could you please spell
19 the tribal name?

20 MR. GAWHEGA: Otoe-Missouria, O-T-O-E --
21 M-I-S-S-O-U-R-I-A.

22 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Southern Plains

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11

1 Regional Office.

2 MS. TALLEY: Rolanda Talley, sitting in for
3 Rose Robertson, the (inaudible) coordinator.

4 MS. CANNON: Southwest Tribe.

5 MR. OCHEGO: (Inaudible) Ochego, Pueblo of
6 Sante Ana level of Santana, Tribal Historic
7 Preservation Office, Cultural Resource Coordinator.

8 MS. CANNON: Okay. Could you please spell
9 the tribal name?

10 MR. OCHEGO: Yeah. It's Pueblo of Sante
11 Ana. S-A-N-T-E -- A-N-A.

12 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Southwest Regional
13 Office.

14 MR. WALKER: Bill Walker, Regional Director.

15 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Western Tribe.

16 (No response.)

17 Western Regional Office.

18 There may be some that have joined since I
19 started calling the regions. If you have not
20 introduced yourself and you are a tribe or a regional
21 office, or individual, could you please introduce
22 yourself at this time, and state the region and the

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12

1 tribe that you are located in.

2 MS. ARVISO: Cheryl Arviso, sitting in for
3 Ms. Sharon Pinto, Navajo Region.

4 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Anyone else?

5 MR. BALSTON: This is Rick Balston
6 (phonetic) from the native village, Nikiski, Alaska,
7 in the North Alaska Region.

8 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Anyone else from
9 the region? Regional or Tribal.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. CANNON: Okay. At this time, we will
12 have Central Office in Washington, D.C. introduce
13 themselves.

14 MR. THOMPSON: Thomas Thompson, Deputy
15 Secretary for Management.

16 MR. NEW BREAST: Ira New Breast, BIA Trust
17 and Natural Resources.

18 DR. BECK: This is Richard Beck. I'm the
19 director of Planning and Performance Management, with
20 the Office of Secretary and the Department of the
21 Interior.

22 MS. ANTONE: This is Whitney Antone, Office

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13

1 of Trust Service.

2 MS. SHUMAKER: Gail Shumaker, Office of
3 Budget Management.

4 MR. ESKEET: Emerson Eskeet, Office of
5 Facilities and Management and Construction.

6 MS. WILSON: Judy Wilson, Office of
7 Facilities, Environmental and Cultural Resources.

8 MS. MEIEROTTO: Wanda Meierotto and Heidi
9 Gordon of the Indian Land Consolidation Program.

10 MR. BIGHORN: This is Spike Bighorn,
11 Associate Deputy Director of Indian Services. I have
12 with me Terry Parks, the division chief for self-
13 determination.

14 MR. KELLER: This is Marv Keller with the
15 Division of Environmental and Cultural Resource
16 Management.

17 MR. KOENIG: Tom Koenig, Planning and
18 Performance Management.

19 MR. GILCHRIST: Mel Gilchrist, Office of
20 Planning and Performance Management.

21 MS. CANNON: Anyone else on the phone who
22 has not introduced themselves yet?

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14

1 MS. PARDO: Anne Pardo, Division of
2 Environmental and Cultural Resource Management.

3 MS. BURGESS: Courtney Burgess with the
4 Otoe-Missouria Tribe, tribal treasurer.

5 MS. CANNON: Could the last person restate -
6 - the last person who introduced themselves, I believe
7 you were tribal. Could you please state your name
8 again?

9 MS. BURGESS: Yes. Courtney Burgess, the
10 tribal treasurer for the Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

11 MS. CANNON: And could you please spell your
12 tribe?

13 MS. BURGESS: O-T-O-E hyphen M-I-S-S-O-U-
14 R-I-A.

15 MS. CANNON: Anyone else on the phone?

16 MS. SAAVEDRA: Yes. This is Jose Saavedra
17 with the Office of Internal Evaluation and Assessment.
18 And Michael Oliver will be joining me very soon.

19 MS. PENLAND: This is Teddie Penland with
20 the Office of Public Affairs.

21 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Anyone else?

22 (No response.)

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15

1 Thank you, everyone. Again, my name is Brenda Cannon.
2 I'm with the Office of Planning and Performance
3 Management, and I will be facilitating today's
4 session.

5 Thank you again for introducing yourselves.
6 As for meeting protocols, as mentioned earlier, please
7 place your phones on mute at this time when not
8 speaking. And please do not place your phone on hold
9 if you get a call.

10 Central Office program managers on the WebEx
11 today as well, and they can address questions that may
12 come up after the presentation. If an answer cannot be
13 provided today, they will work with our office and one
14 will be provided to you.

15 The DOI strives to meet its obligation under
16 President Barack Obama's commitment to engage in
17 meaningful and regular consultation that impacts
18 tribal government. A Dear Tribal Leader letter
19 announcing the two WebEx sessions was signed on
20 September 16th by Mr. Washburn, and it sent out to the
21 regions for dissemination to all tribes.

22 Although the consultation session today is

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16

1 not face-to-face, this session still serves as a
2 commitment for the Department to honor its
3 responsibility to consult the tribes and gain tribal
4 leaders' input on the proposed strategic plan.

5 At this time, we will proceed with the
6 agenda topics and we will have comments from Mr. Kevin
7 Washburn. Is he available?

8 MR. THOMPSON: Brenda, Mr. Washburn sends
9 his regrets, but he was called to a hearing over at
10 the White House and will not be able to participate.
11 So I will do opening remarks for him

12 MS. CANNON: Okay. Great. So at this time
13 we will have remarks from Mr. Tommy Thompson, the
14 Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Deputy
15 Secretary.

16 MR. THOMPSON: First of all, I would like to
17 thank each of you for participating in this very
18 important event. It's critical that we have input
19 from our tribal communities as to the direction and
20 guidance that they would like to see us move forward,
21 as outlined in the strategic plan. This is only an
22 update of the existing plan and has been in effect for

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17

1 a couple of years.

2 Any kind of strategic plan is a living
3 document. So as we move forward with the planning
4 cycle, we want to make sure that we had input that
5 recalibrates the direction that the Department and
6 Indian Affairs moves forward. And it is very critical
7 that we have the input and guidance from the tribe to
8 the direction they would like to see us move.

9 We would encourage you to present written
10 testimony if you do not feel comfortable in presenting
11 on this call. That will be available. Ms. Cannon will
12 give us the guidance as to how long we will be
13 accepting those as part of this proceeding.

14 Again, thank you for taking your time and I
15 look forward to your comment and contributions to
16 this. And we will take your advice and use it wisely
17 as we move forward and the guiding of our strategic
18 plan as we move forward here. Thank you for
19 participating.

20 MS. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. At
21 this time, we will have a presentation from Dr.
22 Richard Beck, the DOI Office of Planning and

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18

1 Performance Management.

2 DR. BECK: Okay. Let's move to the first
3 slide. I'm not planning on basically going through
4 the strategic plan itself. I mean, the reason why
5 we're having a session is more about listening to what
6 comments you have, what ideas you have, and what
7 observations you have.

8 So as you were taking a look at the
9 strategic plan, which was provided with the tribal
10 leader letter, in the existing strategic plan, I just
11 want to give you an overview of what the plan is
12 supposed to be doing for us, for those of you are
13 familiar with this. I just want to give you an
14 overview of that and basically just kind of a recap of
15 what we basically did to be able to put together this
16 plan.

17 As Tommy mentioned, we're basically working
18 on using the existing strategic plan as kind of the
19 starting point for the update of the GPRA
20 Modernization Act, which basically is the next form of
21 the original Government Performance and Results Act of
22 1993, provides for agencies now to update their

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19

1 strategic plan every four years. Well, roughly every
2 four years.

3 So as Tommy mentioned, it is a living
4 document. We do try to take a long forward look, but
5 the idea, though, is that at least we want to make
6 sure that we calibrate it every so many years.

7 So we're basically using the present plan,
8 which was for 2011 through 2016. We're looking
9 through it. We ask that you look through it as well
10 and offer any ideas or observations you have and then
11 we're going to take that and we're going to update
12 that plan and basically use it for 2014 to 2018.

13 The structure of the plan basically is that
14 it includes the agency's -- it has the agency makeup.
15 It has a description of what our mission is. And when
16 I say "our mission" I mean collectively, for the
17 Department of the Interior, which basically, as you
18 all know, ranges across probably about 10 bureaus,
19 nowadays for everything from Indian Affairs to Fish
20 and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of
21 Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and I can go
22 on, but I won't.

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20

1 So it basically takes the strategic goals
2 that integrate across all those program areas which
3 identifies what we're trying to achieve, at least
4 through 2018. It then has a collection of what we
5 call strategic objectives, which are supposed to be
6 strategies that reflect how we're going to try to
7 achieve those goals. And then it has a collection of
8 performance metrics that we use to target and track
9 annually to try to see for ourselves and to
10 demonstrate the American public and to Congress what
11 kind of progress we're making.

12 And then we basically take the strategic
13 plan and goal, its objectives and its metrics and that
14 annual update that we do is a companion document that
15 is referred to as an annual performance plan and
16 report. And that we use to basically see how we're
17 doing and progress towards those goals which are
18 established in the strategic plan.

19 We get a chance also to give a little more
20 detail in that annual performance plan and report and
21 the contributing programs and then if there is any
22 places where we are not basically achieving the goals

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21

1 or the progress to which we were hold to, we basically
2 use that document to specify what other steps or
3 alternative actions we're going to do to try to
4 improve upon that and try to help achieve those goals
5 that we have established in the plan.

6 The next slide, what you'll see that this is
7 kind of an overview of -- how this version of the
8 strategic has been working for us across the
9 Department, particularly at the government level. In
10 that this strategic plan really does help us integrate
11 our program activities across the bureaus.

12 Some goals are specific only eight bureaus.
13 Some goals are basically spread across multiple
14 bureaus. So to be able to have this overarching
15 framework that we put in the strategic plan, the
16 present version of it, is there has been hope, at
17 least, for the Department. It also helps the
18 government level because a lot of times, while
19 congressmen, representatives, OMB and even ourselves,
20 one day you would like to be able to look everything
21 on a program-by-program basis, but at the end of the
22 day, we have so many programs that we have to find

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22

1 some way to integrate them.

2 Lately in the government, there has been a
3 lot of talk about finding areas of duplication
4 fragmentation overlaps, thinking that maybe that's a
5 potential area to wait. To the extent that we have a
6 strategic plan which integrates across these programs
7 or across the bureaus into these integrated goals,
8 helps provide a sense that we are looking for those
9 areas of duplication and now basically now allowing
10 them to become potentially wasteful.

11 So we're able to cross-integrate across
12 similar programmatic activities. The other thing too
13 is that we find that when we're at the government
14 level that we basically convey a sense of what
15 progress we're making across the Department. The
16 strategic framework with these integrated goals
17 basically helps us to be able to convey that in a way
18 that is readily understandable by the public and they
19 can get a sense of what kind of progress we're making.
20 And then it also gives them kind of a launching point,
21 let's say. So that the particular areas where they
22 want to know more information, you know, they can

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23

1 basically follow it up in those particular areas and
2 we direct them there. So if there is a particular
3 goal, let's say, in the mission area that talks about
4 advancing government to government relationships with
5 Indian nations, if they have a particular question
6 this not covered in the plan, at least we have a way
7 of basically capturing their interest and then
8 directing them to the program folks who would be able
9 to give them more detailed information.

10 So that basically helps demonstrate the
11 accountability and transparency to the American
12 public. They want to know what's happening at the
13 Department of the Interior and across this bureau. So
14 this gives us a chance to at least reflect an overview
15 of that.

16 I'd also like to just take you back, the
17 next slide, to what was built into the version of the
18 strategic plan that you were taking a look at, which
19 is like our starting off point. We'd like to think
20 that we took 18 months working with bureaus and then
21 also basically conducting at least seven tribal
22 consultation session in the field and then having two

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24

1 WebEx sessions to try to get a sense of what would be
2 a more overarching, a more readily understandable
3 picture of the Department of the Interior. And that's
4 what we tried to build into this plan.

5 I just want to remind you that some of the
6 changes that occurred in this plan that we basically
7 put forth, relative to what we had previously, was
8 that first of all, just from a tribal consultation
9 level, the previous plan that we were using for 2007
10 through 2012 didn't really take advantage of tribal
11 consultation. We may have meetings with some tribes,
12 but that was conducted by my office. We were doing it
13 on kind of a limited basis. We were working with
14 (inaudible), the guy from the tribal council who
15 writes policy.

16 So the present plan that you're looking at
17 basically had the advantage of those tribal
18 consultations in those seven location.

19 The other thing about how Indian Affairs is
20 basically represented in the strategic plan, the prior
21 plan, prior to the version that you're looking at,
22 basically tribes, Alaska natives and insular areas

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25

1 were combined with a lot of other program areas in a
2 mission area that was labeled serving communities.

3 In the present plan that we're asking you to
4 take a look at, you'll notice that the dedicated
5 mission area is the government-to- government
6 relationships with Indian nations and our recommitment
7 to insular areas. So we would like to think that, to
8 the extent that we gave basically the area of Indian
9 nations and Alaska natives, you know, we basically
10 gave it more of a center stage, more of an area to
11 basically take a look at folks to see what's going;
12 what's so varied with other program activities that it
13 basically comes right up front. And you see as one of
14 the major mission areas.

15 Even as far as the areas that were
16 considered, on the next slide you see a listing of
17 some of what I basically call the strategic objectives
18 that were included in the plan. And as you can see,
19 about halfway down the list, that what was we were
20 thinking in the previous version of the plan.

21 But once we got through with the activities
22 with the bureaus and consultations back in 2010, we

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26

1 expanded what was covered in the plan to include
2 things like treaty and subsistence rights; to include
3 self-governance and self- determination, include
4 creating economic opportunities, water rights, and
5 respecting Indian cultures.

6 These are areas that were expanded in the
7 present version of the plan you're taking a look at.
8 So to the extent that we've been using this for the
9 last three to four years, I guess I could say, we've
10 been using this expanded version.

11 To some extent, it's been working fairly
12 well for us. The question is that as we move forward
13 to getting the chance to update it, do you all have
14 any ideas or observations about what we should be
15 looking at as we basically consider this plan that we
16 updated.

17 The other thing, even on a performance
18 measure level, if you go to the next slide, you'll see
19 that we basically had a collection -- all of these are
20 performance measures that we added to the plan. To
21 the extent that -- I would like to think that
22 performance measurement is not such much pass/fail

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27

1 type of arrangement or a "gotcha" kind of thing.

2 Performance measures, I like to use them to
3 basically demonstrate to the public and to the
4 Congress that we are serious about the kind of goals
5 that we put forth in the strategic plan. And that
6 we're serious enough about it that we openly track
7 what kind of progress that we're making.

8 So I don't want you to think that when we
9 say that we've expanded these performance measures in
10 these areas, these weren't done, not necessarily a
11 negative reason. They were done for a positive
12 reason.

13 They were done for transparency and
14 accountability to basically demonstrate that we're
15 willing to basically display what kind of progress
16 we're making in these areas and what we're trying to
17 achieve in those particular area.

18 This is the expansion of performance
19 measures that were covered in this existing plan right
20 now. Just to quickly recap; I mean, I don't want to
21 make this a long introduction. Like I said, I'm not
22 going to go through the details of the strategic plan.

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DOI Strategic Plan Tribal Consultation 10-30-2013

28

1 We want to hear what observations you have
2 from your review of it. So I'm going to finalize with
3 the next slide just basically to give -- I mean, the
4 updated process is that we have an opportunity to
5 update the plan. We're taking advantage of that and
6 we're basically using the existing version of the plan
7 as our starting point. And so that's why we thought
8 for the purposes of tribal consultation, to the extent
9 that we know what we've been experiencing and how it's
10 been working for us, but the question is, is that we
11 wanted to basically turn around and ask all of you, as
12 we are looking at the 2011 to 2016 plan, reviewing it
13 and trying to update it, what observations do you have
14 to share with us as part of that update process.

15 So I just wanted to give you that overview.
16 Just kind of take you back a little bit as to what we
17 tried to put in this plan. I'm going to turn it over
18 back to Brenda.

19 MS. CANNON: Thank you, Dr. Beck. At this
20 time, what we will do is we will have some brief
21 remarks from the programs so that they can share with
22 us some of their accomplishments or obstacles based on

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29

1 the chances that were made to the current plan from
2 the previous plan.

3 Do we have Mr. Jack Stevens on the line?

4 MR. STEVENS: I am here, Brenda.

5 MS. CANNON: Okay. Jack is going to give us
6 an update on creating economic opportunities.

7 MR. STEVENS: Well, of course, we're very
8 enthusiast about adding and creating economic
9 development opportunities and strategic objectives.
10 For those on this call live in or work in or even
11 travel to needed communities, the issue is self-
12 evident.

13 Here are the latest statistics which I've
14 taken from the U.S. Census Bureau. A greater
15 percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives were
16 unemployed between 2007 and 2011 than any other U.S.
17 racial group. And for this group, the poverty rate
18 during that period was 27 percent. That's 13
19 percentage points higher than the poverty rate for
20 total U.S. population. And at the same time, over 48
21 percent of Native Americans in South Dakota and over
22 41 percent in North Dakota were living in poverty.

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DOI Strategic Plan Tribal Consultation 10-30-2013

30

1 If you'd like, Brenda, I can describe the
2 approaches to ameliorating these conditions.

3 MS. CANNON: Yes. Could you, please?

4 MR. STEVENS: Basically, there are four
5 feasibility studies for economic development projects
6 that become due diligence for obtaining access to
7 capital, being one of the major reasons why businesses
8 don't prosper in Indian country. Creating jobs and
9 putting revenue into Native American communities by
10 linking tribal and native businesses with federal and
11 private sector procurement opportunities.

12 Thirdly, helping tribes build the legal
13 infrastructure that is indispensable to economic
14 progress. That means business codes and commercial
15 codes, creating legal stability in the Indian country.
16 And then finally, funding training by national experts
17 to provide native people with the entrepreneurial and
18 business skills to succeed.

19 MS. CANNON: Great. Thank you. And that's
20 a great lead into the job placement and training
21 program, which is also under the economic development
22 area.

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DOI Strategic Plan Tribal Consultation 10-30-2013

31

1 Is Mr. James West on the line?

2 (No response.)

3 If your phone is muted, we can't hear you. Otherwise,
4 Jack, would you like to talk about that at all?

5 MR. STEVENS: Well, yes. The job placement
6 and training program -- James is better versed than I
7 am, but I'll fill in as I can -- is a program that
8 really goes beyond -- the name makes it sound like
9 this is simply a program to find work. And really,
10 it's much broader than that. It's a program to
11 prepare unemployed and under-employed people for
12 gainful employment, sustainable employment.

13 In our latest GPPA report, we found that of
14 those tribes reporting, that 96 percent of the
15 participants in job placement training, obtained
16 unsubsidized employment or they completed employment
17 training, obtained a certification or license or
18 overcame a barrier to unemployment, such as obtaining
19 childcare or transportation to the job site. This was
20 accomplished at an average cost per individual of
21 \$2,590. And during the third and fourth quarters,
22 dropped as low as \$1,695 cost per individual.

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32

1 So the theme, as with many of these
2 government programs, is accomplishing more with less
3 because the job placement and training share for the
4 tribal participants was slightly lower than in FY12,
5 four percent lower.

6 MS. CANNON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Stevens.
7 At this time, we'll have someone speak on self-
8 determination accomplishments based on the changes for
9 this current plan. Mr. Bighorn or Mr. Parks.

10 MR. PARKS: This is Jerry Parks, division
11 chief for Self-Determination. What I wanted to touch
12 on real quick is that our office is in charge of
13 distributing contracts, support costs, and doing a
14 contract support cost shortfall, annually. And I want
15 to let you know that we move the money from our office
16 at the proportion that to the budget offices to
17 distribute to the regions within one or three days of
18 the report annually, at a 100 percent of what is
19 appropriated.

20 I think in 2012, we distributed \$219 million
21 and some change. The shortfall report that was
22 completed has been done annually since 2009, with

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33

1 surnames, and distributed up the surname as of April
2 of last year. I think they finally got it submitted
3 to Congress in the middle of June.

4 Currently we have 50 awarded officials
5 around the country that are stationed at the regions
6 of the agency. And these awarding officials awarded
7 BIA program dollars, about \$750 million. This last
8 year, we had 1,800 contracts that were awarded and
9 were eligible for contracts or cost negotiations and
10 identify the award.

11 The total amount of the contracts award is
12 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which has also
13 bolstered money from transportation, federal highways,
14 Department of Health and Human Services, Department of
15 Labor. So it was 1.3 million.

16 Some of the oversight responsibilities that
17 my office does is we monitor the regions to make sure
18 they are in compliance with A1-33 and that the
19 regional awarding officials and agencies are making
20 management decisions within the 180-day time frame.
21 And we also monitor the portion of the law that says
22 that if we don't approve an award or contract within

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34

1 90 days, that it's automatically approved.

2 Even though we are not responsible for the
3 (inaudible) process, we do monitor that and notify the
4 regional agency of the time frames on a regular basis.

5 MS. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Parks. And at
6 this time, we'll have Ms. Whitney Antone, from the
7 Office of Trust Services give us an update for Trust
8 Services, in particular the subsistence.

9 MS. ANTONE: Hi, Brenda. This is Whitney.
10 Can you hear me okay?

11 MS. CANNON: I can. Can everyone else hear
12 Whitney okay.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

14 MS. ANTONE: (Speaker too far from
15 microphone)

16 All right. (Inaudible) was created in 2011 to apply
17 to all tribe and Alaska natives. But after a year of
18 collecting data on that, it became apparent that it
19 was all very relevant for tribes (inaudible)
20 coordinate states and was (inaudible) 2012 to
21 (inaudible) and their team, we actually modified it
22 again to change the way that this measure is better.

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35

1 Instead of collecting data to increase the
2 project from year-to-year, they were collecting data
3 on the number of Alaska entities that are involved
4 with these projects.

5 MS. CANNON: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Antone.

6 MS. ANTONE: You're welcome.

7 MS. CANNON: At this time, are there any
8 other programs? Those were the programs that I was
9 aware that wanted to share. Are there any other
10 programs on the phone that have anything that they
11 would to share? I do not want to omit you.

12 (No response.)

13 Okay. Before we move forward and take comments from
14 the tribes, I would like to do a roll call one last
15 time. If there is anyone on the phone who has not had
16 an opportunity to state their name and the tribe or
17 region that they are located in, could you please do
18 so at this time?

19 MR. EAGLE: Can you hear me?

20 MS. CANNON: Yes.

21 MR. EAGLE: I am David Eagle. I'm the
22 economic program coordinator for the Standing Rock

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36

1 Sioux Tribe.

2 MS. CANNON: Thank you. Anyone else?

3 (No response.)

4 Okay. So now we will open up the call for tribes to
5 provide any comments, suggestions or questions. When
6 making your comment or suggestions, please make sure
7 you state your name and the tribal affiliation prior
8 to your comment.

9 (No response.)

10 Any comments or questions at this time?

11 (No response.)

12 Okay. I'll just kind of throw some questions out,
13 just for thought. And you don't have to answer them
14 now. You can always send an email. Again, the email
15 address is spconsultation@bia.gov. But one question
16 that we would like to ask is, is the current framework
17 adequate for you? The mission areas, the goals, the
18 strategies?

19 (No response.)

20 Another question: are there any other areas
21 that you would like to see covered in the strategic
22 plan or the framework?

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37

1 (No response.)

2 And lastly, where do you want to go from here, based
3 on the accomplishments that we've made over the last
4 strategic plan?

5 Where do you see the organization, going
6 forward?

7 Any comments from any of the tribes?

8 MR. GORENFLO: I have a comment. This is
9 Tom Gorenflo from the Chippewa Ottawa Resource
10 Authority. It may be as much as a comment as a
11 question, but one of the struggles we've been having
12 in recent years is with procuring base -- what we call
13 "base" funding from the Federal Government for ongoing
14 management of off reservation -- affirmed off
15 reservation treaty rights.

16 In our particular case in the Great Lakes,
17 that would include the work we do under a
18 federal/state and 5 Tribe Consent Decree. Many of the
19 plans such as this seem to want to stress specific
20 projects as opposed to ongoing management and they
21 look in Mission Area 3, and the strategy. And then
22 down in the performance measure, Strategy I and the

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38

1 performance measures, again seems to be -- the
2 performance measures seem to look at specific
3 projects, as opposed to ongoing base funding to carry
4 out management obligations and Consent Decree
5 obligations.

6 So I'm wondering if you feel that the way
7 it's written out, adequately covers the Trust
8 responsibility through funding for ongoing management,
9 as opposed to special projects or studies and that
10 type of thing.

11 MS. CANNON: I'm sorry. Just to make sure
12 that I have the correct mission area on the screen,
13 could you restate the Mission Area again?

14 MR. GORENFLO: Mission Area 3. Where
15 Strategy 1 is to protect Indian Treaty and Subsistence
16 Rights. And also it refers, throughout that, to
17 subsistence, when in our case, the treaty rights
18 includes commercial, commercial fishing rights.

19 Your definition of "subsistence" may include
20 that, but it doesn't state that.

21 DR. BECK: Also, too, if I understand you
22 correctly, you're talking about subsistence activity

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39

1 also that basically is not just in Alaska.

2 So to the extent that -- I mean, one of the
3 things that I think we'll have to talk about here in
4 Washington is that if the present subsistence goal and
5 subsistence measure is only for Alaska natives, then
6 the question becomes how do we expand that to cover
7 other subsistence activities that basically are in a
8 lower 48. I think that's something we need to take a
9 look at here, based on your comment.

10 MR. GORENFLO: Yeah. Ours is commercial and
11 subsistence. These are court-affirmed and also
12 negotiated through consent decrees, which include the
13 Federal Government as a party.

14 I don't know if my question is clear. I
15 just want to know if you feel that the way the
16 strategic plan is written out that it supports
17 continued funding for ongoing management and
18 allocation style management for affirmed treaty
19 rights.

20 DR. BECK: Again, switch back, I think
21 that's something else that we're going to have to talk
22 about here because, you know, we have to explore to

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40

1 what extent that there is some kind of -- if there is
2 a regular vehicle by which that occurred; is the
3 programmatic activity that supports it and to see how
4 it applies. We'll have to basically put that down as
5 one of the things we'll have to explore.

6 MR. GORENFLO: Sure. To be clear, we do
7 have, almost for three decades now, we have received
8 base funding from the Federal Government for these
9 purposes. So it's in place, but my question and where
10 I'm going is: Does your strategic plan recognize that
11 for the future? That's kind of what I'm getting at.

12 Especially with all the budget issues going
13 on in Washington, I'm not sure... and for further
14 clarification, the funding that I'm talking about
15 comes under the Rights Protection Implementation line
16 in BIA. And there is about five or six intertribal
17 organizations across the country that have these off
18 reservations -- on and off reservation treaty rights
19 affirmed.

20 DR. BECK: I mean, I can't answer your
21 question directly. I have to give it some thought
22 because typically, with the strategic plan, we're

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41

1 trying to look for outcomes, which are associated with
2 the benefits. To the extent that you're talking about
3 something that for most government programs we
4 wouldn't consider it a strategic plan. To the extent
5 that this has to do with basically treaty rights, and
6 potentially could be considered to be an outcome in
7 itself to basically ensure that adequate funding is in
8 place, basically to look at management activities.

9 I mean, funding actions will be tried to
10 handle through the budget and not so much in the
11 strategic plan. So we basically are going to have to
12 consider to what extent -- you mentioned which budget
13 line it comes out of, so that will actually help us
14 find the programs associated with it and then the
15 question becomes to what extent -- is there something
16 we want to target and we want to basically track on a
17 regular basis, relative to how that program is
18 performing.

19 I mean, if it's just a budget issue, then we
20 don't tend to not -- you know, we tend not to address
21 it directly in the strategic plan or looking more
22 about what the benefit of what the programs and

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42

1 projects are involved. And that's one of the things
2 we'll have to think about is what you're talking about
3 is really more of a program activity than a funding
4 activity. So that's what we'll have to take a look
5 at. So that's a good point to bring up.

6 You got that noted, Brenda, right?

7 MS. CANNON: Yes.

8 DR. BECK: Okay.

9 MS. CANNON: Any other questions or
10 comments?

11 (No response.)

12 And now that everyone could see the actual framework
13 on the screen, these are the areas -- the mission
14 areas and the strategies for Indian Affairs.

15 Dr. Beck, would November 15th date be okay
16 as a deadline for comments?

17 DR. BECK: I think we can handle that. Once
18 upon a time, you know, we put it down for two weeks
19 and we've lost a lot of time. I think November 15th
20 would be a fine deadline.

21 MS. CANNON: Again, the letter that went out
22 around September 15th, we had requested that comments

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43

1 be sent in to that email address,
2 spconsultation@bia.gov. I checked again this morning.

3 MR. EAGLE: This is David Eagle from
4 Standing Rock. How are you doing?

5 MS. CANNON: Good.

6 MR. EAGLE: On your deadline there, I may
7 have some comments a little later on, and thank you
8 for extending that. This just came across my desk
9 this morning.

10 MS. CANNON: Okay.

11 MR. EAGLE: Thank you.

12 MS. CANNON: In closing, I've stated
13 throughout the WebEx session that tribes provided
14 valuable input in the framework that you see on the
15 screen and the development of the Department of
16 Interior Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2011 to 2016.

17 Again, we would like to take this
18 opportunity to thank you again for your invaluable
19 support during this effort.

20 You, as well as your tribal leaders, who are
21 not present on today's call still have an opportunity
22 to provide additional comment and/or suggestions. And

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DOI Strategic Plan Tribal Consultation 10-30-2013

44

1 again, the WebEx email address to send comments to is
2 spcconsultation@bia.gov.

3 Thank you. And this concludes the DOI
4 Strategic Plan Tribal Consultation WebEx session for
5 October 30, 2013.

6 (Whereupon, at 2:00 p.m., the meeting
7 was concluded.)

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45

1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

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3 I, GERVEL A. WATTS, the officer before whom the
4 foregoing telephone conference was taken, do hereby
5 certify that the testimony that appears in the
6 foregoing pages was recorded by me and thereafter
7 reduced to typewriting under my direction; that said
8 telephone conference is a true record of the
9 proceedings; that I am neither counsel for, related
10 to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action
11 in which this testimony was taken; and further, that I
12 am not a relative or employee of any counsel or
13 attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor
14 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
15 this action.

16

17

18

GERVEL A. WATTS
Notary Public in and for the
State of Maryland

19

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21 My commission expires: June 7, 2016

22