

**BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council  
Hilton Washington Hotel**

**March 14, 2008**

**Approval of Agenda**

**FY 2009 Indian Affairs Budget Presentation**

Mary Jane Miller presented power point.

A question was raised about the status of regulations. Response: BIA is working on draft regulations and consultation will likely occur on the issue. A comment was made from the tribal representatives that it's important for major changes should be included in the regulations not only in the budget process: if BIA is proposing to cut funding out of general assistance to not provide GA for single employables, the regulations should reflect this before the budget is enacted.

A question was asked about why the tribal colleges were not funded (UTTC and NTC) in neither BIA or under Carl Perkins. The BIA responded that the authorizing legislation limits BIA funding to one tribal college per tribe and UTTC and NTC. The tribal representative noted there's not enough funding and it's difficult to amend the original act.

Another question was asked by a tribal representative on how the Indian guaranteed loan rate is calculated. BIA said it is a complex formula and the Office of Management and Budget analyst should explain it.

Question on earmarks: a tribal representative said that tribes are challenged by the issue of earmarks. The tribal caucus passed around a list of programs that are considered earmarks by OMB and Congress. The tribal caucus decided that the programs considered earmarks should not be considered as such but are recurring programs and should be treated as such. Tribes were in full concurrence that these recurring programs should continue with full funding.

A tribal representative from Alaska asked who at BIA was championing the general assistance cuts. In Alaska, there are not enough jobs at all and general assistance helps provide money for utilities and other services, often in the form of vouchers. BIA responded that the GA cut is mostly to meet the reduced target level of funding for BIA. The focus of BIA in the budget process for FY2010 planning is to have fewer programs with larger pots of funding for those programs. The BIA representative said consultation will be important to this process of reducing funding for general assistance. The regulations need to be properly written.

A question was asked about why the detention facility study costs \$1 million. There was discussion that the assessment costs \$500,000 and the longer term plan costs \$500,000. A BIA representative said it's a shame that statements from tribal leaders aren't enough to convince congress of the deplorable conditions of jails and the justice system in Indian Country, but an outside study should finally help convince lawmakers of the situation.

Wallace Coffey made a motion that TBAC supports the restoring of funding to United Tribes Technical College. Motion carries.

President Joe Garcia asked what more can TBAC do? A lot of what happens is information sharing. Nobody has direct control over the budget: there's the Office of Management and Budget, the President, the budget committees in Congress. This group TBAC provides data. We will have an opportunity with the next administration as well. There was a suggestion to have TBAC meeting include congressional meetings.

Wallace Coffey asked for a list of appropriators.

A comment was made on indirect contract support costs – we do not have full contract support costs.

### **New Business**

Fixed Costs Resolution: overview by Dave Conner. Amended. Resolution passes.

Carryover Resolution. Resolution passes.

Wallace Coffey offered to fund the May TBAC meeting coffee break.

Mark Montano made a motion to have a primer on appropriations developed for TBAC members. A comment was made that NCAI has a budget working group that can develop this information.

A question was asked about where the rescission of IT money went?

### **Data Management Update**

#### Business Plan Outline

*Updated Draft: March 12, 2008*

- I. Subcommittee Purpose (as stated in the Charter)
- II. Federal/Tribal Members
- III. Priorities/Goals
  - a. Short-term (*March 2008-August 2008*)

- i. IT System Development
  - 1. Review ABCM Module
  - 2. Provide recommendations regarding incorporation and input of tribal performance measures
  - 3. Present to SG Tribes at Spring conference
  - 4. Make presentation to other Tribes
  - 5. Incorporate feedback and recommendations
  - 6. Review and develop inter-face with Tribal systems
  
- ii. Develop a standard reporting format
  - 1. Define program data elements for each program
  - 2. Track status of OMB's clearance for standard forms
  - 3. Meet with OMB to discuss BIA/Tribal reporting issues
  
- iii. Review and Update Indian Affairs Policy for Data Management
  - 1. Review existing draft policy
  - 2. Meet with CIO and IT staff
  - 3. Review existing regulatory and statutory requirements
  - 4. Update Policy

b. Long-term (*August 2008-March 2009*)

- i. Establish Centralized Data Office
- ii. Develop Training Modules for Tribes

IV. Subcommittee Budget

The DMS anticipates approximately 8 meetings over the coming 12 months. The DMS recommends that funding for these tribal reimbursements be transferred and administered by a tribal government. This practice has been done in the past and greatly streamlines the processing and reimbursement process of tribal subcommittee members.

The following budget represents travel for 6 Tribal representatives (Tribal co-chair and 5 committee members) and related meeting expenses associated with DMS activities:

Travel/Airfare (6Tribal Committee Members x 8 meetings x \$1,100)	\$52,800
Meeting Space (8 meeting rooms x \$750.00)	\$ 6,000
Teleconferences (8 teleconferences)	\$ 5,000

Materials, printing, copying	\$ 5,000
Hotel/MI&E (8meetings x 3 nights x \$300.00 x 6 members)	<u>\$43,200</u>
<b>Total Budget Need:</b>	<b>\$112,000</b>

### **Modernization Update**

The next meeting will go over the budget, probate and there will be breakout sessions. The meeting will address the top ten problems. A question was asked whether people can call into the meeting. Another question was asked whether the sessions will be posted on the DOI website. Majel Russell said there will be summaries on the NCAI website. Powerpoints are posted as well. The Dear Tribal Leader letter is posted too. Carl Artman wants modernization to be led by the tribes.