

MINUTES

UNITED NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSOCIATION

APRIL 19, 2021 MEETING – ON ZOOM

Meeting was called to order at 9:06 MDT. A quorum established by Chairwoman Vogel. Seventeen members were present on Zoom. (List attached)

A blessing was provided by Patrick Goggles, Northern Arapaho Housing Authority

Special guest, Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Affordable Housing Coalition presented to the membership. Ms. Yentel outlined the work of the Coalition and recognized the contributions of Pinky Clifford, from Pine Ridge over her nine years on the Board. She also announce that Sharon Vogel had been selected as a new Board members for the Coalition. Ms. Yentel outlined the important work of the Coalition and success they felt they had with current Congress. She also recognized the support and partnership with UNAHA. She spoke for approximately 15 minutes and encouraged all to get involved with their leadership to continue to advocate for increased Indian Housing funding.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Lower Brule, and a second by Fort Belknap, carried unanimously.

Minutes of December 17, 2020 UNAHA meeting, emailed to all of the members, was approved on a motion by Northern Ponca, second by Lower Brule, unanimous.

Chairwoman Vogel gave her report. She thanked the membership for staying engaged and working hard through the Covid Crisis, she also thanked the officers, attorneys and administrators for extra duty during this time. We have accomplished a great deal, but have much yet to achieve. She expressed her gratitude for the additional funding and amounts in the Covid relief passed by Congress. She gave credit to Diane Yentel and her staff as well as Pinky Clifford credit for making sure the tribes and tdhes were included in the relief programs at the high level they approved at. She told the membership that it was her goal to work to get NAHASDA reauthorized this year.

The Treasure's report was provided by Joey Nathan, UNAHA Treasurer. Due to the fact that dues were recently paid, (100%) the Current cash/equity currently stands at \$113,557.05. We do have some expenses coming up. No questions were asked and the report was unanimously approved on a motion by Fort Belknap, second by Lower Brule.

HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Heidi Frechette was in attendance with most of her staff and gave updates on activities of the Office of Native American Programs. She recognized how difficult it was for housing agencies to conduct normal business and keep up with three Covid

related funding bills. She announced the successful recent competitive IHBG funding. In all over \$90 Million in competitive funding was awarded. The UNAHA membership received nearly a quarter of the total: \$24,137,590 by the following tribes: Fort Belknap Housing Authority, Duck Valley Housing Authority, Crow Creek Housing Authority, Oglala Lakota Housing Authority, and Eastern Shoshone Housing Authority. Ms. Frechette also recognized the leadership of UNAHA and reported that her office and the Assistant Secretary's office had been holding weekly meetings since the Covid crisis began. UNAHA was represented at nearly all of the meetings.

Randy Akers and his staff from Denver ONAP reported that overall he was proud of the Region VIII tribes and their performance in all of the HUD funding opportunities. His staff is mostly still working from home but things are starting to open up. Lori Roget announced that 435 forms can now be submitted in EPIC, this also includes all required 425s for ICDBG as well. She also reported that progress was being made regarding environmental reviews on co-funded projects utilizing NAHASDA funding. Amber Hunter discussed APRs and how some have been impacted by Covid, please request extension if you have had trouble completing the report. She also noted that in addition to regular IHP APR, each tribe will have to provide IHP and APR on Covid Generated IHP funding. Any questions, please call her or look on Code Talk. Katie Gloystein reported that ONAP/NAIHC training continues. 2021 Training schedule is available on Code Talk. All trainings are still virtual, however some in person TA sessions are being considered. TA needs are growing, pipe line to get it out is slow. National HUD Indian Housing Summit is tentatively planned for August.

After a break, NAIHC Executive Director Tony Walters provided a legislative overview of the past six months and offered a forecast of the next six months. He shared that the training program was staying active with all training and technical assistance being provided virtually. He recognized that going forward, that format might have a place with certain trainings. They are hoping to get back to in person TA by end of summer.

Tony reported that the annual meeting was again postponed due to covid but that NAIHC was hoping to have winter Legal Symposium in person in Las Vegas. He was also hopeful the reauthorization of NAHASDA might happen this year because the House, Senate and President were all held by the Democrats. He reviewed the amounts of funding allocated to tribes and housing programs in the first three Covid relief packages and also was hopeful that the President's infrastructure plan would offer more capital assistance for Indian Country.

NAIHC Board members Sharon Vogel Region III and Patrick Goggles Region V spoke. Sharon thanked Tony Walters for his leadership and knowledge of Capitol Hill. She expressed that it really is a team effort to achieve the funding offered to tribal communities in the past year. Patrick shared that he too was grateful for Tony and his staff. The organization is working quite well now.

Derek Valdo, AMERIND Risk CEO was present to provide a company update. He provided and update of claims and company performance. It has been a difficult year with higher than budgeted claims. He also reported that due to market forces the investment fund had not met goals. He did share that UNAHA was to receive up to \$40,000 in incentives for the last operating year. He said 70% of fire claims in dollar volume were caused by people. He too shared that the joint annual meeting with NAIHC was postponed until May of 2022.

Pat Goggles and Jeannie Thompson, Regional Amerind Board Representatives shared their impressions of the company operations and Board involvement. Chairwoman Vogel suggested that maybe AMERIND Risk reinstate an advisory group to work with the Board to identify methods to bring down claims and costs to the company impacting the premiums charged. Mr. Valdo was agreeable to ask Board to consider that.

Tedd Buelow, National Native American Coordinator for USDA Rural Development was in attendance to report on the efforts of RD to respond to UNAHA requests to provide more in-depth training on their programs. Tedd reported that Montana tribes recently received a two day training (April 6-7) on the 502 and 504 programs. This training was provided by the Montana professional staff. Part of the goal was to get tribes familiar with state RD representatives and to begin a professional relationship to get projects off the ground. More trainings are planned for each state maybe two per year.

After lunch, Dave Heisterkamp and Sylvia Wirba from Wagenlander and Heisterkamp provided additional information on status of federal legislation likely impact tribes and housing programs. They will be providing in depth training tomorrow to assist UNAHA members in applying the several new funding sources created by the three Covid related assistance bills.

The membership nominated and elected a new Secretary, Harlan Mount, Executive Director of the Fort Belknap Housing Authority, on a motion by Northern Arapaho and a second by Salish and Kootenai. There were no other nominations and the vote was unanimous.

Election of the open AMERIND Board seat was tabled until the Region V Tribes were able to caucus. Maybe at the July meeting. In the interim, Patrick Goggles is ably fulfilling the role.

Bob Gauthier provided the Administrators report. Things have been busy. We worked with the USDA folks to hold 502 and 504 training for the Montana Tribes April 6th and 7th. Training, provide by Montana RD staff, went extremely well. At some point, each of the UNAHA members will participate in a state by state USDA training. Stay Posted. Bob Thanked the UNAHA officers for their hard work.

UNAHA Associate Members present were given an opportunity to address the membership and discuss a little about their businesses. We are grateful for our associate members for helping to make UNAHA a strong organization. All of them reported that they would be grateful for in person meetings as soon as possible. They look for meeting those members that they don't know.

Chairwoman Vogel thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting and reminded all that the training tomorrow would cover the Emergency Rental Program and other Covid related funding. It will begin at 8:30 am. A new Zoom invite will be sent out.

At 2:45 pm, there was a motion to adjourn by Fort Belknap, second by Lower Brule, unanimous.

Harlan Mount – Secretary UNAHA