

**Travel Report for United Tribes of Michigan Meeting
New Buffalo, MI – October 9 and 10, 2012
Councilor Winnay Wemigwase**

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, I attended a training titled “Building Strong Sovereign Nations. This training was presented by tribal officials and staff of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. We began with a presentation by Michele Stanley, Dist. 3 Council Member At-Large for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Robert Kewaygoshkum, Tribal Council Treasurer for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The title of their presentation was “Leadership: Ethics, Roles and Responsibilities.” The next session was presented by Albert Colby Jr., LTBB Tribal Administrator and Donna Swallows, Fiscal Manager for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The title of their presentation was “Fiscal Management in Indian Country.” Following this presentation, we were educated on the history of tribes and the federal government by JoAnne Gasco, Tribal Council Member for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director for the United Tribes of Michigan. The title of their presentation was “Historical Overview: Anishinaabek Tribes in Michigan and The Interaction with State and Federal Governments.” The last session we had was conducted by a Ms. Julie Pioch from Michigan State University Extension titled, “Conducting Effective Meetings.” I have retained all of the hand-outs and PowerPoint slides that were printed out for us if anyone would like to review the information we received.

In the evening, we attended a United Tribes of Michigan Dinner Meeting. While we enjoyed a delicious dinner provided to us by the Four Winds Casino Resort and “Mno Bmadsen,” we listened to a presentation by a Ms. Gwen Carr from the Tribal Procurement Technical Assistance Center. She explained to us the purpose of “FACC-PTAC” which is an agreement that provides training, events and technical assistance for tribally-owned and Native-owned businesses. There is an emphasis on obtaining government contracts with local, state and federal governments for tribes and other Native-owned

contractors. She will be an excellent resource if/when we start to finally obtain our Federal 8A status and begin to look for government contracting as an addition to our economic development for LTBB.

On Wednesday, October 10, 2012, the fall, quarterly meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan took place. The agenda was as follows (with some of my notes):

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

8:00 AM Opening Ceremony – presentation of flags, opening prayer
8:10 AM Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Agenda – President Romanelli
8:15 AM Approval of Minutes: 8-23-2012
8:20 AM President’s Comments – Ogema Larry Romanelli
8:30 AM Welcome, Chairman Matthew Wesaw, PBPI
8:40 AM Welcome, Troy Clay, Mno Bmadsen
8:50 AM Treasurer’s Report – Chairman Dexter McNamara
9:00 AM Executive Directors Report – Frank Ettawageshik
See attached and scanned, written report from Frank E.
9:15 AM Honoring Our Children Initiative – Michelle Willis, ITC
Will be having a one-day conference meeting regarding this program on November 9, 2012 in Sault Ste. Marie, MI I am scheduled to attend this on the day after the UTM Special Meeting on Health in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.
9:45 AM Legal Update - Brian Pierson
10:15 AM Break

10:30 AM MI DCR – program update , Lori Vinson
Provided information in red folders given to each tribe: Regina has one
10:50 AM MI DCR – Tuition Waiver – Melissa Claramunt
11:10 AM Proposed State Wolf Hunt – UTM Resolution in Opposition
023-10-10-2012: motion passes and are going to add biological data to stress the point that there isn’t a need to do a hunt based on over-population.
11:25 AM Tribal Leaders Open Discussion
11:45 AM Lunch – Sponsored by Mno Bmadsen
12:30 PM MEDC- Terri Fitzpatrick
12:45 PM Tribal Officials Risks due to Errors & Omissions
John Link –Cottingham & Butler
Importance of including the Errors and Omissions coverage to your insurance for tribes. “What happens when, as a tribal official, you make a decision that comes back to bite you?”
1:15 PM Midwest Area Health Board – discussion of proposed by-laws
Discussed the importance of attending both the UTM Special Meeting and the upcoming MAST meeting
1:45 PM MI-Shiga Sister State High School Exchange Program
Gerry Congleton

Provided handouts and brochures regarding the student exchange program between Michigan and “Shiga,” Japan. Shiga, Japan is the State of Michigan’s Sister City. There is a program that provides learning opportunities for high school students for two-week periods. I gave my brochures to the Harbor Springs High School Counselor.

- 2:15 PM NCAI Update – Chairman Wesaw, NCAI Midwest Vice President
There are nine (9) constitutional amendments to be voted on at the upcoming 2012 NCAI Convention and Marketplace being held in Sacramento, CA. I am scheduled to attend this conference.
- 2:45 PM Tribal Leaders Open Discussion
- 2:55 PM Closing remarks and Adjourn

I would like to thank LTBB Tribal Council and my fellow citizens for allowing me to attend the training and the meeting. Miigwech.