



**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740**

Tribal Council Travel Report Narrative

Name: Julie Shananaquet, TC Member	Date: March 24, 2014
Training: 28 th Annual National RES 2014	Date: March 16-21, 2014

I respectfully submit this report to my fellow tribal council members and the citizens of LTBB.

This report represents my opinion of the materials presented at the above stated training.

(Sunday) – Travel Day 03/16/14. Arrived at Pellston Airport at 5:20 a.m.(EST) with check in at final destination 10:06 a.m. (PTZ)

(Monday - Thursday) – 03/17-20/14 Annual RES Tracks

Monday morning activities were pretty much limited to registration, Expo Orientation, and Scholarship Golf Classic.

Upon registration, Councilor Wemigwase and I reviewed the week's agenda and selected the various tracks to gather as much info as possible.

Bitcoin 101 & 102, Presented by Blake Trueblood – Attorney at Law and Partner, Mearkle, Trueblood and Adam (MTA), PLLC

These tracks promoted the movement of a new decentralized digital currency which eliminates the need for a third party processor in e-commerce. Because of the newness of method of payment and e-commerce trade, not many tribes have opted into this method of finance. One of the drawbacks is the lack of regulations. Mr. Trueblood recommended researching the Oglala Sioux, who have gone as far as minting their own currency. Rather than rewrite the entire presentation I am including a condensed version as Attachment.

Global Enterprise – Unifying Indian Country to Engage in Economic Development Opportunities Globally, Presented by Robert Shade, Director NCAIED's Native American Global Trade Center and;

AGRI-BIZ – Engaging Agricultural Economic Development Opportunities Globally, Presented by Ross Racine, Intertribal Agriculture Council Bill Wimberley, Robert Shade, Alan Parker. and;

Supply Chain – Full Circle Solutions: Providing Cost Savings Opportunities in Supply Chain Management, Presented by Justin Bennett, President and CFO Ongweoweh Corp.

In selecting the above tracks it was my hope to attain a semblance of comprehensive strategy for future agriculture opportunities with the Tribes recent purchase of farmland. It is my belief, and reiterated by a couple of presenters from Global Enterprise and AGRI-BIZ tracks and by guest keynote speaker, Zach Ducheneaux, at the Small Business Showcase and Award Luncheon that if done correctly, more money can be made by tribes in participating in global agriculture/meat trade than gaming, and until recently RES has not given Agricultural development serious consideration. I also had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Bill Wimberley who stated during the presentation that he will be involved in setting up a farm from stage one to export of product and I believe continued contact and observation of process will assist in the full success of our own farm.

Although the latest census for data presented was the 2007 Census, the numbers show a significant rise since the 2002 Census. Of 79,703 American Indian or Alaska Native operators on 61,472 farms and ranches across the United States, more than a quarter of these operators also reported another race. This count of American Indian or Alaska Native operators grew 88 percent from 2002, significantly outpacing the 7 percent increase in U.S. farm operators overall. There were a total of 55,889 American Indian operators who reported American Indian or Alaska Native as their only race in 2007. Of these, 34,706 were principal operators, up 124 percent from 2002. The states with the highest percentage of American Indian principal farm operators are: Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma and Montana. When compared to all farms nationwide, those with American Indian or Alaska Native principal operators tend to be smaller in terms of sales but significantly larger in size. Since 2002, the number of American Indian principal operators who are women grew 318 percent, to 29 percent of the total number of American Indian principal operators. All women American Indian operators increased 169 percent, to 41 percent of the total number of American Indian operators.

FARM/RANCH OPERATIONS	All Farms	American Indian Operated Farms
Average Size of Farm	418 acres	1,431 acres
Average Value of Sales	\$134,807	\$40,331
Sales & Government Payments <\$10,000	58%	78%

I offer my apologies for not being able to list other statistical data, but my telephone pictures of the data boards (i.e. top livestock data and export data, additional regulations required for exporting) were horrible. However, the presenter stated that the 2012 Census data will soon be released and I will include contact information for presenters for Councilors wishing to make contact.

Mr. Shade and Mr. Ross Racine discussed the importance of global trade and negotiating prices that are comparable with other exporters. Although new businesses want to get their foot into the door and establish credibility and quality service be careful not to cut yourself short. Discussion also included Oriental companies interest in partnering with native American tribes, the break out market in greenhouse technologies, EB5 – Low interest Asian Loans, First Nations good example of MOU's with other tribes for product trades, request for Native Tribes and citizens to support tax bill regarding "access to credit". Note: All exports are currently following federal requirements.

As part of the exporting portion, I attended the supply chain track which was not what I expected, this track involved a small company promoting the use of their company's pallet business and the recycling process and creation of new product for package and use .

Economic Development – Economic Development Opportunities within the Administration for Native Americans, Presenters: Lillian Sparks - ANA Commissioner, Michelle Sauve - Tribal Consultant, Rondelle Clay – ANA Eastern Region Director

Discussion during this track included:

Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) which interestingly enough included sustainable food and value added agriculture(!) among other projects such as professional development, skill training for green trades, marketing and expansion of existing tribal enterprises.

Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS) which must be a 5 Year Project, \$500,000 Ceiling Amount per budget year and Projects must: Create jobs, Create or expand businesses, Increase revenues generated, Increase number of Native Americans employed and Keep the jobs and revenues in the community. and, Native Asset Building Initiative (NABI) funding projects, funding from the Office of Community Services, must be a 5 year project and address a wealth gap.

Check the website for number of projects funded, deadline application dates and proposed regulation changes.

Business Plan Development – Business Plan Improvements Workshop

Presenters: Pat Parker, Clyde Gooden, Joan Timeche

Discussion included how to improve your company's business plan and financial analysis. Due to the large number of attendees (SRO) there were short of worksheets handouts used in this presentation. I did leave my card with Ms. Timeche and requested a copy of track handouts. The track followed the information provided in the handouts so I am unable to list all the items discussed.

NANA Development – a wholly owned Alaskan Native Corporation, diverse in services including telecommunication and servicing all US states.

The conference ended on Thursday with a luncheon filled with awards including winners of the 20/20 Business Plan Award and conference attendee drawing for I-pads and phones. I did have an opportunity to talk with Joan Timeche and an Oneida Tribal Councilor (Name???) who will be e-mailing me at a later date and is looking forward to our visit in March. Also Susan Masten, NCAIED welcomed the comments regarding WEWIN and invited our tribe to send representative to their next event.

(Friday) – Travel Day 03/21/14. Departed for Airport at 10:00 a.m. (PTZ) and arrived at Pellston Airport approximately 9:40 p.m. After luggage pick up, arrived home at 10:30 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend 2014 RES and recommend that Councilors attend the RES- DC June 24-26, 2014. NCAIED is requesting that Natives show up in force in Washington.

Attachments: Bitcoin

