

**2009 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Members

Rep. James Roger Madalena, Co-Chair
Sen. John Pinto, Co-Chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Ray Begaye
Sen. Eric G. Griego
Rep. Sandra D. Jeff

Sen. Lynda M. Lovejoy
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Sen. George K. Munoz
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Sen. John C. Ryan
Rep. Gloria C. Vaughn

Advisory Members

Rep. Ernest H. Chavez
Sen. Stuart Ingle
Sen. Timothy Z. Jennings
Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Antonio "Moe" Maestas

Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Sen. William E. Sharer

Work Plan

The Indian Affairs Committee (IAC), again created by the New Mexico Legislative Council to address issues that have a primary effect on the state's Native American population, proposes to address cross-jurisdictional issues, give its input on priority funding under the federal stimulus package, hear the state's first Native American law school dean and tour the new Sundance Institute for Native American and Hispanic filmmakers. In addition, it proposes to travel to three pueblos, three chapter houses, San Juan College and Red Rocks State Park, as well as to meet jointly with the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) in Albuquerque on uranium mining.

The committee proposes to focus in large part on the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) initiatives affecting pueblos and tribes to ensure that money allotted to the Navajo Nation is spent proportionally in New Mexico and to minimize duplication in services and benefits funded both by the state and by the federal government.

The committee is also proposing to focus on three federal-state issues: Native American voting rights, uranium cleanup and crime bill amendments that significantly affect native sovereignty. Staff from the United States Department of Justice will appear at the committee's July 15 meeting on Native American voting rights, when the committee will discuss Native American voting in the 2010 election and methods to ensure that every Native American is counted in the coming census. Staff members from the federal Environmental Protection Agency have agreed to come for a joint meeting

with the RHMC designed to spotlight problems from past uranium mining activities. A federal public defender, a state public defender and the Navajo Nation public defender will brief the committee on proposed amendments before the United States Senate Indian Affairs Committee (SIAC) in Washington, D.C., and address the disproportionate incarceration of Native Americans.

The committee also proposes to examine:

- * Native American law programs in addition to the state-tribal law consortium and common legal pleadings; and full faith and credit in domestic violence matters;
- * requiring uniformity in statistical compilations for the number of tribal members;
- * policies and procedures related to the authentication of Native American arts and crafts;
- * concerns about progress or regression in the care of elders resulting from new contracts for adult services;
- * changes in the Navajo Nation due to the opening of a new casino;
- * improvements needed in school transportation and school performance in areas with a high percentage of Native American students;
- * the effects of the ARRA on Native American in terms of employment, highway construction, housing, health, economic development, broadband and "smart grid" development and the provision of electric and gas utilities;
- * the status of settlement of water rights that affect Native American communities;
- * implementation of the Indian Collaboration Act;
- * the Public Education Department assessment of the status of Indian education and the effect of impact aid on Native American schools and students;
- * tribal emergency management in coordination with homeland security;
- * tribal child support, early education, veterans' issues and cooperation with utility providers;
- * improvements in tribal capital outlay accounting;

- * DWI issues;
- * the use of methamphetamine, alcohol and other addictive substances by Native Americans;
- * the implications of registering Mt. Taylor as a cultural property;
- * the pros and cons of making Shiprock a state park;
- * domestic violence in Indian country;
- * tribal investments and the creation of a permanent source of funding for the Tribal Infrastructure Fund; and
- * other related tribal concerns.

Where other issues overlap with another committee, the IAC will attempt to consolidate information and avoid duplication.

Subcommittee

The IAC voted to request New Mexico Legislative Council approval for the creation of a subcommittee on uranium cleanup, to include members from the IAC and the RHMC, on both tribal and privately held lands in New Mexico, which proposes to meet four times in addition to the IAC meetings. The subcommittee was approved for one meeting that will be two days.

2009 APPROVED MEETING SCHEDULE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|----------------|---|
| May 28 | Santa Fe |
| July 13-15 | Albuquerque (Law School and Pueblo of Santa Ana) |
| August 10-12 | Gallup area (Red Rocks, Church Rock and Manuelito) |
| Sept. 8-10 | Pueblo of Santa Clara, Alcalde (near Espanola) and Albuquerque (Joint meeting with RHMC) |
| October 19-21 | Mescalero |
| November 18-20 | Shiprock area, San Juan College and Nenahnezad |

URANIUM CLEANUP SUBCOMMITTEE

A single two-day meeting will be scheduled in consultation with the subcommittee members, including members from the IAC and the RHMC, who will be named by the New Mexico Legislative Council.