

**MINUTES  
of the  
FIRST MEETING  
of the  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**June 20, 2017  
State Capitol, Room 322  
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) for the 2017 interim was called to order at 1:12 p.m. by Senator John Pinto, co-chair, on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Georgene Louis, Co-Chair  
Sen. John Pinto, Co-Chair  
Rep. Sharon Clahchischilliage  
Rep. Derrick J. Lente  
Sen. Richard C. Martinez  
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Rep. James E. Smith  
Sen. William P. Soules

**Absent**

Rep. Zachary J. Cook  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson (joined by phone)  
Sen. Mark Moores  
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle  
Rep. Nick L. Salazar  
Sen. William E. Sharer  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros  
Rep. Harry Garcia  
Rep. Sarah Maestas Barnes  
Sen. Cisco McSorley  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Sen. Clemente Sanchez  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Rep. Stephanie Garcia Richard  
Sen. Stuart Ingle  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. George K. Munoz  
Rep. Angelica Rubio  
Rep. Patricio Ruiloba  
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

**Staff**

Peter Kovnat, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Diego Jimenez, Research Assistant, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

**Handouts**

All handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file.

**Tuesday, June 20**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Representative Louis welcomed the committee and members of the audience and asked committee members and guests to introduce themselves.

**Discussion of Work Plan and Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Kovnat presented a summary of the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the 2017 interim. He discussed issues of ongoing concern to New Mexico's Native American community and the importance of the committee's outreach efforts during the interim. Mr. Kovnat presented the proposed dates and locations of meetings for the IAC during the 2017 interim and stood for questions on the details of the work plan and the proposed meeting schedule.

Committee members discussed the work plan and, based on public comment, requested the addition of presentations covering outreach to Native American veterans by the United States Department of Defense, safety measures and efforts on United States Highway 550 and New Mexico's energy future.

Committee members discussed the proposed interim meeting schedule and suggested scheduling to enable interested members to attend a Legislative Education Study Committee meeting in Gallup. Members agreed to coordinate two joint meetings: one with the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee to cover issues related to Native American health and access to care; and another with the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee.

**Approval of Work Plan**

On a motion made by Senator Martinez and seconded by Representative Louis, the committee moved to request an additional meeting date from the New Mexico Legislative Council to meet in Gallup on July 26.

On a motion made by Representative Rodella and seconded by Senator Rodriguez, with no opposition, the work plan was adopted as amended by the committee.

Senator Pinto took a moment to thank Representative Clahchischilliage for her service as co-chair of the IAC during the interims of the Fifty-Second Legislature.

**Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m.