



# 2017 TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ANNUAL CONSULTATION CONFERENCE

APRIL 23-27, 2017 | SPOKANE CONVENTION CENTER-SPOKANE, WA  
PROGRESSIVE PARTNERSHIPS: INVESTING IN TRIBAL NATION BUILDING

## Recorder Form

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Recorder: Karen Fierro

Date: April 25, 2017

Session Title: Funding Agreements with the Non- BIA Bueraus

### Panelists:

Lisa Ann George, Consultant, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

Jerry Millet, Consultant Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

Reed Robinson, Manager, Tribal Relations & Indian Affairs, Midwest Regional Office, NPS, DOI

Kelly Titensor, Policy Advisor, Bureau of Reclamation, DOI

### Moderator:

Geoffrey Strommer, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker

### Summary of Issues and Items Discussed:

First Presentation: Jerry Millet and Lisa Ann George- Duckwater Shoshone- Self Governance in the National Park Service, Duckwater Shoshone is going after a SG agreement with BLM. It is not an easy task, you know best what you want and what your needs are and you are your own best advocate. Duckwater Shoshone went after a SG BIA and IHS Funding agreement. Lisa explained that Jerry Millet doesn't take no for an answer, Duckwater started early on in Self-Governance. The Tribal Leaders of that time had many hopes and dreams to make the lives better for the people they represent. They believed that we had the right to govern ourselves. Duckwater was one several Shoshone tribes that signed a treaty with the U.S. Want to recognize one of the Tribal Leaders, who pioneered SG that is Chairman Allen, who I have the utmost respect for. Sharee Freeman is also another person I admire and respect. They have help make it possible for us today. Recognize our Tribal Leader, first SG Conference. Duckwater Shoshone Chairman. Gave a description of the Community. Duckwater just increased their Community by 33,000 acres and really has changed everything for the Tribe. We are starting a compact with BLM going forward. Jerry- we know that the process is going to be a challenge with BLM, as it was a challenge when we compacted with BIA and IHS. There aren't bad people that work at the BLM, it is the system they work in and how they have to go through in their work. The Tribe knows how to properly manage their lands. Duckwater Shoshone has several hundred acres, and all of the land is important to the Community.

Second Presentation: Reed Robinson- Been with the National Park Services for 27 years, most important thing to me is the job that I serve in today, I practice the Lakota way. I am a federal employee. The National Park service manages over 84 million acres. 3 billion dollar service, one of the biggest departments in DOI. Tribes may include in annual funding agreements for PSFA's which are cultural historical or geographic significance to them with agencies with the DOI other than the BIA. SG Tribes would approach the Parks and talk to the area

superintendent and express their interest in taking over the park. The National Park service has 15 days to respond. There are several regions in the national park service. There are only 3 full time positions for the liaison position for the nation. Gregory Phillips and Adriana Fleek in Alaska. Joe Watkins is in Washington. Grand Portage Band of lake Superior Chippewa Tribe National Monument has been in place since 1999, has had more than 50 AFA;s totaling with 228 . Grand Portage built a home onsite for employees and buildings are built to Tribal and Cultural specs. The Yurok Tribe in northern California, the Redwoods, Yurok picks projects to manage, watershed studies, etc. Chickasaw National Recreation Area and the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma signed in December 2016. Sitka National Historical Park and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. He invited Sitka to a SG Training held at Big Bear and hoped it helped them with the information provided at the training. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. He read the resolution from NCAI about working with Tribes and highlight of it would be self-governance agreement to work collaborating with Tribes. The National Parks has many parks and five division chiefs and many different administration employees. Large Parks has the same productivity as a city or municipal government. If you have a park like Olympic, any Tribe can take that over as an operation function. I see an obligation to honor our responsibility to Indian Tribes and making things happen. We have the resources and we can change our priorities.

Third Presentation: Kelly Titensor- BOR- Many years working for the agency and one of his first projects was in Duckwater Shoshone Tribes. I want to recognize Tribal Leaders and Tribal Elders who have worked so hard in self-governance. I have watched the process and appreciate the effort and honor the successes in self-governance. BOR was in 1902, reclamation in the west like the Hoover damn, BOR is broken up in 5 regions, the boundaries are broken up into drainage areas, goal to make BOR Programs available for Tribes and honor thee trust responsibility. Reclamation Native American Program and NAAO in our offices. Our Native American office, Matthew Duchensne- we do have specific guidance on sacred sites, and consultation with tribes, govt- to govt relationship. BOR is not a classic Indian Program and if you have suggestions for improvement then let them know your tribal perspective. Types of Programs in Reclamation are irrigation projects and municipal and rural industrial water systems and dam construction and safety of dams, drought relief emergency assistance and other planning and engineering studies. Generally about 50% of Reclamation funding are discretionary appropriations funding benefiting tribes under 638 contracts.

There are 5 AFAs with 5 Tribes

Chippewa and Rocky Boys Reservation

GRIC

Hoopa

Karuk

Yurok Tribe

\*Provided pictures in PowerPoint of the various projects in respective Tribal Communities.

Federal Register Notice- Ken Reinfeld will give a presentation this afternoon and discuss the notice and will not talk about it too much.

Questions from the Audience:

Q1: Alaska Tribe: When you went after BLM, how did you start the process?

A1: We sent a letter, have lists of questions, request the BLM for budget information, never received the response, recently they found out that they were instructed not answer them because they didn't know the outcome of new administration. After we then sent a proposal to BLM and requested a position for what they were supposed to come and do us and we created the job descriptions and what their salaries should be. We didn't get that information from them.

Q2: Alaska Tribe: Sitka Tribe has came to this event for many years a representative form MPs and she did not know that Sitka tribe was in the room. Sitka is looking at compacting for our park and we know we could have some struggles with BLM, but ready. The Tribe introduced a resolution to NCAI for 16-20 resolution. There were 15

parks, SG Tribes have 30, look in your traditional area, and take care of compacting or annual agreements for those areas in your tribal communities. We are not alone, and we need to share that information with the National Park service and the BIA. I am speaking from the Elders, and they area where they grew up in Sitka.

Q3: Alaska Tribe: With our economy crashing, how do we go into the national park services, how do we get involved?

A3: The National Park Service is not the NSA, unless its personnel issues, we should be transparent. When Traverse Band requested on Sleeping Bear Dunes gets their money and how much project money do they have coming in. Sleeping Bear Dunes offered a tour and invited division Chiefs; contact the Superintendent and Regional Director, Adriana Fleek.

Comment: They refer to our Tribe as ' Locals' on their website, we live there, and we've been there for many years. Hunt and have been there for many years

Q4: Mohegan Tribe- Concerning involving the National Park Service to join groups with those organization and I am on the board with USET. The other question, in light of the federal hiring freeze, is it easier to think about self-governance.

A4: Please send me your questions

Q5: Sitka Tribe: we have some issues with the park to get our compact in the fax numbers and Joe Watkins the number was disconnected. Is there an agreement to look at for reference?

A5: Grand Portage creek is an ideal agreement to look at and contact me and I can get it for you.

Comment: Please contact the Sitka Tribe if your Tribe is considering to enter into compact with National Park Service, they want to work with you and go through the process together.

Q6: Why is Alaska not on the list?

A6: Because Congress hasn't said yes

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