



## Bayfield County Administrator

117 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 878, Washburn, WI 54891

Ph: 715-373-6181 Fx: 715-373-6153

Mark Abeles-Allison, *County Administrator*  
Kim Mattson, *Finance Director*

Kristine Kavajecz, *Human Resources Director*  
Gail Reha, *Bookkeeper* Paige Terry, *Clerk III*

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### COUNTY-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Nicole Boyd, *Tribal Council Chair*  
Jeffrey Silbert, *Bayfield County Supervisor*

Rick Peterson, *Tribal Council Vice-Chair*  
Steve Sandstrom, *Bayfield County Supervisor*

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is written to inform you of the Bayfield County Tribal-County Relations Committee Meeting scheduled for **MONDAY, February 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.** This meeting will be **held in-person** at the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** located in the Annex Building at 117 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Washburn, WI.

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

#### AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions, 9:00am
2. Motion to Approve Minutes of December 18, 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion Regarding Tribal County Law Enforcement Agreement, 2025 DOJ Grant Timeline and County / Tribal Law Enforcement Collaborations
5. Discussion Regarding Opioid Settlement Fund Plans in the Schools and Health Update
6. Discussion Regarding Bayfield County Health Board
7. Land Records Program Update and Collaborative Opportunities (10am)
8. Tribal County Lands Discussion
9. Reports from Committee Members
10. Proposed Next Meeting Time and Date and Joint Meeting Date.
11. Adjournment

Should you have any questions in the meantime, please contact [mark.abeles-allison@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:mark.abeles-allison@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov).

Sincerely,

*Mark Abeles-Allison*

Mark Abeles-Allison  
Bayfield County Administrator  
MAA/pt

cc: Lynn M. Divine, Bayfield County Clerk  
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors  
Bayfield County Department Heads

*Any person planning to attend a Bayfield County meeting that has a disability requiring special accommodations should contact 373-6100, 24-hours before the scheduled meeting, so appropriate arrangements can be made.*

Tribal County Relations Narrative, Monday, February 19

Bayfield County EOC meeting room in the Bayfield County Annex.

A light breakfast, yogurt and fruit and coffee will be available at 830am.

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Item 4. The Sheriff and Police Departments will discuss the Tribal County Law Enforcement Program, how things are going in 2024 and preliminary discussions for 2025.

Item 5. Holly Weber will review Opioid Trust Fund plans, specifically plans to work in County Schools. Holly will also touch on County Health Department activities.

Item 6. Discussion regarding a tribal representative on the County Health Board will be reviewed.

Item 7. Carmen Novak with the Bayfield County Land Record Department will share updates on imagery, mapping and Joint 911 GIS activities.

Item 8. Review of County Tribal Lands Discussions including recent letter from Red Cliff regarding tax reimbursements and settlement reimbursement announcements by the State of Wisconsin.

Item 10. Discussion regarding Joint Board/Council Meeting and next date for meetings.



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### MINUTES OF THE:

### Bayfield County Tribal Relations Committee Meeting

8:30am, Monday, December 18, 2023

Meeting was held at the Legendary Waters Resort & Casino in Red Cliff, WI

**Members Present:** *Tribal Chairwoman Nicole Boyd, Supervisor Jeff Silbert, Supervisor Steve Sandstrom, Tribal Vice-Chair Rick Peterson (arrived late)*

**Members Excused:**

**Others Present:** *UW Extension Community Development Educator Kellie Pederson, Bayfield County Public Health Nurse Holly Weber, Bayfield County Humans Services Director Elizabeth Skulan, Bayfield County Clerk Lynn Divine, Bayfield County Administrator Mark Abeles-Allison, Bayfield County Sheriff Tony Williams, Bayfield County Chief Deputy Andy Runice, Assistant Tribal Attorney Wade Williams, and Bayfield County Clerk III Paige Terry.*

Called to order at 9:00 a.m. by *Tribal Chairwoman Nicole Boyd.*

**Introductions:**

- Nicole Boyd – Red Cliff Tribal Council Chairwoman
- Mary Motiff – Bayfield County Tourism Director
- Alana Babineau – Tribal Administration Liaison
- Jess Hall – Red Cliff Tribal Police Chief
- Paige Terry – Clerk for the Bayfield County Clerk’s and Administrator’s Offices
- Bob Anderson – Bayfield County Highway Commissioner
- Mark Abeles-Allison – Bayfield County Administrator
- Steve Sandstrom - Bayfield County Board Supervisor, District 1
- Holly Weber – Bayfield County Public Health Nurse
- Diane Erickson – Red Cliff Public Health Services Administrator
- Kim Lawton – Bayfield County District Attorney
- Wade Williams – Red Cliff Assistant Tribal Attorney
- Jeff Silbert - Bayfield County Board Supervisor, District 6

**Minutes of September 20, 2023, County-Tribal Relations Committee Meeting:** *Motion by Sandstrom, seconded by Silbert to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023, County-Tribal Relations Committee Meeting. Motion carried, 3-0, 1 absent.*

**Public Comment:** None.

**Tribal-County Law Enforcement Agreement, 2025 DOJ Grant Timeline and County / Tribal Law Enforcement Topics:** Chairwoman Boyd informed the committee that a settlement has been reached regarding

the agreement and stated that Bayfield County will receive \$5,000 in funds with Red Cliff being named as the grant recipient that will receive all remaining funds. Red Cliff Police Chief, Jess Hall, reported that the Red Cliff Police Department is now fully staff but explained that the three of the officers are within one year of being post-academy and one officer has left to attend evidence technician training. Abeles-Allison asked Hall if Red Cliff had a formal training program for new officers or if there was any way that the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office could assist with officer training. Hall replied that the department used to have a formal training program, but it has not been active for years; however, the department's Sergeant recently finished training to become a field training officer so the department would like to implement a field training program in the future. Bayfield County District Attorney, Kim Lawton, informed the committee that her office will be holding quarterly meetings with the Red Cliff Police Department and will be offering monthly trainings for new officers.

*9:13 a.m. – Red Cliff Tribal Council Vice-Chair Rick Peterson joined the meeting.*

Discussion took place regarding the interdepartmental cooperation between Red Cliff and Bayfield County. Sandstrom encouraged the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office and Red Cliff Police Department to work to strengthen the relationship between the two offices. Question was raised on the responsibility of holding discussion regarding the Tribal-County Law Enforcement Agreement. The committee agreed that the agreement discussions should be the responsibility of the Tribal-County Relations Committee and that the committee will be responsible for reaching a final recommendation for the agreement which will be forwarded to both the Bayfield County Board and Red Cliff Tribal Council for final approval.

Chairwoman Boyd suggested that the 2025 Tribal-County Law Enforcement Agreement be added to future agendas as a standing item and that an evaluation of the current agreement be added as a report. Chairwoman Boyd suggested that Lawton assist with preparing the annual report for the 2025 agreement.

*Motion by Sandstrom, seconded by Boyd to have a final Tribal-County Law Enforcement Agreement ready by August 20, 2023, and that the Tribal-County Relations Committee will be the body responsible for handling the agreement negotiations. Motion carried, 4-0.*

**County-Tribal Tourism:** Bayfield County Tourism Director, Mary Motiff, reported that she recently attended the Destinations Wisconsin Conference and stated that she was very pleased to find that Dimitri Morris was present to represent Legendary Waters and the Red Cliff Tribe. Motiff stated that she recently met Jeff Anderson, the new Northwest Travel Development Specialist with Travel Wisconsin. The Executive Director of the Ashwabay Alliance met with Motiff and expressed some ideas regarding the alliance and stated they are looking to make a formal announcement regarding their five-year plan. The Apostle Highways Snowmobile Club is in the process of being resurrected and Motiff stated that she would like to ensure that there is good communication between the Alliance and Bayfield County and Red Cliff. Chairwoman Boyd suggested that Motiff meet with Dimitri Morris at Legendary Waters to discuss marketing.

*9:45 a.m. – Tribal Council Member, David Curran, joined the meeting.*

Chairwoman Boyd stated that the tribe does not have a formal Scenic Byway representative, instead the tribe relies on relationships with other councils and committees. In June 2024, Red Cliff will be hosting the Native American Tourism Conference at Legendary Waters. Motiff questioned if the tribe could use the event to bring attention to Frog Bay as the first Native American National Park.

Motiff reviewed the variety of publications that the Bayfield County Tourism Department utilizes. Abeles-Allison asked if there were any opportunities for Bayfield County Tourism to collaborate with Red Cliff. Motiff replied that the department has used several tactics to collaborate with Red Cliff in the past, which have been successful. Chairwoman Boyd asked for an update on the cruise ship tours. Motiff replied that the Viking Cruise Ship will not be visiting the area this year, but a new French cruise ship is set to visit Summer 2024.

9:58 a.m. – Mary Motiff left the meeting.

**Roads/Transportation Update:** Chairwoman Boyd provided a report prepared by Transportation Supervisor, Jeff Benton, to the committee and explained that the Tribal Council has allocated approximately \$4 million to pave the remaining the gravel roads on the reservation. The tribe's highway department has been historically understaffed which Chairwoman Boyd explained has contributed to the lack of coordination with the Bayfield County Highway Department on snow and ice control on the roads. Red Cliff has received WI DOT funding for installing two flashing pedestrian crosswalk signs for two locations, one by Peterson's Market and the other by Legendary Waters. Receive dot funding for installing flashing pedestrian crosswalk signs for two locations, one by Peterson's Mark and the other by Legendary Waters. The repaving of Blueberry Road is a high priority project that will include adding rumble strips to the roads and replacing the culvert under the road. Red Cliff is working with a trails committee to develop trail routes that students may utilize to travel to educational facilities throughout Red Cliff and the City of Bayfield. Although Red Cliff has acquired two electric buses for public transportation, Chairwoman Boyd explained that the buses will not go into transit until the new transportation is completed.

Bayfield County Highway Commissioner, Bob Anderson, informed the committee that the department is currently looking to apply for a countywide trail planning grant due to the lack of pedestrian and bike facilities on county roads. Previously Bayfield County has applied for a RAISE grant a few times but has not received funding. Anderson reviewed the RAISE grant project with the committee and stated that the county will once again be seeking funding. In 2024, the Bayfield County Highway Department will be focused on the Bayfield Street project in the City of Washburn which is estimated to be a 4-year project. Anderson reported that the state is anticipating designated a heavy truck detour route through Red Cliff for the duration of the project. The state department does not have large reconstruction projects planned for 2024.

Chairwoman Boyd asked if a temporary stop light could be installed at the end of Bradum Road while Blueberry Road is repaved as Bradum will serve as the detour route. Anderson replied that he will come up with a solution for the road.

**RAISE Grant Letter of Support, County Highway A and N, Iron River and Barnes:** Chairwoman Boyd stated that she does not believe that Red Cliff will be applying for RAISE Grant funding, and she sees no issues with Red Cliff providing a letter of support to Bayfield County.

**Updated Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan:** Sandstrom reported that the Bayfield County Board adopted the updated Comprehensive Plan back in October and reviewed a few of the highlighted changes that were made which included the mention of a zero-carbon emission goal and the specific mention of Red Cliff in the Intergovernmental Cooperation section. Abeles-Allison explained that the update plan includes an implementation section that lists each of the specific goals and actions to achieve the goals, which are broken down by department. Timelines are also included for achieving goals. Chairwoman Boyd reported that Red Cliff has also adopted their own comprehensive plan which is housed in the planning department. Red Cliff is not yet ready to move towards sustainability goals. Chairwoman Boyd stated that the tribe is waiting for news on a state grant that would allow the tribe to install a microgrid for the health and transportation facilities.

Sandstrom raised concern regarding the proposed cell tower on Turner Road, stating that he has had numerous phone calls and emails from citizens opposing the development. Sandstrom explained that a developer is required to contact neighboring reservations and stated that the developer has not yet done so. Extensive discussion took place regarding the proposed cell tower in the Town of Russell.

Chairwoman Boyd informed the committee that discussions are taking place at a national level regarding allowing tribal emergency disaster declarations to be independent from presidential declarations. Abeles-Allison explained that the Bayfield County Board Chair does have the authority to authorize declarations for certain

situations.

**Mental Health / Substance Abuse / Opioid Settlement Fund Plans:** Red Cliff Public Health Services Administrator, Diane Erickson, reviewed a prepared report regarding health collaborations and strategies with the committee which highlighted several strategies to handle respiratory illness vaccines & testing, overall wellness, communicable disease surveillance, and several behavioral health topics. Erickson reported that the Red Cliff Health Clinic lost nearly all nursing staff following the COVID-19 pandemic and the clinic is currently in the process of rebuilding its public health capacity. Bryon Dailey has moved back to the Public Health Department from the Administration Office. Bayfield County Public Health Nurse, Holly Weber, highlighted a few accomplishments of the Health Department since the last meeting which included collaboration with the Bayfield School District's Wellness Committee to determine wellness priorities, the Wellness on Wheels Program that held 56 clinics over the summer, Weber's reintegration into the AODA prevention group facilitated by Red Cliff, and identifying strategies to reduce and prevent vaping within the reservation. Weber stated that holding a community education event for fentanyl and vaping is one of the department's priorities.

Erickson stated that Red Cliff has been focusing on the wrap-around care program and is working on integrating services provided by neighboring facilitators with services provided by the program. The program currently has 33 clients, 80% of which are self-referred. Funds received from the Opioid Settlement will be used to strengthen the Five Pillars of Prevention with a focus on the wrap-around program. Red Cliff has identified a need to strengthen current re-entry services and Erickson stated there is a desire to build a program that would incorporate a care and peer specialist. Chairwoman stressed the abundance of youth mental health issues on the reservation especially those that lead to suicidal attempts. The committee agreed that the overall lack of behavioral health doctors in the area is a problem that needs addressing.

*11:12 a.m. – Peterson left the meeting.*

Weber informed the committee that Bayfield County will be using the opioid settlement funds to focus on prevention programming in schools throughout the county. The program will not focus solely on one substance or issue but will cover a wide variety of topics. Weber explained that the department is looking to contract with CESA 12 to provide an instructor that will go to each school to teach the program so school staff does not become overburdened. Erickson explained the No Wrong Door plan to the committee and stated that an All Doors training is scheduled for January 16, 2024. Weber spoke on the two public health vending machines that Bayfield County will be acquiring and reviewed the supplies they will provide and stated that one machine will be placed in Red Cliff. Lawton asked if there was a way that law enforcement would not be aware of who is using the machines, so residents do not avoid using the machine due to fear of being arrested. Discussion took place regarding the anonymity of using the machines and the committee agreed that law enforcement officers should not use the machine locations as a way to stake out potential drug users so they may be arrested. Curran asked if the services are available for veterans. Weber stated that the veteran's office informs her of any clients that may come in in need of the services. Weber informed the committee that Sports Hollow offers a service where the business will hold onto a veteran's firearm if they are experiencing a mental health crisis at no charge until the veteran feels they are well enough to retrieve it.

Hall reviewed her report with the board which highlighted the juvenile behavior/mental health crises on the reservation. Tribal Council Member, David Curran, asked if there was any way to catch truancy earlier before it becomes a major problem and to verify if the school IEPs are up to date for those kids that are falling behind on schoolwork. Hall stated that those problems are out of the Police Department's realm but stated that she will reach out to partner facilitators regarding the subject. Drug use and trafficking was identified as another area of concern in Red Cliff.

**Joint Board Meeting:** The committee agreed to postpone scheduling a joint meeting until after the spring election.

**Pigeon Lake Property:** Abeles-Allison gave a history of the property to the committee and explained that the state would be willing to grant access to the property for a one-year term so the county could conduct a feasibility study. Abeles-Allison encouraged the tribe to reach out to him if they had any interest in the property. Chairwoman Boyd said that she will raise the topic with tribal department staff so the tribe can analyze any potential cultural significance in the property. Chairwoman Boyd stated that the tribe would like to participate in developing an RFP with Bayfield County for a feasibility study.

**Reports:**

- a. Consolidated Dispatch Comprehensive Plan Collaborations:** Abeles-Allison reported that Ashland and Bayfield Counties continue to work together on the consolidation. Both dispatch centers have previously been staffed at minimal levels and the consolidation should allow the new center to be staffed with two employees at all times which would allow staff to provide medical response to calls. Abeles-Allison informed the committee that a grant was recently awarded that would allow the consolidated dispatch to move towards an updated CAD system that is utilized more commonly throughout Wisconsin.
- b. Lands on Reservation and Tax Delinquencies:** Abeles-Allison informed the committee that the Tribal Lands MOU states that Bayfield County and Red Cliff should be in regular communications regarding properties that are delinquent in taxes to avoid the property defaulting back to the county. In the past, the county has paid the property taxes on delinquent parcels, but the recent court ruling has removed parcels on tribal land from the tax roll. Therefore, the county is in the process of trying to recoup lost funds for these parcels and to determine how to keep track of these parcels.
- c. Artesian Well Study:** Abeles-Allison reported that an Artesian Well Study inspected approximately 50 wells and Bayfield County is now in the process of researching drafting an ordinance that may protect the wells to ensure that they continue to flow in the future. Chairwoman Boyd reported that the Treaty Natural Resources Administrator has left, and the tribe will be holding one interview for the position on January 1, 2024, with the hopes that the future employee can contribute to the artesian well discussion as any discussion regarding water will likely be an emotional subject for the tribal community.

**Proposed Next Meeting Time and Date:** February 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss, *a motion was made by Sandstrom, seconded by Boyd to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, 3-0, 1 absent.* Meeting adjourned at **12:08 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**PAIGE A. TERRY,**

*Clerk III, Bayfield County Administrator's & Clerk's Offices*

On behalf of the Bayfield County-Tribal Relations Committee

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## County and Tribal Relations Committee Meeting 2/19/2024

### Health Department Updates from Holly Weber, PHN

#### **Opioid Settlement Money Project**

- We have met with all the schools in the county and have had a great response. We presented their options and are recommending the Botvin Lifeskills Program ([www.lifeskillstraining.com](http://www.lifeskillstraining.com)). It is an evidence-based and SAMHSA approved program for substance and opioid prevention, as well as vaping, violence, and mental health. They can choose something else if they prefer but this is what we are looking to have CESA 12 trained in.
- Bayfield School is on board, and they are wanting to look at doing a trial rollout the first year to see how they like it and how it goes. We talked about implementing it in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade for now. They are interested in having their staff trained so they can teach it alongside the CESA 12 person. We are also going to do a short in-service with the rest of the staff to give them a brief overview and general knowledge about what's going on and what it might look like in the future. The school staff that will be teaching this program along with CESA 12 are the school counselors and the health teachers.
- We are arranging training for this spring with the plan of implementing it by the 2024 school year if this gets approved by the administration and school board.

#### **Wellness on Wheels**

- **Upcoming events**
  - We continue to offer mental health resources, Narcan, Fentanyl Test Strips, Drug Takeback/Disposal, and sharps collection, along with the other health department services at the Health Department and all the WOW events.
  - We will be in Red Cliff on April 8<sup>th</sup> with the trailer participating in the Unconventional Opportunities Expo at Legendary Waters. Chi-miigwech to Deb Morris for inviting and including us!
  - We will also be participating in the Spring Health Fair at Northwoods Tech in Ashland, with focuses on harm reduction and reproductive health services.
  - We are tentatively looking at also being in attendance at the Spring Carnival at Ashwabay in March.

#### **Harm Reduction**

- We have renewed our contracts with Wisconsin Department of Health Services to be a Narcan Direct and Fentanyl Test Strip program provider.
- We have received another grant from the Northwoods Coalition for Strategic Opioid Response. This totals out to be around \$10,000. We will be focusing on drug take back and community

education events. We are also purchasing a larger drug takeback box to take on the road with us because we have been having such a good response to that program, our little box has been filling up fast.

- I am also working with the South Shore EMS and Fire to put on a harm reduction education/Narcan training event up in Port Wing in March (date TBD). It will be open to the public, but we are focusing on outreach to fire, EMS, and school staff at this time.
- The public health vending machines are currently in production, and we still have plans to place one of the two machines in Red Cliff and we are working with Diane at Red Cliff Community Health Center on that. I don't have a time frame on when they will be ready or installed yet.

### **Alliance for a Safe and Healthy Bayfield County**

- We along side the Northwest Wisconsin Lung Health Alliance have purchased screening rights for one showing of the movie *Screenagers: Under the Influence*. We are currently seeking a venue to show this film and hope to have something ready for this event by the spring.
- We are working with PFLAG and the Washburn School district to help sponsor and support Queer Prom. We want to be able to provide transportation so that all of the school districts can attend if they have LGBTQ+ students that would like to participate. Traditionally it's Bayfield, Washburn, and Ashland School districts that do this event. We would like to include Drummond and South Shore as well (at least give them the option).
- I have been participating in the Red Cliff Substance Prevention group as well. We are working on doing a Safe and Sober Graduation again this year for the seniors. We also want to plan a community harm reduction education event at some point. This is still in the early planning stages.

**Our new Health Director Anne-Marie Coy is exploring the possibility of having a tribal member appointed to our Board of Health. We have two potential spots opening up on the board this year and Anne-Marie would like one of them to be a tribal representative if possible. She is questioning if this is something that the County and Tribal Relations Committee would support because then she would go to the board about holding a spot in the next appointment cycle for a tribal member. If this is approved by our Board of Health, we would seek an appointee that is recommended by the County and Tribal Relations Committee. She requests that if this is something we would like to pursue, that we send a formal request or letter of support to our Board of Health saying you are interested in including a tribal member that is appointed by this committee on the board.**