



## Bayfield County Administrator

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Mark Abeles-Allison, *County Administrator*  
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### MINUTES OF THE: Bayfield County Tribal Relations Committee Meeting

9:00am, Thursday, May 20, 2021

Virtual Meeting Via Web Ex, hosted by Red Cliff

Members Present: *Supervisor* Jeff Silbert, *Supervisor* Steve Sandstrom, *Vice-Chair* Nathan Gordon, *Chairman* Chris Boyd

Others Present: *Bayfield County Administrator* Mark Abeles-Allison, *Bayfield County Tourism & Recreational Director* Mary Motiff, *Bayfield County Health Director* Sara Wartman, *Health Services Administrator* Diane Erickson, *Assistant Tribal Attorney* Wade Williams, *Treaty of Natural Resources Division Administrator* Chase Meierotto, *Red Cliff Police Department Administrator* Mark Pope, *Bayfield County Chief Deputy* Andy Runice, *Bayfield County Sheriff* Paul Susienka, *Bayfield County Emergency Management Coordinator* Meagan Quaderer, *Tribal Administration Liaison* Bryon Daley, Nicole Boyd, *Bayfield County COVID Coordination Nurse* Heather Neumann, *Bayfield County Clerk III* Paige Terry.

Called to order at 9:08 a.m. by *Chairman* Boyd

2. **Introductions:** Introductions of members were made.

3. **Public Comment:**

*Chairman* Boyd expressed concern regarding the large number of people that were anticipated to show up to the upcoming Bayfield County Board of Adjustment meeting to discuss the Kistle KLR case. Abeles-Allison reviewed the safety precautions that are being exercised in preparation for the meeting. Gordon informed the committee that the Red Cliff Tribal Council recently passed a resolution expressing opposition to the case and continued by stating the Chippewa Federation also passed a similar resolution in opposition along with every Tribe in the seated territory.

9:16 a.m. – Sandstrom took over the meeting as chair.

4. **Motion to Approve Minutes of May 20, 2021, County-Tribal Relations Committee Meeting:**

*Chairman* Boyd explained that he would have to abstain from voting as he had not had a chance to review the meetings from the previous meeting.

*Motion* by Gordon, seconded by Silbert to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021, County-Tribal Relations Committee Meeting. Motion Carried, 3-0, 1 abstain.

5. **Public Health Update:**

Wartman reviewed the increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the nation. Wartman reported that more pediatric hospitalizations are occurring throughout Southern Wisconsin. The State of Wisconsin is now offering a \$100 Gift Card reward to individuals that receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, but the reward is only applicable to those that get vaccinated in Wisconsin. Wartman reported a total of 21 deaths due to COVID-19 in Bayfield County and 27 breakthrough cases have been reported in the County. Vaccine rates have continued to increase throughout the County with 64.9% of residents having received the first dose of the vaccine and 61.9% having completed a vaccine series.

Discussion took place regarding the Delta Variant. *Chairman* Boyd asked Wartman if there was a timeline for when the younger population would be able to get vaccinated. Wartman answered that the Health Department did not have a timeline at this point in time. Wartman reported that the Pfizer FDA approval for individuals 18 and up. Erickson reported that Red Cliff Tribe residents have been very open to receiving COVID-19 tests and 5 breakthrough cases have been reported in the Tribe. The Red Cliff Clinic has been distributing booster COVID-19 vaccines to the immunocompromised population and will move towards distributed booster vaccines to the general population in the fall.

## **6. Emergency Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

Emergency Management Coordinator, Meagan Quaderer reviewed the history of developing the hazard mitigation plan and explained that every jurisdiction has signed off on the revised plan except for the Red Cliff Tribe. Quaderer explained that the full approval of the revised hazard mitigation plan would open up both Bayfield County and the Red Cliff Tribe for additional funding resources. Quaderer asked who in Red Cliff she should talk to about moving forward with approving the new plan. Daley told Quaderer to reach out to him and they can coordinate working towards finalizing the new plan. Quaderer reviewed the multiple steps that plan will have to go through before it can reach its final approval through FEMA.

Quaderer reported that the Bayfield County Emergency Management Department has established a goal to develop an interactive map that would display available heating and cooling facilities that individuals may take shelter in during extreme heating and cooling events.

## **7. Tribal County Tourism Update: Scenic Byway and County Fair:**

Tourism & Recreational Director, Mary Motiff reported that Bayfield County's scenic byway has received national designation and the Tourism Department intends to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the byway on September 15, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. outside the Legendary Waters Resort and Casino in Red Cliff. Motiff explained that the national designation for the byway would allow Bayfield County to pursue additional funding for projects that may benefit the visitor experience to the byway. Motiff reported that the Town of Bell is looking to relocate the Green Shed Museum to the other side of its property due to the museum sinking and is looking to expand its visitor facilities.

Motiff reported that a Native American drum and dance troupe was able to perform in the Grandstand at the Bayfield County Fair. A vaccine clinic was held during the fair with the cost of fair admission being refunded to those that received a vaccine. Motiff was unable to give a report regarding snowmobile trail preparations as she has not heard an update yet. Motiff explained that she had been informed the committee about the Society of American Travel Writers that are looking to make a trip up to the City of Bayfield after a tour down in Madison, WI and is attempting to draft an agenda for their trip to the area. Motiff reported she will be attending the upcoming WEDC meeting in the City of Ashland to represent businesses that may not be able to attend the meeting. Gordon asked Motiff if Applefest would be moving forward this year. Motiff replied that vendors have been confirmed and plans for Applefest appear to be moving forward.

## **8. Tribal County Law Enforcement Update:**

Bayfield County Sheriff, Paul Susienka stated that there appeared to be no need for changes to the existing Law Enforcement Agreement and communications between the two entities appear to be going well. Red Cliff Police Department Administrator Mark Pope reported that the RCPD will be fully staffed after October 1, 2021, with 5 officers on staff. Abeles-Allison suggested both the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department and Red Cliff Police Department update statistical data that is included in the department. Both Pope and Susienka agreed to the suggested changes. Susienka explained that the updated agreement would require both government entities to draft and approve resolutions approving the agreement. Susienka suggested both law enforcement entities take opportunities to train together in the future to build the working relationships.

## **9. Tribal County Lands Summary:**

*Chairman* Boyd proposed updating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) every two years to ensure that the document would remain current. Abeles-Allison explained that the MOU states the document would be good for a preliminary 5 years and need to be renewed after an additional 5 years, and that the end of 2021 would mark the expiration of the current MOU. Treaty of Natural Resources Division Administrator, Chase Meierotto reported that Red Cliff had recently been awarded \$522,000 to purchase 348 acres of land from Bayfield County and will contact Bayfield County Forestry Administrator, Jason Bodine to continue to work towards the purchase of the land. Meierotto reported that the Stewardship Grant application has not been finalized and he may not hear news until Fall.

Silbert questioned if the joint resolution would be presented before the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors and Red Cliff Tribal Council at the joint meeting that would be held in November 2021. *Chairman* Boyd moved forward to Item No. 13 on the agenda to discuss the proposed date of the joint meeting.

Williams expressed concern regarding the legal mechanics involved with passing a joint resolution. Discussion took place regarding passing a joint resolution or two independently signed resolutions. The committee agreed that Bayfield County would draft a similar resolution to the one approved by the Red Cliff Tribal Council and both the signed resolution and updated Memorandum of Understanding would be shared at the joint meeting held later in 2021.

## **10. Broadband Expansion Update:**

Abeles-Allison explained that broadband expansion has become a priority for Bayfield County and the County is working collaboratively with providers to expand services throughout the County. Abeles-Allison informed the committee that Bayfield County has allocated funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid Norvado in their fiber expansion efforts. N. Boyd reported that the Tribe would be submitting an application for broadband expansion throughout the Red Cliff Tribe which upgrade Verizon Wireless services on the existing tower in Red Cliff and extend fiber to every household in Red Cliff and the surrounding area, up to 14 miles outside the reservation.

## **11. 2020 Redistricting and Census 2020:**

Abeles-Allison reported that the 2020 Census data was released on August 12, 2021, and the data reflects an 8% population increase from the 2010 Census. Abeles-Allison explained that the Bayfield County supervisory districts could not exceed a max deviation of 10% within its districts and the census results show that Bayfield County currently has an overall deviation of 40%. Abeles-Allison informed

the committee that the Bayfield County Land Records Department has drafted multiple mapping options that have been presented to a recently established Bayfield County Redistricting Committee. Abeles-Allison reported that the Bayfield County Redistricting Committee will be holding a public hearing on September 21, 2021 to receive public input to incorporate in drafting a finalized redistricting plan.

Discussion took place regarding the effect that redistricting may have on the Tribal Reservation.

*11:02 a.m. - Meeting adjourned for short recess.*

*11:13 a.m. - Meeting reconvened.*

## **12. American Rescue Act Program Updates:**

Abeles-Allison reviewed all projects that have been approved to receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and the funds that will be allocated to each project. N. Boyd reviewed a command center that was purchased for the Tribe through the CARES Act in 2020. Boyd explained that the Tribe has not developed a plan for utilizing ARPA Funds yet.

## **13. Joint Tribal Council / County Board Meeting Planning, November 9:**

- a. **Location: County Board Room / Hybrid:** The location of the meeting will be dependent on the status of COVID-19 throughout Bayfield County and the Red Cliff Tribe.
- b. **Time: 6pm**
- c. **Date: November 9:** Abeles-Allison suggested changing the date from November 9, 2021, due to the date conflicting with the monthly scheduled County Board of Supervisors meeting. A date was not set at the meeting.
- d. **Topics:** Gordon suggested changing any language on the topic regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> generation to the “next generation.”
  - i. **State of County / State of Tribe:** Silbert suggested both the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors and Red Cliff Tribal Council give a 10–15-minute presentation at the meeting to showcase what significant changes are being made in both Bayfield County and the Red Cliff Tribe.
  - ii. **Land Repatriation Efforts**
  - iii. **COVID Collaborations**
  - iv. **Tourism Opportunities**
  - v. **Tribal County Law Enforcement**
  - vi. **Building Relationships**

14. **Future Meeting Date and Time:** November 3 or 4, 2021, 9:00 a.m. (tentative)

15. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss, *a motion was made by Gordon, seconded by Boyd to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.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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