



Culture And Heritage Committee Report Summary

This committee report is a record of what transpired and was accomplished during your time together at the USET meetings.

Impact Week Meeting

Joint Collaboration
Mid-Year Meeting

Annual Meeting

This Report is due the day before the last day of meetings, 5:00 pm in the USET office.

Tribal Nations represented _____ Committee Members in attendance _____

Topics Discussed Highlights from Meetings	Outcomes / Any Decisions Made* see directions below	Next Steps / Action Items / Responsible Party* see directions below
<p>DAY 1</p> <p>The culture and Heritage Committee opened its mtg with an open discussion about the challenges surrounding committee member engagement and attendance.</p> <p>Presentation: Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Committee. (FPISC)</p> <p>Presenter: Poqueen Rivera</p> <p>Poqueen discussed the "TAP" tribal funding program. The FPISC federal agency has made available 5 million dollars for tribes who are struggling with capacity issues being able to meaningfully consult on infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Presentation: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)</p> <p>Presenters: Bernard Howard David Diamond Jessica Bravo</p>	<p>1.) Drafted a list of 9 questions to poll our committee members which can also be posed to the USET BOD.</p> <p>2.) Discussion centered around what the level of difficulty might be to complete the application, and if tribes might need to hire a consultant to assist them with the application process.</p> <p>The committee praised Poqueen and FPISC for its work in being able to enact a funding program in only 18 months by which the benefit goes directly to tribes. The program should be a model for other federal agencies to follow.</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice chair will collaborate to determine the best process to release the polling questions through. (survey Monkey, Social Media, etc) The questions will be presented to the next USET advisory Board mtg.</p> <p>Individual committee members can follow up with Poqueen and her staff for any assistance they may need in applying for the funding.</p> <p>Our committee will reach out to Poqueen on an individual tribal basis with any questions or needs. USET may consider a letter supporting the FPISC as they have been very proactive and helpful to enact a funding program that directly benefits tribes, and that perhaps their model could be replicated within other federal agencies.</p>

Purpose of Presentation:

During the session, Bernard Howard, the tribal coordinator for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Office of Environmental Programs (BOEM/OEP), provided an overview of the BOEM/OEP division and insights into the responsibilities of his coordinator role, both within BOEM divisions and in collaboration with Native American tribes.

The conversation transitioned to broader discussions surrounding Tribal concerns with BOEM's siting process, how the bureau intends to implement its newly released "Final North Atlantic Right Whale and Offshore Wind Strategy" and how whale mortality rates are on the rise which may be related to new offshore wind construction activities.

Discussions also included the subject of offshore wind developers who were subject to regulations in other countries which were founded in International Law (such as UNDRIP) which recognizes "Moral Force" as a human rights instrument.

While BOEM did not specifically provide any further details as to how they intend to implement their North Atlantic Right Whale strategy relevant to vessel strikes, they simply committed to continuing to consult with USET tribes remain concerned that there hasn't been enough concrete planning as to how the strategy will be implemented.

BOEM did not comment or offer any insight into implementing stronger regulations onto offshore wind developers which mimic any of the principles under the United Nations Declaration of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. (UNDRIP)

The committee discussed the potential need for the creation of a Northeast Tribal Caucus which could be organized like a similar structure implemented by West Coast tribal nations in their own caucus. Such an organization could factor into funding and conditional approaches towards maritime Management positions. Having USET support in such an initiative would also give the Caucus more weight.

No Further actions have been discussed.

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The Shinnecock Tribal representatives conveyed a concern to BOEM regarding New York City hauling trash and waste by barge and dumping within state waterways for a great number of years.

Shinnecock concern is that when Offshore wind developers begin to bring their electric cables through New York State waterway jurisdiction, the waste on the ocean floor would be disturbed and create an environmental emergency.

Shinnecock would like a full environmental study completed before ocean bottom disturbing activities occur.

Presentation: The United States Geological Service (USGS)

Presenters: Jason Sorenson

Mr Sorenson provided the committee with the TENSAR program (Technical Training In Support of Native American Relations) managed through the United States Geological Service.

The program provides tribes with a variety of support services such as for ARC Gis Mapping and Story Map creation

BOEM made a commitment to look into Shinnecock concerns regarding environmental hazard by working with EPA or other relevant federal agencies to address the concern raised by the Shinnecock Nation.

This session was for informational purposes and was a great education.

Committee to follow up with David Diamond at BOEM for updates.

Committee will follow up with questions.

<p>DAY 2 – AM</p> <p>Presentation: National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)</p> <p>NREL Provided oversight of their research and innovation and of their Tribal Technical Assistance program, which can include producing independent data sets for tribes seeking information on electric transmission projects with oversight from the Department of Energy.</p>	<p>NREL shared that they have upcoming opportunities to engage with tribes through a series of events:</p> <p>April 10th NREL Webinar on offshore wind</p> <p>Offshore wind industry conference in Sacramento California, May 13th – 15th with financial support for all travel and lodging covered by NREL</p>	<p>Individual committee member tribes will follow up with NREL with regard to the Tribal technical assistance program to broaden and strengthen relationships.</p>
DAY 2 – PM		
DAY 3 - PM		

***Next Steps / Action Items / Responsible Party** (ie: Resolution for submission to Board [Draft resolutions submitted after the deadline are only eligible for consideration at the authorization of the USET SPF Executive Officers Committee (EOC) if: (1) the resolution addresses an emergency, an issue that was not known before the deadline, or for other good cause; and (2) the EOC, at its discretion, agrees to consider the resolution. Whenever possible, late resolutions will be directed to Committee(s) of Jurisdiction prior to USET SPF BOD consideration.]; consultation session scheduled; listening session in works; future/upcoming meetings to be aware of; comments / testimony required – SPF involvement; add to best practices, request special meeting; any motions carried, are there policy implications for USET SPF involvement, etc.)

Impact Week – Did you visit the HILL? Yes No

Annual Meeting – Did you Tour the Host Tribal Nation? Yes No

OTHER Business

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At A Glance Agenda Items
for Next Meeting

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Were Elections Held? YES NO

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Date: _____

Prepared by: _____

Committee met under the direction of Chairperson: _____