



## Minutes

January 24, 2023

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Remote (Zoom Only)

Members Present: Erika Scheuring, Thomas Livoti, Duane Reid, Weber Greiser, Conrad Fisher, Skye Gilham, Kevin Askan, Michael Blackwolf

Staff Present: Terri Hogan

### 1. Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Gilham called the meeting to order at 11:15am. A quorum was present.

### 2. Introductions

- a. A moment of silence was held in honor of Tom Escarcega, Sr.
- b. Board members and staff present introduced themselves.

### 3. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Approve May 2022 board meeting minutes. Erika moved to approve the minutes. Weber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Approve July 2022 board meeting minutes. Kevin moved to approve the minutes. Tommy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Vice Chair Gilham asked for nominations from the board for the position of Chair. Kevin nominated Conrad Fisher. Tommy seconded the nomination. Conrad accepted the nomination. All voted in favor of Conrad as Board Chair.
- d. Vice Chair Gilham asked for nominations from the board for the position of Vice Chair. Michael nominated Erika Scheuring. Erika accepted the nomination. All voted in favor of Erika as Board Vice Chair.
- e. Discussion on Case #BH-02, remains discovered at the Tongue River Reservoir on September 1, 2022. Discussion on age of remains and Dr. Kemp's autopsy report. Board discussion on the noted trauma to the left frontal region (a gunshot wound or focal depressed fracture) and requested clarification from Dr. Kemp on the possibility of a connection between the suicide note discovered years earlier in the same area

and these remains. Board members asked if other items were found in the area where remains were discovered. The board consensus was that more research was needed and that this case should be on the agenda for the next board meeting. Board members expressed a desire to identify the remains, if they can be, so the board can notify the family. Tommy mentioned the MMIA task force as a potential resource/funding to the board for these cases. Tommy moved to ask Terri to collect more information from participating law enforcement agencies, (state FWP, Big Horn County sheriff, state coroner, etc.) to help the board determine an appropriate resolution for the case at the next board meeting. Documentation could include the report from the sheriff's deputy who visited the site. Michael seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- f. Board discussed date for next board meeting. Meeting to be an in-person meeting in Helena (with a Zoom option). Erika moved to hold the next board meeting on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> in Helena. Tommy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- g. Conrad thanked Skye for her leadership as board chair in the last couple of years.
- h. Board discussion on open board positions for the Crow, Chippewa Cree, and potentially Blackfeet and Fort Peck tribes. Conrad moved to ask Terri to send a letter to the tribal chairman for each tribe to express the board's desire to have representation from each of these tribes on the board. Michael seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- i. Tommy moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:30.