



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

From: Councilor Winnay Wemigwase

Date: August 11, 2014 to August 15, 2014

Re: CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting, Summer MAST Meeting and 2014 IHS Director's Bemidji Area Listening Session

I was able to attend the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting, the Summer Midwest Area of Sovereign Tribes Meeting and a Listening Session for the IHS Bemidji Area. All three of these meetings took place at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, MI.

For those in attendance, we were only able to sit and observe the meeting of this board. The topics that were covered in the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting were the advisory committee regular business and a tribal support unit update from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). They also had several discussions. They discussed the process that is happening to collect more current data on Metabolic Syndrome and how that relates to our high rate of

Diabetes. On their agenda were also discussions on Traditional Foods, Environmental Health and Smoking and Tobacco Use.

Some of the highlights of the Summer Meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) agenda included the tribal leaders round table discussion; an address by Cathy Abramson, Chairperson of the National Indian Health Board, regarding the funding reduction for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI); legal updates; a very interesting and promising discussion regarding more culturally-based detention facilities for youth with an emphasis on wellness; there was also a presentation by Bill Sulincas, the Regional Tribal Liaison for FEMA, about the document they are working on regarding Tribal Disaster Declaration Guidance.” He emphasized the need for Tribes to utilize the opportunities for consultation and input when FEMA approaches us. The afternoon included updates from Phyllis Davis, Chairperson of the Midwest Regional Health Board and everyone thanked her for her dedication to representing our region. There was also a call for nominations for a new MAST Treasurer/Secretary. The position was filled by an individual from the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe from Wisconsin. There was also a presentation and update on the 2014 consultations for both HHS (Health and Human Services) and IHS (Indian Health Service). Following the day’s agenda, we attended a dinner hosted by Merydian Technologies. They are a Native-owned business with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin holding ownership stake in the company. They came to MAST to talk about a computer program known as “Pryme” that serves to merge and process human resources information, payroll and security.

On the next, and last day, of the MAST meeting, Tribal Officials were invited to a listening session with Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The biggest topic covered was the lack of enough funding and support for elder care, especially for those that can no longer live alone or care for themselves. There was a lot of testimony given on that topic.

I want to thank the Tribe for allowing me to continue to attend these events. It's humbling to sit in on these meetings and realize the enormous job that we have as Tribal Councilors to ensure that our communities are represented and cared for. Miigwech.

Respectfully submitted by,

Winnay Wemigwase