



TURTLE PRESS

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Phase VIII Housing Development
begins in honor of NHBP Elders

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HER NAME WAS MATOAKA

NHBP reflects on the MMIW
movement during March for MMIP

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FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS

NAHF celebrates legacy of
improvement for Native Americans

ON PAGE 10

SUMMER 2022



NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI
A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT



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NHBP SWEARS IN RECENTLY RE-ELECTED

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



WRITTEN BY TAYLOR KOOPMAN
PHOTO BY JAKY REPLOGLE

NHBP issued the oath of office Thursday, March 24, to the recently re-elected NHBP Tribal Council during the regularly scheduled March Tribal Council Business Meeting.

Following the oaths of office, the NHBP Tribal Council voted to keep the officer appointments the same as before the 2021 election. Jamie Stuck will continue to serve as Chairperson, Dorie Rios as Vice Chairperson, Nancy Smit as Secretary, Dr. Jeff Chivis, Ph.D., as Treasurer, and Homer A. Mandoka as Sergeant-at-Arms.



(L-R) NHBP Tribal Council Treasurer Dr. Jeff Chivis, Ph.D., Secretary Nancy Smit, Chairperson Jamie Stuck, Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios, and Sergeant-at-Arms Homer A. Mandoka.

"I am humbled and proud to continue to serve on Tribal Council with my fellow Council members," Stuck said. "Under Council's guidance, NHBP has made great strides toward achieving economic prosperity and well-being for our Members. I am confident this re-elected Council will continue advancing our mission to provide for the next Seven Generations."

Stuck, of Scotts, has served on Tribal Council since 2006. Rios, of Battle Creek, has served on Tribal Council since 2010. Smit, of Battle Creek, although recently elected, served one previous term as Tribal Council Secretary and was appointed in August 2018 to serve as Tribal Council Secretary. Chivis, of Middleville, has served on Tribal Council since 2017. Mandoka, of Bronson, has served on Tribal Council since 2002.



BREAKING NEW GROUND

NHBP Housing Department Breaks Ground on Next Phase of Housing Development

WRITTEN BY JORDAN BRADLEY | PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK

Each new stage of growth for NHBP signifies the Tribe moving forward in a special way. The groundbreaking of Phase VIII, the Widokwtadwen Development, on May 25 was especially tender and deeply personal.

A small gathering of NHBP Tribal Members, Tribal Council Members, employees and representatives from FireKeepers Casino Hotel assembled under a white tent, shielded from the rain to reflect, conduct ceremonies and to symbolically dig on NHBP's S Drive South property to officially commence the Phase VIII of housing development.

"Of all the phases of housing development, this has to be my favorite," said Tribal Council Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios. "This Phase VIII development is being dedicated to two beloved Elders who have since walked on. They were so instrumental in the history of NHBP housing. These two individuals fought, tirelessly, for decades, making it their mission to get safe housing for all of our Members."

Rios was speaking of Gordon Bush-Bën and Ruth Ann Chivis-Bën. These two Tribal Members' foundational work in securing funding for developing housing on The Reservation was pivotal to the success of the Tribe over the years.

The two streets of the new development have been named in their honor: No'ek {Seven} Way for Bush-Bën, whose assigned Tribal enrollment number was seven, and Jigwé {Thunder Clan} Way for Chivis-Bën, who was a member of the Thunder Clan.

Just one example of Bush-Bën's dedication to his Tribe can be found in 1978. Looking at a dilapidated Reservation, a fierce and tenacious 31-year-old Bush-Bën fought for the needs of the Tribe and its Members, eventually suing the governor of Michigan at the time for \$1 million in damages and \$1.3 million in rehabilitation due to the state's lack of care for the Reservation land it held in trust.

"When my dad was given the Tribal enrollment number of seven, I don't think anyone would know how fitting this number would be to the way that he lived his life. Anyone who knew my dad can attest that he lived his life modeling the Seven Grandfather Teachings," Bush-Bën's daughter and NHBP Tribal Member Lisa Barrett said. "He loved his people and respected our land. He was brave

enough to come forward to challenge our government. He brought out the truth. He did it with honesty and humility. He also worked hard in life to receive an education and experience before he came back to the Tribe with the wisdom he gained to set out on a mission to get our Tribe housing."

Chivis-Bën was equally dedicated throughout the years. She drafted the grant proposal and housing plan that awarded the Tribe its first U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant in the late 1990s in the amount of \$1 million.

"I mean this with all due respect," Rios said, "but they were our squeaky wheels. If the answer was no, they would continue to take other avenues."

Mon-ee Zapata, an NHBP Tribal Member and daughter of Chivis-Bën, shared memories of her mother, who grew up on The Reservation in a home that had a dirt floor. Even after moving into a home with flooring and heating, Chivis-Bën could be found sleeping with a thick, fuzzy blanket covering her from top to toe – regardless of the weather conditions.

"I would ask her why she slept like that and she would say, 'I don't know, I guess it's just a habit,'" Zapata said. "When she slept inside that house [with the dirt floor] and it was cold, she would cover up all the way. After hearing that story, I understood that that's why she did the work that she did for Housing. She wanted to make sure that our People didn't have to sleep on dirt floors, that they would have warm homes."

Phase VIII of the housing development plan is expected to be completed in sets beginning this fall with full project completion in spring 2024 and will include the two streets previously mentioned. In this next phase, eight rental houses will be constructed, the first of 18 anticipated homes in the Widokwtadwen Development.

Barrett shared a quote from an article in the Nov. 19, 1978, edition of the Battle Creek Enquirer:

"At the reservation itself, he hopes state aid in general rehabilitation will allow Potawatomis to start their own businesses there and make a better adjustment to life in the final quarter of the 20th Century. 'You're going to see a new Huron Potawatomis,' Bush predicted. 'You're going to see a people that are self-sufficient.'

"I wish my dad could see his prediction come true, how self-sufficient our people have become. How we started our own businesses, how we made a better adjustment to life," Barrett continued. "But it was never about him. He not only lived his life following the Seven Grandfather Teachings, but also for the next Seven Generations. I know he'd be so proud to see the groundwork he laid 47 years ago being carried out by our Tribe."



Pg. 04 Top: Tribal Council Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios delivers a heartfelt speech.
Middle: The new development will consist of two roads, as seen in this mock-up of the neighborhood.
Bottom: NHBP Tribal Member Lisa Barrett shares remembrances of her late father, Gordon Bush-Bën.
Pg. 05 Right: NHBP Tribal Members dig the symbolic first dig of the new housing development at the S Drive South property.



HER NAME WAS MATOAKA

MMIP AND MMIW MOVEMENTS HAVE LONG BEEN IN THE MAKING.

WRITTEN BY BY JORDAN BRADLEY | PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK

The long-standing history of European entitlement, abuse and destruction of Native women's bodies lives on today, but where did it start?

Tracing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's movement back to its origins, you would find that the movement started in First Nations communities in Canada around 2015 in response to the crisis there.

However, some have made the case that the first recorded MMIW was a girl named Matoaka (who became known by her affectionate nickname Pocahontas, meaning "mischievous or playful one") from the Pamunkey Tribe of what is now Virginia.

A March 2017 Smithsonian Magazine article touched on the fascination and misunderstanding of Pocahontas that was established decades before she was turned into a Disney Princess®.

"There are truly hundreds of books over the many years that have been written about her. But when I tried to look into it, I found that most of them were full of hogwash. Many of them had been written by people who weren't historians," historian Camilla Townsend said. "Others were historians, [but] they were people who specialized in other matters and were taking it for granted that if something had been repeated several times in other people's works, it must be true. When I went back and looked at the actual surviving documents from that period, I learned that much of what had been repeated about her wasn't true at all."

An oral history from the Pamunkey Tribe paints a much different picture from the sing-song Disney movie. At the time of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, she was just 10 or 11 years old. When relations between her Tribe and the European colonizers deteriorated, she was captured and removed from her homelands, where she died at the young age of 21.

Pocahontas, as Diné writer and activist Jacqueline Keeler notes, "is a reminder of the untold numbers of Native women who are lost to our communities every year."

THE MOVEMENT

At the March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons in Grand Rapids this May, the Honorable Judge Melissa Pope brought attention to a sign held by a participant that called for a "full Oliphant fix."

"For those that don't know what that is, Oliphant is the case where the United States Supreme Court took away our inherent criminal jurisdiction," Pope explained to the crowd.

The case that Pope and the sign refer to is the Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe case of 1978. The case followed an altercation between a non-Native resident of the Suquamish Tribe's Port Madison Indian Reservation, located in northwestern Washington state, and a Tribal police officer in August of 1973. The altercation resulted in the man, Mark D. Oliphant, being charged with assaulting a Tribal officer and resisting arrest. Oliphant applied for a writ of habeas corpus – "a fundamental right that protects against unlawful and indefinite imprisonment," according to aclu.org – and claimed that because he was not Native, he was not subject to Native authority. Five years of court proceedings and escalations later, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor, setting the deplorable precedent that Tribal courts could not prosecute non-Natives for crimes they committed on Reservations.

"Indian tribal courts do not have inherent criminal jurisdiction to try and to punish non-Indians, and hence may not assume such jurisdiction unless specifically authorized to do so by Congress," the opening of the case states.

What followed were decades more of the same abuse that Native women had already been experiencing on their Reservations, especially near "man-camps," a moniker for temporary housing for oil rig workers that were frequently near Reservations and in rural areas.

"We as Indigenous women, families and communities face some of the highest rates of violence in the world. More than four in five Native people have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. And we know that when comparing to other races, Native women experience the highest rates of sexual assault," said Uniting Three Fires Against Violence Executive Director Rachel Carr-Shunk. "We know that in addition to the high rates of violence, we have unique issues when addressing violence in our communities, including complex jurisdictional schemes and certain barriers that have been created off western and mainstream ways that are not designed by us – or for us."



NHBP Tribal youth Asunciana Ashquab Dandridge holds a handmade sign at the March for MMIP in Grand Rapids, Mich. on May 5.

THE WAY FORWARD

Progress has been slow, to be sure, but it is happening.

Originally enacted in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act expanded protection for women experiencing violent abuse, such as sexual, dating, domestic and intimate partner violence and stalking.

Through many iterations, the VAWA Act has evolved to address the complex nature of domestic abuse. And the VAWA Act of 2013 finally allowed Tribal courts jurisdiction to prosecute non-Native perpetrators of domestic and/or sexual violence on Tribal land – but that jurisdiction was extremely limited.

“Despite the many flaws and complete lack of repair and restoration that VAWA 2022 does, it is a step in the right direction. VAWA 2013 was a sliver of that jurisdiction returned, and we got another sliver,” said Pope while holding the mic at the March for MMIP in Grand Rapids in May.

Going forward, reauthorization of VAWA 2022 means that protections to Tribal Sovereignty in cases of domestic and sexual violence occurring on Tribal land will be extended through 2027.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic, intimate partner or sexual abuse, please know that there are resources available to you.

For more information about the NHBP Victim Services Department, contact Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Patti McClure at 269.704.8396 or patricia.mcclure@nhbp-nsn.gov or Victim Services Assistant Alyssa Smith at 269.832.0532 or alyssa.smith@nhbp-nsn.gov.

Or reach out to the national Native Helpline for domestic and sexual abuse, StrongHearts 24/7 Native Helpline at StrongHeartsHelpline.org, or 1.844.762.8483 for culturally appropriate support and advocacy.

Pg. 08 Top Center: Event organizer Robyn Burlingham and fellow protestors lead the March for MMIP in downtown Grand Rapids. **Bottom Left:** Hon. Judge Melissa Pope delivers remarks on the MMIW epidemic before the march began. **Bottom Right:** Protestors in Regalia and Ribbon Skirts take to the streets for the MMIW movement. **Pg. 09 Right:** Tribal Elders protest and demand justice during the March for MMIP.





CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF MOVING FORWARD

NAHF HELPS DOZENS OF INSTITUTIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES MAKE IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENTS

WRITTEN BY KATIE HALLORAN

As the Native American Heritage Fund moves into another year of providing grants that matter, NHP is reflecting on the many purposeful, permanent gains made in the first five years of the fund's existence.

Since its inception in 2016, the NAHF Board has approved and awarded 31 grants to institutions and municipalities, totaling more than \$1.9 million to date – all with the goal of promoting positive relationships between Michigan's 12 federally recognized Native American Tribes and K-12 school districts, colleges, universities and governmental agencies.

Created as part of the Second Amendment to the 1988 Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the NHP and the State of Michigan, the NAHF receives up to \$500,000 per year from NHP's state revenue-sharing payments from FireKeepers Casino Hotel.

These monies allocated by the NAHF Board improve curricula and education related to Michigan Indian history, as well as Native American language and culture programs across all educational levels.

The NAHF also financially supports the acts of removing and replacing logos, imagery and mascots within municipalities

and school districts around the state of Michigan that may be deemed offensive to Native Americans or may convey inaccurate representations of Native American culture and values.

Two cities that quickly embraced NAHF grant opportunities were Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. In 2018, each city was granted funding by the NAHF to remove and replace harmful imagery within their city parks or city hall building.

The most visually prominent impact of the NAHF has been its grants to eight Michigan school districts to undergo logo and mascot changes that are necessary to include more culturally responsible representation.

Belding Area Schools, Okemos Public Schools and Public Schools of Petoskey are three such school districts that have received substantial financial assistance from the NAHF to discontinue their offensive logo or mascots.

Belding Area Schools Board of Education had voted in 2017 to change its offensive mascot, "R-word," but the district lacked the funding within its operating budget to make the costly yet necessary rebranding on everything from athletic uniforms and fields, to signage and architecture that spanned five buildings.

"In the midst of an already built-up logo problem, I came across an article covering the Native American Heritage Fund," said Belding Area Schools Superintendent Brent Noskey. "Once I reached out, NAHF could not have been a better fit to get our school into better shape."

Applying for a grant in 2017, Belding Area Schools was awarded its full ask of \$334,690 from the NAHF Board, becoming the first school district in Michigan to receive NAHF funding for rebranding purposes. The school district now had the opportunity to rapidly and permanently remove and replace anything involving its former offensive mascot with its new mascot, the "Black Knights," which it completed in the fall of 2019.

The NAHF Board invited Belding Area Schools leaders in 2018 to receive an award for being "pioneer leaders," acknowledging the district's use of the grant monies to make meaningful and impactful changes in their schools. The Belding Area Schools district has continued its involvement with NAHF by encouraging other schools to make changes similar to its own.

In August 2020, the Public Schools of Petoskey Board of Education unanimously voted to change its logo, thereby ending 70 years of the district's use of "Northmen." Applying for and receiving the nearly \$60,000 grant from the NAHF enabled the school district to quickly remove its former logo that depicted a man with a war bonnet from all of its infrastructure, vehicles and uniforms to a "P" for Petoskey, which was already placarded on the district's football stadium.



BEFORE



AFTER





Okemos Public Schools became an NAHF grant recipient in 2021, receiving more than \$200,000 to rebrand its mascot, "Chiefs," which had been used by the community for decades. The new mascot, "Wolves," was voted in unanimously by the school district's board of education in February 2022. The school district is currently in the early stages of rebranding, thanks to the grant provided by the NAHF.

As recently as 2021, more than 35 schools in Michigan still use Native American imagery, mascots or logos, according to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

Although this number continues to decline, the current and continual use of Native American imagery in Michigan schools demonstrates the need to keep moving forward and making positive improvements through NAHF to promote mutual respect and cooperation.

"We can only hope that the NAHF will eventually bring the number of Michigan schools that use Native imagery down to zero," said NAHF Board Chairperson Jamie Stuck, who also serves as the NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson. "We will continue to remain steadfast in our mission to support schools through branding changes, but we also hope that schools will look to the NAHF for curriculum and educational support too. The board is hopeful for our 2022 applicants and we look forward to seeing what projects they'd like to tackle."

Recipients of the 2022 NAHF grant cycle will be announced in July. Look for more details on recipients in the Fall Quarterly Turtle Press.

THE NHBP EDUCATION OFFICE AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OUR 2022 GRADUATES.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



MCKENNA BURLINGHAM
Acellus Academy,
Kalamazoo, Mich.



KAYDINCE BUTCHER
Fruitport High School,
Fruitport, Mich.
Kaydince plans to attend
Grand Valley State University
and major in Neuroscience.



FRANCESCO FAVALORO III
Melbourne High School,
Melbourne, Fla.
Francesco plans to attend
Tallahassee Community
College/Florida State
University.



HOGAN HARMON
Western Michigan Christian,
Norton Shores, Mich.
Hogan will attend the Universal
Technical Institute in Orlando,
Florida, for Automotive
Technology.



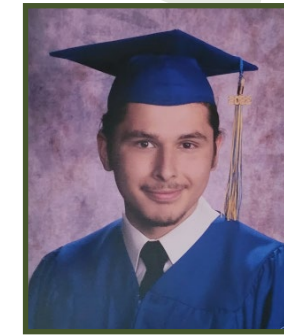
JOSEV "JO-JO" KEITH
Athens Middle/High School,
Athens, Mich.
Well-known for his outstanding
athletic abilities in school, Jo-Jo
has been an all-around athlete
in track, basketball, football
and wrestling. After graduation,
Jo-Jo plans on traveling and
attending trade school.



NYANA MANDOKA
Online Step Up Program,
Battle Creek, Mich.



OLIVIA MANDOKA
Traverse City High School,
Traverse City, Mich.



GABRIEL MEDINA
Buena Vista Academy,
Placentia, Calif.
Gabriel's honors are Independent
Study Scholar and early graduation.
Gabriel will attend Fullerton College,
Fullerton, California, where he plans
to pursue a Bachelor of Science,
majoring in Nursing.



MASON MURPHY
Fruitport High School,
Fruitport, Mich.
Mason is currently undecided
regarding college.



KAELIN PHILLIPS
Homeschool,
Battle Creek, Mich.



KATELYN PODEIN
Homeschool,
Harrietta, Mich.
Katelyn is considering a degree
in Animal Science. She is
currently writing a book and
exploring opportunities to use
her artistic talents.



JALAYSIA POSTELL
Kelloggsville High School,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



ASHTON SHUKIS
Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School, Grand Rapids, Mich.



EMMA LEIGH SMITH
Livingston Central High School, Smithland, Ky.



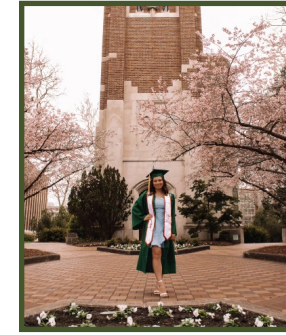
CHRISTOPHER STILLSON
Grand Haven Senior High School, Grand Haven, Mich.

POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES | ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE



JAMIE BUTCHER
Electrical Training Alliance, Alcoa, Tenn.
Journeyman Wireman/
Electrician.

POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES | BACHELOR'S DEGREE



KAYLA CHINGMAN
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.
Kayla earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Management, with minors in Environmental Sustainability Studies and Environment and Health. Her future plans include applying to graduate school with a focus on Business Administration or Environmental Studies.



CHRISTOPHER COURTS, ASN, RN, CPHT
Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Christopher graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He plans to continue his career in Cardiac Catheter Lab and exploring options for CRNA programs.



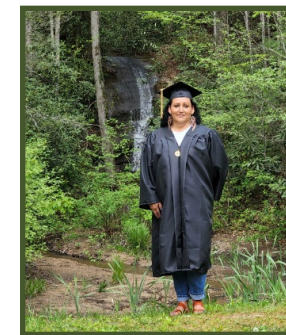
JORDAN DAY
University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Jordan earned his bachelor's in Marketing and Entrepreneurship. He plans to work in sales for the next few years. Eventually, he would like to run his own business selling Powersports, cars and trucks.



DEMI MEDINA
University of California San Diego, San Diego, Calif.
Demi earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree in Psychology.



STELLA "SALEM" RAMON
Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, Calif.
Salem graduated in the Honors Program and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Game and Entertainment Design. Salem plans to get certified to teach high school art in California and work in indie game design in her free time.



PATRICIA SMITH
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.
Patricia earned a Bachelor of Science in Legal Support and Services with a Paralegal concentration. Her future plans are to major in Native American Studies with a minor in Pre-Law at Northern Michigan University.

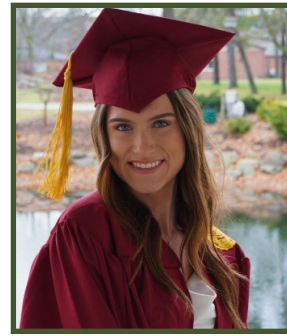
POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES | BACHELOR'S DEGREE



HAILEIGH TAYLOR
 University of North Carolina
 Wilmington, Wilmington, N.C.
 Haileigh earned a Bachelor
 of Science in Environmental
 Science and Geospatial
 Technologies. She is
 currently attending Virginia
 Tech for a master's degree
 in Natural Resources.



LISA WALKER
 Southern New Hampshire
 University, Manchester, N.H.
 Lisa graduated as a Distinguished
 Scholar (graduated with a 4.0
 GPA) with a Bachelor of Science
 in Healthcare Administration,
 with a Health Information
 Management concentration.
 She was recently hired by
 NHBP as a Community Health
 Representative serving Members
 in Allegan, Barry, Kent and Ottawa
 counties. Lisa is also pursuing a
 Master of Public Health.



KATELYN WISEMAN
 Central Michigan University,
 Mount Pleasant, Mich.
 Katelyn was on the Dean's
 List the last three semesters,
 where she earned a Bachelor
 of Applied Arts, with a major
 in Advertising and minor in
 Entrepreneurship. She plans on
 working in advertising for a year
 and then attending graduate
 school for a master's in Social
 Media Marketing.



ONYLEEN ZAPATA
 Central Michigan University,
 Mount Pleasant, Mich.
 Onyleen earned a Bachelor
 of Art in Anthropology, with a
 minor in Museum Studies and
 an Indian Studies Certificate.
 She plans to finish her Tribal
 Historic Preservation Office
 Internship with Match-E-
 Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of
 Pottawatomi Indians.

POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES | MASTER'S DEGREE



**HEATHER
 BAUMGARTNER**
 Concordia University Irvine,
 Irvine, Calif.
 Heather earned a Master of
 Arts in Coaching and Athletics
 Administration. Her future plans
 include getting a doctoral degree
 in leadership and becoming a
 collegiate dance team coach.



**JESSILYN DUNEGAN,
 MS, RD, CSP, LD, CNSC**
 Rosalind Franklin University
 of Medicine and Science,
 North Chicago, Ill.
 Jessilyn earned a Master of
 Science in Clinical Nutrition.
 As the acting Medical Nutrition
 Therapy Manager at the Alaska
 Native Medical Center, she also
 holds two additional advanced
 certifications: Specialist in
 Pediatric Nutrition (CSP) and
 Certified Nutrition Support
 Clinician (CNSC).



SARA MOORE
 Grand Valley State University,
 Allendale, Mich.
 Sara earned a Master of Science
 in Communications. She plans to
 continue to grow her consulting/
 marketing business and teach
 at the college level, and plans on
 giving back to the NHBP Tribe in
 some capacity.



Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change

WRITTEN BY ANGELA CHIVIS AND AMY BOETCHER, NHBP ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Photo Above: The Talmadge Creek, a tributary of the Kalamazoo River, being cleaned in Marshall, Michigan. Photo by the NHBP Environmental Department.

It's no secret that Native Americans have passed along their beliefs and traditions from generation to generation to continue their culture, ways of life, and survival. They continue to use this Traditional Ecological Knowledge to adapt to the world's changing climate. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service defines American TEK as:

"The evolving knowledge acquired by Indigenous and local Peoples over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment. This knowledge is specific to a location and includes the relationships between plants, animals, natural phenomena, landscapes and timing of events that are used for lifeways, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, agriculture and forestry. TEK is an accumulating body of knowledge, practice and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (human and non-human) with one another and with the environment. It encompasses the world view of Indigenous People which includes ecology, spirituality, human and animal relationships and more."

Western science has done an excellent job of identifying our changing climate's quantifiable components and mechanisms. Still, it has a significant blind spot – a broader perspective, including other worldviews.

Native Americans have always been connected to the Earth through their ways of life and traditions as a significant component of their culture. Communities managed their subsistence activities such as agriculture, hunting and fishing by observing and predicting the variability of their climate and local surroundings. Traditional forecasts included observation of sky color, temperature, moon phases, fruiting trees, and animals' migration, according to "Adaptation to Climate Change: Does Traditional Ecological Knowledge Hold the Key?" by Nadzirah Hosen.

Because of these detailed observations and through TEK, Native Americans have been able to determine changes in their environment and adapt to it. For example, a 2020 article from the Yale School of Environment detailed how the warming climate has affected clam and oyster harvests for the Swinomish Tribe of Washington. In response, the Tribe created their own modern clam garden and is looking at further restoration processes for oysters. Additionally, the Karuk Tribe implements prescribed burning to control wildfires in their area. NHBP participates in prescribed burning, as well.

Other Tribes adapting to a changing climate include the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, who are relocating nuisance beavers from urban areas back to traditional watersheds to help lower river temperatures and aid salmon populations. They are also redirecting agricultural runoff for electricity generation. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington is removing invasive butterfly bushes from the banks of the Dungeness River to help protect its salmon. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana are gathering and planting seedlings of the whitebark pine that are more resistant to warming-related diseases such as blister rust. And Alaskan Tribes are using microscopy to identify harmful algae blooms spurred by warming waters.

In Michigan, the Kalamazoo River suffered the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history that affected the Nottawaseppi and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Tribes with pollution and severe flooding of Wild Rice watersheds. To combat the destruction of the culturally significant food for the Potawatomi People, they reached a settlement with Enbridge to restore the natural resources harmed by the spill. By using their sovereign rights, Tribes are attempting to block pipelines and hold pipeline companies liable for spills as a unique way to combat greenhouse emissions, pollution to the environment and loss of culturally significant food and traditions for Tribal Nations.



Above: Oil contamination on the Kalamazoo River photographed on July 30, 2010. Photo by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

TRIBAL ELDER EXPERIENCE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Throughout NHBP Elder Doug Taylor's lifetime, climate change has made significant impacts.

"Seasons haven't always been consistent in my lifetime," Taylor said. "That observation is like a piece of grain in the grand scheme of things, with Earth being 4.5 billion years old. There's been no accurate scientific tracking of all of Earth's past climates. Humans have only been around for 6 million years, if I remember right. Our current tracking of climate is more of a modern conception."

Taylor recalled a wide variety of precipitation, noting how snow and rainfalls have significant impacts on seasonal crop growth.

"All of that impacts the growing seasons and sugar bush, for example. In the spring, if it doesn't get warm during the day and colder in the evenings, then the sugar bush sap won't run that well, so your maple sugar will have a low output or shortage," Taylor said. "That seemed to be the case these last couple of years. It affects sugar bush but other sources

of food as well. Last year, it was warm early. The Wild Rice started blooming, then it got cold and died off. It did make a comeback, but not very well."

And there are larger implications for populations that rely on certain crops.

"For our Ancestors, a change in climate would have been fairly traumatic because it could change when you forage, growing seasons and hunting. So, you would have to shift your foraging and gathering techniques dramatically along with your regular planting regiment in the spring and summer. Native Americans were seasonal eaters based on which food was more abundant during the spring, summer and fall. Your diet would be leaner in the winter months.

"Our Ancestors shared their knowledge of traditions – teachings – by word of mouth, with family and other Tribal Members. Again, sometimes it would be hard to get a good seasonal crop of Wild Rice, sugar bush, corn, beans or squash. You would have to rely more on other resources like fish or bigger game to supplement your loss.

"I would imagine your seasonal encampment would change due to climate change. So, your normal way of life during each season is dramatically changed. There were so many factors that everyday life would be challenging."

Just as Taylor expresses humanity as one part of a whole, of the importance of giving back and learning lessons from your Tribe and the environment, similar sentiments come from other Indigenous people.

"...One of the hallmarks of Indigenous ways of knowing is that we are blessed by being surrounded by intelligences other than our own...plants know everything needed to know about surviving into the future...In return for all of the gifts of the plants, how do we reciprocate?" said Native scientist and author Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Indigenous knowledge-based climate solutions can't be found and memorized from a book.

"[Our environmental obstacles] are less about the difficulty of removing [environmental hazards] and...more about changing colonial mindsets. I was asked to lead 'ethnobotanical walks'...[and] cringed, because I didn't want to talk about how all these plants were 'used,'" said Tiffany Joseph in a 2020 article from Briar Patch Magazine on decolonizing ecology. "It felt out of alignment with the teachings I'd been given, that any knowledge of our culture [unlike Western scientific knowledge] is best learned from our family, and when it's not available through our family, then we must reach out to Elders in our nations."



Above: Prescribed burn on NHBP Q Drive property. Photo by the NHBP Environmental Department.

SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

Tribal Nations can continue to preserve their land and their traditions through their culture and through western science when using climate change assessments, attending climate conferences, and creating climate adaptation strategies with Tribal policies.

Climate change assessments examine environmental changes in the Community's economies, infrastructure,

public health and other aspects. Adaptation efforts can also be accomplished by exchanging and collaborating with multiple Tribes on climate change and by developing individual climate change procedures or policies. NHBP is already doing many culturally centered climate projects and solutions. These articles serve as notification of Tribal ideas of projects/solutions to address climatic concerns. Keep an eye out for more to come from NHBP.



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WASÉYABEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY SECURES SIX NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS

WRITTEN BY PRESIDENT & CEO OF WASÉYABEK
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC DEIDRA MITCHELL



As part of its diversified investment strategy, Waséyabek Development Company, LLC, has been awarded six federal contracts since the start of 2022, adding an estimated \$5.3 million in revenue and bringing its total active contracts to 24 across its four entities in the federal contract division.

"I'm excited to see the federal entities of WDC grow and expand to support a diversified investment for the Tribe," said WDC Board Chair Chris Rogers. "Beyond revenue, these contracts also provide job opportunities for Tribal Members in new and exciting fields."

The six contracts for 2022 include work from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, General Services Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers. The work ranges in scope from IT, professional staffing, facility/ infrastructure maintenance and operations to environmental services and construction management.

WDC began pursuing federal work in 2017 to bid on U.S. government contracts to further diversify the revenue stream for the Tribe. Investing in this area minimizes the risk of unforeseen changes in the gaming industry and broader economy. Since contracts can vary in length from just a few months to three, five and ten years, WDC can overlap those contract revenues over time.

On Sept. 11, 2018, Waséyabek Federal Services was the first WDC subsidiary to receive certification in the Small Business Administration 8(a) program. Currently WDC has three Tribal entities with 8(a) certifications, which can provide several advantages in the federal procurement process:

- Tribal 8(a)s are always defined a small, disadvantaged business as a subcontractor
- Tribal 8(a)s can receive direct-award contracts (meaning they can bypass the traditional bid and proposal process) in excess of \$4.5 million
- Tribal 8(a)s can receive direct-award contracts (meaning they can bypass the traditional bid and proposal process) from the Department of Defense of up to \$100 million
- Direct-award contracts cannot be protested
- Tribes can have an unlimited number of subsidiary 8(a) companies (as opposed to an individual 8(a) business owner who can only have one in their lifetime).

In addition, the WDC federal entities' contracts offer employment opportunities to all Tribal Members under their Native American Hiring Preferences, applied in accordance with company policy.

"We are committed to growing our federal entities and taking advantage of the benefits we are granted through our designation," said WDC President and CEO Deidra Mitchell. "The success of our federal entities is key to WDC reaching its goal of becoming a \$1 billion top-line revenue company by 2040."

WDC also currently has seven active proposals pending with various agencies and is expecting decisions on those proposals in the coming months.



MCKAY TOWER SPORTS A NEW LOOK IN 2022

Gun Lake Investments, Waséyabek Development Company, LLC, and Rockford Property Management, a division of Rockford Construction, recently introduced a new look at the historic McKay Tower, showcasing a rebranded website and interior and exterior signage. The rebranding was launched to honor the historical relevance of the building and its new Tribal owners, and to showcase the many offerings it provides while preserving its impact for years to come.

The new logo symbolizes the significance of the tower by using a combination of purposeful shapes and serif letterforms that create a central pillar. The new branding will be integrated across the entire McKay Tower experience, including its residential, retail, events and business arms.

Originally constructed in 1914, the building has served as a pillar of the community in downtown Grand Rapids for several generations. Over the years, McKay Tower has undergone numerous renovations as it has grown with the city, evolving from a four-story building into its current 18-floor stature.

Because of that history, the shapes in the new logo were designed with the intention of making the letters “MK” a discovery, reflecting the experience of discovering the building.

“Like the building itself, the Tribes we represent have deep roots and economic influence in Grand Rapids that date back centuries, and we are proud to honor that history with this rebranding project,” said WDC President and CEO Deidra Mitchell. “This was a team effort that resulted in a clean, modern look that we think will serve the tower well for years to come.”

McKay Tower, located adjacent to Rosa Parks Circle, was purchased in 2020 through a co-investment by Gun Lake Investments and WDC.

“McKay Tower represents more than a century of Grand Rapids’ history, and preserving its significance in the area was a top priority for us when we partnered with Waséyabek in 2020 to acquire the building,” said GLI CEO Monica King. “We believe this refreshed look still honors all that McKay Tower has been for the Grand Rapids community, while also giving it revitalization for continued impact to the community for years to come. We are very pleased with the rebranding, as both owners and a tenant.”

Rockford Property Management has overseen all management services of the 160,000 square-foot building’s residential and commercial spaces since 2020.

“GLI and Waséyabek have been incredible stewards for McKay Tower,” said Monica Steimle App, who is Executive Vice President of property management at Rockford Property Management. “This rebranding effort is just one of many examples of their commitment to elevating our city. The new brand signifies a special milestone in the building’s history, and we’re grateful to share it with such passionate and prominent partners.”

To learn more about McKay Tower’s history and view the new branding, visit mckaytower.com.



JESSI GOLDNER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

NHBP Tribal Member Jessi Goldner was named as one of 40 under 40 award recipients by The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development for her continuous leadership and her role as Director of Compliance for Waséyabek Development Company, LLC.

The National Center’s 40 Under 40 award recognizes the best and brightest emerging leaders in Indian Country. Every year, American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian leaders under the age of 40 are honored for their leadership skills and their contributions in their business and Tribal community. Honorees are selected from numerous professional fields, including academia, economic development, government, nonprofit, tourism, nature conservation, technology and many others.

“I’m humbled and honored to be recognized alongside so many influential people in the Native American community,” Goldner said. “This award is really a reflection of the love and support I receive each day from my husband, family, Tribal Members, friends and co-workers. I feel truly blessed.”

Goldner started serving her Tribe in 2011, working for the NHBP Tribal Government. She later became the Office Administrator to the board of directors and the CEO at WDC. She is credited with onboarding the first set of WDC board members and playing a key role in the creation of the foundational processes, policies and procedures of the organization.

In her role as Director of Compliance, Goldner is part of the executive leadership team that manages



WDC’s portfolio of Tribally-owned companies. These companies operate in the real estate, commercial and U.S. government contracting sectors. Goldner coordinates the application process and administration of all portfolio company participation in SBA and minority certification programs, including the SBA 8(a) and Mentor-Protege Programs (SBAMPP). Currently there are three companies in WDC’s portfolio that are 8(a) certified; two of which also participate in the SBAMPP. She is the point of contact for risk management for 23 WDC business units that employ more than 400 people throughout the United States. Additionally, Goldner oversees the Leadership Exploration and Development program, an ongoing training session designed to help Tribal Members explore careers in the Waséyabek portfolio of companies.

“Jessi is a passionate, caring and dedicated leader in our community,” said Jamie Stuck, Tribal Council Chair for the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi. “She embraces our culture and Tribal teachings, applying them to the benefit of her family, co-workers, and Tribal community. She very-much deserves this recognition.”

Goldner joined her fellow honorees and several WDC staff at an in-person award reception in Las Vegas on May 25.



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