**Elder Committee Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2016**

**Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort**

**Suquamish, WA**

**In attendance:** Andy Joseph- Colville, Dan Gleason—Chehalis, Gladys Hobbs and Sally Petite—Grand Ronde, Patty Gaiser- Cowlitz, Luella Azule, NPAIHB staff

Andy Joseph provided opening Prayer.

August 2016 Elder committee minutes: **Correction**: Dan Gleason stated he did not make motion to approve April 2016 Minutes. Andy Joseph called for approval with the minor correction. Patty seconded, passed unanimously.

**Tribal Updates:**

**Grand Ronde**

October 26 Gladys stated Grand Ronde Elders are going to Siletz for a Halloween Party. Siletz and Grand Ronde alternate hosting party. There will be a Halloween Costume contest.

November 11-12th The Tribal Market Place will be at the casino and again on November 18-20th during Restoration. Most vendors are native but anyone can sell.

On 2nd and 4th Saturday there is an elder’s gathering at the Elder Activity Center. The 2017 Elder’s Honor Date is currently unknown.

December 2-3rd Christmas Bizarre.

December 6th Tribal Christmas Party.

December 16th,Tribal Elders Christmas Party

Grand Ronde uses Title 6 funds to host a lunch and Harvest Event to get whatever is ripe at the time.

One time monthly there is a Nutrition Bingo with prizes.

**Colville Tribe/NICOA Updates:**

Andy reported approximately 1300 Native Elders attended. Colville sent 5-6 elders. Due to distance, it was hard to recruit more elders. He left early because he had to attend a Contract Support Costs Meeting. He didn’t get to attend as much as he wanted because he likes to listen to what other tribal elders are dealing with on their reservations and what elder resources are shared with local tribes for: hearing, medications, Alzheimer’s, elder abuse and what tribes are doing to prevent these problems. NICOA was held in the hotel, the tribal gaming meeting was in the casino during the same time. NICOA is every two years. On the off years, Andy would like NPAIHB to have a Regional Elder Resource sharing conference for NW tribes. Different tribes could host this event. Dan will ask James De la Cruz from Quinault for his thoughts. Andy assisted with the NICOA resolutions and they were able to get through them quickly. Dan said they sponsored a resolution to sell native foods in restaurants. It was denied in caucus but passed on the floor. Dan stated it was a good meeting. He was impressed with upper falls blessing asking for blessings for Native Country especially Standing Rock Sioux. Patty stated on the last day, Native Veterans were named, honored, and gifted. Since Bernadine was unable to attend, Patty wants to thank NPAIHB for calling her to attend NICOA and pay her transportation costs. She stated Bridget from the health board was amazing.

**Chehalis Tribe**

Dan stated Chehalis survived the 2016 Wind Storm, it poured down rain. The tribal center closed at 10am. Elders were invited to stay in the hotel. Thurston County was hit harder.

October 26, Chehalis tribe will send 85 elders to Hawaii. Most are taking family members.

Dan will leave this afternoon to attend the Tribal Election Forum and return tonight.

There will be an Elder’s Bizarre.

In January 2017, Chehalis Tribe will host the NPAIHB QBM and ATNI at Great Wolf Lodge.

**Cowlitz Tribe**

Patty stated she also attended NICOA and National Indian Health Board conferences. There will be a Christmas Bizarre the 1st Saturday in December at St. Mary’s in Toledo. She is donating items to the raffle. Although they have an enrollment of 4000 members, they only get about 250 for meetings. Puyallup is hosting a Public Health Summit.

October 7, Cowlitz hosted an Elders Honor Day. At least 10 tribes sent their elders. Patty estimates there were approximately 350 elders.

The Elder Committee asked about Clarice. I stated she will return January 2017 for the Chehalis QBM. The Elder committee wishes her a speedy recovery.