



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Joint DOI/Tribal Leaders Task Force To Meet April 25-26 in San Diego, Calif.

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Interior Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb today announced that the Joint DOI/Tribal Leaders Task Force will hold its next meeting on April 25-26, 2002 in San Diego, Calif. The Task Force was established in February to review plans on improving the Department’s management of individual Indian and tribal trust assets.

“The Joint DOI/Tribal Leaders Task Force is helping us find the best solutions to meet the challenge of trust reform,” said McCaleb. “As their work progresses, I am confident the task force members, many of whom are elected tribal leaders, will give careful and deliberate thought as to how the Department’s trust management system can be improved.”

On November 15, 2001, Secretary Gale Norton announced her proposal to transfer and consolidate Indian trust asset management functions currently administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and other Interior agencies within a new Bureau of Indian Trust Assets Management (BITAM). She also announced the establishment of an Assistant Secretary for Indian Trust Assets Management to oversee BITAM and a new Office of Indian Trust Transition (OITT) to implement her transfer and consolidation plan. After holding an extensive series of consultation meetings with tribal leaders on her trust reform efforts, Secretary Norton formed the task force to review her proposal along with alternative plans submitted by tribes.

“Secretary Norton is committed to bringing meaningful improvement to the management of Indian trust assets,” said Deputy Secretary J. Steven Griles. “The Joint DOI/Tribal Leaders Task Force will assist in this effort by seeking ideas from the tribes, who are themselves trust beneficiaries, on ways to effectively implement trust reform.”

The task force is composed of, in addition to Deputy Secretary Griles and Assistant Secretary McCaleb, Associate Deputy Secretary James E. Cason; Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs Director David L. Bernhardt; Office of Communications Director Eric Ruff; the Special Trustee for American Indians Thomas J. Slonaker, Indian Trust Transition Director Ross O.

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Swimmer and Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Wayne R. Smith along with 24 tribal leaders (with 16 alternates) from the BIA's twelve regions. Co-chairing the task force are Griles, McCaleb, Tex Hall, Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota and Sue Masten, Chairwoman of the Yurok Tribes of Indians of California.

The task force held its first meeting in Shepherdstown, W.Va., on February 1-4, 2002. A second meeting was held in Phoenix, Ariz., in March.

Note to Editors: *A 2-page list of task force members accompanies this release.*

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Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Joint DOI/Tribal Leaders Task Force

(April 24, 2002)

Co-Chairs:

J. Steven Griles, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Neal A. McCaleb, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
Tex Hall, Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota
Sue Masten, Chairwoman, Yurok Tribe of Indians of California

U.S. Department of the Interior Representatives:

J. Steven Griles, Deputy Secretary
James E. Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary
David L. Bernhardt, Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Eric Ruff, Director, Office of Communications
Thomas J. Slonaker, Special Trustee for American Indians
Ross O. Swimmer, Director, Office of Indian Trust Transition
Neal A. McCaleb, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Wayne R. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

BIA Region/Tribal Representatives:

Alaska: Mr. Mike Williams, Yup'ik Central Council (*Member*)
Mr. Ed Thomas, President, Tlingit-Haida Central Council of Alaska (*Alt.*)
Mr. Joe Williams, President, Organized Village of Saxman (*Alternate*)
Ms. Julie May Roberts, Tanana Tribal Council (*Alternate*)

Eastern: Mr. Keller George, Oneida Nation of New York (*Member*)
Mr. Tim Martin, Executive Director, United South & Eastern Tribes (*Mbr*)

Eastern Okla.: Hon. Bill Anoatubby, Governor, Chickasaw Nation (*Member*)
Hon. Charles Tillman Jr., Principal Chief, Osage Nation (*Member*)
Ms. Mekko Grace Bunner, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town (*Alternate*)

Great Plains: Hon. Mike Jandreau, Chairman, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe (*Member*)
Hon. Richard Monette, Chairman, Turtle Mt. Band of Chippewa Indians (*Mbr*)
Hon. Roger Trudell, Chairman, Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska (*Alternate*)

Midwest: Hon. Melanie A. Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band Reservation
Business Committee (*Member*)
Mr. Paul Ninham, Member, Oneida Business Committee, Oneida Tribe of
Indians of Wisconsin (*Member*)
Hon. Apesanahkwat, Chairman, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (*Alt.*)

Navajo: Mr. Ervin Keeswood, Navajo Council Delegation (*Member*)
Mr. George Arthur, Navajo Council Delegation (*Member*)
Mr. Alfred Yazzie (*Alternate*)

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- Northwest: Hon. Ernie Stensgar, Chairman, Coeur D’Alene Tribe (*Member*)
Hon. W. Ron Allen, Chairman, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (*Member*)
Hon. Colleen Cawston, Chairperson, Confederated Tribes of the
Colville Reservation (*Alternate*)
- Pacific: Hon. Sue Masten, Chairwoman, Yurok Tribe of Indians (*Member*)
Hon. Rachel Joseph, Chairwoman, Lone Pine Tribe of Shoshone Paiute (*Mbr*)
Hon. Mary Belardo, Chairwoman, Torres-Martinez Band of
Desert Cahuilla Indians (*Alternate*)
Mr. Andrew J. Masiel, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians (*Alternate*)
Ms. Leslie Lohse, Councilmember, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians (*Alt.*)
- Rocky Mt.: Hon. Alvin Windy Boy, Chairman, Chippewa-Cree Business Committee (*Mbr*)
Hon. Ivan Posey, Chairman, Shoshone Business Committee (*Member*)
Hon. Geri Small, President, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council (*Alternate*)
- So. Plains: Hon. Garry McAdams, President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (*Member*)
Mr. James Potter, Treasurer, Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe of Kansas (*Mbr*)
Hon. Alonzo Chalepah, Vice Chairman, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma (*Alt.*)
Mr. Russell Ellis, Treasurer, Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma (*Alt.*)
- Southwest: Hon. Clement Frost, Vice Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe (*Member*)
Hon. Harry E. Early, Governor, Pueblo of Laguna (*Member*)
Hon. John Gonzalez, Governor, Pueblo of San Ildefonso (*Alternate*)
- Western: Hon. Edward Manuel, Chairman, Tohono O’odham Nation (*Member*)
Mr. Alvin Moyle, Councilman, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribal Business
Council (*Member*)
Hon. Rose Tavenpont, Vice Chairman, Ute Tribe (*Member*)
Hon. Dennis Smith, Vice Chairman, Duck Valley Shoshone (*Alternate*)

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