



2010 Annual Conference Spokane, Washington

RESOLUTION #10 - 60

"ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INDIAN RESERVATION ROAD (IRR) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION"

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, BIA Regional Engineers and the BIA Branch of Engineering and Operations (BEO) do not regularly update Cost-to-Construct Tables; and

WHEREAS, there is disparity in personnel staffing levels between BIA Regions resulting in inadequate service delivery to tribes in the Northwest due to low staffing levels; and

WHEREAS, the management team for the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program has failed to set or follow deadlines or process security clearances for access to the Road Inventory Field Data System (RIFDS) in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, there is no standardization in protocols and procedures between regions due to a lack of centralized oversight of IRR Program engineers; and

WHEREAS, there is a failure by RIFDS to recognize inter-modal transportation linkages; and

WHEREAS, quality assurance and control is not consistently implemented across all BIA regions and there is no accountability by BIA or FHWA to tribes; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby recommend that the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Transportation improve accountability for the IRR Program by:

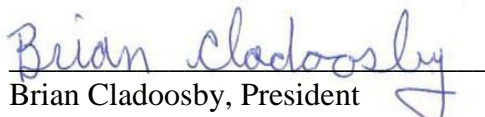
- Requiring each BIA Region and the BIA Branch of Engineering and Operations (BEO) to complete an update to the Cost-to-Construct (CTC) Tables by July 15th each year (and make such action a performance appraisal evaluation factor);
- Address the disparity in personnel staffing levels among BIA Regions to ensure timely action on road inventory matters;
- Set reasonable deadlines for BIA personnel to process security clearances for tribal access to BIA road inventory data;
- Place all Branch of Roads Engineers under a single authority;
- Update the Road Inventory Field Data System (RIFDS) to allow other transportation modes to be included in the inventory;
- Establish Regional road inventory Quality Assurance/Quality Control teams comprised of BIA, FHWA and tribal representatives to examine data and identify best practices and solutions for inventory problems.

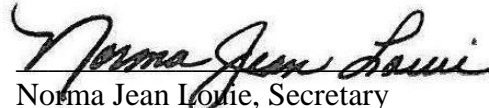
; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Transportation to replace the management team for the IRR Program to improve Program efficiency, delivery of services and accountability to tribes.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Spokane, Washington, September 20-23, 2010 with a quorum present.


Brian Cladoosby, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary