



CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

May 19, 2011

ATTENDEES

Robin Danner
Heidi Cuny

Joanna Donohoe
Lisa McComb

Lauren Stebbins

NOTES

1. Robin Danner provided an update on her recent Washington DC trip where she and other Native leaders participated in a Senate Democratic meeting. She had 120 seconds to voice her policy priorities. In this time she mentioned access to capital, New Markets Tax Credits, and CDFIs as priority issues. She requested that Native trust lands automatically be deemed investment areas and that there be a Native set aside for the New Markets Tax Credit program. She positioned this request as one that wouldn't need additional funding to enact. Afterwards she met with Senator Udall and his staff to further discuss the issue of New Markets Tax Credits. She also met with Senator Akaka and created a targeted list of senators to get support for the issue. Robin is also going to request that training and technical assistance on New Markets Tax Credits be provided to Native communities.
2. Robin reported on the Indian Energy Bill that is advancing in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. She will take a look at the bill and provide the group with a summary.
3. Other topics not on the agenda but were points of discussion included:
 - a. The location of the NCN gathering was discussed. The group agrees that if our focus is peer-to-peer learning that it should be on location with a Native CDFI. If the focus is more policy-related, it should be in Washington DC.
 - b. Oweesta's contracts with the CDFI Fund were not renewed. The group was concerned with the future of the Native Initiatives and who will be delivering them to Native communities.
 - c. Housing Counseling was omitted from the 2011 budget. Lauren Stebbins informed the group that there were organizations working to get the funding put back in the budget.
 - d. Lisa McComb suggested that it would be nice if the OFN conference could include more peer-to-peer learning opportunities and that the Native sessions be scheduled throughout the day rather than just at the beginning or the end of the day. Robin let the group know that Tanya Fiddler would communicate this to Jon Panamaroff.
4. Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement volunteered to be the first member to provide a member profile. This member profile will share operational practices with the network during the next meeting.
5. Members are encouraged to send their press releases to info@nativecdfi.org so that we may share them with other members.
6. Although Kristi Coker could not attend the conference call, she emailed a report of her recent Hill visit during the OFN Board meeting. Following is her report:



There were over 52 hill visits conducted by OFN Board Member and staff over May 12 & 13, as well as high-level meeting with HUD Officials and Donna Gambrell at the CDFI Fund.

CDFI Fund: Donna Gambrell spoke of being committed to Indian Country and Capacity Building Initiatives to further Native CDFIs. She was excited about the coming advanced TA for Native CDFIs and felt as though the Small Business Lending Pool from Treasury and the Bond Program will have a huge impact on Native CDFIs. She is continuing to pull together other federal agencies to further their outreach and inclusion of CDFIs.

Personally I met with the entire Oklahoma Delegation. Although they are conservative and everyone is focused on budget cuts, they saw the importance of the leverage and the unique leverage of private capital with CDFIs.

Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and was very interested in the program and gave his support of the CDFI program. We also spoke about the importance of the BIA loan guarantees and loan insurance program.

Senator Akaka - Indian Affairs met with Ms. Danner and was very supportive of our issues in Indian Country and had a specific interest in financial education, so I spoke on the different ways Native CDFIs around the country are making a financial education impact.

I will be doing a follow up letter and informational packet to all offices I visited as well OFN is conducting a follow up campaign.