

Governor's Office of Economic Development FY2017 Tribal Consultation Report

Office of Rural Development

Linda Gillmor, Director Office of Rural Development & Associate Managing Director of Urban & Rural Business Services – lgillmor@utah.gov

Visit with Ute Leaders in Fort Duchesne: (May 2016) Linda Gillmor joined Shirlee Silversmith and James Toledo, (State Division of Indian Affairs) on a trip to Fort Duchesne to meet with the Ute Tribal Planner and tour their new Tribal jail and youth detention facility. The architecture at the jail entry (see photos below) represents part of a structure related to the sacred Bear Dances. This was done to symbolize the opportunity to heal and be able to join and contribute to the Tribal community when their confinement term is complete.

We were able to visit about the potential for a Ute Tribe BEAR application. (The Duchesne FY2017 BEAR application does include the Ute Tribe as a part of their overall business expansion and retention goals, but did not have input directly from the Tribe.)



Native American Vegetable Garden Project: The Office of Rural Development (ORD) funded a rural Business Expansion & Retention Program (BEAR) program for San Juan County in FY2017. A significant portion of the BEAR funds are being used for a Native American Vegetable Garden Project. This Garden Project is a follow up item from the discussions with Chapter leaders at a Familiarization Tour with the Lt. Governor (see April 6th & 7th in 2015 GOED Report) concerning the challenges the northern Navajo tribal members have with availability of quality grocery items, and the desire they have for their youth to learn entrepreneurial skills.

Pam Hansen (employee of San Juan County) is coordinating BEAR funding for this Garden Project (as the Northern Regional Business Development Office has been closed). Page Wray from USU Extension is coordinating a 4H Business & Garden Education component for the Garden Project, and Leon Sampson (Utah Navajo chapter member who lives at the Mission) is coordinating with other tribal members. As of early June 2017, some corn is planted, and they are working on building raised box gardens.

Everyone who participates will get to take home a raised garden box, and families will be provided garden plots at the Mission.

(See photos below of Native American Garden Project area early Spring 2017)



“25K Rural Jobs” Working Group: (February 22, 2017) Linda Gillmor met with James Toledo from Indian Affairs to discuss the “25K Rural Jobs” Working Group, which includes approximately 20 state, federal and private agencies/organizations whose services benefit rural Utah. Indian Affairs expressed an interest in participating in this Working Group to make sure the Tribe’s interests were represented. James emailed all Tribal Economic Development professionals before the April 11, 2017 meeting to request that they share their top economic development priorities with Indian Affairs.

State & Tribe Taxation Issue Discussed: (March 22, 2017) Linda Gillmor of ORD met with Paul Terry (Director of the Cedar Band Corporation), Mark Thomas (Deputy Lt. Governor), and Mark EchoHawk (legal representation to Paiute Indian Tribe) to discuss and update the Lt. Governor’s Office about concerns with state taxation (in addition to Band and Tribal taxation) of retail items (specifically tobacco products) sold at Cedar and Shivwits Band’s retail stores on Tribal reservation lands.

Utah Broadband Outreach Center

Kelleigh Cole, Director, Utah Broadband Outreach Center – kcole@utah.gov

Broadband discussion at Mexican Water Chapter House: (September 2017) The Utah Broadband Outreach Center attended a meeting at the Mexican Water Chapter House with legislators and the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) to discuss broadband service. The Outreach Center has also spoken several times with UETN and broadband providers to discuss options for the tribes. UETN is pursuing an RFP to connect several locations in San Juan County.