



Presented by

TRIBAL BUSINESS NEWS

Four Winds Casino
1111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, Michigan 49117

AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

8:00 am - 9:00 am — REGISTRATION OPENS/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 am - 9:40 am — WELCOME/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING REMARKS

9:40 a.m. - 10:10 a.m. - Native Contracting | NNASC Update

A conversation with Jason Palmer, executive director of the National Native American Supplier Council on growth of the organization that provides certification, education, advocacy, and contracting opportunities in the federal sector and corporate sector for tribes and their entities.

- Jason Palmer, executive director, National Native American Supplier Council

10:10 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. - Native Contracting | Growth via Mergers & Acquisitions

Join us for a panel discussion on how tribal investment arms are using mergers and acquisitions to grow their non-gaming economic development efforts. Tribal enterprise executives will talk about their M&A strategies, deals they've done and best practices for growth.

- Monica King, Gun Lake Investments
- Julio Martinez, Mno-Bmadsen

11:10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. - A Conversation with Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Tribal Business News Founder and Publisher Levi Rickert will engage in a fireside chat with Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, exploring the success and vision behind the tribe’s economic efforts over the past three decades, including Sovereign Bank’s rapid growth and other key growth initiatives. The discussion will also delve into Chairman Barrett’s guiding philosophy that “Tribes are better together,” and its impact on tribal economic development.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - LUNCH

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. - Emerging Opportunities | Health Care

Many Tribal health clinics are reaping the benefits of applying business principles to operations. For many Tribes, healthcare is a leading generator of revenue. Blue Stone Strategy Partners’ Healthcare Services Director, Kate Grismala, will lead a panel with two tribal chairwomen from tribes in Minnesota about how Tribal Health Clinics can serve as both a service and as a business.

- Kate Grismala, Blue Stone Strategy
- Chairwoman Cathy Chavers, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
- Chairwoman Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

1:45 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. - Emerging Opportunities | Clean Energy

Join us for a panel discussion on navigating the complexities of clean energy finance in Indian Country. As the clean energy revolution begins, \$2 billion from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, changes in tax credits, and new financial instruments are transforming the landscape for clean energy projects. This session will explore capital stacking and key programs such as the “Clean Communities Investment Accelerator,” “Solar for All,” USDA’s REAP program, BIA loan guarantees, DOE Indian Energy grants, and tax credits. Gain insights into leveraging multiple funding streams to create a solid financial foundation for clean energy projects in your community.

- Pete Upton, Native CDFI Network
- Pilar Thomas, Quarles & Brady LLP
- Chéri Smith, Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy

2:40 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. - Resources | Center for Indian Country Development

Experts from the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis will talk about recent research projects and findings, as well as data tools and publications that can inform decision making by tribes, tribal enterprises and policymakers at the federal and state levels.

- John Morseau, Center for Indian Country Development
- Andrew Huff, Center for Indian Country Development

3:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Day One Recap, Reception Reminder

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Reception for Summit attendees, speakers, guests

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

8:00 am - 9:00 am — CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. - Higher Education: The Next Generation of Native Leaders

As tribally owned businesses and Native entrepreneurs in the Great Lakes region experience sustained growth, there's a pressing need to cultivate the next generations of Native American leaders for these enterprises. This highly interactive session will explore how universities and colleges can better recruit and support Native American students pursuing business, public administration, and leadership degrees.

- Dean Diana Lawson, Grand Valley State University
- Dee Ann Sherwood, Western Michigan University
- TBD, Western Governors University

9:40 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. - Access to Capital | Native CDFIs and the Tribal Economy

Hear how Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are playing an increasingly outsized role in funding Native homeownership, Indigenous small-business and community development projects, and clean energy in Indian Country.

- Pete Upton, Native CDFI Network
- TBD, Native CDFI Executives

10:20 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. - Tribal Energy: A Different Approach

- Eugene Magnuson, Little River Holdings, LLC
- Mike Bedley, Native American Utility Company

10:50 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. - Tribal Broadband: Digital Sovereignty

- Tommy Woods, Tribal Communications
- Charles Rice, Tribal Communications

11:20 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. - Tribal Economic Development: Resources

- Tom Durkee, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

11:50 a.m. - Noon - Summit Recap and Wrap Up

Noon - Box Lunches (grab-and-go or enjoy/network in meeting room)