

**Council for Native American
Farming and Ranching, Meeting: August 14-15, 2012
CD6 8-15-12 Track01 to Track06**

[Start of CD 6 8-15-12 Track 1]

Female Voice: Mr. Chairman, we're required by the settlement agreement to meet twice a year so [cross-talking] --

Female Voice: Could I --

Female Voice: And that could be in person if we have funding or telephonically.

Female Voice: Could I just spin out a concept. I think we were perhaps hopeful that the council could get going faster. I know USDA was working on stuff, but with the clearance process, the application process, the recommendation. So now it's 2012. We're meeting in August. I think it would be fabulous if we could swing one more meeting in the year 2012, especially because we're in the start-up phase, and maybe not a three-day meeting but a meeting where we could get together and dig in more. And I think one of the goals of the council I think is to gain greater visibility in Indian country for this council and the role that we could take. And one great opportunity that's coming up, which we should think about now if we want to think about it, would be to have a meeting in conjunction with the IAC big gathering in December, and it's in Las Vegas. But Las Vegas has advantages because it's cheap.

Female Voice: Yes, it is.

Female Voice: It's a cheaper place to get to. I hate Las Vegas, despise Las Vegas. I mean I'd rather come here. But at the IAC meeting, they might have -- they have all of the big ag tribes tend to go. And maybe Zach could talk a little bit more about the conference. I have personally never -- I don't think I've ever been there, but I know other lawyers from our team have. It's just an idea, something to think about.

Male Voice: Since our meeting isn't going to be open to the public, I think we'd have to really coordinate with these, their agenda items, so that we're not stepping on their toes. What do you think? [Indiscernible].

Male Voice: I think the IAC would be honored to have a meeting with the council there. I think the organization would feel like it's a culmination of its life's work as well to have this magnitude of voice in going forward to do policies. If that's what the council decides, we will make it work. We will make this work. We'll probably do a general session [indiscernible] your comments with the public [indiscernible].

Female Voice: That would be awesome.

Male Voice: Only if you want to watch a rodeo.

Male Voice: 10th through the 14th of December.

Male Voice: What dates?

Male Voice: 10th through the 14th of December.

Male Voice: Yes, Mary. What was it?

Mary Thompson: This is just a side comment, but could the IAC, would the World Rodeo Championship be going on about this?

Participants: Yes [cross-talking] --

Mary Thompson: And tickets? [Cross-talking] --

Male Voice: Go ahead. Go ahead, Janie.

Janie Hipp: The only thing I will say out loud, because Juan and I are trading looks here, the only thing I'll say out loud, and I totally concur with Zach, this council is as much a part of IAC's life's work as anything else. But we're going to have to very carefully and very diligently get special permission from the secretary to meet in Las Vegas because of the indiscretions that will remain unnamed.

Male Voice: Yes.

Female Voice: Oh.

Janie Hipp: Remember?

Female Voice: Oh yes.

Janie Hipp: And so it's just that. And we do have the ability to get permission to do that. We can. But I think we're going to have to jump through that hoop, don't you think, Juan?

Juan Garcia: I totally agree, Janie. If --

Female Voice: And stay in Las Vegas.

Juan Garcia: Mr. Chairman?

Male Voice: Yes, Juan?

Juan Garcia: In trying to decide how many times a year we can meet, of course, it's a budgetary issue and everyone knows about the budgetary issues. So I think Chris and I from FSA will do our best to provide, set aside funding for meetings because the funding has to come from FSA from our budget, so the meeting of the council is very important. I know I think you said we're required to meet at least twice a year. I think if we can come up with funding to have one face-to-face meeting and maybe the other meeting, or other meetings could be via teleconference, we'll figure that out. But budgetary constraints, we've got to set aside the budget to get everyone there.

Female Voice: Let me just say that I think when we are talking about meetings of the council and when we're drafting the settlement agreement, we did mean meetings. I mean I think in addition, we could have telephone conference calls. But my experience with telephone conference calls is not as satisfactory as in-person meetings, at least while we're in the start-up phase. That's just in terms of having a second meeting having it be a formal meeting as opposed to ratifying a document or whatever, I guess I'd be reluctant to do that just over the phone.

Female Voice: Now here is a question, Janie and everyone. When we say two meetings a year, I don't remember anything in the charter that was specific, whether it was a fiscal year or a calendar year. So December would be a new fiscal year. So since the funding is fiscal, right?

Male Voice: Right. [Cross-talking] --

Female Voice: So it would have been a different budgetary--

Male Voice: Fiscal year.

Female Voice: Fiscal year. So if funding were there, that would be the one that could possibly be the one in face-to-face meeting if they didn't come up with funding for a second.

Janie Hipp: Page 34 of the settlement agreement, which controls in this matter, says, "USDA will schedule council meetings no fewer than two times each fiscal year and determine the locations of those meetings."

Female Voice: The locations?

Janie Hipp: Yes. And it says, "If USDA or the council determines that a meeting cannot be held as scheduled, the USDA will reschedule the meeting for a date within the fiscal year if such a date is appropriate." I mean I think that first of all, it took us months to get the charter in place, and so we're literally within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year, so that's not going to happen because we cannot meet the notice requirements to actually have a second meeting within this

fiscal year. So the first fiscal year that we'll be able to have two physical meetings will be next fiscal year.

Male Voice: Right.

Female Voice: And this year is a fiscal year. I mean this counts on the five-year life of the commission, the council. And there is also a comment about -- what page is that again, Janie?

Janie Hipp: Thirty four.

Female Voice: I guess the way I read it is that if we miss a meeting, which we did this fiscal year, we should make up for it. So does that mean three meetings next fiscal year? And by the way, it was at least two. I always envision that it might be necessary to meet more frequently during the start-up.

Male Voice: [cross-talking] -- have a point because also, I think that the council should be aware that there is a new range land range group that is starting to kick off quite heavily. And it seems to me that we're getting a whole new audience of individuals that deal with range, which is the predominant agriculture area within Indian country. And I believe their meeting is going to be in Oklahoma City in February or something to that effect, March time frame as possible other meetings, like bringing those people on board also.

Now I'm going to ask a question here, and I hope I'm not opening up a can of worms, but I hope I'm opening up a solution. But as a part of what I've learned through this class action lawsuit was that the money that was dedicated for the settlement was not all used. If not all of that money was used and one of the purposes within that settlement was to promote an organization or a council that we work on, it seems just logical to me that some of that leftover funding could possibly be used for our purposes of fulfilling what the need is of the settlement as a perhaps possible funding source. I don't expect an answer now. I'm just kicking that out.

Female Voice: I could give a partial answer now, and that is the cy pres provisions of the settlement agreement, as the settlement agreement is written, restrict eligible entities to not for profits that were in business which were not a not for profit that were in business in providing services to farmers and ranchers between 1981 and 1999. So this council would not be eligible as the settlement agreement is written.

[CD6 Track 2]

Janie Hipp: Mr. Chairman, but I --

Female Voice: By the way, I misspoke when I was thinking that their meetings were supposed to be -- I think the settlement agreement does contemplate, and forgive me, Juan, because I think it does contemplate telephonic meetings.

Juan Garcia: I'm sorry?

Female Voice: The settlement agreement definitely does contemplate telephonic meetings if need be.

Male Voice: Yes, Janie?

Janie Hipp: I know we're kind of bouncing around here, but you did open a can of worms.

Male Voice: She said [indiscernible].

Janie Hipp: And I misspoke, Chris, and I'm sorry. The cy pres funds that are going to be left over from the Keepseagle, the payment of the Track A and Track B claims is going to end up being a substantial amount of money. And I would hope that this council could think about does it want to express any recommendations to the Keepseagle lawyers for the use of that money, or does it want to keep quiet? I think it could do that, or it could do either one of those. The point of the matter is that a full disclosure of what the full measure of the Keepseagle settlement is all about is that there will be a remainder of funds left in the settlement that will be disposed of by the terms of the settlement. And Sarah just read those terms to us. It doesn't contemplate that this council would be able to be the recipient of any of those funds because it's not written that way. And I think we might have some legal issues even having a FACA Committee accept funds. So that's a whole -- I don't think we can do it.

But it does kind of speak to thoughts of the council being forwarded to the Keepseagle legal team. Sarah is on that team, and I think she would have to guide us on that. But at the end of the day, that's probably just the extent of our role as a council. Individually, who knows? But I think we don't have a very -- Sarah, I mean help me here. I don't know what the role of the council is that we could even do anything.

Sarah Vogel: Right now, we're quite a ways away. Our first priority is get the money out the door, take care of the Bs, take care of the debt relief. So I suspect that come around October, our heads will be coming up and we will have something, a more concrete fleshed out process for getting input. We're not there yet. And this is a subject that's of great interest to many people, but I think that the time is not now, but the time will be shortly where we will be seeking input. And who better than this council to provide that kind of input, although this council's role is assisting, advising the secretary and removing barriers to USDA programs. And the cy pres fund is to assist nonprofit groups.

Male Voice: Yes, Chris?

Chris Beyerhelm: And to that point, sir, and I don't want to -- I understand it is what it is and that limitations are what they are. What I suspect is when we start making recommendations to the secretary and we start responding that

some of our responses are going to be, "We don't have the resources to do what you're asking us to do." So if there is a way to somehow redirect some of that money to help USDA provide some of this assistance that this council is going to ask for that won't be in violation of the spirit, I could certainly articulate that it would not be in violation of the spirit of that cy pres fund. I would encourage you, whatever influence you have, to perhaps make that argument.

I mean we reduced staff by 12.5 percent. One of every eight employees we had in the field is gone. We closed offices. And as we're asked to do more and more -- and I'm not whining. These are just the facts. We're down -- you know how teachers have to buy their own pencils and papers? Our county office employees are buying their own ink to send letters out of their own pockets. I mean we are down to the bare minimum. So if there is a way to redirect any of that fund, I just would encourage of course that to happen.

Male Voice: All right. We'll be looking for that actually even in the future then, huh?

Janie Hipp: Yes. I think that's the only reason I brought it up, Mr. Chairman, is that it's a time horizon thing that -- that's about it.

Male Voice: Okay. All right. Before we adjourn, there was a recommendation by Jerry McPeak to give every council

member a two to three-minute comment, your feelings towards council.

Lisa Pino: Mr. Chairman? Do you mind if I go first?

Male Voice: Go right ahead, Lisa.

Female Voice: Who made the motion?

Male Voice: Do we have to pass this motion or should we just --

Male Voice: You can get by your own chairmanship.

Male Voice: Being the chairman, I did not make that motion. It had to come from somebody, so we will not act on that language. Go ahead, Lisa.

Lisa Pino: Thanks, everyone. Just in conclusion, because unfortunately, I have to leave early, this is Lisa Pino from Civil Rights. I just wanted to take a couple of moments to first say, on behalf of my boss, Assistant Secretary Dr. Leonard, and our entire staff at the Civil Rights Office, that this has really been such an honor and privilege to be here with all of you today and yesterday as part of the council. This is really history in the making. It's a really special opportunity for all of us.

I just joined the office recently a couple of months ago, but I know that our office has played an integral role in making Keepseagle, the settlement a success. It's a testament to all of our work together. And just the opportunity to be here with

all of you, I mean the role for our office is really to listen and ensure that all the objectives here are protected and really do carry through within the building.

But I just remember that I first had the honor of working with Janie three years ago. I can't believe it. Because when I was at the Food and Nutrition Service, I participated in the tribal consultations mainly with the SNAP Program but for all of our Nutrition Assistance programs. And to be able to travel the country and represent the secretary and the administration and seeing firsthand and listening firsthand all the issues and food deserts and the lack of healthy food and impact for children and adults and elders, everything from diabetes to chronic heart disease and just the opportunity and potential of developing the land so that tribes can establish their own food ecosystems is really powerful.

And then I had the privilege of helping the First Lady launch Let's Move! in Indian country when visited the Menominee tribe in Wisconsin. And member Dustin and I were out there and we helped advise on the opening of the first grocery store for the reservation and that they hadn't had in almost 20 years. I mean that was really spectacular.

And just from a personal note, I am a born and bred New Yorker. I'm a city kid. Don't hold it against me. But I actually spent about half of my life in Arizona. And I still

remember to this day the first time that I drove cross-country because I had never been far West before. And I ended up going to law school at Arizona State, which, at the time, one of our professors was this really funny nice guy named Kevin Gover, and he is now the director here at the museum. And this morning, I saw Gwen Salt, who was in my law school class, who's now working at the NACI.

So I've always been really impressed, very impressed and touched by my native friends back in Arizona and being able to visit areas like Navajo country or Wisconsin. But the respect for the land, the respect for community and heritage, the values and traditions, it's something that's really special. And so I just wanted to share before I go to Arizona tomorrow to go back to the Four Corners, I have to recharge here in D.C. It's something that's necessary when you're here too long. But both from a personal level and professional capacity, the Office of Civil Rights would do everything we can to help and support you. We're happy to do it. We're honored to do it. Thank you so much and I wish you all the best and safe travels back home.

Female Voice: Thank you.

[CD6 Track 3]

Male Voice: If you like to carry on, Gilbert. Gilbert, would you like to have a few words?

Gilbert Harrison: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the council. Before Monday, I had not met many of you. I think Janie, I met her a couple of times and a couple members of her staff. But over the last couple of days, it's been an experience. I think I feel in a sense we all have our hearts and our minds going the right way. Sometimes, we may not be very explicit about what we want, but as a group, I feel that we're going to achieve a lot of things. I know that I have said before I'd like to see a little more emphasis on the little guy because a lot of my activities involve smaller ranchers and smaller farmers family types of activities, and those, sometimes they seem to get steamrolled over. So in that sense, I'm glad that we at least have an ear when we talk about some of these bigger projects. And I'd like to see those. And I think I will enjoy being on this committee and serving with you all. And we'll see what we can do, and I wish you all a safe trip home. Thank you very much.

Male Voice: Thank you.

Janie Hipp: Am I next?

Male Voice: Yes, Janie.

Janie Hipp: I'm going to keep it short because I'll start bawling if I don't. But this is a dream come true for me. It just is. And we have a lot of work to do and I don't think we should ever think that this isn't going to be a lot of work.

But I think we can do it. And I think we do -- I'm like you. I think everybody has got their hearts and minds in the right place and looking forward and looking out and thinking about our young people. It's just, it's overwhelming to me sometimes, and of all the things our office does, this makes me the most emotional, is being in this space. And I think it goes back to having spent 30 years in this place as a lawyer and just this is my passion and this is what I'm going to spend the rest of my life doing, is being in this space.

But I want to leave you all with something to think about. One of our staff -- we got the best staff on the planet. John is incredible. Tony is incredible. Everybody we've worked -- Barbara was incredible but she's not there anymore. Joanna is a great new addition and it's just going to be great working with her too. And Dustin, he was incredible, and I wish we could have flown him back to be here because he sweat bullets over this with everybody else. But I'll never forget Ross in the council, the Rural Council meeting, the first one that Kim hosted in the White House on Native American food and agriculture. And we were talking about a whole bunch of stuff, and Ross stood up and he said tribal consultation and us making progress on these issues cannot depend on Janie or Dustin -- you weren't here with us yet -- Harriet or Tony. It cannot depend on an Office of Tribal Relations always being in the room. It

just can't. And I know that the leadership at FSA are totally on board with this fully, 100 percent. There is no hesitation at all from them. They are going to be such a force to work with us.

But at the end of the day, we've got to be thinking, to me, about two things, is one, how are we going to deal with our youth in making sure that they have a future? But also, how are we going to institutionalize everything that we think and talk about so that it doesn't depend on a person or a group of people? That it just really becomes a part of how USDA works with Indian country at large in everything we do. And I think that whenever I have the chance to address all the senior advisers or anybody at that level or anybody at a county office, I always remind them that USDA has, in our traditional 1938 suite of programs, we have so many things that Indian country needs. And today's a new day. I'm going to wake up tomorrow and I'm going to keep putting one foot in front of the other to try to make sure that everybody in Indian country knows what we have to offer, knows what a great partner we can be for Indian country on every issue.

And I think that we got huge budget problems. We got all sorts of challenges ahead. And the secretary always says, "If farmers and ranchers and rural people can slog through the challenges that they have every single day, then we can do the

same thing as USDA, and that's what we do and that's what we're going to get up every morning and do." He says that all the time. He just says, "We just got to link arms and keep going." And so that's basically all I wanted to say today. I'm glad you all are here and already have -- we have a little family.

Male Voice: Thank you, Janie. Gerald Lunak.

Gerald Lunak: Wow. This, I guess for me, is really quite a journey. I mean I look at it a couple of different ways. I guess personally, I just look at it -- I was raised in a boarding school, and wow, to think that I could arrive at this place in some kind of capacity is almost overwhelming to me. And I really, I think I've got a lot of help getting here by our Creator, somebody.

Secondly, with regard to this, what we're doing here, as I said in the first day, I've struggled along with this process personally, professionally, and I feel, I give Chris an atta boy today, I've been at odds with these people, angry, extremely angry with these people from a personal perspective and as an Indian producer and as an Indian person. But I found so many good people in there in this effort, and it took a lot on their part and it took a lot on my part to stay vigilant, stay positive. And I'm a guy who gets himself through this. It's a boarding school thing. I think when you feel like you're being sort of down-dressed, you have disability, shut down, and it's

real, I mean you can just -- and it's scary, I mean you can just literally put yourself in another place. And at boarding school, you have to do that or you just emotionally, psychologically wouldn't survive.

So you got to come out of that shadow. You got to come out of that place to tackle things like what we're dealing with here. And it's really -- I'm so encouraged and so happy to see what I'm seeing and hear what I'm hearing. And we're talking the same language here. Boy, what a message to bring back to our people and to a lot of the people that have been waiting for this and a lot of the people that have misunderstood this. And I'm really, really excited about being part of that. And beyond that, I guess it's just -- I told a story today.

I said the way I found that I had made a difference with regard to my tenure with USDA is we had an elder, he was in his 80's, and he had a small ranch. He would take all of his USDA envelopes and he'd put a rubber band around them, and he'd keep them for, you know. And then he'd come to my office and he'd sit down and say, "Read these and tell me what I'm supposed to do." And I said, you know, that's really what it comes down to. When you develop that kind of trust with a person of that stature in your community, you've really, really made something happen. And it wasn't me that made it happen. It was the agencies that sent that mail out. It was the people that are

out striving to secure that old man's place in his nation, in his society. So I just wanted to share that with you. I'm really happy to be here, happy to get to know you folks, and really looking forward to working in the future with everybody. So thank you.

[CD6 Track 4]

Male Voice: Angela Sandstol.

Angela Sandstol: I'm Sarah this time. You'll never know the true me. I would like to thank the secretary for selecting me for this position. I am not only honored but truly amazed that I'm sitting right in the capital and in the company of people of such stature as yourself. I'm really proud to be on this council. I thank Janie, Joanna, all the staff, John that have made my very, very long trip a pretty good one so everything worked out good. It was great.

I'm a commercial fisherman and a subsistence fisherman, and I live a very simple life in Alaska, as many of us do. Our people have, for thousands of years, migrated by foot thousands of miles. I live six months out of the year at a fish camp with no running water and no electricity. That's by choice. I like the simple life. In the winter, it gets too cold, so I live in my home. But we have a real, real big problem in Alaska with our fish depleting. Our moose and other wildlife are just not

coming back the way they have in previous years, and the state and other agencies have pretty much shut down the people.

There are 229 tribes in Alaska, and so there is a lot of people to represent, and a lot of them are going hungry. When you go hungry, you do other means to make money. And we have 97 percent unemployment in my village. That is pretty much across the board in Alaska. We need to find ways to help the people bring their selves back up and so there is some belief in themselves again. And that's what I really want to do, is I really would like people to try to find how we can utilize the programs to help us for the people to help themselves, feed their families and be able to provide for their families, bring their self back up to where they used to be. Thank you.

Sarah Vogel: I am getting -- I'm Angela. But in a way, this is certainly an amazing culmination of many, many, many years of work on our part. I wish all of the lawyers could be here with me today. People have worked real hard, but despite how hard the work was, I don't think any of us ever really will ever want it to give up because of our clients. The meaning of the work that we were doing and the sad stories we were hearing and our sense of hope for the future and just the clients we work with. Our lead plaintiffs were representative of all the other folks, and so it was a good thing. But the big distinction between today and other times is over the 12-year

period, the vast amount of our time was spent in pretty hyper adversarial posture.

So today, you all got a letter from Joe Sellers, on behalf of our legal team, thanking you and basically saying we're so thrilled that this council is here and can step up to this unprecedented work where none of the other discrimination cases, the Pigford case, Love, Garcia had a committee like, has a council. And none of them had any programmatic reforms. But since the case has settled, USDA and our legal team have moved in to a different mode altogether, which is we're working together. And I think that -- I mean I choked up. I mean how hard -- it's ridiculous to choke up over one lawyer reading another lawyer's letter. But I was choked up when Rick Gibson of the Office of General Counsel of USDA read Joe Sellers' letter and wanted to because it does symbolize a change; that we want to work together. And the goal, of course, is exactly as Angela and Gerald and Gilbert and everybody is saying, is it's because of the people. We want to do it because of the people, and I think working in this new fashion with this council, we can.

Mary Thompson: Mary Thompson. We may have to invest in some wireless mics after this. I haven't been here from the beginning, but I can appreciate what everybody went through. And I've been up on this hill many a time and wearing many

different hats. And I've met a lot of people up here, and we were all good and friendly right there face to face and didn't always agree on everything, agreed to disagree. But I guess this is one time that I've sat down with some agencies that I felt that our communications were truthful and meaningful, heartfelt, and I appreciate that. That is the first time I've ever come up here and sit and listen to and work with as many programs and as many people as we have in the last couple of days. We went through an awful lot, so I'm appreciative. And as I contemplate how much time and work I'm going to have to put into this and I will have to dedicate time and effort, and I will, it's worth it. Everything is worth it.

But I guess with the problems that the Indian farmers and ranchers are going through right now, I hope that they can soon find out everything about this. But I'm kind of like Gilbert in one sense. There is are a lot of small, small farmers and small growers out there too that need to find out about all these programs and help with this assistance. And I kind of feel like that's my role in sitting in this chair. I know overall what the intent is and everything. I just want to keep the smaller farmers across the country, and usually, that's the West and the South, or the East and the Southeast. So with that, I will pass the mic. Thank you very much. It's going to be a pleasure.

[End of CD6 Track04

[CD6 Track 5]

Edward Soza: Edward Soza. First of all, I'd like to say it's an honor sitting on this council. I mean it's truly an honor. I didn't really think I was going to be picked. Anyway, I think we have an excellent council here. Just by the voting of the chair and the vice chair, I don't think there is a better choice in here for them. It goes to show you it's a good council basically. What we're doing, this might not quite happen overnight, but it will get there. I'm thinking, well, what did they say? Five years? I'm thinking two. But I like to see things move a little bit anyway. USDA has been here helping us pretty much at our disposal when we need any TA or anything. I think we may even maybe make history. I don't know.

And the small farmers, because that's what I am; I was one considered a small farmer. But I'm really looking out for the youth in our Indian country, not just California. It doesn't work like that. The youth is our future, and it's kind of dwindling. It actually is dwindling down to, I don't know. People just don't want to do any farming anymore, but that's the United States. You got to have food. Everybody got to eat. That's why I was sitting last night. I know how a junkie feels because I'm like that too with food. I got to eat everyday. Anyway, I'd like to say it's an honor meeting every one of you

and being on the council, on this council. I'm going to enjoy it. Thank you.

Juan Garcia: Thank you, Ed. Well, I'm really new at this. I've only been administrator for a few weeks, okay? But I was Chris' counterpart on the farm program area, been in D.C. about a year, a little over a year. And right away, I ran into some issues, and I think we worked them out, Janie. We made some policy changes to make things work. I know that our previous administrator, Bruce Nelson from Montana, was a great advocate of Indian affairs of the Indian country. I learned a lot from him as he was showing me what was going on in Montana and the other states. And I'll be perfectly honest, I was in Idaho all last week, and I had mentioned to Chris about, "Well, do I need to go to this?" He said, "Well, you're a member of the council." That's how little I knew.

I had been keeping up with the Keepseagle, of course, but it's been a very enlightening experience. It's been a wonderful experience this week, and it's a privilege to serve with people like yourselves that are passionate about what you're doing and are making things better.

I want to share a quick story with you, I think, that will demonstrate my commitment as administrator to the council and to what we're doing with FSA. Back in 1989, I was a district director in an area in Texas, mainly Hispanic producers down

there. I come from a small farm, small family farm. We've had it a long time. And we had a major freeze down there. We had a lot of citrus down there and had a major freeze. And we had this program, it's called the Tree Assistance Program where we would help producers replant their trees. We had this huge meeting, and I was doing a presentation, and we had about 300 producers there.

So I gave them the presentation, the program, how it was going to work. And at the end of the program, when we were done, I walked down, and there was this gentleman that came up to me and he said, "Is this for the big guys or is it for the little guys too?" That was his question. And he asked me in Spanish. And I said, "No, it's for the little guys." So ever since then, Gilbert, I've been an advocate of the small farmers, and I think that will show your commitment that I have for this council. Thank you all very much.

Joanna Mounce Stancil: Well, I'm not formerly a council member, but as your designated federal official, when I took the job, when I interviewed for the job, this was not on the horizon. It hadn't been mentioned to me. But when I learned about it, and I think I've shared this with John, it became one of our passions. All the hours and the hard work, and we couldn't have done it without our two interns, Dory and Jasmine. But getting ready for this, the commitment was there to give you

whatever you needed to make this an enjoyable experience for yourselves, but to be there as your support so that you can focus on what you need to do because it is so important.

I'm not a Future Farmer of America, but I was a 4-Her. My Dad was a rancher. I grew on a farm and a ranch, and we grew our -- if we didn't grow it or hunt it or breed it on our property, we didn't eat. So I know the importance of agriculture and food. But I have to tell you, after meeting each and every one of you, I'm kind of an earth mother. I have a very protective feeling for all of you, and I really want to make sure that we do whatever we need to within the Office of Tribal Relations to be there and to be supportive of you and to give you what you need too so that you're freed up to do your work. And so I'm honored to be part of this process. Thank you.

Jerry McPeak: Well, I'm impressed with two things. I was impressed with Sarah and Janie and the sweat equity that so many people have in this, required to accomplish what you accomplished.

Sarah Vogel: There is an army of lawyers. Don't get me wrong.

Jerry McPeak: Yes. I don't know how you got through that either. I have to work with a bunch of those also. You're right. One of the most humorous things I've heard is a lawyer

crying about another lawyer's letter. That's really humorous to me. I work with those folks at the state capital and it ain't that good a deal. But I was impressed with someone had to have a tremendous amount of perseverance year after year, and obviously, your passion was there, and that was the word my wife used last night about you had the passion for it. And I think that those are things that you see and feel that you can't enumerate or you can't put a value on but they are absolutely the reason why things become successful and why things happen when you're not supposed to make them happen when they shouldn't happen.

The next thing I was impressed with right off the bat was the absolute intelligence and intellect of the people who walked in to talk today, but also the fact that these folks had been through the fight, and Rick, who is not here, had been through the fight and I'm sure had been adversarial. And yet, I know it's been a little while since the decision was made, but yet, they professionally at least dropped that vision and accepted the fact that here it was. Now, by gosh, we're all on board. We're going to make it happen. That was impressive professionally. It was impressive as people that you're able to do that. I think that's a commendation that unfortunately we don't see enough of over there or where I'm from either, in the Capitol Building there.

On a little bit lighter note but not a whole lot, I appreciate Joanna and John for babysitting my daughter. [Indiscernible] Jasmine because it wasn't really, really easy. I know that [indiscernible] come from a cow-calf operation. When my daughter left home, we had like a cow-calf winning deal. There was a long conversation with the wife and the daughter [indiscernible]. And the wife did come up here, it was not a bad deal. But thank you all for babysitting my wife and my daughter.

From the standpoint of something I was very disappointed in, I can tell you about my disappointment. I know I don't understand what goes on up here at all. I don't get it. I didn't get it going to Oklahoma City and I don't get it even now. I don't understand why the BIA was not here. That slaps me in the face as beyond my level of comprehension. My father who was a school superintendent was extraordinarily wise. He said, they would ask him things about how he got good programs going, how the programs happened or how programs don't happen. He said, "Well, if you want a program not to happen, you can either kill it or you can just not pay any attention to it and leave it alone. It will die by itself." So when I see when someone doesn't have time to do something, that's what smacks me.

Also, being again, as you all know, I'm not very politically correct, the gentleman who seemed to be upset with the fact that we didn't know that you can insure your grass, he was probably the only one I was disappointed in and that he was offended by that when simply it was an observation of just a fact. It wasn't meant negative or positive but just an observation. That's what it really was.

And our decisions and the things that we do, if they're only good for now, they're worthless. Edward obviously is very involved, and Janie, we know, is very involved [indiscernible] with youth. And I think we've heard that several times from all of you. And people like Gilbert have had the experience, and we know that these decisions, we don't know when we're not going to be here, but it's for my daughter who is going to be in agriculture. These decisions, if they aren't worth something for an indelible amount of time, then we're wasting our time.

So to make the decision, I don't think we will, but to make any decision that is just a fix right now is almost a waste of time because right now only lasts right now. So as we progress, I hope that we will, I'm sure that we will -- I feel very confident; I've been impressed with the people as well -- that we'll see the future. I have been -- Angela, I went home and talked last night, and it's just amazing to me that some state can tell me I can't fish in my river. They're going to have to

come shoot me. I don't know what they do in Alaska, but they're probably going to shoot me. But that's just unbelievable and I don't understand.

Angela Sandstol: [Indiscernible].

Jerry McPeak: Yes. But anyway, I've enjoyed, but the decisions must be longsighted and not for just the moment.

[CD6 Track 6]

Chris Beyerhelm: First of all, thanks, Jerry. I appreciate you saying that. It's been a long hard struggle for us here. I really appreciate the opportunity to be on this council. I haven't told this story until now, but when I first read the draft of the settlement agreement, I was not on this council. And I really made an impassioned plea how do you expect me to make any changes if I can't meet the people that have the concerns and the problems and they can't meet me? And so I really appreciate it. It took a little bit to get me on the council. It really did. So I appreciate the fact that I'm here. And despite the fact that I tried so hard to get on the council, I was very -- not very -- I was a little apprehensive. I didn't really know what to expect.

As being deputy administrator of Farm Loan Programs, I mean FSA to some extent, but the loan programs in particular have taken the brunt of the Keepseagle, the Pigford II, and the Women and Hispanic, despite the fact that these things happened

sometime ago. We've been trying to get better at it, but the last two or three years have not been easy for my staff and for me personally. So I wasn't quite sure what to expect, and I want to thank you all. You treated me very kindly. I think 15, 20 minutes in to the session on Monday I realized this is a good group. You're very passionate about what you feel about it, but you're very professional about it. You're very kind about it, and I appreciate that. It meant a lot to me personally, and I'll carry that with me forever.

The one thing I'll commit to you is that I will try to match the same passion and professionalism you have in administering farm loans. I really enjoyed getting to meet you folks. Some of you I got to spend a little time and learn a little personally about you, and I enjoyed that. And I look forward to future meetings.

Male Voice: Very rarely in life do you get exactly what you want.

Male Voice: No shit.

Male Voice: No shit. [Cross-talking] --

Male Voice: When I signed on to the Keepseagle case, I touched on this Monday, this was exactly what I wanted. The compassion in this room, it's just, it's unbelievable. I have to admit when I rolled into town Sunday night, I had my hammer cut for the USDA people on this board. And to find them the way

that I found them, I mean I'm kind of ashamed of myself for that.

So the other Native American board members, I've enjoyed meeting you all. I think Chris hit the nail on the head. We got a good group here. Everybody brings something to the table. And I would have never believed that these people, the USDA people sitting at this table, with what I've been through with the Keepseagle case and before, would be as open as you are. You all impressed me. And for once in life, I've got what I wanted. Thank you all.

Male Voice: You heard my thank you, and thank you all again, and I appreciate it. Does anybody want to make that motion that we all want to hear to adjourn the meeting?

Angela Sandstol: I got a question.

Male Voice: Go right ahead, Angela.

Angela Sandstol: Did we make a decision on the meet or did I miss it? Did we put like at least call a chair?

Male Voice: Is this the meeting in Las Vegas?

Angela Sandstol: Next meeting, yes. [Indiscernible].

Male Voice: We'll try to it happen.

Female Voice: [Indiscernible].

Angela Sandstol: So I make a motion that [indiscernible].
over the next meeting that we'll call the chair.

Male Voice: That we're?

Male Voice: Call a chair.

Male Voice: [indiscernible].

Female Voice: Yes.

Male Voice: Oh, okay. Okay.

Female Voice: Yes.

Female Voice: Yes, yes.

Male Voice: There is a --

Female Voice: Check out the budget.

Female Voice: Yes.

Male Voice: Okay. Yes, we still have to. [Cross-talking]

Female Voice: What's doable, yes.

Female Voice: [indiscernible].

Male Voice: Go ahead, John. You had a comment?

Male Voice: Excuse me. Just one. And also, remember to get your hotel receipts and any type of tax receipts that we gain, get that on the [indiscernible]. And if you have any questions, e-mail or call us, okay? We're here to help you guys, all right?

Male Voice: Okay. Let's finish up that motion then, or would you like to add [cross-talking] --

Female Voice: Mr. Chairman, the next time you see John, he will be a new father [cross-talking] --

Male Voice: He really wants to work. Okay, the motion is have the meeting on the call of the chair. All those in favor -

- or has it been seconded? Okay. The motion's been seconded, all those in favor, say aye.

Participants: Aye.

Male Voice: All those not, say nay. Next motion on the floor, Jerry, would you like to make it?

Jerry McPeak: Yes. What do we say when everyone --

Male Voice: We want to adjourn the meeting. All those in favor say aye.

Participants: Aye.

Male Voice: All those not, say nay. Meeting adjourned.

[Cross-talking] --

Female Voice: Just one other note, we're given the latest version of the bylaws. Please change the date at the top so that you know when you look through it that you're looking at the latest version. And it's only missing the part that Janie mentioned and was read to you by Lisa Pino.

[End of transcript]