

1st Tribal Land Staff National Conference
Corporate Convention Center – Flamingo Hotel

AGENDA

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011

3:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Conference registration
Location: El Dorado Foyer

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Welcome reception (cocktails and appetizers)
Location: Garden View Terrace (in case of rain, El Dorado Ballroom and Foyer)

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2011

7:30 a.m. Conference Registration
8:30 – 10:00 Opening Plenary

10:30 – 12:00 Breakout Session I (concurrent sessions)

Internal Track – “Setting Up An Effective Realty Department” – Effective and efficient tribal land departments are needed to meet the needs of the tribe as well as that of individual landowners. This session will speak to best practices for office procedures such as the physical protection of records including electronic records management, effective staffing needs, budgeting and budget management.

External Track – “Government and Landowner Issues” – Developing strategies for working with tribal, local and state governments will be discussed recognizing the educational role of land staff professionals in addressing governmental issues as well as meeting the informational needs of individual landowners on a day-to-day basis.

National Track – “Natural Resources” – Tribal land staff need to be aware of federal environmental regulations and how those regulations relate to tribal lands. This session will address NEPA requirements and tribal projects, federal environmental assessments and oil and mineral rights.

12:00 – 1:00 **Networking Lunch** (included in registration)

1:00 – 2:30 **Breakout Session II** (concurrent sessions)

Internal Track – “General Land Use Plans” – Developing and implementing effective land use plans addresses many divergent issues. This session will cover the difference between cultural and archaeological surveys, renewable energy development, transportation plans relevant to Native communities, the American Indian Resource Management Plan and the steps necessary in drafting a strategic land plan.

External Track – “Funding” – Where does one find funding in a challenging economic environment? This session will speak to funding for tribal land departments, identifying potential funding sources including the potential of property tax or alternative sources, and gaining tribal support.

National Track – “Federal Relationships” – The historical relationship between the federal government and Indian nations must be understood in order to realize the role of land staff professionals in working with federal agencies. This session will provide a historical context for tribal land staff to be able to understand how specific policies relate to the tribe and to tribal land staff specifically.

BREAK

3:00 – 5:00 Breakout Session III (concurrent sessions)

Internal Track – “Best Practices I” – Efficient and effective practices for processing rights of way, leases, assignments and exchanges will be discussed with an opportunity for land office staff to share their best practices with one another.

External Track – “Appraisals” – Appraisals are an important component in creating a legal record of land holdings. This session will define appraisal issues that are relevant to land staff and identify strategies for responding to and resolving issues for the tribe and individual landowners.

National Track – “Access to Federal Lands” – Access to information on federal land holdings is vital considering the number of federal agencies that claim ownership to land within reservation boundaries. This session will address potential federal land transfers of “surplus” lands, review restrictions against alienation of Indian land holdings, and speak to working with federal agencies with respect to the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

8:30 – 10:00 Breakout Session IV (concurrent sessions)

Internal Track – “Best Practices II” – Fee-to-trust processes, legal descriptions, step-by-step consolidation practices and tribal business and regulatory processes are challenging aspects in the day-to-day dealings for land office staff. This session will identify best practices to complete these transactions given the differing requirements by BIA region. The goal is to define a process that all land office personnel can utilize to operate more efficiently.

External Track – “AIPRA and Probate” – With the passage of AIPRA in 2004 and implementation in June of 2006, the role for land office staff in working with landowners changed significantly. This session will provide an overview of AIPRA as it effects tribal land staff including regulatory implementation and changes, how this affects the probate of Indian land now and in the future, as well as will-writing service referrals for individual landowners.

National Track – “Federal Panel: Most Important Items for Tribal Land Staff” – Federal officers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resources and USDA will share information relevant to tribal land departments. This session will focus on how land offices are impacted and offer strategies for serving their various constituencies.

10:15 – 12:15 Breakout Session V (concurrent sessions)

Internal Track – “Best Practices III” – Identifying the legal location of an allotment and creating GIS/GPS mapping is a new and important technology available to tribal land departments. This session will identify and share best practices for GIS/GPS mapping and utilization of the data.

External Track – “BIA – Tribal Land Office Data and Information Sharing” – The federal government’s implementation of TAAMS will be explained including identifying the process and utilization of the data by tribal land professionals as well as its use in the titling process. The session will also identify and share best practices geared toward resolving issues relating to compact and contract relationships between tribes and the federal government.

National Track – “Federal Panel (continued)” – Federal officers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resources and USDA will share information relevant to tribal land departments. This session will identify the most critical federal review standards and what tribes need to do to stay in compliance.

12:00 – 1:00 **Networking Lunch** (included in registration)

1:00 – 3:00 **Closing Plenary**