

Nibi/Mni Women's Elder Council Meeting

Date: January 14, 2014
Minutes By: Wren Walker Robbins
Present: Shirley Nordrum, Josephine Mandamin, sharing Day, Jill Doerfler, Wren Walker Robbins

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Possible Spring Meeting Times

Minutes:

- The meeting started with some questions about the intent of the University regarding this program.
 - Hopefully it was made clear that this round of funding was provided by a Bush Foundation Community Innovations Grant and not by the University of Minnesota. That while a small group from the University is involved; they are participating in the program on a voluntary basis.
 - The Bush grant was awarded to North Star AISES Alliance & Professional Chapter [NSAAP], which will be hosting the program - as with everyone involved - the NSAAP members volunteer their time and energy to this important project.
 - We do hope that the University will be able to provide additional funds/support but that has not been formally decided as of yet.
- Several folks suggested that it would be helpful to get notes previous meetings?
 - Please find notes from the March 2013 meeting attached with these minutes.
 - Wren will also do some checking around to see if other meeting notes are available. If finds any, she'll make them available to the committee.
- It was also suggested that it would be helpful for everyone to have a copy of the Bush grant.
 - Please find a copy of the Bush grant attached with these minutes.
- There was some discussion about what made previous meetings valuable. There was some consensus. What made the valuable to the community was that:

- they brought women together to do ceremony (water ceremonies, full-moon ceremonies, etc.),
 - they were experiential, allowing women to share their teachings about water, and to explore what water means in our bodies, in our communities, and in our world globally, and
 - they allowed us to explore issues and policies related to water.
- There was discussion about our upcoming meetings.
 - We discussed when we should meet - there seemed to be some consensus that March 1 might be a good time for our next meeting. Sharon mentioned that women will be gathering at Lake Itasca for a water ceremony at that time.
 - We discussed Daisy (Mama) Garcia's request to bring spring water from Ecuador's original sources to Minnesota to mix with our water sources. Mama Garcia is a Quechua spiritual healer from Ecuador who is organized to water walk from the Amazon basin to Quito (Ecuador's capital). We thought her visit would be a good thing, and want to see if she's available to come to Minnesota on March 1.
 - We also discussed Mama Garcia's invitation for a delegation to come to Quito Ecuador this coming September to do a water ceremony there. We felt that was likely a positive thing to do, and we should pursue it further.
 - There also seemed to be a consensus that if Mama Garcia Was unavailable to join us here on March 1, that we would hold our next meeting then with women from local communities. Okay.
 - Meeting Ended.