DATE: June 18, 2020
TO: Duckwater Tribal Members
FROM: Rodney Mike, Tribal Chairman
RE: Update

Hope you all are in good health and staying safe during this COVID19 epidemic the country is experiencing. I would like to give an update as to the CARES ACT funding the tribe has received.

Contrary to the talk, gossip or other information on what other tribes are doing and what the Duckwater Tribe should do. This is to provide information on decision the Council has been discussing and done.

The Council has been conversing with the auditors and attorney to make sure the tribe is in line with the US Treasury rules and laws as to the use of the $2,089,175.54 the Tribe has received.

The Treasury used HUD population data for the distribution to all tribes, which was not enrollment numbers. On June 8, 2020, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation initiated litigation challenging the Department of the Treasure’s (Treasury) use of the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program dataset as the basis of its population numbers for disbursement of the first 60% of the CARES Act for tribal government relief funds.

The Tribe explained that Treasury solicited data from tribal governments, including their enrollment data, which tribes provided. Treasury justified allocating 60% of the funds based on tribal population by saying they expected tribal population to correlate reasonably well with the amount of increased expenditures of tribal governments related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The tribe agreed that tribal enrollment is an appropriate measure of a tribal government’s obligation to provide essential services to its members.

Despite requesting that tribes provide their enrollment data, the tribe said Treasure used the dataset from the IHBG program. The tribe argued this dataset is flawed because it does not reflect the enrollment of a tribe. The tribe said it includes American Indians and Alaska Natives designated as such in census data who are not enrolled in the tribe – call this data racial. The tribe also said the dataset only counts those American Indians and Alaska Natives living in the tribe’s formula area and this excludes enrolled members of the tribe not living on or near the tribe’s lands. The tribe explained that tribal governments not participating in the IHBG program and individuals not participating in census data gathering skew the numbers further.

A questionnaire was sent to enrolled members only for 18 years and older to be completed and returned so that we will have justification and paper trail for providing financial assistance to you. Once the forms are received the financial assistance will be completed and sent out.

However, another and last Deadline is set for the forms to be returned by June 30, 2020. If the forms are not received by June 30, 2020 you will not receive assistance.

US Treasury will be conducting an audit on these funds, after December 31, 2020. Duckwater Shoshone Tribe wants to assure the funds are expended per guidelines. All tribes are requesting an extension on December 31, 2020 deadline with no approval to date.

Only thirty percent of the funding can be used for financial assistance to members and the rest of funding is to be used for preparedness and readiness for the COVID19 epidemic crises. Our community has not been tested for

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe is an equal opportunity provider.
the virus, however, the testing will be completed in the next few weeks with priority of: staff, elders, children and community.

To assure the Tribe is prepared for the readiness and preparedness activity for our community the budget base items will include and not limited to:

New and available Homes will be set up as quarantine homes, backhoe for loading and unloading supplies for COVID19 supplies, food, and graves if necessary, graveyard expansion, generators for homes, converting propane to electric for homes, contracting out all buildings disinfection, storage sheds for homes needed for storage, larger refrigerator, freezers, set up for food pantry, rehab to buildings to meet health and sanitation requirements, cleaning supplies, masks, food donations, educational packets to students, to name a few.

The Tribe have received COVID19 funding resources, from Indian Health Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, CAREACTS, Department of Educations, FEMA, Nevada Department of Management, Inter-Tribal of Council. A COVID-19 Budget team of 8 people was set up to propose budgets for Council approval and this was completed.

Shelay George Kawich has been hired as the COVID19 Coordinator, she will be the person in charge to ensure that all the activity be completed by all programs as mentioned. Shelay will be responsible to ensure that all requirements and regulations of the funding are followed as approved.

Summer Youth Work program will begin with new requirements through the Nevada Gold Mine (Barrick) upon final approval when the program will be starting. Also, with COVID-19 distancing and masking is being suggested to be safe. Three projects are proposed for the program and those are: Storage shed building for the Clinic, Landscape for the Court and Natural Resource Building, including Rehab of the existing hoop houses and Gravesite expansion.

PPE supplies and food donations will continue to be distributed as available throughout this COVID-19 epidemic.

Parks and Pool will be opening for Duckwater Residents only, a schedule has been developed and sent out to everyone, the tribal council approved the schedule that include curfew times for the pool hours, including a schedule for the park area use.

The Tribal Council is also putting general funds of $700,000.00 into CD’s in case the tribe has to pay back any funds for Treasury based on their audit.

The Tribe has received an additional $637,048.69 on June 16, 2020 and haven’t had a chance yet to decide how to spend those funds. The Tribe is aware there are federal requirements on how to spend these funds as well.

The Council will be sharing budget information as soon as the Coordinator begins her work and the budget will have the justifications for each budget category and finally, individual checks to our members will have the questionnaire attached to it for audit purposes, No checks will be issued if members do not return those to the Tribe. The Tribe is requesting the questionnaire responses be returned to the Tribe no later than June 30, 2020. To date, the Tribe is learning non-members are submitting completed questionnaires, so it is taking longer to verify each questionnaire. Also, the financial assistance will only be distributed to Tribal Members over the age of eighteen years (18) old.

Thank you