

MINUTES

State-Tribal Relations



Representative Will Mortenson, Co-Chair
Senator Michael Rohl, Co-Chair

First Meeting, 2025 Interim
Thursday, July 31, 2025

Tribal Council Chambers – Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Headquarters
12554 BIA Highway 711, Agency Village, South Dakota

The first interim meeting of the State-Tribal Relations was called to order by Representative Mortenson at 1:00 p.m. (CT) on Thursday, July 31, 2025, in Tribal Council Chambers of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Headquarters, 12554 BIA Highway 711, Agency Village, South Dakota.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering roll call: Representatives Heather Baxter, Eric Emery, Will Mortenson, co-chair, Scott Odenbach (remote), and Peri Pourier (remote); and Senators Red Dawn Foster (remote), Tamara Grove, Michael Rohl, co-chair, Jamie Smith (remote); Senator Sam Marty was excused.

Staff members present included Jacob Carlson, Senior Research Analyst.

NOTE: For the purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. All referenced documents distributed at the meeting are hyperlinked to the document on the Legislative Research Council website. This meeting was live streamed. Each section contains a hyperlink to the time stamp pertaining to that item in the archived live stream available at sdlegislature.gov.

Discussion

Mr. J. Garrett Renville, Chairman, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, welcomed the committee and talked about the importance of the State-Tribal Relations committee and its critical role facilitating an open, frank, and respectful dialogue between the state and the tribes. ([01:45.400](#))

Mr. Algin Young, Secretary, Department of Tribal Relations, provided the committee with an update on the Department's activity since the last committee meeting. ([06:55.340](#))

Mr. Mark Van Norman, Special Council, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, described the benefits of mutual aid agreements between state and local law enforcement agencies and tribal law enforcement agencies, and how the implementation of these agreements would bring additional resources that allows for the resolution of cases involving missing individuals. ([16:10.420](#))

Mr. Dylan Kirchmeier, State's Attorney, Roberts County, discussed issues related to law enforcement in a state jurisdiction that intersects or overlaps with land that is under tribal jurisdiction. ([22:10.620](#))

Mr. Gary Gaikowski, Captain of Police, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, discussed challenges relating to law enforcement on tribal lands, especially the difficulties rising from the fact that tribal law enforcement officers are not recognized as law enforcement officers under state law. ([31:54.520](#))

Mr. Tyler Appel, Sheriff, Roberts County, discussed how necessary cooperation is between state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the importance of maintaining and fostering good working relationships between each agency. ([01:12:22.200](#))

Mr. Robert Perry, Secretary, Department of Public Safety, and Captain Randi Erickson, South Dakota Highway Patrol, discussed the law enforcement academy class comprised of tribal members, the emphasis this class had on communities that fall under or are located near areas in the state that have multiple, overlapping jurisdiction, the difficulties the department is finding in offering places in future academies to tribal law enforcement officers, and what the department is doing to support tribal law enforcement agencies. ([01:25:14.980](#))

Adjournment

Senator Rohl moved, seconded by Senator Grove, that the State-Tribal Relations committee adjourn. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. ([01:42:16.620](#))

The State-Tribal Relations adjourned at 2:45 p.m. (CT).