

Land Grant Committee Strategic Planning Report

Date of review: August 15, 2016

FUNCTION: To provide recommendations on teaching, research, and outreach functions to improve the quality of life for the Standing Rock Nation as related to land grant activities.

SCOPE: To cover all matters of support for food and agriculture, through teaching, research, and extension programs on the Standing Rock Nation.

GOAL 1: To increase outreach to the community through agriculturally based activities.

<i>Objective A</i>	Build a 40x100 or 40x80 barn, with water and electricity, in South Dakota by June 30, 2015.
Measurement Tool (who, what, when, how)	The committee will review the progress on the barn project on a monthly basis.
Measurement Goal	The barn will be erected by June 30, 2015.
Findings/Results	<p>The final agreement between Ron Brownotter and Sitting Bull College for the land for the barn was finalized in March, 2015. The barn site was cleared by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for construction of the barn on March 17, 2015. However, the contractor hired to erect the barn needs to fit us into his schedule.</p> <p>The main barn structure was completed August 22, 2015. The two big doors are in, the two small doors are in, the windows are in, the barn is self-contained, completely enclosed, and everything works very well. However, there was also to be a lean-to section that Menards forgot to include with our order, so as it came in months later, the builders were gone. We are trying to organize a time for them to come back and add it, or alternatively, use that material for a lean-to here on campus for the horses. Also, the electric and water are still not in.</p> <p>Phillip Bird Horse's office is now located in MCL, 10 miles from the barn. Once water and electric is in, it will be a central point for his events. There have been informal horsemanship workshops, more 'problem solving' with your horse, with approximately 32 participants. Everyone brings a sack lunch, very informal.</p> <p>So, the barn-proper is done, but there are some elements that need to be completed to make it more user-friendly. However, even without water and electricity, the new Red Barn is a vast improvement over the Green Barn, and everyone who comes to the Red Barn comments on the spaciousness, parking availability, and overall open feeling of the area. It is a great space for our horses and Phillip as they work with our youth and Veterans.</p>
Data Analysis	We learned that working with contractors to build a barn can be a slow process. Construction was primarily delayed by weather – high winds.
Action/Recommendation	Continue with monthly meetings regarding use of the barn. The Land Grant Committee should consider a new Objective.

GOAL 2: To increase the size of the buffalo herd at Sitting Bull College.

<i>Objective A</i>	Research land leasing possibilities for the purposes of increasing the size of SBC's bison herd.
Measurement Tool (who, what, how, when)	The committee will review land leasing opportunities monthly.
Measurement Goal	Identify new land leasing opportunities by June 30, 2015.
Findings/Results	The agreement with Ron Brownotter was dissolved by the Board on June 30, 2016. The Land Grant Committee is renewing its efforts to find land to lease for the buffalo herd expansion.
Data Analysis	There seemed to be a fair amount of concern with bidding against Tribal members over land. Disagreements over verbiage in the contract raised enough issues to dissolve the contract.
Action/Recommendation	The Board recommended we search for additional land to lease, and then increase the herd without a partnership.

GOAL 3: To expand horsemanship for the Standing Rock Nation.

<i>Objective A</i>	Expand awareness of and participation in horsemanship activities to all districts on the Standing Rock Nation through Equine Assisted Learning, clinics, and Rodeo Club.
Measurement Tool (who, what, how, when)	The committee will review avenues of possible expansion and advertising of these programs on a monthly basis.
Measurement Goal	Participation in these programs will have increased by June 30, 2016.
Findings/Results	<p>Elle Victoria Gray, councilor at the Warrior's Lodge, states that 8 Veterans participate twice a month in Phillip's EAL Program. As of August 15, 2016, she has recorded 56 participants in seven events held. These events are scheduled for two per month. In 2015, only 3 Veterans participated regularly in EAL events.</p> <p>General Horsemanship clinics have a recorded attendance of 21 to 27 participants per event as of August 15, 2016. These numbers coincide with events held in summer of 2015. Nine events are currently underway, and more will be scheduled in 2017.</p> <p>Treatment Center participation in EAL Events has increased in the number of events being held. Last year, three events were held, this year nine are scheduled. The number of participants varies, but generally 10 juveniles attend.</p> <p>Janel Leingang, councilor for the Middle School, is working closely with Phillip. Five events were held, with between 12-18 students attending each event. Scheduling will commence again when school commences.</p> <p>Extension Special Emphasis Grant proposal was funded for \$170,000, thus allowing for the continuation and expansion of the horsemanship programs.</p>

Data Analysis	<p>After reaching out to the Standing Rock communities, it was determined that Youth Horsemanship clinics that focused on the basics of horse care would enhance the abilities of the youth of the community to engage in horse-related activities. It is hoped that the clinics would continue indefinitely, and that the knowledge gained from them would both develop and enhance the bond Lakota/Dakota children had historically with their horses. It is also hoped that the knowledge and skills learned will last a lifetime.</p> <p>Manaja Hill (Director Warrior's Lodge), Elle Victoria-Gray (councilor at Warrior's Lodge), and Janelle Leingang (councilor Middle School), and the councilors at the Youth Treatment Center all believe Phillip's Programs are a valuable, and even life-changing, experience for those who participate.</p>
Action/Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that the Youth Horsemanship clinics be continued each summer because the Lakota/Dakota People are both the Buffalo Nation and Horse Nation, and connections back to that history encourages community/family/self- identity and worth.</p> <p>It is also recommended that the EAL Program be continued because support has been strong, and is based on definitive changes in behavior and life-coping skills with the individuals who participate.</p>

GOAL 4: To enhance health and wellness of the members of the Standing Rock Nation.

<i>Objective A</i>	SBC Extension programs will collaborate with various stakeholders with the goal of increasing community participation in food sovereignty activities on the Standing Rock Nation.
Measurement Tool (who, what, how, when)	The committee will review the garden building projects on a monthly basis.
Measurement Goal	New community gardens will be planted at the rate of two per year. Two new gardens will be established by June 30, 2015.
Findings/Results	<p>New gardens have been established in Wakpala at the Historic White Church with Gladys Hawk, Cannon Ball with Pete Red Tomahawk, and McLaughlin at the Warriors Lodge. There is also a new garden area at Sitting Bull College and at the AJ AGard Building.</p> <p>Aubrey Skye worked with the Boys N Girls Club in McLaughlin to establish a garden; and community members at the AJ Agard Building in Fort Yates.</p> <p>Cooking workshops were started at the end of the first harvest. We had approximately 60 participants, including about 20 kids. We made salsa, soup, cookies (healthy ones with oatmeal and rice), and a travel bread out various nuts and berries.</p>
Data Analysis	Community members were excited to have the communal gardens put in, support was strong, and each new garden has a group of supporters who will maintain the garden with support and suggestions from the Ag Division.

	<p>Predation in the gardens was an issue, especially with striped gophers. The AJ Agard garden was particularly damaged by them, but working with Eric Grey Cloud, we have implemented a fall cover crop plan, and a new strategy for dealing with predation next season.</p>
Action/Recommendation	<p>Continue on the projected time-line for the gardens, and continue to support them. In addition, expand the orchards into the communities, as the rodents decimating the gardens have tended to leave our fruit trees and bushes alone.</p> <p>Hold meetings on crop predation to seek ways to control pests from damaging crops. Invite Jake Luger from EPA 854-3823 to join the discussions, as he has been working with us.</p> <p>In addition, the Land Grant Committee should consider some new objectives to enhance health and wellness.</p>