

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 7, 2026

Kwataqnuk Resort & Casino

49708 U.S. HWY 93 E

Polson, MT

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Agenda

9 a.m. Call to order: Chairman Gerald Gray

Roll call: Marilyn Willson

Opening prayer: TBA

Welcome: Chairman Gray

9:10 a.m. Montana Department of Commerce's division updates: Mackenzie
Espeland

9:20 a.m. Public comment on non-agenda items

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COMMERCE

- 9:25 a.m. Approval of May 1, 2026, written minutes
- 9:30 a.m. Commissioners' round robin discussion
- 9:50 a.m. Election of officers
- 10 a.m. Tribal Tourism Report: Rachelle Brown
- Tribal Tourism Program proposed activities for FY2027 requiring executive action (vote):
 - Continuation of event sponsorship agreements offered to eight tribal nations for summer 2027: vote
 - Tribal Tourism Grant: Vote on changes to guidelines; increase in maximum award amount and match requirement adjustment from 50% to 20%.
 - Tribal Tourism Small Business Grant: Vote on changes to guidelines; raise maximum award amount back-to-back awards, applicability of matching funds, should eligibility be expanded to descendency and what is considered eligible official tribal enrollment or descendency documentation.
 - Conference sponsorships: Vote on sponsored attendance and who qualifies, how they are selected and what should be covered with the use of Tribal Tourism Program funds (when funding is available and approved by Commerce).
 1. Preconference Summit and Governor's Conference on Tourism, Sept. 15-18, 2026, in Great Falls
 2. American Indigenous Tourism Association in Tulalip, Washington, October 2026
 3. Montana Agritourism Conference, November 2026
 4. International Indigenous Tourism Conference in Canada, February 2027
 5. Made in Montana Trade Show: Native American Made in Montana pavilion, March 2027
- 10:30 a.m. Break



COMMERCE

- 10:45 a.m. Indigenous Mental Health: Crystal Cummins and Frances Altekruise,
Crystal Cummins Counseling, PLLC
- 11:15 a.m. MoFi: Greg Astle, CFO
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. FY2021 Indian Equity Fund recipient: Crystal Redgrave, Redgrave
Education
- 1:30 p.m. FY2021 Indian Equity Fund recipient: Steve Dupuis, Blue Bay Trading
Post, LLC
- 2 p.m. Reports
- Office of Indian Country Economic Development Program update and
90-1-105, MCA update: TJ Altekruise
 - Indian Equity Fund and Native American Business Advisor programs:
Bryan Singer
- 2:55 p.m. Other business
- Next meeting: Nov. 9, 2026, at the Little Big Horn College
- 3 p.m. Adjourn