



**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY  
OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES  
OF THE FORT BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION**

*A Resolution entitled, "Nu'eta Language Initiative"*

**WHEREAS,** This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act and having adopted a Constitution and By-laws under said Act; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution and By Laws of the Three Affiliated Tribes, the Tribal Business Council is the governing body of the Tribes; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council has authority according to the terms of the said Constitution to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 (l) of said Constitution, the Tribal Business Council has the power to adopt resolutions regulating the procedures of the Tribal Business Council and other Tribal agencies and Tribal officials on the Reservation; and,

**WHEREAS,** Article VI, Section 5 (c) of the Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes provides that the Tribal Business Council has the power to administer any funds within the exclusive control of the Tribes to make expenditures from available Tribal funds for public purposes of the Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council is concerned that there remains only one fluent speaker of the Mandan language and wishes to see the language continue as a spoken language among our people; and,

**WHEREAS,** Cory Spotted Bear, an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, has submitted a proposal, Nu-eta Language Initiative, which has as its goal and purpose that the Mandan language continue as a spoken language; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council has considered the proposal and believes that it would be an effective way of meeting the goal that the Mandan language continue as a spoken language; and

6/12/2008

## Nu'eta Language Initiative – Narrative

Submitted by Cory Spotted Bear

There is one Mandan speaker remaining: Edwin Benson and he is approaching his 78<sup>th</sup> winter. Edwin is the last of the Mandan speakers. It is my wish that he lives many more healthy years, but the fact is when he leaves this earth all his knowledge of the Mandan language and culture will leave with him. There were once thousands of our Mandan people living along the Missouri river-bottom and its tributaries. Who would have ever thought that one day there would only be one person remaining who could speak and understand the Mandan language? It has come down to this.

I was very fortunate to work with Edwin in a Master/Apprentice type language project funded by an ANA grant written by the Fort Berthold Community College. For two consecutive summers I was blessed with the opportunity to visit with Edwin about the language, record and document many phrases, words, stories, and songs in the Mandan language. I still have those materials that were compiled then. After the second summer of working with the language I went to graduate school at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS to work on a Master's degree in the Indigenous Nations Studies Program within the Native Language Teaching and Learning track. I finished all course work in four semesters and need only to do a final project to complete my degree. I walked in the graduation ceremonies, received my master's hood and an unsigned diploma.

I have always been encouraged to keep up the efforts in this language endeavor. Elders have been supportive and one of my elders strongly encouraged me to, **“Learn it; keep the language going, the language spoken by our great chief the Four Bears, keep that one going.”**

Dr. Lanny Realbird has been doing many projects with the Crow and Hidatsa language. Through his efforts there have been many important language materials produced. Lanny has encouraged me and kept me involved with his work. He has been more than willing to share what he has done with the Crow and Hidatsa languages with me to develop Mandan language materials. We have recently recorded a list of 400 Nu'eta words that we will be attaching the plains sign language to. This was historic work and has never been done before! It was tedious work, but at the end of the day Edwin was very pleased. Our short-term goal is 600 words with the plains sign-language attached; then develop a course to be instructed at the Fort Berthold Community College. We have only scratched the surface on what we can do with documenting, developing, and distributing language revitalization materials.

I have worked with several highly-trained linguists and began to pick up on their field methods, Dr. Akira Yamamoto, a native language expert was my mentor at K.U. Arienne Dwyer, a native language expert fostered my field methods at K.U., John Boyle a Siouan language dialect expert allowed me to sit in with him as he worked with Edwin for a couple of days. I have had correspondence with Maurice Mixco, a Mandan language

6/12/2008

expert, Sara Trechter, a linguist who has been working with Edwin the past couple of summers has been very receptive and encouraging; there are several other linguist that I have shadowed and gained knowledge of language documentation.

This is my intent:

- **Ultimately I will learn to speak the Mandan language fluently.**
- Understand the Mandan language and it's structure through a Master/Apprentice type relationship with my Grandson Edwin so that I might have the opportunity to become a motivated instructor of the Mandan language in the near future.
- I plan to continue working with Dr. Lanny Realbird to continue producing language audio instructional cds.
- Produce a dvd series of the Mandan language incorporating plains sign-language using a learning method known as Total Physical Response (T.P.R.)
- Produce flash cards in the Mandan language
- Produce short skits using Mandan language conversational topics.
- Research and review existing materials
- Convert analog files to digital files
- Transcribe materials that were previously recorded and archived
- Establish a Mandan language center, office, or central location to compile and distribute all language teaching and learning tools.
- Work closely with Connie White Bear to establish an effective Mandan language curriculum to be utilized in the class room using the best and most advanced practices.
- Work closely with the groups and individuals who are putting forth an effort to maintain and revitalize Hidatsa and Arikara as well. If we all turn and pull in the same direction we can get a lot done.
- Instruct and/or facilitate a Mandan language class at the community college.
- Research the "Phraselator," one of the most advanced language learning tools that modern technology has to offer.

6/12/2008

- Keep the Nu'eta (Mandan) language living for another generation...
- Edwin is supportive of this effort as well as Mr. Chad Dahlen of the Twin Buttes Elementary School; he accepted my request and encouraged me to spend time with Edwin during school hours where Edwin is a full-time employee.



6/12/2008

## **Nu'eta Language Initiative – Budget Summary**

### **Salary:**

\$41,600 (salary for Cory Spotted Bear figured @ 20/hr x 2080 hours) + \$12,480 (fringe @ 30% of salary)  
= \$54,080

\$10,400 (salary for Edwin Benson figured @ 20/hr x 520 hours) + \$1,211.60 (fringe @ 11.65% of Salary)  
= \$11,611

### **GSA Fleet Vehicle:**

\$6,300 -- GSA Vehicle lease (compact car lease figured @ \$172/month + .146 per mile - cheaper than paying mileage on P.O.V. to commute between community districts ).

### **Utilities (includes rent, office and cell phone):**

\$1,200 - Cell Phone: (figured @ 100/mo.)

\$960 - Office Phone (figured @ 80/mo.)

\$6,000 Office Rent: (figured @ 500/mo. includes electricity and internet connection)

Total Utilities = \$8,160

### **Travel and Training:**

\$4,620 - Travel: \$3,500 (two out of state trainings includes airfare, hotel, per diem, transportation and parking) \$1,120 (four trips to Crow Agency for correspondence with Dr. Lanny Realbird includes hotel rate and per diem)

\$4,825 - Dr. Lanny Realbird and his editing team from Crow Agency demonstrating language documentation strategies for 10 participants. One week course, one credit hr @ FBCC.

### **Supplies and Materials:**

\$6,000 - Supplies, publications, and materials: (**Digital field recorder**, Mac computer- laptop, printer, ipod and components such as mic and speakers, extra mics, cds, dvds, software, jumpdrive, flash (media) card, video camera, digital camera, batteries, extra memory, printing materials, and copy expenses)

Total: \$95,596

### **Indirect Cost:**

\$25,027.60 – Indirect Cost (I.D.C. figured @ 48.13% of total salary)

Total annual budget including Indirect Cost: \$120,623

**Total funding required for the remainder of this fiscal year: \$30,155**



RESOLUTION NO. 08-93 -MP

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Tribal Business Council hereby approves a grant in the annual amount of \$120,623 for Fiscal Year 2009 to Cory Spotted Bear to proceed with his proposed Nu'eta Language Initiative; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that grant funding is approved for the remainder of this fiscal year in the amount of \$30,155; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Cory Spotted Bear shall serve at the pleasure of the Tribal Chairman, provide monthly progress reports to the Chairman as to the Nu'eta Language Initiative, and seek external funding sources for the Nu'eta Language Initiative; such external funding may be applied to the grant amount approved above for Fiscal Year 2009.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 7 members of whom 5 constitute a quorum, 5 were present at a Regular Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 5 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Chairman [] Voting. [] Not voting.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

**ATTEST:**

Acting Tribal Secretary, Mervin Packineau  
Tribal Business Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes

Tribal Chairman, Marcus Wells Jr.  
Tribal Business Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes