



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

Commission Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2018

Meeting called to order at 3:11 p.m.

I. Roll Call

a. Present

- Governor Eddie Baza Calvo, Chairman
- Dr. Michael Bevacqua – Independence Task Force
- Eddie Duenas – Statehood Task Force
– Also in attendance: Eloy Hara
- Tristan Quintanilla, Guam Youth Congress
- Dr. Lisa Baza, Member-at-Large
- Adrian Cruz – Free Association Task Force
- Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman
- Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-at-Large

b. Absent

- Mayor Robert Hoffman (Excused)
- Sen. Telena Nelson (Unexcused)
- Sen. Fernando Esteves (Unexcused)

II. Approval of Minutes: March 13, 2018

- **Motion to approve minutes – Eloy Hara. Seconded by Dr. Baza.**

III. New Business

a. **Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment, and Development (I-LEAD) Grant**

- *Manhoben Movement* (Discussed by Executive Director) – I have prepared an application for a \$300,000 youth grant. It would allow for 4 part-time internships (interns must be below 24 as stipulated under grant) which would not allow for accumulated leave or insurance. The interns would work on 3 projects – community outreach web series, youth conference, and youth representation at the UN assembly. It also creates a limited term position for a projects coordinator, of which a job description is included. These employees will be under the office of the Commission on Decolonization. The application is due April 9. The Commission would have to approve the submission of the application with a motion in meeting or resolution.
- Eddie Duenas – this is almost \$300,000 in federal grants. We cannot touch it? Here I am looking at the money for each task force – they don't even reach



anything near that. Yet here we have this amount for a special project. The self-determination study is over \$100,000 too.

- Executive Director – The money for the Self-Determination Study is also federally funded. This is not taken from the task forces at all. That was something decided prior to my coming in.
- Eloy Hara – I think what he is saying, which I agree with – is that it seems like we have too much distractions. Our original mission is to educate the eligible voters. We are deviating from day to day.
- Executive Director – the age range for this is 14-24. The projects here will not fall on the backs of the task forces. These were projects that were brought up in the past. This will allow for funding outside of local funding. It will provide education without affecting our existing funding. Instead of having to use your task force's funds for things like video episodes, you could get with the youth who would be able to get that done. The only thing is that it is due April 9. If we wanted to get it in, it would have to be approved today. If it is not approved, we will not go forward with the application.
- Eddie Duenas – I am still against spending money if it's not really needed.
- Adrian Cruz – haven't all of our task forces wanted to make a video commercials. Why not take advantage of this opportunity to have it paid for federally?
- Chairman – thank you Amanda for working hard on this. If we don't get it, then we don't get it. If we do get it, then we have these financial resources and plan that was acceptable.
- Dr. Bevacqua – I think we might as well try. I think that it is unique enough that it may be chosen.
- Eloy Hara – I will vote for that personally, because it is a good thing. On the other side, the reason for legislative freezing. Our 100,000 that we reserved for the massive campaign is now frozen because of what the legislature did.
- Vice Chairwoman – The legislature did not freeze anything. That is all within the executive branch. When the executive branch proposed cutting funding from the COD. The executive director was given this, and she proposed to take it from the task forces.
- Executive Director – we are looking at the public information campaign. We are looking at splitting that up to provide additional fund. We are looking at other ways to provide funding. The past fiscal year accounts are in reserve per BBMR management. We talked to all three task forces about that. The age requirements are included in the grant itself. I could send you a link.
- Vice Chairwoman – I had requested to get a copy of the documents for the meeting and I did not receive this.



- Executive Director – This specific grant – I found it just yesterday, which is why everyone got the agenda change. I had finished this package just before the meeting. That is why no one received it until the meeting. The only thing that had documents that was not sent out is the manhoben grant proposal. Other than that, everything was sent. I apologize for it being last minute, but I found the grant and decided to come prepared with this packet so you could look at it.
- Vice Chairwoman – I don't have any objections for an education campaign. I have questions on what they're trying to address. I'm curious about the UN trips. Are these flexible? Can they be changed? The task forces have been doing a good job trying to get the task forces there. Can we perhaps send task force member.
- Executive Director – Right now it's set for youth to give them an opportunity to practice leadership skills. How the Commission decides who to go with, whether it is a youth congress representative, or a representative from a task force. We only included a chaperone because similar previous grants included a chaperone. It is a youth focused grant set for ages 14-24, which would also be the age range for people who would go on the trip.
- Vice Chairwoman – can the budget part be changed later? Can we move the travel to video editing later? I would rather prioritize the task forces if possible.
- Executive Director – because the budget for the grant is still below the \$300,000 ceiling, I could add a representative and stipulate that each representative that goes will represent one task force. So, it would be three representatives and one chaperone. If we remove the chaperone, we would have to limit the ages.
- Dr. Bevacqua – leave the chaperone. It is a youth grant.
- Vice Chairwoman – can't any of you going act as a chaperone?
- Executive Director – we don't know if we are going to get funding for travel next fiscal year. We could keep the chaperone because I budgeted for below the max of \$300,000 in case there were any changes that needed to be made.
- Eddie Duenas – will we benefit from this? COD was established to provide public information for the plebiscite. When it's complete, the commission's goal is complete.
- Chairman – I'm pretty sure the next governor will continue on the mission of the Commission. The intent of this grant is to use this money before the plebiscite. I don't see one being held in 2018.
- Vice Chairwoman – I recommend that we take the balance that you haven't allocated and put it toward the video. It looks like the only concrete product is the video. I would put it into something concrete.
- Chairman – We added \$7000 to travel for another youth representative. The balance would be added to the video editing.
- No objection.



- Executive Director – the advertising for the conference and any outreach would be under advertising. For advertising for the IFB, that comes from the video editing part. Putting it on television would also come from video editing and production.
- Eddie Duenas – Regarding the equipment - the equipment belongs to the project? Why don't we contract the whole thing out? Why do we need a camera and printer?
- Executive Director – the equipment would belong to the Commission. The current situation in our office is that we work with desks and a chair not belonging to the Commission, and one computer. The computer that Mariana is using now is my personal computer. We are unable to function with the amount of people who would be coming in with the limited resources we have now.
- Eddie Duenas – why not just contract the whole thing out?
- Executive Director – They need a camera to use for taking pictures and producing shorter videos.
- Chairman – if you have any comments or questions, we look towards you on that. We'd like to make that decision on it today because of the time constraint.
- Dr. Baza – there are certain things like the intern and project manager that are set in stone. I'm pretty sure with the equipment and supplies, you can move that money around. Whatever the projects are, those are the things you can't change.
- Dr. Natividad – you need to be sure you deliver on your deliverables.
- Vice Chairwoman – I suggest we take off the procurement training. We need products out of this grant.
- Executive Director – I included that because part of the grant is to prepare them for real world experience. Either way the projects coordinator would need to take the training because it is required by the grant as they would have to oversee it. If you want to take out the one for the intern, we can. From my experience you, still need somebody.
- **Dr. Baza – Motion to approve the application. Seconded by Adrian Cruz. Objection by Eddie Duenas. Motion passes with a majority vote.**

IV. Continuing Business

a. **Self-Determination Study**

- No updates at this time. We are in the process of routing. If there are any changes, the Commission will be made aware.
- Eddie Duenas – I have a question with this. When are we going to have a plebiscite?



- Chairman – You never know the court, right? We need to get a briefing from the AG on a status on the appeal? I think it would be good if we get a representative from the AG's office to give us a rundown of where we're at.
- Eddie Duenas – I feel we are losing focus. Why are we doing this thing? When do we have to deliver? Why are we rushing? From the very start I've asked this question
- Dr. Baza – we've been talking about this study for five years.
- Eddie Duenas – The crowning glory is holding the plebiscite. The only question is when.
- Chairman – we can only do things that are within our control. I think the education has come a long way in this Commission. Which leads us to the social marketing plan.

b. Social Marketing Plan

- Jesse Quenga, representative of UOG – Thank you for having me. There was a motion in your last meeting that the UOG would submit a proposal for a social marketing plan. Just an update, we've engaged a unique class that deals with public policy. The students have been working diligently to prepare. We are having a few more sessions with our students and marketing experts, and will have a legitimate proposal that we can share with the Commission at the next Commission meeting.
- Eddie Duenas – Now it feels like we are handing everything over to someone else to handle. We keep on sidestepping. Let's be focused.
- Vice Chairwoman – is there anything in writing? Goals? Parameters?
- Jesse Quenga – what we're compiling for the Commission is what the cost and parameters would be in regards to that social marketing aspect – using Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and other avenues. All of that is going to be prepared in a menu style presented to the Commission. It is an effort for our class to do some form of community engaged activity. We're just doing an analysis and what the cost might be. You could then delegate the task of creating purchase orders to your staff.
- Vice Chairwoman – is this a marketing plan?
- Jesse Quenga – we are looking at the different outlets and their respective costs. There is no real benefit beyond the students being able to do this real world exercise.

c. Financial Report

- Mariana Pangelinan – all the numbers are the same as those from last month. No change.



- Eddie Duenas – Am I to understand this is all we’re going to get for our education and advocacy program for our status?
- Chairman – I guess we need to use the money while we can. We never know what might happen. The tax act had an impact on the monies built from prior appropriation. You still have FY18.
- Eddie Duenas – All we have is \$14,000. Everything else is on reserve.
- Eloy Hara – we are ahead in our studies and our plans. We had some setbacks in term of asking if we could rent office containers for massive education starting now. Since we no longer have the 100,000+, that is out of the picture. 14,000 is not going to get us anywhere. We just have to bank on the COD’s educational program. We wanted to put our pamphlets in everybody’s mailbox which we could have afforded. It was around 80-90,000 dollars. We were going to go down to election commission and take the whole voter registration and select what we could afford and put the bulk mail in there.
- Chairman – there has been a passage of a 2% sales tax Oct 1. I’m a firm believe that once that takes into effect, it will be a stabilization of our revenues. Looking toward the last quarter of the calendar year, I think things will loosen up and more resources will be available.
- Executive Director – I just wanted to remind the Commission that your FY2018 Funds do not carry over because the language that did that was not included in this year’s budget law.
- Eloy Hara – actually for the 14,000. What I had in mind, is that I could buy what I could buy in terms of a billboard and put it up on my trailer and bring it on liberation.

d. Task Force Updates

- **Free Association** – *Adrian Cruz, Free Association Chairman*
 - We are looking at getting a laser printer for cost effectiveness. For the remainder we are looking at doing a newspaper printout or ad on TV or radio.
- **Independence** – *Dr. Michael Bevacqua, Independence Chairman*
 - Hike to Hila’an, part of Haleta Hikes series, this Saturday at 8am.
 - April 13 - UC Berkeley Event– some of our members who went to the UN are organizing something at UC Berkeley.
 - April 26 – General Assembly at Chamorro Village
 - May 19 – war survivors event to help fill out war claims form
- **Statehood** – *Eddie Duenas, Statehood Chairman*



- We have a lot of plans, but at the top of my head is the money we will need for this. We need to have a contact for our advocacy program. We need a headquarters. It would be cost effective if we could rent a container to put out so someone could be coordinating all we do and answer the phone. I brought this up before and was told we could not get a coordinator.
- Executive Director – we cannot do it for personnel, but we could for contracts. Because of the cut in funds, you did not anymore. If you want to look at that again, we could. We could do a procurement meeting and take care of that at a later date. I have to double check about office space.
- Eloy Hara – we have started our education process long ago. We have visited every village on this island at town hall meetings.
- Chairman – we are going to have to look at the practicality of what we find because of the reality of the tightness of our budgets this year.

V. Work Session/Subcommittee Schedule

a. Subcommittee Meeting: Self-Determination Study

- I included the minutes from the last subcommittee meeting. We are in the process of getting it signed.
- Vice Chairwoman – I suggest we have the discussions within our regular meetings.
- Executive Director – The governor’s legal team is currently looking at it. If any changes are made, it would not affect the content, but the introduction. We also would need to attach certain documents, such as the minutes from the meetings when it was ratified or mentioned. Once we get the changes, we will send that to everybody.
- Dr. Baza - we did make some changes in the last meeting to adopt some of your [Vice Chairwoman] language for the MOU. It is in the minutes on page 8.
- Vice Chairwoman – I’m hoping in our meetings we could get some of this product so we could use it. For example, the parts regarding the military and environmental/resources. I’d like to use those in our education campaign. Take those and put it to the public. I feel like we are in an urgent situation. The faster we get those things out, the faster we can do things with it. We have agencies bombarded with problematic memos. We will have something concrete. It translates to our role to get these out in every way possible. We have no status without resources.
- Executive Director – that was part of the discussion previously. We wouldn’t have to wait for it all to be done. Parts that are done would be



forwarded to us as they are completed for use in media and education campaign. It's currently moving forward.

- Eloy Hara – as military issue came up, I was an original appointee to the Civilian Military Task Force. I follow the military channel, and for our benefit here – a lot of the issues that you've raised, Vice Speaker, the military channel has put out tremendous efforts to address the local concerns. I personally wrote all my pros and cons. I objected to every rifle range, except for Pagat, which we are not able to develop because of the limestone. The military would have leased that and all that money would have gone toward Chamorro Land Trust. I went against the existing rifle ranges in Naval Station, NCTS, and Tarague. Many were based on our interest as Chamorros, but also for financial and other reasons including wear and tear on roads and traffic.
- Chairman – I know you've done so much in the past for this. I'm going to bring in reps from the regulatory agencies involved with this buildup. Let's get everybody in here and get a perspective of where they're at and their responsibilities. Let's see if we can get them here next meeting.
- Eloy Hara - I don't know how many of us here on Guam care to look at our sister organization in the DOD. In my 25 years in the military around the world, especially the marines, are the best steward of any piece of property or artifacts. They preserve the things better than the state or local government ever could, especially the Government of Guam. Government of Guam is known for building but not maintaining.

b. Work Session: DOE Curriculum Framework / United Nations

- Tuesday, April 17, 3pm, Large Conference Room

VI. Open Discussion

- Chairman – I hope everyone had a good Easter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in my remaining nine months here towards moving forward our political status.
- Eddie Duenas - going back to this plebiscite, what is your feeling now that it's been declared unconstitutional by the superior court of Guam.
- Chairman – I just sent a letter to OAS as governor. There has been this push for democracy – for full political self-determination – to protect the Central and South American countries from European colonization. They are protesting and saying they have a fundamental right to having a vote in the political process they are in. I agree with them. As Governor of Guam, I'm going to be filing an amicus to the OAS about giving places like Puerto Rico what was pledged for after WWII – an end to authoritarianism, western style democracy, and the rights as citizens to vote for their representatives. That's what I've been doing with my position as



governor. It is going to be interesting because it puts the US in an awkward position.

- Eloy Hara – since it will be a nonbinding resolution anyway, why don't we do a mockup plebiscite this November and just let everyone vote.
- Chairman – I think I brought that up a long time ago and I'm not going to bring it up again. I'm leaving it to the body.
- Dr. Natividad – With regards to utilizing the Organization of American States – that is an important strategy for us as well. I would encourage our consideration, especially after the MIF, which hopefully will come up with a joint resolution with CNMI about decolonization. I think we should consider bringing up a case to the OAS. That kind of stuff really helps our case.
- Chairman – I will work with you folks on OAS. I'm the only American governor to do it. The more this voice comes out from all the different territories and commonwealths, the better, especially from these organizations and bodies created by the US after WWII. It's going to help our case. I have to follow up on the language on what I'm sending to OAS.
- Dr. Natividad – in the international level with regional meetings - if they're able to have a resolution coming out of the MIF that supports what we want, that would help our process.
- Chairman – As much as FSM President Christian and I disagree, he backed us up. As much as he can be antagonistic on certain things, at the UN, he was there for us.
- Executive Director – we hope to add a paragraph to the document coming out of the MIF with their support.
- Dr. Natividad – they've appointed members of their political status commission, we should reach out to them prior to the MIF.
- Executive Director – we have.
- Chairman – It is interesting because everyone at the MIF – we have people from all different places in the region. We are taking this journey, all in different periods of maturity as far as how far we've gone. We just want to come together and share information. There may be something that does come out acceptable to everyone that will help our cause for self-determination as well.
- Vicechairwoman – I think if we could all the past votes and have the full history in mind when you go in there.
- Executive Director – I did send out thank you notes to those who did support us and continue to have communication with them.
- Vicechairwoman – I would like to develop a strategy to work on those who did not support us and see what the impediments are. If they are overcomeable, then we can work on that.



- Dr. Natividad- I will be in NY for two weeks, and I am not going as a representative of COD, but I am wanting to continue to foster some of those relationships with our supporters at the UN.
- Chairman – For some of the islands, they are our allies in other things, but were under a lot of pressure.
- Vicechairwoman – maybe you could help us to come up with a strategy around that.
- Chairman – As we start talking about how we build these alliances, we have to bring up things like the Jones Act and its effect on costs within these islands. We are going to have to start opening our dialogue. We have a whole region of islands where economic potentials are hurt.

VII. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn – Adrian Cruz, Seconded by Dr. Bevacqua.**