

TRIBAL NATIONS TOOLBOX TOURS

RED CLIFF BAND

37600 Onigamiing Dr., Red Cliff, WI

10/8/2025



AGENDA

1:00pm - Welcome & Introductions

1:30pm - Housing Challenges

3:00pm - BDC Challenges

4:00pm - Close

OPENING STATEMENTS

Rob Czipinski, Red Cliff Economic & Community Development Planner, opened the discussion by reviewing the comprehensive plans completed in last 6 years including tax codes. The BDC [small business development], commercial zone master plan, and mixed-use retail development including a gas station funded by Red Cliff were successes for the tribe. There are native tribal business opportunities in various government markets.

Kevin Chesnik, AICCW Executive Director, discussed the purpose of the Tribal Toolbox Tour. One effort includes keeping tribes informed on Federal and State policy changes that affect tribal member businesses. One such change involves the decertification of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms. This DBE program is now being re-imagined by the Federal Government and includes requirements to be re-certified as a DBE business that is not based on race or gender.

Red Cliff Chairwoman Nicole Boyd mentioned her involvement with past Tribal Toolbox Tour visits that have proved beneficial for Red Cliff. She is grateful for a team that is built to go forward and that now has access to resources to increase workforce development. The gaming industry for Red Cliff has its challenges so turning to other opportunities like building capacity of BDC is necessary but has been difficult for Red Cliff.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

RED CLIFF HOUSING AND BDC CHALLENGES

Red Cliff expressed a need for property management and non-HUD housing stocking stock. There is a lack of quality property management in the region. Red Cliff discussed possible avenues to pursue property management whether it be via the Tribal government, the housing authority, or a Tribal business venture. WHEDA shared that it is continuing to build on its relationship with the state government. It is responding to needs and proposing legislative changes that support housing development. The adequate pipeline of property management is a common statewide problem. WHEDA has a property management track at its annual conference in November in Madison. WHEDA will continue to incorporate community needs and ideas into future opportunities

WIHEDC is finalizing the Red Cliff business HUB through building on what already exists. They are working with DWD programs and coordinating the efforts. There is a Red Cliff one day event to informally bring business together. This will be on April 14th, 2026. There is a Native loan fund that has monies from some of the tribes. This has not been previously discussed and can be used for various purposes for each tribal community. The funding goes back to the tribe that invests in the CDFI. An issue on shared property services was mentioned. There is interest in seeing and using a developed statewide list of tribal businesses.

ATTENDING RESOURCE AGENCIES



ATTENDEES

Kevin Chesnik	AICCW	kevin@aiccw.org
Brittany Gordon	Red Cliff Tribe	brittany.gordon@redcliff-nsn.gov
Rob Czypinski	Red Cliff Tribe	rob.czypinski@redcliff-nsn.gov
Deb Morris	Red Cliff RCCHA	dmorris@redcliffhousing.org
Erica Steele	WHEDA	erica.steele@wheda.com
David Fleming	WEDC	david.fleming@wedc.org
Nicole Boyd	Red Cliff TC	nicole.boyd@redcliff-nsn.gov
Diane Basina	Red Cliff BDC	diane.basina@redcliff-nsn.gov
David Gouwens	WINLF	david.gouwens@winlf.org