

SWO EXECUTIVES



OPEN COMMUNICATION

For the past 15 months of serving in office, as a team, we have strived to exercise transparency with our Programs, with DCA, and Tribal Council. By having quarterly Manager meetings, it has opened the doors to concerns and allowed us to create solutions in a timely manner. One item that was brought up was; Members and employees need more open communication. All Executives report on a monthly basis to Council while also sending the information to the Sota for those who do not watch Council sessions. With moving forward in a positive and helpful manner, we will begin sending an Executive report and helpful information to the Sota, to employee emails, and will be posting on our website so Tribal members may review and have access at a click of a button. We thank you for your patience as we continue to grow in these leadership positions.

MONTHLY PRIORITY

- Open Communication
- Group Home
- Finance: Audits, Indirect Cost
- Solar For All
- Agriculture
- Broadband
- Community Garden

WAKANHDI IJANJAN TIPI KIN- THE LIGHT HOUSE GROUP HOME



Since the beginning of 2023, Tribal Secretary Bissonette created a working team, to address the needs of children, while keeping a safe structured schedule for their social wellbeing and providing access to an array of services to promote a healthy development. Wakanhdi Ijanjan tipi kin (Lighthouse) brings together different Tribal Departments to conduct child crime investigations, implement family intervention, and strategize prevention plans utilizing our cultural traditions more effectively through collaboration. Services will include assessments, counseling, case management, family events, and guidance services, with parental education and prevention.

The focus population served by the Lighthouse include child victims and witnesses in case of child physical and sexual abuse, neglect, imperiling drug endangerment, domestic violence, sexual assault and homicide. The Tribal Secretary is now collaborating with SWO Child Protection and DSS to provide a range of funded solutions for supporting tribal children throughout SWO, starting with two newly constructed homes which are nearly ready to open in Agency Village to support comprehensive, therapeutic care of our tribal children. The Wakanhdi Ijanjan tipi kin (Lighthouse) is the second child safety center to be owned and operated by Sisseton- Wahpeton Oyate, with the Little Voices being the first.

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FINANCE: AUDITS & INDIRECT COST

Our Chief Financial Officer Trainee, Jaime Renville, has been meeting on a weekly basis with our auditor as we are finishing up on FY2021 audit. Our audit prep consultant had signed their contract Fall 2022 and was supposed to be completed by the end of the month. Since they have NOT fulfilled any of the items in the contract, putting SWO in a predicament with different agencies, we will be moving towards legal action against the company. We recently hired a third consultant who has already completed most items needed and are on-site on a bi-weekly basis. Regarding our Indirect cost, FY2022 and FY2023 have been completed and approved. FY2024 negotiations are currently waiting to be approved. Once completed, SWO will be back to our yearly schedule!



SOLAR FOR ALL

The Northern Plains Tribal Coalition (NPTC) of 14 tribes across the Northern Great Plains has been awarded \$135,580,000 by the Environmental Protection Agency for residential solar energy projects. The NPTC was created specifically to help tribal nations to apply for the multi-million dollar Solar for All grant. The grant will enable us to implement residential solar projects, significantly reducing energy costs for families and fostering energy

independence. The overall goal is to add solar energy to about 5,000 residential homes, adding solar panels to nursing homes and multigenerational family homes. By installing solar panels on homes, it allows solar power to not only lower utility bills but also contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, promoting a healthier environment for future generations. Furthermore, the grant will support job creation and skill development within our community. By training local workers in solar panel installation and maintenance, we will build a skilled workforce capable of sustaining and expanding our solar infrastructure. This initiative aligns with our commitment to self-sufficiency and economic empowerment, providing long-term benefits beyond immediate energy savings.

BROADBAND

Sisseton- Wahpeton Oyate is excited and hopeful in our submission for a \$24.5 million NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant. This significant investment will enable the construction of 16 state-of-the-art 5G towers across our reservation, dramatically improving the internet connectivity in our community. Within this grant, we aim to bridge the digital divide that has long hindered access to essential online services, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Enhanced connectivity will support remote learning for students, telehealth services for residents, and opportunities for local businesses to thrive in the digital economy. It will also facilitate better communication and coordination in emergency services, enhancing public safety on the reservation. We look forward to announcing the outcome of this submission in the upcoming month(s). We are hopeful this opportunity will come to fruition for the benefit of our community.

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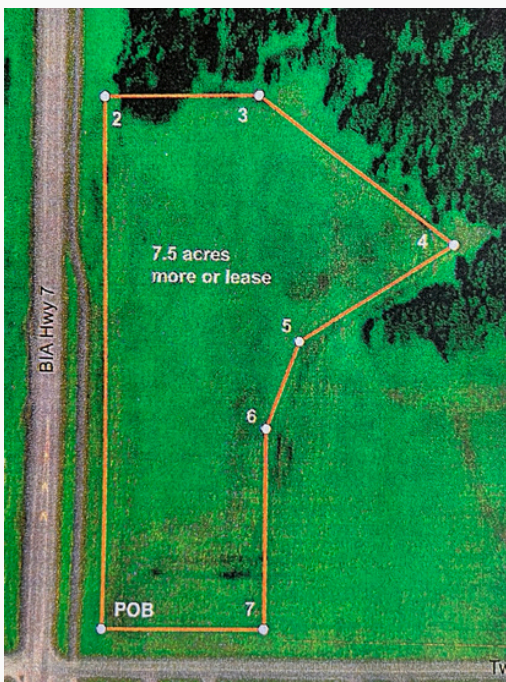
SWO FARMING

This will be the 2nd year SWO has approved custom farm contracts under the Realty Department, which was a great success the first year and historical moment for SWO to plant acres. Tribal Council and Executives are working towards a 50/50 crop share agreement once again, but have been unable to finalize an agreement with an operator. This will be the first year SWO will be planting 500 acres worth of crops. CHS in Sisseton will be contracted to provide seeds, chemical, fertilizer, spraying, and application. The long term goal will be establishing a business under a For-profit structure that will allow the flexibility to operate Tribal farming. Tribal Realty Department has dedicated time and energy in developing a successful planting season that provides the opportunity to increase profit and Tribal Sovereignty.



FOOD PANTRY COMMUNITY GARDEN- WOTE HDAPI KTE SNI COOPERATIVE

In Spring 2024, SWO was awarded a \$10,000 mini grant Partnerships with Native Americans (PWNA) to begin our new community garden. The garden was named, Wote Hdapi kte Sni Cooperation, in honor of the women who dedicated their lives to advocating for tribal health and human services. Tribal Council and Executives approved 7.5 acres on Two Star Lane as the plotting area. This funding will allow SWO the ability to move forward with acquiring different food and medicinal plants for our community to have easy access. With the growing concern of high prices in local grocery stores and emergency food boxes during disasters, Council and Executives wanted to ensure a permanent plan for the future. After receiving funds from PWNA, Feeding SD has approved funding for \$278,000 to assist with the project as well. Rhonda and Doris have been a great asset to Food Pantry organizing the garden and conducting food preservation classes. Future classes will be advertised soon.



The garden will likely include: apple trees, maple groves, pumpkin patch, watermelon patch, tomatoes, carrots, sage, lavender, rhubarb, berry bushes, plus much more.