

1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
2 INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT FORMULA  
3 NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE

4

5 Friday, June 13, 2014

6 8:33 a.m.

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19 Hilton Scottsdale

20 Salon 4

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- 3 JASON DOLLARHIDE, Co-Chair
- 4 JASON ADAMS
- 5 JAD ATALLAH
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- 7 RODGER BOYD
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Good morning, everybody. We will  
3 go ahead and reconvene this meeting of the Negotiated  
4 Rulemaking Committee on Friday morning, June 13th.

5 I have asked Ronald with the San Carlos Housing  
6 Authority to start our day out with a prayer.

7 MR. BONI: Let's all pray.

8 Father, we thank you today. Thank you for this  
9 day that you have given us again, woken us up.

10 Father, we thank you for your blessings that you  
11 have bestowed upon each and every one of us gathered  
12 here today. Go with us today as we come together  
13 again, Lord, in unison. God, we pray that you will  
14 give us the knowledge, understanding, the wisdom needed  
15 that we may do the job done today.

16 God, we ask that you keep your hand upon each and  
17 every committee member here, every person that is  
18 represented here, God. Father, we pray that you keep  
19 your hand upon our families at home. Many have come  
20 many, many miles to travel here, God.

21 Father, we thank you for all that you are going to  
22 do, everything that has been done so far. Father, we

1 ask that everything done even today be for your honor,  
2 for your glory.

3 Father, and we praise you and we thank you. Asked  
4 all in Christ's name, amen.

5 MS. BRYAN: Good morning, everyone. So where we  
6 left off yesterday was we had a one-page proposal  
7 concept and went into caucuses. So let's -- unless  
8 there is any other announcements for the good of the  
9 order -- I do have an announcement. I have a flight  
10 that I need to catch. So I'll be here the morning but  
11 won't be able to close with you this afternoon. My  
12 apologies in advance.

13 But let's hit the ground running. We have up the  
14 proposal concept, and we all went into caucuses. So  
15 I'm going to open that up. Jack?

16 MR. SAWYERS: I'd like to make an old man's speech  
17 for a minute. My tribal chairman says why is Jack  
18 Sawyers still working? And I have to reflect on that.

19 I hope I don't screw things up for our committee, but  
20 let me tell you why I'm still working.

21 I had a business. I sold the business, and I  
22 wouldn't live well, but I wouldn't starve if I quit

1 today. That's not why I'm working.

2 I'm working because I have a friend who's name is  
3 Paul Iron Cloud. You may know him. Paul is looking at  
4 -- if we today changed our method of measuring, Paul  
5 would lose \$700,000. Paul has an immediate need of  
6 2,000 homes today, and he can put them together in the  
7 next 10 years. But during that 10 years, he's going to  
8 lose \$7 million from his budget. Seven million dollars  
9 would almost take care of those 2,000 houses.

10 I'm saying that, folks, before we start looking --  
11 and the problem is, is not that that's only Paul. Then  
12 he also has other issues. If he loses that money,  
13 there's roads and a whole bunch of things. But I don't  
14 want to get -- I just want to do housing.

15 I'm just saying that the folks up there, some of  
16 them, there's 15 people in a house, 3 generations.  
17 See, the trouble is they don't have homeless people.  
18 They just have overcrowdedness. And that's the only  
19 source they have.

20 They don't have a city where we -- like some of us  
21 do that those folks can find other places. The only  
22 place they have is on the reservation. And if they

1 can't be housed, they don't have a house for them,  
2 they're going to live with their relatives or whatever.  
3 That's the tradition.

4 Now what I'm saying is I don't expect everybody to  
5 say "poor Paul" because a lot of -- everybody has  
6 needs. I'm not saying that. But take in  
7 consideration, and it doesn't affect me like it does --  
8 like it does some of the big land-based tribes.

9 But take in consideration, that's the only --  
10 that's their only resources. What they have on there  
11 is their only resources. And you know, I have, I hope,  
12 a lot of friends around this table, and I really  
13 appreciate the respect that we're giving one another.

14 But you know, we've been criticized a little bit  
15 for UNAHA, and some -- we have in UNAHA, we have some  
16 winners and some losers like everybody else. But think  
17 about -- as you vote for this, think about people who  
18 really need it that have no other choices.

19 We'd like to see a study. We think that there's  
20 probably better ways than just going into ACS. We  
21 appreciate those folks yesterday, Rusty and Carol and  
22 some of the folks that want to make it a little easier.

1           But the fact is whatever we do, Paul Iron Cloud's  
2 folks have no other choices. Think about 15 people in  
3 a three-bedroom house. What kind of education are  
4 those kids going to get? What kind of -- what kind of  
5 social things are they going to have in that crowd?  
6 And there's campers out by the house that people sleep  
7 in at 40 below zero.

8           What I'm saying is the reason I'm working -- I'll  
9 be 81 years old at our August meeting, and I don't know  
10 why the hell I'm still here. But I'll tell you this  
11 much. I think it's -- I think it's because I really  
12 care. I think everybody needs a house.

13           Nothing can happen in our life without a house,  
14 without shelter and food. All our social services and  
15 all of those other things are important, but you are  
16 the key to the most important part of anybody's life.  
17 That's a heck of a responsibility.

18           I don't want to go on. I don't want to screw  
19 things up, but I do appreciate, and you have to listen  
20 to me because I'm old.

21           Thank you.

22           MS. BRYAN: Thank you for your words, Jack.

1 I think, you know, that is why we're here. This  
2 housing is a labor of love. It's a passion. And it's  
3 a really good segue and fits right into this  
4 conversation about the concept of looking at the  
5 numbers and how much they impact the tribes here and  
6 why we're having this conversation about what we can do  
7 to mitigate some of that.

8 Michael Reed?

9 MR. REED: Good morning. Michael Reed, Cocopah  
10 Indian Housing and Development.

11 And Jack, you know, you did a great job of  
12 describing, I guess, our world that we work in. And  
13 thank you for that.

14 Our caucus met last night to discuss this concept  
15 proposal, and I think I can speak for the group in that  
16 we think this is a very good approach or at least a  
17 start to coming up with something that we all can work  
18 with.

19 My personal opinion is that we need to really work  
20 on this ACS. It is a tool, and it can be made a better  
21 tool for us. And I think it's very important that we  
22 spend the time to make it work.

1           In addition to that, there is going to be a number  
2 of tribes -- if there is consensus with this 90 percent  
3 approach, there's going to be a number of tribes that  
4 are going to have to give up some of that money you're  
5 talking about, Jack. And my tribe is one of them, and  
6 we're a small tribe.

7           But overall, we feel that maybe if we take this  
8 type of approach where we can limit the impact, maybe  
9 it's time to take that step. On the other side, we're  
10 going to have some friends that are going to, according  
11 to the ACS, receive some of those dollars.

12           And we kind of felt that the best way to approach  
13 that maybe would have -- have the needs committee, by  
14 providing them some kind of direction, take a look at  
15 how much money that's going to be on the other side,  
16 the people that are receiving it. And to make it equal  
17 and fair maybe, we ought to look at those dollars to do  
18 what we need to do to come up with a method or a  
19 tweaking of this tool, of ACS, to work.

20           And being from a small tribe, and I've always  
21 talked about this. This is my third session. Maybe  
22 there's enough dollars to divert those funds to some of

1 the small tribes that don't have FCAS. All they get is  
2 the \$50,000. That way, no one really walks away ahead  
3 of the game, and if those tribes that are willing to go  
4 along with this, you know, that may work.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Michael. Jason Dollarhide?

7 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Good morning. I am also in  
8 support of the concept. My only -- my big concern, and  
9 I've expressed my concern to several folks. When it  
10 comes to this committee, this study group, I have, one,  
11 my concern is funding of that study group and where  
12 that money is going to come from. That's a big issue  
13 of mine.

14 Mainly because, you know, as some folks in the  
15 room, and you know, I was one of the ones that took an  
16 11 percent hit with the ACS. You know, I'm not too  
17 happy about that, but you know, if that money goes  
18 elsewhere to somebody, then you know, so be it.

19 What I am concerned about with this study, and I  
20 heard it yesterday in the needs, is that everybody is  
21 already jockeying for position to be on this study  
22 group. And it reminds me so much of the single race,

1 the multi-race group. You had the winners over here,  
2 and you had your losers over here. And nothing got  
3 done, and here we are again.

4 And this is going to happen again, in my opinion,  
5 because I've already heard people jockeying, wanting  
6 this and wanting that and wanting to get on it. And  
7 it's the winners and the losers, you know, they're the  
8 ones that want to be there.

9 And which is fine. You know, I don't have a dog  
10 in the fight really. I've a little bitty maybe  
11 Chihuahua maybe sized dog in the fight. But you know,  
12 that just -- that really concerns me because, here, I'm  
13 taking an 11 percent hit with ACS, and you know, if HUD  
14 doesn't come up with the funding, you know, we're going  
15 to have to look at more funding, additional sources.

16 And in my opinion, one of the logical places to  
17 pull that money out of because, you know, this is a  
18 tribal issue. Jack said yesterday it's a two-way  
19 street between HUD and the tribes, and you know, my  
20 opinion differs a little bit about that because, you  
21 know, HUD has already got a dataset that they can go  
22 with, and that's ACS. We're the ones that want to

1 change it, good, bad, or indifferent.

2           You know, I know there's lots of issues with it,  
3 and it's not perfect. But you know, obviously, we've  
4 beat the alternate sources around and around and around  
5 in a circle, and you know, we still haven't come up  
6 with anything yet.

7           So, you know, I look at the alternate data sources  
8 -- I mean, the alternate funding sources, and you know,  
9 my -- the first thing that pops into my head is the  
10 set-aside out of our block grant to fund this for the  
11 tribes. So now I'm going to take another hit for this  
12 committee to come together and get nothing  
13 accomplished, in my opinion.

14           It doesn't mean that I won't support it. Those  
15 are my concerns of that committee because I can see  
16 that happening as I sit here now.

17           So, you know, I do like where we're going. It  
18 felt good to get something accomplished yesterday in  
19 our group. I know that Jason and them, from my  
20 understanding from talking to the folks in the FCAS  
21 group, were just kind of sailing through, no issues.  
22 Just getting it right done.

1           But those are just a few of my thoughts and a few  
2 of my concerns. Like I said, I will -- you know, I  
3 will support this concept. I think it's a great start.

4           You know, I will -- you know, I'll just -- I'll come  
5 out and state it for the record. I am an ACS guy. I  
6 am.

7           Even though I am taking 11 percent hit, I think  
8 that, you know, one thing that I keep hearing in our  
9 room is, you know, we don't understand. We don't  
10 understand. The only thing we know is that we're going  
11 back to our folks and telling them we're losing money  
12 because we have ACS now.

13           But the -- the weights and everything involved  
14 with the ACS is kind of skewed for everybody. Nobody  
15 really knows that information, and I don't either. So,  
16 you know, I think that, you know, from my viewpoint,  
17 you know, I was -- you know, whenever -- when I went  
18 into tribal politics, my grandmother -- of course, my  
19 grandmother raised me. But I'll always remember one  
20 thing she said is that, you know, you may not agree  
21 with what everybody is saying or what they want to try  
22 to achieve, but if you get outvoted, then you support

1 that position 100 percent, and you make sure that it  
2 succeeds in whichever direction that it goes because  
3 that's your duty.

4 And you know, so I really -- I think about that a  
5 lot, and you know, the one thing -- that's one thing  
6 that has stuck in my mind. So I will support this. I  
7 will see where it goes, but you know, I do have  
8 reservations and I do have concerns.

9 But you know, like I said, I do think that, you  
10 know, the needs group made some -- after great lengthy  
11 discussion, made some headway within the group, and I'm  
12 very happy to see that.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Jason. Aneva?

15 MS. YAZZIE: Thank you, Madam Chair and Co-Chair.

16 I'm going to speak from the other end of the  
17 spectrum, and that is the need is greatly there for  
18 every tribe, to the tune of a minimum of \$34,000 on the  
19 Navajo. And so, and I see that.

20 I'm a single parent, and housing is just so  
21 fundamental to me, to just survival in our lives. And  
22 so, that's where my passion comes from in the housing

1 world.

2 So I really appreciate the sentiment expressed by  
3 Michael. We did have our caucus last evening. And to  
4 the extent that some of the questions I think perhaps  
5 there could be some elaboration on the 10 percent, and  
6 I think with regard to small tribes and even though in  
7 our group, the needs workgroup, we had Ben Winter did  
8 an excellent job of facilitating. Thank you, Ben.

9 But I think to describe that because it's a zero-  
10 sum scenario, my understanding yesterday was that, that  
11 that would all eventually be equalized at about no less  
12 than 10 percent per tribe. But I think for some of the  
13 small tribes, if there are some large gains, I think we  
14 need to look at that probably a little bit more or just  
15 to have some clarity as to what that would mean.

16 And I understood it yesterday, but for those that  
17 were in the FCAS group, which were the questions being  
18 posed from the caucus last evening, I think for the  
19 benefit, I'd like to have that kind of described from  
20 Mr. Winter, if that's possible, Madam Chair.

21 But you know, ultimately, though, regardless of  
22 "winners" or "losers," you know, I really like the

1 guiding principles identified here in this concept in  
2 that I think it really speaks to us trying to be as  
3 most fair and equitable, recognizing that we want to  
4 help each other, too, at the same time.

5 And so, I think, you know, there is never going to  
6 be a perfect solution, as alluded to earlier. But I  
7 think to the extent that we can optimize or minimize  
8 those impacts for each of us, I think we can live with  
9 that. But we need to give this an opportunity for all  
10 of us to come together in the study group, whomever is  
11 on the study group. It could be the full committee.

12 But there does need to be some discussion on  
13 funding, and I think there's ways to do that if we all  
14 work together. And I think if we come at this in a  
15 positive focus, I think we can get there. At least we  
16 need to try.

17 So, Madam Chair, those are my comments. Thank  
18 you.

19 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Aneva. I'm hearing you'll  
20 want to yield some time to Mr. Winter. So we'll do  
21 that after Russell. If you want to add him to the  
22 queue, you can yield your time to him when it's your

1 turn again.

2 Carol?

3 MS. GORE: Through the chairs to the committee, I  
4 speak in favor of the proposal, and I'd like to  
5 elaborate why we support that proposal.

6 First of all, Alaska, like every region, has a  
7 bucket of winners and losers. I don't think there is a  
8 single region that doesn't have that same experience,  
9 at least when you look at a change in data source.

10 We expect that would happen with a change with any  
11 data source. So I want to be clear that I'm not  
12 speaking to any particular data source.

13 In our discussion, we also talked about the  
14 opportunity we have and the responsibility we have at  
15 the table to mitigate what we see as dangerous threats  
16 to our funding in the future. We're up for  
17 reauthorization. That's not going so hot.

18 We also have a change in leadership at HUD. We  
19 have a pending change in administration. Those are  
20 serious threats to us. We've been flat funded for  
21 years, and those threats are real, and we have no  
22 control over them. This proposal gives us an

1 opportunity to have input into our funding future.

2 There are two items that we particularly like  
3 about this proposal, and that is the phase -- two-step  
4 phased-in approach, which is the delay in the  
5 implementation and providing tribes with no more than a  
6 10 percent cut in a year. So I speak in favor of it  
7 for those reasons.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Carol. Jack?

10 MR. SAWYERS: I don't want to start a great debate  
11 here. I agree with you, Jason, that we study those  
12 things. But I don't want to go home and talk to my  
13 friend Paul and say, "Paul, I didn't try. I didn't  
14 spend some time. And we have limited time, and I shut  
15 it off because we didn't have time."

16 I'm saying I don't know. I don't know if we can  
17 do anything about it or not, but I'm sure willing to  
18 work or have someone else work to look at all of the  
19 issues we possibly can and answer Jason's question is  
20 why? Why is this doing this the way it's doing it?

21 And I'm just saying that the other thing is I  
22 think I want to understand it a little better. I want

1 to understand not only why, but how this affects us and  
2 where we are in 10 years and so on. I just -- I just  
3 think we need to put some time into it.

4 And I'm not -- I'm not debating. Actually, I'm a  
5 winner. But -- if you could call it that. I mean,  
6 what I'm saying is, is I don't lose money on this  
7 proposition, but my friend Paul does. And I just want  
8 him to know that we worked as hard as we can, spent  
9 some time, some effort, some money, and hopefully, HUD  
10 will do part of it. We're going to have to do some  
11 stuff ourselves.

12 But jiminy Christmas, let's not say, well, we  
13 don't have time because that's not true. Our future  
14 depends on -- at least our next 5, 10 years, 7 years or  
15 whatever it is until we come back again, depends on the  
16 decisions we make here. So I'm not talking for this or  
17 against it. I'm only saying, please, let's not hurry  
18 over it. Let's take the time.

19 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Jack. Russell?

20 MR. SOSSAMON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 I support this concept, first of all, because of  
22 the reducing the impact of changing data sources.

1 Because when I listen to the different people talk  
2 about it, I believe this is consistent with the intent  
3 of the needs formula, but it also takes into  
4 consideration that impact of it.

5 And I put myself in many of the tribes' positions  
6 that take a significant reduction, and that draconian  
7 of a reduction has that real impact on people back  
8 home. People that we love and care about may be laid  
9 off. Others will not have adequate housing. And so,  
10 this tries to balance that, and it doesn't stop the  
11 flow of limited resources to where the data tells us  
12 the greatest need is at. It just shifts it more  
13 incrementally and gives more time to adjust.

14 And that's what I would want if I'm in that  
15 position. My tribe receives a modest increase, but I  
16 know there's other tribes in our region that receive  
17 significant increases. And I'm willing to forgo some  
18 of that, and over time, if that's what the data shows,  
19 then it'll eventually come back to where the data  
20 indicates it needs to go.

21 So we're all in it together, and what I've seen  
22 is, with the introduction of ACS and the potential

1 impact of ACS, we have withdrawn to our corners and  
2 developed our own agendas and are using whatever means  
3 or whatever we can find to mitigate that impact. And  
4 in my estimation, what it's done is divided us and  
5 reduced us to fighting one another over crumbs, in my  
6 opinion, and over the long term is going to harm all of  
7 us.

8 Because the key, to me, is unity and focusing on  
9 increasing the overall pie, not increasing my slice at  
10 the expense of someone else's slice. And that's where  
11 we're at, and that's what this is intended to mitigate.

12 Michael mentioned the smaller tribes. Where is  
13 the money going to come from? In my estimation, it is  
14 increasing the entire pie because the minimal funding  
15 is a percentage of the overall appropriation. As that  
16 increases, theirs increases off the top because of the  
17 function of how it's funded as a percentage.

18 So that's where that money comes from. Hopefully,  
19 this is one way to mitigate the impact of a dataset so  
20 we cannot be expending time and energy and political  
21 capital fighting one another over it, but actually  
22 through a study like this come together to try to

1 improve the accuracy of whatever dataset is eventually  
2 selected.

3 So that's, to me, what the real purpose and,  
4 hopefully, the real outcome of supporting this concept  
5 and getting it into language that we can agree on.  
6 Because at this point, we don't know which dataset is  
7 actually going to come out. And it may change again in  
8 the future, and we're right back where we started.

9 But again, we've seen examples in the past of when  
10 tribes come together, the victories that we can have.  
11 But we've also seen when we are divided, the defeat  
12 that we suffer. And I want us to learn from that  
13 history so that we don't repeat it, the defeat part of  
14 it.

15 So I appreciate the committee's consideration, and  
16 hopefully, through the workgroup we can craft language  
17 that can be supported by consensus.

18 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Rusty. Aneva Yazzie has  
19 yielded time to Ben Winter.

20 MR. WINTER: Can you hear me now? Okay. This is  
21 going to be practice to see if I ever become a  
22 professor. I doubt it because I like policy too much.

1 All right. So if I heard the request correctly,  
2 you wanted me to kind of go over how a hold harmless  
3 kind of works, right? Is that correct?

4 So I want to go first, generally speaking, how --  
5 and by the way, I don't like the word "hold harmless."

6 I like the word "volatility control" because anytime  
7 you have a new data -- new data introduced into a  
8 formula, it creates volatile things in the outcomes.

9 A lot of people win. A lot of people lose. It's  
10 a zero-sum game. So that's called volatility. So what  
11 we're trying to do here is to create a control for that  
12 volatility.

13 So I'm going to kind of talk very high level first  
14 and then get into the weeds just because there is --  
15 this can get pretty weedy from what was discussed in  
16 the workgroup.

17 MS. BRYAN: How long will you need? Because time  
18 yielded is a few minute thing. I'm not sure what -- I  
19 need to check in with the group and see what we're  
20 doing here. I'm sorry. Thirty seconds?

21 MR. WINTER: Four minutes?

22 MS. BRYAN: A few minutes? Okay, thank you.

1 MR. WINTER: Yeah. Is that okay?

2 MS. BRYAN: Yes.

3 MR. WINTER: All right. So this is the total  
4 number of tribes. You have 100 tribes in the formula.

5 You have 10 tribes that lost more than 10 percent of  
6 their funding with the introduction of new dataset.

7 I'm calling this NDS, new dataset, because we don't  
8 know what's there. Okay?

9 And now you have let's say 20 tribes that lost 0  
10 to 10 percent of their funding from NDS, new dataset.

11 Okay? Then you have, what is this, 70 tribes that  
12 gained some amount, right? They gained at least -- you  
13 know, they gained some amount of funding.

14 Now the idea of a hold harmless is if you want to  
15 -- you're really concerned about these guys here  
16 because these guys at the bottom are the ones that have  
17 the biggest shock. And so, what you do is you  
18 calculate the total amount that was gained here, not  
19 the percentage. So all these guys, all these 70  
20 tribes, they gained \$1,000. Okay?

21 And so, then you take the percentage of each tribe  
22 of their gain. So tribe 1, let's say tribe 1, they

1 account for 10 percent of this \$1,000 gain. Let's say  
2 it's \$100. Is that 10 percent? Yeah. So tribe 1  
3 gained \$100, which is equal to 10 percent of \$1,000 of  
4 the total gain.

5 And tribe 2 gained, you know, 1 percent, tribe 3,  
6 1 percent, and so on and so on and so on. So the idea  
7 is to compensate these guys, tribe 1 gives up 10  
8 percent of their gain. Not 10 percent of their grant,  
9 of their gain, and that funding goes to compensate the  
10 big losers.

11 And it's spread out among all of the winners, and  
12 so these guys are not affected. They don't give any  
13 more funding because if they were to give funding, then  
14 they would get hit even more. They might go below that  
15 10 percent. So these guys, there's no donations from  
16 these guys. You only have donations from all of the  
17 winners.

18 So you might have a guy or woman, you might have  
19 somebody that only gained 1 percent, right? But let's  
20 say if they only gained 1 percent of their funding,  
21 that gain is probably like 0.1 percent of this total  
22 amount that was gained. So they're only contributing a

1 very, very, very tiny amount. It might be like  
2 literally \$5. Like literally, it might be \$5. It  
3 might be \$100, but very, very trivial amounts here at  
4 the bottom.

5 But the big gainers are the ones, they give up  
6 their proportional share of the total amount that was  
7 gained. So that's just how the hold harmless works.  
8 That's what you wanted me to go over? Okay.

9 There is also a lot of complexities. I think the  
10 workgroup needs to work this out. One thing in  
11 particular is this is only on the needs portion of your  
12 grant. So stop me if I'm wrong, needs group, but so  
13 you have -- you know, your total grant is you are  
14 allocated funding from needs, and you're allocated  
15 funding from FCAS, and then that's your total grant.  
16 So this volatility control only addresses the funding  
17 allocated by the needs portion. It does not account  
18 for this.

19 And so, so it's not 10 percent of your total  
20 grant. It's 10 percent of the total grant allocated  
21 through needs.

22 The other issue is this is really only about the

1 change, the change that occurred from the introduction  
2 of a new dataset. So, in any given year, there's lots  
3 of things that happen in this formula. There's lots of  
4 like formula areas change. There is all things that  
5 are coming into the formula.

6 So this, we have a method that we would be able to  
7 isolate what the change was from that new dataset and  
8 then kind of apply that volatility index over a period  
9 of time.

10 And that's it.

11 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. Ten seconds over. You owe  
12 me. Thank you very much.

13 Earl?

14 MR. EVANS: Earl Evans, Haliwa-Saponi Indian  
15 Tribe. Thank you, Madam Co-Chair.

16 Well, I'm glad that was easy. The proposal that's  
17 on the screen, there's a couple of concerns. I'm not  
18 saying that I don't support it or that I'm not in favor  
19 of it, but I do have some concerns.

20 My first concern is the -- has to do with the lack  
21 of mention in the study concerning taking a look at  
22 ACS. I believe that one of the goals of the study

1 should still be to also take a look at ACS and figure  
2 out how that might be modified to suit what tribes need  
3 in terms of using that data.

4 And I know some might say that's included when you  
5 say "all relevant data sources," but I personally would  
6 feel a lot better if that were explicitly spelled out  
7 on that 1 through 5 list that one of the primary  
8 objectives of that study be to take a look at ACS and  
9 how that might be used, modified, or tweaked to be able  
10 to be more user friendly and compare that to how the  
11 ACS is normally.

12 Because a lot of people say ACS is bad, but how  
13 many are saying that it's bad just because they are  
14 losing money? How many really know what factors  
15 concerning ACS have changed that's causing that shift?

16 I know I don't. But I think that study should look at  
17 those things and tell us what tweaks might be made  
18 either to ACS directly or in terms of taking a look at  
19 the formula and what needs to be tweaked specifically  
20 in the formula weighting factors and the components to  
21 make ACS potentially a usable dataset.

22 And the second thing is a more defined scope of

1 work. I think if we had a more defined scope of work,  
2 and folks in our region seem to agree with that notion,  
3 that we would have a better product because we have  
4 specific and more detailed expectations about that  
5 study, whereas this statement, I understand it's a  
6 proposal, it still leaves it kind of open and broad.

7 So we might want to include some parameters about  
8 -- about the study and maybe even put an even tighter  
9 timeframe on when that comes back. So those are some  
10 things that I've been contemplating and our region has  
11 been contemplating. And addressing those things would  
12 make us more comfortable with that proposal.

13 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Earl. Gary Cooper?

14 MR. COOPER: Gary Cooper, Cherokee Nation.

15 And I agree with Rusty. You know, this proposal,  
16 should it pass, I think it does one of the best things  
17 that we can do, is to help to reduce the impact that  
18 the tribes that stand to see a reduction take place,  
19 that they actually see that.

20 And I do agree with Earl that, you know, any study  
21 that's done has got to include ACS. I think it needs  
22 to be outlined in here as a data source. I think it

1 should be at the top of that list because right now  
2 it's the only data source in my mind that I can think  
3 of that's out there. And I'm sure that there are  
4 others, but I agree. I think that it probably needs to  
5 be outlined in there.

6 And AJ brought up a good point on the study group.

7 You know, who should be on the study group? And I  
8 think that it should be members from this committee.  
9 That's what we have been tasked with.

10 I don't think that it necessarily needs to be the  
11 whole committee, but maybe at least I think just about  
12 every region is represented, if not every region is  
13 represented on this committee. Maybe one member from  
14 this committee and HUD from each region is that study  
15 group.

16 And they go forth and do this, and do it in the  
17 quickest time that they can do it. I think it can  
18 probably be done in less than 12 months. But maybe  
19 not.

20 And then just one of the other things that I want  
21 to throw out there is -- and it's not for me to say or  
22 for anyone else to say, but I know that there is a lot

1 of other agencies that use this, the parts of the  
2 formula that we -- that HUD uses for housing for what  
3 they do. And I'm not so sure that HUD, i.e., us,  
4 should be the one that should foot the entire bill for  
5 any study that's done. Maybe they could help fund a  
6 portion of that.

7 And that's just my thoughts and comments, and I'll  
8 leave it at that. Thank you.

9 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Gary. Jason Adams?

10 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Madam Co-Chair and rest of  
11 the committee. Good morning.

12 I wanted to just express my thoughts here again on  
13 this issue, and I guess I'm taking a little more  
14 optimistic of approach on this issue as far as what I'm  
15 seeing presented and the discussions I hear happening  
16 in the needs workgroup. In regards to the study that  
17 would come from this work, as I've said before, I just  
18 want to understand the mechanics and how this thing  
19 would work, ACS and any other dataset that's out there.

20 Because, again, going back in history, as far as  
21 the first NegReg, one of the first things I understand  
22 from the NegReg they were tasked with was to look at a

1 dataset, a source of data that would give them the  
2 information they need. And there was an evaluation  
3 done, and there was agreement that census had that  
4 data.

5 And then from that selection of a dataset, then  
6 they started looking at the variables that were  
7 available through the dataset, and that's where we get  
8 what we have today in the formula, the variables that  
9 exist today that fluctuate and give us the data for  
10 home overcrowding, plumbing, and all those things  
11 because that was available through the long form of the  
12 census.

13 With this change and migration away from that, you  
14 know, again, I don't quite understand how this new  
15 process of a survey, now it's called a survey, is  
16 bringing that data to us. And so, that's one thing I  
17 want to be involved in this process, however we decide  
18 to form this study group, to just understand those  
19 issues.

20 And I agree. If we have to have ACS listed on  
21 this concept document, I have no problem with that  
22 because, again, I want to understand ACS. I want to

1 study that with whatever else is out there.

2 I think that, again, as I stated before that the  
3 first NegReg said, okay, let's use census now, but in  
4 the future, we want to study whatever else is out there  
5 and reconsider these kind of things. And so, I hope  
6 that's kind of the charge, and I think that's what  
7 Congress meant in the statutory language that's there.

8 And of course, that didn't get funded.

9 In our area, we come from a situation and I come  
10 from a situation where we have a lot of tribes in our  
11 region, if not all tribes in our region are treaty-  
12 based tribes, and we have a situation where over the  
13 years, as we read our treaties, as our treaties age, we  
14 take a look at those commitments, those -- and I'm  
15 recently doing some reading on some of the notes and  
16 minutes of the treaty negotiations that happened with  
17 our tribe specifically, and it's really interesting to  
18 see that a lot of the discussion was based on trust and  
19 gaining trust and trying to understand each other and  
20 break down the barriers of communication that existed.

21 And I think that's again what our tribal leaders  
22 in our area want today. They want to build trust.

1 They want to understand. And more today than ever, our  
2 tribes are educated. Our tribes are coming to the  
3 table and wanting to understand the mechanics of every  
4 decision that's being made.

5 And I just don't feel like we've had enough time  
6 to -- and that's, again, a reason why I'm hoping this  
7 study moves forward is we open up the opportunity, and  
8 you know, however we formulate this proposal, as far as  
9 who sits at the table, that we again have the  
10 opportunity for folks to come at their own -- or listen  
11 in, if it's conference calls, at their own expense. To  
12 just listen in and have the opportunity to be educated.

13 I've been reluctant to say to this point that, you  
14 know, for my housing authority, it's hard for me to sit  
15 -- and again, I haven't said this. But with ACS, when  
16 the first data was run and I took a look at those  
17 numbers, you know, it was pretty obviously in our  
18 region, some people were looking at me like they were  
19 wondering what I was going to do. Because for Salish  
20 Kootenai, we're the biggest gainers in our region.

21 And yet I've sat here and been transparent with  
22 you folks, and I, like Jack, have good friends in our

1 region that I want to be able to look them in the eye  
2 and say I fully understand this and I fully understand  
3 what's happening with the mechanics of a dataset, and I  
4 can tell you why you're losing money if you are losing  
5 money and why I'm gaining money.

6 Today, I can't do that. And I respect those  
7 people. I've been traveled quite extensively within  
8 our region and throughout the country, and I've seen  
9 some of the poverty situations that we have on some of  
10 our reservations. And I want to be able to help those  
11 folks as much as I can and not take money from them.

12 Again, I think it's we have a lot of great minds  
13 around this table. We've had that luxury from the  
14 first negotiated rulemaking. We've had good people  
15 here with good hearts that have come to this table and  
16 understood who we serve and why we're here. And in  
17 honor of them and in honor of you, I think we can do  
18 this.

19 I think we can put this study together within a  
20 short amount of time. I can't say how long. But I  
21 think with the commitment of everyone around this  
22 table, I'm taking a pretty optimistic approach to this

1 and hope that we'll get support behind this and be able  
2 to kick this off. And however the logistics play out  
3 on who gets to sit on the committee, I would hope it's  
4 all of us, as somebody has already said.

5 But again, I think we have enough education,  
6 enough expertise around this table to really do this  
7 some justice and help ourselves and help the tribes we  
8 represent to educate ourselves and evaluate what's out  
9 there.

10 So, with that, I thank you again, Co-Chairs, for  
11 this opportunity to express my concerns and my optimism  
12 this morning. Thank you.

13 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Thank you, Jason. AJ?

14 MS. YAZZIE: Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

15 To your question, Mr. Co-Chair, earlier with  
16 regard to how we would fund this, a thought came to my  
17 mind, and maybe this is a question I'd like to pose to  
18 HUD. I don't know if there are any technical, T&TA  
19 dollars still in the balance that HUD may look at in  
20 terms of the financing of the study group, even into  
21 the next fiscal cycle or however long the study group  
22 would remain.

1           So a question for HUD, Mr. Co-Chair.

2           MR. DOLLARHIDE: Thank you. Pete, do you want to  
3 let Sandra answer that? Sandra?

4           MS. HENRIQUEZ: Thank you. Good morning,  
5 everyone.

6           There are several things in play about funding.  
7 One, as you probably do know, in the fiscal year '14,  
8 that's all we've had to work with. '15 has not yet  
9 been appropriated. The language on TA for Indian  
10 Country was based on a competitive basis. So that  
11 competition has been run, and those dollars have been  
12 obligated, although not fully expended based on the  
13 work that -- on the requirements from tribes for that  
14 technical assistance.

15           Don't know what the 2015 language will look like,  
16 if it will still have the same competition language in  
17 it or not. So that's number one.

18           Number two, it is not no year money, which means  
19 it has a life that goes through the fiscal year and  
20 ends September 30, and we have to be mindful of that.  
21 So there's no carryover. For example, if we didn't  
22 expend -- let's say we didn't have the August steering

1 committee negotiated rulemaking. That money, let's say  
2 about \$300,000 is what it runs for each session, that  
3 money then ends on September 30th whether it's been  
4 expended or not.

5 When it's not been expended, it goes back to  
6 Treasury. We are not able to carry it over until the  
7 next year. Regardless of need, regardless of purpose  
8 and how we might want to use it, it has its life and it  
9 ends.

10 As I had said to folks in the workgroup yesterday,  
11 the way in which HUD spends its money is tied to  
12 Federal law in the form of appropriations law. So when  
13 a budget comes out and is passed by Congress, it has  
14 the force of law. And all the parameters and the  
15 description about how money gets spent and in what  
16 buckets and in what time is all prescribed in that  
17 appropriations statute.

18 The 2015 appropriations language is being worked  
19 on now. They will -- the Senate has got numbers. The  
20 House has numbers. And they will go to conference and  
21 try and figure out the differences and come to a  
22 meeting of the minds.

1           It is difficult at best to get language in  
2   appropriations at the time of conference, not  
3   impossible, just difficult. Again, so we are -- so  
4   trying to figure out if there is any mechanism short of  
5   those, we do not know if there are others to be able to  
6   figure out any financing that we're going to be allowed  
7   to do at this point outside of negotiated rulemaking  
8   and the provision for this committee.

9           One other caveat, and that is because we do not  
10   yet have a 2015 budget and I don't know if we'll have  
11   one by October 1st, we will be in probably a continuing  
12   resolution position, which then talks about how we can  
13   spend money. You can't spend more than the amount on  
14   the day 12 months before. And so, until we have an  
15   appropriation, that will dictate when we can spend  
16   money for continuation of negotiated rulemaking  
17   sessions after October 1.

18           And I might as well just put everything in the  
19   kitchen sink. You all know that this is mid-term  
20   election, and so it could very likely be, if history  
21   continues to repeat itself, that there may not be a  
22   budget until after the swearing in of the next

1 congressional session in January of 2015, which means  
2 we'd go the entire first quarter and then some of the  
3 Federal fiscal year before we got an appropriation  
4 retroactive back to October 1.

5 All of those things are in the swirl at this  
6 point, and so I can't sit here and make a commitment of  
7 Federal dollars on this process yet until we sort  
8 through some of these issues that are before us in  
9 terms of appropriations issues.

10 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. Pete?

11 MR. DELGADO: Thank you.

12 And I think we've come a long way since Wednesday  
13 morning. Wednesday morning I walked in and I got here  
14 right when they called my name, I was running in the  
15 door. And I wasn't aware of the UNAHA proposal at that  
16 time. Wednesday morning I know that Madam Secretary  
17 was plane booked back to D.C. that evening.

18 And we -- you know, it's been a long 2 days in the  
19 group, and sometimes the discussions seemed like they  
20 stalled and they went in circles, but I'd have to say  
21 that I appreciate sitting there learning from all of  
22 you with the expertise in housing the different

1 viewpoints.

2 For me, housing is new. On August, it'll be 3  
3 years that I've been in housing. Tohono O'odham  
4 Nation, a large, land-based nation, we had when I came  
5 in \$22 million in our LOCCS account. On July 1st, when  
6 we start a new budget year, we're going to be down to  
7 \$2 million.

8 We implemented a business model, went from 160  
9 employees to -- when I started. Now this fiscal year,  
10 we'll be starting with 70 employees. We had to learn  
11 to adapt, and Jack talks about that \$7 million loss  
12 over 10 years. We're a tribe that's going to lose \$7  
13 million if we don't adopt this proposal. It's 25  
14 percent of my budget.

15 It's hard for me to go back to my tribal leaders  
16 and to my staff especially, who've worked hard over the  
17 last 3 years to turn our association around, and tell  
18 them that we're going to lose 25 percent of the budget  
19 after you worked your tails off for the last 3 years.

20 And I understand that this isn't performance  
21 based. But that being said, we realize this is a zero-  
22 sum game. I think Rusty made some great points. I

1 come -- from my background prior to this was political,  
2 served for my chairman. So I understand. I've seen  
3 these fights over monies and how the division of Indian  
4 nations when it comes to health dollars, transportation  
5 dollars, and the zero-sum game.

6 We need to be unified seeking additional dollars  
7 for the needs that exist throughout so that we're not  
8 divided and we're not at a position we are.

9 I think one of the things from our standpoint that  
10 I appreciate on this, and the reason I'll support this,  
11 is the fact that this 2 years, additional years, gives  
12 us time to plan. Gives us time. We know that, in our  
13 case, we will end up taking a cut.

14 It allows me time for my staff to make those, to  
15 put hiring freezes into place, to be able to at least  
16 when that impact comes in the next 2 years, and the 10  
17 percent I think floor on that or the 10 percent max  
18 that we're going to get cut, we're still looking at  
19 close, I think, \$200,000 in cuts. That's going to  
20 probably end up going to obviously projects.

21 But some of that obviously is going to have to go  
22 into operations when it comes to it. But it allows us

1 to plan.

2 It also challenges. As many of you at this table  
3 already have done successfully, it requires us to think  
4 outside the box and seek other sources of funding  
5 beyond just relying on that.

6 And I can say from our standpoint, we just closed  
7 our first Title VI loan for \$2 million. We just were  
8 awarded on Friday LIHTC credits, the low-income tax  
9 credits. It's a \$7 million project. That's, right  
10 there, \$9 million in leveraging that we've gone out to  
11 be aggressive to seek.

12 So I know when things go bad at housing and I ask  
13 myself why did I enter into this world? I have a  
14 senior staff member who's been in housing for 20 years,  
15 and she always turns to me and says, "We will survive."

16 We're going to survive no matter what happens.

17 And I know that with these cuts, it's going to  
18 force us to make those changes, but we will move on.  
19 And so, I support this, and I thank you for your time  
20 and the knowledge that you passed on to me as a new  
21 executive director.

22 Thank you.

1 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. Michael?

2 MR. THOM: Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 I would just like to state one thing. I support  
4 the concept, but I think the concept is there and it's  
5 reality that ACS is a data source that needs to be  
6 looked at. We need to be educated by us as tribes and  
7 make it work for as tribes, not for them or anybody  
8 else, but for the tribes.

9 I think it's important that the tribes stand  
10 together and fight for that, not allow other things to  
11 get involved. Our housing needs are there, and they're  
12 going to stay there as long as we fight amongst each  
13 other. So unity is very important to me as a tribal  
14 leader.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Michael. David?

17 MR. GREENDEER: Good morning. (Speaking Native  
18 language.)

19 I guess as a new individual here, I'm neither  
20 wise. I've not learned -- as learned as everyone  
21 around the table. I don't have as many years in Indian  
22 housing, you know, as the majority of you. So I'd just

1 say I'm very grateful to sit around all of the people  
2 here that really shows that you all care about, you  
3 know, your nations. And so, I wanted to say thank you,  
4 you know, for the work, the hard work that you do.

5 I started thinking, and you've listened to me, you  
6 know, for the past few days, and you can kind of see  
7 I'm kind of an analytical guy. This morning, I woke up  
8 and I started thinking about the proposal.

9 You know, we had our caucus, and I've been looking  
10 -- listening to all the politics behind the scenes.  
11 And as a newbie, I can see it from a whole different  
12 light. So I can see factions. I can see all of the  
13 arguments going back and forth.

14 You know, at the end of the day, there was  
15 something that stuck out to me, though, and what I see  
16 in the proposal concept, there's a lot of things I  
17 don't really agree with. But there is something that I  
18 really do agree with, and I wanted to bring it to your  
19 attention.

20 The question was in regards to a data source, and  
21 I believe Michael just kind of touched on it. We would  
22 like, as tribes, to have a look at the data source. I

1 wanted to explain why, when I see a data source, what  
2 it means to me, and I wanted to utilize the reason --  
3 earlier, I stated that I supported the ACS. But I  
4 wanted to explain why.

5 The children that I've worked with, I used to  
6 teach a long time ago prior to being CEO for our nation  
7 and prior to being a legislator. I used to teach, and  
8 a lot of these children didn't have homes. At the same  
9 time, when I got into public office, I'm watching us  
10 lose our language, and I'm seeing how the impact of not  
11 having a good home is affecting our language.

12 I see that we're about to lose all of our language  
13 speakers. We only have about 100-something left now,  
14 you know, in our nation. And I think about the impact  
15 of what a good home means. I think about the impact of  
16 a good home for elders and what that meant and for to  
17 see our children actually being able to sit there with  
18 their parents, you know, in a nice place, and to see  
19 that they learn how to pray.

20 Because at the end of the day, we're all put here  
21 by Creator. And when you start thinking about our  
22 creation stories and the reasons why we're here, you

1 know, we always hear of the lodge or something that was  
2 created where we came from. Or this earth, Mother  
3 Earth as our home.

4 And so, we all have that duty to our people  
5 because that's why we're here, as stewards of all of  
6 this stuff that that Creator put before us. And so,  
7 when I started looking at the proposal concept, I said  
8 recognition of actual tribal needs, I said, oh, I said  
9 that's what they're trying to talk about here.

10 They're worried about making sure that we're  
11 taking care of our people and carrying out what Creator  
12 had wanted and what Mother Earth wants us to do. You  
13 know, equity among tribes, that's what we're all here  
14 for.

15 And so, I started reading through this, and I've  
16 seen it from that perspective. So regardless of my  
17 education or educational background or analytical  
18 behavior, I had to sit there and think that this  
19 concept, it should be supported from that perspective  
20 to show unity amongst all of us so that way we can  
21 continue to move forward.

22 We'll never have some -- we'll never have what we

1 need to see, but one thing that the new data will be  
2 able to show us is changes in the home, and that's what  
3 the ACS or other data sources might be able to show us.

4 Trends in the changes to educational behavior, trends  
5 in changes and to the way that these new -- that our  
6 people are getting and acquiring resources that they  
7 may not have had already, and how that's actually going  
8 to impact their performance at school, which actually  
9 impacts overall education and social welfare.

10 And if we can track those changes like we've never  
11 been able to do before, we may just have a chance to  
12 save what little fabric of our culture that we all have  
13 remaining. We might be able to at least have some  
14 answers that we never had before.

15 And that's why I sat there, and I said, well,  
16 let's study and look at all the data resources that are  
17 available to us. So thank you.

18 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, David.

19 A good discussion this morning. I'm hearing --  
20 what I'm hearing is that we're getting towards being on  
21 the same page with this concept. I'm hearing wide  
22 support around the table for this concept.

1           So if these details in the concept, I'm not  
2 hearing any proposals for modification to it, unless I  
3 missed that. So I'm going to take a couple more  
4 comments, and then I think we're ready to see if we  
5 want to move this forward.

6           Earl?

7           MR. EVANS: Earl Evans, Haliwa-Saponi Indian  
8 Tribe. Thank you for recognizing me, Madam Chair.

9           I do want to make a proposal for an amendment. I  
10 would like to add a Number 6 to that 1 through 5 list  
11 and add there, "An analysis of ACS and how it can be  
12 used or modified to be used as a data source for the  
13 IHBG."

14          MS. BRYAN: Thank you. Sam?

15          MR. OKAKOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sam Okakok,  
16 with Native Village of Barrow.

17          I really do have some problems with the ACS, some  
18 of the data, preliminary data and things like that. We  
19 really do take a big hit. Just like Jason was  
20 mentioning, he takes an 11 percent hit, well, we're  
21 taking 26 percent hit.

22          And think about all the families that are going to

1 have to wait and wait and wait if we do take this hit  
2 under ACS. We already have a 10 1/2 year wait list on  
3 our new construction. Adding on top of our homeowner  
4 vacancy rate in Barrow, according to the last census,  
5 0.4 percent. So it's less than 0.5 percent vacancy  
6 rate in our homeownership, and our homes are crowded.

7 The families that have to scrunch all together in  
8 a room, three-, four-bedroom home, I listen to them. I  
9 hear them. Many of them call me directly. So I know  
10 some of the problems that they're talking about, and to  
11 add more time is really, really difficult.

12 Some of the biggest vacancies we have are in  
13 grant-funded homes. There is a 17 percent vacancy rate  
14 there, but you have to be very -- there's  
15 qualifications that you have to meet. Many of them  
16 don't meet that, and some of them are very narrow. So  
17 there's homes that are vacant, but no one can qualify.

18 So they sit there. We're going to have to find out  
19 how we can get those.

20 But as we go through this, one of the things I had  
21 gone through over the last couple years was some of the  
22 data that HUD does have in regards to the definitions,

1 homeless and overcrowding. And some of those, they're  
2 not favorable to tribes at all, especially if you have  
3 multiple families in the homes.

4 One household, you got one form. But there's  
5 multiple families, multiple generations in there. They  
6 may all be counted as one household, but there's  
7 multiple families in those households, and those are  
8 not being counted. And so, that's one of my biggest  
9 concerns is I believe that the ACS has a foundational,  
10 fundamental flaw in it, in that it does not count those  
11 families.

12 And we hear about the out-migration, and we have a  
13 feeling that there's no out-migration. We know they're  
14 still there while they're in the house. They're in the  
15 other room. That's where the families are, and they're  
16 not being counting as families.

17 And so, that is a fundamental flaw I believe that  
18 ACS does have that is very unfavorable for tribes,  
19 villages, that have multiple families in the homes.

20 And I believe with Jack also, trying to go back  
21 home, looking people in the eye and telling them, you  
22 know, you're going to have to wait, or what did you do?

1 Did we try everything we can to see what we can do  
2 here? I would like to see some of those data sources,  
3 datasets that are available.

4 I know we saw a PowerPoint presentation on some of  
5 those, and we were handed some of those, but we don't  
6 have the full report. I would like to see those and  
7 see how we can implement or how we can count the  
8 families that are not being counted.

9 And I believe that that would be one of the main  
10 issues in regards to ACS is the overcrowding in there.

11 There's a flaw in there, and I would like to see some  
12 others -- if the cost of doing any kind of changes to  
13 ACS is real, it's like \$100 million is what we heard,  
14 that's going to come right out of IHBG, I believe.  
15 Something we can't afford.

16 We're already overcrowded, and we're not getting  
17 the funds. And to have a study that's going to cost  
18 that much to come off the top, that's -- that's  
19 additional burden, and so I really have a problem with  
20 this. I would like to see other datasets really taken  
21 into consideration.

22 I appreciate the time. Thank you.

1 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Sam.

2 Let me back up, and I'm going to apologize. I'm  
3 out of order a little bit. Earl made a friendly  
4 amendment to the proposal. So I would like to have the  
5 author of the proposal approve the friendly amendment.

6 MS. DIFUNTORUM: Hi. Sami Jo Difuntorum.

7 I wouldn't say that I'm the author, but as chair  
8 of the needs workgroup, if the question is do I agree,  
9 yes, I do.

10 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. So that puts the proposal  
11 on the table for a vote. So we do just continue  
12 discussion before we vote.

13 I have a friendly amendment to my side. Aneva?

14 MS. YAZZIE: Thank you, Madam Co-Chair.

15 To my colleague's proposal, Earl, if I could offer  
16 a friendly amendment? When I see this add-on and  
17 reading it, it's more of a functional statement rather  
18 than a guiding principle, the overarching. I wonder if  
19 it's a better fit if we put it in the first sentence,  
20 if you can scroll down a little bit so we can see the  
21 first sentence?

22 And if I can read, the first sentence would be an

1 add-on. So it would read when I go to "not to exceed  
2 12 months, of all relevant data sources that includes  
3 an analysis of ACS and how it can be." I think that's  
4 a better fit because it's a more functional statement  
5 rather than the guiding principles delineated in 1  
6 through 5.

7 Madam Co-Chair, I just want to pose that as a  
8 friendly amendment to Earl's proposal, Madam Chair.

9 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Aneva. Earl, we have a  
10 friendly amendment to your friendly amendment before we  
11 ask for approval from the author.

12 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Madam Co-Chair. Earl  
13 Evans, Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe.

14 And I have a friendlier amendment.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. EVANS: After speaking with some of our  
17 colleagues, instead of saying how it can be used, how  
18 it might potentially be used. So -- might be used or  
19 modified, yeah.

20 That works for me, Madam Chair, if it works for  
21 others. Does that get to yours, too, Karin?

22 MS. FOSTER: No. Here it is.

1 MS. BRYAN: So I'm seeing agreement by the  
2 friendly amendment proposers, and Karin, did you have a  
3 tweak to propose?

4 MS. FOSTER: Yes, I do. Let's see. I would like  
5 to see us look at all data sources and how they might  
6 be used or modified to be used not only just how ACS  
7 might be modified to be used.

8 So my suggestion would be, and I'll just say this  
9 out. I don't know if you want to type it while I say  
10 it. But, "All relevant data sources, including ACS,  
11 and for each data source how it might be used or  
12 modified to be used." So it would be "including ACS,  
13 and for each data source how it might be used or  
14 modified to be used."

15 MS. BRYAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 I'm seeing Aneva in agreement. Earl, did that  
17 continue to capture your original friendly amendment?

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. Karin?

20 MS. FOSTER: May we have a comma after ACS up  
21 there?

22 Thank you.

1 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. I see Sandra's card up.

2 MS. HENRIQUEZ: Yes, thank you.

3 Should there not be a comma after "including ACS"?

4 Can I just say I would take the comma off at the end

5 of ACS and put the comma at the end of "each data

6 source, comma." Or both commas in both places.

7 Anyway, you all work it out. That's not my comment.

8 My comment really is to say --

9 (Laughter.)

10 MS. HENRIQUEZ: We could wordsmith this to death.

11 I just wanted to say that I really -- we really

12 appreciate the momentum and how far and how much work

13 has been done by both workgroups, and particularly the

14 needs workgroup and this steering committee. We will

15 continue, as we talked last night and again this

16 morning about this proposal concept, that we're going

17 to continue to examine how best we might think about

18 implementing particularly the what is it called, the --

19 MR. WINTER: Volatility control.

20 MS. HENRIQUEZ: -- volatility factor or index, the

21 90 percent issue, to make sure that we are then able to

22 -- then we program and do the will of the committee in

1 terms of both this concept and then when this concept  
2 gets fleshed out further moving forward.

3 So that's all I wanted to put on the record.

4 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. Appreciate that. Sami Jo?

5 MS. DIFUNTORUM: Good morning, everyone. I just  
6 want to add a comment, and it isn't so much on the  
7 modification.

8 You know, this has been a really lengthy process,  
9 having this conversation in the needs workgroup. There  
10 are a lot of differing opinions, different levels of  
11 understanding of the formula, data sources, and it has  
12 taken a while to get to this point.

13 While I'm not a huge fan of the second part of the  
14 proposal because, frankly, mathematically it didn't  
15 make much sense to me yesterday, Ben is saying that  
16 they can separate out the data to take challenges out  
17 of it and just assess the impact based on data. I'm a  
18 lot more comfortable with it. But I really just wanted  
19 to say I appreciate the fact that people have come  
20 forward with these proposals and are speaking in favor  
21 of them.

22 Because unity really is important, and I

1 appreciate Michael Thom's comments on the record and  
2 also Mr. Greendeer's this morning and Jason  
3 Dollarhide's along those lines. Even if we aren't 100  
4 percent in support of something, I think we have a  
5 responsibility to try and support it to the extent that  
6 we can so that we're all moving in the same direction.

7 And I feel that even though it's been really  
8 lengthy, we really made some good progress with this.  
9 I mean, Jack was agreeing. Rusty was agreeing. I  
10 mean, that's not always something that you see when you  
11 start talking --

12 (Laughter.)

13 MS. DIFUNTORUM: When you start talking about  
14 parsing dollars, and you know, a lot of us are looking  
15 at probably giving up dollars or maybe not gaining  
16 dollars. And the fact that we're willing to have that  
17 conversation and agree to that so that people aren't  
18 negatively impacted is really encouraging to me.

19 So I just want to thank everybody for coming to  
20 the table and having that conversation the last 2 days.

21 I think we're getting somewhere.

22 Thank you.

1 MS. BRYAN: Rusty?

2 MR. SOSSAMON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 Well, Sami, I'd like to say Jack and I always  
4 agree. It's just sometimes we agree to disagree.

5 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. I'm feeling ready for a  
6 vote. So, oh, Sam?

7 MR. OKAKOK: Thank you. I would like to offer a  
8 friendly amendment or an addition, actually.

9 Looking at Number 1 down at the bottom,  
10 recognition of actual tribal needs to include some of  
11 the overcrowding issues that's inherent in that and  
12 trying to figure out how to tie that in with some of  
13 the data sources also in order to get a true count.

14 I believe that's where once the jab-jab-jab-punch  
15 comes with the 90 percent, where it starts to become  
16 more true, I think that'll be -- hopefully, that'll be  
17 where many of the tribes will be able to have a true  
18 count of their area. So I just want to include some of  
19 these issues to make sure that they are in there. I'm  
20 thinking just "semi-colon overcrowding issues."

21 Thank you.

22 MS. BRYAN: Thank you.

1           So we'll have approval by the author of the  
2 friendly amendment, and then we've had three friendly  
3 amendments. So according to what we agreed to  
4 initially, we're ready for a vote, and we can re-  
5 propose it and just start from, no, we vote this one  
6 down and then keep talking about it. But let's stay on  
7 task here, please.

8           Sami?

9           (Pause.)

10          MS. DIFUNTORUM: While I agree that overcrowding  
11 is one of the areas we need to look at, I'm hesitant to  
12 start maybe limiting the scope by trying to address  
13 each one individually. So I would have to say maybe we  
14 could put overcrowding somewhere besides recognition of  
15 tribal needs. Because I'm going to feel inclined to  
16 list every single tribal need that we can think of if  
17 we start doing that, and it's not that I don't think  
18 overcrowding is an issue. I do.

19          But I don't think it goes -- it goes with the  
20 variables. Maybe some general language on variables  
21 would be more appropriate. So that would be I don't  
22 accept that, with the caveat that changing the language

1 to read something that recognizes variables.

2 MS. BRYAN: Okay. So what I'm going to have to  
3 do, as your fearless leader, is call for a vote on  
4 this. If we're not ready, we're not ready, and we'll  
5 continue to amend it until we get it right. I think  
6 we're getting really close, but can we go forward with  
7 these three friendly amendments?

8 MR. SAWYERS: I think that Sam will agree that if  
9 we -- all we're looking is the dataset now. So we're  
10 not listing the variables. So, Sam, I think that  
11 you'll agree that you want -- you want that in the  
12 final process. But just in getting a dataset, we need  
13 to just look at a general thing, and then we'll start  
14 looking at the variables because that's a big deal.

15 And would you agree that we could take that off  
16 and you'd feel -- I don't know if you'd feel great or  
17 warm and fuzzy, but can you accept that?

18 MS. BRYAN: Sam? Thank you, Jack.

19 MR. OKAKOK: Yeah, what I was trying to do was  
20 list it in addition with some of the data sources as  
21 well as ACS because it is not really in there. And  
22 it's not recognized, and that does make it very

1 difficult for me if it's not in the data source itself.

2 Of course, the variables and weights, you know,  
3 that can be -- I guess it can just be set there. But  
4 knowing that that portion of the population is not  
5 being recognized, it is very, very difficult for me,  
6 especially in the data sources. So --

7 MR. DOLLARHIDE: As a co-chair, Sam, I agree with  
8 you, and I believe from my understanding of this  
9 concept and I believe that everybody around this table  
10 would agree, that overcrowding is an issue for  
11 everybody. So I'm sure -- I can almost say -- I can't  
12 speak for the group, but I can almost say it's positive  
13 that I'm sure that will be looked at in great depth,  
14 irregardless if it's in the proposal concept that we're  
15 looking at now.

16 I could probably assume that everybody feels that  
17 same way around the table that, you know, that's very  
18 important for everybody also. Like Sami Jo, I would  
19 have had an issue with it down on Number 1 because, for  
20 me, it looks like recognition of actual tribal needs;  
21 overcrowding, and that's the only issue that I'm  
22 supposed to look at whenever we've got several other

1 variables and weights to also deal with, not only the  
2 overcrowding issue.

3 MR. OKAKOK: Yeah, one of the things I'm coming  
4 from when I speak on this is like the census itself,  
5 it's supposed to have a true count, but it does not  
6 have a true count. And a lot of the overcrowding  
7 issues is just, they're not being counted, and being  
8 transferred over to ACS, you know, with a sampling, it  
9 may be even worse.

10 That's my major concern with that.

11 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Yes, sir. And I understand  
12 fully. You know, I think that -- I think that I would  
13 like to see a vote taken on this. I understand your  
14 position also, Sam. I think whenever we actually get  
15 in and start looking at those, the data sources  
16 themselves is whenever we will -- when we will get into  
17 those weights and factors such as overcrowding.

18 I think that, you know, as far as the ACS goes, I  
19 agree with you, but I believe everybody else around the  
20 table agrees also, and I'm pretty sure that it will not  
21 be getting left out. And just like folks said, you  
22 know, this is a great opportunity to get in there to

1 look at those data sources so that if we need to add or  
2 delete, if possible, then, you know, this would be a  
3 great opportunity to do that and to bring those -- all  
4 of those issues to the forefront from all the committee  
5 members, as well as all of our constituents back home.

6 MS. BRYAN: So also keeping in mind there's a lot  
7 of cards in the queue here, this is a proposal concept.

8 My understanding that the needs workgroup wanted to  
9 propose it to see if this group wanted them to use this  
10 as a structure moving forward. So it's a concept.

11 If we're not ready to vote, we can just call on  
12 everybody and keep talking all morning. That's fine,  
13 too. So I'm going to call on Earl.

14 MR. SAWYERS: Are you calling for a vote? I am.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. EVANS: So was that an inference that I'm  
17 going to keep talking all day?

18 MS. BRYAN: Yes, sir.

19 MR. EVANS: Earl Evans, Haliwa-Saponi Indian  
20 Tribe.

21 I just had a question. It says not to exceed 12  
22 months. Is there any way this could be done by the

1 Denver meeting or, at the very least, done and  
2 completed and reported at the Arizona meeting?

3 (Laughter.)

4 MR. EVANS: I'm just asking a question.

5 MS. HENRIQUEZ: I like the way you think, though.

6 MR. EVANS: So that's a no?

7 MS. BRYAN: Laughter is good medicine.

8 MR. EVANS: Okay. Well, I didn't -- I didn't  
9 think Jack had very much to do between now and then.  
10 So he could probably get it done.

11 MR. SAWYERS: I may not be here. You never know.

12 MS. BRYAN: Sandra, did your card go down? Thank  
13 you.

14 Gary?

15 MR. COOPER: I agree with Jack that the  
16 overcrowding is a variable that would have to be  
17 considered as a variable part, but it's not necessarily  
18 -- it doesn't necessarily fall into this.

19 If I remember correctly, and Ben might be able to  
20 correct me if I'm wrong, but the ACS collected  
21 information on was it around up to eight people plus in  
22 a household, with birth dates and everything, and that

1 maybe one of the datasets that you all could collect  
2 would be those individuals in the household that might  
3 be over 18 so we could ascertain maybe overcrowding if  
4 ACS was used or did come back as a data source.

5 That there may be some way to identify at least  
6 maybe a little bit better than now overcrowding part of  
7 it. But I don't know about that. That was just  
8 something to throw out there. There may be another  
9 data source that comes out of this study group that may  
10 be able to better verify overcrowding.

11 And then I think the only other thing was, was the  
12 title of this going to be Ben's volatility control  
13 factor?

14 That's all I have. Thank you.

15 MS. BRYAN: No, Jack. Carol?

16 MS. GORE: Thank you.

17 I just want to build on your comment, Annette,  
18 which is this is a concept, and the scope of the study,  
19 the membership of the study has not yet been developed.

20 So I think the needs workgroup is looking for a go/no-  
21 go from the committee to pursue this idea further.

22 So there is much more discussion to be had, Sam,

1 that would really collect some of the robust  
2 conversations we had yesterday, including overcrowding.

3 I think that is an overall concern, and I know your  
4 overcrowding issues better than many here.

5 So I just want to speak to the idea that your  
6 issue would be considered, but this I don't think is  
7 the proper format for that idea. So if you can wait  
8 until if this gets approval, then we can get to a scope  
9 of work, and that's when we would sort of consider what  
10 other details should be part of that study group.

11 So I hope that's helpful, Sam.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Carol. Karin?

14 MS. FOSTER: I hear Sam's concerns, and I also  
15 appreciate the fact that overcrowding is a variable.  
16 But I do think that I've also heard Sam say that  
17 achieving a true count should be something that's  
18 included in that list. And I understand also that we  
19 have already had a third amendment, which is the  
20 overcrowding. I don't know quite procedurally how the  
21 best way to handle this would be.

22 I would probably vote this down and then propose

1 that we add another element of achieving a true count.

2 I don't know if maybe Sam would modify his proposed  
3 amendment or how that would work.

4 MS. BRYAN: I would say, given that, we should  
5 take your proposal and just move forward and see if we  
6 can get there from here. We're pretty close.

7 MS. FOSTER: I think it's a generic, and I think  
8 that it captures that issue, and I don't necessarily  
9 think it's up there, although it could be encompassed  
10 in recognition of actual tribal needs. But achieving a  
11 true count would be what I'd suggest we add.

12 That would be a Number 6 or somewhere in that  
13 list.

14 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Carol. Karin? I mean  
15 thank you, Karin. Carol? Those are my aunties' names,  
16 by the way.

17 MS. GORE: Thank you.

18 I want to make sure that I make my comments to  
19 Karin's proposed amendment to something that we don't  
20 yet have on the table. I don't think there is anything  
21 that gives us a true count, and so I have problems with  
22 that language, and I would vote against it because I

1 don't think it's possible.

2 And so, I want to make sure that we have the  
3 opportunity to consider this proposal and not already  
4 be thinking about a second proposal. I understand this  
5 is a procedural item, but I want to be authentic in the  
6 conversation, the good discussion that's happening  
7 today.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BRYAN: So with Karin's additional friendly  
10 amendment, we would go back to the author to see if we  
11 leave that language up there.

12 MS. DIFUNTORUM: Karin, can you share with me the  
13 difference between Number 1 and Number 6, because they  
14 are similar -- recognition of actual tribal needs would  
15 include? I don't know true count, exactly what that  
16 means. But I would think recognition of tribal needs  
17 would include counts of AIAN, which I think is what  
18 you're getting at?

19 MS. FOSTER: I appreciate Carol's comment that  
20 achieving a true count in that it would be an exact and  
21 precise count is a very difficult thing to do in  
22 particular because we probably don't have enough money

1 to mount a whole new census. So I do appreciate that,  
2 and I don't mean to disrupt the proposal by that.

3 Yes, I would like to see the count be as accurate  
4 as possible to reflect the actual eligible recipients  
5 of IHBG funds in each area. That is true. But I was  
6 listening to Sam's proposal and his concern that those  
7 folks in those overcrowded houses actually be counted.

8 And as I said in making my proposal, that could be  
9 seen as encompassed in Number 1. But you know, if  
10 there were a way to say that, I would like to be able  
11 to say it. And I'd like to hear what Sam's comments  
12 may be because he has his card up.

13 MS. BRYAN: Thank you, Karin. Let's just go right  
14 to Sam for the purpose of closing this -- following  
15 through on this thread.

16 MR. OKAKOK: Yeah, I actually like Karin's wording  
17 on there in getting to the true count. It may be  
18 better served up to where the data sources are in the  
19 first paragraph. I'm not exactly sure where, but to  
20 achieve a true count from the data sources.

21 Would you -- do you have any idea where the best  
22 place to put that would be, Karin?

1 (Pause.)

2 MR. OKAKOK: End of the first sentence up there  
3 maybe? After IHBG.

4 Yeah, I believe in the first sentence, that's a  
5 really long sentence. IHBG, I think after IHBG, and  
6 "for the purposes of achieving a true count" or leave  
7 out "purposes," but "achieving a true count."

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. OKAKOK: Karin?

10 MS. BRYAN: So I'm going to ask Sami to --

11 MR. OKAKOK: A true count or --

12 MS. BRYAN: Oh, are you done?

13 MR. OKAKOK: -- more accurate count may be a  
14 better word for it. Yeah.

15 MS. BRYAN: Thank you.

16 So I'm going to leave it to Sami to confirm or  
17 deny, and then we probably need to take a break pretty  
18 soon.

19 MS. DIFUNTORUM: Okay. What I don't want to do  
20 with this document is make it so incredibly detailed.  
21 This is a concept document. This isn't the actual  
22 regulation. And from my perspective, I think we need

1 to quit adding stuff to it and move on at some point  
2 because we aren't going to capture every nuance.

3 We're talking about studying data sources. We're  
4 not talking about all the variables and all these other  
5 things. Modified to be used as a data source for the  
6 IHBG for achieving a -- I don't know if I would agree  
7 with "a more accurate count," maybe "an accurate  
8 count." I think I would be agreeable to that.

9 Take out "more" and then -- I mean, not to limit  
10 the discussion or anything, but if we could contemplate  
11 moving on. Karin, are you agreeable to that?

12 MS. FOSTER: I think that might have been Sam's  
13 proposal. But --

14 MR. OKAKOK: Yes, that's good. Thanks.

15 MS. BRYAN: Does that mean that's the only thing  
16 we're looking to do is achieve an accurate count?  
17 Because that's how the sentence reads now.

18 MS. DIFUNTORUM: I would respectfully ask that you  
19 withdraw your amendment because I'm seeing around the  
20 table that this is going to be voted down if that's  
21 included. So I would just suggest that you withdraw  
22 it.

1 MR. OKAKOK: I think the word "for" can be taken  
2 off, "including, but not limited to" -- something to  
3 that fashion.

4 (Pause.)

5 MR. OKAKOK: Including, but not limited to.

6 (Pause.)

7 MS. BRYAN: We would like to call for a break at  
8 this time. I know there's a lot of cards up, but it's  
9 been a long morning. So if you still want to put your  
10 cards up when we get back, we'll call on you after the  
11 break.

12 Fifteen minutes, please. Thank you, guys.

13 (Recessed at 10:18 a.m.)

14 (Reconvened at 10:39 a.m.)

15 MS. BRYAN: Thank you all. We'll resume our  
16 session now.

17 We had a question on the table for acceptance of  
18 the "including, but not limited to achieving an  
19 accurate count" language by the needs chair. And so,  
20 the request was to withdraw the proposal. So I'm going  
21 to go back to Sam.

22 MR. OKAKOK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1           Yes, on this friendly amendment there to the  
2 highlighted words, I will withdraw that, but I would  
3 also like to see everybody on the committee be in the  
4 workgroup also. I think that would be a really good  
5 thing to do is have everybody's input on this  
6 workgroup.

7           MR. SAWYERS: That death threat helped, didn't it?

8           (Laughter.)

9           MR. OKAKOK: You're not just old. You're big.

10          (Laughter.)

11          MS. BRYAN: Thank you. Karin?

12          MS. FOSTER: I would just like to restate what Sam  
13 just said about wanting the opportunity for full  
14 participation of those -- all of those on the committee  
15 who wish to participate on the study group. I think  
16 that if the feeling of the committee is that this type  
17 of concern can be raised in that process, then I'm  
18 comfortable with removing that amendment also, provided  
19 that we do have the opportunity to participate.

20          MS. BRYAN: Thank you.

21           I would like to call for a vote of the proposed  
22 concept before you.

1 All in favor?

2 (Voting.)

3 MS. BRYAN: Thank you. We have a -- we have a  
4 proposed concept that has been passed.

5 Last night, there was some work that was going to  
6 get done with -- moving right along, last night, there  
7 was some work. I just wanted to clarify with the  
8 workgroup chairs that when you make progress and we go  
9 into full committee, we wanted to do that at the end of  
10 this process so that we won't be going into full  
11 committee, like the agenda says today, but rather going  
12 back into the workgroups, and when the workgroups have  
13 everything completed, at least for FCAS, that we come  
14 back and at the last session, that's where we do our  
15 negotiating.

16 Is that clear? Right?

17 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, Madam Co-Chair. Jason Adams,  
18 Salish Kootenai.

19 That is the idea is that in past practice, we've  
20 had that kind of a process where we finish all of the  
21 workgroup work, bring a package of items to the table,  
22 and if that's the last meeting or previous to the last

1 meeting, then we divvy up the time remaining by item so  
2 that everything gets equal time.

3 Start the clock, start negotiating. So that's  
4 what we'd hope to accomplish.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BRYAN: Thank you.

7 So, with that, I would like to ask if there's any  
8 other comments, and then I think we're ready to break  
9 into our workgroups.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. BRYAN: You guys did great work today. This  
12 was a huge accomplishment and really proud of this  
13 group and honored to be a part of it.

14 Thank you.

15 We'll come back at -- please come back at 4:00  
16 p.m. to reconvene. Thank you.

17 (Recessed at 10:43 a.m.)

18 (Reconvened at 3:07 p.m.)

19 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Good afternoon. We'll go ahead  
20 and call this meeting back to order. Appreciate  
21 everybody making it back in here.

22 We have called this meeting -- I believe I will

1 let Carol open this meeting up with a few comments.

2 MS. GORE: Thank you, Jason.

3 Let me begin by saying sometimes it's just the  
4 good luck of timing, and I think you will agree with me  
5 when I'm done that we're very lucky to all be here in  
6 person. We're also fortunate that today we passed a  
7 consensus-based agreement to explore data sources for  
8 our IHBG formula.

9 The reason that Jason has been asked to pull the  
10 committee together sooner is because there are very  
11 strong rumors from congressional staff. Those rumors  
12 have been heard by HUD. They've been heard by a  
13 variety of us sitting at this table that there is  
14 active lobbying today. Consider the luck of the  
15 timing. Today, that they're advocating potentially to  
16 eliminate or legislate the data source for our IHBG  
17 formula.

18 We don't know how strong that rumor is, but we  
19 also know that the THUD bill under which our own IHBG  
20 formula is considered for appropriations is up for  
21 consideration on Tuesday. So the active lobbying is  
22 rightly timed, and I'm here to encourage us to go on

1 the record with the agreement that we demonstrated this  
2 morning.

3 I want to say a couple of things that while we've  
4 reached agreement today, we don't implement this rule  
5 for likely 2, maybe even 3 years. It's a very slow  
6 process. So as a committee and as tribes, we count on  
7 HUD to honor the agreement that we've all made together  
8 with HUD at this table. But Congress doesn't know  
9 that.

10 So I'm going to articulate an action that I'm  
11 hoping you will consider, but I also want to disclose  
12 that I think when we take action, it should be taken  
13 within a tribal caucus because this is very sensitive  
14 for HUD, and it's really our issue. And they cannot  
15 really get engaged in this issue. So I just want to  
16 tee that up for consideration.

17 We have drafted a letter, and it's been circulated  
18 to a number of folks here, attorneys, to take a look  
19 at. We'd like to put it up on the screen once we're in  
20 tribal caucus, invite your comment. It simply notifies  
21 Congress that we have reached agreement to examine data  
22 sources and request that they allow the negotiated

1 rulemaking process to continue on a tribal basis and a  
2 government-to-government basis.

3 It is intended to be a letter that we could all  
4 sign, that we could all distribute, and I believe the  
5 urgency is now. It's so timely that we're here in  
6 person and that we're not having to do a telephone tree  
7 because that's what we would all be doing.

8 So, with that, I would call for a tribal caucus,  
9 and then we can proceed with a conversation, and I  
10 appreciate your consideration in letting me go on the  
11 record for the purpose of your early convening this  
12 afternoon.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. DOLLARHIDE: And how much time would you need  
15 for this caucus, Carol?

16 MS. GORE: Frankly, I don't expect this to be  
17 controversial. I would say 15 minutes. I could be  
18 proven wrong, but you know, we've done our best in the  
19 last few minutes to distribute that letter, and there  
20 might be some wordsmithing, which I think we would all  
21 welcome. Nobody has any pride of authorship here.

22 But I'm assuming in 15 minutes, this is just

1 simply reiterating our agreement by consensus this  
2 morning and letting Congress know so that they don't  
3 take action that really stops the negotiation.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Karin?

6 MS. FOSTER: Yeah, I assume there's somebody in  
7 each region who has a copy of this letter?

8 MS. GORE: Yes. We're going to put it up  
9 electronically on the screen so everyone can see it.  
10 So we can all edit it. But once we get into caucus  
11 because I'm trying to protect HUD from this discussion.

12 MS. FOSTER: Right. Thank you.

13 MS. GORE: Yes, thank you.

14 MR. DOLLARHIDE: So we have been asked for a 15-  
15 minute caucus. So we will, I guess, make our way  
16 there.

17 MR. ADAMS: It's a tribal caucus.

18 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Okay, yes. So we're going to do  
19 it right here.

20 MR. ADAMS: Here, yes.

21 (Recessed at 3:13 p.m.)

22 (Reconvened at 3:40 p.m.)

1 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Make aware there's no action  
2 that's being coming out of the tribal caucus. Being  
3 respectful of the 4:30 p.m. public comment, to try to  
4 get as close to that time as we can, we're going to go  
5 ahead and take about a short 15-minute break and start  
6 at our 4:00 p.m. time that we had agreed upon  
7 originally at the beginning of the day.

8 (Recessed at 3:40 p.m.)

9 (Reconvened at 4:02 p.m.)

10 MR. DOLLARHIDE: I'd like to welcome everybody  
11 back. I want to -- it is 4:00 p.m.

12 What we will do is we'll go ahead and get the  
13 update from our workgroups. I believe, Diana, you're  
14 going to be giving the FCAS. And then Sami Jo will be  
15 giving the needs update. Correct?

16 So I guess we can start with you, Diana.

17 MS. PHAIR: I'll do my best to read these notes  
18 that was by FirstPic, and I'll skim over them. But  
19 I'll do my best I can.

20 We got into session again for Item Number 6, which  
21 was to put a time limitation on the grant expenditures.

22 This discussion was continued from yesterday

1 afternoon, and we had some updates from HUD on letting  
2 us know that starting in 2012, Congress put a time  
3 limitation on the availability of funds, not HUD.

4 Overall total time period for expending funds is  
5 approximately 10 years. Previously, funds were  
6 available until expended. There was a question that  
7 was put on the table. Does the group want to put some  
8 regulatory language in place?

9 Several FCAS workgroup members want the group to  
10 take this opportunity to work together to address the  
11 time limitation. One group member was from a bigger  
12 tribe, thinks that their tribe needs 7 years to  
13 complete a construction project. Other tribes tend to  
14 need less time. So this was a big topic that went on  
15 for several hours this afternoon.

16 The one FCAS workgroup member, there was part of  
17 the group meeting was that maybe there was an ability  
18 to set a direct appropriation aside for this particular  
19 tribe because they're so large, and so that was  
20 discussed at time, but then it would definitely need to  
21 be a statutory amendment to NAHASDA to separate this  
22 tribe.

1           Perhaps we should have the discussion at the full  
2 Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. So that kind of went  
3 on for a quite a bit this afternoon.

4           Then we got discussed into talking about the 2004  
5 appropriation language, which was the \$650 million to  
6 remain available until September 30, 2018. This means  
7 that the money remains available to HUD to obligate  
8 until the end of FY 2018. The language does include  
9 that the grantee has 5 years from the expiration date  
10 to expend the money.

11           In effect, the tribe would have until September  
12 30, 2023, to expend the money. On October 1, 2023, the  
13 money will be taken from LOCCS and returned to the  
14 Treasury. The money is lost both to the tribe and to  
15 HUD. Similar language has been in every appropriations  
16 since 2012, and we can expect it to continue.

17           Appropriation language is strictly based on time.

18           In addition to this language, HUD has the authority to  
19 terminate or adjust a grant based on performance if the  
20 tribe doesn't spend money on eligible activities.

21           This workgroup, we could shorten the time limit  
22 starting with 2012 appropriations, but not extend it.

1 There are several scenarios for how we capture funds or  
2 distribute it. One is if we capture 2014 funds that  
3 still have time left for appropriation, HUD could put  
4 the money back into the formula. They would be  
5 reallocated, and the grantee would have until 5 years  
6 after September 30, 2018, to expend the money.

7 And number two, if it is after September 30, 2018,  
8 HUD cannot reobligate the money, and it will be lost to  
9 the program. The timeline isn't affected by when HUD  
10 obligates the money. So this was discussed quite a  
11 bit.

12 HUD explained how tribes know if when their  
13 appropriation is time limited and what that time limit  
14 is. The appropriation does not take into consideration  
15 whether funds are invested or not. Funds will expire  
16 even if they are invested. LOCCS are set up so it  
17 automatically draws down the oldest money first.  
18 Hopefully, this will prevent any tribe from having  
19 unspent money that expires.

20 Currently, money that is recaptured as the result  
21 of enforcement action gets rolled over into next year's  
22 formula and distributed to all grantees. However,

1 expired money is lost to the program.

2 So the question was can this workgroup put  
3 something together so that the money goes back to the  
4 IHBG program rather than to the Treasury? However,  
5 money would have to be recaptured within the 5-year  
6 limit, or it would be lost. To be safe, recapture  
7 money within 3 to 4 years.

8 So we struggled with this for quite a while, and I  
9 think at the end of the discussion what we had asked is  
10 for a TA -- TA request to determine the extent of  
11 unexpended funds using LOCCS balances from January 1,  
12 2014, or as close as possible, including a column  
13 denoting the percentage the unexpected funds are of  
14 tribes' allocation.

15 The request would identify whether a tribe is  
16 approved as an investment tribe and, if possible, the  
17 amount. And the working group will send the language  
18 to the drafting committee with the Xs for the amount of  
19 times and monetary amounts. It will revisit this issue  
20 at the next Negotiated Rulemaking Committee.

21 So that is how we left that particular Item Number  
22 6 was to base it off the TA request that we asked from

1 HUD.

2 And we briefly got into the second, Item Number 7,  
3 which is the statutory Section 302(c) as pertaining to  
4 the FCAS funding, not the overall funding. And we just  
5 started talking about some factors for consideration.  
6 A couple of the factors were currently under the IHBG  
7 program, HUD does performance-based monitoring reports,  
8 and they make about 50 monitoring trips each year.

9 They also do an annual risk assessment, but an  
10 assessment of risk is not an assessment of performance.

11 This is because there are factors in the risk  
12 assessment that are not under the control of the  
13 grantee amount of money they receive.

14 Question of how to gauge administrative capacity  
15 and whether they want to tie money to administrative  
16 capacity, perhaps we do a one-time assessment of  
17 administrative capacity, and tribe would get a bonus if  
18 it passed. Another view from the group was that the  
19 section focus on identifying tribes with challenges  
20 rather than those that have administrative capacity,  
21 and whether we should do something to help these  
22 tribes.

1           The group discussed whether tribes with less  
2 capacity should be rewarded. As stated above, the  
3 other approach is to provide an incentive for tribes  
4 that rise to the level of administrative capacity. And  
5 we left at that and rejoined the group here at 3:00  
6 p.m. So we're going to revisit this one next month in  
7 Denver, and I think we have two more items after this  
8 one to get to for the FCAS group.

9           MR. DOLLARHIDE: Thank you, Diana. Is there any  
10 questions concerning the update out of FCAS?

11           Sami Jo?

12           MS. DIFUNTORUM: Hi. Sami Jo Difuntorum.

13           So it sounds like maybe the FCAS workgroup has  
14 expanded beyond FCAS. Is that what I'm hearing? That  
15 last part wasn't really related to current assisted  
16 stock. It was more of an administrative capacity. Did  
17 I understand that correctly?

18           MS. PHAIR: Yes, I think that's the one that we  
19 struggled on at the end on where this one, why this one  
20 remained here, and it overlapped into your guys' area.

21           And then the particular person that when this first  
22 got put on there, we -- they weren't at the table

1 today. So that was kind of -- we were kind of going  
2 back and forth and wanted to revisit your guys' group.

3 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Any other questions, comments for  
4 FCAS?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Seeing none, we'll move on to the  
7 needs. Sami Jo?

8 MS. DIFUNTORUM: Good afternoon. Sami Jo  
9 Difuntorum.

10 So when we left the session this morning and went  
11 into the workgroup, we spent a bit of time talking  
12 about the concept that was approved this morning and  
13 what we're calling the volatility clause or section of  
14 that and really trying to clarify how that would be  
15 implemented and what the intent of the needs workgroup  
16 was in terms of that.

17 I think there were a couple of different  
18 perspectives on how that would actually be implemented  
19 with the 90 percent I don't want to call it a hold  
20 harmless. The volatility 90 percent, where you  
21 wouldn't receive less than 90 percent of your needs  
22 portion from the base year and the point that a new

1 dataset was implemented.

2 There was a lot of discussion about what the base  
3 year was, what that meant. Was it 90-year or -- 90  
4 years. It's been a long week. Ninety percent in  
5 perpetuity. Some people felt that it maybe meant that,  
6 and it didn't mean that. So there was some  
7 clarification.

8 We broke for lunch. When we came back, pardon me,  
9 the goal was to split into two groups. One was the  
10 drafting group, and they would work on a regulation  
11 around the concept and also with the hold harmless.  
12 The HUD attorney had drafted quite a bit of language in  
13 preparation for that. So we had a pretty good jumping  
14 off point.

15 We're not close to having a rule yet, but we hope  
16 to bring something back to the Denver meeting that will  
17 be a proposed regulation to the workgroup and then to  
18 the full committee.

19 On the study group, that was the other subgroup.  
20 I wasn't actually in that workgroup. Ben Winter  
21 facilitated the conversation, and I had stayed in there  
22 for a few minutes. There wasn't a lot of people there.

1 I think we had Sam and David Greendeer from the  
2 committee that were in that group, and maybe they can  
3 provide a little bit more information.

4 But the point that I had went in and then left, it  
5 was a similar conversation about implementation of the  
6 90 percent and what that meant and what that would look  
7 like. So that was it. That was quite a lot today.  
8 I'm really proud of the work that we got done. I  
9 wasn't sure we were going to get there during this  
10 session. So I'm really pleased with that.

11 David, do you have anything, or Sam, that you want  
12 to add about the study group from this afternoon?

13 MR. OKAKOK: Yeah, I think one of the items that  
14 we were talking about was the composition of the group  
15 itself and going through back and forth and trying to  
16 get some of the inputs and find out exactly what we  
17 wanted to -- wanted it to look like. And that would be  
18 this committee and the public, and there was also  
19 various forums.

20 I think Jack brought up some ideas about the  
21 voting bloc of the committee, and so there was a lot of  
22 discussion a little bit back and forth. But I thought

1 it was pretty good, and we got some people engaged in  
2 it and more people involved.

3 MR. GREENDEER: I think the consensus when we left  
4 here was that we all shared and exchanged names, emails  
5 for who was on the committee, and that we would start  
6 moving from identifying who will be part of this  
7 committee, taking that discussion and then breaking out  
8 the rest of the technical aspects of this and  
9 forwarding on to the Denver meeting.

10 So --

11 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Any questions for Sami Jo or  
12 David or Sam? Karin?

13 MS. FOSTER: Yes. Just in terms of who's going to  
14 be on the committee, you're talking about the study  
15 group? Yeah, I guess -- okay. No, I guess I'd just  
16 like to reiterate what I said earlier that I think that  
17 every member of the committee should be able to  
18 participate on that group. And I think that, you know,  
19 we are a large committee, but I think that the number  
20 of people who will actually participate, you know, is  
21 always smaller than the whole group.

22 So I think the study group should not be defined

1 to exclude anybody on the committee and, you know,  
2 should not be defined as a small group.

3 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Thank you.

4 One concern I had, you know, obviously, and I've  
5 expressed it this morning, express it again is the cost  
6 of the -- the cost. I don't know if -- I don't think  
7 really anything got settled. I believe there will  
8 probably be a lot more discussion at the next meeting  
9 concerning that.

10 I don't know if HUD will put their great minds  
11 together between now and then and maybe have some  
12 recommendations for the group on how we might be able  
13 to proceed with that because definitely I think that --  
14 you know, I think the consensus was that, you know,  
15 that HUD also needed to be involved in that, that  
16 conversation.

17 So I look forward to that discussion in Denver and  
18 to see if there is something that HUD can help out or  
19 if this is going to be tribally funded.

20 Sandra?

21 MS. HENRIQUEZ: So I will say that HUD will look  
22 at its options for funding. As I expressed earlier

1 today, we've got issues around when the budget  
2 appropriation happens. If the language is there that  
3 lets us allow the use of the money, there's a bunch of  
4 issues like that.

5 I would also like to suggest what might be helpful  
6 that I'd like you all to think about is whether or not  
7 the study group is a committee -- a study group is a  
8 committee of the whole, so that the steering committee  
9 members at a minimum are from the basis of the  
10 committee plus others who might want to participate. I  
11 know it could be unwieldy. But the thought for me  
12 there is if that's the case, then some issues around  
13 funding become easier for us if we have the budget for  
14 the members of the steering committee.

15 We cannot fund members of the study committee  
16 unless they are steering committee because they are  
17 part of negotiated rulemaking, unless there is a  
18 legislative change. Without the legislative change, we  
19 know we could go forward if this Negotiated Rulemaking  
20 Committee continues to operate on and may decide that  
21 it needs to recess after its August meeting and then  
22 reconvene once the dollars in the 2015 budget are

1 appropriated and allocated, and then we could go from  
2 there and try and figure out what else to do.

3 But I would also ask that you all think about two  
4 other options. One, if there are philanthropic  
5 organizations who would support the work of the study  
6 group, number one. And number two, that you might want  
7 to think about self-assessment, charging each tribe  
8 some proportionate amount of money, particularly to  
9 provide technical assistance to yourselves and to  
10 secure that under as a vendor who operates with you all  
11 directly.

12 So just food for thought. Maybe there might be  
13 something else. Jad's over my shoulder.

14 Can I just ask if he -- do you want to sit down?

15 MR. ATALLAH: Jad Atallah, with the Office of  
16 General Counsel.

17 I just want to make one point since we're talking  
18 about the study group and something for the committee  
19 just to keep in mind. It's mainly about timing, and I  
20 just want the committee to be aware that right now kind  
21 of the set-up that we have and the thing that the  
22 committee agreed to this morning anticipates some

1 changes in fiscal year 2018 that will require  
2 regulatory changes in order to implement, mainly the 90  
3 percent proposal that we addressed this morning.

4 So in terms of figuring out when this 1-year  
5 period starts running for the study group and when the  
6 study group comes back and gives the committee  
7 recommendations, just keep the timing that's involved  
8 in mind because we need to get a rule going probably in  
9 2015 at the latest in order to allow for about a 2-year  
10 rulemaking period to get a final rule in effect before  
11 fiscal year 2018, where we'll need those regs in order  
12 to implement what you guys wanted to do this morning.

13 So, so the sooner this could be done, the better.

14 I would suggest that the 1-year period starts running  
15 pretty soon, rather than waiting several months before  
16 you start having that 1-year period run because we have  
17 to do some rulemaking in order to do what you guys want  
18 to do this morning, and it has to be in place and in  
19 effect before 20 -- well before 2018.

20 MS. HENRIQUEZ: Thank you, Jad.

21 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Earl Evans?

22 MR. EVANS: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Co-

1 Chairman.

2 Echoing some of the same sentiment as Jad, I still  
3 propose that even if -- I would hate to see us put  
4 everything else on hiatus waiting for this study. So I  
5 partially agree with what he said, but I would add  
6 this.

7 I think that we should still go ahead and proceed  
8 as if we're going to -- we're going to keep what is. I  
9 don't want us to wait on this study and say, you know,  
10 we're not going to touch any other formula items until  
11 this study is done. I think we should still keep  
12 negotiating on other elements concerning Subpart D and  
13 get all of those things done and get a rule on that.

14 And then when the study is done and after we've  
15 been on hiatus, then we come back and just make some  
16 more changes based on that study, if we need to. That  
17 would be my recommendation. I don't think we should in  
18 any way hold up or hinder ourselves from making changes  
19 or modifications on what we already have while the  
20 study is going on in process.

21 Thank you, Mr. Co-Chairman.

22 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Carol?

1 MS. GORE: I just want to respond to Earl. I  
2 think there are plenty of items the needs workgroup can  
3 talk about related to Subpart D on the needs side. But  
4 one thing we cannot get into is the factors and weights  
5 until we actually have a data source from which to work  
6 because a number of committee members here expressed a  
7 desire to have data runs before they actually make  
8 decisions.

9 So I just want to be clear that there is work to  
10 do, but we do have limitations without a data source.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Any other comments? One comment  
13 I would make, and this might be for Sami Jo. I know  
14 that she's brought it up a few times is overlapping  
15 formula areas.

16 I believe that previously we've kind of thrown  
17 around the idea having that at the next meeting. Do  
18 you still foresee that taking place?

19 MS. DIFUNTORUM: Thank you. Yes, we submitted a  
20 TA request to have a presentation on overlapping  
21 formula areas.

22 Because it is, in part, driven by data sources, it

1 is going to be difficult to probably negotiate some of  
2 it. But I think we can at least have a conversation,  
3 and everybody can have a mutual understanding of how  
4 the overlap works and how funds are distributed within  
5 an overlapping area, and we'll see where it goes from  
6 there.

7 MR. DOLLARHIDE: All righty. Thank you.

8 We now come to the part on the agenda where it is  
9 4:24 p.m., public comment. So it's supposed to take  
10 place at 4:30 p.m. If we would like, we can go ahead  
11 and talk about logistics for the next meeting and then  
12 go into our public comments?

13 Okay. Sara?

14 MS. FIALA: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm just  
15 going to go over some of the logistics for some  
16 upcoming, the next two upcoming meetings, and a little  
17 bit just of a recap for the Web sites.

18 So, as I think almost everybody knows, IHBG  
19 rulemaking at FirstPic.org is the Web site for these  
20 sessions and has a bunch of information on it. The  
21 next session is July 29th through 31st in Denver. It's  
22 at the Sheraton Downtown Denver.

1           And for those of you who would like to make hotel  
2     reservations, if you go to the sessions information,  
3     you can drop down to Session 5, and you'll see all the  
4     information, logistics information for the hotel,  
5     including how to make your hotel reservations.

6           This information is for the general public. For  
7     the committee members, you were sent an email, which  
8     was combined with this session's Scottsdale  
9     information, on how to book your rooms. It did have a  
10    personal confirmation number on there. The format is  
11    the same. You were going to call the Sheraton, give  
12    them your confirmation number, confirm your dates of  
13    checking in and checking out, and give them a credit  
14    card number.

15          If you have any problems with that, please feel  
16    free to call me and let me know, and I will work with  
17    the hotel directly. But they should be taking your  
18    credit card information to confirm your reservation.

19          If, for some reason, you need that confirmation  
20    code again, please let me know, and I'm happy to resend  
21    it back out to you. Or if you'd just like me to resend  
22    it back out no matter what, just let me know, and I can

1 send it to everyone.

2 You go down to Session 6, that information is  
3 coming. I figured we could do this meeting and the  
4 next meeting first. But as soon as I get back next  
5 week, I will post up information on the August. That  
6 is back in Scottsdale, but we are down the street at  
7 the DoubleTree.

8 So if you just go, I don't even know, quarter of a  
9 mile down the road, on the left-hand side is the  
10 DoubleTree, and that's where the next meeting will be  
11 held.

12 Just some other really quick recap, a lot of the  
13 information. I know people are anxiously awaiting  
14 responses to TA requests. Under "documents, TA  
15 requests," you will a running list of all of the TA  
16 that has been requested to date. Everything in this, I  
17 don't know what color that is, red/orange is a  
18 hyperlink.

19 So, for example, if you click on "request form,"  
20 it's going to pull up the request form that Sharon had  
21 submitted. And as well as if you click on the links,  
22 you can see the actual request, and you can download

1 those as well.

2 There's also information if you go under  
3 "workgroups," the products that were developed from  
4 this workgroup -- oops -- will make it up there when we  
5 get back on Monday. We'll be adding to this list of  
6 documents. So if you're looking for a document that  
7 was developed in either the FCAS or the needs  
8 workgroup, those will be posted up as well.

9 If you just click on this "general documents" tab,  
10 you will see that there is a Web site document library  
11 that has the name of the -- open it really quick -- the  
12 document number, the date that it was posted, an  
13 explanation, and the hyperlink.

14 So if you just want a quick way of figuring out  
15 what was posted recently, the document library is a  
16 great resource. And that way, you don't have to click  
17 on every single tab and figure out which was posted up  
18 recently.

19 So I think also in terms of expense vouchers,  
20 that's done through Keith Giarrusso. So I'm sure he'll  
21 be looking for those, and I believe you have to submit  
22 your voucher or your expenses for this trip before you

1 can book travel for the next trip? Yes.

2 So I'm sure he would ask me to -- a friendly  
3 reminder to submit that information to him. But, as  
4 always, if you have any questions, you can feel free to  
5 contact me. My information is up on the site, and I  
6 think most everybody has it here as well.

7 So thank you.

8 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Thank you, Sara.

9 We've come to the part in the agenda, it is 4:30  
10 p.m. So we will go ahead and ask for public comments.

11 If there is any public comments, please come to the  
12 mike.

13 (Pause.)

14 MR. KAZAMA: I just want to say to Sandra  
15 Henriquez, Assistant Secretary, thank you so much for  
16 your participation through this entire process. This,  
17 I understand, might be your last time with this group.

18 You have been wonderful working with us. We've  
19 come a long ways together over the years, and just the  
20 way you've been just so forthright in dealing with this  
21 group, and I can't just see you ride off into the  
22 sunset like that.

1 I have to say thank you so much for your hard  
2 work, for your staff, and bringing them to the table,  
3 for your honesty, and I just wanted to tell you that I  
4 really appreciate what you've done for us.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Any other comments?

8 MS. HENRIQUEZ: I do have one.

9 MR. DOLLARHIDE: Sandra?

10 MS. HENRIQUEZ: First, thank you for the kind  
11 words, Blake. And thank you to all of you who have  
12 both made comments to me, sent me letters, emails.  
13 I've printed them all out, and I've stashed them in a  
14 little folder that I will take home with me. I have a  
15 box of HUD mementos, and they will be prominently  
16 placed in that box.

17 I also want to thank you for the wonderful set of  
18 presents I haven't yet seen and haven't gotten yet from  
19 the reception on Wednesday evening. I've already  
20 figured out where everything is going to go in my  
21 house. So thank you very much. You're very, very  
22 generous, and I will remember you all and take these

1 experiences with me.

2 This has been -- this particular session, I think  
3 both the -- for me personally, the most frustrating and  
4 yet the most rewarding. I think that after Wednesday  
5 afternoon, I didn't think we would be where we are this  
6 afternoon. And so, to everybody at the table and those  
7 who have left us, who've gone home early, to your  
8 advisers, to the members of the public that  
9 participated in the workgroups, you've done a lot of  
10 good work these last 3 days.

11 Thank you.

12 And Blake, you mentioned the HUD staff. You've  
13 heard me say before, like all of you, they really  
14 embraced me in a way that I didn't expect, in a way  
15 that they did not have to do. They are incredible  
16 public stewards.

17 More importantly, whether you want to admit it or  
18 not, they are phenomenal champions for each of the 566  
19 tribes in this land. They live it. They breathe it.  
20 They walk the walk. They talk the talk. And it has  
21 been my distinct honor and privilege to work with them  
22 as well.

1           And with HUD staff, folks from PD&R like Ben and  
2   Todd, it has just been a treasured time in my life.  
3   And so, I will not be with you in Denver and moving  
4   forward, not physically. But I'll keep tabs. I'll  
5   want to hear, and you know, I hope someone will call me  
6   and fill me in. Not that I can do anything about it,  
7   but I'm sort of nosy like that, and I'd like to know  
8   how you all are getting on.

9           Shared vision, shared goals and outcomes, all  
10   about making it better for the people we all serve.  
11   Thank you, and God bless each and every one of you.

12           Thank you.

13           MR. DOLLARHIDE: Thank you, Sandra.

14           Now I believe that it comes to the part in the  
15   agenda for the selection of the co-chairs. As you  
16   know, me and Annette have done it the last two  
17   meetings. If it's the wishes of this committee, we'll  
18   continue that. If it's not, then we can elect two  
19   other folks, which wouldn't upset me either.

20           So I'll let the committee to make that decision  
21   and go from there.

22           I apologize, Earl, I missed you a while ago. Earl

1 Evans needs to be recognized.

2 MR. EVANS: That's all right.

3 MR. DOLLARHIDE: He won't be telling me thank you  
4 no more.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. EVANS: That's all right. Thank you, Mr. Co-  
7 Chairman.

8 First thing is I echo Blake Kazama's sentiment. I  
9 just want to thank the Assistant Secretary for all her  
10 good work, her staff as well, because we know that  
11 without them having your support, they couldn't do what  
12 they do so well.

13 And I also want to go ahead and give an advance  
14 thank you for what you're going to do your last week  
15 with authorizing a move of the August meeting to Alaska  
16 in August instead of Phoenix. So thank you so much for  
17 that. Let me thank you.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. EVANS: So let me thank you for that because  
20 that will certainly be a better climate for August.

21 But in terms of the co-chairmen, Mr. Co-Chairman,  
22 if I'm in order, I move that we keep status quo in

1 terms of co-chairs.

2 (Voting.)

3 MR. DOLLARHIDE: That's no problem, Jack.

4 Seeing no objections, status quo will remain.

5 So I believe -- I believe that we are on -- if  
6 there is no more wishes of this committee, any more  
7 questions, concerns, comments?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DOLLARHIDE: We will go ahead. I have asked  
10 Blake to give our closing prayer, and we will dismiss  
11 this meeting until Denver.

12 MR. KAZAMA: Father, throughout the sessions this  
13 week, you have guided and directed our thoughts and our  
14 hearts. It's interesting, Father, to hear of the  
15 different reflections of individuals regarding the  
16 people that we represent. Many of them are in  
17 overcrowded situations.

18 Even as we meet today, we know that many suffer.  
19 There are many who are still waiting for houses.

20 So I just, Father, want to encourage you to guide  
21 and direct our paths. If it involves more finances,  
22 Father, that we ask for that. And Father, but more

1 important that we never forget that the vision that we  
2 have in our minds and in our hearts are the people in  
3 poverty, the people that we are here to serve.

4 And Father, cause that to be an urgency for each  
5 one of us to help, to help the youngest, our elders,  
6 that their lives might be a better place, a better  
7 lifestyle, a more rewarding way of life.

8 Thank you, Father, for just assembling us. I know  
9 some of us have a long journey home. But it was good,  
10 Father, that we came.

11 Thank you so much for enabling that to happen, for  
12 enabling us to meet, and so, Father, until we meet  
13 again, that you guide and direct our paths that we can  
14 do so in Denver.

15 So I ask, Father, that you guide or you direct a  
16 safe passage home for each one of us.

17 Prayed in your precious name, amen.

18 (Whereupon, at 4:38 p.m., the meeting was  
19 adjourned.)

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