



USET

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USET Resolution No. 2017:005

SUPPORTING TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFFING, TRAINING & EQUIPPING

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** USET Resolution 2003:022, approved on October 31, 2002, states that:
“for thousands of years before the immigration of the Europeans, the pau waus or medicine people of today’s New England region used sacred [ceremonial stone] landscapes to sustain the people’s reliance on Mother Earth and the spirit energies of balance and harmony;” and
- WHEREAS,** in 2007, USET Resolution 2007:037 acknowledged that sacred ceremonial stone landscapes in the ancestral territories of USET member Tribal Nations are frequently threatened, damaged irreparably, and destroyed during archaeological dissection and federal infrastructure and development projects; and
- WHEREAS,** in the 14 years since Resolution 2003:022 was passed the National Register of Historic Places has confirmed ceremonial stone landscapes as eligible for listing and routinely Federal Agencies include ceremonial stone landscape surveys as a Tribal tool in the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act on federal undertakings; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to 36 C.F.R 800 (now 54 USC 306108), the function of the identification and mapping of features that are “of religious and cultural significance to Tribes” is to preserve them by being prepared to “participate in the resolution of adverse effects” in the federally-permitted construction processes of a given undertaking; and
- WHEREAS,** with regard to utility, gas line, and other infrastructure projects that are permitted by the federal government that may impact ancient ancestral paleo-cultural sites out on the submerged continental shelf, the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of USET’s member Tribal Nations are under-staffed and underfunded to meet the current and rapidly growing Tribal Historic Preservation demand; and
- WHEREAS,** to meet the rapidly expanding survey demands of identifying these ceremonial stone landscape features in the field and those submerged features “of religious and cultural significance” on the once dry, vegetated and inhabited ancestral lands that are now beneath the waters of America’s rivers, bays, sounds, the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, there is a need to build capacity and knowledge within the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of USET member Tribal Nations through innovative staffing and training; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

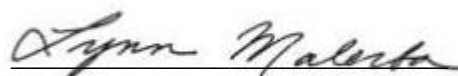
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports the identification and pursuit of grant and private foundation funding opportunities to support the Tribal Historic Preservation Office capacity-building efforts of USET member Tribal Nations in response to new challenges and demands in the identification and protection of ceremonial stone landscapes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 9, 2017.



Chief Kirk Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.