

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Misses Deadline For Land Buy Back Program

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Acting Chairman Kevin Wright announced that the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe has missed the deadline for administering their Cobell Land Buy Back Program.

“At the August 5th, council session we were notified that we missed a deadline for the Indian Buy Back program,” Wright posted on his Facebook page.

Leadership of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe has been in question since their general election a year ago in September when Wright was elected as vice-chairman and Sonny Ziegler and DesiRee LaRoche were elected as council representatives.

According to Wright, the late Chairman Michael Jandreau, Secretary/Treasurer Red Langdeau and Councilman John McCauley stonewalled tribal council meetings for months by walking out of council.

Tribal Court Judge B.J. Jones ordered the tribe to resume meetings in March citing it was obstructing the rights of tribal citizens.

Jandreau’s death came amid controversy over a report accusing tribal leaders of mismanagement of millions of dollars “earmarked for programs meant to provide essential services, alleviate poverty, or promote much needed economic development.”

Wright’s takeover of leadership of the tribe was met with hostility from Jandreau supporters and shortly after taking charge, he ordered a freeze of all federal draw down monies until a full investigation of financial transactions could be conducted.

The most recent controversy has arisen over a question about who would administer the Land Buy Back Program for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and what has been termed “disallowable” costs.

According to Wright, they were informed that the way the tribe was trying to utilize Land Buy Back funds were considered “disallowable” costs.

Wright said he felt that it was Lee Brennan’s responsibility, as Tribal Manager, to inform the Chairman’s office about what was going on with the Land Buy Back Program and when Grounds presented this information, he felt appalled.

He has called for the termination Brennan because of what he terms “incompetence.” As to whether or not the tribe will still get their land buy back he said, “I understand is that they will but it’s the government that will have final say as to who will benefit from the land buyback program,” Wright concluded.