

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
February 23, 2012**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Dave Lopeman	Chairman
	Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
	Andy Whitener	Treasurer
	Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary
	Ray Peters	1st Council Member
	Jim Peters	2nd Council Member
	Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member
Legal Counsel	Kevin Lyon	
Tribal Administrator	Don Whitener	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Ray Peters offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the February 9, 2012 Council Minutes. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Charlene Krise was out of the room*).

Dave brought up the per capita distribution dates. Don provided a recommendation, which was set up on a fiscal year. Don explained that for FY12, there already has been two distributions; so to finish up FY12 he recommended that the next two distributions be in April and August. Then starting in FY13 the distributions be on the first Thursday of November, February, May and August.

After much discussion, Council approved the November, February, May and August distribution dates, by consensus. There will be no exceptions on the date.

Jim shared that he was invited to attend a panel workshop regarding the fisheries economy. This was requested by the commercial fisherman (non-tribal) regarding a recreational movement to get rid of net fishing. Jim explained how tribal fishing does not affect wild stock; and if it does the fishery closes. He emphasized the importance of hatcheries and fishing.

Arnold asked about seals, and if anything can be done to protect fish. He stated that seals are getting aggressive on the net pens. Andy shared that they have tried predator nets at the pens, but they don't seem to work. Arnold would like to see SITNR get permission to do predator control. Jim would like to make sure that tribal fisherman report all harassing that happens from seals, to their fish and equipment. WDFW is tracking that; so if something happens and it's not reported,

there is a possibility of the tribe getting in trouble. Tribal fisherman need to report when they shoot or shoot at seals to WDFW. NR will send a notice out to the fisherman. Andy added that if tribal fisherman feel threatened, they can protect their stuff.

Jim asked about setting up a meeting with the Medicine Creek Tribes regarding the geoduck plan.

Andy brought up the Shellfish Settlement fund. NR Directors need to get together and come up with an enhancement plan. Kevin was asked to look in to make sure that the fund is fully funded. Kevin stated that he did check, and it is. He can report more on that today if Council wishes.

Don brought up that Senator Frasier will bring a bill to the Capital on March 7th. This will be a senate proclamation for the Squaxin Island Tribal Canoe Journey. She has invited a few to listen to the vote on the 7th at the Capital. Don, Dave and Andy will be attending.

Jim brought up that the tribe should draft an invitation letter for dignitaries, to personally invite them to the Journey. Jim offered to deliver those letters while he is in DC next week.

Ray brought up the Little Creek Hotel rooms; Deb Meisner will be keeping inventory. Each Council member has five rooms, and the Chairman has 60 rooms. As Council members release their rooms, let Deb know so she can keep track and make sure rooms or names are not double booked.

Ray brought up the next Council meeting date of March 8th. He, Arnold and Jim will be in DC for NCAI. He asked if the meeting could be postponed until the 9th. Council agreed.

Ray updated on land acquisitions. He has ordered an appraisal for the Dorsey Property, the small piece by KTP and the 38 acres across from Home Meats. He discussed the property acquisitions and negotiations with Taylors.

Ray updated on the negotiations with WADNR and the purchase/sale of the DNR land on the Island. They finally agreed to remove the administrative fees they were going to charge. The tribe will pay for the appraisal. Kevin has been working with their attorneys and has a resolution prepared.

Kevin shared that when the State receives property, and sells property, they must keep the mineral rights. Anything underground always stays the right of the State. The question is, did the State ever have those rights in the first place; and how does the Tribe get around that? He shared that the Tribe will emulate what Port Gamble already has done; once the fee to trust is complete, the tribe can ask to have the mineral right transferred from State to Federal.

Kevin handed out **Resolution #12-09** which authorizes the letter of intent, pays for the appraisal and once a cost is determined, Council can then decide if they would like to buy the land. Andy brought up the cultural/natural habitat taking place that will help protect the parcels and would like to see the appraisal once its complete. Kevin added that the Tribes forest practice rules may

not apply in regards to marketable timber, which may affect the market value. Jim Peters moved to approve Resolution #12-09. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Andy was out of the room*).

Kevin reported that the fee to trust process was stalled on 11 parcels by the BIA. Since then, they have expired and the cost is \$1400/parcel to refresh the applications. Kevin will meet with Don and Ray to discuss who will work with the BIA. Don added that the tribe has already spent enough on this. The BIA has a new person in that position, who is more strict on testing. The additional tests are inconsistent with what has been done in the past. The tribe will meet with BIA to discuss a cost effective and efficient way to refresh these applications. The BIA should be held responsible since the tribe did everything in a timely manner; it was the BIA who delayed the applications.

Jim shared a letter that Rhonda brought by. Rhonda is attending a conference at Umatilla and they are asking for sponsorships. Council agreed to donate \$500.

Charlene added that she will be attending the Coast Salish Gathing in Duncan BC, March 25-27. Pete will also attend.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.