

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING**
May 23, 2013

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Dave Lopeman Arnold Cooper Andy Whitener Pete Kruger, Sr. Ray Peters Jim Peters Vince Henry, Sr.	Chairman Vice Chairman Treasurer Secretary 1 st Council Member 2 nd Council Member 3 rd Council Member (<i>left at 1:30</i>)
Legal Counsel	Sharon Haensly	
Tribal Administrator	Don Whitener	
Operations Director	Kathy Block	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Pete Kruger offered the opening prayer.

Don Whitener offered the Oath of Office for all Council Members. Dave Lopeman, Arnold Cooper, Andy Whitener, Pete Kruger, Ray Peters, Jim Peters and Vince Henry all accepted their oath of office.

Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m..

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Andy wanted to discuss Sgwi Gwi and the fish donation later. Jim would like to update from his travel to ATNI.

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the agenda. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Vince Henry was out of the room*).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold moved to approve the April 11, 2013 Council Minutes. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. Jim made a slight amendment to the fish consumption discussion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Vince Henry was out of the room*).

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

May 28-30: IEI/LCC Work Session, Collier House

June 14: Sgwi Gwi, LCC Events Center

June 3: MLRC Golf Tournament, Salish Cliffs

July 15-17: WIGA, Tulalip. Andy and Ray will attend.

June 24-27: NCAI, Reno NV. Pete will attend.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

July 9-12: Veterans Summit, Grand Ronde.

August 5: Native American Caucus Committee Listening Session regarding the Paddle to Quinault, Quinault Beach Resort.

August 27-29: Tribal GREEN Summit, Portland OR

Don added that **June 14th** is the **Veterans Memorial Re-Dedication**, starting at 11am with a BBQ lunch to follow. Andy brought up that evening NR will be cooking fish for Sqwi Gwi, as well as BBQing for the rededication.

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Committee & Commission appointments: Tribal Council made the following appointments:

One Percent Commission: Vince Henry

Aquatics Committee: Larry McFarland and Whitney Jones

Enrollment Committee: Pete Kruger

Fish Committee: Jack Selvidge and Vicky Kruger

Gaming Commission: Diane Deyette and Katrina Story. Ray Peters was appointed to the Council Representative position, leaving his position vacant. Will be advertised.

Housing Commission: Mary Whitener and Janita Raham

Hunting Committee: Larry McFarland

Island Enterprises Board: Tabled and will be discussed at work session.

Law and Order Committee: Tully Kruger and Jim Peters

Little Creek Oversight Board: Joe Peters

Shellfish Committee: Jeremie Walls, Jack Selvidge and Kelli Dahman

Tobacco Board: Ray Peters

Financial Literacy: Ray shared that he and Charles Schwab is hosting a Financial Literacy Session for tribal members who are about to graduate. It will be held June 5th in the Community Kitchen. He is hoping to have more sessions, but would like to target high school graduates at this first session.

Clam donations: Andy Whitener shared that Quileute is hosting an Elders Dinner for all tribal elders. They are asking for 150 pounds of clams. Don will check to make sure the Squaxin Elders are attending. Council approved the donation.

Arnold shared there was a Family Services Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner last night. He would like Council to have more notification for department events so more Council members they can attend.

Fish donation: Council approved the fish donation for Sqwi Gwi. Council discussed purchasing a large amount of fish since the price is good, if storage can be found. Andy will talk with Taylors about their storage. Andy will work on it.

Jim shared that he will be meeting with the governor tomorrow afternoon to discuss the culvert case.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Jim handed out some taxation rates and Natural Resource resolutions that were passed at ATNI. He shared that at the University of Washington Foreign Studies Program, students can apply to go anywhere. The Native American program has established a foreign study program for the Intertribal Canoe Journey. In the long run, the program will be asking carvers to help them make a dugout canoe. Students will earn engineering the science credits for building the canoe and participating in water sampling while attending the Journey. Jim would like to look in to letting them use one of Squaxins canoes, if it's not being used.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Don shared that he and Dave Babcock had a government to government session with Department of Social Health Services, regarding the pharmacy issue. Dave didn't hold back any information and that DSHS was very supportive in the fact that the Tribe brought something to light that they were not aware of. They will work closely with Squaxin on working it out.

Navy Tribal Council Meeting May 30, Kitsap Naval Base. They would like Council to visit their meetings, Deb met with them and recruited volunteers for canoe journey.

Welcome Pole: Rich Wells as directed, sent out RFP for local artists, and received two proposals. This pole will be used for the gift to Quinault for the 2013 canoe journey. After extensive discussion Council approved the proposal from Andrea Wilbur-Sigo, is she will accept Councils counter-offer. They also would like her to include the help from tribal youth.

Housing Options: As requested, Rich Wells presented to Council the Home Ownership Program. The purpose of the program is to assist tribal members in achieving home ownership. He shared some options that can be considered with the Housing Program. There are some discrepancies between the Housing Code and Housing Policy, which needs to be fixed. Currently, Housing has a Lease with Option to Purchase Program. Ray would like to see a purchase/sale agreement in place so tribal members can truly buy their home.

Rich and Council went through all of the options he presented. Any of the options listed can potentially be incorporated within their current program.

Arnold would like a proposal put together by the next Council meeting, with more time for discussion. Council will review the handout and would like Rich, Don, Mark Allen and Housing work together on a proposal.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeff Dickison introduced Emily Goehring, who was recently hired as the Environmental Manager at Natural Resources.

Fish Consumption Consultation: Jeff reported on the next step with fish consumption. Council discussed the group setting discussion, which seemed to be the favorite. Jeff shared different strategies on meeting with EPA. Jim added that Andy has authority, as Director to approve staff to meet with federal or state agency staff.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Jeff will draft a letter for the Chairmans signature, regarding Squaxins expectations. Andy would like to meet collectively first, then send a letter. Jim wants to be clear that if a consultation is done that the appropriate people attend.

Deschutes Estuary Letter: Jeff shared that the Tribe was asked to share their position on the Deschutes restoration project. Jeff provided a draft letter for the Chairmans signature, stating the tribes' perspective on the restoration. Council felt that representatives need to know the tribes position, Council approved Dave to sign the letter.

Shellfish Meeting Update: Jeff reported that the Shellfish Committee met and discussed the proposal that was already presented to Council regarding the development and planning of the settlement money. Arnold felt that the outcome of the meeting was good. Another meeting will be planned once the funds are in hand, to discuss implementation. Council appreciated this meeting being put together.

Andy brought up the issue of "stand-by" diggers, on private digs. Another issue is some tribal members have asked to allow for four hours digging for everyone, not just elders.

TA HA BUTS LEARNING CENTER

Gordon James shared that Sqwi Gwi will be held at the Events Center on June 14th. He invited Council to help hand out the awards and congratulate the students. He also asked if Council has any particular individuals or organization they would like to invite to Sqwi Gwi, let him know. Jim suggested that he ask the students of they have a teacher or staff they would like to invite. Ray added a few years ago a tribal student spoke about her educational journey; Ray felt it was really moving and would like to see that again. Maybe ask the higher education students if they would like to say a few words.

His last request was the incentive gifts. Council wanted to stay status quo on what was done in years past (\$1,000 to High School Graduates and GED recipients, along with a laptop computer, printer and computer bag. Tribal Council also will gift \$1,000 to all AA, BA and Masters Degree recipients). Gordon shared that he spoke with Mitzie regarding the computer gift, and as an alternative, it was suggested that they gift a Best Buy gift card; that way it would allow the tribal member to select their own model that might fit their needs best. Information Services can offer suggestions on what to look for, if necessary.

Jim has been tracking emails regarding students not receiving their incentive gift in the past. The computer is intended for high school graduates only. Council is not back tracking either; if the gift was never received and it was the tribes fault, then okay; but if the tribal member did not submit their information and it was never received, then no.

Jim asked Gordon if he could share the graduation dates, location and times with Council, so they can attend.

LEGAL UPDATE

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Sharon Haensly reported on a shellfish situation and presented **Resolution #13-44** which authorizes the Legal Department to initiate a dispute resolution in federal district court against Russ' Shellfish and Gold Coast Oyster. Jim Peters moved to approve the resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

Sharon reported that Salish Seafoods burns their used pallets on their property. A neighbor recently called the fire department and said that the burning is violating the county burning rules. The question is; whose rules apply since it is trust land. County rules and State rules do not apply, and since it is off reservation EPA rules do not apply either. The County recognizes they do not have authority but would like to enter in to a Memorandum of Agreement outlining the size and type of burning. This MOA will only cover Salish burning on Salish lands. Salish is satisfied with the agreement. Jim suggested that Salish might want to consult with the fire department before they burn. Council is okay with the MOA.

Sharon shared that over the last four and a half years with the tribe, she has done a lot of shellfish related work. She created a handbook for Squaxin use only on what she has worked on. If anyone wants the book, let her know and she will email it.

Council went in to executive session. Coming out of executive session, Council agreed by consensus to have mediator contract with (former) Judge Berschauer, as recommended by Legal.

ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Kelly Croman shared that KTP will have a customer appreciation day tomorrow. The Shell Station renovation is ready. The additional property acquisition is under way.

Kelly handed out **Resolution #13-45** that formally dissolves Island Construction. Jim moved to approve the consent to dissolve Island Construction LLC. Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) for and zero (0) against (*Ray was out of the room, Vince absent*).

LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Mark West and Michael Starr provided an operations report from LCC. Michael shared that the hotel has been at 90% occupancy for four months straight. Michael shared the executive summary for the last 12 months. April has been a great month. Tribal employment is consistent.

Mark will first present to LCOB then to Council a proposal from Ballys for a player tracking system.

Michael shared that Dan Neelands has been very helpful in assisting with the expansion. Dan explained the process and development of the hotel expansion. They are working on traffic flow improvements right now.

Dan showed some schematics showing the changes to the non-smoking casino entrance as well as additional patios at the old hotel entrance.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

EARLY LEARNING UPDATE

Sally Brownfield was present and shared that last week she witnessed the signing of the House Bill for charter schools. This opens the door wider for tribal education programs having their own schools.

Sis also shared that this is to follow up to her presentation from work session regarding early learning. Where does the tribe want to go? She reported that the tribe has about 125 kids that can utilize early learning, and that need is growing.

Don stated that it is up to Council to either embrace this program or not. He brought up the idea that Sis had, and that is to redirect the Child Development Center, which is not a bad idea. The structure is ready for something like this. Sis added that she feels the tribe's responsibility should be the tribal kids first. There are 166 kids enrolled at the CDC and only 86 of them are Squaxin. The current service the CDC has is strictly daycare, with a little curriculum.

Sis is proposing that the CDC change from daycare to an early learning center. Ray asked about doing half daycare and half early learning.

Don added that Sis has come up with an idea to work on and not yet ready to propose a model. She is merely looking for guidance from Council in what they want. She has a committee of seven members; Jim would like the committee to discuss this and give a recommendation to Council. Sis added that the committee, which is more of a work group. They would like to know what the possibilities are and are now at a point to make a decision and move forward. If they restructure the CDC, they need a timeline and how to phase out of child care. Jim stated that he is fully supportive of early development but wanted to add that the CDC is an excellent place. Kids leaving there and going to kindergarten are right in line with everyone else, as long as they have support at home. The problem is the kids are not getting proper support at home, not the CDC.

Sis asked for direction from Council on where to go now. Council supports early learning, and would like Sis and the committee to bring back recommendations on how to get it done.

Andy likes the idea of using the CDC, making it multi use. That is a good place for the early learning center to grow. Don't just throw out daycare, since that is a need also. That site is large enough to keep growing.

Ray would like to see what can we implement right now? Taking in account the certification we currently have, the space we currently have, etc.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Melissa Whitener was present looking for financial assistance. She explained her circumstances and Council asked Don to look in to what programs she can utilize.

There being no further business, Council adjourned for the day.