

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
January 23, 2014**

**Attendance:**

**Tribal Council**

**Dave Lopeman  
Arnold Cooper  
Andy Whitener  
Pete Kruger, Sr.  
Ray Peters  
Jim Peters  
Vince Henry, Sr.**

**Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Treasurer (*absent*)  
Secretary (*absent*)  
1<sup>st</sup> Council Member (*absent*)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Council Member  
3<sup>rd</sup> Council Member**

**Legal Counsel  
Tribal Administrator  
Recording Secretary**

**Kevin Lyon  
Don Whitener  
Melissa Puhn**

Jim Peters offered the opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Agenda. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the January 9, 2014 Council Minutes and the January 10, 2014 Phone Poll. Vince Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

**TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS**

**January 27: Council Meeting with Skokomish** re: hunting. This will be held at the Casino at 11am. Kevin would like to meet with council an hour ahead for planning.

**January 29 – 31: Tobacco Trade Show**, Las Vegas. Andy will attend.

**February 5-6: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Judge Boldt's ruling in *US v. Washington***, symposium & banquet at LCC.

**February 6: Per Capita Distribution**

**February 16-21: ATNI**, Lummi. Pete, Jim and Arnold will attend.

**March 11-13: NCAI Winter Session**, Washington DC. Ray, Jim and Arnold will attend.

**May 3: 2014 General Body Meeting**, LCCR Event Center.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

### TRIBAL CHAIRMAN UPDATE

**Talking Circle:** Council decided to host the next Talking Circle on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Kitchen. Little Creek will cater dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**Funding Request:** Jim shared a handout from Charles Wilkenson who is writing a book on the Boldt Decision. NWIFC is funding the project, but Jim asked if Council would be willing to donate if necessary. Council felt it would be a good idea to cover costs and suggested that this request could be forwarded to the One Percent Commission for funding.

**Council donation:** Don shared that a tribal member is requesting assistance for meals and hotel costs while her daughter is in the hospital. Council will donate \$500.

### TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

**Squaxin Job Fair:** Patti Puhn and Astrid Poste were present. Patti shared that HR recently held a two day seminar that was well attended. One day was Dealing with Difficult People and the other day was Supervisor Training. This was offered to all Supervisors and went really well.

Patti shared that last year, HR filled 108 positions, and she added that Astrid does a good job with staffing. Of those positions, 58 were tribal members. Currently of the 255 tribal employees, 53% are either Squaxin, spouse, descendent or other tribe.

HR, LCC and IEI are planning a Job Fair on February 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1-6pm at the Gym. TANF and VR will have tables as well as TLC, local colleges and trade schools. They have invited Taylor Shellfish, WalMart and SPIPA as well. Council suggested inviting Green Diamond, Bank of America and the construction companies that have done work for the Tribe. Patti shared that next year they will discuss expanding this to the greater community, but for now they want to focus on our community.

Astrid shared that she is excited TLC will be there to help with education requirements. DIS will set up computers so people can receive help and create a resume on the spot.

Jim asked if the Tribe receives job announcements from other agencies and if those get posted. Astrid shared that they have a job board, but she doesn't actively match applicants to jobs that come in, but she can. Jim will email announcements to Astrid as he receives them. She can help tribal members apply to other areas.

**Cemetery Construction Update:** Dan Neelands shared a presentation showing the progress of the Cemetery. The porte-cochere that was at the old hotel entrance was moved and installed at the Cemetery to serve as a covered area for services. It is now complete and looks really good.

The next step is creating nature paths for the memorial ashes, restrooms, maintenance building, irrigation and signs. Dan briefly went over the restroom options: they can install a "green" flush system similar to what is on the golf course that costs around \$50,000. Or they can purchase a porta-potty and contract a company to clean it before and after funerals, which will cost around \$2,300. Council has concerns about vandalism, the second option would have lower repair costs. Jim suggested the porta-potty being transported and stored behind the maintenance shed when not in use. Council liked the idea of the porta-potty for now, and revisit a more permanent restroom plan when that becomes necessary.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Dan will talk with the Committee regarding the Maintenance Building and what needs to be stored there. Other discussion topics will include signage and irrigation.

**Affordable Care Act:** Nora Coxwell and Chery Mahlberg were present to answer questions about the Affordable Care Act. They have started signing tribal members up in October. This new Healthcare Plan now makes those who did not qualify for health care, qualify. Cheryl will mail a letter from CHS explaining that if a tribal member qualifies for the Affordable Care Act, they must sign up, and is free for most tribal members. She explained that tribal descendants who are not low income, do not qualify for free coverage, only enrolled tribal member qualify. CHS and IHS require an alternate resource to cover costs first, and the Affordable Care Act is an alternate resource; so if somebody does not sign up they will no longer be covered under CHS. Jim asked if this needed to be shared with ATNI to help push towards covering minor descendants, since they are under the care of a tribal member.

Arnold asked about the tax penalties. Nora shared that if a tribal member who is not low income, must sign up for the tax exemption, otherwise there will be a tax penalty. Arnold asked if she would explain this to the Elders since most people do not know the importance of signing up.

The clinic is working hard on this. Don would like to have Nora at the Talking Circle with this information.

Nora explained that IHS and CHS currently cover tribal descendants under 18. Now, the federal government does not consider descendants eligible anymore. Nora asked, if a descendant cannot pay for their coverage, is that something the Tribe needs to cover? They will not qualify for the exemption. Jim would like to discuss this with Bonnie and strategize before the ATNI Meeting.

### **TRIBAL GAMING AGENCY**

Summer Petty, Mike Ulrich and Dave Whitener were present for an update. Summer shared that the Casino expansion went well and TGA did a good job on keeping up with the construction. TGA is now working on penetration testing on the LCC system to make sure nobody outside can access patrons information. This test will be contracted out, and will include a full training for staff to conduct this testing in-house, on a regular basis.

This year, they have implemented an additional notification for expired licenses. TGA likes to do what they can to help keep everyone's licenses updated.

TGA is scheduling its annual work session to review last year goals and discuss next year's goals.

TGA Commissioners are required to attend certification training, which is done in house four times each year and they need to spend up to 10 hours/year of training for TGA members. The Commission that is in place is very involved and caring without micromanaging. The diversity of their skills are great. Summer thanked Council for the appointments of who is in. Jim added that Summers leadership allowing that interaction is huge also.

Security was discussed extensively.

Kevin brought up Moss Adams who just completed their 2013 Audit with TGA, it will be submitted with the NIGC next week.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Summer commended Michael Starr for his participation and willingness to work and cooperate with TGA, making the audits easier.

### LEGAL

Kevin updated on the assistance he has been providing to an individual about enrollment. Kevin has done what he can, now it is up to the individual.

Kevin shared that Legal is working on defining “common law” spouse, to be used in tribal codes.

Kevin shared the eligibility issues that many tribal Social Security recipients are running in to regarding their per capita payment. As a start, the checks will not have the word “per capita” listed, but it will say “assistance based on need.” Legal also has been assisting those who have come to them for help.

Kevin shared that Sharon Haensly is assisting the Museum in acquiring the footage that was recorded during the 2012 Canoe Journey from Cedar Media.

Kevin discussed the State hunting boundary disagreement. Kevin will bring back the co-management agreement for Council to look at. This could be accompanied with a letter from Council stating that the agreement was signed under protest. This will be discussed further at the next Council Meeting.

Kevin presented **Resolution # 14-02**, intended to preclude at-will employees at the LCCR from asserting grievances in tribal court. Discussion ensued whether the amendment would preclude all grievances, whether all employees were at-will, what avenues, if any, were available to an aggrieved employee and what of the grievance procedures other than tribal court. Jim Peters moved to approve the resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The Council conditionally approved the resolution, asking Kevin to return to more fully explain the resolution, its effect, and the grievance path, if any, that would result if approved. The Council will revisit the discussion at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Next Monday or Tuesday, Kevin will share a presentation on the gaming compact to Council.

### ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Kelly Croman, Richard Sweeney, Dave Johns and Cameron Goodwin were present.

Kelly presented **Resolution #14-03** which authorizes an agreement with NGL Supply Terminal Company (owner of the railroad spur adjacent to Skookum Creek Tobacco). Jim moved to approve the resolution. Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Dave Johns thanked Council for the Shellfish Settlement. Salish and NR has had a series of meetings and once Fisheries starts growing clams on the Island, Salish will assist as necessary.

Cameron provided a January operations update on Skookum Creek Tobacco. He is continuing to see improvements on product and cost savings. They are cross training staff. Overall quality for the last three months has been solid. They are continuing analyzing the raw data and materials are performing better than before. They are doing regular and preventative maintenance. Sales continue to be strong. SCT recently submitted their application to the military for selling their product at Fort Lewis and McCord, then will focus on Bangor and Spokane. Working on expanding sales to Texas and working on a license for California. On reservation sales are good. They have completed new artwork for Premis.

January 23, 2014 Council Meeting

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Cameron shared that he, Richard and Kelly will meet with Cowlitz in April. They have reached out to SCT to assist with creating a smoke shop.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.