

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING**
Collier House
March 27, 2014

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
Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member

Legal Counsel

Kevin Lyon

Tribal Administrator

Don Whitener

Recording Secretary

Melissa Puhn

Pete Kruger offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jim Peters would like to have a closed session at the end of the day. Ray and Jim both would like to provide an update from their trip to DC. Vince reminded that a tribal member will be coming in at 2:00.

Arnold moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jim seconded. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold moved to approve the February 13, 2014 and February 27, 2014 Council Minutes. Pete seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

April 11: NWIC Annual Auction, Tulalip Resort. Jim & Ray will attend. Jim will bring something to donate to the auction, plus \$600 for auction spending.

April 12: SPIPA Art Auction, Lucky Eagle Casino. Council sponsored two tables. Council was okay with staff and tribal members attending to fill those tables.

April 13-16: NAFOA, New Orleans. Ray will attend.

April 16: Candidate Forum, 5:30 p.m. Community Kitchen.

May 3: 2014 General Body Meeting, LCCR Event Center. Don shared the election committee is trying to refine the sign in process. They will change their process a little as it relates to receiving your ballots.

May 5-9: NAFWS, Pendleton OR. Pete and Andy will attend.

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May 4-8: ATNI Mid-Year, Great Wolf Lodge. Arnold and tentatively Jim will attend.

May 5-8: Self Governance Conference, Arlington VA. Ray will attend. Council approved to sponsor a Coffee Break for \$2500 at the Conference.

May 16: Salmon Defense Fundraiser, Sequim WA. Council will sponsor a hole plus a team; the same as last year. Jim moved to approve the sponsorship. Arnold seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

April 22: All tribe leadership hunting meeting at Nisqually. May 7th is the backup date if the 22nd doesn't work.

Jim shared that he met with the Department of Agriculture to discuss agricultural buffers. He shared the buffer standards that are currently an issue: Department of Agriculture is not required to meet the buffer standards that other entities are required. He is hoping that with the right education to the committees in DC, there will be some progress with this issue.

Ray shared that he attended the Contract Support Cost Consultation while in DC. He visited Heck, Cantwell and Murray's offices to discuss initiatives. One is the reauthorization of the transportation bill. The Northwest Indian Health Board would like to visit Squaxin soon to discuss a regional clinic and discuss long term clinic needs.

SWINOMISH AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Jeff Dickison introduced Larry Wasserman, Tribal Biologist at Swinomish.

Larry thanked Council for their time. He was here regarding an initiative going in on this year's ballot. Agriculture is the largest unregulated industry in the State with regard to water quality and salmon protection and are not required to adhere to the buffer zones that the timber industry and developers are required. Swinomish is reaching out to individual tribes for funding of this initiative.

Larry shared a presentation and explained how requiring buffers on agriculture lands would have a significant impact on lowering stream temperatures, filtering toxins and fecal coliform from the streams as well as protecting stream banks.

Tribal Council thanked Larry for his time and presentation and will discuss potential donations at the end of the day.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Housing: Liz Kuntz and Rich Wells were present. Don had asked them to come in and discuss the policies and procedures for testing reservation homes. Liz handed out the process of what housing does. Rich handed out the contaminated house announcement, still in draft form.

Liz stated that in 2006 DCD and Council made the decision that every vacated home is tested for meth. This ensures that every family moving in to their new home is moving in to a healthy, clean home. In 2005 there were three homes that were contaminated, so the conscience decision was made to test each home once vacated.

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When homes have search warrants testing is also done at that time because the search warrant us usually drug related. Tenants are then evicted because of drugs being found in their home. After eviction, the tribe will clean the house before the next family moves in.

Jim reiterated that this is based on a Council direction, allowing housing the authority to test homes and recover funds from the cleanup, from the responsible parties.

Liz stated that the cost to clean up a three bedroom home runs about \$29,000. The most expansive part is rehabilitating the home. Anything fibrous needs to be replaced. Each house that is tested positive has to be cleaned by a certified contractor.

Kathy added that if a test comes back positive, the results get sent to a lab for certification. A contractor then comes in and based on the lab results determines what is needed to get the home rehabilitated to a safe standard. After everything is complete and the home is ready for its next occupant, the house is tested once more.

Kathy also shared that other counties and communities publish the addresses of the homes that are tested positive. They're required to post noticed near the home, warning the community of the contaminants. Kathy would like to see Housing publish this information to the community. She stated that the tribe needs to send out notices informing that the tenant of a contaminated home is responsible for the cost of clean-up before they're allowed in to another house. Clean up costs takes away from other programs.

Arnold had requested Housing to come in and share this process with Council. Liz invited Council to see a house that is about to be cleaned. Council is welcome to "tour" the house before, and after it's cleaned to give them an idea of what Housing does. Just let Liz know.

Jim shared a concern about personal items being removed from a contaminated house, since the tenant has 24 hours to vacate. Kevin added that personal items can and are removed by the tenant in that 24 hour window, and they sign a waiver releasing the Tribe of any liability. Jim was concerned about protecting unknowing tribal members from accepting furniture or other contaminated items within that 24 hour window. Kathy suggested that Housing need to immediately notify the community when a house tests positive.

Liz shared that they have a Tool for Success Class that is given to all tribal members before they move in to a house. This information is shared in that class.

Dave if the names of those responsible were published in the newspaper; tenant names and addresses. Dave would like to see the house boarded up immediately and the names of those responsible made public.

Jim added that the process for rehabilitating a house include a sign outside of the boarded houses showing the cost to the Tribe. Arnold wants a sign large enough to be read from the road.

Don reminded that when John Taylor was named the Public Health Officer, part of his responsibility is boarding and notifying. He initiates the action, and Housing and Maintenance handles the physical boarding of the house.

Don will talk to John Taylor and come up with a plan administratively.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Joe Peters presented **Resolution #14-17** to allocate Pacific Salmon Treaty funds for Fiscal Year 2014 to the Squaxin coho smolt research and data gathering projects.

Joe also presented **Resolution #14-18** which authorizes the submission of a funding request to BIA for the Timber Fish & Wildlife Program.

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the two resolutions. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Julie Owens presented the 2014-2015 Aquatics Regulations. The only changes are the dates and the harvester counts. Arnold moved to approve the regulations. Pete seconded the motion. Jim asked about the harvester count, Julie explained that it is from the old divers phasing out and new divers phasing in. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim asked about new ideas of dealing with IDQs and getting more harvesters in the group. Julie stated that there was an extensive discussion at the aquatics meeting and the committee is open to discuss it, but they want to go through with the regs first. Jim asked as those discussions develop and mature, he would like the committee to discuss with Council before a final decision is made.

Jim provided an update on Treaty Rights at Risk (TRR). He suggested to work with NR to draft a letter to NRCS in Washington DC, to share the disappointment of their work on TRR, since they are a leadership and are hindering the process.

Jeff stated that they continually communicating with the NWIFC on TRR and working on shoreline development and restoration. Looking at opportunities to remove bulkheads and the Deschutes Estuary Restoration. Squaxin will step up in to a leadership role for these restorations.

FAMILY SERVICES / TANF

Vicky Kruger was present to update on the continuing issues with General Assistance (GA). Vicky shared that one of the things she changed from the old policy, is the requirement to live in Mason County to receive GA; but it's still limited to Squaxin Island Tribal Members. She asked Council if she can have Dons help with communicating with the BIA on finding the funding. The last Vicky heard is that BIA was sending the money to Self-Governance for the Annual Funding Agreement. Council asked Ray to help Vicky find the funds.

Jim moved to approve **Resolution #14-19** which adopts the GA Program Policy for Squaxin. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FIRST STEWARDS

Micah McCarty was present to discuss First Stewards, which is an organization that was formed to address Climate Change and Sustainability.

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They are hosting a Symposium in Washington DC to bring together tribal leaders from around the nation to discuss traditional ecological knowledge and what it teaches about past, present and future adaptation to climate change.

Micah was here to ask for financial support for the Symposium. Council will discuss later.

ENROLLMENT

Tammy Ford was present with three enrollment resolutions:

- #14-20 enrolls Madison CM Mowrey
- #14-21 enrolls Barney Eugene Cooper
- #14-22 enrolls Zayne Garner Dorland

Tammy shared that the Enrollment Committee met and recommended the above enrollments be approved. Andy moved to approve the about enrollments. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Tammy thanked Council for allowing the Enrollment Committee attend the Enrollment Conference at Suquamish. It was intense with a lot of good information.

CANOE FAMILY

Charlene Krise, Aleta Poste, Chris Sigo, Jeremiah George, George Krise and Patrick Braese were present.

Charlene introduced Thomas and Kimberly, who would like to host a Stick Game Tournament at the Casino. Charlene shared that historically, the tribes used to play stick games, which is why the tribes are now in the Casino business.

Kimberly shared that they would like to see the Stick Games brought back to life. Skokomish has hosted three games, and they would like to see a game hosted at the LCC Event Center. Thomas explained the history of the game, sponsors and how they would like to host Memorial Weekend, starting Friday morning. They will start with a singing contest, which will be recorded. They will do a raffle of donations, which all proceeds will go to Bella Bella. Saturday will be the big game, with a \$50k prize. Sunday will be the kids' tournament and an appreciation lunch. They also will do a traditional game, where the players trade traditional items instead of money. They would like to work with Squaxin for five years, and host this game every year. After that, they will hand it over to the Tribe to host on their own.

This would be a class I game, and would need Council approval. Jim moved to approve the Class I gaming activity for the 1st Annual Squaxin Island Bone Game. Arnold seconded the motion. Ray clarified that Council is approving the event, but Thomas will need to work with Michael Starr and the LCC. Motion carried unanimously.

2014 Canoe Journey: Charlene Krise thanked Council for their time. She and the others were here to discuss the 2014 Paddle to Bella Bella. The journey helps revitalize traditional cultural connections, plus adding the benefit of creating another connection to the tribes cultural identity.

Aleta handed out and explained the different proposed budgets. They will cap the amount of participants to 40, in order to keep the costs down. The budget includes ferry fees and marine fuel for the support boat and food. They plan on leaving from Cowichan B.C. also, in order to cut their time on

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the water down. Public Safety has agreed to send one of their boats. They would like one support boat (PSJ) plus one more boat to carry supplies. They will not have a ground crew this year, so everything will need to be carried on the boat, including tents, camping gear and food.

Arnold asked about the second boats.

Andy suggested talking to Makah and Quinault about their ocean worthy boats.

Jeremiah stated that only one canoe is going. They will have a formal selection process and test those who would like to go. Currently the canoe family has about \$14k in their budget; and would like to have \$28k when they leave.

Dave asked about if someone is on the Journey, and decides they want to go home early, then what? Jeremiah stated that is why they are doing the selection process. Unless it's an emergency, the individual will have to find their own way home.

Charlene shared a story about a battle that occurred between the Salish People and the Klinkit People. Once our Canoe reaches those waters, they would like to have a ceremony honoring those who died in that battle on those waters. Charlene will keep Dave posted.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Jolene Grover was present and shared that One percent recently funded her to attend at class at the NWIC regarding traditional foods. She briefly shared what she learned during that class.

She shared two other classes she would like to attend: one is in Portland and the other is in Wisconsin. The class in Portland is April 16-18 and will cost about \$800 for her to attend.

Kathy brought up that Gordon mentioned they have job training funds, Jim felt that this is something she can tap in to. Council asked her to work with Gordon to see what his program can fund.

She would like Council to make an educator for Traditional Plants and Foods a priority. Council wants her to work with Don and Kathy on that position. Whether it fits with MLRC, NWITC, Culture, Clinic, etc.

Tribal Council decided to donate \$15,000 to Swinomish from the One Percent Commission. No donation will be made to First Stewards.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.