

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
February 26, 2009**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Vince Henry, Sr.	Secretary
Russell Harper	Treasurer
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Legal Counsel
Executive Director
Recording Secretary

Kevin Lyon
Ray Peters
Melissa Puhn

Tribal Council went in to Executive Session from 9:00 a.m. until 10:44 a.m.

Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m.

Russell Harper offered the opening prayer.

Dave Lopeman reported that due to storm damage, the Council Visioning trip will be moved from Santa Monica to another location. Cameron and Bobby will work on finding an alternate location.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the February 26, 2009 Council agenda. Russell Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the February 12, 2009 Council minutes as amended. Russell Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ray provided an update on the Linder Property. Council would like to see the elders have the opportunity to go through the property and take any tools they would need, as well as Council. Once elders and Council has gone through, then it could be open to tribal members.

Council would like to see two more elk to be harvested for freezer; one for the food bank and one for events. Misti stated that the food bank is lacking food. Russell suggested that the hotel could do a food drive; Charlene would like to see the tribe do a food drive as well. Marcella would like to see the One Percent Commission donate funds to the food bank to purchase food. Dave would like to see how many families are served by the food bank.

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Charlene would like to see funds appropriated to provide jobs for tribal members who cannot practice their treaty harvesting rights. Charlene asked Ray to look in to funding to employ tribal members for various tasks. Ray explained the TANF dollars allocated. Charlene would like to see a position already in place for when a tribal member needs a job. Charlene suggested one task of clearing and developing a park near the bridge on Skookum Creek. Ray will look in to this program and will bring it back to Council.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

February 25-26: United Tribal Conference, Warm Springs. Marcella did not attend.

February 26: Legislative Dinner 6:00 p.m. Little Creek Hotel

March 1-5: NCAI, Washington DC. Ray, Arnold, Misti & Jaimie Cruz will attend.

March 6: 2011 Budget Formulating Meeting, BPA Building, Portland

March 9-11: National Tribal Gaming Commissioners Conference, Uncasville, CT. Misti, Marcella and Charlene will attend (*Misti cancelled to attend the RES 2009*)

March 9-12: "Res 2009", Las Vegas, NV. Dave, Ray and Misti attended.

March 18-20: Council Visioning with IEI, relocated to Canyonville, OR at Seven Feathers.

May 17-21: 2009 Annual Tribal Self-Governance Conference, Orlando, FL. Misti & Ray will attend.

June 14-17: NCAI Mid Year, Niagara Falls, NY

NATURAL RESOURCES

Geoduck Regulations: Andy handed out the draft geoduck regulations and went over the changes made for the new season. The Aquatics Committee met yesterday and discussed the regulations with no resolution.

A few assistant divers were present to share their concerns; Dustin Greenwood, Jeremy Meyers, Jebb Case, Daniel Johnston, Steve Sigo Jr., and Steve Sigo Sr. Their concern is that they are assistance divers and they do not have their own IDQ; while there are members with an IDQ who do not dive at all. They would like to have their own quota and be involved in the fishery, not just assistance divers.

Steve Sigo Sr. explained that initially the fishery had 67 certified divers, and now the number is down to 55. He explained that the Aquatics Committee discussed lowering each divers quota from 6,500 to 5,000 it would allow for six more divers to have a quota.

Steve Sigo Jr., suggested that if an individual has to ability and willingness to get their training and their certification they should be able to have their IDQ; instead of those who already have an IDQ and are not even certified divers.

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Charlene asked about the safety and health of each diver. She is concerned about the divers who diver their own and others quotas; she feels that if a diver cannot dive their own quota, they should step down and let the more able divers have a quota. Arnold suggested that those who do not dig their own quota not get a full quota.

Steve Sigo Sr. stated they were here for informational purposes only and they will meet with the Aquatics Committee.

Carmen Jones presented a concern she has with geoduck: she handed out the contract that Natural Resources did (Harvester Agreement for Limited Entry Shellfish Harvests). Carmen also would like to see Law Enforcement stricter on the clam digs.

Council discussed the Shellfish Buyers Ordinance. The Ordinance is still at the Shellfish Committee for their consideration. Marcella would like the ordinance to be sent out to licensed diggers for their review and comment.

Charlene emphasized the importance of Law Enforcements presence at the clam digs. She also would like to see a job position created for someone to pack clams for the elders.

Andy will bring the Shellfish Buyers Ordinance back for action at the next Council meeting. Ray will direct Chief Evans to be sure that someone from Law Enforcement is at every dig and enforcing the digs.

Andy and John Konovsky handed out the review appraisal for the Reller property. John explained the stipulations around the grant funds that could be used to purchase this property. The grant will pay a set amount towards a specific project regarding wetland restoration. The conditions on this property will be for habitat restoration only and low impact on the property. Council discussed if purchasing this property is even feasible if it cannot be used. Andy stated that the property will be used for wetland and stream restoration.

Andy reported that he was contacted by a landowner in Harstine Island. This landowner owns beach with a lot of geoduck on it. The landowner would like to see it harvested, but would like to keep half of the geoduck harvested. Kevin will draft an agreement with the property owner.

Misti asked about the fish and shellfish taxes. Natural Resources will give out waivers to tribal members who make small payments each month towards their taxes. Charlene would like to see no more waivers allowed; she suggested giving everyone a chance to catch up on their taxes then drop the waivers. Council would like to review the waiver policy on taxes. Marcella would like to see the impact if the tax was done away with. Andy stated that Natural Resources would take a large financial hit if taxes were not collected.

Officer Kris Peters was present and stated that Law Enforcement has an officer at every clam dig. Charlene would like Law Enforcement to watch spouses digging who are not allowed and to be sure that everyone is digging in the designated areas. Council would like to see the elders get help packing their bags, but the elders bag tag will need to be with the bag. Vince suggested a different color tag for the elders.

Bob Whitener, Jr., Cameron Goodwin and Mike Peters were present to discuss the Council Visioning trip. After discussion Council decided to go to Seven Feathers.

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Bobby provided an update on the golf course.

PLANNING

Brian Thompson handed out a 2009 Grant Status report.

Brian, Liz Kuntz and Zeke Zahir presented **Resolution #09-13** which authorizes the submission of a grant application to the US Department of Health and Human Services Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Planning Grant for up to \$150,000 per budget period for the purpose of planning a community based locally designed language project for the Squaxin community. Zeke explained that this is a planning grant and the three major objectives are to get a curriculum together, have a full immersion program and to get this language in the public school system and community events. Arnold Cooper moved to approve this resolution. Misti Saenz-Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Brian presented **Resolution #09-14** which authorizes the preparation and submission with the First Nations Development Institute a grant proposal and agreement for the 2009 Native Youth and Culture funds. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve this resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Brian presented **Resolution #09-15** which authorizes the tribe to submit with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention a grant proposal and agreement for the FY09 Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grant Program. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve this resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Brian handed out an updated Advisory Committee List. Council approved by Consensus.

Brian handed out **Resolution #09-16** which authorizes the submission of a grant application to the US Department of Homeland Security under the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program, to enhance emergency management programs based on identified need and priorities to strengthen state, local and tribal abilities to support emergency management mission areas while addressing issues of national concern. This will replace the previous years grant and continue at the same level of service. Arnold would like to see a budget for this program. Russell Harper moved to approve this resolution. Misti Saenz-Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Brian went over the grant list he handed out. Misti asked about funding to improve the baseball field. Brian reported that he, Jeff Peters and Ray met this morning about maintenance funds for the field. They plan to start something right away and be ready for this summer. Misti also stated she liked the BIA HIPP Public Notice that went out, but she would like the flier to be more eye catching.

Brian shared the Housing Waiting List.

Ray reported on his conversations with Bob Smith. He has talked with him in the past and the information was pretty vague. He and Bob have plans of getting together and talking about grants. Misti asked about mold in the tribal housing and if the tribe is responsible for mold growth in the houses.

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Marcella would like to see more funding for more houses. Brian shared that the tribe will be receiving housing stimulus funding, although unsure of how they can spend the funds as of now.

Charlene would like to see those funds available for tribal members to have the opportunity to build their own house. Ray reported that already has been put in to a program for the stimulus package. They are trying to access stimulus money for infrastructure before houses can be built.

Brian discussed the issues they are having with tenants who are not low income. Tribal members who are not low income cannot get the assistance as low income tenants.

Brian explained how they calculate rent for those who are over-income. They have 19 families who are over income, if they are run through the formula, eight will see a rent increase of less than \$100; four will see an increase of \$100-\$150; and one will see a larger increase. This is based on household composition and 80% of the income. Housing is looking in to options of this transition and how to help these families avoid this issue. In order to stay in compliance, this needs to be dealt with due to a number of families who are not low income who live in low income housing.

Ray handed out a letter from a tribal member requesting assistance to replenish her food when her refrigerator broke. Marcella stated that the tribal member can get food vouchers from her.

Janita Johnson and Melissa Grant were present as requested regarding the food bank. Melissa handed out a list of who used the food bank. Janita stated that the food quantity has gone down from last year.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Ron Daily handed out a letter to Council suggesting an option for tribal members with non- tribal spouses. He suggested that when the tribal spouse passes away, the non-tribal spouse continue receiving any elder's benefits that the tribal spouse had. This has not been discussed with the elders yet. Council will review his letter and get back to him.

LEGAL

Kevin presented the need for action against State limitation on Tribal Hunting Rights.

CANOE FAMILY

Jeremiah George and Joe Seymour presented a letter drafted for the Nisqually Chairwoman Cynthia Iyall. This letter formally invites Nisqually to join in the planning of the 2012 Canoe Journey. They plan on presenting this letter at the Nisqually Council Meeting, March 3rd at 9am. They would like those Council Members who are available to attend. An Intertribal Committee will be formed to plan the journey. Jeremiah asked if an employee would like to attend on March 3rd, would they be able to use Administrative Leave. Council stated that something could probably be worked out, but the employee would need to work with their supervisor.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Council went in to Executive Session. No action taken.

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Mike Krise was present to share his concern regarding the geoduck senior stumpage.

Council agreed by consensus for the following donations, each totaling up to \$500:

Assist a tribal member up to with their utilities bill, payment will be made to Squaxin Utilities.

Assist a tribal member with their rent, utilities, insurance and cable bill; payments will be made directly to the vendors.

Assist a tribal member for vehicle repairs, payment will be made to Repairs Plus.

There being no further business the February 26th Council Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.