

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING**
March 12, 2015

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Dave Lopeman Arnold Cooper Andy Whitener Pete Kruger, Sr. Whitney Jones Jim Peters Vince Henry, Sr.	Chairman Vice Chairman Treasurer Secretary (<i>travel</i>) 1 st Council Member (<i>via video conference</i>) 2 nd Council Member 3 rd Council Member
Legal Counsel	Sharon Haensly Dave Babcock	
Operations Director	Kathy Block	
Intergovernmental Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Andy Whitener offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vince Henry moved to approve the March 12, 2015 Council agenda. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

March 9-13: Reservation Economic Summit, Las Vegas. Pete is currently attending.

March 30 – April 2: NIGA, San Diego. Andy will attend.

April 11: NWIC Auction, Tulalip. Jim mentioned that he has attended in the past and Council has donated items for the silent auction.

April 19-22: NAFOA, Austin, TX. Whitney will attend (Espie Austria from Finance also will attend).

April 26-30: Self Governance Conference, Reno. Ray and Pete will attend.

May 2: General Body Meeting, LCCR

May 18-22: ATNI, Warm Springs, OR. Arnold and Jim will attend. Whitney (*via video conference*) stated that Fawn Sharp is planning on a Federal Consultation during this session. Unsure of the status but it's in the works.

May 27: Billy Mills Event, SIT Gym.

LEGAL UPDATE

Sharon Haensly provided an update on the IHS Settlement. Sharon believes that we have “bumped up against the top” and her recommendation is to accept the money. Council agrees. She will return with a formal resolution once the government accepts a dollar amount.

Sharon provided an update on the DNR land purchase on the Island. She asked if Council would like to have a signing ceremony with the DNR Commissioner and his staff, along with a photo shoot of the Governor while he signs the deed. Council suggested having the signing at the Collier House, looking at the Island. She is also working with DNR on a press release. Her next project is to work with the Parks Department on their land.

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Jim shared that a few years ago, Squaxin hosted an EPA Summit and Natural Resources offered a tour of the Island. The Natural Protection Area (NPA) is coming to Tacoma for their meeting and would like a field trip. They are requesting something similar to the Island tour. All it would require is staff time, as NPA would be paying for everything. They will have about 25-30 people. Council is okay with this. Jeff Dickison (present) mentioned that he thought in the past a tour boat was chartered from Seattle.

Jim brought up another meeting with the Washington State Conservation Commission next week. He would like to ask either Rhonda Foster or Charlene Krise to attend to discuss the history of Squaxin Island Tribe. Kathy will check with Charlene since she is well equipped to offer that presentation.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR UPDATE

Council Work Session: Council would like to hold their work session at the Collier House on May 12-14th. They requested that internet be hooked up out there before hand. Kathy has already discussed this with DIS and they will make it happen. Council will pay for the setup.

Franks Landing Indian Community Meeting: They have requested a meeting with Council, Dave would like it to be a date that all seven Council Members are available. Melissa will look at dates and coordinate.

Kathy provided an update on the Arcadia Boat Ramp clean up. She is working on getting the stray boat removed and the garbage cleaned up.

Sharon left at 9:45 and Dave Babcock arrived. Rhonda Foster arrived as well.

Cemetery Update: Kathy shared that she has made contact with DreamScape Landscaping to build trails in the cremation area. She has been working with Rich on the tool shed and they are hoping to have that completed by the end of this summer. She reminded that at the 2013 Council Work Session, Council named the Cemetery "Squaxin Island Sacred Ground," it still needs a sign. The plan was to have poles on both sides of the road, with the name of the cemetery and the tribal logo spanning the road. Kathy wanted to refresh that idea and if it's something Council still wants, she would like to assign that task to somebody in Executive Services to make it happen.

Rhonda added that finishing the cremation area is critical and the work shed needs to be in place ASAP. She also has been working with the Shelton Cemetery on headstones. She is aware that there are still unmarked graves and would like to have a marble headstone placed at those sites. The headstones will cost around \$140 and is a simple plaque that will lay flat on the ground. Arnold asked about a more elaborate headstone, if that is the wishes of the family. Kathy stated that the tribe will cover the costs of a basic headstone and if a family would like something more, the cost is solely on the family. She is working in standardizing what is provided in order to maintain consistency.

Kathy stated that the cremation remains facility needs to get completed. Rhonda has been researching cremation containers and that cost will be included with the funeral costs.

Rhonda added that once the shed is built, she would like to always have a pile of sand and a pile of shell available for families to use. She also would like to see outdoor heaters in the pavilion. She would like the shed to be vandal and theft proof. She also would like to discuss getting power out there. Currently

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there is a plan to have a generator in the shed. Kathy added that someday she would like to see a caretaker house out at the cemetery to help with security.

MUSEUM LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER

Charlene Krise introduced Melissa Poe from the University of Washington. Melissa has worked with Charlene on many projects in the past, interviewing tribal and community members on shellfish and its importance to their wellbeing. She is now here to discuss the next stages of her work. She is at the University of Washington under the Washington Sea Grant and is the Liaison with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center at NOAA. She has been researching why shellfish is important to a sense of identity for people. She has been working with Swinomish on an Indian Health Project looking at the way health indicators and social environments are a part of health and wellbeing of tribal members. She is here today to present an upcoming phase of her project. Charlene added that Squaxin was one of the wealthiest tribes, since Squaxin had the most shellfish beds. Traditionally tribal people lived beyond 100, and Charlene believes it's due to their diet. Charlene stated that longevity is linked to shellfish, and this type of project is beneficial to our people, and as a tribal member a lot of tribal members struggle with anemia, and low iron levels. She researched that shellfish has natural receptors to help metabolize iron, making it so beneficial for tribal people. Protecting this resource is very important.

Melissa handed out a few descriptions on what her purpose is on this project. Jim asked who would own the information she gathers. Melissa stated that she would have everything reviewed by the tribe and will be included with the data sharing and owner sharing agreement. All data collected would be owned by the Squaxin. Natural Resources has been working with them already and has a data sharing agreement in place. It's served Squaxin well and will update that agreement on the next step.

Kathy asked about the ocean acidification study of the Sound and if that is related to the salmon runs. Melissa stated that since of her affiliation of NOAA, she has the connections to access new technology. They can set up workshops and studies and can tap in to these resources if there is an interest.

Rhonda asked to be included with this study. Council said yes.

Charlene stated that Melissa is seeking approval of this partnership. Council approved.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeff Dickison presented **Resolution #15-11** which authorizes the submission of a FY15 funding request to the BIA for implementation of the Tribal Timber Fish & Wildlife Project. Arnold moved to approve the resolution. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON UPDATE

Mud Bay: Rhonda shared that 100% of the Mud Bay project is now in Squaxin possession. She is working with the Museum to identify what needs to be downsized from that project and what needs to be stored at the Museum. The items include things like shell and rocks. Jim asked if there is any obligation to keep the items due to the permit. He also thought it might be worthwhile to hang on to artifacts as technology improves, perhaps something else can be learned years down the road. Jim added that if items were to be disposed of, he hopes they would be returned to Mud Bay. Rhonda stated that there are items such as fire cracked rocks that don't need to be kept. Many of the items can be

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photographed, documented and returned to the land. She stated that some of the items can be used during ceremonies, returned to the Inlets, added to the pond or sent to a university. She will develop a plan. CRD and the MLRC will work together on this.

Ray wanted to make sure that Council is briefed on the collection of the Mud Bay materials, and to make sure that its properly handled. Jim added that he knows the MLRC archive space is small, is there a way to expand that? He knows that as historical artifacts are returned to the tribe, is there will be a need to expand the storage. Charlene stated that yes, the tribal government needs to look in to storing artifacts and important records. The tribal government needs to make a plan to have another building to house additional items. Jim asked that if that needs to be separate or can it be added to the existing archive space? Charlene thought maybe the back side of the MLRC could be expanded, or the old NR location. It would take a brainstorming group. Charlene said it would need to be similar to the Washington State Archives Facility which is a basic warehouse with proper air control. Charlene knows someday Squaxin will find a huge archeological site, and she would like to be prepared for that finding. Rhonda shared that she wishes the MLRC storage was built larger.

Charlene asked if the tribe had a facility to house these items. Jim asked Kathy to look in to this and get a group together to look in to this type of storage. Kathy suggested having a preliminary design with an architect for this type of facility. Kathy asked about the CRD archive room. Rhonda stated that it was built to keep the CRD permanent records and to have a place for temporary storage for archeological findings. Kathy will work with Don on pulling together a group.

Ray stated that the governor was honored and thanked Council for the invite to the Billy Frank dinner event. The Governor also hinted that if there is anything on the state side, that Squaxin needs help with to recognize March 9th state wide, let him know.

Ray shared that he and Jeff spent yesterday touring Denny Heck around. They went to the Deschutes area and the hatchery location at Pioneer Park, ending with a tour of the MLRC.

Ray shared that David Burnett has stepped down as Chairman of the Chehalis Tribe. He has started a company that will invest in businesses. This will go out in Washington Indian Country, hoping to get tribes to invest in this private equity fund. They will research and find businesses that they can buy and turn around and sell within five years while employing tribal members. He would like to come to Council at some time to give his presentation. Jim would like to reach out to IEI and let them know. This is an investment opportunity that has not been done in Indian Country yet.

Whitney asked about the financial request from Jaime Queen, to help fund a memorial dinner for her son. Kathy stated that the tribe does not pay for memorials, but can donate shellfish. Council decided to make a shellfish donation (*Jaime turned down the offer, since shellfish was not planned in the meal, but thanked Council for the consideration.*).

Council received a request from Lucy James, to donate shellfish to the Skokomish Indian Church annual meeting. Council approved.

Council also received a request from Terri Capoeman, to donate shellfish to a Quinault Memorial. Council approved.

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LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Michael Starr handed out the February financial report. He showed how February was a good month with a considerable increase from last February. They are maintaining expenses and maximizing revenues.

Michael shared that LCCR received 2014 Best of the South Sound for their RV sites, casino and buffet.

They will have some Sauk-Suiattle members on property, and with Council approval Michael would like to assist with providing transportation to and from the State Capital. Council approved and suggested he reach out to Tammy for driving the bus.

Mark West shared that the casino gets the biggest bang for the buck, by getting new machines in. He would like to negotiate a deal to have 10-20 new games each month. It would be on a regular schedule, refreshing the machines. The delivery schedule would be a little different than what they have now. The new machines are doing well.

Michael handed out a conceptual drawing of the new renovation of the hotel rooms. Council likes it and agrees that it needs to be done.

Michael has been working with Nate on a contract with Expedia.com, the largest online travel company, partially owned by Microsoft. They will not enter into an agreement with LCCR without a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. They have been working on for two years. So many people who travel Expedia, and this is something that would be beneficial for the Casino. Nate has reviewed the limited waiver. Jim asked about the limited waiver and what the timing is. Nate suggested Council approve by consensus to move forward. Council agreed by consensus to move forward.

Michael asked if Council would want to meet with Sauk Suiattle while they're here. Council said sure. Michael will coordinate.

ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Dave Johns and Richard Sweeney were present. Dave stated that unless otherwise directed, they will use the second meeting of the month for the financial reports. Dave would like to upgrade their security. IEI has a history of inheriting PSJ's vehicles, and he would like to upgrade to something new. The maintenance on the used vehicles is too high. He also would like to find a security boat, the one they have is a hand me down from PSJ, then NR, then IEI. He anticipates replacing the boat engine soon and would rather replace the whole boat and engine, rather than just the engine.

Kathy asked, on behalf of Don, to have IEI security help remove the boat that is on the Island. Kathy said she is working on removing the boat in the parking lot. Andy shared that his staff is working with the owner of the boat at the ramp and he will be removing it soon. Dave said he will talk to the boat owner about removing his boat off the Island. Dave brought up the geoduck tubes trash on the Island and most of those are from Taylors that get caught in high tide. There may be stray tubes showing up, but Taylors will start picking up tubes the first of every month.

Council went in to Executive Session.

Andy left at 1:50 p.m.

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Whitney left at 2:30 p.m.

SHAKER CHURCH UPDATE

Dan Neelands, Deb Stoehr, Rose Davis and Mike Davis were present.

Dan shared at the last Council Meeting, he was directed to help look into a caretaker residence for the Shaker Church. He met onsite and did some research and found a home. With the help of Rich, they did a scattered site survey and are confident they can build a two bedroom drain field at no cost. That being said, they chose a home and with all the ADA additions, it comes to \$80,412 delivered and warrantied. He is now seeking direction from Council of what to do next. The contractor that is used to do the site preparation for the manufactured home company is Bill McTurnal. Instead of going through the company, Squaxin can work directly to him. Dan stated that he will work with Bill to get the site prep costs down a bit.

Kathy asked for clarification of what the church proposing to Council, in terms of debt service. Dan is working with Kevin Lyon and Jay at Bank of America, who is looking for a home loan deal for the church. Kathy added that it's not Squaxin doing this, so the church needs to let us know what their plan and request is. She would like to know the plan from the church as far as financing and if other tribes are contributing and are they planning on the annual \$20k contribution from Squaxin, to service the debt?

Rose stated that the payment for the debt would come out of the annual \$20k that is already allocated to the church. Kathy wanted to know if the debt would be paid out of the \$20k, then the remaining funds would be used to cover the maintenance. Arnold asked if the Shaker Church Board would be able to get a loan. Rose thought the church would get help to pay for the house, and get help with the loan. Kathy asked if Rose has reached out to the other tribes for funding. No, she has not.

Kathy wants to make sure that the debt is with the church and not the tribe. Providing any technical assistance, what Dan has been doing is within the agreement; but ultimately the loan has to be with the Shaker Church. There are no details further than the tribe helping look for a modular and getting a drain field. Kathy really wants to see the church reach out to the other tribes for assistance. Arnold asked if the new bishop will call the other tribes to reach out for funds, Rose will mention that to him at their meeting on Saturday. Kathy would like the church to meet with a bank to see what kind of loan they can get.

LEGAL

Nate Schreiner was present. Council went in to Executive Session. Update only, no action.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 3:18 p.m.