

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2015**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Dave Lopeman	Chairman
	Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
	Andy Whitener	Treasurer
	Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary
	Whitney Jones	1st Council Member
	Jim Peters	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Legal Counsel	Kevin Lyon (<i>arrived at 1:30</i>)	
	Nate Schreiner	
Intergovernmental Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Pete Kruger offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the April 9th Council Agenda. Vince Henry inquired about an email he had received regarding a personnel issue. Arnold suggested they discuss that at the end of the day in closed session. Jim Peters wanted to discuss the Ocean Acidification invite he received. Arnold brought up a concern from a tribal member and Council went in to closed session to discuss the concern. No action.

Pete seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Whitney Jones asked about the procedure of how donation requests are handled. Council discusses the request and makes the final decision at the end of the day, after the requestor leaves.

The motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold moved to approve the March 26, 2014 Council Minutes. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

April 15: West Coast Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Meeting, Seattle. Jim has been a part in the past, and suggested NR staff attends. Jim will attend.

April 15: Candidate Forum, 4:30, Elders Building

April 17-18: Veterans Summit, Swinomish, 9-4pm. Jim asked if a Veteran would like to attend, let Council know if finances are an issue.

April 19-22: NAFOA, Austin, TX. Whitney will attend.

April 22: Woodard Bay Conservation Area Grand Opening, 1:00. Jim added that Nisqually will be canoeing in, our canoe family needs to be there to give permission to allow them to come to shore. Jim asked if we could bring our canoe the day before and have it on the beach.

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April 26-30: Self Governance Conference, Reno. Ray and Pete will attend. SGCE has requested a sponsorship of \$2500 – same as last year. Council approved.

May 2: General Body Meeting, LCCR

May 5: Governor's Deed Signing- Island DNR land, Governor's Office, 11:40 – 11:55 a.m. All of Council will attend, it was suggested to arrive early (This was later postponed until May 15th).

May 12-14: Council Work Session, Collier House. Dave may have surgery on May 11th, so this date may change.

May 15: Billy Frank Memorial Golf Tournament, Sequim. Whitney, Jim and Vince will make a Council team.

May 18-22: ATNI, Warm Springs, OR. Arnold, Jim and Ray will attend. Jim would like to see the agenda before he commits to attending.

May 27: Billy Mills Event, SIT Gym

June 22-24: NW Indian Gaming Conference, Tulalip.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Elections Committee: Mitzie Whitener was present to seek approval of new election committee members. The new members would include Jolene Grover, Patrick Braese, Aleta Poste, Astrid Poste, Josh Whitener, Patricia Green and Alex Cooper-Lewis. Mitzie shared that at their last meeting they elected her as Chairman of the Committee, Jolene is Vice Chair and Diane Deyette is Secretary.

Mitzie asked for a budget of \$2500 to buy totes to handout at the General Body Meeting. Jim asked about staff shirts for the workers. The committee wanted to do more voter education but didn't have a chance this year. They will want to do next year, starting early. The totes will be used as a little incentive gift for voting and will be handed out to each registered voter. The Committee will have "Elections Staff" buttons to help identify themselves. Council approved up to \$3000 to pay for totes and Elections Committee buttons.

LEGAL

Council went in to Executive Session. Coming out of Executive Session, Council authorized the signing of the letter of intent with MNPCO-2 LLC.

COMMUNITY MEMBER REQUEST

NICWA Conference Sponsorship: Gary Peterson of Skokomish was present. He shared that he is with National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). They are hosting their 32nd annual conference in Portland, April 19-22. For this first time this year, they are exceeding 1000 participants which is quite the accomplishment. The conference has become a significant part of their budget and their fiscal year starts April 1. He is asking for financial support for their conference of \$10,000. Skokomish and Muckleshoot are both \$10,000 supporters. He has requests in to other tribes as well, and waiting for a response from them. Arnold stated that something like that needs to be discussed amongst Council and will let him know. He knows it's a good cause and a good conference. Council will check their budget and get back to him.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Taylor water system: Jeff Dickison shared that Natural Resources is at a point where he wants Council aware of the discussions with Taylor Shellfish and some acknowledgement of how to move forward.

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Taylor's have a productive well on Lynch Road that they use for their operations and do not have a water right for what they believe the productive capacity of that well. They are contemplating an expansion of their facilities, and will need an additional water right which they expect to get from that well. Normally the tribe will work with the water right application. It's a groundwater well and will potentially affect Elson Creek the most. It will need to be looked to determine the impacts it will have and if it's acceptable or needs mitigation. In this case, they are inviting the tribe's interest to participate in this well. They expect 1000 gallons/min, which is extraordinary for this area. They see a need to double their water right and anticipate this one will be more than enough. If the tribe is interested in participating with the use of that well, it would involve installing pipe down the connector road between Lynch and Kamilche. Jeff understands there are funds in the transportation budget to advance that connector road as well. The question is if the tribe participates, how would this system be managed? Could be the tribe managing the system or bringing in PUD to manage the system off reservation. There are options. Taylor's indicated that they are not willing to manage the system, but will participate. The other water users at Taylor Town and some of the parcels in the connector right of way could also be connected to the well and abandoned the wells they are on now. Wastewater treatment was another discussion with Taylor's. It may be advantageous to the tribe to have a volume of their wastewater to be put through our reclaim system to be put to our use. Their current wastewater system is they have a lagoon where they store the water and spray on their property. Looking long term it would make sense to talk to a neighbor who has a large supply of water to help offset the Tribes water supply. Jeff stated that no decisions need to be made today here, but wants to present the information to Council and acknowledge if he should move ahead or not.

Jeff shared that there will likely be an impact on the creek, so mitigation will need to be discussed. Given the type of circumstance that it is he wants to make sure that Council is aware. Jim would like to get our own internal folks together, and maybe NR could work with planning to discuss the PUD managing aspect of it. Jeff suggested discussing internally, and then meeting with Taylor's.

Ray mentioned that Kathy is working on a utilities commission to create a utilities district.

Jim asked about the wastewater and the concern of using their wastewater due to the salt content. Andy doesn't believe our system can handle it anyway. Vinney said they are upgrading the system now just to handle the current load.

Council told Jeff to keep working on it. Council agreed for NR to put in work hours on this, but ultimately it needs to go to DCD. Jeff will engage more with DCD and will invite Taylor's come to Council at some point and clarify their plan.

North of Falcon update: Joe Peters stated this issue is coming to an end next week, so he needs Council advice. North of Falcon is going well with the Tribe and the State. There are a few things such as pink fisheries and Area 9 chum that the tribes are still working to figure out. Nisqually has proposed a pink fishery in the disputed area. Joe handed out the Nisqually proposal. Their intent is to catch as many pinks before they enter the river and will release all wild Chinook. Due to the sensitivity of this area, Joe objected to this proposal. He understands that they want to catch their pinks, but this is a sensitive area. He countered the proposal with a joint SIT and Nisqually fishery. The Nisqually fish commission didn't agree.

Council stated that until the court case is solved, then the answer to this fishery is no. If Nisqually comes back with a joint fishery offer, then Council will think about it. Council told Joe to relay that Squaxin cannot agree to their proposal since Squaxin and Nisqually are still in court. Council said no to a

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bracketed fishery also. Jim asked if he needs a letter supporting him and the decision. Joe thought it would be a good idea. Council approved a letter signed by the Chairman, for Joe. Nate will have Sharon Haensly draft the letter.

Joe handed out a quick forecast of the fisheries this year.

Tour of NR/CRD Building & MLRC: Jim Peters brought up a tour with a group from Tacoma that was discussed at a previous meeting. They wanted to do a boat tour but cancelled due to the cost. They requested a tour of the NR/CR Building and the MLRC. Jim asked Jeff if there is a possibility of having someone tour this group through their building in June. Jeff said that would be fine, as did Council. Jim will have Fran from the Fish Commission get in touch with Jeff, Rhonda and Charlene to make happen.

Jim brought up that that Pete has been asked to attend the NAFWS Conference in Juneau. They understand that Pete is retiring, but would like him to attend. Jim asked if Council would pay for his travel since he has been part of the NAFWS for 20 years. Council approved.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray handed out the parcel information for 10 acres on Whitener Road which is for sale for \$100,000. Ray added that this piece is within the tribes priority area since it borders tribal property.

FIREWORKS DRAWING

Julie Owens, chair of the Fireworks Committee was present, and handed Council the basket containing the names to be drawn for firework stand placement. The names drawn were: Bianca Saenz-Garcia, Willow Henry, Buck Clark, Kelli Dahman, Whitney Jones, Tully Kruger, Virginia Beruman (not present at the time), Janita Raham, Joanne Decicio, Marcella Castro, Troy Baxter, Danny Snyder, Will Henderson, Misti Saenz-Garcia, Josh Melton and Walter Lorentz (not present at the time).

Kevin arrived at 1:30 p.m.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Michael Starr, Mark West and Sean Sadeghi were present.

Sean gave the financial update for the month of March.

Michael gave a promo report and how they are targeting specific markets.

Whitney asked about health care costs for staffing. Is the reduction of staffing costs also show the increase in health care costs? Michael stated that they have been able to negotiate with the health care provider for this year; Peg and Michael have negotiated the same cost as last year. Unsure of what next year will look like. Michael shared that last year LCCR switched to Brown & Brown Insurance Broker and was not happy with what they returned with. So LCCR got competitive bids from Primera, United Health and Group Health. Group Health was able to come down in price from last year, and locked it in for two years. Michael stated that LCCR part time employees don't work in excess of 30 hours, therefore don't have health coverage. Michael assured that the part time workers don't want full time employment. If someone wants full time hours, they get it. Mark stated that they ran in to a situation that was created

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by full time workers, not working full time hours. They have fixed that issue. Michael stated that it may be in the Tribes best interest to become self-insured, because the cost of healthcare will just keep going higher. Jim knows that has been discussed before, Ray stated that it's a work in progress but knows that it needs to be looked at.

Michael shared samples showing the renovations of the king hotel rooms. He's going to ask Skookum Construction to do the one room, and have another company do another room and compare the work and cost. He would like to get the rooms started in September, and done by February of next year.

Nate provided the Expedia Contract and Resolution final version that was discussed at a previous meeting. Andy moved to approve the contract and resolution. Arnold seconded the motion.

Resolution #15-19 was approved with a vote of five (5) in favor, zero (0) against and one (1) abstention. Jim abstained since he was not involved in the initial discussion.

Jim asked about the Shaker property and would like to discuss the sale offer. He would like to direct Ray to negotiate with the land owner. Jim also would like to talk about the land discussed earlier, and would like to give Ray the authority to negotiate up to a specific amount. Whitney asked if there is a priority of what to buy and what not to buy. Jim stated that yes, there is a priority of property to buy, starting with land attached to tribal lands in the Kamilche Valley.

Kevin stated that Don was in conversation with the individual who is selling the land next to Shaker Church. Rhonda asked Kevin or Ray to step in since Don is out. They will do a review of the ground and the owner currently is not able to do any construction until that review is done. It's not clear what the options really are at this point. Certainly the land owner cannot do any work until the issue is resolved. Kevin stated that the options won't be known until the size of the affected ground is known.

Nate brought up the action for Council to take over the leases of Trust property that was discussed at a previous meeting. There presently is only one case with the propane company. Nate stated that all pieces were agreed upon, except one piece which he explained. He provided **Resolution #15-20** which gives Squaxin the authority to approve leases, and as recommended by Legal, this authority will rest on Tribal Council and not the BIA.

Arnold moved to approve the resolution. Jim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin discussed Nisqually and the Woodard Bay event. Council discussed having the Canoe Family presence at the event. Charlene, Rhonda and Jeremiah are more than willing to engage, but would like council support. DNR plans on honoring and gifting Squaxin and Nisqually will be a guest.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Christine Semanko and Winter White were present. Winter handed Council a letter of apology to the vandalism that occurred at the Collier House while she (Christine) had rented it. Council thanked her for the apology.

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE

Traffic Safety Photo Shoot: Kris Peters shared that the Washington Traffic Safety Commission has asked to have a photo shoot on the reservation. Kris has talked to Don about it who thought it was a

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good idea, but Kris stated that he needed to talk to Council first. The Commission went ahead and advertised that the photo shoot will occur on Squaxin, before Kris could talk to Council. Kris stated that they are planning photo shoots on reservations about traffic safety to educate folks on the dangers of DUIs and use your seatbelt. This will be done June 9th and will involve using a wrecked car to mock an accident. They are looking for actors, including some youth, middle age and elders. Chehalis Tribe also will be involved. When Kris gets a better idea on times, he will touch base with Charlene and Jeremiah to see who from the canoe family is available.

Kris explained how the photo shoot would go and what they're imagining happening. This is targeted to tribes and seatbelt enforcement.

Kris stated that this July, Andi Bloomfield at the Child Development Center has asked the Mason County SWAT Team to do some training for an active shooter. Her staff will be taught how to deal with that if it ever were to happen. Council is invited to attend. He shared that there are some of his officers on the SWAT team, and they are interested in being more involved with our buildings as well as SPIPA. They would like a walk through to be familiar with their layout.

Kris shared that the Traffic Safety Commission has money for DUI patrols along the highway, part of that is a requirement to involve the tribes. They've asked if one of his officers would be involved. It would be an off-duty officer and they would be paid overtime by the State.

Kris stated that Mason Fire #4 Chief Bob Burbridge would like to meet with Council sometime. He just wants to meet with Council and explain how he works his fire station and what their capability is. Council liked the idea of meeting with him regularly.

TRIBAL MEMBER CONCERN

Tully Kruger was in with concerns regarding IEI. Kevin will look in to this issue.

LEGAL

Kevin Lyon shared he has an update on Shellfish and the CEO search for IEI. Both items will be discussed in Executive Session.

FRANKS LANDING METING

Council went in to Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned.