

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
June 11, 2015**

**Attendance:**

<b>Tribal Council</b>	<b>Dave Lopeman</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Arnold Cooper</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
	<b>Vicki Kruger</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Charlene Krise</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
	<b>Whitney Jones</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Council Member</b>
	<b>Jim Peters</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Council Member</b>
	<b>Vince Henry, Sr.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Council Member</b>
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	<b>Kevin Lyon</b>	
<b>Operations Director</b>	<b>Kathy Block</b>	
<b>Intergovernmental Liaison</b>	<b>Ray Peters</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Melissa Puhn</b>	

Charlene Krise offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The June 11, 2015 Council Agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The May 28, 2015 Council Minutes were tabled for review and revisions.

**TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS**

**June 12: Sqwi Gwi, LCCR 5-7pm.** Arnold reminded that Council needs to attend. Charlene brought up a question regarding a tribal youth who is not allowed to participate with this year's Sqwi Gwi and wanted to know more details about the policy. Jim stated that the policy has a deadline and he believes that the youth has to have graduated by a set date, before Sqwi Gwi. Any youth who graduates during the summer, will get recognition during the next years' Sqwi Gwi. TLC does a lot of work to make sure that all youth gets to participate when it's their time. Kathy added that youth from all over the country get recognized in some way, and it's up to the families to make sure the youth's information gets submitted to TLC in a timely manner. TLC advertises this information also in advance via the Klah-Che-Min and Daily Scoop. *(Note: Kathy reached out to Gordon and learned that several Squaxin Island students fell in the same situation as the one mentioned in Council. Some colleges will recognize a student as being a member of the current academic year's graduating class as long as the course work is completed in summer quarter. They walk with their class but do not receive their diploma until the degree is earned. TLC shared with the students that they could be recognized during the 2015 Sqwi Gwi, but that the Council education incentive checks are not issued until the following year if they have not obtained their degree by Sqwi Gwi. The student that was brought up during the Council Meeting was informed that they could be recognized during the 2015 Sqwi Gwi, but would not receive their incentive check until next year. They declined to participate.)*

**June 15: Meeting with new Shelton School Superintendent,** Colonial House, 1:00 p.m. Jim, Vince and Vicki plan to attend.

**June 18: Legal / Council Work Session,** Council Chambers, 9:00 a.m. - noon.

**June 22-24: WIGA & Golf Tournament,** Tulalip. Ray will attend the meeting. Jim suggested inviting Andy to get a team together.

**June 23: Capital Land Trust Friend-Raiser.** Salish Cliffs at 6pm.

**June 26: Mason General Hospital Golf Tournament.** Whitney will coordinate a team.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

**June 28-July 2: NCAI**, St. Paul, MN. Charlene, Jim and Ray will attend.

**July 3: Tribal Offices Closed**, Holiday

**July 31: First Salmon Ceremony**

**July 11: Explorer Program Kick Off.** They will be recruiting youth to join the program. Council attendance would be appreciated.

### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Jim would like to discuss Treaty Rights at Risk ("TRAR") during the next Chairman's update. Jim explained that TRAR is an initiative that Billy started because the Tribes and commercial fisherman have been targeted to bear the burden of protecting endangered species and ignored others. The Tribes said the U.S. is responsible and in charge, but is losing more than they are gaining. For example, other habitat is being destroyed. Tribes have given solutions and report cards, giving the federal government a failure, while the tribes are exceeding. Jim explained to them their failings. Jim explained to Dennis McClaren, this is not a federal initiative, rather a tribal initiative.

Forums were held at Swinomish and Jamestown as to what might be done. One success in Jamestown was a dike was set back. Nisqually Reach breached the dikes and recreate the ecosystem. Not get rid of them but at least set back to let river run more naturally.

They've had the most difficulty with NRCS. One of bigger problems is them not meeting water quality standards. NRCS has a Native woman who is chair of regional and Jim and others have been trying to help her out. She has done much better than any other prior lead with NRCS. There will be a meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Jim will work with Jeff and Andy to set up a forum for Squaxin on near shore issues, capital lake trap, and other issues.

Next Council session will need to decide to move that forward. Meeting is in Seattle on July 7. Draft of the meeting agenda coming soon.

### **OPERATIONS DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Kathy Block was in for Don Whitener, who is on annual leave.

Kathy shared that the Tribe has received a grant for electronic records. Staff have been involved with setting up and training for electronic requisitions. This will go live in July.

SPIPA will be having a strategic planning workshop June 22-24. She added that she and Don met with the Whitener Group (who is working with SPIPA) yesterday to see how best to utilize SPIPA for competitive grants. They discussed the Tribe's priorities such as vulnerable adults and the idea of a group elder home or an elder caregiver. Kathy asked Council to let her know any ideas.

Discussed the option of a vulnerable adult group home that is culturally relevant. Very conceptual idea now.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Also discussed a culturally relevant recovery house. This is a barrier to success in transition from treatment to reservation. This was discussed at length with Stephanie.

Commented that care giver grants are so minimal, suggest looking at an elder care giver program. Elders prefer to be at home and have care come to their home rather than group home, assisted living or the like.

On fee to trust transactions, always do environmental reviews, have it occur through SPIPA and thereby lower the price.

Invited directors to provide any feedback. Would like receive comments prior to 22-24 SPIPA meeting.

Kathy shared that SPIPA has gone through a lot of reorganizing and is getting good direction from its five tribes. She is pleased to see how well they're doing.

Charlene brought up two concerns she has. The first is regarding the new modular trailers for the Family Services Department. She does not want those trailers sitting vacant in fear that they will get vandalized or used for drug use. She understands that another tribal house was boarded up due to drug use. Kathy stated that there is a site development plan in place and the goal is to have the trailers put in place this August or September. There is security on the trailers where they sit currently, and its fenced. She added that Don has made it clear with DCD that they need to get that project completed this season. The plan is to have Family Services moved in to their new building by December or January, and that deadline is non-negotiable.

Charlene's second concern was that there was a toddler choking on food last night in the community. The first responders took a long time to arrive, and the grandmother of the toddler claimed that Squaxin PD never came by. Kathy will reach out to Chief Peters. *(Note: Kathy reached out to Kris Peters and learned that the officer on duty received notice from dispatch that aid was responding to the residence for a child who was choking. The officer decided to stay outside and help guide the paramedics to the address and he advised the paramedics to call him if they needed any assistance. The officer has only been with Squaxin for a couple months and in the department he came from, officers were not allowed to respond to fire/aid calls without being requested. Kris has advised the officer that while that protocol is common amongst bigger and/or busier departments it is different than Squaxin. The officer was corrected on our protocols: when not on a police call, officers should at least offer help and/or comfort to the family. The officer was advised that even though they are not paramedics, they are held accountable for the overall well-being of our people further explaining the need to go to the residence, assess the situation at the very least and relay that information to the paramedics and help keep the family and child calm.)*

Appropriate supervisory action was given to the officer by Chief Peters. Chief Peters reminded all PS&J officers of the above protocol.

Arnold asked about the status of the houses on the reservation that have been boarded up some time. He would like to know why they have not been rehabilitated yet. Kathy stated that this was discussed at the Budget Commission meeting yesterday. Funds have been set aside to cover the costs of cleaning up the houses but a program needs to be created first. Kathy explained that the off-reservation houses that were managed by IEI, are now managed by Housing. A policy is being drafted on renting those properties, including a rental agreement. Housing is preparing to advertise the Wokojance house as a rental. Kathy will look in to the status of the clean-up of the boarded up houses Arnold was inquiring about and report back. Arnold wanted to know why it has been over a year since those houses were boarded up. He added

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

that he thought those houses were under the Tribe and not Housing. Properties that used to be managed by IEI will now be managed by the Tribe. \$70,000 was allocated for the cleanup, but policies and procedures need to be established first. The rents and fees will be used to maintain those houses but rental agreements and renting criteria need to be drafted as well.

Jim wanted to know why it takes so long to get the houses cleaned up. Whitney said that she recalls that the money is allocated, but until a program is put in place, nothing can be done. She suggested putting pressure on to creating a program.

Charlene asked about a house on edge of reservation, people had not been there 4 to 6 months, testing for meth was very high. Kathy will get back to report. Charlene would also like to check on the member that abandoned the home. Charlene will send the name to Kathy for Kathy to check.

Arnold states that these houses have been out there for a long time. He wants more action. He states that there is a need to get them fixed and rented out.

Vicki stated that she recently was told that the Clinic is about to go on "life or limb" status, but she thought they were doing well. Kathy has not heard that yet and will look in to it. *(Note: Kathy spoke with Bonnie Sanchez regarding the concern: the clinic did not go to priority 1 in 2014 and doesn't plan on going to priority 1 this year. Also, the charging of lab fees for Dental will be discontinued as of the next budget cycle beginning October 1, 2015, as discussed previously.)*

### TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Jeanne Cushman was present to provide an update. She shared that she has been following the legislative session for the last 105 days. A lot was accomplished and most of the bill activity was focused on natural resources and water issues. She also worked on hunting and educational bills. The transportation budget proposal includes stream barrier removal, and the capital budget includes the Deschutes hatchery budget.

Vicki asked about the SP5433 and would like to budget someone to work for the tribes and go to the local schools. Jeanne stated that that local school district is directed to work with the tribes in their vicinity to create curriculum on tribal history. Charlene added that the MLRC put together curriculum regarding sovereignty and is available to anyone who is wanting to participate in the training.

Ray commended Jeanne for her tireless work for the Tribe.

Council thanked Jeanne for her work.

Whitney asked about regular updates from Jeanne. Ray stated that he and Jeanne can inundate Council with as much info as they like. He can do a better job of just scheduling Jeanne to come in more often to Council meetings. Ray suggested monthly as a standing agenda item.

### LEGAL

Executive Session to discuss litigation matters, real estate negotiations, and personnel decisions. Coming out of Executive Session Council authorized Legal to proceed with litigation related to growers' failures to provide Section 6.3 notice to the Tribe (6.3 notice informs the Tribe that a grower intends to cultivate and

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

provides an opportunity for the Tribe to determine if there is or is not a natural bed of shellfish on that ground. If there is, the Tribe is entitled to half of resource. Without notice, the Tribe is denied that half).

### ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Dave Johns, Richard Sweeney, and Cameron Goodwin presented. Richard gave the financial update for all entities and tax revenue. He gave the budget report including operating expense and salaries. He relates that overall this has been a good month and above where they expected to be compared to last year. See the financial report hand out.

Richard gave an update on the gas card issue: he drafted a letter to the card company as well as filed an insurance claim. Operationally it's been fixed.

Dave Johns gave a KTP operations report. They are working on an additional restroom and a slider door for the main store. Charlene asked about the totem pole at KTP, and if there were funds available to finish restoring it.

Dave Johns brought up the applicants for the Shell Scholarship. He reached out to the other two applicants, as requested, and had them complete their applications. Council awarded one of the scholarships to the applicant who submitted their complete application on time, then awarded the second scholarship to the applicant who will be finishing their last year of school this year.

Cameron Goodwin provided an operations report from Skookum Creek Tobacco. They are currently working on minimizing movement; meaning creating less moving parts which makes for less room for error. Michael Ogden is doing a good job balancing his workload. They installed a new glue system last week and they are working through issues. They are increasing training and working on preventive maintenance. The Quality Assurance Department is increasing their time spent on inspections. SCT will be audited shortly by the FDA. Cameron has no concerns about the audit.

He has advertised for a sales job. Their "Complete Getaway" Promotion has been put on hold until the fall. Distribution is steady.

### TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Pete Kruger came in to share with Council the gifts he was given from the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society. Arnold thanked Pete for being a part of that for so many years.

### TRIBAL GAMING AGENCY

Joanne Decicio and Diane Deyette presented. They handed out the TGA Goals and Objectives. This included a measurement showing what has been completed and/or ongoing. Joanne gave a report on their licensing policy and changes that are in the works.

Vicki asked if TGA would consider doing background checks going back only 10 years instead of indefinitely. Joanne explained that they consider the offense. She related that Class III licensing requirements are more strict than Class II licensing. Class III is specific to the number of years they have to check. She also explained that Tribal members are allowed a conditional license depending on the offense.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Vicki said that she is trying to get one of her clients in surveillance as a trainee. Ray shared that they have already instituted hiring Tribal members with benchmarks and training options.

They're still working on the surveillance system update, which would include moving surveillance. Hopefully the move will coincide with the kitchen move of the LCCR. Michael is in support of the upgrade.

They've also been working on an emergency management plan in the event of an emergency and designating LCCR as emergency shelter. Ray stated that management is fully on board with that. Jim suggested a refresher course on what Council's role is during an emergency.

Joanne discussed the IT audits. TGA has their computers backed up with Tribal Government as off site storage. Gaming staff has been working with Tribal DIS staff putting the casino and gaming through penetration testing every other year. They are hoping to encourage some penetration testing at the tribal offices as well since the data is stored there.

Joanne shared that TGA recommends the reappointment of Davey Whitener Jr. to the Commission. He is fully trained and they would like to retain him. Charlene asked them to get a picture of the Commission and do an article for the newspaper showing what they do and the power they have. She doesn't know that the community is aware that tribal members are in charge of the Commission.

### **SALMON DEFENSE DONATION REQUEST**

Jennifer Whitener-Ulrich was in from the Whitener Group, who is assisting Salmon Defense with their fundraising. She explained how the Whitener Group is assisting with strategic planning and fundraising help. This year, they are planning a food booth during the Capital Lake Fair selling clams and frybread. She is seeking a donation of 800 pounds of clams, plus the use of the Community Kitchen to store them. Council didn't mind them using the Kitchen, but wanted to make sure she checked availability and scheduled it with IEL. Council agreed to donate the 800 pounds of clams.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**One Percent Commission:** Council appointed Vicki Kruger to fill the vacant Council Member position.

**Budget Commission:** Deb Stoehr, Vicky Engle, Rhonda Foster, Carolyn Hoosier, Pam Hillstrom, Julie Owens and Patricia Green were present.

Charlene stated that Council appreciates the time and dedication that the Commission members give. She also would like photos of the Commission and an article in the paper stating what the Budget Commission does. She would like to show the general body the importance of the voice of our people and that there truly are Tribal members staffing commissions and being the voices of our people. She would like one of the Commission members to take the lead to draft a letter to the newspaper.

Deb shared that this Commission has full attendance and there never is an issue getting a quorum.

Vicki stated that almost all members are tribal employees and those who are not employees do not get paid. Charlene shared that it's important to honor those who volunteer with an honorarium and would like to offer that to the person if they choose.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Vicki comments that we need a person who lives on the reservation as a Commission member.

Council briefly discussed the purpose and the task of this Commission, and reminded that all the Commission meetings are open so any tribal member may attend.

Julie brought up the fact that Whitney is serving on the Commission as a “community member” and feels that she should step down to allow room for a community member, since she is on Council and Council has the final approval anyway. She also noted that Council members can attend any Commission meeting as a Council Member. Whitney agreed and will vacate the Community member position, allowing for someone else to serve. Council will appoint two Community members and two Community alternates.

Charlene added that it is good to hear from everyone and wants them to know they are important, she likes having the Commission present, as well as those members who are interested in serving. Patricia agreed, she appreciated the opportunity to be here, as well as the seated members. She asks what the actual commitment is to serve on the Commission and would like to better understand what it means to serve on the Commission. Deb offered a copy of the budget ordinance and stated that the meetings are open, so Patricia is welcome to attend to see what they do. Patricia suggested seeing the budget schedule posted in the newsletter and daily scoop showing the schedule of Commission meetings would be helpful.

Charlene added that TGA takes their commissioners to training and asks whether the Budget Commission members can attend financial training as well?

Following recess Council re-appointed Rhonda Foster, Carolyn Hoosier and Rhonda Foster to the Budget Commission and appointed Julie Owens to the seat vacated by Whitney Jones on the Budget Commission.

### **CANOE FAMILY**

Jeremiah George and Aleta Poste were present to discuss the Youth Canoe Journey, July 30-August 6. Along with them were the Youth Council, Jaime Cruz and Laurel Wolfe.

Whitney wanted to talk to them about fundraising. She explained Salmon Defense and how they’re looking for volunteers to work their booth at Lake Fair. This might be a good volunteer event for the Youth Council, if they would like to consider doing some volunteer time. If they’re interested, let Whitey know.

Vicki brought up the Youth Fair and an interest in setting up a smoking education booth run by the youth.

Jeremiah shared a slideshow on the Tribal Youth Journey. Aleta attended the last journey meeting, and their plan is to create leadership roles for the youth and develop mentorship. They plan to teach the youth how to read the tides, learn the tidal habits and how to read the water, how to run the canoe, boat, tie knots, etc. Creating mentorship roles with everyone who has participated in canoe journey so the youth is comfortable with taking on the canoe journey roles in the future. The goal is to leave from Nooksack and Travel to Muckleshoot. The youth would take on additional responsibilities and skippering, hosting, etc.

Jeremiah continued, some of the leadership empowerment will be spread beyond the water. It will also include the planning and handling of all the details, planning routes, travel, camp, meals. The idea is to encourage the younger people to take responsibility and to be built up in to leadership roles.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Jeremiah shared that he met with Patti Puhn on coordinating the Stepping Stones program to fit within this journey. Their plan is to have the Stepping Stones Youth participate in cultural activities each Tuesday during the duration of the program. He also would like to include the rest of the youth summer hires, but unsure of how that will look. Charlene is hoping to have them participate with pay. Jeremiah is planning on going out with the Stepping Stones on the Tuesdays in July to work them on prepping for canoe journey: paddling, drumming, cooking, etc. One of those days will be cold water safety training. They also hope to transport the youth to the Island to dig clams and do a clam bake.

Jeremiah stated that he is hoping to have support from Council to have staff chaperones participate. They hope to be able to fill all four of the tribal canoes with youth, whether enrolled, descendant or a participant of the community. He is hoping to create comradery amongst the youth, regardless of what their blood is. Jaime Cruz stated that she would like to see herself, Laurel, Jeremiah and Aleta all be about to chaperone without having to use their annual leave. She reiterated that they are requesting staff participation while receiving their regular pay, whether the staff member is a tribal member or not. Jaime commended Laurel on her dedication to the tribal youth and participation, even though she is not tribal and not from around here.

Aleta brought up the idea of “cultural leave hours” that would allow employees to take time, with pay, to participate in cultural activities. She would hope that this could include IEI and LCCR employees. For example, Aleta shared that Suquamish allows 60 hours/year for cultural activities. These hours do not roll over into the next year and requires planning ahead with supervisors.

Arnold stated that he feels Council can make sure the canoes have the support they need.

Jeremiah added that the ultimate goal of the tribe is to build people up and empower the culture of the tribe. He hopes that employees can be involved with this effort. He also brought up that when the tribe hosts large events, different departments contribute by working the events, such as the Basketweaver Conference. He asks if the canoe journey be treated the same way?

Vicki brought up the tobacco cessation funds. She would like to find someone to manage those funds for prevention and awareness activities; she wondered if these funds could be used somehow during Canoe Journey.

Jim brought up that if an employee is funded by a grant, they might not be able to participate in this type of activity on their regular pay. It would be necessary to figure out a way to make this request happen, including grant funded positions and indirect positions. Dave is supportive of this, but knows it’s hard to allow employees to be gone for a week on the Tribe’s dollar. That has to be left up to Don and their supervisors. Dave also stated that the parents of the youth need to be out there participating with their kids. Aleta went back to the cultural leave hours, and explained that when someone knows of an event they can submit the request for the time off. Charlene asked Aleta to gather more information about the cultural leave hours, and provide to Council.

Dave asked what their budget was. Jeremiah stated depending on how many youth participate, they’re estimating \$17,000.

Council supports this and will do what they can to help.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

### LEGAL

Kevin Lyon presented Resolution **#15-38** which authorized the purchase and sale of the Pease property adjacent to Shaker Church. Charlene moved to approve the resolution. Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Vicki was out of the room*).

Council went in to Executive Session regarding personnel matters (IEI CEO Position) and treaty fishing rights related litigation.

Council adjourned following Executive Session.