

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2020**

Attendance(virtual):

Tribal Council	Arnold Cooper	Chairman
	Charlene Krise	Vice Chair
	Vicki Kruger	Treasurer
	Jeremie Walls	Secretary
	Bev Hawks	1st Council Member
	David Whitener, Jr.	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Marvin Campbell	
Government Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Marvin presented the 2020-2021 Geoduck Regulations for Council consideration. Included with the regulations is an addendum that addresses safety and sanitation requirements for the boat owners and divers.

The new regulations are the same as previous years, except reflect the reduction in pounds, which have been previously discussed. Council extensively discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with the fairness of the divers phasing out this year, and the reduction in pounds. Council was in favor of approving the regulations and moving forward; however wanted to continue discussions.

Vince asked about the measures needed to be taken to ensure the divers' safety.

Marvin stated that the regulation safety addendum is generic and reflects requirements such as no more than 4-5 people per vessel, and sanitation guidelines for dive masks, that follow the State and Manufacturer requirements. Marvin added that if the tribe adds too many safety requirements to the regulations, it puts more liability on the tribe and less on the diver and boat owner.

Jeremie added that the Aquatics Committee has been trying to put together a dive safety manual and it never has been done. He still feels that this is important to have these safety measures spelled out in the regulations, in order to keep everyone safe and give law enforcement guidelines to enforce. Jeremie shared a document outlining different safety and sanitization measures that he feels needs to be included with the addendum.

Marvin would rather see the boat owners be responsible for their divers, instead of the tribe and suggested providing guidelines for the boat owners, instead of the divers.

Vicki asked if Council could insert a safety plan with the regulations. Council also discussed having one safety plan provided for all boats. Marvin added that if that is what Council wishes, fine, but one plan might not work for all boats.

David agreed with Marvin, but suggested using the guidelines Jeremie shared and make that recommendation to the boat owners, and require them to make a safety plan within those parameters. David recommended Council approve the annual regulations and to continue discussing the addendum. He would like to see each boat owner put together a plan using the COVID safety guidelines in their individual boat safety plan.

Arnold suggested that Council review the regulations and the addendum, and a phone poll can be done this Friday for final approval.

Marvin will work with Jeremie on a safety plan.

Jeremie was presented with a Shrimp Subsistence Regulation yesterday. This will open the subsistence fishery April 16th until September; 7 days a week with a pot limit. Council agreed by consensus to have Jeremie sign the regulation.

Marvin shared that the tribe will be applying for federal stimulus funding that is available for tribal programs. Tracy Parker has been working hard on the required forms, and they are ready to submit. He emailed the document to Council for their review. Council approved Marvin to sign the forms and submit with the BIA.

Marvin reported that some staff will be furloughed or have their hours reduced starting April 16th.

Ray reported that he has been working with Ramon through some issues at LCCR. They also are going through the furlough process.

Vicki asked when Council was planning to meet with LCCR. Ray stated that there is a meeting scheduled this Friday; he and Ramon will have a reopening plan ready to share by then (this meeting was later changed to April 21).

Jeremie asked if LCCR plans to follow the state guidelines on reopening. Ray shared that no Casino plans on opening before the Governor lifts the Stay at Home Order. LCCR will have a protocol in place to keep patrons and employees safe. The new "normal" will be different

from what everyone is used to. There will be a safety plan in place prior to opening the doors.

Marvin reported that he has been working with Joanne to bring the dumpsters to the reservation for spring-cleaning. Joanne is working on a safe staffing plan for those.

Vince added that last year was the first year that DCD staffed and secured the dumpsters, which alleviated all of the issues that happened in years past. Marvin added that something similar will be occurring again this year.

Vicki shared that she had a conversation with the auditor yesterday. One of their concerns is the lack of procurement policy at IEI. She was told that there will be an audit finding this year, if a policy is not put in place by the audit.

Marvin stated that he met with Deb, Richard and Ramon to discuss procurement policies. LCCR has completed their policy and IEI is currently working on theirs. Jeremie asked why each entity has their own policy, and why is there not one for all? Marvin stated that the tribal policy follows federal requirements, which tends to be stricter.

Council will meet with IEI next week. Jeremie would like an update on fuel and shellfish sales. Arnold will set up a meeting for next week.

Bev asked about reaching out to someone to bless the tribal buildings, now that they are empty. Charlene stated that MLRC has done that, and she agreed that the tribal buildings should be done as well.

Marvin got an email regarding fireworks. He asked if that is something Council would like to change or continue as normal until told otherwise. Vince shared that he is not doing a stand this year because of the uncertainty. Jeremie added that if the tribe allows the stand owners to proceed, then down the road prohibits the sales of fireworks, it seems like a recipe for illegal sales. Vince suggested asking the Fireworks Committee to come up with a plan.

David added that if the tribe cancels firework season, it would give tribal members the opportunity to apply for the small business loss of income stimulus.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.