

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2021**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Kristopher Peters	Chairman
	Charlene Krise	Vice Chair
	Vicki Kruger	Treasurer
	Jeremie Walls	Secretary
	Andy Whitener	1st Council Member
	David Whitener, Jr.	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Marvin Campbell	
Operations Director	Erika Thale	
Tribal Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Kris Peters called the meeting to order. Vicki Kruger offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vicki asked for time to discuss the 2019 audits. This will be further discussed at a work session but will be discussed under Council Discussion. Vicki moved to approve the February 25th agenda with the changes. Vince Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vicki shared her frustrations about agenda items not getting moved forward or further discussed. She also understands that since she is not going to be on Council much longer she feels disrespected by her wishes not being moved forward. She wants to discuss general welfare, Jamestown clinic model, property plans, cannabis funds; and asked that those items be added back on and discussed at a future work session. She feels these items are really important and need to be further discussed. Kris would like to continue this discussion under executive session at the end of the day. Vicki moved to approve the February 10th Council Minutes. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ray added to travel that there is a meeting with the Olympia City Council tomorrow at noon. Ray will forward that information to Council.

TRAVEL REPORTS & PLANS

February 21-25:	NCAI Winter Session, Virtual. David.
March 2-3:	HUD Virtual Training – Council Roles & Resp.
March 8:	Billy Frank Jr. Day. Tribal offices closed.
March 11:	Tribal Council Meeting
March 18:	Tribal Council Work Session
March 25:	Tribal Council Meeting
April 2:	Spring Holiday. Tribal offices closed.
April 26-29:	NAFOA Annual Conference. Ray. David.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Boys & Girls Club: Jeremie shared how this has been a vision of his, for Squaxin. He and Vince had a good meeting with the CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County last week. They have seven clubs in Thurston County, and nothing in Mason County. They offer educational service five days a week, with morning and afternoon distant learning services. They offer recreational activities as well as gym activities, broken down by age group. They follow all COVID policies and guidelines. To date, they have continued to be safe and healthy with no cause for concern. There are fees associated with this program, but that is determined by ability to pay and offer a scholarship program for low-income households. This also could provide an employment opportunity for youth and adults in the community.

Jeremie added that the tribe has a great foundation for this program already, with the education department as well as Parks and Rec Department. Between the existing classroom spaces, the pool and the fitness center; the tribe has a lot to offer. Jeremy would like to propose a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club to fund a new tribal gymnasium. Jeremy would like to see the tribe work with the Boys & Girls Club, to help the youth achieve maximum success and enjoyment in the activities the tribe provides. They can help provide avenues for organized sports. Jeremy looks forward to continuing conversations with them. Jeremy thanked Vince for attending the meeting with him. Vince shared that he was appreciative and impressed with the Boys & Girls Club program.

Kris asked Jeremy to schedule a meeting with the Boys & Girls Club and tribal staff to see what the next steps are. Jeremy shared Marvin, Ray and Erica's contact information with the CEO of the Boys & Girls Club. Vicki thanks Jeremy and Vince for attending the meeting.

Vicki brought up for 2019 audits and would like to set up a virtual meeting with Moss Adams to review them. She asked for permission for Deb to set up the meeting with Moss Adams. Kris supported the request and would like to review the audit. Vicki added that this delay is caused by COVID, and it is unusual to have Council reviewing audits this late.

General Body/Elections: Kris shared that Council and the Elections Committee will be moving forward with mail-in ballots, however will also begin planning an in-person meeting, just in case it is safe to do so at that time. Jeremy added that if Council begins the process for the mail-in ballot process, he would like to make sure that process is finished. Charlene appreciated looking ahead and keeping the community safe. Now that vaccinations are moving forward she is looking forward to meeting in person someday. Andy stated that he does not want to rush into anything and wants to ensure complete safety of tribal members before the tribe hosts any large gatherings. Kris added that he recognizes many tribal members will not be comfortable gathering in large numbers, regardless of the governor's decision. Vicki added that there still are many tribal members who are afraid of the vaccinations. Kris suggested that if the tribe

does host an in-person general body meeting, it could be reports only and not do elections, but would like to secure the facility and have the plan in place just in case.

The other option that Kris mentioned is to host a Zoom General Body Meeting, similar to the Winter Meeting; which was well received.

Kris would like to recognize Arnold and Bev, since they have yet to be honored for their service.

Marvin shared that the tribe is doing a good job with administering vaccinations, and the rate of vaccinated tribal members is quite high. Tribal members who would like to be vaccinated will have the opportunity to be vaccinated by April. He agrees with keeping the in-person meeting as an option, open. Marvin added that regardless of vaccinations, policies that have been put in place will not be relaxed due to the constant changes in the virus and the vaccines. He wants to ensure safety first.

Vicki asked about employees, and when they will have the opportunity to be vaccinated. Marvin shared that they started that process this week, reaching out to the Casino and IEI staff.

Seafood Broker: Kris shared that this has been brought to Council a couple of times and would like to briefly discuss before it goes to the IEI Board. Jeremie stated that this conversation came up a couple of years ago when Council thought they may have to subsidize a fishery. The broker he has been speaking with would like to meet with the board and Council to discuss the difference between marketing and brokering.

Jeremie brought up the idea of Squaxin opening their own seafood store and feels the need is there. Vicki would like to see a joint presentation with the board and Council. Kris was supportive and would like to know what the advantages are to the tribe. Kris will reach out to the board to see if they would entertain this presentation, with Council.

Salish Cliffs Artwork: Jeremy shared that this contest has ended, and now it is up to the council to choose two pieces of art: one from a novice artist and one from an established artist. The artwork will be used during Salish Cliffs Anniversary. Council will cast their votes via email. Jeremie asked for responses by tomorrow, so the golf course can get ordering the products with the artwork printed.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

COVID Update: Marvin shared an update on COVID and how the Tribe has had no positive cases recently. Have received 500 vaccines, and will receive another 200 next week. They have started reaching out and vaccinating employees. They also have a no-show list, for people who

are available to fill in cancellations. Once the vaccine has been opened it needs to be used that day.

The tribe continues to be ahead of the surrounding counties as far as administering vaccinations. There are possibilities of starting to help the surrounding counties with administering vaccines, once all tribal members and staff have received vaccines. The Shelton and Griffin School Districts have reached out to the tribe about extra vaccines. Vicki thanked Marvin for considering reaching out to the schools to help with the vaccine.

Youth Program Resolution: Elizabeth Egan presented **Resolution #21-10** for the tribal youth program, through the Department of Justice. This grant will continue to maintain and enhance the existing youth program and has no match. Vicki moved to approve the resolution. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Constitution Committee Bylaws: Marvin emailed the Constitution Committee bylaws for Council consideration. James Mills was contracted to help draft the bylaws, which addresses quorums, officers, etc. The committee will review the Constitution, but not necessarily code. Marvin will verify with James about the purview of the committee. The committee will be referring to legal on decisions.

Council discussed vacancies and reporting requirements of the committee's. If communities have vacancies or members who do not regularly attend meetings, Council needs to be aware so they can replace inactive members. Kris stated that each committee will meet with Council on an annual basis and it will be clear what council's expectations are of the committee and commission report.

Marvin said that the committee has already been appointed and approved, these bylaws will give them direction on where to start. Charlene added that committee and commission members need to have parameters and proper training to help empower them to make the best decisions possible. She would like to see a library or access of training opportunities or training videos for tribal members serving on committees.

Vicki likes the bylaws and appreciated the simplicity of them. Jeremy moved to prove the bylaws. Vicki seconded the motion. Kris added that they will move forward with approving the bylaws, even though family representation is not addressed. Kris stated as council, they need to always keep that in mind and look at who is on the committee and make the most fair decisions as possible. The motion carried unanimously.

Taylor MOU: Marvin gave a quick update on Taylor's. He has a copy of the MOU and has been working with Sharon, Penni, Richard, Jeff and Erica. They will be meeting next week to finalize the MOU and will present it at the next Council work session. The MOU outlines who is paying

for which portions and who is responsible for what. After this is presented to council, it will be brought to Taylor's for final approval. The Taylor well will support the tribal infrastructure, however the existing wells will still be in use, but used as backup. Vicki is interested in seeing the projected cost.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeff Dickison shared a report on the Water Resource Watershed Planning for Council consideration.

Sharon Haensly provided a short explanation of how the law came to be. In 2016, the WA Supreme Court held that counties had some responsibility to stem flow impact from groundwater pumping. This addresses in-ground permit exempt domestic wells. This is known as the "Hirst Decision." These wells draw a small amount of water and do not require a permit. After the Hirst Decision, the Hirst Fix was created. This is a set of laws that got passed, and the main piece is the Streamflow restoration Act. This law sets a process, that if followed, clears the way for counties to approve groundwater development until the year 2038. This Act allows new and domestic wells to move forward.

Sharon shared Squaxins position, which is not shared by Ecology. Squaxin claims that in-stream flows need to be met and all water uses need to be addressed. Squaxin told DOE that if the plans are not implemented, it will interfere with the Tribes federal water rights. Ecology needs to fix the in-stream flow requirements.

Jeff went through the WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration Plan. Two of the watersheds that they have been working on, mainly WRIA 15 which includes the entire Kitsap Peninsula. There are five tribes with interests in this area. There are over 5,000 wells in this area, about a quarter of those are in South Sound, identified as Squaxin U&A. In regards to projects, there are not enough projects to offset the existing or future wells of this area.

The question to Council is to approve or disapprove this plan. Jeff briefed on the two options which were detailed in the presentation.

Vicki shared that she is concerned about Ecology's lack of concern and enforcement. She asked how to get to the point of updating the plan. Natural Resources is continuing conversations with DOE on the rulemaking.

Council discussed extensively the options and how to move forward. Charlene would like to meet face to face with the Department of Ecology; if that doesn't work then she would like to meet with the Governor about this issue. She believes that the tribe needs to be the one to hold DOE accountable.

Jeff shared that a decision isn't necessarily needed today, but will be giving another presentation at the next Council Meeting to further discuss. Kris suggested that Council set up a meeting with the Director of Ecology. This discussion will continue at a later date. Kris would like to make a decision at the next Council Meeting.

GUEST: SHELTON CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Carole Beason from the City of Shelton was present to introduce herself. She provided a little background and her experience, coming from San Diego. She has done a lot in her 25 years of law enforcement, making her a well rounded public servant. She appreciates the change of scenery and so far has enjoyed Shelton. She knows that part of a good department is getting to know and working together with other agencies and looks forward to working with Squaxin.

Kris appreciated her history and her public servant attitude and looks forward to continuing the relationship. Each Council Member introduced themselves and appreciated her meeting with them.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO UPDATE

Ramon Nunez shared a presentation, highlighting how each department is doing. Gaming is looking to bring Keno back in April; Poker will be surveyed to determine the safety; Bingo was brought back last weekend and went really well; table games have had glass installed and that is going well also.

The Boardwalk Project contract was awarded to I5 Design. It will include mobile food options and they are looking at a Salish Grille Date night. The deli kitchen expansion feasibility and a contingency plan for food service.

Hotel renovation RFP was completed. They are looking to provide a pickup/drop off service for high end players. Valet will resume service. They are currently looking at hotel packages and fixed rates. They will be tinting the windows to the pool soon.

The spa is expanding their hours as they can hire staff.

Gift shop reached out to 8th Generation Company to sell their products, as well as Salish Blends Coffee.

Golf Course advisory board meetings will resume. They are renovating the bunkers, irrigation pump repairs and point of sale upgrades.

He briefed on the March Promotions and give-aways. They are seeking a texting service to communicate with players.

Facilities will be fixing the stairs in the parking garage, as well as cleaning and striping the parking garage.

Went over the hiring report and open positions and apprenticeships; discussed employment and licensing requirements for employees and applicants.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray Peters shared the agreement with the Olympia City Council regarding land recognition. One of the items that will come up at tomorrow's meeting is the discussion about West Bay. They will want tribal weigh in, as long as the development is done within the laws and the tribe is consulted with, Ray feels that the Tribe will be supportive of the project.

City of Shelton would like to meet with the Council as well. Ray shared two dates that work for Shelton, he will send out the email to Council, with the dates available.

Ray brought up reaching out to the Governor's office regarding the Department of Ecology. He asked about setting up a meeting with the Director of Ecology, before the Council reaches out to the Governor. Ray will try to set up the meeting with Ecology.

Ray had a meeting with Salal to see about better checks and balances. He shared that the Chairman, along with the Treasurer are both signers of the account. He shared that they do offer good checks and balances for funds in that account and the Treasurer does not have the ability to draw out funds on her own, like she thought. Deb does have the ability to change who can sign on the account, in the form of a resolution. Currently, there are two signatures on the account.

Vicki brought up the Tobacco Board and who the General Manager reports to. Ray will be working on the Board next week and filling the vacant positions. The action in front of Council right now, is to consider appointing Drew MacEwen to replace Tim Shelton on the Board.

Ray asked for direction regarding some tidelands. At this time, staff members are not recommending moving forward. He needs Council direction to reach out to the landowners telling them that the tribe is not interested in the lease, at this time. Council agreed and thanked staff for looking into it.

Ray shared that the current stimulus package is looking to advance, passing it mid-March. The minimum wage increase is a sticking point. Ray is continually monitoring the process and watching how the tribe can use those funds in lost revenue. He is hoping to see funds allocated to tribes, instead of making tribes compete through grants.

State legislation update and Ray went over the bills that the tribe is supporting. Ray has been tracking some educational bills and gaming bills specifically, which he briefed on. He will send out a bill list to Council for them to review. Reach out to him with any questions.

Ray gave an update on the Fire District #4 agreement, which was a 15- year agreement to provide emergency services to the tribal community. The agreement expires in October of 2021; he and Nate will review it and present an updated agreement for renewal.

Vince asked about Elders firewood. Ray will see what he can round up from the timber companies.

Charlene had some suggestions to the Agreement with the City of Olympia. She asked Ray if that could be brought up at their meeting tomorrow.

Ray will send Council some talking points for the meeting tomorrow.

LEGAL UPDATE

Nate presented a **Resolution #21-11** that reappoints Ray Peters and Vince Henry to the Tobacco Board, and appoints Drew MacEwan to the Board. Vicki wants to ensure that the tribe is in the process of recruiting for the vacant position. Vicki moved to approve. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ray brought up the Thurston Regional Planning letter. This is a worthwhile planning association to be a part of, and costs \$1,000 annually. An elected official needs to be appointed to the committee. Andy moved to have Squaxin join the Thurston Planning Association. David seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Ray will connect back with the group and see what the next steps are. He will ask Nate to draft a resolution.

At an upcoming work session, Council will set a priority list on projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action. Meeting adjourned.