

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 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 at 9:10 a.m. Marvin Campbell offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jeremie Walls moved to approve the March 11th agenda with the following changes: adding Salish Cliffs Art Contest to Council Discussion. April 8th Council Meeting. Removing "Stop-Loss Insurance Policy" from Legal's Update. Adding an ICW Case to Executive Session. Vince Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Whitener moved to approve the February 25, 2021 and March 1, 2021 Phone Poll. Jeremie Walls seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

March 16:	Moss Adams Presentation
March 18:	Tribal Council Work Session
March 25:	Tribal Council Meeting
April 2:	Spring Holiday. Tribal offices closed.
April 8:	Tribal Council Meeting
April 15:	Tribal Council Work Session
April 21:	Capitol Land Trust virtual breakfast. Council authorized a donation of \$2,500 to be made for this event.
April 22:	Tribal Council Meeting
April 26-29:	NAFOA Annual Conference. Ray. David.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

WWIETP Funds: Kris shared a short summary of the WWIETP funding issue and how that resulted in the consortium folding under. Those funds will now be administered through separate entities and SPIPA has agreed to administer the WWIETP Funds. This is a big move and Kris shared his appreciation to Whitney Jones and SPIPA staff for their willingness to take this on.

April 8, 2021 Council Meeting: Kris would like to have the April 8th meeting in person, if possible. This will be Council Treasurer Vicki Krugers last meeting, and he would like to be able to honor her. When Council starts meeting in-person, he still would like to have recording and broadcasting capabilities. He asked Council to share their thoughts with him.

Whitman Cove: Kris brought up Whitman Cove and the controversy around its removal. The berm that was built is inhibiting salmon runs, but there are organizations who are opposed to the removal. Such as the YMCA uses that area for their activities. Ray explained the processes and the legislation involved.

Ray provided an update on DNR and strategy involved with removing Whitman Cove.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

COVID Update: Marvin shared that the clinic continues receiving vaccinations each week: over 700 individuals have received the vaccine, and over 400 have received both doses. LCCR staff have been contacted regarding vaccinating their staff. The Parks & Rec Department has been knocking on doors around the reservation to ensure that everyone has gotten the opportunity to be vaccinated, which a good percentage has been.

Marvin plans on proposing an opening plan at the next Council work session. He's gotten a lot of questions within the tribe and entities about travel and what are the travel plans for those who have been vaccinated will be. He wants to come up with a realistic plan of how to handle those who travel, and what testing and realistic quarantining requirements could become. He will continue working with the COVID Team that he meets with, and present their plan at the upcoming work session.

Andy asked about disaster recovery; at some point the tribe will need to transition from disaster and declare recovery. Marvin added that as soon as the tribe enters the recovery stage, FEMA Funds will be unavailable, regardless of what happens. Marvin will continue working with John Taylor to find the best balance.

Marvin wanted to address the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine, and how it is rumored to be questionable for Native Americans. The clinic has not administered that vaccine, and it has a lower efficacy than the other vaccines; regardless of race. He is not concerned about the rumor, but more focusing on the effectiveness of each vaccine.

Vince asked about when the youth could receive vaccines. Marvin stated that the Pfizer vaccine is the only one that is approved for 16+. He will know more soon, as he continues monitoring the vaccine development. He will brief the re-opening plan on the 18th. Vicki asked when it's expected to start vaccinating the IEI staff. Marvin stated that they have been reaching out to them also.

Constitution & TERO Committees: Marvin shared the Constitution Committee had their first meeting yesterday. He meets with the TERO Committee tomorrow, and are drafting the code currently. Someone from NW TERO will be offering training to that committee soon. Kris asked about the TERO Committee and who the chairperson is. Amber Gomez is the chair, and Marvin is doing his best to not drive any of these committees, and allows them to have the reigns. Marvin shared that the tribal members who are involved have been great with great experience.

March 18 Work Session: Marvin clarified that for the work session he will have the "parking lot" lists, combined. Committee & Commission names will be ready as well as the COVID Plan.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Legislative Update: Ray gave an update on funds available for upcoming projects. WSDOT has been working on traffic control for the area in front of the Clary Property. They also have given the tribe permission to develop a round a bout for that area. There are a few "shovel ready" projects for funding.

Andy asked about using CARES Funds for buying property to allow tribal members to live close to services provided. Jeremie added infrastructure for existing properties. David added ensuring the wastewater being complete and adequate, as well as a second retention pond. He would like to see solar on the plate still as well. Discussion regarding infrastructure and planning.

Ray reported that the recent stimulus package was passed. Ray has been working with staff to make sure the tribe participates where eligible. Staff has been working hard to ensure the tribe has coverage. Currently in the budget season, Ray will be filling out infrastructure funding requests: one for the Taylor waterline with Senator Murray's office. He has been looking over the testimony for the Tribe, which he generally does each year.

Ray is working on a meeting with the new Department of Ecology Director for April 12th at 1pm. He would like to include Jeff Dickison as well. Vicki would like to have a meeting ahead of that one, to discuss concerns that may come up. Ray agrees but feels that this will be more of a "meet and greet" since this is the first opportunity to meet with the new director. Then will be setting the stage for future meetings. This first meeting will be a relationship building and bring up tribal concerns.

Ray asked about sharing the tribal logo with Pierce County which brought up the discussion on how to share the logo. [per the logo policy, special permission is only needed if the logo is to be used for profit].

Ray continued and shared that the Native Mascot name legislature is stalled. The Billy Frank Jr statue and Marcus Whitman statue replacement is in the process. The Marcus Whitman statute will be returned to Walla Walla.

There are two competing carbon tax bills. The tribe has been participating on Tax Bill 5126 which is still moving forward. Since it has a fiscal note attached, the bill does not have to comply with the deadlines. There is a language bill included as well as riparian protection and restoration. The other tax bill 5373 is still moving forward as well. He continues working on two bills that affect childcare: Senate Bill 5151 addresses funding the outdoor learning experience, and Bill 1451 that addresses childcare.

Geoduck Impact Funds: Council discussed the geoduck impact funds, and who is eligible. Julie Owens was available and shared that these funds are for everybody over the age of 18. This is not for geoduck divers only, it is for all tribal members. The wording is strange, but since everyone has been impacted, everyone is eligible. The deadline is March 31.

WIGA Update: Ray provided a brief update on the sports wagering bill, which has died. However, the proponent is still trying to revive sports wagering via initiative. This will be expensive to address and he is projecting that each tribe will be asked to contribute a large amount for that campaign.

Vaccine Identification: Charlene asked Ray of the status of Washington State and the digitization of identifying who has been vaccinated. She asked if Squaxin could add a digitized mark on the tribal ID cards, showing who was vaccinated. Marvin will see if that feasible based on HIPPA laws.

Capital Land Trust Donation: Discussed and approved during Travel Reports.

LEGAL UPDATE

Nate shared that the letter drafted EPA, is straight forward and included in the Council Materials. This is a letter promoting to the "Obama Era" water quality standards; showing that the tribe would like to see the better water quality standard honored. Natural Resources could probably speak to it more if there are questions. Andy shared that it took a lot of negotiations to get to the fish consumption rate. Council agreed by consensus to sign and send the letter.

Nate shared that there is an effort led by Lummi to revisit the treaty fishery exemption by the State. There is a preliminary meeting next week if Council would like to participate. Department of Revenue signaled a discussion about opening Rule 192 regarding tax exemptions for tribes and tribal members, which makes tribes nervous. He

would like to suggest thoroughly discussing why they would like to open that discussion. They also have deferred work on the retail sales tax compact, and Nate would like to suggest that DOR moves forward on sales tax on sales by tribal enterprises. The meeting will be next Thursday from 9am-11am. Nate would appreciate it if Council participated in the meeting. Kris and Marvin will attend the meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Resource Watershed Planning: Jeff Dickison and Sharon Haensly went over the Water Resources Watershed Planning (WRIA) Presentation and shared the restoration plans for WRIAs 12, 13 and 14 for Council consideration.

These restoration plans will need Council approval by the April committee meetings. If all members of the committee approve the plans, then the Director of Ecology must adopt the plans by June 30, 2021. If the committee does not approve the plans, then Ecology will prepare and adopt a plan with Board review and Ecology will initiate rulemaking within six months.

Jeff offered to return to the next Council meeting for a final decision. Kris suggested this could be a work session topic.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO UPDATE

Ramon Nunez shared a presentation outlining his update.

Gaming: The new table games layout includes four seats and plexiglass dividers. The roll out will coincide with a table games promotion. Keno is in the hiring process and they are hoping to start that back the end of April. They are surveying customers about resuming poker. They will host a bingo session March 19-21. 50 more slots are being added to the floor, based on reconfiguring the layout. Promotions is going well for table games. Will be meeting with another vendor this week regarding sports wagering.

Food & beverage: They will have a walk through of the Boardwalk with I5 Design this Friday. Vicki asked where the restaurants procure their clams; he will find out. Moving forward with the Salish Grille Datenight Promotion; Friday and Saturday evenings. They will expand the seating at the deli. Banquet sales are picking up. Salish Grille hours will be extended on Sundays.

Marketing: They have been promoting the Salish Grille, and the "Back to full capacity campaign" for the summer. Boardwalk opening campaign, will need to discuss venue names at the work session. The "Whats cooking" campaign gave away 1400 rice steamers last weekend. It was cool to see how excited patrons got for those steamers.

Facilities: Parking garage stair repair is complete and specs for repairs have been received. The HVAC mechanical replacement contract is under process.

HR: The 401K plan will be amended to exclude bonuses and incentive pay. Self insurance stop loss policy plan is getting signed off on. Reviewing the capital project process and priorities. Still have a maintenance tech apprentice position still open. Facilities director is recruiting and interviewing tomorrow for the IT Director. Sent out the employee survey yesterday seeking input from staff, how is LCCR doing.

Jeremie asked about hosting a youth basketball tournament at the event center this year. Ramon knows that is a good event to bring in a lot of people and will bring that up to his team.

Ramon will present the February financials and marketing plan at the work session next week. Vicki asked about the spa. Ramon stated that once they get people hired they will be able to expand their hours. They have been having issues with getting applicants. The unemployment incentives is causing a challenge to getting people back to work. Jeremie asked about seat values of the Seafood Bar vs Island Grille. Ramon did share that he has seen revenue increase since then.

Vicki would like to discuss hiring youth over the summer. Ramon shared that their HR is looking at the summer youth programs now, seeing where they can put youth workers and create a shadow program.

Vicki asked about a report for break-ins and car thefts. She asked for that at the work session. Ramon can get that from Dallas.

Kris asked about updates from the recent Golf Board Meeting. Marvin shared that he attended and they received a lot of good information. A few highlights included the need to cut down some trees to allow for grass to grow. Vince mentioned that if they do, the tribe wants the wood. Kris asked for meeting information and invites. Jeremie appreciated that there is a board, and wants to continue supporting the youth program that is there and league night. He wants to see a better job done promoting the property.

Vicki added that having WWITEP here, will allow for payment of the summer youth program. Kris would like Marvin to meet with HR and Directors to come up with a summer rec plan for this year. Plan A and Plan B. Marvin would like to plan to have it as normal, but also have a hybrid plan in place.

GUEST: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES

Tim Collins, Senior Director; Marietta Boba, Tribal Affairs Admin; Ben Veghte, Director and Ann Dahl introduced themselves.

Ben went over a presentation on a Long Term Care Trust Fund. This is a social insurance fund that pays into Long Term Care. This would be an earned benefit, only eligible to those who contribute a required set number of years. This is self funded from worker contributions, relieving pressure on the state Medicaid budget. This would allow a lifetime

maximum benefit of \$36,500 per year for eligible beneficiaries beginning in 2025. This program would start in 2022 with employees contributing 0.58% of wages.

If the tribe decides to participate, all W2 workers would automatically be enrolled. Kris asked at what point would the tribe need to join or who to reach out to. Tim shared that currently DSHS is the lead but they have many partners who are involved.

Kris stated that internally Council will meet with Finance and Executive staff and make a determination.

Tim shared that they are drafting an executive summary for tribes and there is a statewide HR group for tribes. Kris suggested that this be something Marvin meet with his people and go over the pros/cons of this program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Land Update: Council agreed by consensus for Ray to continue conversations and move forward with the land acquisition.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.