



# SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

## RESOLUTION NO. 11-53

of the

### SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL

**WHEREAS**, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe, its members, its lands, its enterprises and its agencies by the authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Squaxin Island Tribe, as approved and adopted by the General Body and the Secretary of the Interior on July 8, 1965; **and**

**WHEREAS**, under the Constitution, Bylaws and inherent sovereignty of the Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of the tribal members, and with protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources and rights of the Tribe; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council has been entrusted with the creation of ordinances and resolutions in order to fulfill their duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources of the Tribe; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development has announced the availability of new funding in a variety of program areas through the FY 2011 Rural Business Opportunity Grant program (RBOG) to assist in the economic of rural areas by providing technical assistance for business development and economic development planning; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Squaxin Island Tribe established its own Business Center (TA-QWO-MA Business Center) in 2009 to provide educational services that promote economic diversity and the development of tribal entrepreneurial businesses; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is aware of the need to expand the Business Center program and develop a Tribal Business Incubator/Mentoring Program to provide training, space and mentoring support for emerging tribal entrepreneurs; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is aware that the TA-QWO-MA Business Center is not operated as a for-profit enterprise and that the most appropriate business form for the Center is as a tribally-chartered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby authorize the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Opportunity Grant for up to \$50,000 to support the Tribe's Tribal Incubator and Mentorship project to support local entrepreneurs and preparation and submittal of an application to the Internal Revenue Service for 501(c)(3) status for the TA-QWO-MA Business Center; **and**

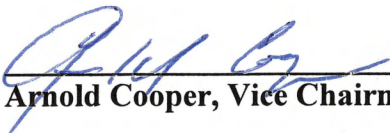
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby authorize the Tribal Chairman, Interim Executive Director, or Director of Operations to be the Tribe's signatory and representative in all future matters requiring Tribal authorization on this particular project; and


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that these authorities shall be for the duration of the project.

#### CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council, held on this 29 day of July 2011, at which time a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 4 for and 0 against with 0 abstentions.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Lopeman, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arnold Cooper, Vice Chairman

Attested by:  <sup>FIR</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Kruger, Secretary

July 27, 2011

Ms. Carlotta Donisi  
Olympia, WA 98512

Dear Ms. Donisi:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Island Enterprises, Inc., the Squaxin Island Tribe's economic development arm, I am writing to inform you of our full support of the Squaxin Island Tribe's application to the USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant program to support the TA-QWO-MA Business Center's (TBC) Tribal Incubator and Mentorship Project. The Squaxin Island Tribe established TBC within Island Enterprises in 2009 to provide educational services and promote economic diversity and the development of Tribal entrepreneurial businesses. Services are available to Tribal members, other Native Americans and non-Native community members.

Since the inception of the Center, the TBC has partnered with several organizations to provide business training classes, access to capital and technical assistance. Although TBC has been successful in these efforts, there is a critical need to expand the program to include an incubator and mentorship program at the TBC in order to provide regularly scheduled training, space and mentoring support for entrepreneurs and emerging businesses. Currently the demand for services for entrepreneurs exceeds the resources available for this type of support for emerging businesses.

Implementing this project will better enable the TBC to promote new business ventures and employment opportunities in our rural Mason County area. The project will provide funding needed to hire a part time TBC Program Manager to develop a curriculum and work with key stakeholders to better assist Tribal and non-Tribal entrepreneurs develop and grow their businesses. The project will also support the sustainability of the TBC by funding technical assistance to enable the TBC to apply for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Tax exempt status will enable TBC to seek future program support from a variety of private and public sources.

Through a partnership with the USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program, the Tribe will have the ability to achieve the goal of providing a well-developed Incubator/Mentorship program that will foster an environment where entrepreneurs are able to access services needed to survive, grow and succeed.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important tribal project. If I can be of further assistance in answering any questions you may have, please contact me at (360) 426-3442.

Sincerely,

Robert Whitener  
Corporate Executive Officer  
Island Enterprises Incorporated