



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

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Calvin J. Peters — Chairman
Bryan A. Johnson — Vice Chairman
Michael Peters — Secretary

David Lopeman — Treasurer
Michael Krise — Councilman
Florence Sigo — Tribal Historian

RESOLUTION NO. 80-14 — of the SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe of Indians by the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws 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, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is responsible for protecting the rights of all members of the Squaxin Island Tribe, including those descending from the pre-treaty bands of Indians known as the Squawksin, of Case Inlet; the Steh-Chass, of Budd Inlet; the T'Peeksin, of Totten Inlet; the Squi-aitle, of Eld Inlet; and the Sa-heh-wamish, of Hammersley Inlet; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has authorized the pursuit of claims on behalf of Indians arising from the taking by the United States, as a result of treaties, of lands occupied by such Indians without payment or compensation for such lands, 25 USCA §70a; and

WHEREAS, in the United States Indian Claims Commission case of the Squaxin Tribe of Indians v. the United States of America (1969), the Indian Claims Commission awarded the Squaxin Tribe \$25,000.00 as payment for the taking of the lands of the people of the original Squawksin band, but nothing in compensation for the taking of the lands of the Steh-chass, T'Peeksin, Squi-aitle or Sa-heh-wamish peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has appealed this decision to the United States Court of Claims, had has received no satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, subsequent anthropological reports make it a certainty that the present Squaxin Tribe represents the descendants of all of the aforementioned bands, and that in fact the five bands were, upon the signing of the Treaty of Medicine Creek in 1854 considered to be one Tribe, the Squaxin Tribe; and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the United States District Court in United States v. Washington, 384 F. Supp 312 at 377-78, finding of fact 140:

The Squaxin Island Tribe is composed primarily of descendants of the original inhabitants of all the inlets of upper Puget Sound from South Bay on Henderson Inlet around the head of the Sound to North Bay on Case Inlet. Included within this area are: Henderson, Budd, Eld, Totten (including Big and Little Skookum), Hammersley, and Case Inlets. The Indian inhabitants of these inlets were listed separately by local groups name in the preamble to the Treaty of Medicine Creek as follows and were included in that treaty: Squawksin, Steh-chass, T'Peeksin, Squi-aitle, and Sa-heh-wamish. Pursuant to the Treaty these Indians were relocated on the Squaxin Island Reservation and thereafter were dealt with by the United States as a separate and collective entity under the name "Squaxin" (spelled variously);

This case having been affirmed by the Ninth Circuit and United States Supreme Courts; and

WHEREAS, during the prosecution of the Indian Claims Commission case, complete anthropological dates such as that made available to the court in United States v. Washington was not presented; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe was not satisfied with the representation of it before the Claims Commission and Court of Claims including advice to it to not pursue a timely appeal to the United States Supreme Court; and


WHEREAS, at the time of the prosecution of this case, the Tribal government was not equipped to fully formulate and act upon a course of action that would lead to a satisfactory conclusion, due to its lack of experience; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council hereby refuses to accept all or part of any Indian Claims Commission judgment funds until said funds adequately represent compensation for all members of the Squaxin Island Tribe; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Chairman, Calvin J. Peters, is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate with officials of the United States government, including exploration of Congressional action, in order to remedy this injustice.


CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council held on this 9th day of February, 1980, at which time a quorum was present and passed by a vote of 3 for, 0 against.


Calvin J. Peters, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:


Mike Peters, Secretary


Bryan A. Johnson, Vice-Chairman