

**DRAFT**  
**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 10, 2012**

**Attendance:**

<b>Tribal Council</b>	<b>Dave Lopeman</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Arnold Cooper</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
	<b>Andy Whitener</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Pete Kruger, Sr.</b>	<b>Secretary (<i>travel</i>)</b>
	<b>Ray Peters</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Council Member</b>
	<b>Jim Peters</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Council Member</b>
	<b>Charlene Krise</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Council Member (<i>left at 2:30</i>)</b>
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	<b>Kevin Lyon</b>	
<b>Tribal Administrator</b>	<b>Don Whitener</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Melissa Puhn</b>	

Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Jim Peters added a report on the meeting with the BIA in Spokane. Ray Peters would like to discuss Shaker Church. Ray Peters moved to approve the May 10, 2012 Council Agenda. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the April 12, 2012 Council Minutes and the Council Work Session Minutes. Jim asked about per capita. Arnold added that he has been asked about per capita distribution dates and if it would be before Canoe Journey. He has been telling people that a schedule is set, and it will be stuck with. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

**TRAVEL REPORTS & PLANS**

**May 11: All Staff Meeting**, 10:30 a.m. Community Kitchen. Rich Buchan will be there to discuss benefits. Arnold mentioned that the meeting might be moved due to the construction.

**May 10-11: Swinomish Hotel Grand Opening**, Andy, Ray, Charlene will attend.

**May 18: Salmon Defense Tournament**, Sequim WA, Jim, Ray, Don will attend.

**May 24: NW Navy Tribal Council Meeting**, Silverdale, Bangor Base.

**June 4: MLRC Fundraising Tournament**, Salish Cliffs

**June 5-6: Salish Gathering**; SIT will be on the agenda for a canoe journey presentation, at Lummi.

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**June 7: Centennial Accord**, Suquamish. Ray, Jim, Andy and Arnold will attend.

**June 17-20: NCAI Mid-Year**, Lincoln, NE. Andy will attend.

### July 29 – August 5: 2012 Canoe Journey

Ray provided a quick report from his trip to the Self Governance Conference. He attended the sessions on the Affordable Health Care Act, which will be here in 2013 or 2014. He explained the insurance exchange and the potential for healthcare to tribal members. An assessment will need to be done for cost comparison and savings. Bonnie Sanchez and Espie Austria also were in attendance.

### CHAIRMANS UPDATE

**First Salmon Ceremony:** After much discussion and ideas Council decided to host the First Salmon Ceremony on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Collier House. It will be the same as previous years and the community will be invited. Council wanted to keep the Salmon Ceremony separate from the Canoe Journey; in order to keep the tradition. Charlene suggested that it might be a good idea to have hot dogs and hamburgers just in case the canoe journey participants attend as well. Anticipate the largest Salmon Ceremony ever.

**MLRC Staff:** Charlene Krise shared that she has some tribal members who have been working at the Museum under an Employment Grant. June 29<sup>th</sup> is their last day and they would like to extend their employment another six months. Council would like to see a budget.

### TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

**Natural Resources:** John Konovsky shared that the signing ceremony for the Inter-governmental Agreement that was approved at the last meeting, will be May 29<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Museum. Arnold commended John for working with the County Commissioners on this.

John shared the LOTT Alliance letter; looking at reclaimed water and how it affects drinking water. NR drafted a response for Council consideration. Council agreed by consensus for Dave to sign the letter.

**Contract Health Services (CHS):** Don shared a memo from Bonnie Sanchez regarding the desire to include Grays Harbor County as a service area. Ray would like to see a historical perspective from the clinic as to why the county coverage was reduced in the first place. Arnold is okay as long as it doesn't take away from the current patients. Ray would like to see the last three years of the CHS funds at the end of the year; how much was used and what was left. Specifically, Ray would like to see the past three years what the CHS funds have been spent down to, what the levels are, and how many years has the clinic been on priority 1, and the priority level history. Jim is supportive of this change, but he too would like to see those numbers in order to make a well informed decision. Bonnie added that the CHS funding was increased this year. Bonnie will report back at the next Council Meeting.

Don reminded that on May 16<sup>th</sup> the DOI Office of Management and Budget will be visiting Squaxin. They will be staying at the Casino that night and Council would like to host dinner with them.

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Don shared that the Stepping Stones Program will start a little early, starting June 26 through August 5<sup>th</sup>. That way they will get their full six weeks, and work with the journey.

Jim brought up the Spokane Consultation. Don added that the BIA plan was positive in regards to their budget cuts, and where the cuts will be. It will be good for Squaxin; BIA is absorbing the cuts internally.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

Rhonda Foster handed out the final survey map of the cemetery. The entire property is now ready to be used. Council approved to start assigning plots on the entire piece.

### 2012 CANOE JOURNEY UPDATE

Deb Meisner handed out a donation list showing who has donated and how much. Deb also handed out a list of all tribes who were sent a donation request packet. She assigned each Council Member a group of names (Tribal Leaders) off of the list and would like Council to make the follow up phone calls to the tribal leaders regarding donations.

She met with the Executive Liaison with the Thurston County Commissioners. The canoe soft landing will be at Burfoot Park in Olympia. Thurston County will take care of everything there.

Deb brought up canoe journey gifts. There are not as many made as she had initially hoped for. They need more gifts for men. Deb shared that she has reached out to other tribes, but have not gotten much response. Charlene shared that Puyallup will be making a donation as well as the Chehalis Basket Association. Ray asked about categorizing gifts. He feels that once a list is made, it would be easier to see what is needed. Deb will report back at the next meeting.

The hotel reservation process was discussed. Council holds five rooms each, and the Chairman holds 60 rooms. Once Council would like to reserve a room for somebody, they will let Melissa Puhn know, who will then notify the hotel.

Kathy brought up the community clean-up. The dumpsters were brought in last month and a lot of clean up was done. 51 boats were removed along other items. There will be another clean up after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Bob Whitener, Katrina Story and Whitney Jones were present.

Katrina provided a property management report. The Linder House is rented by Skookum Creek Tobacco and the two storage units are used by IEL. Rawson House is part of the emergency housing. The Clary House was discussed and its tenants. The fields behind the Clary House will be prepared for canoe journey parking. The Griswold property is being rented. The Collier House is having two

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windows replaced. They are looking in to hiring a caretaker for that house. As if now, if someone is interested in using the Collier House, they need to schedule it with her. Jenn Ulrich is contracted to do the set up and clean up. Council would like to add the Wokojance Property to the IEI inventory.

Council went in to executive session to discuss an emergency housing issue. No action.

### LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Michael Starr and Mark West were present. Michael prepared a brief overview of the Casino financials. April was a good month, better than last year. They are working on a footprint and headcount of where and how to add more machines.

Continuing to work on internal controls, coming along well and plans to have them complete in time. The spa is scheduled to open June 1. Tribal members are training to run the spa, and are doing well.

Council discussed the hotel rooms for canoe journey again. The tribe will have control of the rooms and the information will be forwarded to the hotel. Michael will send a form to fill out for each room.

Michael shared that they are working on customer service improvement. He will be bringing in a contractor for customer service training.

Kevin added that he is working on two items with the Casino: one is the minimum internal controls, which has proceeded nicely. Second, he will set up a meeting regarding the terminal allocation plan.

### SHAKER CHURCH

Rose & Mike Davis, Roslyn Reed, Leon Strom were present.

Leon wanted to provide an update. He would like to thank the tribe for all of their help with the Mud Bay Church. He believes that attendance will get better with the improvements on the building that are being made. He added that the improvement projects don't always come in within budget and asked about a contingency fund. They are short \$12,800.

Rose added that the church is still paying on the taxes, she hoped that the transition of the property into trust status would help with that.

Leon brought up the canoe journey. The Shaker Church will be there. The church would like to give each canoe a candle that they bless, to protect them on their journey.

They also are working on putting a plaque at Church Point. They would like to have a BBQ out there after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Leon added that the replacement of the floor in their building has a \$6,700 outstanding balance. Arnold asked if other tribes are contributing as well, since this is the Mother Church. Leon added that Tulalip and Puyallup have donated money as well. Arnold added that Squaxin already allocates

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\$20,000/year to the Mother Church, and is hosting the Canoe Journey. He feels that coming up with an additional \$12,000 would be tough. He knows that there are other churches and tribes who can contribute as well.

Leon also brought up that he would like office space in their building as well as a caretaker. They need a large tent for their summer camp and a larger capacity water tank.

Leon will let people know how much Squaxin has helped out.

### LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Kevin handed out his notes from Work Session.

Kevin also handed out **Resolution #12-27** which adds Michael Starr as the fiduciary for the Casino 401K Plan. Arnold Cooper moved to approve the resolution. Ray Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Kevin presented **Resolution #12-28** which relates to the Squaxin Island Gaming Commission Budget. This was discussed and approved at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. This resolution states that Tribal Government shall be responsible for the SIGC payments. Andy Whitener moved to approve the resolution. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Kevin presented **Resolution #12-29** which modifies the tribal Arbitration Code. Jim Peters moved to approve the resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

At work session, Kevin was directed to draft a letter to the State regarding the Nisqually Reach. He outlined the options in the letter. Council agreed on Option B. Kevin will proceed with option B.

Kevin shared a letter regarding a Stillaguamish Tribal hunting case. They are asking for Squaxin support. Kevin will review further and come back with a recommendation.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.