

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING**
August 11, 2011

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Dave Lopeman	Chairman
	Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
	Andy Whitener	Treasurer (<i>absent</i>)
	Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary (<i>absent</i>)
	Ray Peters	1st Council Member
	Jim Peters	2nd Council Member
	Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member
Legal Counsel	Mark Allen	
Tribal Administrator	Don Whitener	
Council Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Charlene Krise offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mark Allen added an update from Legal. Ray Peters added a few items to his report. Arnold Cooper moved to approve the agenda, with additions. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ray made a change to the June 23rd minutes. Arnold Cooper moved to approve the June 23, 2011 minutes, the July 15 and July 22, 2011 phone poll minutes. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

Tomorrow, August 12: Community Health & Awareness Fair, Gym

Ray brought up that **August 16th** the HHS Regional Director will be here visiting the clinic. Dave and Ray will meet & greet.

August 17: Community Potluck, baseball field, 5pm. This will be an informational dinner about the 2012 canoe hosting. Deb Meisner intends to meet with the community and share ideas of what to do and what not to do for next year. Arnold would like to really encourage attendance. Don stated that the last one was fairly well attended. Ray suggested that starting out by sharing the framework of what has already been done and is in place; then go from there on discussion. Jim spoke with Swinomish and they suggested reminding the community periodically about how this event will affect the community daily life. Arnold would like to be sure that everyone is truly aware of what is going on. Swinomish was supportive of their hosting, but still was still surprised at the extent of interruptions (traffic, people, etc). Traffic will be an issue here. Signage will be important.

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August 24-25: Training Session on Tribal Self-Governance, San Francisco, CA. Ray. Ray stated that Pitt contacted him and suggested that he attend.

August 25: Percival Landing Grand Opening, 5:30 p.m.

August 29-30: CELP Workshop, Roslyn WA. Jim. Squaxin is co hosting this event dealing with water resources.

September 12: Statewide Natural Resources Tribal Summit, LCC. Charlene feels it's important to show support. Ray added that 1% will be meeting soon, and they can do the donation of \$2500.

September 13th is the Centennial Accord NR meeting. All NR issues will be discussed.

September 15: Senator Cantwell Office Rep, Paul Wolf will visit. 1:00. They make periodic visits to the tribes, this is one of them. Jim has heard mixed messages about the senator and not helping tribes as much anymore. There are a couple of people at NWIFC who brought up some issues, and the senator did not have any interaction.

September 19-22: ATNI, Tulalip. Pete, Jim, Charlene, Ray will attend.

September 21-24: Native American Economic Development Conference, Anchorage. Arnold and Pete will attend.

September 29-October 2: Basketweavers Conference, Suquamish. Council will support 15 tribal members again this year. Each attendee must donate a piece of work before they are included on the list. If someone attended last year, they need to donate something.

October 2-6: G2E, Las Vegas. Ray and Andy will attend.

Arnold asked about the TGA Commission change. Ray added that Kevin was going to draft options in regards to positions. Mark stated that Charlene has asked Summer Petty to come up with some comparisons and charts to show Council what other tribes are doing. Arnold would like to see that done soon.

October 12-13: Native American Financial Conference (NAFOA), Mohegan Sun, CT. Ray will attend. Deb Stoehr may attend, or one of her staff.

October 16-19: Native Fish & Wildlife Conference, Siletz, OR. Pete, Arnold and Jim will attend.

October 30-November 4: NCAI, Portland OR. Andy, Ray and Charlene will attend. Jim stated that this is a good conference and is impressive on how this comes together, with almost all nations tribes in attendance.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

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NWITC: Stephanie Tompkins was present upon Daves request to discuss drug testing. He would like to see that program started again. Arnold would like to see a better program than what was done before; something that does not interrupt so much.

Stephanie shared that part of the problem was the way the testing was done. It was intrusive and hurtful to some, making people feel like they did something wrong. In order for an accurate test, that was the way it needed to be done. Don highly recommended that the testing be done, but he feels that it should not be done by a tribal employee. Jim mentioned that he liked how the testing was done a while back; employees were called in and used the semi-private restroom in Executive Services. Don suggested finding an outside contractor to administer the testing.

Ray would like to sit down with Don and Stephanie to come up with a plan; then meet with Mitch Corbine and Bob Whitener to see what way would best work for the other enterprises. Council would like to have a universal system and policy in place for government and enterprises.

The contractor would need oversight from the Treatment Center. Arnold added that this would be costly, and departments would need to add this to their budget. Mark Allen added that as the policy reads today, it states that 100% of all employees are tested on a quarterly basis; since it was changed about a year ago.

Stephanie presented **Resolution #11-54** which appoints her as the delegate to the IPAC Board (replacing June O'Brien). Charlene Krise moved to approve the appointment. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Council agreed to donate \$1000 to Norm Dicks.

LEGAL

Bruce Davis was present with a guardianship request. Council went in to Executive Session. Coming out of executive session, Council agreed with the recommendation from the Family Support Team on case # SQI-CW-2003-0303-0181.

Mark Allen brought up a tribal exclusion issue that came to court. Council went in to executive session. Coming out of executive session, Mark encouraged Council to respond to the court in some way. Council feels that this issue does not meet the exclusion policy. Legal will notify court and have them take care of it.

Mark brought up a Child Development Center issue regarding a grievance request. The complaints submitted were anonymous. Mark shared that even so, he had a state agency come in to review the complaints and there were no findings. The individuals who filed the complaints received no response. Legal made the suggestion to respond to the individuals and apologize for not responding in a timely manner and share the state finding report. The Child Development Center does not have a Human Resources Department where employees can go when they have problems. They do not get professional help from an HR Director. Legal made the recommendation that the CDC utilize the HR Department at Island Enterprises. Mark suggested a climate survey be done to see how employees of the CDC are doing.

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Council discussed the incident reports that were received by the CDC Board; Jim added that all of the reports were investigated and nothing was found. Ray moved to have all CDC employees report to Island Enterprises HR Department, including hiring. Jim seconded the motion. The motion includes CDC policies be overseen by IEI HR as well. Mark clarified that they are not becoming IEI Employees; only utilizing IEI HR. Ray stated that currently everything goes through the board; he feels that IEI HR would be better. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against. Ray also would like to direct the CDC Board to clean up their policies and include a policy on responding to written complaints in a timely manner. He would like to avoid situations dragging on.

Ray addressed the Public Safety funding request. They have grown and do not have adequate funding for maintenance. They are asking for \$51,566 to be allocated from the general tax unbudgeted reserve to fund the PSJ shortfalls. Don asked Ray to look in to the budget a little more before Council approves.

Don reported that the Chairman write a letter to Nisqually requesting a Council to Council meeting. Don recently received a phone call from them and they are ready to meet. Dave added that no staff will attend, only the Councils. Squaxin will host. Dave suggested meeting from 11-2pm with a lunch catered at the Collier House.

Don reported on Church Point. He drove out there this morning and it looks good. He would like to take Rose Cooper out there to see about a location for a memorial stone. Arnold would like to see Council put some funding towards it.

Ray stated that he spoke with Deb regarding the budget request from Public Safety. He shared that everything looks good, per Deb. Council agreed by consensus to allocate the previously mentioned amount for PSJ.

NATURAL RESOURCES

John Konovsky was present with three resolutions for consideration. **Resolution #11-55** is a joint Natural Resources/Legal resolution regarding pursuing a federal water case for Johns Creek.

Resolution #11-56 is a US Fish & Wildlife grant application that will help cover research on Goldsborough Creek.

Resolution #11-57 authorizes tribal participation on the Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council; and Jim Peters is authorized to represent the tribe, and John Konovsky is authorized to provide technical support.

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the three resolutions. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUESTS

Vicky Kruger was here with a proposal for a weekly craft class to make gifts for the 2012 canoe journey. She would like to teach a class on making beaded belts and small wooden hair sticks. She also would like to hold an earring beading class, wool headbands and clam shell necklaces. She

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handed out examples of all of her ideas. She is estimating a total budget of \$25,000 including all craft supplies and dinner. She asked if Ray could work with TANF administration on how to appropriately fund this.

She also asked about geoduck. The last time she asked Council about acquiring geoduck for canoe journey meals, she was told to talk with the Aquatics Committee. That committee has not met and she feels like she has lost valuable time. She would like to see Council revisit her idea of using geoduck.

She also mentioned that the tribe has 260 employees and would like to find a way to allow all employees the ability to participate in her weekly craft classes. She would like employees be allowed an hour of administrative leave each week to participate in her classes.

Jim moved to approve the resolution Vicky provided. **Resolution # 11-58** which authorizes Family Services to prepare and implement with the SPIPA TANF administration a cultural project for up to \$25,000 in TANF project funding. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Ray was out of the room*).

Vicky asked about using the janitors, Jim stated that as long as it's clear to the janitors, he was sure they can accommodate. Ray was hesitant to give direction to the janitors. He shared that it should be worked out with Don and Kathy, since Council does not direct day to day staff. Tribally, government has agreed to this hosting, so it would be part of that. Don will work Vicky about janitor staff.

Her other request was about allowing employees 1 hr/week to work on crafts. Don stated that employees are already taking time doing this. Don stated that admin does not have a problem taking time to do that. Department directors have been coordinating that already.

Vicky shared that she is still hoping to get geoduck. Council discussed different ideas. No action was taken. Arnold suggested Vicky work with Whitney to see how much actually will be needed.

Whitney Jones was present for a quick update. She shared that the Museum Auction is next month. She hoped that Council would sponsor the auction the same as last year: two tables (16 seats for Council and staff). Council agreed. Whitney challenged the Casino also to sponsor the same as they did last year.

She also reminded that next week the tribe is hosting a textile weaving conference. The 1% Commission donated funding. She is coordinating a workshop Monday through Thursday to work on traditional regalia for the canoe journey. Susan Pavel is donating her time to teach. They will be in the community kitchen. She is strongly encouraging the canoe family to participate.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Tully Kruger was present and shared a proposal. He found a 26' boat for sale that would be perfect to use as a support boat for the canoe journey. Council briefly discussed the options and will get back to him (*the boat sold before any action was taken*).

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LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Mark West and David Kaas were present to answer any questions regarding the golf course. Dave shared that the pre-opening ceremony will start with a tribal dedication and will be held Tuesday, August 23rd. Tribal color guard, drum group, ribbon cutting, honorary first drive, and then followed by lunch. Shotgun start after lunch. Dave added that then Wednesday morning they would like to have Casino employees get a walking tour of the facility, allow them lunch and tee times that afternoon at a reduced rate. Thursday would be a “catch up” day to address any issues that came up. Friday then would be a media/promotions day; tribal members and employees would be welcome to play. They are planning the grand public opening for September 16th.

Dave Lopeman asked about a tribal opening for other tribes. Mark brought up that they had discussed a “chairmans challenge” after the public opening. Dave Lopeman would like to see something special for the other tribes, before the grand opening. Dave Kaas suggested offering a team for each tribe, and having a special day for them before the grand opening. Ray suggested the all tribal day be on Wednesday instead of the LCC day. Then squeeze the LCC day somewhere else. Council and Dave Kaas decided that Tuesday will remain as the Squaxin tribal member opening day as previously discussed, Wednesday will be a “catch up” day and Thursday will be the other tribes “Chairmans Challenge” day. The restaurant will not quite be ready, so they will BBQ lunch on those days.

Council discussed what they think the grand opening should look like. Ray shared that he would like to teach the Chairman how to golf and have him do the first ceremonial tee off. Then do a lottery drawing for the first team players.

Dave Kaas asked about anyone wanting to golf before the 23rd. He wants to know how his staff should respond to requests. Council said no, regardless of who, tribal or non. No special treatment for anyone. Mark West and Dave Kaas will put together an itinerary for that week and send invites out to other tribes.

Regular tee times will need to be made 10 days in advance. The golf number is 462-3673.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.