

Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly March 19, 2016

Uchucklesaht Tribe People's Assembly Saturday March 19, 2016 Echo Center Port Alberni, BC

Attendance:

Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes	Scott Coulson	Carla Halvorsen
Brianna Lambert	Thomas Rush	Peggy Burwell
Sharon Erickson	Wilfred Cootes Jr	Serra Cootes
Hunter Cootes	Zoey Cootes	Randall Ginger
Regina Frank	Sharon Styan Sr.	Lorraine Cootes
Sabrina Crowley	Chase Crowley	Clifford Charles
James Cootes	Martin Sam	Gloria Jean Frank
Tina Halvorsen	Phyllis Halvorsen	Mike Watts

Chair/Facilitator – Scott Coulson

Call to Order: Scott Coulson

Prayer/Prayer Song: Jason Titian

Introductions - CCCC

Brianna Lambert - Youth will pass talking stick around to speaks of the day.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion #01: Uchucklesaht Peoples Assembly agrees to adopt the agenda of the day as may be amended.

Moved: Carla Halvorsen

Seconded: Martin Sam

(All in Favor – 16)

Motion Carried

Budget – (CAO/DOF Overview)

Administration – there has been a small increase here for insurance across the board.

Question: Who all gets a cost of living increase? What about the charter skippers? Skippers used to be paid and considered staff but now the tribe has turned the position into contract

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work over the years. Skippers used to also be invited to the staff lunches but that is not done anymore.

Answer: Administration wages.

Question: Elders used to also get propane down in the village – elders that were on social assistance. I am wondering what changed?

Answer: Propane was only provided to renters of Uchucklesaht buildings. There is a process in place.

Question: What is the percentage of that cost of living increase?

Answer: 2.5 %

Question: Legal Expenses – does this cover the fisheries costs? What are the fisheries costs?

Answer: All Maa-nulth Nations are contributing to the legal expenses for the fishing rights legal work.

Fisheries -

Question: What about the recent fisheries case in discussion.

Comment: Nations sued the federal government for access to fisheries on the west coast. After the court case is over, the Maa-nulth Nations could trigger the “Me Too” Clause and put in place a mesquitto fleet.

Comment: I used to be able to fish more for my family and now after treaty I am only allowed to fish a very small amount. Why is the allocation so low?

Reply: That is due to conservation. We have to abide by that number.

Comment: Our people have to travel a long distance to fish and those costs quite a bit of money for such a small amount of fish.

Answer: That is their decision, not ours. Uchucklesaht has paid money for fishermen to go out and get their fish for the membership. A conversion rate is currently being worked on to fish for Somas instead of Henderson when the Henderson Sockeye numbers are so low.

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Comment: Why are we not putting out those fishing opportunities out for our membership to fish? Why do we always use non-members? Providing job opportunities for our members should come first. The fish is not always in the best shape as well when we some of those contractors fish it.

Reply: All of the fish is iced properly.

Comment: I think that our fishing permits need improvement as well. The times and dates do not always work. When the fish come in, they are in and there is no predicting that until you see it right there. During some of those times, for some reason fishing was restricted by the permit.

Comment: Since Henderson Sockeye Runs are so low – then why isn't our nation doing something about it? Start the hatchery back up or something. Ever since our hatchery was shut down, then our runs have started to be decimated.

Reply: The cost would be around 1 million/per year to operate a hatchery out there. Other Maa-nulth Nations also have a right to fish the Henderson Sockeye allocation. Cannot reopen the treaty for negotiations but the 15 year review could track that.

Forestry –

Question: How do we protect our forest? Where is this forestry revenue going? Why do we allow this to happen?

Answer: Forestry Revenue has paid for the connector road and towards The Thunderbird Building. Council has decided how the revenue was to be spent. It has also gone to Uchucklesaht Tribe programs and services.

Question: Why are we using other commercial fishing boats to fish for our nation? We are a self-governed nation and should be using our boat, ice, tribe boats for domestic food fish distributions.

Education Services – Uchucklesaht pays NTC to administer those services but did add additional revenue to education for the Uchucklesaht Students.

Adult Education – funding is also provided to students.

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Motion #02: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends increasing Adult Education funds by \$15,000 in the Uchucklesaht Tribe Budget.

Moved: James Cootes

Seconded: Martin Sam

(All in Favor – 16)

Motion Carried

Comment: We should be doing something for our students who graduate courses. We have a few Uchucklesaht Students who just graduated from their Aquaculture Courses.

Reply: Yes, Uchucklesaht already does provide a meal and congratulations to graduates every year.

Marine Transportation – a new boat will be purchased and the old boat will be sold. The new boat will be a 6-8 passenger boat and will operate weekly instead of only twice per month.

Comment/Idea: It would be nice to have a contest of ideas where membership can put forward their name ideas for the boat.

Medical Travel/Cultural Activities/Village Operations – insurance will go out to tenure. BC Hydro is paying half of the maintenance wages so that is great.

Comment: It is nice to see Maintenance Wages go up here because those wages have been so low for years. Not much is happening right now in the village for maintenance through.

Water Sampling – water is good and there are no problems with Uchucklesaht Tribe water in the village.

Question: Has the chlorine level been lowered yet? It was very strong and I had hoped we could lower the dose of chlorine used. We have maintenance people that have decided to drink bottled water themselves. Maybe the tribe will consider bringing in jugs of water again for the village?

Answer: Uchucklesaht Tribe did end up lowering the amount of chlorine in the water to the lowest that is safely possible. We have to follow the safe water standards.

Question: At one point we had the purest and cleanest water – why did we change the system down in the village?

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Answer: It was required Canada-wide. Canada is liable for anything that happened on all the reserves at one time so they passed legislation that required the system upgrades.

Question: When we are an independent government, can the Canadian Government still tell our nation what we can and cannot do?

Answer: Yes, in some areas. We must still follow Canadian Standards.

Henderson Lodge – Parks – Trails – Uchucklesaht will be creating some trails in the lodge and park areas.

Comment: There are some Uchucklesaht members that have been trained through Parks to build trails. Will Uchucklesaht Tribe consider using those trained members to work on Uchucklesaht trails next? Also, will UT sawmill be used to create wood for the trail work?

Answer: yes, it is hoped that we can use the trained students to lead the trail projects and yes we would like to use the UT sawmill to mill some wood for the trail work. Cedar will be used to create the trails.

Comment: I am worried about vandalism and theft and suggest putting in trail cameras to monitor important areas. We have had mysterious trucks driving along Uchucklesaht Roads. Trail Cameras are a nice cheap option.

Reply: yes, Uchucklesaht Tribe will be putting up cameras and also signage.

Comment: It would also be nice to have Uchucklesaht signage throughout all of Uchucklesaht Tribe Territory. It would also be nice to have Uchucklesaht members name the roads.

Motion #03: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to break for 15 minutes.

Moved: Thomas Rush

Seconded: Wilfred Cootes Jr.

(All in Favor – 16)

Motion Carried

Lorna Dune – is a boat the tribe purchased. Uchucklesaht Tribe was on the look for a fisherman to fish for some seafood for Uchucklesaht Tribe. UT might have one person that can do the fishing. Lorna Dune is going out for tenure.

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Comment: It would be great to also have the Uchucklesaht Fisheries Technician on board to complete the monitoring and testing on any seafood such as crab or prawns.

Reply: Yes, good idea.

Henderson Sockeye – have been caught as by catch but there are other opportunities that could be made in order to save the Henderson Sockeye.

Henderson Sockeye/Somas Sockeye – conversion rate – if the numbers of Henderson are low there are opportunities to replace that number with Somas Sockeye instead. Conversion rates are being discussed right now.

Comment: Henderson Sockeye are unique and the commercial fishermen really want those fish. I think that we should be careful when negotiating the trade, the conversion. I wonder how that will all work. In the end, DFO might say this works both ways. It is also important to note that domestic use always comes first before commercial use in most fisheries.

Question: Is it possible that when the Henderson sockeye run is so low, and there is still a Uchucklesaht Commercial Henderson fishery that those fish just get sold back to Uchucklesaht to feed to their people for domestic food fish?

Answer: I'm not sure how that process works.

The Thunderbird – new building should be up by August 2016.

Question: What will happen with all of the old Uchucklesaht Tribe Office Equipment? Are there opportunities for Uchucklesaht members to get the old equipment for their use?

Answer: Yes, the equipment will first be used towards any other Uchucklesaht buildings that might need it and then the remainder offered to the Uchucklesaht enrollees/citizens.

Residential Interest work will be done in 2016.

Question: Are there any fees associated with residential interests?

Answer: Full processes and possible waiving of fees will be discussed but that work has not been done yet. There will also be survey costs.

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Comment: After the properties are surveyed and assessed and residential interests are granted, there will also be property taxes. There is also a Lands Technical Working Group that will be formed that has opportunity for two individuals from the community and two executive members to participate in where residential interests will be discussed.

Question: I am wondering where the funeral plots will be.

Answer: Those funeral and cemetery areas will also be addressed in the Lands Working Group work.

Question: How big of a plot can someone get? How do I apply for a plot? When can we apply for a plot?

Answer: All of that information and work will be dealt with during the lands work and mapping.

Comment: Where do all of the mail-outs go? Possibly need to make sure a communications person is in place in order to make sure all of that information is going out – notices and rfp's, etc...

Motion #04: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly accepts the Uchucklesaht Budget 2016-2017 as amended.

Moved: Carla Halvorsen

Seconded: Phyllis Halvorsen

(All in Favor – 16)

Motion Carried

Council Annual Report 2014-2015:

(Legislative Councillor Thomas Rush reviews the Annual Executive and Legislative Report)

Comment: It might be a good idea to allow our elders to sit in at the executive meetings – they have some good information too.

Question: You say sockeye was brought over to Uchucklesaht members in the states, do people in Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver get their fish delivered too?

Answer: Yes.

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Motion #05: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly accepts the 2014-2015 Council Annual Report.

Moved: Regina Frank

Seconded: Randall Ginger

(All in Favor – 16)

Motion Carried

Tiitskin Pawatts Protected Area:

(Peggy Burwell and Sharon Erickson provide an overview of the Tiitksin Pawatts) Questionnaire has been handed out to all membership regarding the pawatts.

In November, 2011, Uchucklesaht Tribe and BC Parks met to establish the Joint Committee, to work together on planning and management of the Thunderbird's Nest/T'iitsk'in Paawats Protected Area. The Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee guides this management planning work.

The management plan will describe the special natural and cultural features in the protected area and identify appropriate activities, including recreational opportunities. The plan will be used to guide the protected area management in the future.

To guide decisions about the long term management and day-to-day operations within a protected area. A management plan:

Describes a vision for the future state of the protected area;

Addresses issues affecting protection of cultural, natural, and recreational values;

Identifies appropriate activities;

Guides day-to-day management.

Adjourn:

Motion #06: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to adjourn the meeting of the day.

Moved: Phyllis Halvorsen

Seconded: Gloria Jean Frank

(All in Favor – 16)

Motion Carried

MEETING ADJOURNED