



Executive Council

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
November 26, 2019 – 10:00 AM (Alaska Standard Time)
TELECONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard J. Peterson assumed chair without objection and called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

ROLL CALL

Richard J. Peterson, President	Present
Yodean Armour, 1 st Vice President	Present
Jackie Pata, 2 nd Vice President	Present
Will Micklin, 3 rd Vice President	Present at 10:33 AM
Rob Sanderson, Jr. 4 th Vice President	Present
Ralph Wolfe, 5 th Vice President	Present at 10:18 AM
Catherine Edwards, 6 th Vice President	Present
Shawaan Jackson-Gamble, Emerging Leader	Present

Also present: Chief Financial Officer Theresa Belton, General Counsel Madeline Soboleff Levy, Executive Assistant Cara Gilbert, Special Assistant Heather Gatti, and Recording Secretary/Secretary to the President Carley Jackson.

INVOCATION

4th Vice President Rob Sanderson provided the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

M/S 2nd Vice President Jackie Pata moved to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. M/C

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for public comment was given. No comments were provided.

REPORTS

President's Report

President Peterson provided an oral report of recent activities covering the months of October and November.

President Peterson attended the Elders and Youth Conference in Fairbanks. The Office of the President intends to work closely with the Alaska Federation of Natives Southeast Villages representative Gloria Burns to keep communications strong for our region. Discussion ensued.

The President attended the Tribal Court Domestic Violence summit, held in Juneau at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall. The event was very well attended. Additionally, the Tribe held a fundraiser, featuring the 1491's Native American comedy group, to benefit.

President Peterson has also continued to host joint meetings with SEARHC, Sealaska, and Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority regarding plans for a region treatment center.

He attended a meeting hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment James Hubbard. Under Secretary Hubbard sat down with Southeast tribes to discuss the Roadless Rule. During the meeting President Peterson provided an overview of the history between tribes and the Forest Service.

The President traveled to Vancouver, BC for the Emerald Edge, a program which funds a Guardian Watchmen program to safeguard historical and sacred indigenous lands and sites. More trips will be planned to explore bringing this program to the states, beginning with Southeast.

On November 22nd, the Tribe held a staff tenure lunch, including field staff, to distribute tenure awards for five to 35 years of service. Three staff have served over 30 years.

General Counsel Report

General Counsel Madeline Soboleff Levy summarized her written report covering activities for the months of October and November.

President Peterson, Chief Justice Michelle Demmert and staff met with First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bryan Wilson and Sarah Gray from the U.S. Attorney's Office. The goal of the meeting was to establish relationships and communication between the Tribe and U.S. Attorney's office. President Peterson invited U.S. Attorney for Alaska Bryan Schroder, and his staff, to visit Tlingit & Haida to observe Tribal Court and learn more about the Tribe and its operations.

In *Brackeen v. Bernhardt*, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals granted the Plaintiffs' petition and agreed to rehear the case en banc. The Native American Rights Fund anticipates re-filing the brief already submitted on behalf of tribes and tribal organizations, including Tlingit & Haida. Briefing is due December 13, 2019. Oral argument is scheduled for January 20, 2020.

President Peterson, Third Vice President Will Micklin, Office of the President Manager Heather Gatti and General Counsel participated in the second round of "Being Good Relatives," the

regional convenings facilitated by First Alaskans Institute (“FAI”). The participants requested that FAI facilitate a third convening, timing to be announced.

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska provided an oral report to Tlingit & Haida regarding the ongoing herring litigation. The case had originally been set for trial in January. Instead, now the court will hear oral argument in Juneau on January 28, 2020, regarding the State’s motion for partial summary judgment, and a trial in Sitka is scheduled for July 27, 2020, regarding the constitutional issues.

Finally, the General Counsel’s office has experienced several staff changes. Administrative Assistant Laura May Whistler has moved on to other employment. Holly Handler, of Alaska Legal Services, Corp. (ALSC), has moved her office into the Andrew Hope Building and is providing full time support on child welfare issues. In addition, a candidate has accepted the position of TCSU Attorney and is scheduled to start work on December 9, 2019.

Special Assistant Report

Special Assistant Heather Gatti summarized her written report, also covering activities for the months of October and November.

Tlingit & Haida submitted written comments regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule. In addition, twelve Southeast tribes sent a joint letter to Alaska’s congressional delegation and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue regarding the Roadless Rule and the consultation process to request a formal meeting before any decisions regarding the Tongass are made.

Office of the President has been participating in the Juneau Complete Count Committee. The Tribe is also coordinating with local native entities, including Sealaska. The Tribe also received a mini-grant from the National Congress of American Indians to help efforts to spread the word about the importance of the Census. The Tribe anticipates organizing a community event that will be livestreamed and made available to the region.

Upcoming Events and Dates

Staff Holiday Party – December 13
Anchorage Community Holiday Party – December 14
Seattle Haida Holiday Party – December 7
San Francisco Community Party – December 14

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Report

CFO Theresa Belton summarized her written report covering finances for the months of August and September. Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Homeless Youth

2nd Vice President Jackie Pata requested permission to host a meeting with various organizations dealing with homelessness, after attending a local homeless awareness meeting.

BUSINESS (ACTION) ITEMS

Resolutions

EC 19-42 Authorization to Apply for the Environmental Protection Agency Indian General Assistance Program Grant

EC 19-43 Authorization to Apply for the Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Response Program

EC-19-44 Authorization to Apply for an Administration on Aging Grant

M/S Jackie Pata moved to approve resolutions EC 19-42, 19-43 and 19-44 by unanimous consent. M/C

Donations

Sealaska California Shareholder Community Gathering

M/S 4th Vice President Rob Sanderson moved to contribute \$2000.00 for this event. M/C

Kake Teen Center

A conversion of the former Army National Guard building for a Teen center in Kake

M/S 2nd Vice President Jackie Pata moved to contribute \$5000.00 of Child Care funds for the Kake Teen Center. M/C

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Executive Council, Officers and Staff offered comments for good of the order.

ADJOURN

The Chair ordered to adjourn at 11:32 AM. No objection, so moved.