



Executive Council

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
May 21, 2021 – 10 AM (Alaska Standard Time)
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

1st Vice President Catherine Edwards assumed chair without objection and called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

ROLL CALL

Richard J. Peterson, President	Excused
Catherine Edwards, 1 st Vice President	Present
Will Micklin, 2 nd Vice President	Present
Rob Sanderson, Jr., 3 rd Vice President	Present
Tasha Hotch, 4 th Vice President	Present at 10:22 AM
Delbert Kadake, 5 th Vice President	Present
Ralph Wolfe, 6 th Vice President	Present
Simon Friday, Emerging Leader	Present

Also present: Chief Development Officer Will Ware, Chief Operating Officer Roald Helgesen, Chief Financial Officer Theresa Belton, General Counsel Madeline Soboleff Levy, Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation Chief Executive Officer Richard Rinehart, Tribal Emergency Operation Center Incident Commander Jason Wilson, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer Cara Gilbert, Secretary to the President Carley Jackson, and Paralegal/Recording Secretary Martina Ruhle.

INVOCATION

Chief Development Officer Will Ware provided the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

M/S 5th Vice President Delbert Kadake moved to adopt the agenda with one change to move the President's report to later in the morning. C/U.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for public comment was given. None was provided.

REPORTS

Chief Development Officer's Report

Chief Development Officer Will Ware gave a verbal summary of his written report. Questions were offered.

Chief Operating Officer's Report

Chief Operating Officer Roald Helgesen gave a verbal summary of his written report. He also introduced Dr. Tina Woods as the new Senior Director of Community & Behavioral Services (CBS). Tribal Family & Youth Services will be moving under the CBS umbrella, along with Reentry & Recovery. Questions were offered.

Chief Finance Officer's Report

CFO Theresa Belton gave a verbal summary of her written report. Questions were offered.

CHANGE OF CHAIR

11:30 AM 1st Vice President Catherine Edwards turned the chair of the meeting over to President Richard J. Peterson with no objection.

President's Report

President Peterson gave a verbal report of recent activities.

The President began with an update regarding the ongoing search for Juneau elder Gerry Nelson. It is day six of the search and he delayed his arrival to the Executive Council in order to be present and offer searchers words of encouragement. He also commended Tlingit & Haida employee Ann Stepetin, whose participation has been integral to the search efforts.

The Tribe is transitioning to Phase 3, a return to the Juneau office, effective Monday May 24th. Following the staff return offices will re-open to the public. The Tribe continues to expand its offices, with the new Seattle office, a planned office in Anchorage and future development scheduled for San Francisco. Seattle employees are working remotely and the Anchorage office is tentatively scheduled to open in October. San Francisco is planned for 2022.

President Peterson made a guest appearance on the "Say What You Love" podcast and spoke on topics ranging from recovery to self-governance to economic sovereignty. He also addressed a group of educators participating in the "Through the Cultural Lens" program, hosted by Sealaska Heritage Institute.

President Peterson met with Senator Dan Sullivan. They discussed economic development opportunities, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the issues for indigenous people needing to cross the Canadian border.

The President announced that the Tribe's Head Start in Craig would be relocating and he welcomed Dr. Tina Woods, licensed Clinical Psychologist, who will lead the newly formed Community & Behavioral Services department. The new department will be specializing in community needs and addiction recovery resources.

President Peterson participated in the recent Alaska Federation of Natives board meeting, including the Climate Change Taskforce, and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. That was his first opportunity to have dialogue with Indigenous Leaders from other Nations and it was exciting to be a part of as one of just three Tribal leaders from United States.

Finally, President Peterson provided an updated regarding the City & Borough of Juneau's ("CBJ") fireworks ordinance. He stated that information regarding the draft ordinance would be shared by the General Counsel during her report. At the start of his remarks he welcomed in attendance CBJ Assembly Member Greg Smith. The President then spoke at length regarding the testimony he provided, the comments and discussion he witnessed and participated in and the public process for the fireworks ordinance. He shared that there were many concerning comments leading up to the final outcome. He found it incumbent upon himself to publicly stand firm in defense of the Tribe's sovereignty and jurisdiction. Discussion ensued.

BREAK

The chair called for a lunch break at 12:00PM. No objection, so moved. Meeting Resumed at 1:10 PM.

General Counsel

General Counsel Madeline Soboleff Levy gave a verbal summary of her written report. Questions were offered.

Special Assistant to the President

Special Assistant to the President Heather Gatti gave a verbal summary of her written report. Questions were offered.

Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation/KIRA

Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation Chief Executive Officer Richard Rinehart provided a verbal report on recent activity. Questions were offered.

Tribal Emergency Operations Center (TEOC)

TEOC Incident Commander Jason Wilson gave a verbal report of the Tribal Emergency Operations Center. In the past month the TEOC provided substantial support to the search for a missing elder. He also shared statistics regarding vaccination, reporting that 73% of Juneau is partially vaccinated and 68% completely vaccinated. The latest reports affirm that the vaccines are working against variants.

The Incident Commander also provided an update regarding the return to the office plan. Questions were offered.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supporting Native Artists

5th Vice President Delbert Kadake opened this discussion with a request to potentially buy from local community artists to support the local economies.

President Peterson shared that the Office of the President does and will continue to buy from local community artists for various events.

Executive Council Attend Town Halls Meetings

3rd Vice President Tasha Hotch proposed quarterly virtual town hall update be provided by the Executive Council to share information and allow citizens to ask questions.

President Peterson also announced the Communications department would be issuing reports after Executive Council meetings, to share information and actions taken by the Executive Council.

Native Empowerment

5th Vice President Delbert Kadake raised the issue of instances of harassment by community members and officials. Vice President Kadake requested action on the Tribe's part to address these instances and issues directly.

July-December Meeting Schedule

Office of the President Special Assistant to the President Heather Gatti requested clarification on a preferred day of the week for scheduling meeting.

1st Vice President Catherine Edwards requested Fridays. No objection, so moved.

Tribal Assembly 2021 In Person or Virtual Decision

2nd Vice President Will Micklin requested this item to be discussed in Executive Session. No objection, so moved.

Resolution EC 21-22

5th Vice President Delbert Kadake requested that resolutions approved by priority poll between Executive Council meetings be ratified at the next regular Executive Council meeting.

President Peterson called to ratify EC Res. 21-22. No objection, so moved.

Transboundary Mining

2nd Vice President Will Micklin raised an issue of a recent meeting held by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources regarding transboundary issues. The chat feature was used to ask questions during the session, but it's reported that when reported later the questions were rewritten in a manner that seemed less than accurate. Vice President Micklin encouraged the Tribe to move forward with the previous transboundary plan.

BUSINESS (ACTION) ITEMS

Resolutions

EC 21-25 Authorization to Apply for Village Public Safety Officer Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2022

EC 21-26 Authorization to Submit a Fee-to-Trust Application (Block 2, Lots 2 and 4; Block 3, Lots 9, East Half of 10 and East Half of 11; and Block 5, Lot 16, Juneau Indian Village Lot Status map, U.S. Survey 4694)

EC 21-27 Authorization to Apply for the Native American Agriculture Fund Grant
EC 21-28 Authorization for a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for the Native American
Agriculture Fund Grant

M/C 1st Vice President Catherine Edwards moved to adopt resolutions as a block. C/U.

BREAK

The chair called for a 5 minute recess break at 2:40 PM. No objection, so moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The chair called to enter Executive Session 3:50 PM. No objection, so moved. Executive Session ended at 4:30 PM and regular order resumed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Executive Council offered comments for good of the order.

ADJOURN

The chair called for adjournment at 4:50 PM. No objection, so ordered.