



STÓ:LŌ NATION CHIEFS' COUNCIL (SNCC)

"PROPERTIES" MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2017

Stó:lō Nation Government House

Present:

Athélets

Chief Angie Bailey
Councillor Leona Sam

Leq'a:mel

Councillor Barbara Leggat
Councillor Sandy McDonald
Councillor Daniel Kelly

Máthexwi

Chief Alice McKay
Councillor Brenda Morgan
Governing Body, Cynthia Collins

Sq'ewá:lxw

Chief Maureen Chapman
Councillor Debra Schneider

Sq'ewqéyl

Chief Willy Hall
Councillor Jeffrey Point

Ch'iyáqtel

Chief Glenda Campbell
Councillor Lawrence Roberts
Councillor Leslie Joe
Councillor Cathy Hall

Yeqwyeqwí:ws

Chief Terry Horne

Chairperson/SNCC President

Chief David Jimmie

Recorder

Abby Duncan

Regrets:

Councilor Melvin Williams Jr.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Opening Prayer

Sq'ewqéyl Chief Willy Hall

Discussion on the “Properties”

- This is a follow up discussion from the last SNCC meeting on the properties.
- There has been some revision from July 2016 – yet to see the impacts.
- In 2004, there were 24 bands on the title. Out of that 21 of the 24 signed onto the joint management.
- The government is holding monies in trust.
- Road and sewer are with the City of Chilliwack and the Sto:lo Nation Trust.
- The Sto:lo Nation Society's agreement has a maximum of 15 years to maintain the lease of the property.
- We have 21 bands to engage with and today we will discuss how we are going to deal with the debt.
- Additions to Reserve (ATR), City of Chilliwack, and Sto:lo Nation Trust.
- Finalize permits.
- Since 1970, the property was in the hands of Health Canada.
- The philosophy behind the management agreement is that we would recover the debt.
- We need a strategy today with one representative from each of the 21 bands.
- We need the debt in the meeting minutes. Can we right it off or not?
- Each of the properties have their unique characteristics.
- If we start debt free it will create the environment that used to exist – the combativeness that we used to have.
- Chief Jimmie needs to meet with the STC and Abby must attend these meetings to take the minutes.
- There is so much importance of the witnesses and them to come forward.
- We need dedicated staff that knows this work and will do this work 110% of their time.
- Dave: I am hearing confusion of decision making. As the SNCC we make decisions collectively. We have the next steps legally to the Additions to Reserve.
- We need to go to the STC meetings and put the presentation forward.
- And then have a meeting with us on actually coming to a decision.
- We are 11 of the 21 bands.
- We have to be careful on how we deliver that messaging to the communities. We could run into problems – if we say if you don't write your cheque you are out. We have to be willing to sacrifice if people do hold out.
- This would be how we would put a presentation together – we say if you don't write your cheque ... then own it – what does that look moving forward in the governance dynamic. We will move forward regardless.

- We have the consultation piece – encumbrances and – we have the support of the city.
- A lot of the heavy work has been done. Survey has been done.
- We can allocate the 600k towards the legal processes. We can develop a budget on the environmental assessment.
- 3 step process - on coming up with a budget.
- That goes into the presentation to the STC to talk to them on their willingness of coming to the table.
- Brenda: Matsqui doesn't have a debt. Why I am paying back money when I don't have a debt. To us the money would help. We need to clearly identify where that money is going to. If I am going to commit this money what is the turnaround time.
- Dave: We are making a lot of progress in a little amount of time.
- Willy: Through the SAY lands office. We need another full-time person. We would contribute as providing a designated person – we could make that happen.

It's not about resourcing it as much as about agreeing to do it.

We need to schedule the four meetings and get the minutes done for those meetings have duly convened.

Alice McKay: It is important that we have these conversations. what we say sometime is interpreted differently. It is important to do as a collective. When we do these things, we need to have consequences in place. If you wanted to come on board later on there is going to be a cost. You can't just jump in without contribution. We do have to make sure that you are careful on how to approach things and say things. We need to have what we say clarified before we leave the meetings.

Dave: One we identify the process from a legal stand point... it will include the next steps.

As we look at finalizing...Decision making. Governance. Consequences piece.

Deb: Great to hear the history. Some of the leaders weren't even born back then. Excited to see the new leaders ...The debt: it's a huge thing – money is very divisive. I think of us as family. If my family owed me money for years I would not go after them. We have to stop thinking about the debt. We can work together. The 16 is a huge group – that is unheard of. We attend these meetings to make a decision and we are trusted to make those decisions. I believe the STC want to be part of this and work together.

Cathy: The INAC situation with the 21 bands. What we did with SAY with the Additions to Reserve. Tzeachten took on that cost. In the long term when there are the profits – it could be a bookkeeping process. They could provide band council resolutions. There could be non-financial contributions through capacity.

Dave: There is no in or out if you don't pay. If I put on my Squiala hat – we are fortunate to have our location. Some bands don't have that. Before we get to far in planning – until we know and understand. It's not just us – the other 10 bands are not here – we are just talking about suggestions.

Maureen: I would like to see the TOR Willy is talking about. If we show the pros and cons – it's not just about the dollar amount. These are the long-term benefits – people need to see that. When you are poor any amount of money is important. We need to go where people are at. We need a dispute resolution – when we hit the snags because there will be. Fraser Salish Caucus for example, we have all these communities together – we have done a lot of that work already. Angie, Glenda, Maureen could assist with this work through SAY and with Abby as our political support person.

Dave: We are talking about a collective here and ... the benefits. The conversation we will have to have is the programs.

Willy: As Skowkale being not as fortunate. Should we build our gym here instead of Skowkale. Should we take on this as one band or partner with other bands. As far as allocation: it would be my understanding that there wouldn't be a contribution –every time there is a profit as a collective should we invest it in trades. Should St. Mary's be a low-income housing project. If that is our consistent message – that we reinvest. We should have Xa:ytem running and open all the time. Tourism – the carving building should be open all the time for carving. It is my vision.

Brenda: We all have visions. I see Pekwa'las as a beautiful conference center. We could have the housing, tourism... we have to get in the room as the 21 communities. Let's not forget the individuals that are investing. Matsqui offsets costs ...

Dave: It is good to air it out. What we are talking about is a complete benefit. What we are going to provide will offset the cost...???

Break 10:30

Dave: Opens up for comments.

Willy: One idea I suggested years ago – Have band names on the seat even if they aren't here. It was the first time in 10 years that these bands were here in government house.

Dan: April 2013 at the table. A few things – the needs of our communities, we all need elders lodging and youth groups. Each of our communities have plans but working as a collective would be a benefit. BC Hydro had mentioned they would like to rent space.

Terry: Xaytem is dear to my heart because I learned a lot there. It is an important place for not only as tourism but putting a positive light on our people. I am totally on board with whatever it takes to get it back up and running. What is the title of the land – crown?

Dave: Taxation will be a big one. Grasslands reserve...

Angie: Friend who is newly elected chief of white rock. Working as a collective. Aitchelitz is hoping to partner with Skowkale and Yakwekwioose for a venue. I want something to happen with all three. My kids were able to participate in the long house program. Everyone learns culture in their own way and we have to invest in all three properties.

Willy: Terry reminded me of a few political issues.

Dave: Can Willy get some draft letter from Harold and Many Jules?

Maureen: Harold Cullum and Many Jules – I don't support that organization. First Nation Tax Commission. You need to talk to each of the communities. Skawahlook had a bad experience with them a few years ago and as Chief I do not support getting a letter from them.

Brenda: I am not a fan of Many Jules. I worked with Rick Bennet – he will do anything for Matsqui. We need to remove the personalities who rub people the wrong way.

Willy: There is a lands title ...I would like to add that as an agenda item for our next meeting. If a non-native buys land on Skowkale, but the native doesn't get that. We have an issue with elders. We want to zone our reserve so that some lands can be fee- simple lands. It is an economic driver.

Alice: I would like to commend Terry on his leadership. We need to hear from people around the table. Distribution per capita: I respect everyone. I want a summary of today and what our next steps are. I will volunteer Brenda to be Matsqui rep. We need to explain in a respectful way so that people understand. And would like to remind everyone that we have to remember our culture. When we do this – we apply for funding. NRT and SASET. Is there anything we can put together for getting some people for the work. Some bands have money for our people. I would like to have dedicated meetings for this and have alternates to bring back to the SNCC quarterly meetings. I don't want this stalled again. Xa:ytem is so important. We could have the evenings for young and old leaders to do something to help people learn about themselves and their culture.

Dave: NRT does have tribal council funding. We are in the process of getting the funding.

Willy: They are looking for more projects. Willy has found. Speak to Val Sam, Joe Hall. The dividends: it would always be one share for each band. The issue we have at the tribal level is that we do...If we have dividends back to the bands – there is potential for conflict.

Les: Xa:ytem: it is very important place. Low income housing. Thank you for the history lesson.

Lawrence: Good to hear everyone talking about the collective and the history. good to hear that Dave will be talking to Doug and the other bands. Maybe get an agreement.

Leona: When Val Sam was the lands manager here at SN 8-10 years ago. I like the idea of the individuals from the SNCC to go out to the other bands and address it in a positive – forgive the debt so we can move forward. I like the idea that the bands don't collect the per capita but invest as a collective for programs for everyone and maybe offset some things for health because there are some things that health doesn't cover.

Cindy: I like the forgiving of the debt. We need to engage in a positive way. A lot of collectiveness has been going on. It would be good to meet with them – maybe put their drum up if that would make them feel more welcome here. Maybe have a PowerPoint – because a lot of people learn from seeing not hearing. Have all the points that will be discussed for this venture. Maybe hire a consultant to look at the highest best use of the lands or have one volunteered. Maybe the ones that don't pay – could go on a payment plan and have them provide a band council resolution. And not belittle them -.... I hope to see the discussions continue. Easy dispute resolution.

Jeff: 3-4th attempt to bring it all back. We need to put our personal feelings aside – if you want the next generation not to see it fall apart again. The elders say leave your personal feelings at the door. I know Val Sam attempted so many times to bring the bands together. It was the creation of the government who put us in this. We are Sto:lo people not thte creation of the government. We are all one people. reserves are not part of our culture. TTML so many villages – Skowkale put a circle around it.

we were all fighting against Yale – because we aren't allowed to fish up there – that is TIT lands. We have lands down at new Westminster. We have to be careful on putting reserves – we are still one people. the round table was not supposed to be a political, we were supposed to slowly move together in one canoe. If the idea works use it and if it doesn't throw it out the door. The elders say if someone has an idea ...

your prayers at these meetings can be heard if you are honest. The creator is always listening. We develop our own way – the way our elders have set it out for us.

Sandy: Like to see Xa:ytem running again. And St. Mary's with offices. Coqualeetza too. Let's move forward instead of looking back. Let's get this work done.

Dave: Really got me thinking about the round table. Why wasn't it successful. There was no real plan on addressing the issues. There was a lot of talk and good conversation without a plan we set ourselves up for failure. The round table was set up for one issue at a time. When we do this work, we demonstrate that the round table can work.

Next steps:

- 1) Maureen, Glenda, Angie, Brenda, Willy and Dave will work in this group.
- 2) Contact a lawyer to do a comparison of the revisions
- 3) Asking for a budget to complete the process from a legal perspective
- 4) Reach out to INAC – they have a responsibility under the ATR for consultation of other bands.
Be mindful of the 3 that didn't sign
- 5) Environmental assessment – look for a budget and a timeline.
- 6) Encumbrance from INAC, third party support which we have from the city.

Once we have a better understanding. We will present to the STC at their meeting. Prior to that our working group will sit down. 2-3 of us will go to the STC. From there we would call all the 21 to meet here. Have the legal presentation, budget, addition information is a timeline on where we started and where we are to date. Put together an information package with all the memos and files. Scheduling

the meeting of the working group. Until we sit down with the lawyer – once we have their response we will have our working group meeting.

Barb: All about Coqualeetza. Are we doing an ATR with Xa:ytem? St. Mary's is done. There is a process in place for this property.

Dave: Xa:ytem is not in the process.

Willy: What we need to talk about is revenue generation. Operations budget to have open 6 months. Tax is forgiven by the city of mission. We may not want all reserve (Coqualeetza) Knight Road and Wells Road. The value of Xa:ytem - could we not use the value as leverage?

Dave: Coqualeetza will be the prime revenue as a start. Until we start to look at those we...Do we have plan. Joint management agreement.

Willy: Hatzic is managed by the heritage trust. It will be a lot of work to navigate through this the working group.

Barb: The Sto:lo Heritage Trust Society – Need to get clarification on the debt – that we are not walking into ---- whatever the amount is. The previous directors – are the personally liable. the letter is part of a back ground. We are trying to do this in the best interest of Sto:lo.

Brenda: What is the next meeting about – is it about the next property or ...I can appreciate ... but are wasting time – We need to focus of getting back together. Get the collectiveness started and then get the administration started.

We need to remove the thoughts that Coqualeetza is going to be taken over by TTML.

Alice: I really agree with Jeff. Today I thought we were coming to talk about all 3 properties and get a plan on moving forward. We need to know where were going and how were going to get there. Is it back to all of us with Xa:ytem. Or is it the 21 bands for St. Mary's and the 24 bands for Coqualeetza. I want to put the brakes on so that we... When you go to the STC and if they are okay with it we need to bring as many people as we can. 2009 Pekwa'las consultation plan. You can use it as a guideline on the other properties. At one time 9600 acres Matsqui. We know what is in our territory. everyone should know what their territory is. We need to figure out is - are we 11 again for Xa:ytem, and 24 for Coqualeetza and 21 for St. Mary's. We have 2 binders on just Matsqui, Sumas and Leq'a:mel trying to get Xa:ytem up and running.

The next meeting should be a collective to look at our collective.

Deb: It is important to get the other group in ... the meeting of the 21 has to come first.

Willy: It is my belief that it is 21 for all three. and start working on opportunities. put signs up

Maureen: Next step is Willy putting the terms of reference to the working group. We are launching this again with all good intentions. The lawyer review is important. I want us to be totally prepared

when we go to the STC. The process has to come back; the terms of reference done by email. We have to do our due diligence. We need to do our homework before presenting. Especially with the opening statement of the debt being forgiving.

Dave: The collective needs to be part of the process. The double check what the steps that we have done are correct. I know how difficult how to schedule our meetings. We may have to look at catching the tail of one of the provincial meetings. I apologize for focusing on Coqualeetza, because I believe we are not in agreement in the process. I need some direction. Just when we trigger the collective. Get lawyer responses and budget piece then we will schedule. Circulate this to everyone and then have the working group.

Maureen: We cannot tag on to the SNCC meetings. These need to be scheduled outside of the SNCC.

Deb: Years ago, I had to go meet with 7 bitter elders – I went to them as individuals. I would suggest you talk to them individuals.

Dave: Does not think it would come as a surprise. I think I have a rapport with the STC, but I want to be prepared.

Brenda: I may have confused your summary with next steps. I am in agreement with being prepared, Matsqui would host and set the table – dinner / evening meeting for this work.

Alice: And that is what I am talking about culture – we feed people. Are the 11 of us ready to get started. Should we open it up now – can we open it to the 10 – you are welcome to join us. That would make me happy for today. We need the tours we need the carvers now.

Dave: These exact sentiments you would hear at STC. We do have an agreement on next steps. our optimism is what is good to hear from Jeff and that it's a lot of work and that it is not going to be easy.

Scheduling

- 1) April 6-7 SNCC strategic planning. River Rock, Tulalip, Inkameep
Abby to get quotes.
- 2) CMHC housing workshop end of January.

The meeting was concluded at 12:45 pm