

Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday June 22nd, 2024

ṭuk^waaʔaṭhiic hišimyíʔak

Macoah

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Chair: Anne Mack

People's Assembly convened 10:00 a.m.

Welcome by Anne Mack

- o Kevin provided an opening prayer and čiiqʔak (prayer, chant)
- o Introduced Donna Monteith as our new Director of Operations
- o Special guests: Ucluelet Fire Chief Rick Geddes and Constable Yannick Harry

1st Door Prize winners

Agenda adopted (moved by Stanley Bob, seconded by Jackie Arsenault)

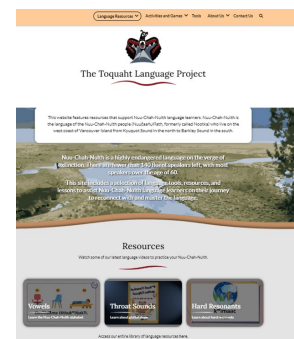
Approved March 23, 2023 meetings minutes approved (moved by David Johnsen, seconded by Naomi Mack)

Presenters: Donna Monteith, Rick Shafer, David Johnsen, Jackie Arsenault, Aline Carrier, Brett Freake, Lisa Morgan

Council Members: Kirsten Johnsen, Kevin Mack, Noah Plonka, Lisa Morgan, Anne Mack

1) General Department Updates - introduction from Donna Monteith

- a) Community Services – Lisa Morgan (email lisam@toquaht.ca for more information)
 - i) Toquaht holds a weekly soup day with the company of the NTC nurses and their Quu'asa team.
 - ii) NTC nurses focus on vaccinations, immunizations, blood pressure and sugar checks and offer health support to residents.
 - iii) Our telehealth room is equipped with over-the counter medication for emergencies.
 - iv) Check out the schedule for acupuncture, massage, and chiropractor. Homecare support and footcare services are available for residents who are elderly, ill, or have mobility issues.
 - v) There are opportunities for offer small contract employment for citizens and students
 - vi) Macoah language classes are monthly hosted by our knowledge keeper and Elder in residence. Visit www.toquahtlanguage.com
 - vii) Citizen Achievement Awards: Nominate a Toquaht citizen:
 - (1) Community Service, Academic Excellence and Athletics and Sport Award:
 - (2) Three awards for K-12 for \$150/each and Three awards for adults for \$500/each
 - viii) Coming Soon:
 - (1) Financial support for families who are 'in-need' e.g. food, diapers, appointments and 'Culture kits' for Toquaht children.
 - ix) We support this year's Tlu-pitch games and will fund supplies and activities.



- x) Contact Lisa for information on K-12 supports ex. School supplies, youth recreation, tutoring etc.
- xi) Contact Lisa for information on Post Secondary education supports ex. Tutoring, Community-based training opportunities, Financial assistance and/or reimbursements to help with bus transportation or parking fees can be considered.
- xii) Bi-weekly culture afternoons and evenings hosted at Macoah and Port Alberni.
- xiii) The Department of Community Services would love to gain input from citizens on what kind of workshops you would like us offer and/or provide for citizens.
 - (1) We are looking for opportunities to create land-based healing activities for citizens.

Question/Comment. Are there travel supports to get students to school and back?

Response. Lisa responded that SD70 does have budget for this.

- b) Lands and Resources – David Johnsen, Brett Freake, Aline Carrier
 - i) Halibut and Sockeye and prawns have been caught and are being processed and frozen. Distribution should happen in July. Callouts will begin shortly.
 - ii) A lot is happening within the marine stewardship program; new marine stewardship/public works building at Macoah, data collection through land and marine patrols and assistance with food fish programs.
 - iii) Aline gave an update on the kelp project we are partnering with West Coast Kelp
 - iv) We are continuing with the aquatic habitat restoration project in the Maggie and Toquaht River watersheds.
 - v) The European Green Crab is still an invasive species found in our waters but be sure to recognize the local indigenous species before trying to eliminate any crab you find on the shore
 - vi) Brett Freake showed pictures of elk and other animals captured on our camera traps.



- vii) Written report from our biologist, Tom Balfour
 - (1) Assessing Toquaht and Maggie watersheds to better understand habitat conditions, disturbance history, and limitations to fish and wildlife within these watersheds and develop restoration project opportunities.
 - (a) Tasks to date: Landslide inventory = Completed, Draw Creek Riparian Assessments Completed, Channel restoration designs= complete.
 - (b) This summer: River habitat mapping, Estuary surveys and vegetation mapping, Toquaht Riparian assessments.

-
- (c) Complete final document by March 2025
 - (2) The Toquaht River traditionally supported an exceptional run of both winter and summer steelhead. However there has been very little work done to understand the current state of the population and how much fishing pressure these sensitive populations are facing.
 - (3) This spring we have been conducting bi-weekly snorkel surveys in an effort to understand current population dynamics. In addition, we are planning to increase signage around key access trails help educate anglers on fishing regulations. We will also set up multiple cameras on these trails to monitor the quantity of anglers using the resource as well as to try and catch poachers.
 - (4) This is the first year of the program, but I would love to expand the work as these steelhead are a very rare and unique resource to the Territory.
 - (5) The Maggie Fish ladder is key in allowing fish access to the Maggie/Draw watershed. DFO engineers visited the site in early June and will be conducting assessments this summer to look for solutions for low water levels.
 - (6) We have also been working with DFO and Thornton Creek to develop a small-scale Coho enhancement project for Draw Creek coho.
 - (7) Since the early 2000's Toquaht Nation, Redd Fish Restoration and Thornton Creek Salmon Enhancement society have worked together on a holistic and multi-faceted approach to salmon recovery that has combined small scale salmon enhancement with watershed restoration actions. Restoration between 2014-2017 included road deactivation, fish passage improvements, riparian thinning and planting, and placement of large wood structures. Enhancement has been carried out using a transplant of little Toquaht river chum and has been ongoing since 2014. In 2023 Chenatha received one of the highest chum returns in recent history.
 - (a) For 2024 we received some funding to continue restoration efforts in the Chenatha watershed.
- b) Assets – Jackie Arsenault
- i) Joint Health & Safety Plan updates well underway with a consultant
 - ii) Occupational Health & Safety Committee being created
 - iii) Hiring new staff in progress
 - iv) Macoah road has been graded 2 times this fiscal, more as necessary
 - v) Work with Finance team to start preparing for CityWide Asset Program
 - vi) MET team has completed Hover Entry/Exit training
 - vii) EOC team training end of June
 - viii) Macoah Volunteer Fire Team recruitment process in development
 - ix) Asset Management Plan being updated

2nd Door Prize winners

2) Toquaht Business Update – Noah Plonka

- a) TOQUAHT DEVELOPMENTS
 - i) Sawmill is now operating in its the new building
 - ii) Lumber products are all custom dimensions & firewood products vary in size and species.
 - iii) TDLP has began some storage of products at the Ucluelet office. New products such fence panels and benches are being built on site.
 - iv) New mill site will look to tie in hydro extensions to support facilities later in 2024 which will allow kilns, and value-added equipment needed such as green chains, infeed/outfeed decks, chop line and additional lumber storage as required.
- b) Toquaht Industries & Toquaht Forestry
 - i) 2024 operations consisted in planting & engineering of Cataract mountain, Toquaht Valley and Lucky Creek.
 - ii) Salvage operations were at a minimum and may have some shake and round log harvesting fall of 2024.
 - iii) Toquaht Industries operations were minimal as well due to no harvests from Toquaht Forestry.
 - iv) Transferring our current volume based forest license to a (FNWL) First Nation Woodland license, giving Toquaht better controls on our resources and long-term planning, is currently in process.
 - v) 2024 FSP (Forest Stewardship Plan) is complete and on the shelf to support our new forestry initiatives and a comprehensive management plan to support operations. Harvesting 2024 will be minimal.
- c) Toquaht Marina & Campground LP
 - i) New water services are connected at the kayak launch and new office with hydro connections July/Aug this year.
 - ii) Replacement and upgraded playground construction is underway and will be complete Aug 2024 built by habitat playgrounds.
 - iii) 2024 season is now open and in operations as of early May.
 - iv) Additional Tent platforms are now built at the kayak launch. (12) in total becoming very popular for our overnight kayak guests and outdoor explorers.
 - v) At last, services have been installed at the Kayak launch to support a new washroom facility and location has been prepped. Construction to commence this summer.
- d) Barkley Sound shellfish LP
 - i) Geoduck farm tenure 2024 will be introducing new geoduck seed to the site Nov/Dec. Site preparation are under way this summer with anchors and farm layout. Purge harvest completed site May 2023.
 - ii) Current Tenure sites 1409671,1411099, 1411086 have had site clean up commenced early this February in preparation for new rafts and long line set ups. New rafts and tray systems are being built for oysters and scallops adding value and simplicity to the farm site.
 - iii) BSSLP vessels Focal raider and Tla-sa-ta have been refitted to accommodate as dive platforms and transport vessels.

3rd Door Prize winners

3) Capital Projects – Rick Shafer

- a) Toquaht has a lot of projects on the go
- b) Early in 2024, Toquaht received funding from the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Fund to advance the Run-of-the-River hydro development project to “construction ready.” This will position Toquaht to respond promptly to commercial renewable energy opportunities as they arise.
 - i) The plan is to complete the “Waterpower Development Plan” and submit that to BC this summer.
- c) Secret Beach Marina- Work to move the parking lot for vehicle and boat trailer parking for the Marina continues with the completion of the final design and the falling and clearing of the new parking lot area.
 - i) The new marina parking lot is located on the high side of the road, above the marina, and is expected to be ready for use this summer.
- d) Macoah Water Reservoir - The new Macoah Water Reservoir came online last winter. The project is currently wrapping up with the replacement of electronic controls and the upcoming placement of the Toquaht Nation logo on the tower.
 - i) The old reservoir was decommissioned. It was dismantled and removed in April
- e) New Toquaht Government Building- Active and meaningful conversations on the direction for the design and construction of the New Toquaht Government Building have been had over the past several months.
 - ii) Toquaht’s comments have been incorporated into a revised design that will be reviewed with Toquaht prior to finalizing the design and budgets. It is still anticipated that the foundation construction will begin before the end of the 24/25 fiscal year.
- b) Qiyuus – 12 Plex Gathering House- The Gathering House was given the name Qiyuus, which means *staying as a guest*.
 - i) Qiyuus is steadily moving towards completion. Finishing touches are underway and the lodge is expected to be ready to enjoy later this year.
- c) Old Campground Contaminated Site- Toquaht will continue the comprehensive review of the Draft Remediation Action Plan (RAP) being developed by BC. This document will form the basis for the remediation Detailed Design.
 - i) BC will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to qualified engineering firms to complete the detailed remediation design. Toquaht will have an opportunity to review and comment on this design at every stage in its development.
- d) Public Works Yard/Marine Stewardship Building - The building is nearing lockup with the sanitary and water servicing connections also completed. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy this fall.
- e) Section 38 Subdivision - The design for this new housing development above Macoah is now under review. There is no construction planned for the 24/25 fiscal year.
 - i) The objectives of the 24/25 fiscal year are to complete detailed design reviews, take the design to 100%, and then pursue various funding opportunities in support of the construction phase of this project.
- f) Secret Beach Offsite Services - The work to install the new BC Hydro line from Macoah to Secret Beach continues. This section of the line should be completed early this fall.
 - i) Clearing of the hydro Right-of-Way to extend power from the Secret Beach Marina to the Log Sort began in the spring. Tree felling has been put on hold until after the bird nesting season and will commence this fall.

-
- ii) The rock from the BC Hydro Right-of-Way blasting will be utilized to construct the new marina parking area.
 - g) Secret Beach Developments - The underground services for Phase 1 are now substantially complete. The objectives of the 24/25 fiscal year are to complete Phase 1 hydro service (35 lots), construct Phase 2 (41 lots), and pave both Phases at the same time in spring 2025.

4th Door Prize winners

Question/Comment. Are there any concerns regarding heavy rains for the wastewater treatment ponds?

Response. Rick responded that until the population increases heavy rainfall can be helpful for diluting the ponds.

4) Question Period

Question/Comment. It was announced at a previous PA that the Nation won a large claims settlement for logging done on our lands back in the 1950's. Can a portion of the settlement be in the form of a \$5,000 distribution to citizens?

Naomi Mack moved and **Bonnie Mack** seconded the following motion:
THAT Toquaht Nation Council consider providing Toquaht citizens with a \$5,000 distribution out of the settlement.

The resolution will be brought to the next Executive meeting for discussion.

Draw for Grand Prizes

The next People's Assembly will be held virtually on Saturday September 7th, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Delicious Lunch and fun activities until 4:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by K. Johnsen
Law Clerk *Kirsten Johnsen*
Date 2025-03-27