

**MINUTES OF THE
PRINCE OF WALES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, March 28th, 2017**

LOCATION: Bay Chalet, Thorne Bay

Chairman Benner called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Craig, Craig Tribal Association, Hollis, Hydaburg, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Kasaan, Organized Village of Kasaan, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce

INTRODUCTIONS

Those present were: Wayne Benner, City of Thorne Bay; Sadie Doucette, City of Thorne Bay; Mark Lisowski, Thorne Bay Library; Karen Petersen, University of Alaska Fairbanks- Cooperative Extension Service; Peggy Stevens, Naukati Bay; Della Coburn, Organized Village of Kasaan; Jean Bland, Hydaburg Cooperative Association; Leslie Isaacs, City of Klawock; Robert Baker, City of Kasaan; Jeanie McFarland, Thorne Bay; Jim McFarland, Thorne Bay; Cyndi Reeves, Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce/Wellness Coalition; Margaret Andrews, Hollis; Bob Andrews, Hollis; Jon Bolling, City of Craig; Patrick Tierney, SEALASKA; Jim Gould, City of Thorne Bay

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The following additions were added to the agenda:

New Business #1 – Wood Energy Conference Announcements – Karen Petersen

New Business #2– Wellness Coalition/Health Network Announcements– Cyndi Reeves

Isaacs moved to approve the agenda as amended. Bland seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Doucette read a request from the City of Kasaan that they would like the minutes to reflect clarification that it was not the City of Kasaan requesting an IFA stop but rather a personal opinion. Bolling stated that under introductions there needed to be a name correction, ‘Jim Bolling’ to ‘Jim Holien’. Doucette stated that she would get that corrected. Gould motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Bolling seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed.

OPEN DISCUSSION

1. Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team (POW LAT) Update – Jon Bolling

Bolling gave a brief history on how POW LAT got started and what the team consists of. Bolling stated that at the upcoming meeting, they would discuss timber production on what were the two ranger districts, there would be an exercise to help decide how to place specific projects on Prince of Wales Island, and if time the POW LAT facilitator, Cathy Needham, may have, the team begins working on restoration projects as well. Bolling informed the group that there would be requirements on attendance to vote at the end on what to submit to the Forest Service and input and attendance is welcome at the meetings. Benner stated that the National Forest Foundation had approved a grant to help with the facilitation process.

2. Update on Southeast Conference – Wayne Benner and other attendees

Benner stated that he had the opportunity to speak with Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Thompkins, and Senator Stedman. Benner stated that they are working together to pass a budget. Benner continued that there was discussion on the Alaska Marine Highway and concerns with funding, but the positive news was that the Alaska boats, made in Ketchikan are on schedule and under budget, which may help the next boats built in Ketchikan as well. Benner spoke about there being several discussions on the concern of cutting the Bellingham run back, especially during the winter months and that would also include Prince Rupert so instead of weekly it would be once or twice monthly, and also discussed changing the schedule routes. Benner stated there was discussion on the Federal Government and what could happen with Medicaid, how it could be devastating to the state of Alaska. Benner stated that they also discussed the funding for rural plane services and how it could be cut out completely, and another big topic was changing tax codes and the impact of shipping costs that could be applied. Benner stated that there were some positive discussions on reducing the clean water act that could open up mining, which could help smaller communities increase military spending, which in turn, would help Alaska.

Isaacs stated that he and the mayor of Klawock had visited with some legislators regarding senate bill 91. Isaacs informed the group that one of the big issues was the police and district attorney having to fight the impacts of that bill. Isaacs stated that the discussion included the drug issues on Prince of Wales Island and noted that part of the cause for the increased drug use and trafficking is the fact that penalties for these crimes have been cut so small from what they were and the criminals know how much they can carry and know that they would not get more than a small fine with the quantity they would be caught with. Isaacs suggested that if anyone would like to write letters to the senator supporting change on this matter that it could make an impact and help with the drug issues on POW.

Benner stated that another item that had been ongoing was the Southeast Solid Waste Authority and how they were close to having a contractor on board that would help move scrap metal off of the island and he was hopeful to have the contractor in place by the following week.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. Telecommunications on Prince of Wales Island – The Alaska Plan

Petersen stated that Fitzpatrick was close to collecting all of the data from all the communities and working closely with the staff from Jonathan Kriess-Tomkins office on assembling a large report that addresses Telecommunications on Prince of Wales Island. Petersen stated that she had found out that there was an Alaska broadband forum in Anchorage on April 8th and 9th, which would not be addressing the issues in rural areas, and that Fitzpatrick had planned on attending.

Benner stated that he had contacted a cell tower installer out of curiosity and got a response that they don't deal with building cell towers until they had contracts in place with carriers, however they had referred him to a website to see what towers were in the vicinity. Benner stated that it was very interesting that we have 4 towers in the Thorne Bay area of which 3 of the 4 were owed by AP&T and the other AT&T. Benner stated that he would forward the website out to the membership.

Benner read an email from Fitzpatrick stating that she had most of the data sheets but was still waiting on some from a few communities and once she had those, she would put together a letter for consideration.

2. Transportation plan approvals

Benner stated that we had approvals from Thorne Bay, Hollis, Kasaan, Coffman Cove, POW Chamber and Hydaburg and still needed Craig, Klawock, and Craig Tribal Association.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Announcements – Karen Petersen

Petersen stated that since August she had been working on organizing the Alaska Wood Energy Conference and informed the group that this was something that comes around in Alaska every two to three years. Petersen announced that they were trying to get Alaska off being dependent on fossil fuels. Petersen encouraged attendance stating that it would be very informative and would likely be the last conference in Ketchikan Alaska.

2. Wellness Coalition Introduction – Cyndi Reeves

Reeves made a couple announcements from the Chamber office. Reeves stated that they were looking for all possible venues to help sell raffle tickets for the volunteer EMS and Fire departments. Reeves stated that tickets would be available at the Chamber office along with flyers to post for anyone who would like to help sell them. Reeves encouraged others to help support the first responders and informed the group that the drawings would be on November 25th at the end of the Bazaar in Craig. Reeves stated that the Chamber would also be helping the marathon committee sell raffle tickets, which were also available at the Chamber office.

Reeves stated that she was also involved with the Wellness Coalition and the Prince of Wales Health Network and they had started showing 'Chasing the Dragon' videos around the island. Reeves continued that they had the FBI and DEA panelists come and answer questions that people had about opiate and heroin addiction. Reeves stated that she had spoken with the Alaska Mental Health Board and they would help get her connected with advocates to come and teach how to communicate more concerns about drug addiction on the island.

Reeves announced that on the 3rd Saturday of each month they would be holding Good Food/Natural Health clubs in different communities. Reeves continued that the upcoming clubs are scheduled for Klawock in April, Craig in May, Hydaburg in June, and Thorne Bay in July. Reeves stated that they would also be holding a community family get-together on the 3rd Sunday of every month in Klawock that would be open to everybody and free of charge.

CORRESPONDANCE

Benner stated that he had received a customer care phone number from the Verizon store in Ketchikan that people could use to call in complaints for lack of data, connectivity, etc.. Benner encouraged customers to call Verizon and make them aware of the problems with services, and added that the more complaints the better, 800-922-0204.

Benner informed the group that the State tourism would be working on a local tourism district and he thought the concept was a good idea and thought that the communities on Prince of Wales Island could get together and figure out a way to raise money for tourism. Benner stated that he would bring more information on this topic to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

May 23, 2017 – Klawock

ADJOURNMENT

Benner adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.