

**MINUTES OF THE
PRINCE OF WALES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, March 22nd, 2016**

LOCATION: Kasaan, Davis S. Peele Community Hall

Chairman Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Those present were: Wayne Benner, City of Thorne Bay; Jim Gould, City of Thorne Bay; Jess Petty, Naukati Bay; Millie Schoonover, Craig Tribal Association; Lynette Logan, Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce; Jean Bland, HCA; Allison Gillum, Southeast Alaska Land Trust; Zach West, Kasaan VPSO; Brandy Prefontaine, Naukati/POWWA; Michael Hekkers, Southeast Alaska Land Trust; Kent Miller, Rainforest Is. Ferry; Keith, Hollis; Ron Sharp, Hollis; Mike Huestis, Whale Pass; Bud Bosman, South Thorne Bay; David Landis, SSRAA; Bret Hiatt, SSRAA; Bob Andrews, Hollis; Pat Tyler, POWHA; Matt Anderson, Forest Service; Stan Dolloff, Klawock Cooperative Association; Stormy Hamar; Ronald Leighton, Organized Village of Kasaan; Heidi Murray; Frank Murray; Bob Girt, SEAlaska Timber; Charmaine Benston; Carl Benston, AP&T & C&C Landscaping; Jim Dunbar; Della Coburn, City of Kasaan; Lawrence Armour, Klawock Cooperative Association; Shairlyn Zellhuber, Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce; Tyra Huestis, Whale Pass Community Association; Jon Bolling, City of Craig; Andy Deering, Craig Resident; Lisa Radke; Brent Cole Sr., Port St Nick; Annette Cole, Port St. Nick

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Schoonover motioned to approve the agenda. Gould seconded the motion.

The following additions were added to the agenda:

Open Discussion #4 – Energy Audit Grant

Continuing Business #3– Appoint Treasurer

Continuing Business #4 – POWCAC Website

Fitzpatrick questioned the item in motion as amended. The motion passed with no opposition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gould motioned to approve the minutes from July 2015. Bolling seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Schoonover motioned to approve the January 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded, and passed with no opposition.

OPEN DISCUSSION

1. Allison Gillem, Executive Director of the Southeast Alaska Land Trust – Wetland Mitigation Funds

Fitzpatrick introduced Allison Gillem. Gillem went on to say she is here to give an overview of the Southeast Alaska Land Trust and explain how they are involved with the Army Corps of Engineers and how they are a part of the Wetland Mitigation Program. She stated that their mission statement is to cooperate with communities, land owners, agencies and others to ensure that habitat recreation, open space and historic spaces remain in place for the wellbeing of each generation. They are a conservation and preservation organization and that is their mission for what they are trying to accomplish. She said that land conservation and what they do is protect land in a couple different ways, one option is to buy land outright and just owning land to protect it that way, another way and the way that they really try to focus on is legal restrictions. Conservation easement is basically a legal restriction similar to other easements out there except for their conservation easements are intended to last forever, it's a pretty complicated document that puts restrictions on property in order to protect those either natural, historic or recreational values that they are looking to protect. Their region is all of Southeast Alaska and currently protects 30 properties, roughly 3500 acers, of those properties, 15 are conservation easements and the rest are ones that they own. She stated that they are constantly looking for new properties and places that are really important to communities to protect, and they are also making sure they have the resources available to really make sure that the commitment they are making is sustainable. They are a non-profit organization and not part of the government at all. The mitigation program is through the Army Corps of Engineers and when development projects are being proposed there is a permitting process that happens and if a development project is impacting wetlands you are required to get a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Gillem stated it was important to know that when the Army Corps look at these projects they are looking to avoid impacts and if unable to avoid impact they will try to do mitigation projects on site. Gillem continued to state that if neither of the two options were possible, the third would be doing compensatory litigation, and that is the part that they are a part of. Gillem explained that it meant even if you avoided all of the wetlands that you could, you did all the projects on site that you could, and the Army Corps determined that it wasn't enough to offset those impacts to the wetlands, then the Army Corps lets the permittee team know that they need to offset their impacts with compensatory litigation. Gillem continued stated the Southeast Alaska Land Trust is one option in terms of that compensatory litigation. Gillem explained that they basically collect money to sell their credits to those projects so they can move forward with the development

projects and that offsets the impacts that occurred on that site. When they get a request from whoever is trying to do a project that is impacting wetlands, the corps lets the permittee know that they need to get compensatory litigation. Then the permittee contacts them directly and lets them know how many wetland credits they are being required to buy by the Corps. When they get that request, they calculate what that estimate is, which is based on land costs in terms of what they are looking to purchase in order to protect. Also the transaction costs that go along with the land deal, and the long term stewardship obligation, so all of that comes together and they provide an estimate. If the permittee decides that they want to move forward with it, they would pay them and then they assume that obligation as wetland debits. Once they receive those wetland fees, they then look for properties to protect. Gillem also talked about a new wetland assessment tool that they use called WESPAC (Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol for Southeast Alaska) and how it is really essential because when people are doing these types of projects that impact wetlands, the corps require an assessment of those wetlands. The website to get more information is

www.southeastalaskalandtrust.org

2. David Landis, General Manager of Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) – Klawock Hatchery Association transition to SSRAA

Fitzpatrick introduced David Landis and his co-workers. David Landis went on to speak about how the operators, POWHA (Prince of Wales Hatchery Association) of the hatcheries on this island are no longer able to continue to operate the hatcheries and have reached out to SSRAA (Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association) to help operate the hatcheries, and SSRAA has agreed to it. It essentially involves purchasing the assets of POWHA, a lot of which are liabilities which are monies owed to the State of Alaska so it was a big decision for the board of directors of SSRAA to do this and they certainly want this to be a success both for Prince of Wales as well as SSRAA. Landis went on to say that SSRAA has a board of directors of twenty-one individuals, two of whom live on Prince of Wales Island; the others are from down south, Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg. SSRAA has five hatcheries, two on the road system in Ketchikan and one on the road system in Petersburg, one is across from Clarence strait on Etolin Island, and one is on Revillagigedo Island by Ketchikan. They produce three types of salmon, Chum, Chinook, and Coho. It is important to the SSRAA board to continue those Coho coming back to the Klawock River Hatchery. SSRAA can do this because they are a larger organization and have certain levels of economy scale that allow them to do it as well as a tax on commercial fishermen that they are automatically assessed three percent of their sales and they also have terminal fisheries where SSRAA licenses a processor to come and harvest the fish and then pays them money for that, so that is how SSRAA is funded. SSRAA is planning to take over POWHA at their request coming July 1st. Landis stated that this isn't a complete deal, its one that they've structured an agreement and are very hopeful that it happens. What they would like the message to be going forward with this group is there will be a public hearing process that the State will put on believed to be in May in Klawock, they hope to receive positive comments and letters of

support so that they are able to transition to ownership of the assets of POWHA and do it in a timely fashion so that there is no interruption of those fish coming back. There was further discussion on this topic and some questions were asked and answered. Bolling made a motion that POWCAC write a letter of support for the permit transfer from POWHA to SRRA. Peterson seconded the motion. Armour suggested that language in the letter addressing POWCAC's desire for Sockeye enhancement. Bolling and Fitzpatrick agreed to draft the letter. Landis added that it would also be helpful to get the membership to weigh in individually if possible. Fitzpatrick questioned the item in motion, the motion passed with no opposition. There is more information on their website about this process, which is www.ssraa.org

3. Matt Anderson, USFS District Ranger – Proposed Tongass Landscape Assessment

Fitzpatrick introduced Matt Anderson from the United States Forest Service. Anderson stated that the history on Prince of Wales, when the Forest Service decides to do something, whatever it is, they've always looked at the action by itself, analyzed it and then tries to get it in the public process and get it out to decision. Almost everything they have done has pretty much been litigated, objected or appealed. Anderson stressed his frustration on how getting anything to go through is really tough. Anderson stated he and his Forest Supervisor discussed ways they could look bigger, beyond project by project, and see if they started a process of what the Forest Service does and try to get a decision out the door that would give 10-15 years' worth of projects, could it be done and where is the place to do it. The consensus was look at Prince of Wales Island largely because of POWCAC, the communities and how engaged they are in a sense that there may be support to do something like this. What they are proposing is to have a community group start the discussions, the Forest Service would give this group all of the information they are collecting, and have the group take all of the data and help the Forest Service form what they want to see get spit out the other end. Anderson stated historically by the time that they get to the public comment period; they are so far down the path that there is no pulling back and getting industry or conservation group or someone else to say what they should have thought about. For this to work Anderson believes that the communities really have to be engaged and really steer the process. Anderson continued that the industries, other groups and the other land owners have to be involved as well, and this process will take a lot of time. Anderson stated he would like to put a Notice of Intent Federal Register out by October or November, and by this fall they would have a lot of the assessment information. Anderson stated they have been dealing with round numbers for a lot of what they do which includes restoration and timber harvest. Anderson stated he thought by the time they go out this summer and really look at things, the number is going to shrink. Anderson stated by October or November they should have better numbers than they have now. Anderson stated he would like for this group to come up with a proposed action and if started soon, by the time this fall comes around, they will have really specific information with maps. Anderson stated that the group

probably has a year to come up with a proposed action. Anderson stated the alternative of not having this proposed group, is that they do it the way they have always done, and try to thread the needle through litigation, which is getting to be almost impossible. Zellhuber asked if there was money available to hire a facilitator or someone to help with the process. Anderson replied that there was a grant that is going to go in soon for \$25,000, which would be a start to help facilitate it. Anderson stated he felt that if this group gets up and going then money will come. The City of Thorne Bay is going to submit a Natural Forest Foundation Grant any day and he thinks there is high possibility that they will get it, and get a facilitator to start the process. Anderson stated it will take a lot more than the \$25,000, but is seed money to get it going. There was further discussion from the membership about this group not being ideal for POWCAC to take on, comments were made about possibly having a sub-committee of POWCAC, and questions were asked about the time frame. Further discussion went on about what POWCAC's role would be in this decision. Fitzpatrick suggested that POWCAC facilitate the effort of asking the communities whether or not they would like to be part of this effort and form a collaborative group. Bolling suggested that POWCAC set a date for a meeting and have each member of POWCAC send a representative from their community. It was decided that POWCAC would organize a meeting that will be held on April 19th at the Voc Ed center in Klawock, at noon to help form a group for the proposed landscape assessment.

4. Letter of Support Request – North End Ferry Authority

Fitzpatrick gave a brief overview about the letter of support. Coburn motioned to approve writing a letter of support to the North End Ferry Authority. Schoonover seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

5. Energy Audits

Fitzpatrick stated that she received an e-mail from Robert Venables with the Alaska Energy Authority, and he asked that it be mentioned that funding is going to be made available in the next couple months for energy audits. It's a USDA program that had been approved in the past and was reapproved. Bolling stated that the Alaska Energy Authority is working with some non-profit entity out of Anchorage that does energy work and they are going to come to POW and are offering energy assistance for commercial buildings. So if you are an owner of a commercial building that maybe you are not sure how to make more energy efficient, this group will come and do an assessment for little to no cost and then provide a formal written audit of your building and give you broad suggestions on how to make your building more energy efficient. Fitzpatrick said Alaska Energy Authority would have a packet of information available at the next POWCAC meeting, and possibly have someone attend to answer questions.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. Status of POWCAC Resolution 16-02 – Transportation Priorities

Fitzpatrick stated that POWCAC received a request from the CTA to include the Port Saint Nicholas Road Project in the Transportation Priority Resolution.

Fitzpatrick stated the resolution had already been approved at the time by the governing body so there was a new resolution, to include the Port Saint Nicholas Road Project in the Transportation Priorities. It was determined that the resolution was passed and Fitzpatrick will make sure that it gets to the State of Alaska.

2. POW Draft Borough Charter – Written Public Comments

At the November meeting Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce made a motion to siliate additional public comments on the Draft Borough Charter, at that time between then and the January meeting, Fitzpatrick put together a website where the information could be held and made easier for people to submit their comments, there was also an option of mailing in comments. Fitzpatrick asked the membership for suggestions on what to do with the comments next in order to move forward. Logan recommended that the comments be taken back to the respected communities. Zellhuber suggested that each member organization prepare a statement to bring to the next meeting responding as far as continuing this process. There were some concerns from the public about not getting information, and their voices not being heard. Further discussion went on about the conflict of the borough. Prefontaine stated that Naukati supports the draft borough moving forward. There were some concerns about why this item is not on the agenda for Craig and why it doesn't seem to be of importance. It was decided that the member organizations will take this item back to their communities and discussion will continue at the next POWCAC meeting.

3. Appoint Treasurer

Fitzpatrick made a motion to approve Jon Bolling to be the treasurer of POWCAC. Mayor Gould seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

4. POWCAC Website

At the last POWCAC meeting the membership approved an annual fee of \$56.00 for the website, it turns out that it's \$96.00 a year. Bolling moved to approve the annual fee of \$96.00 for support of the POWCAC website. Schoonover seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

NEXT MEETING

May 24 2016 in Coffman Cove – Fitzpatrick will e-mail location once it is determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Bolling moved to adjourn the meeting. Gould seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition. Fitzpatrick adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.