

**Uchucklesaht Tribe  
Peoples Assembly  
ZOOM  
March 26, 2022**

**Attendance:**

Wilfred Cootes Jr.	Thomas Rush	Charlie Cootes Sr.
Clifford Charles	Marie Samuel	Maren Yeager
Evan Jolicoeur	Ryan Anaka	
David McCormick	Scott Coulson	Megan Cootes
Malachi Rosario	Susan Leask	Gary Yabsley
Serra Cootes	Randall Ginger	Moriah Cootes
Tristan O’Daniel	Martha Titian	Mayanna Rush
Rowena Cootes	Ellen Gonzales	Bruce Gonzales
Maude Morris	Sammi Fregin	Regina Frank
Ronalda Robinson	Tina Robinson	James Robinson

**23 UTG members**

Prayer – Marie Samuel

Chant – Thomas Rush

**Agenda: Approved by the Executive Council. Consists of Budget and Annual Report Updates.**

Facilitator – Scott Coulson

Moderator – Wilfred Cootes Jr.

Introductions by facilitator and moderator.

**Budget: Three Year Financial Plan 2022/2023:**

In a fantastic financial position and building a good future for UTG.

First Slide – you will find this in the budget act – list of each of the departments. These are the revenues.

**New Funding:** New Fiscal Finance Agreement Negotiated and Signed. Federal Financing now at \$5.1million must be used for administration of services and Governance

BC Gaming Revenues– 20 year agreement paying all First Nations in BC a portion of BC Gaming Revenues. UTG negotiated agreement at approximately \$480,000 per year for 20years, will be down in 2022 due to Covid 19

Negotiated to have the Treaty Loan paid back that was paid by UTG over the past 8 years Amounts to \$2.1 million. Pay back terms in this years Federal Budget

GAP Closing Funds: Applied for and Received \$2.7 Million in funding for the UTG GAP Closing Project Phase 3

**Question:** What does GAP mean?

**Answer:** It's the actual name of the fund. They wanted to close the gap of need for homes. Replaced homes that were condemned. We applied for that funding.

Child and Family Services Prevention Project Funding of \$491,000 per year going forward.

**Administration:**

SSI Grant Funding for Administration \$134,000

Increase Rent Revenue to anticipate Redford School lease from NTC this year to \$300,000 in second year \$320,000

Increase in Audit Fee cost due to new Economic Development entities and new Gaming Revenue Audit to be done yearly from \$85,000 to \$100,000

Increase in Bank Charges from \$6,500 to \$7,000

Increase in Insurance from \$20,000 to \$24,000

Increase in expenditures due to increase in rent paid for Thunderbird Building and added Nucii Building from \$320,000 to \$400,000

Increases to supplies and telephone for new building due to more locations to supply and service \$60,000 to \$70,000

Increase for supplies from \$80,000 to \$100,000

Increase in overall Wages from \$576,000 to \$679,000 due to funding for one position paid by new grant

Overall Administration Budget up \$35,000

**Council:** Overall Council Budget down \$50,000

Decrease Legal Expenses to \$50,000 from \$70,000

Honorarium increase of \$4,000 total COLA

Local Travel and Reading to remain the same

Decrease in supplies for FTA Council members, computers

Most line items remain the same

Decrease in Council travel due to Covid 19

Decrease for Inter-Governmental relations to \$5,000

**Numerous Departments:**

**Elections-** Total Budget \$3,000 for election this year, in case there is a by-election

**Peoples Assembly** –Meeting Costs remain down due to Covid 19 use of Zoom for meetings

Increase in Honorarium from \$40 to \$100 per meeting

Door Prizes increased to \$10,000

**Citizenship and Enrollment-** overall budget down by \$4,000

**Education Services:** Created new Department for Post Secondary Education in 2021

Cancel NTC Services will hire UTG own F/T Education Coordinator to better track and assist our students savings of \$24,000/year = Wage increase in this department and Post Secondary Department to cover wages

Increased Education budgets for:

Student Books and Supplies \$13,000 to \$26,000

Student Allowances \$20,000 to \$25,000

Student Awards/Grad \$5,000 to \$10,000

Student Scholarships \$3,500 to \$5,000

Student Activities to stay at \$20,000

Student Transport to stay at \$5,000

Budget amount for student workshops moved to Post Secondary to have create our own Career Fair

**FNESC**: Maintained budget on Christmas Party and Community and Parental Engagement need to see what we do due to Covid 19

### **Post Secondary Education:**

Post Secondary Education amount increase from \$125,000 in 2019 to \$250,000 in 2020 to \$300,000 in 2021 and remain the same. To include USA citizens

Adult Training increase from \$20,000 to \$40,000 to Include USA citizens

Career Fair budget \$20,000

**Health Services:** Cancelled NTC Health services, hired UTG own public health nurse to work with UTG citizens only; savings of \$86,000

Increased Funeral Expense - \$10,000 - \$15,000

Increased Elders monthly allotment from \$500 to \$550. Budget increase from \$180,000 to \$225,000 includes USA citizens

Elders Gathering increased to \$20,000 for more events

Medications and Supplies increase from \$50,000 to \$70,000

Special Needs Increased \$15,000 to \$20,000

Supplies increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000

Treatments increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000

New Line item for Mental Health and Harm Reduction of \$50,000

Health and Wellness strategy \$40,000

Hiring P/T Outreach Worker immediately

Child and Family Prevention Project new staff positions which are fully grant funded through USMA for 2022/2023 and will continue into the future.

F/T Cultural & Family Support Worker

F/T Cultural Support

F/T Men's Wellness Worker  
F/T Clinical Counsellor  
F/T Prevention Team Lead

All positions include 100% wage and benefit, travel, supplies and materials, programming, and Professional development funding

**Nursing:** Created new Department "Nursing" as we now have a full time Uchucklesaht Health Nurse

New Accounts: Medications and Supplies \$10,000, Repairs to Nursing Clinic \$10,000: Special Needs \$10,000: Travel Staff (travel to visit members in other cities) \$10,000: Treatments \$10,000

**Social Development:** Social Assistance Budget doubled to \$20,000

New Account for funding for a Homeless Strategy for Uchucklesaht Citizens \$25,000

**Family and Child Services:** Increased Picnic budget at \$30,000  
Increased Travel for Children in Care to \$5,000  
New Account Staff travel for travel to village, and other communities \$70,000 Fully grant funded

Supplies for travel \$45,000 fully grant funded

Prevention Activities for drug and homeless increased from \$30,000 - \$80,000 funded

Increase to swim tickets now for all recreation

**Medical Travel:** Proposed to double Medical travel and meal rates to ensure Uchucklesaht Citizens are well compensated for medical travel increased to \$60,000

Additional increase as NTC travel rates are lowering what is paid for mileage – UTG to cover the decrease

**Culture & Heritage:** Budget for a Canoe & pole Carving \$100,000

Increase to supplies to assist with additional programming from \$13,000 - \$25,000

Cultural Activities budget doubled to \$50,000 to increase cultural activities in new building

Creating a carving centre at Nucci Building

Hiring new F/T Cultural Coordinator fully grant funded

Increased contracted services from \$25,000 to \$30,000

**Marine & Transportation:** Purchased a 14 passenger vessel will keep smaller vessel in village for emergencies

Twice weekly village runs (Monday and Fridays) but are budgeting for daily runs once required for possible school runs

Fuel \$156,000 and Contract Services \$71,500 to support daily village runs once needed

Repairs to Transport increase from \$12,500 to \$15,000

Purchasing a new skiff to replace old that is cracked, outfitting used smaller skiff for clam and oyster harvest

New Department called Salish Sea Initiative later with more vessels funded

**Village Operations:** Maintaining or Increasing all Budget line Items for Village Operations

Increased propane fuel budget to \$4,200

Insurance increase to \$44,000 to cover increased value of assets and the new homes

Utilities Increase to \$35,000 to cover new homes

Increase in Roads and Bridges to hire a scaler and faller to remove danger trees and rocks on new road to village \$5,000

Small tools increase to \$3,000

Increase to Maintenance of dock for new electrical upgrade to \$5,000

New Account for Information and Technology Maintenance due to increased cost to maintain internet services in village \$5,000

New Internet System for Village \$50,000 working on a Internet HUB from BC

Waste removal increase to Septic Maintenance Plan \$10,000 to increase for maintenance on new system

**Water Sampling:** Continuing with FNHA Water Sampling Protocol

**Rentals:** Cabin Rentals, Thunderbird House , Six-plex and Mobile Home, Maintenance House Rental Income \$75,000 revenues

Insurance increase from \$11,000 to \$15,000

Repairs and maintenance \$50,000

Capital upgrades to Uchucklesaht Inlet Cabin to include solar system

Thunderbird House to receive capital work for trails Wind and solar power

Communications improvement \$5,500

Contract Wages - \$3,500

General Maintenance on all facilities

**Treaty Right Fishery:** Not utilizing commercial Houchuklis Lake Sockeye allotment

Increasing budget for catch costs & processing, to ensure fish distribution to citizens from \$212,000 to \$235,000 (targeting buying fish so as to provide over our allotment)

Budgeting to expand species to be included for fish distribution to include prawns, herring roe, herring meat, mussels, prawns and crab

Included wages and travel costs to deliver more fish to out of town citizens

**Aquiculture Operations:** Renamed Department from Shellfish to Aquiculture Operations. Entered into a kelp farming project with Cascadia

New Accounts to include: Fuel \$1,500: Supplies \$1,000: Contract Services \$4,000: Transportation \$2,000

**Otolith Testing:** Maintain contract with NTC and DFO for testing , to contract with UTG Citizens

**Salish Sea Initiative Funding:** New department to cover the two year fully funded program of purchasing equipment and new positions to work in research, analyzing ad protecting our ocean environment.

\$806,904 funded in 2021

\$854,503 funded in 2022

Equipment to include landing craft, underwater rover, drone, atv trailer, GPS, etc

Funds include fully funded wages and administration and supplies

**Community Garden:** New Department to for fully grant funded community garden

Grant funding to include Garden coordinator and wages for workers

Funding to include funds for Elders meetings at garden  
Supplies, lease, and utilities

New products to be grown in 2022

**Economic Development:** New Economic Development Manager  
Hired wages funded by Grant funding

Planning for more trails in Parks and Thunderbird House  
installation of solar and wind power

Bottle plant for Thunderbird Spirit Water opened in 2021 Covid has slowed sales, new social media and marketing plan being developed, negotiations with major hotel chain

Currently two UTG members employed more to come

*The Thunderbird* is full and running, motel units up and running

Nucci Building full and paying for itself with revenues

Consulting Fees for Economic Development \$125,000 Well Drilling program/Green Power Analysis of all UTG Buildings and Assets

**Forestry:** Amount from Forestry greatly reduced to only complete projects that are small and easily attained

Contractor Fees directly discounted from Revenues

Forestry Manager Fees under Contract Wages

Net Revenues utilized for Economic Development Initiatives

**Resource Revenue Sharing:** All revenues deposited into Qacca Settlement Trust

**Government Revenue Sharing:** Revenues: Treaty Loan Repayment \$400,000: BC Gaming Revenues \$350,000: BC PST Sharing \$10,000: BC Gaming reduced due to Covid

**Health and Wellness Program: \$450,000** - Continue to provide Health and Wellness funds to all citizens raised from \$1,000 once per year to \$500 every three months. \$2,000 total per citizen.

**Land Use Planning:** Consulting Fees for the Planning process for the Village GAP Closing project  
Geotechnical Consultant, Planner, Civil Engineer - \$30,000 Will complete update to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Act

Mapping GIS - \$15,000

Publishing - \$2,500

Legal \$10,000

**Emergency Preparedness:** Budget to re-supply the emergency kits in village \$5,000

Full Update to the Emergency Response Plan

Communications Plan for the Emergency Preparedness Plan with infrastructure purchase \$5,000

Training - \$3,000

Legal - \$4,000

Supply the Emergency Tsunami Accommodation Trailer

**Resource Management:** New Department to ensure Resource Management is protected

Accounts to include: Consultant (Deer Surveys) \$7,500:

Contracted Services \$7,500: Fuel \$2,500: Legal

\$2,500: Meetings \$1,000: Rentals \$1,000: Repairs

and Maintenance \$1,500: Small Tools \$3,500: Supplies

\$5,000

**Implementation Activities:** Maa'nulth Treaty Society Common Costs including Negotiation of Fiscal Finance Agreements with

Federal Government and Province and other common projects (Ground Water Project, Fisheries negotiations, and Legal): \$590,000

Trans Mountain Pipeline, Roberts Terminal, and numerous other negotiations continuing

Negotiated a long term funding (5 years) of \$200,000 per Maa'nulth Nation to fund the Maa'nulth Treaty Society projects.

**Investments:** Settlement Trust – Long Term Funding Ended in 2019: Implementation Fund – Long Term Funding Ended in 2020  
Resource Revenue Sharing - \$90,000

**2022/2023 is a balanced budget**

**Capital Projects:**

Administration - \$30,000 computers

Trail Building - \$30,000

Canoe & Pole \$60,000

Nucci Building Carving Room development \$140,000

Carving and Wood Working Tools - \$10,000

Solar Upgrade Thunderbird House and Cabin - \$30,000

Dock Repair Electrical - \$15,000

Village Internet System - \$50,000

Hot Water tank and furnace nursing station - \$12,000

Side by Side for Resource Management - \$25,000

Used Pickup Truck / Dump Box - \$20,000

A forty-foot canoe is being created over at the Nucci building.

**GAP Closing Infrastructure Project:** Project is to assess and replace historic family housing in the Village – 14 Historic Houses replaced in 2020 and 2021

Individual septic systems was replaced by a village septic field

**2022 Project to include a Wellness Center and a Long House**

**Question:** Do we have a gathering to celebrate this project? A potlatch or something?

**Answer:** Yes, it is in the cultural budget.

**Motion #01:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly reviews and accepts the Annual Budget 2022-2023 as presented.

Moved: Carla Halvorsen      Seconded: Thomas Rush

(All in Favor – 20)

*Motion Carried*

**Annual Reports:**

**Director of Human Services Report - Health Department**

Immunizations – routine scheduled, influenza, shingles.

Health promotion through monthly newsletters to all citizens, variety of topics, such as mental health awareness, nutrition, physical activity, heart/cholesterol health etc.

Health promotion clinics such as kidney check program in partnership with FNHA and heart health clinic with UTG health nurse.

Medical appointment assistance to appointments such as Doctor's or specialists. Medication assistance such as information or how to use, as well purchase. Patient travel supports for citizens.

UTG Health Nurse collaborates with Island Health's multidisciplinary team to access services for citizens

UTG Health Nurse collaborates with FNHA for education opportunities to enhance services within the Tribe.

UTG Health Nurse works with the unhoused citizens offering support and access to services. As well as hampers with food, or everyday life supplies.

Check ins with Elders and citizens with health concerns on a monthly, and as needed basis.

Supporting citizens in accessing mental health services & treatment facility upon request  
Providing harm reduction supplies as needed to citizens who use substances

Patient Travel supports such as meals, milage and Accommodations during medical appointments.

Treatments such as foot care & wound care for elders requiring this assistance.

Providing support in accessing and providing directly Physio, Chiro, massage, lifeline – based on needs and requests.

**COVID-19 Response:** This year has been challenging with the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic and response. UTG has provided support for our citizens and staff throughout the pandemic and ongoing. Some of these supports have been:

Rapid testing on site with UTG Health Nurse, or rapid test distribution to citizens requiring test kits.

Supports offered to all COVID-19 positive citizens, such as meal and isolation supports. Daily check ins from the UTG Health Nurse.

Monthly mask distribution to all Canadian Citizens during the mask mandates.

PPE packages delivered to local citizens on a monthly and as needed basis, includes masks, sanitizer, wipes or gift card for such.

COVID-19 immunization clinics provided to local citizens with UTG nurse at Nucii. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and booster doses given to age 18 plus. Pediatric clinic held for ages 5-11, including 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. Clinic held as well for children 12-17. 8 COVID-19 immunization clinics held throughout the year.

COVID-19 info distributed to citizens on how to stay healthy and BC's regulations and steps taken during the pandemic.

**Social Development:** Social assistance for individuals living in the village who qualify based on application and family unit size.

Ongoing support for citizens in accessing and navigating social support in community

Providing ongoing support for Elders through monthly elders packages

**Housing:** Providing emergency temporary shelter for citizens in need

Supporting citizens in housing applications

Supporting citizens in accessing housing supports while in precarious situations or experiences of homelessness

**Child & Family Services & Prevention:** Ongoing support for families in working with Child Welfare organizations (eg. USMA). Assist and advocate for families and children in care  
With limits on gatherings due to COVID-19, there were only a few special events such as annual picnic and Winter wonderland

**Question:** I'm born in Canada but now live over in the USA. I'm not getting my medical/dental care over in Canada now. Dental is

expensive, medical in Canada is much better. Is there a budget to cover some of those costs? I need help in dental care. We are not able to go home and use that Canadian medical since we don't live in Canada. We are in-between there.

**Answer:** Yes, that is the most expensive costs. Accessing dental services – let me look at that policy and figure that out. Lets connect in the next few weeks.

**Question:** There is a lot of information here regarding what the nation did during Covid, it was an agenda item I wanted added. Sounds like the tribe has a different response to Covid. Will we have a meeting sometime soon so members can speak on this topic.

**Answer:** Yes, thanks for that question. We will be doing a Covid Response Analysis and show what worked and what might not have worked. I must also work on this assessment. If you want to be apart of that process, I would love to bring you in so you can see what we have done and how it relates to federal and provincial approaches. I would love to keep you involved in that process.

**Question:** Social Programs – I'd like to see notices go out to members as to what programs and services are available. Homelessness -how many units are we making available to our people. We have homeless being told no when asking for help. The little bit of information we get, we see cut and paste. A lot of people are making the same decisions.

**Answer:** We have had a temporary contract with an outreach worker and a big part of that is trying to find them. That person will work directly with those people for supports. I have been prioritizing that work. Communication – yes, lets make sure we get streamlined approaches.

**Question:** How many of units are being made available for housing? Units on an emergency basis.

**Answer:** Yes, we have a contract with emergency hotels and some units at The Thunderbird. We have put citizens up on an emergency basis.

**Question:** Can we have notice that outlines the criteria that suit those that are in need. Its an ongoing issue and we are not getting information here. We are constantly outsourcing. We need to cover social issues.

**Answer:** Good point. We just completed the housing needs assessment and will be updating numbers for that. In budget we have homeless strategy in supporting citizens that are experiencing bouts of homelessness. In meantime, we have provided emergency shelter support.

**Question:** We do need better communications.

**Answer:** Yes, we are looking at a whole new social media and including a communications coordinator position in the budget. We need see need to increase communications.

**Recommend: Make it it's own position. Communications role is a large role.**

**Comment:** Yes, it is important with families and communities to connect. I've been experiencing long term care and I am grateful for Christina- our nurse for keeping in touch with my health. What will our nation do for us regarding long term care. I know rainbow gardens is open for our first nations. I hear that they have no control now who comes in and who goes out – they need to be on a priority list and it has to do with Island Health Nurses. I'm concerned about our people, our elders in need. I want to thank you for all the things finally opening up for us. I have a lot of pride in being a citizen of Uchucklesaht. I know due to Covid we could not come together, I miss our dinners. I love to be with our people. I've been wanting to move home. I am grateful for the boat to bring us back and forth to Uchucklesaht. I wonder how many people moved home? I had to move to town to work. I'm now retired and want to move home. Thank you for today's meeting and all the people involved. Choo.

**Question:** Where is the housing needs assessment?

**Answer:** Housing needs assessment not done yet, we are updating that data. There was invitations for citizens to participate but in future, yes, I'll add you to the list.

**Question:** Kids activities, does it include nanaimo?

**Answer:** Yes, good question. We will communicate local events outside of the community. An email update did go out that there is a process in applying for supports for families to put their kids in sports/classes. I will send that information to you Ronalda.

**Question:** How many units are available in the village if they want to move home? Is there a budget for the past year on housing/infrastructure. What was done – we have not seen the budget as to what happened there. How many units are being lived in and rentals being used?

**Answer:** The last two years we replaced 14 homes in the village and there are families that will be transferred those in fee simple ownership. There is going to be a process for identifying which families had historical ownership. We are looking at phase 4 for short term rentals, renovating the six plex and use that for housing for citizens in the village and 10 unit townhouse for phase 5. We have spent around 9 million in funded money, water, sewer, roads. We have spent a lot of funds on housing and will work on the short term housing next. We are doing a subdivision plan for more lots for citizens in the village. 14 homes are available right now and owned by historic families that lived there and going

through process of identifying areas. Full consultation process is in place and that will come out in near future after the surveying.

### **Education & Skills Training Supports:**

Supporting Post-secondary training requests including tuition and living allowance

### **Garden and Food Security:**

Provided monthly food support to citizens through food hampers and food gift cards include recipes for balanced healthy eating

**Question:** Tutoring, we found someone to tutor – is there a fund for this?

**Answer:** Yes, lets talk about that when I update you about the dental. I'll reach out to you. Send me your email. We can find some supports for your kids as well through other means.

### **Economic Development Annual Report –**

2021 –2022 HIGHLIGHTS- Village Phase 1 & 2 Housing Development- 14 new homes

Nucci Facility- NTC rental revenue = operating expenses

Thunderbird Spirit Water bottling plant & retail outlet

Strategic location on Port Authority property to support growth and operational efficiencies

Cultivation & Harvesting Agreements with Cascadia Seaweed

Burrough Point & Diplock Island

Forestry Partnerships- Revenue from harvesting agreements

**Hired new Economic Development Manager- November 15, 2021**

Impacts: Supply chain issues for Thunderbird Spirit Water from plant equipment to packaging

Thunderbird Spirit Water markets dissolved - halt of virtually all business and leisure travel for 2+ years

Thunderbird Spirit Water retail outlet yet to open to reduce interactions with public for health safety of all our members & staff

Restrictions on relationship building & in-person marketing, conferences, trade shows, in-person meetings canceled

Challenges of recruiting and retaining employees happening throughout all sectors of economy due to government supports & personal health concerns

**Thunderbird Spirit Water**- 2021 World Water Championship *Gold Medal* award for best tasting water, AGAIN!

2019 -2021 for World's Best Tasting water

1 year delay to receive production plant permit due to COVID

New marketing program to launch with new website, social media, improved branding

Focused on UTG cultural values, teachings, activities, lessons, history: the water is more than a product, it is a sacred source of life

New carbonated water product line

Potential new larger-format boxed water and environmentally-friendly packaging (\*no plastics)

Working towards new cannabis-infused product lines

**Seaweed & Seafood**- Cascadia Seaweed kelp farm partnership at Borrough Point & Diplock Island

Shareholders of Nuu-chah-nulth Seafoods Limited Partnership (NCNS aka St. Jeans)

**Forestry**- Maintaining revenue opportunities within Important Harvest Areas (IHA's)

Exploring opportunities to create Community Forest License

Application for funding to Province in support of investigating potential to develop value-added products from wood biomass

**Village Development Phase 3-** Construction to start this year on new Wellness Centre and Longhouse. Working with Lands & Resources to develop an Active Transportation Plan focused on trails and marine transportation to service residents and potential tourism markets

**Economic Development Plan-** New 5-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan to start this spring. Will be seeking input from community members.

**Exciting times-** Investments are Bearing Fruit - Opportunity Leads to Prosperity

**Focus on Long-Term Economic Sustainability-** Make prudent investments today to create income streams for generations to follow

**Create and Leverage Business Partnerships-** Build mutually-trustful and beneficial relationships to leverage others' resources, mitigate risk exposure to UTG and, therefore, maximize our potential return on resources

**Economic Development Strategic Plan-** Complete plan this year and make prudent, timely decisions to implement recommendations

**Transmountain Pipeline Expansion & RBT2-** Both projects are important to UTG as they would result in increased shipping in our waters

Remain engaged in discussions and negotiations to protect UTG interests and opportunities

**Question:** Can we get a more detailed report on the forestry program?

**Answer:** I am in a learning curve here. We are looking at the MOU's with Interfor and Mosaic right now to improve our relationship with them. I am learning a lot in that sector. I'd be happy to answer specific questions if I could do more research to provide those answers with you.

**Comment:** Just a budget on the history on what happened in the last year?

**Answer:** Yes we can do that.

**Question:** What is the pipeline expansion project? I thought we wanted to protect the ocean and wildlife.

**Answer:** As project goes through – Maa nulth Treaty Society is leading those negotiations and I'll review that information.

**Director of Lands & Resources Annual Report –**

**Fisheries** - The Department of Lands and Resources continued to undertake the food fishery program. Food fish was harvesting was organized and distributed by Tribe Government Staff. The 2021 food fish program completed six fish distributions between March 2020 and 2021.

As part of the food fishery program the following percentages of Uchucklesaht's portion of the Maa-nulth Allocation was harvested. The allocation is based on the number of enrollees at the time of Treaty Signing. This allocation will be increasing in 2023 as the number of enrollees has increased and it will be recalculated through the Maa-nulth Treaty Society.

Fish Fence operation continued for 2021, and as usual wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of Tina Halverson. Fence count numbers are important for escapement estimations. An ARIS sonar unit was loaned to the Tribe Government during the 2021 fish window and is planned for the use again in 2022. Grant funding options are being explored to allow for the purchase and permanent installation of an ARIS Unit.

The Me-Too clauses of the Treaty are currently being explored by Maa-nulth Nation staff and Maa-nulth legal teams to identify actionable pathways forward for negotiation with DFO with the end goal of a Maa-nulth Nation based Mosquito Fleet commercial fishery.

Harvest reporting of both allocated and unallocated fish species is crucial for ensuring continued access and species management. Fishing effort, successful or not needs to be

reported as this information lends strength to commercial fishing management requests and or allocation determination.

**Wildlife** - Daytime and Nighttime Ungulate Surveys were completed in the Clemens Watershed. No Deer or Elk were observed during the surveys.

Harvest reporting of is crucial for ensuring continued access and species management.

No Elk harvest occurred per agreement in the Maa-nulth wildlife harvest plan. Per the Maa-nulth Wildlife Harvest Plan Uchucklesaht has rights to one Elk from the Nahmint Herd. However, Nahmint Herd populations cannot currently support a harvest.

**Lands** - Village Revitalization Phase 2 works were complete in 2021. This included the construction of eight new homes. Village revitalization works survey has been completed and is undergoing survey and legal review. Following survey drawing completion, titles can be defined for individual lots and title transfer can be completed. Phase 3 of the Village Revitalization works will include construction of a Wellness Centre and a Long House.

**A new Emergency Preparedness Plan has been developed for Uchucklesaht Lands and Assets.** This includes an Emergency All Hazards Plan, development of a Emergency Operations Centre, and A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan was completed with support of a consultant (grant funded) for lands

immediately surrounding the Village. This plan includes provisions to mitigate wildfire activity on Treaty Lands, specifically around the Village. This report provided recommendations for wildfire fuel treatment, grant funding was secured for this work and it will be undertaken in 2022.

Official Community Plan update works were completed by staff and a consultant, with support of a funding grant. These works identified that a more detailed review and revision of the OCP is required, including review and revision of the Zoning bylaw. This work will be supported by Grant funding.

**Foreshore Mapping** works have been started to document all float homes located within Uchucklesaht Territory. The purpose of this work is to identify those legally, and illegally located within or fronting Uchucklesaht Lands.

**Reasonable Opportunity Agreement** Technical Working Group meetings occur monthly. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure reasonable opportunity to harvest wildlife, migratory birds and cultural resources from traditional territory. This group has been successful securing funding from the Province for the completion of a Ungulate Cumulative Effects Report for Maa-nulth Nation's Territories to identify factors impacting Ungulate life success on Maa-nulth Lands.

We revised our Important Harvest Areas (IHA) in 2021 for 2022 to create more sensitive habitat to be covered by IHA's. This was done by completing **GIS spatial analysis** and subtracting areas that wouldn't face harvest or licensing pressure. The subtracted areas were then added to areas that weren't

previously covered that could harvestable areas, or other areas that may see licensing pressure.

We have started a **Marine Stewardship and Management Program**. This program is fully funded through the Salish Sea Initiative. The intent of this program is to undertake monitoring and stewardship of Uchucklesaht's marine environment for long-term sustainable management, and to create baseline data to support response to an environmental emergency, and or climate change. This program will monitor key marine habitat indicators, and will specifically focus on marine birds, estuary areas, clam beaches, and other sensitive habitat features. The funding supports three positions and covers asset acquisition and operation costs. The program is funding the purchase of a landing craft, a run-about vessel, a side-by-side, Survey Quality GPS equipment, a drone, a remote operated vehicle, sampling equipment, GIS quality computers, and training.

**Question:** I need more information regarding the pipeline, I don't like it and would oppose it.

**Answer:** Transmountain pipeline is on the mainland but ends up in Vancouver. It means it will be increasing shipping going through our waters off of Barclay. We entered into discussion to protect those waters best we can. We are protecting our rights and fishing areas. We have tankers going through our waters, so changes are high so we are protecting ourselves. We are not building a pipeline. It's the federal government pipeline that was going to happen no matter what.

**Question:** Do we have funding for members to participate in the fishery this year? By way of costs – traps or equipment for members. What sort of incentive do we have for our members to fish on our own?

**Answer:** Have not considered that, it is an interesting idea to get people out there actively fishing.

**Question:** Have we changed our community plan to suit the other management plan with Island Nations. Are we participating in that change and supporting our stocks? Possibly participate PinaPed society.

**Answer:** Uchucklesaht has a plan in place to do sampling if we do harvest PinnaPeds. Treatment and Use after harvesting must be created. How to cure the meat, etc...it is interesting. All citizens have the right to harvest Pinnaped. Pinnaped management is something we are exploring.

**Question:** Could we invite Mr. Seaweed to our community to teach us how to harvest them properly?

**Answer:** Yes. Nothing in the budget for that harvesting at this point.

**Question:** Are there hunters that stay out at the resort out Henderson? Can we stop them from hunting in our territory?

**Answer:** No hunters operate out of the lodge. We do have gate by Clemens Bridge and denied requests from guide outfitters to our area past that gate. Bear hunting is most frequent out there, it is a big bear area. We don't have a lot of tools to keep them out but we strongly encourage them not to utilize treaty lands for their hunting.

**Question:** Will we import any other animals out Henderson? Deer.

**Answer:** No, not that I'm aware of. What animals are you interested in? There are beaver, cougar, bears but deer might be another one we can relocate out there.

Gate at Elbow Creek – there to protect that area. There was a huge increase in all areas of unregulated and unmanaged camping. Citizens may camp there anytime.

**Motion #02:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to accept the reports as presented.

Moved: Carla Halvorsen

Seconded: Thomas Rush

(All in Favor – 22)

(Opposed – 1)

*Motion Carried*

*End of Meeting Request: Megan Cootes would like to say a few words: Moderator invited her to speak: Turns out it was instead brother John Cootes Speaking.*

**John Cootes Comments:** My father late Bob Cootes. I'd like to talk about the experience I had - a bad experience with the nation since I refused to be vaccinated. Charlie coursed me and got private medical information from me and fired me after that. I spoke to my family councillor and he listened to me and agreed with everything I said but refused to listen to my interests. All of us have been told we cannot participate in tribal business nor tribal governance. I see that what has been presented is many wonderful things happening in this tribe but what makes me sad is that I've been told to shut up and go away. I am here today because I want support. I also want to address Scott Coulson. Scott made the decision to have me discharged. It is in his power to do what he did. He said I could no longer participate. Scott is not a tribal member, why does he have that authority. When I look towards our constitution I see violations of my freedoms and when I inquired with my family councillor, he refuses to talk to me.

**Reply:** Administrative Issues – me and other members of administration did not fire you. You did walk away and left your position. At that point you were asked to wear safety protective gear. He is able to file a complaint. We will not get into that. Thank you for your comment.

**Tina Robinson:** Bobs Family was always a strong presence in the village and his kids have been trying to participate for years. This is not a place for this. If you are feeling mistreated then follow the proper process with workbc. Wilfred Jr. you handled this well. Membership need to be able to participate. A lot of membership are demonstrating discomfort with way things are being managed. Information is not being shared. People are making decisions where they don't have that right. We need voices of all the chiefs to gather correct information so we have solid information – the way our families are seated is not correct and we need to address that.

**Reply:** Government Structure – would have to work with the law clerk to see what it would take to make those changes. Government Structure – who is entitled to legislative seats. Also recommend you make some time with your legislative member to see how that works.

**Action #01:** Law clerk can send the information to Tina Robinson regarding how government structures work – example: Constitution.

**Legal Response–** There are two parallel conversations going on. Let me back up to the first one. Authority for UTG to restrict people from working with their requirements (masks/etc.) Challenges in provinces and municipalities is them saying they have a right to not wear a mask. Court cases to date say yes there

is a legal authority to prohibit people from working but they uphold the power of governments to do that. Is it the right of the individual or the government? To date limited number of cases come in. Second part, not in relation to mandates but whether you were wrongly dismissed. That is the other question. You can register a complaint and appropriateness of the decision. That is the second legal question. There are mechanisms built into your system to challenge a decision made by your government. There is also Work BC, potential to say you were wrongly dismissed or improperly addressed.

**John Cootes:** Can I finish my statement. There is much conversation to be had here. This does not impact me alone. I'm sure we are not the only ones that don't want to be vaccinated. These things are a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights.

**Finishing Statement: John Cootes** – siblings have no interest in taking the vaccination. Why do we trust the word of Canada and same government that perpetuated the genocide. Canadian Government comes to our leadership with an experimental vaccine. We jumped all over it. Why do we trust these people. Stop ignoring us. We need to be heard. My councillor needs to be more responsible than you have been. We need a review of what this is – I have statistics and mortality associated with Covid 19 vaccines. I would like to send that information.

**Rules of order not being followed – had to remove the participant.**

**Legal Reponse:** I have no more to add and I did provide all my legal perspectives.

**Facilitator/Chair:** Taken aback by some comments made. Would gladly give the member in question the opportunity to go through the process and tell the truth. The truth is not out there today. I will not participate in threats which have happened to me personally from this member and will not take any more calls from him because of the threats. There is a process and I am fully willing to go through this process. As executive did meet to discuss this as well, it could be a possible agenda item in the future. That depending on enough information to make that decision.

**Elder Marie Samuel – final words and prayer.**

**Adjourn:**

**Motion #03:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to adjourn the meeting of the day.

Moved: Charlie Cootes Sr.                      Seconded: Tristan O’Daniel  
(All in Favor – 22)

Motion Carried

**END OF MTG**