

Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly
ZOOM & In Person
BUDGET/ANNUAL REPORTS
March 23, 2024

Attendance:

Wilfred Cootes Jr.	Thomas Rush	Ryan Anaka
Carla Halvorsen	Laurissa Lucas	Scott Coulson
James Robinson	Brianna Lambert	Maren Yeager
Marie Samuel	Ryan Cootes	Bruce Gonzales
Ellen Gonzales	Helen Robinson	Malachi Yeager Rosario
Martha Titian	Ronalda Robinson	Sabrina Crowley
Samantha Fregin	Charlie Cootes	Moriah Cootes
Sarah Cootes	Jason Titian	Randall Ginger
Regina Frank	Cheryl Cottrell	Ethan Gonzales
Jane Jeffrey	Matthew Sam Northrup	Sara Sam
Robert Cootes	Brianne Jimmy	David McCormick
Gina Laing	April Thompson	Cooper Styan
Lorraine Cootes	Christina Lucas	Martha Titian
Travis Styan	Steven Robinson	Jersey Robinson
Tristian O’Daniel		

39 in attendance

Prayer: Marie Samuel

Chant: Thomas Rush

Talking Stick/Feather – Brianna Lambert

Call to Order: Chief Councillor Wilfred Cootes Jr.

Overview of Agenda: Thomas Rush

Budget: Scott Coulson

Overview – line by line with Executive and Legislative Council and then it comes to the Peoples Assembly for any recommendations and then Legislative Council decides to accept or not. After second reading of the Act we cannot change it. Third reading passes the Budget Law for the Uchucklesaht Tribe People.

Three year financial plan 2024/2025 – its what our laws demands of us – the three year budgets.

Page 1 of schedule – three years shown at the top. First page has all your revenues. It is a balanced budget.

Right now it is in draft form and so we don't have drafts out there. Once it is final, it will be made available to all membership and post on the website. Feel free to take a picture of it, it is on the screen.

PRINT them now: and keep at the door.

Most of us are searching for what page we are on so we want hard copies on hand.

In our packages are the annual reports – all fiscal information is on the screen. Once budget goes through, then we post our act.

(BREAK – people in person at Nucii want hard copies of the draft budget and will leave the copies in the boardroom)

9:48am Budget Presentation Begins: First Page Revenues by department and descriptions are under the revenue lines there. Second Page Expenditures and match up with Revenues and bottom you can see zero budget which is what you want.

Reminder: This Peoples Assembly is a private function so please keep this confidential at this point – some of this is not yet public.

New Funding: New Fiscal Finance Agreement Negotiated and Signed – Federal Financing now at 8.2 million must be used for administrative services, governance, lands & resources.

BC Gaming Revenues – 20 year agreement paying all first nations in BC a portion of BC Gaming Revenues.

Negotiated to have the Treaty Loan paid back that was paid by UTG over the past 8 years amounts to 2.1 million.

New Relationship Trust – staffing and professional services \$1,040,000

Numerous Human Services Grants – staffing and expenses \$600,000

Cass Creek Power Project – Micro Hydro approved \$19,500,000 and 1.5 million planning grants

GAP Closing Funds: Applied for and received 2.7 million in funding for the UTG GAP Closing Project Phase 3

Canada Housing Fund

Administration: Salish Sea Initiative for Administration

Rent for Nucci

BC Hydro Repayment

Increase in Audit Fee cost due to new Economic Development entities and new gaming revenue

Increase in Bank Charges

Decrease in rent paid for Thunderbird Building

Legal increased due to Specific Claims that is funded through Government Loan

Increases to supplies and telephone for new building due to more locations to supply and service

Supplies for all administration

Increase in overall wages due to funding two positions paid by new grant and cost of living

Education Services: Created new department for post secondary education in 2021

Cancel NTC Services have hired UTG own F/T Education

Coordinator to better track and assist our students savings of \$24,000/year

Increased Education Budgets

New Tutoring Budget

FNESC – get every year and use it for the Christmas Party and bring the community together.

Post Secondary: Increased every year.

Post Secondary Education amount increased

Adult Training Increased

Career Fair Budget \$20,000

Health Services: Cancelled NTC Services – hired own nurse

Increased Funeral Services

Increased Elders Monthly Allowment

Elders Gathering increased

Parents Allowance \$100,000 for monthly assistance for those with custody of children

New Staff Positions all funded – Cultural and Family Support Worker, Care Aide, Cultural Support, Clinical Counsellor, etc...

Nursing: Medications and Supplies

Repairs to Nursing Clinic

Special Needs

Travel Staff

Social Development: Social Assistance Budget increased to \$30,000

New account for funding Homeless Strategy

Family and Child Services: New Child Care Subsidy \$50,000 for parents with children who are under kindergarten age.

Medical Travel: Increase in medical travel and meal rates

Additional increase as NTC travel rates are lowering what is paid for mileage

Culture & Heritage: Budget for a canoe and two pole carvings

Increase to Supplies to assist with additional programming

Marine Transportation: Purchased a 14 passenger vessel

Twice weekly village runs

Fuel

Repairs

Village Operations: Maintaining or Increasing all budget line items for Village Operations

No more BC Hydro Maintenance Fees

Increased propane fuel budget

Applying for funding for a new dock

Water Sampling: FNHA

Rentals: Cabin, Thunderbird 14 plex

Communications, Insurance, Repairs/Maintenance, Communications Improvements

Treaty Right Fishery:

Increased budget for catch costs and processing

Aquiculture Operations: Renamed Department from Shellfish to Aquiculture Operations

Entered into a kelp farming project with Cascadia

Accounts to include:

Fuel \$1, 500

Supplies \$1, 000

Contract Services \$4,000

Transportation \$2, 000

Salish Sea Initiative: New department was to cover the two year fully funded program of purchasing equipment and new positions to work in research, analyzing and protecting our ocean environment, has turned into at least a three funded program.

\$806, 904 funded in 2021

\$854, 503 funded in 2022

\$900, 937 funded in 2023

\$341, 000 funded in 2024

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

Funds include fully funded wages and administration and supplies

Will be doing some chip sealing in the village and we have some funding to put towards that.

Community Garden: New Department to for largely 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 2024

\$105, 000 LFIF Grant to cover capital expenditures, solar panels for greenhouse, small tractor

Economic Development: New Economic Development Manager hired in 2023 wages largely 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, major upgrade to include 'boxed water, and "automatic palletizing, fully funded. \$1, 250, 000 in' Grants. Major USA Distributor Agreement signed Feb 8, 2024

Currently two UTG members employed more to come

The Thunderbird\ s full and running, motel units up and running

Nucci Building full and paying for itself with revenues

Invested in two Joint Ventures for Cannabis, Sales of products in BC, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. Provincial Sales coming in 2023/24

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 increase for BC from \$60, 000 to \$250, 000

Government Revenue Sharing:

Treaty Loan Repayment, BC Gaming Revenues

Health and Wellness Program increased to \$500, 000

Continue to provide health and Wellness funds to all citizens raised from \$1, 000 once per year to \$550 every three months. \$2, 200 total per citizen.

Land Use Planning: Consulting Fees for the Planning process for the a Village Subdivision Plan, and Infrastructure Upgrade Plan grant funded at \$150, 000

Mapping CIS - \$10, 000

Publishing- \$2, 500

Legal \$10, 000

Emergency Preparedness: Budget to re-supply the emergency kits in village. Full Update to the Emergency Response Plan

Non Structural Preparedness Grant of \$59, 000

Community Resiliency Grant of \$93, 310

Training - \$3, 000

Legal - \$5, 800

Consulting Fees of \$20, 000

New Tsunami Warning System was installed, Fully

funded

Supply the Emergency Tsunami Accommodation
Trailer

Resource Management: New Department to ensure Resource Management is protected Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund grant of \$190,000

Accounts to include:

"Consultant \$142,000

Contracted Services \$15,000

Repairs and Maintenance \$2,000

Small Tools \$13,000

Supplies \$8,000

Implementation Activities: Received a \$200,000 grant to participate in MTS: 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): \$780,000 - 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: Qacca Settlement Trust - Long Term Funding Ended in 2019

Implementation Fund - Long Term Funding Ended in 2020
Resource Revenue Sharing - \$220,000

Capital Projects: Administration - \$40,000 computers
Trail Building - \$75,000 Trails in parks on Hochuclis Lake
> Canoe & 2 Poles \$140,000
> Nucci Building offices \$300,000
> Furniture for New Offices/Wellness Centre \$100,000
> Dock Repair Electrical - \$50,000

- > Village Internet System - \$50, 000
- > Electric Vehicle Human Services - \$50, 000
- > Cemetery Planning and Implementation - \$50, 000
- > Village Maintenance Workshop - \$ 100, 000
- > Village Wharf major repairs - \$50, 000

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Concern: Budget – infrastructure and moving forward with development ...somewhere we need funds available for a **community advisory committee** – people who live there and there is a need for it. I've witnessed that there is a detachment between admin and the people who live here, decisions being made without consultation of the residents needs to be known that office decisions miles away from us effects us more than is being considered. As we go ahead with development, it will change the face of this place. It is very prudent that we form a committee as there is a lot of houses here sitting empty. This is a budget meeting and request is being made – budget ,...to make funds available moving forward.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #01: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees that the Uchucklesaht Tribe should make sure that there is consideration and a budget in place for a Community Advisory Committee to consult with when the nation is planning any sort of development in the Village of Ehtlathese.

Answer: YES, Request will go to chief and council and yes the **subdivision plan** will have public consultation throughout the whole process.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Concern: Why are revenues for administration getting less and less each year? Forestry Revenues are also a lot less. I am happy to hear we have money for dock repair. Wharf, cannot take much

weight? We need foam blocks or whole new system. Where are we with those? Also, I love the new boats from the Salish Sea Initiative Funding, nice to see them in the water now at the dock.

Answer: Revenues down in 2025/2026...there is two million in funding this year...wage funding and then Salish Sea Admin Fees and then the one million in BC Hydro payment...those do not go forward. There will be replacement of funds going forward but cannot budget for that yet. We have one time only funding there so that is why the difference in funding there. Wharf is high priority for us. Agree, wharf should be looked at asap.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Concerns/Questions: Swimming Tickets, we only got tickets once but we were told only for locals? Scaler and Faller you hired- are they first nation- did we also reach out to UTG membership? Travel to get food fish- anyone getting it from out of town? Is travel there? Who gets that? Do we get gas money to get it? I had to travel 200 miles or more. Water, we are in the USA now? When are UTG membership going to start seeing money from that? Computer upgrades...can we get the old computers? The students or those in need of computers? The Committee Statement- can we put that in a motion so it can be looked at seriously?

People moving home – big thing for us would be school...would we get a school boat daily? How do we go about that?

Answer: Swim Tickets, yes provided to all. Christina will take note, it is for all our citizens. The Scaler/Faller – we have utilized UTG citizens to do that work but sometimes they are not available. Priority is UTG membership. But sometimes scaling is at a higher level and must be done for safety liability reasons. Selling the old computers, good idea. School Boat, yes if there is a time for school runs, we budgeted for that. Keep in

touch with Ryan and Christina. Traveling costs are for our shipping fees or our staff to go to Victoria. We are supplying some gas cards to help out citizens with picking up their fish. Any business that gets to the point of honorariums is when the business is making money....we would make decisions once we can actually provide funding if a business becomes successful and revenues are higher than expenditures. I do know students in need of computers are getting them. Used computers though, we must see what is available and if we can do that.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #02: Uchucklesaht People Assembly recommends checking to see if our old computers can be sold to membership.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Concerns/Questions: Support Worker at ADSS used to be Angie Miller. They are now cutting funds for their support worker. How can we support our students there? Can we provide assistance there along with SD 70? BC Hydro plant was placed there to be far away from the village, but why move it again? Its already in a good location.

Answer: All funds are coming from BC Hydro and UTG does provide that support from UTG to the students. Power Plant is being looked at to be moved. BC hydro has their potential locations. They can only provide more power if they get the space. Support Worker – Christina take note. They do not work for us. We don't buy that from NTC. If there is a UTG citizen that needed help, they would be helping. UTG will make note of UTG support there.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #03: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that UTG see what we can do to ensure that there continues to be the first nation education support worker at ADSS.

Note: Hydro location, it will be moved. UTG did provide areas that work for us and BC Hydro will bear cost and will increase our power accessibility in the future. Education Support Workers that used to work in the high school, we are taking that seriously at NTC and Maa nultl Treaty Society Level. We will help where we can. Education Support Worker at the high school is very important.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Concerns/Comments: Its an exciting day and I'd like to see more people in the offices. Island Elders Gathering Campbell River – really did enjoy it and miss those gatherings. I enjoyed the island lunch gathering cultural activities. I've heard a lot of good things about Cooper from the master carvers. He is doing a great job and I am very proud of Cooper, thank you. Landing Craft I am very excited about. Picture does not do it any justice. Hope it is helpful to bring our furniture down. Nice to see fish distributions including more like prawn and crab. Economic Development – my grand daughter enjoyed seeing the water plant. I hope we can bring citizens on a tour once or twice a year. Some people don't know where this place is. Henderson Lake is changed to Hochultlis Lake. Chip Seal in the village will be great. Thanks to all the staff for their hard work and the food. Career Fair – I'd like to see our own citizens in administration and I'd like to see more of our people in the offices. Budget for the canoe and pole is great – its being carved Monday to Friday.

Fish Distribution: Good that it includes herring roe, muscles, crab.

Economic Development – she was interested in that water plant. **I hope to have citizens be taken on a tour at the Water Plant. It is nice to see how it all works.**

Henderson Lake is re named to Houchutlis Lake.

Chip Sealing, I am excited about that. I also appreciate everyone picking up on the concerns of everyone. Thank you for the food and goodies.

MOTION #01: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that a community advisory be struck and formed for any future development that involves residents and homeowners of Ehtlateese.

Moved: Robert K Cootes

Seconded: Jason Titian

(All in Favor – 39)

Motion Carried

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: Selling the computers afterwards, make sure they are cleared off properly. Make sure your laptops are upgradable as well. Some are not able to be upgraded. Also check the RAM, the new RAM that is out, you can store in the RAM now.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Concerns/Comments: I was wondering about the funds that come back to UTG. Where does that money go? I didn't see anything in budget? Fishing, who does our fishing for us? Garden, whose land is the garden on and do they get funds on that land for it being there? Why not on our property? I would like to see more UTG members working, it is great that we have two members working in our water plant. Village, empty houses – I'd like to get back down there too but I heard there is not anything there as a full time resident.

Answer: BC Hydro Fees/Funds reimbursed to tribe and money goes back into UTG general budget and we use for services. Fishing- are people we have trusted in the past and they provided a quality service for us. Garden is not on our land, we do not have other land to put it on other than in the village but we need it up here. Yes, we have leased the land from the owner and it is below market rate.

Getting more people home – yes that is why we are working on the subdivision plan and then we can move forward on attempting to find more funding to get that done. Right now we are out of space and we have no power. Sewer, we now need a second septic field.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: There are a lot of good things going on here and a lot of paperwork. With myself and seeing all of this paperwork, it reminds me of committees and that I need to understand how council runs its government. For our people and understanding we would still be running under regulations and all that- if its on paper and not just a motion, if I was led to go through the paperwork, I would do better and be strong and like that additional involvement. I will read up more and for that committee it is a board of people, so we can see how we can be consulted.

Answer: Yes, great idea to create an initiative so we can go through and ask questions and refer to our constitutions and laws and see what can be improved. Knowledge is key. There is opportunity to provide clarity of structure, our constitution, our laws and regulations. Its nice to show structure and how to move forward. We can go through and refer back to our constitution together. You have a willingness to learn.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Question: If people missed school for so many days, they would have to give back funds. Is our tribe giving students loans? Can we forgive our people if something happens with them like a mental breakdown or anything like that? Can that be taken into consideration so that we are not punished when that comes up? One of our daughters got a loan from NTC, she was not able to repay that loan. So is that now forgivable once we took over? Can that be forgiven?

Answer: Yes, but we do not do student loans. Our students go to school and we cover all costs. Unsure of NTC loans that were taken out in the past but that has nothing to do with us. UTG covers all our students costs. We also assist those students with our support through our staff and education coordinators, human beings that know what is going on. Any student that has qualifications to go to school, they are fully funded. You are right, our student are the future and education is key. Lets look at that and get the history and facts so we can see how to help.

Action #01: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly would like administration to get more information regarding that NTC Student Loan History/Repayment. CAO and Director of Human Services will look into the details of that by gathering more information regarding this specific case.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: We miss you here too. Governance, people that were there and the beach keepers, those are the things that need to be in place today. Good things that happened a long time ago and working together in the community. I don't know the reason why we changed it since it has been there for years. The traditional teachings...word to govern...growing up together and how we taught the children and our grandfathers and parents being taught..i see it coming

back and it feels good. I see elders wanting to learn and our community is doing good. I see Maa nulth on U Tube and how it first started, I have a pride for this. We fought to be where we are today, it is beautiful. I really feel good inside to know that I come from a beautiful place just like our mountain, water and birds....everything. When I go home, I feel in balance again. I want to go home now for two years now. I want to be heard and go home while I am still here. We never used to go to the stores, we are at home. I feel good today coming to this meeting and believing we are going to make it. I am glad you came today. We never had any written things, we were always told and taught. The beauty around Hineus, everything is so beautiful there. I want to go home now for two years now. I want to be heard and go home while I'm still here. I believe all our people want to go home. I was home for a while in 1999, I used to be in the three bedroom trailer home and was well looked after – didn't have to pay rent or anything. I want to see our people home, children going to school and well looked after. We had a beautiful garden at home too. Lots of us had gardens, veggies, food, chickens. We barely ever went to the stores. I feel really good today and we are going to make it. I am really glad you came today. We have people that live in the states and more likely also want to come home to see the beauty of the village where we come from. I want to say thank you to everyone. Hopefully everyone can come. I'd like to see that happen with our cultural teachings, seeing good things in life and with the coming of age ceremonies and babies. We need to let them know we are there in guidance. There will be a time for celebration. Kleco/Choo.

Action #02: Uchucklesaht Tribe Place Names – Uchucklesaht staff to investigate as to when the names were recorded and when they changed.

Action #03: Uchucklesaht Tribe Administration to look into what sort of program such as the Beach keepers Program we can have in place in order to monitor our lands.

Answer: Thank you for the comments Marie – the beach keepers program- we are looking at similar programs ...guardian programs for our future. Guardian Programs and that is coming up. The 14 plex is almost complete and that will be open for citizens once it is ready. As more housing is done for subdivision, we are moving forward to get more citizens home. We absolutely see the

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Question/Comments: Thank you UTG employees Lands and Resources for all that food you provide to the Citizens. I appreciate you all able to go out and provide for our unhoused citizens – I very much appreciate that. I have friends out there and seeing you do that warms my heart. Thank you to Tricia our funding specialist, amazing job with finding grants that we are able to help our people with. She is the one that helps us with all that extra money. Is it up to the residents themselves to look into solar power for the other homes here? Thank you to all UTG employees. I thought that UTG is to give more of a living allowance than NTC? NTC is paying a larger living allowance than NTC...what is going on there?

Action #03: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly request that UTG Administration double check the living out allowance student rates and gather the information regarding that. CAO and Director of Human Services will look into this.

Answer: We will look into the case you are speaking about- Send info to me and Christina. It's a process to determine what we give our students.

We look at each living out allowance individually. Lets speak offline the facts on that. I would like more details. We look at each living allowance individually and we provide an excellent service for our students going to school.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comments: Thank you for your wise words and sentiment about this place. I love to hear marie talk and hear her stories, they are significant. I have a picture of the old village. The whole village was on the beach and now with all the infrastructure, there was nothing there but mountain and trees. Thank you for reminding us and I do agree and remember that this place was referred to Hinneis. Who changed the name to Ehthlateese and why? All elders used to call this place Hineis from Ella, Jenny, Percy and other elders...Definition: Where we Paddle our Canoe. With all our staff, lets do some more research. Also her comments about CAO over in Ottawa, totally different time zone, as prominent figure of this government, I feel he should be living here and not over there. He is over there running an organization from a distance. My other question: Someone referenced **guardianship program**.everywhere I've been – every nation has guardians in place – their own people of the land on the land. We here, this place we are in, is extremely high value real estate. From experience me being here, people are here and trespassing. They come down here thinking it is a resort, then park at the beach and someone has to go and tell these people this is not a destination for tourists to hang out. In the summer, **we need guardianship program/patrol**...not office staff that look at cameras from the office. Someone needs to ask them to leave. Now we are putting signs up so it will be easier to get here. Why do we not have employed guardians like other nations do. I hope you hear me, my grandmother, grandfather buried up the river in graveyard and also is a destination for mumuknees going up river having a picnic. It's a real situation and needs addressing. Is there

money to pay someone to patrol and drive around, check it out? Guy cutting logs here, dumping vehicles out here, people messing around and we need to put in a budget to get someone out here.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #04: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees that UTG does need something in the budget for the guardianship type patrols.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Alternative Power Question: No projects going forward until power issue was addressed. One house had solar panels – someone asked why only one house is getting solar when they don't even live here full time. Budget/Funding Wise, I think the rest of the houses need to get done as well. We should take care of all people down here first before the townhouses in Port Alberni. I asked about it and didn't get a response. Someone said my house did not have enough sun for that solar panel system to work.

Answer: There is a large Solar Program is coming for the entire village and in relation to the electrical upgrades. That will be brought forward in the future when that is approved. There are opportunities going forward for advisory committee to bring up issues in future.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #05: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agree that the other homes in the Village of Ehtlathese also get alternative power options such as Solar.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment/Questions: Someone mentioned job fair earlier and I think that is a good idea to have youth and membership informed as to what they need education wise. Job Fair for our members to attend to make some career planning is a great idea. We do need more

members working for the tribe. Legislative council – can we have them participate in more meetings as they are not invited to a lot of the Executive Meetings. All Legislative Council should be invited to more meetings. Summer, can we have more control of the gate at H500 so we can better protect our lands from wildfires and vehicles being dumped. Can we find more nuisance deer for our area. There was an island with a lot of deer. Deer can we put some out UTG lake...relocate to UTG lake?

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #06: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that Legislative Council be invited to more meetings like the Executive attend.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #07: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that UTG look into relocating Deer into the UTG territory.

Answer: We do not want Fallow Deer – but you make a good point. We have not seen any deer these days in our areas like people used to. Springtime deer surveys, we don't see anything. Elk Transfer, elk has been doing very well. It would be great to transplant deer into our territory but we must be careful of what we transfer into our territory. We can look into that.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment/Questions: I would live in Kildonan if there was a nurse there. I need better internet as well for uploading files. The comment about a student being paid less, and that question put aside..those things need some sort of follow through. Lets make sure there is some follow through with that regarding students living out allowance. Duck Hunting, can we get ducks distributed to us as well? Golden Eye Ducks added to our distributions for duck soup.

Answer: Name of the Wellness Center is now renamed Strong House. NAH Shook MAH tee. Once furniture is down there then we will have staff down there. I would like to get black duck and we have golden eye as well. Internet will be good, they are adding fiber optic all around us. Education, there is a process for that and I will follow up on that as well to ensure that doesn't happen again. Our staff do not have capability to get the duck but if we have citizens that can hunt them then that would be great. The way we used hunt duck, we are not supposed to use that method, there are some new ways we must learn in how to harvest them. PAL is something that is needed when you operate a firearm. We have to rely on our skilled hunters to target the ducks. Reporting, we showcase our traditions and ways of doing things as well so we protect that for our children.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #08: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that UTG also adds duck to our list of food being gathered and distributed to our membership and also set up a PAL program for staff/membership to go through.

Gone Fishing puts on the Core Program in a few weeks?

We can ask for someone to come in and train for the PAL. Working with Gone Fishin to set that up. Firearms license is important.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment/Question: Moving back to this end of the country - Yes, thought is universal, we do need to see our CAO in person as you do reflect better understanding to answering questions and finding solutions. I know advantages to you being in Ottawa for us but I think that it would be good to find that balance. People Assembly...would be good that all staff introduce themselves at the next meeting. The

Thunderbird, Water Plant, Etc.. so that everyone can put a name to a face to all our new staff. It would be so helpful.

Peoples Assembly Recommendation #09: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that at the next Peoples Assembly we invite all UTG Staff so that they can introduce themselves to membership so that they can match the faces to the names. Nucii, The Thunderbird, Water Plant – so people know who works for UTG.

Comment: I think I'll make a comment for our CAO, I don't feel comfortable putting a staff member put on the spot and being called out in a public forum. Lets find a better venue for that. I would not want this happening in this type of forum. We have a process.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment/Questions: We have a right to voice what we are thinking – this is a Peoples Assembly. Earlier someone called out another staff member and its not just one staff member being pointed out. We should try and deal with all as well and not just one so there is a full understanding. This is a free speech meeting called our Peoples Assembly to entertain comments from our people. Its our Legislature and Executives responsibility to hear and respond to it. We cannot put a gag order on the assembly.

Comment: This is a Budget Meeting: Where our staff live and reside is not a budget issue. If you want to add to the agenda then you are able to make that request. We cannot add additional items at the last minutes, we need time to prepair. Not a gag order, but there is a process.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: I don't remember past peoples assemblies where an elder was told what not to say. I want to thank Marie

for her words thanking CAO for his time and work. Our intent is that we miss the CAO. My mom has so much comfort when we see his face so I do see the elders concerns and safety felt when we see you present. We are not trying to make you awkward and uncomfortable. You are missed here in Port Alberni. We do love you and miss you over here. Please don't take what I have said as slight or invasion of your privacy.

Comment: I did have five surgeries and once I can come back and get approval from the doctor I will be doing that.

Comment: I hope you get well soon Scott – choo.

MOTION #02: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly reviews and accepts the Annual BUDGET 2024-2025 as presented with recommendations.

Moved: James Robinson

Seconded: Moriah Cootes

(All in Favor – 39)

Motion Carried

Annual Updates:

Director of Lands & Resources Update-

Fisheries- Food fish continues to be a key component of the Department of Lands and Resources. Food fish and food fish security have two key components, the first the harvest and distribution of food fish, and second management of fish and fish habitat within the hahuuti and Maa-nulth Domestic Fishing Area to support long term sustainable harvest.

Food fish harvesting was organized and distributed by Lands and Resources staff with the assistance of Human Services and other staff.

The 2023 food fish program completed six fish distributions between March 2023 and 2024. Food fish was distributed in person in Port Alberni and Victoria, and through pickup at the Nanaimo and Delta St. Jeans locations. We have had issues with the St. Jean Delta pickup and working to find a new cold storage and pickup location in the Lower Mainland.

We hire trusted fishermen to deliver the fish – others have not delivered on time.

We are working with other locations in Vancouver to charge us a better price...we might switch location for pick up in Vancouver since the Saint Jeans was not working out there.

As part of the food fishery program, the following percentages of Uchucklesaht's portion of the Maa-nulth Allocation was harvested.

Previous to 2022 the allocation was based off the number of enrollees at the time of Treaty Signing. The Maa-nulth fisheries committee worked collaboratively in 2022 and 2023 to recalculate the allocation based off a updated number of enrollees, resulting in an increase in the allocation available to Uchucklesaht. The following is the number of fish harvested and percentage of our allocation.

In addition to the above species, we also harvested prawns and tuna for distribution, purchased herring roe on kelp and provided some fresh oysters, clams and mussels, and smoke oysters to Elders.

The Hucuktli fish fence has been installed every year for over a decade to aid in estimating Henderson Sockeye escapement. Tina Halverson was responsible for another successful year running the fence.

The Henderson Sockeye stocks are far below historic levels. Understanding how many sockeye return to their natal rivers to spawn

ever/ year help fisheries scientist better manage the stock. The fish fence was installed from May to September and counted approximately 6500 fish in 2023. This amount was much lower than normal and is disappointing.

In addition to the escapement and run timing, biological samples can also be obtained to determine the length, weight, sex, and age of salmon. An Aris Sonar Unit was also temporarily installed in Henderson River adjacent to the fish fence. The ARIS was on loan from DFO and is also used to count returning fish.

We are continuing to work with DFO on Hucuktli Lake / Clemens Creek Chinook enhancement. DFO released 100,000 Chinook fry in the Spring of 2021, 2022 and 2023. Another 100,000 is planned for this Spring. This upcoming fall the 3 and 4 year olds should be returning to the system, and we will be undertaking snorkel surveys and stream walks independent of those completed by DFO.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: I would like for UTG to teach our youth how to set branches and collect spawn ourselves.

If citizens want to work with us on that, we can work that into our budget.

Gina Laing: Forestry Companies need to watch what the....

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: We are not interrupting as we are muted when not in person at the Nucii. All the mikes at Nucii are live and you are able to interrupt the report and take up time. Call to order please to keep on task here and save questions for later.. Elk, I've been out close to the village on back roads and seen the elk right at the border of this village – a cow up the road. We are isolated over here and there is a lot going on the back roads since I think it is all going unchecked. My

question earlier was about who is identified as the stewards to keep eye on the territory. We need a presence out there to protect our lands and medicines – that might be a budget issue as well. We need to own our land and take care of it. Situation going on out here...lack of population at the village might be issue. I know tribe has ideas to increase the population, I support that. Emergency Preparedness...the way mother earth reacts to climate change and pollution. Lets get emergency supplies sitting somewhere, but not here. I brought this up a year ago when all the district reps were there and still see nothing on the ground here. Empty trailer is up there as the operations center sitting empty still. We need all that moved on site for access in case something happens. There is enough eyeballs down here.

UTG Citizen/Enrolee Comment: The dock, in the 80's the tribe had the docks dredged. Will that happen again?

Answer: No, dock will not be huge. Its only large enough for truck to go on. Snug Basin side. Lady Rose said they have been in Snug Basin before. That area is eelgrass and prime habitat for rearing salmon.

Comment: Anytime you harvest, it is nice to know when and where so we can protect the area. If you are actively harvesting I can protect it for you.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: Security of Kildonan. I don't trust all the people down there for security. Id rather someone else that is not from our tribe as security. I can barely defend myself. Some of the people down there are too intimidating and want things only their own way. If any security, I want it someone else and not someone from someone that can hold a grudge for decades.

Comment: Security would have to be discussed by staff, executive and a committee before decisions were made.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: These meetings should be welcoming of other topics as well. How often do we get to voice our concerns.

Reply: A lot of people have a lot of different topics they want to speak about – we need to be able to gather information and be prepared. Everyones’ concerns are being addressed and will be answered. Executive and Legislative Assembly will discuss a different forum to discuss.

UTG Citizen/Enrollee Comment: Logging, yes it takes so long to get back. Salmon Species as well and you have to worry about habitat, where they spawn and where they reared. Green Crab...etc..

Economic Development Annual Report – David McCormick

Comment: We will make water available to you but we want our bottles back. It takes time to bottle the water but it is available. We have some here as well here today.

Rational: Why we go glass and not plastic?

To ensure the sanctity and purity of the product. Plastic you end up with toxic particles that are harmful to humans, fish and wildlife. Research is astounding.

Lets be part of the solution and not the problem. Machinery side, plastic

Adjourn:

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

Moved: James Robinson

Seconded: Jason Titian

(All in Favor – 39)

Motion Carried

END OF MEETING

2:00PM