

**Uchucklesaht Tribe
Peoples Assembly
Nucii Multipurpose Room & ZOOM
August 24, 2024**

Attendance:

Wilfred Cootes Jr.	Lauren Baader	Susan Leask
Carla Halvorsen	Laurissa Lucas	Ellen Gonzales
Ethan Gonzales	Moriah Cootes	Charlie Cootes Sr.
Gina Laing	April Martin	John Cootes
Marie Samuel	James Robinson	Matthew Titian
Serra Cootes	Megan Cootes	Ryan Cootes
Martha Titian	Bruce Gonzales	Scott Coulson
Kayan Yu	Brianna Lambert	Clifford Charles
Valerie Styan	Mike Smith	Linden Smith
Angela Jeffrey	Lorraine Cootes	Cheryl Cottrell

Agenda: AUDIT

Pre-Meeting Discussions – member not happy with how process works now and following agenda.

Another member does not like this current process and not happy she has bad eyesight so cannot see the screen. She want a hard copy of the draft audit. She wants more transparency.

Member wants meetings to be in person and wants all his communications in person. Zoom is an amazing tool but it takes away from in person personal communications.

UTG Member notes that part of the reason we don't make many copies of the draft is that it is in draft form – the nation must protect its financial integrity. People have always been able to also come into the office and see the audit in person in its final form.

Uchucklesaht Tribe does not hand out any draft documents – we review together on the screen and then people are welcome to see the document in the UTG office once we have a final version signed off. This is the process we have followed in the past. We are transparent and have a third party that works on the audit.

Note: Chief Councillor notes they will hold a Special Peoples Assembly for any other matters and that he has items she has raised noted to be added to the next Executive Council Agenda as well.

UTG Member: We must include ZOOM as part of our meetings so that members from a distance who cannot travel so far are also able to participate. We cannot leave them out.

Guest: Auditor Kayan Yu from BDO

Audit ending March 31, 2024 – positive balance of 7.4 million and decrease in accounts receivable due to various grants. Total liabilities decreased and non-financial assets increased.

Decrease in inventory. Logging inventory – the logs got sold at the end of this year.

There was also the six plex (now 15 plex) project and the micro hydro project.

Statement of Operations – activities for the entire year.

Forestry Income increases in income 2.7 million this year.

Settlement Trust – Logging Settlement was 8.8 million

UTG Member Question: Please elaborate on the forestry money that came in.

Answer: There was a Specific Claims Logging Settlement due to the logging that occurred on UTG lands in the past and the settlement total was 8.8 million. UTG invested the money. These are logging activities that occurred 100 years ago and in the 1920;s. Not sure where that money in the past went back then but they breached their fiduciary duty to protect UTG rights. There are other Specific Claims being negotiated right now as well.

BC Utilities Commission issued a decision to refund fees to UTG in the amount of 1 million as a one time settlement.

Additional Grants require additional activities. Cost of Living increases and Cannabis Business Costs are also an increase.

Annual Surplus is 14.1 million

Financial Statements were approved yesterday by council.

This is an unqualified audit otherwise known as a clean audit.

Motion #01: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly has reviewed the Audit ending March 31, 2024 and accept it.

Moved: Charlie Cootes Sr.

Seconded: James Robinson

(All in Favor – 28)

Motion Carried

Other Items/Debrief:

UTG Member: Would like to talk to elected officials about his issues. He feels he has been denied for too long.

Note: Uchucklesaht is holding a whole other Special Peoples Assembly to do so. This is a process, its not personal. I've created a space where no agenda item will be denied.

UTG Member: Notice did go out but the font could have been bigger.

UTG Member: Thank you Laurissa for the notices that do go out. Lets make the font size larger. We must still include ZOOM so that our other members may also attend and participate.

UTG Member: Fifty years ago or more used to get a share of the money the nation got, are we not doing that anymore? I feel my rights are violated and the changes are confusing. I don't understand everything. I look forward to future discussions. I'm an elder and ignorant to some things and feeling misunderstood and left behind. I know knowledge of the past and we are to be respected when we speak.

Uchucklesaht Tribe keeps the money for the nation to invest and use funding for UTG services that benefit all UTG members.

UTG Member: Thanks to mother for speaking up. I liked the process we had before treaty where all decisions were made by the whole nation and not by council. Also, I cannot afford glasses to see the ZOOM screen. One other issue is BC Hydro wanting to put their diesel generator up by our lake – I do not agree with this. That lake is a sacred place. We must protect our salmon. We have a deadline to oppose this, November. I want results, I would lay on the road. Another concern of mine is the Monkey Pox

Note: Uchucklesaht Tribe already has BC Hydro Location discussion on the next Executive Agenda for discussion. Nothing will be built in the new location until discussion has been had.

UTG Member: I did find it hard to follow where the expenses were. I did get notice from the tribe but they do get lost in the sea of emails. Lets have more reminders – constant reminders. I appreciate your time.

UTG Member: I don't trust our government. I've been waiting five years to talk and I've never seen our CAO but he fired me years ago. My home was also given away. I have so many things to cover. We are only being told about process, these things belong to us. We all choose our leaders.

UTG Member: Thank you for all your concerns. John mentioned the Vaccine earlier – is that ban lifted now? Also, we must include ZOOM so all our members can participate. Things changed, I was not apart of treaty or meetings but I want to participate now. I look forward to more meetings.

UTG Member: We need to follow process here. Our politicians, executive council, legislative council and staff are not able to defend themselves in

a public forum like this. You also lied about being fired, you left on your own.

Reply: Yes, I had to wear additional protective gear and I did not want to wear the face shield. I left because I had to due to the Covid 19 mandates and those lockdowns were all just about control.

UTG Member Concern: Why have we not honored our previous chief yet for his dedication to our tribe?

Reply: The tribe had a carver working on creating a totem built out of respect for Charlie. It has the two thunderbirds on it, they are sleeping right now in our gym. It is a recognition pole and there will be an event when it is time to move it to the village.

Action #01: The next UTG Special Peoples Assembly will be on September 21, 2024 and the deadline to add agenda items will be September 7th so that it gives everyone plenty of time to add their items.

Recommendation #01: Uchucklesaht Tribe use the talking stick again at Peoples Assemblies and **involve our youth.**

Adjourn:

Motion #02: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to adjourn the meeting of the day.

Moved: James Robinson
(All in Favor – 15)

Seconded: Vallerie Styan

Motion Carried