YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL
PLANNING MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022
https://zoom.us/j/92549693537

ROLL CALL: 10:03am

PRESENT: Joe James, Chairman; Frankie Myers, Vice Chairman; Sherri Provolt, Orick District; Lori Hodge, East District; Ryan Ray, Requa District; Toby Vanlandingham, Weitchpec District; Phillip Williams, North District; Lana McCovey, South District

ABSENT: Mindy Natt, Pecwan District (no internet)

STAFF: Don Barnes, Executive Director; Taralyn Ipiña, Council Operations Director; Dawn Baum, General Counsel; Georgiana Gensaw (recorder)

QUORUM: 8 present, 1 absent, quorum present

OPENING PRAYER: Provided by Councilmember Williams.

REVIEW AGENDA / ADDITIONS / APPROVAL:
Motion by Vice Chairman Myers / Councilmember Williams to accept the agenda with no additions. Motion carries by consensus.

REVIEW CALENDAR / ADDITIONS:
March 12-Orick District Meeting at Westhaven Fire Hall
March 21-South District Meeting
April 4-5-NAFOA @ Seattle, WA
April 3-6-CM McCovey travel for NAFOA

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES: None provided.

COUNCIL CHECK IN:
Councilmember Provolt: Chairman we might want to think about a meeting soon regarding our Telecom Corporation and add that to the calendar. It's exciting to see this work starting and we will need to have a meeting soon to finish the development of our corporation board. Thank you.

Councilmember Natt: Not present.

Councilmember Ray: Pass
Councilmember Hodge: Pass
Councilmember Williams: Pass
Councilmember McCovey: Pass
Councilmember Vanlandingham: Pass
Vice Chair Myers: Pass

Chairman James: As Councilmember Provolt mentioned this morning, I swore in two Tribal Members for our new Telecommunication Board. The corporation is set up and the Tribe is deeply involved in broadband, and cell phone tower service. We look forward to that corporation involved in direct services to our membership on and off the reservation. So that's exciting work and hopefully we'll hear some news here real soon regarding infrastructure for these projects. That’s all I have for right now, George.

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:
Bertha Peters: Good morning. How are you today? I'm going to talk about this. Do you censor newsletter, do you edit it Joe? Okay. One thing is says is that the Tribe is taking care of the tribal members. I wish you wouldn't put that in there because a lot of people believe that but really you're not. The tribal members are taking care of their self, it isn't the tribe taking care of them. So you putting it out there to whomever and people belief that you are helping but it's not happening. It’s not a good thing to make them think that the Tribe is going to help them. So I wish when you put things in the paper that it is really looked at and take it out because it's false information. And another thing is that I got notice last Wednesday that elder lunches are no longer going to delivered to the elders. There are a lot of guys who depend on those meals, they maybe will cook a little something but often they just go without. I can name them off. There are a lot of people that live alone and now with gas prices to $4.89, it’s hard to travel. One family member told me that they cannot afford to go down to pick up the lunches. So I would like to see if the transit would pick up the elders and take them down to eat their meals. And it would be a good thing if they could take them there and then take them home. I would like to see if that could be coordinated. Okay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
CA22-052, Land Negotiations
Personnel

AGENDA ITEMS:
Council
CA22-050, Presentation from Humboldt County Supervisor Madrone
Submitted By: Vice Chairman Myers
Presentation from Humboldt County Supervisor Madrone for support for re-election to the Humboldt County Board of Director for 5th District. Discussion only, no action.

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:
Elizabeth Davis: I have a couple of comments I'd like to make to Mr. Madrone. I don't know how much influence he has with law enforcement but I feel like our law enforcement is lacking. I feel like we have a revolving door for criminals. They police tend to cite and then release. I can cite the specific incident where an individual was charged for providing illegal drugs which resulted in an overdose of a resident. They had that individual in custody. He was released. And a few weeks later when he was supposed to be in court, but he didn't show up. Fortunately, they were able to apprehend him again, but it just seems like the law enforcement system is lacking because all they do is slap these criminals on the hand, and then they cite and release them. You know, our community is very unsafe at this time in regards to that. But on the other hand, if somebody violates their probation for being drunk in public, you better believe they'll be doing a 30 to 90 day stretch in the county. I really feel as community members and residents of Humboldt County we need to ask our law enforcement to pick up the pace and make stronger laws to penalize these criminals. I feel it's time to speak up and say that because if you read the news, you know would know they're cited and released, and that is a problem because they come right back to the community where they do crimes. The other thing that I'd like to make a comment on is that we really need some restrooms and rest stops on our highways. Maybe you could work with Caltrans and the Tribe to find funding sources to get some bathrooms. There is no bathroom between Willow Creek and the coast. We have elders that go over the hill at least once a month, families with children, and it would be nice to be able to pull off and use the restroom. We also need bathroom downriver river. It's a long way to the end of the road. We have a lot of traffic there these days because of ceremonies and going from Willow Creek to the coast. We pumped a lot of money into the economy, buying groceries, shopping, and we would just like to be able to use the restroom. And the third thing I'd like to comment on is regarding the Bald Hills road. I really think that the logging companies ought to be taxed. They've used that road and made millions of dollars over the years, and they've never had to contribute one dime to the maintenance that road. I'm sure they'd probably still use that road if they had some timber sales in the area. And why does project always have to fall on the Tribe or the county to maintain that road. Those companies have made millions of dollars using that Bald Hills road. That's all I have to say today. Thank you.

CA22-051, Presentation from Local Candidates Running For Office
Submitted By: Council Operations
Presentation from Local Candidates. Discussion only, no action.

11:15am Councilmember Natt arrives

CA22-039, COVID Response Update
Submitted By: Councilmember Natt

February 23, 2022, Council Planning Meeting
Planning session to discuss COVID response efforts and how to improve services to the membership. Discussion only, no action.

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:
Linda Gillette: I have heard a lot about the Elder Nutrition Program and want to see it expanded to off reservation. My mom is 90 years old and I go to prepare meals for her. This would benefit many more families if it could be expanded. I also want to advocate for me COVID items to give to tribal members like thermometers and test kits. I understand from Hollie, the Public Health Nurse that she only has three staff so we need to get more information and stuff out.

Amanda Wilson: I want to encourage an Elders Program. Everyone is still getting Covid, those who are vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated. I think you need to move some of the positions into Community Health Aids verses having one Nurse. Also, need to have more efficient heaters for our elders, because some of them cannot lift or cut up their firewood.

Elizabeth Davis: I never understood the reason for a Public Health Department. Maybe we need to partner better with UIHS. Let’s instead use those dollars to support an Elders Program.

Annelia Hillman: We need to consolidate our elder response and services. There is not clear communications regarding services to elders.

CA22-041, Council Retreat Agenda
Submitted By: Taralyn Ipina

Discussion on March 3 & 4, 2022 Council Retreat Agenda; 1) Old business and how to track those, prioritize those agenda items (Provolt), 2) Elder care including elder wood and security of that wood pile (Williams), 3) RHC Loan and Repayment of Loan (Chairman James), 4) Referendums (Vanlandingham), 5) Continuation of Planning’s Presentation from the last Retreat (Natt), 6) Museum (Chairman), 7) Wellness (Natt), 8) Schatz Lab HSU-Solar Power Infrastructure, 9) 30x30 10) Law enforcement/District Attorney Humboldt & Del Norte Counties.

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:
Bertha Peters: What I haven’t heard about in a long time is a museum for those baskets that we got tucked away. We need to be putting that up before they get mildewed or something. I don’t know if anybody’s checking them regularly and talking care of them. I don’t know just where the baskets could be put, but maybe there is a in a little room at the Visitor’s Center. So, if that could be discussed.

Elizabeth Davis: I just wanted to see if the council could possibly make having restrooms available to the coast and also down river to the end of the road with ceremonies coming up. I think it’s a real priority. Elders and family members need to have a place to go to the restroom. And I noticed that membership doesn’t really know where we stand on our ARPA dollars. How much money is left? Maybe some kind of prioritization for what is left of those dollars. And the...
other thing I mentioned before regarding crime, how are we as a Tribe going to push Humboldt County system to retain these people that are committing crimes. I'm really tired of it and I don't feel safe in my community anymore with the site and release process that happens. I think as a Tribe we need to speak up and say that. Just look at the incident that happened right here in Weitchpec. I'm sure you all know which one I'm talking about. That’s just one case in point. People stealing cars and the vandalism that goes on, and then people just get slapped on the wrist, cited and released. I think as leaders and community members, we need to speak up and then let them know that as citizens and members of this community and county, we don't like it. I for one don't like it. We need to have more repercussions for those who are committing serious crimes within the reservation and off the reservation.

Anita Bussell: When my cousin was deemed as missing here from this area, I know that the Sheriff’s department went through three different investigators, and each of them had to start over three different times. I don't know who the investigator is now but again they have to start over again. And it’s frustrating when they keep switching around and not coordinating. And those are the things that we are talking about, I think it was a couple of months ago, that we were going to creating our own protocols within the tribe for missing individuals. We want to make that awareness right away and not to avoid the series of steps, but like what you just said with the county.

Celinda Gonzalez: We have one Officer down here that is on mostly on duty in the daytime. So, there is no law enforcement at night on the weekends. I've been told that we got other Officers who are in the Police Academy. They're in training. To me, there should be an equal amount of Tribal Police Officers in Klamath and down river. We have to wait for County Sheriff to get down here. I live kind of close to the road, so I'm always hearing sirens and seeing lights. We have multiple car chases that come down to our area, I guess because there's a lot of back roads. And once they reach a certain speed, the police have to give up. And I really feel like it is kind of unfair how many Officers are in Klamath compared to down here. And if our Officer has to go up there to help, I think are officers that there need to come down here and cover too. We have a lot of reports of break-ins. People coming down from Hoopa stealing down here and it's on a video camera. I think that there’s a lot of people coming in from out of our community. It’s like they case out places and know where the generators are. If we only have one officer that only works during the day and not on weekends and people know this we pretty much don't really have coverage. I would like to see that change. I don't know about having contracts with people that we're sending to the academy. I don't know how binding that is or if we can hold them to work with us. Even a year of being with us and staying with our department then provide a raise and help pay their benefits. I don't know what the solution to that problem is, but I would like to see it addressed that.

LUNCH: 12:20-1:20pm

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT: None provided.

February 23, 2022, Council Planning Meeting
AGENDA ITEMS:

Council

CA22-043, Training Program
Submitted By: Councilmember Williams

Planning session with the Yurok Tribal Training Program. (Requested attendance from TERO, Watershed, Education and Western Rivers). Discussion only, no action.

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:

Bertha Peters: It is good idea to do a training program. I am very interested in training for computers stuff, but I also think that you need to think about small engine repairs. So if that could be added on, thank you.

Celinda Gonzalez: Sorry, I was having problems with my mic. I would like to see more groceries in our store down here. There’s no fresh vegetables and the shelves are pretty bare. I was told there’s problems with suppliers, but couldn’t we build up a more supply options. Maybe we find out who the Hoopa store get their supplies from. When the community garden is here, could there be fresher vegetables brought in from the community garden and people could buy them the same day. The shelves down here are really empty all the time. I either go into Hoopa or I make a one big shopping trip to Eureka. I think most of us from down river make at least one good trip to Eureka once a month and load up out there. I would rather that money go into my community and my store down here. I’ve been commenting to the employees that there are no healthy foods options. There’s stuff to make quick and fast meals, and there is lots of junk food. I would prefer to have our store be able to provide more food options to the community. Thank you.

CA22-044, 2021 Referendum #1 Implementation
Submitted By: Chairman James

Directive to OTA and appropriate staff to draft and modify tribal ordinances, regulations and policies to provide framework for implementation of 2021 Advisory Referendum #1 Personal Medical Marijuana Cultivation.

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:

Bertha Peters: I do agree that you need to get information out to the public again on this matter, because a lot of people think they can grow six plants and nobody’s going to bother them. And staff keep saying, no, and that they can come and cut it down. That’s my understanding and that is what you said to me before, but there are some Council people who have told different people different things about growing. So I would like to see something out there that says that you can get your plants cut down.

Elizabeth Davis: Thank you Chairman. I agree. Whatever is put out there has to be crystal clear. Individuals need to know what they’re signing up for and also I think the part of enforcement has to be crystal clear. Where does our tribal police play into the whole equation? And also, what other departments will be involved? Now we have a water department, where do they
play into the equation? How much water is going to be allowed by each customer to use? I think they should be charged more for basic use. There's a lot of factors that have to be pulled in and discussed. It’s got to be written in a language that everybody can understand. And so there is no, “I didn't know”, or “Nobody told me”. You need basic language that everybody understands.

CA22-048, Healing Hands
Submitted By: Councilmember Hodge

Update on status of contract with Healing Hands. Directive to Executive Director to follow up with the contract within 1 week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 2:20pm -3:04pm
CA22-052, Land Negotiations
Personnel (Provolt)

Action Out of Executive:
CA22-052, Land Negotiations
Submitted By: Chairman James

Update from staff on negotiations for purchase of property in Ancestral Territory. Discussion only, no action.

TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT: None.
CLOSING PRAYER: Provided by Chairman James.
ADJOURN: 3:07pm

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED ON: April 21, 2022

Sherri K. Provolt, Secretary 04/25/2022