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**YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL
ACTION MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023
WEITCHPEC TRIBAL OFFICE**

ROLL CALL: 10:04am

PRESENT: Joe James, Chairman; Frankie Myers, Vice Chairman; Sherri Provolt, Orick District; Mindy Natt, Pecwan District; Ryan Ray, Requa District; Wes Crawford, East District; Phillip Williams, North District; Toby Vanlandingham, Weitchpec District; Lana McCovey, South District.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Don Barnes, Executive Director; Taralyn Ipiña, Chief Operations Officer; Maggie Mais, Office of Tribal Attorney; Georgiana Gensaw, Council Operations Coordinator (recorder).

QUORUM: 9 present, 0 absent, quorum present.

OPENING PRAYER: Provided by Vice Chairman Myers.

REVIEW AGENDA/ADDITIONS/APPROVAL:

Motion made by Councilmember Vanlandingham/Councilmember Williams to approve the agenda with additions of FOR23-008-Travel to DC 12/3-7/2023, FISH23-097- Arcata Office Lease, CA23-320-Travel to Tribal Leaders Summit, and include carry over items from yesterday's meeting. Motion carries by consensus.

REVIEW CALENDAR/ADDITIONS:

Council

CA23-302, Forestry Department Briefing
Submitted by Councilmember McCovey

Council consensus to have COO to work with Forestry Director to set a date for a work session. To request the Forestry Director to provide a briefing and Strategic Plan to implement a Timber Harvest Plan.

Natural Resources

Environmental Department

ENVR-026, Voluntary Community Driven Relocation Demonstration Project
Submitted by Louisa McCovey

Council consensus to have COO work with Director to identify a date for work session. To request a Council Work Session to discuss the Voluntary Community Driven Relocation Demonstration Project from BIA.

45 **COUNCIL CHECK IN:**

46 **Councilmember Williams:** Pass

47 **Councilmember Crawford:** I would like to address yesterday, I informed all of you that I would
48 be out. In the afternoon an item came out about naming of the East District Office. I found out
49 by a screenshot. I want to publicly say that I think people should be able to suggest names, I
50 personally support the name that was suggested. I would like to add his wife's name too, I
51 learned a lot from them both, they were teachers in the Indian Shaker Church and of the Yurok
52 culture. Let me know how I can facilitate the naming of this building. I am out on travel today; I
53 will be on for about an hour.

54 **Councilmember Natt:** NCIDC's food cards are out now, \$75 for either the Hoopa store, Walmart
55 or the store in Happy Camp. It's first come, first serve, so hurry up and sign up.

56 **Councilmember McCovey:** Pass

57 **Councilmember Ray:** Pass

58 **Councilmember Vanlandingham:** Pass

59 **Councilmember Provolt:** I attended National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and I want to
60 thank the Council for approving me to attend that. I have never attended previously, and it was
61 really great to be there to cast the Yurok vote for the NCAI President. I had my district meeting
62 on Saturday. Thayallen Gensaw did a great job with Yurok Language Bingo, and he was invited
63 back! We also had Amos Pole come and present the emergency plan. Additionally, Cindy Green,
64 our new Elders Advocate came and met some of our elders. I appreciate staff coming to my
65 meeting on a Saturday.

66 **Vice Chairman Myers:** Pass

67 **Chairman James:** We had a good discussion yesterday, that's what we are here to do and it was
68 a good dialogue. I also noticed that Councilmember Williams is wearing his Veteran's jacket,
69 and I want to acknowledge that event we had up Veteran's Cemetery and then over at Tulley
70 Creek Firehouse. It was a nice event and well attended. Veterans really liked their jackets. We
71 also met with Colusa Tribe online and talked about some of our shared goals and how we can
72 work together. Tim (Hayden) we need to reach out to Green Diamond and make sure that we
73 have enough wood for our elder's wood program. Also, I see Amos is putting out his wintertime
74 preparation, which is good and much needed. The weather is only going to be getting worse.
75 The roads are slick, and the rain will be coming.

76 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:** None provided.

77

78 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

79 CA23-305, RWE Communication NDA

80

81 CA23-306 – RWE Communications Plan
82 CA23-310 - Paracel B Skeleton Proposal
83 CA23-311 – Executive Session Re: Enrollment
84 Legal/Personnel (Vice Chairman Myers)
85 Personnel (Provolt),
86 Personnel (Williams),
87 Investment Portfolio Update (Jason Barr), and
88

89 **Council**

90 ***For the record: Chairman James recused himself for agenda item CA23-312 due to a conflict of***
91 ***interest.***

92
93 CA23-312, East District Office Renaming
94 Submitted by Councilmember Williams

95 **To discuss the renaming of the East District Yurok Tribal Office. To consider a recent email**
96 **request. Item pulled. (Councilmember Crawford will resubmit a new agenda item)**

97
98 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:**

99 Rose Sylvia:

- 100
- 101 • Pecwan district, I would like to have some input in into this issue and it isn't specifically
102 for this issue. It is in the naming of our buildings, and we continue to use the term
103 aawok and I'm not a fan of that. I would prefer that you just use those people's names
104 with the family permission. For the Bonnie Green Building, I have I talked to her
105 grandson, and I asked him if it was OK if I did not use aawok when I referenced the
106 building because she was a powerful woman.
 - 107 • We have beautiful words in Yurok. I think a lot of Yurok tribal members regardless of
108 where the building is located should have some input. Thank you.

109 **CONSENT ITEMS:**

110 **Natural Resources**

111 *Fisheries Department*
112 FISH23-096, Wiyot Tribe Letter of Support
113 Submitted by Barry McCovey, Jr.

114 **Motion made by Councilmember Natt/Councilmember Vanlandingham to retroactively**
115 **authorize Chairman to sign a letter of support for the Wiyot Tribe and a proposal they are**
116 **submitting for Eel River Restoration projects. Moton carries by consensus.**

117
118 **AGENDA ITEMS:**

119 **Natural Resources**

120 *Fisheries Department*
121 FISH23-095, Hewlett Foundation
122 Submitted by Barry McCovey Jr

123 **Motion made by Vice Chairman Myers/Councilmember Vanlandingham to authorize the**
124 **Fisheries Department to enter into the attached agreement with the Hewlett Foundation for**

125 capacity building funding in the amount of \$455,000 over 3 years. Full indirect is allowable
126 and matching funds are not required. Motion carries by consensus.

127
128 FISH23-097, Arcata Office Lease
129 Submitted by Barry McCovey, Jr.

130 **Motion made by Vice Chairman Myers/Councilmember Ray to authorize Fisheries**
131 **Department to enter into the attached lease agreement for additional office space in Arcata,**
132 **CA and to approve Resolution #23-127 granting a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity in**
133 **favor of Complete Property Management. Roll call: Vice Chairman Myers-yes,**
134 **Councilmember Crawford-yes, Councilmember Ray-yes, Councilmember Vanlandingham-yes,**
135 **Councilmember Provolt-yes, Councilmember Natt-yes, Councilmember Williams-yes,**
136 **Councilmember McCovey-yes. Yes-8, no-0, abstaining-0, not present-0. Motion carries.**

137
138 **Office of Emergency Services**
139 OES23-007, FEMA Training for Tribal Leaders Authorization
140 Submitted by Amos Pole

141 **Motion made by Vice Chairman Myers/Councilmember Vanlandingham for a 4-hour course to**
142 **Council and Executive Branch. Request for tribal council to approve ED to sign authorization**
143 **request FEMA Tribal Liaison to deliver the L0583 Emergency Management Overview for Tribal**
144 **Leaders. Tentative course date in January-February 2024, Request must be submitted to**
145 **FEMA, before final date can be set for course delivery. January 8, 2024, as selected date.**
146 **Motion carries by consensus.**

147
148 FOR23-008, House Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing for Federal Lands
149 Submitted by Dawn Blake

150 **Motion made by Councilmember Vanlandingham/Councilmember Williams to approve**
151 **Forestry Director, Dawn Blake to be a witness for the House Natural Resources Subcommittee**
152 **Hearing for Federal Lands regarding the topic of Expanding Tribal Forest Management**
153 **including travel to Washington, DC December 4-8, 2023. Motion carries by consensus.**

154
155 ExecDir23-021, Elder Distribution
156 Submitted by Don Barnes

157 **Motion made by Councilmember Natt/Councilmember Vanlandingham to approve the**
158 **transfer of \$102,400 from Morgan Stanley #xxx217 (Logging 2) to Morgan Stanley #xxx575**
159 **(elders Acct) to fund payment of \$100 for all Tribal Elders (60 years or older by December 31,**
160 **2023) pursuant to the General Welfare Ordinance. Funds to be transferred to Yurok**
161 **Operating account for processing. Chairman to sign all related documents. Motion carries by**
162 **consensus.**

163
164 **BREAK: 11:06am-11:19am**

165
166 **AGENDA ITEMS:**
167 **Executive Office**

168 *Office of Self Governance*
169 OSG23-014, BIA Contract Support Cost Letter
170 Submitted by Councilmember Provolt

Motion made by Councilmember Vanlandingham/Councilmember Williams to approve a letter to the BIA stating that the OSG policy does not need to be amended. Motion carries by consensus.

174
175 **Planning & Community Development Division**
176 *Planning Department*
177 P23-051, Indian Health Services Memorandum of Agreement
178 Submitted by Che'shepe James-Robinson

Motion made by Councilmember Provolt/Councilmember Vanlandingham to approve and Authorize Chairman to sign Indian Health Services MOA CA23-D48 and any associated minor amendments to project. I.H.S to provide water and wastewater assistance to twenty-eight (28) Tribal Households. Motion carries by consensus.

183
184 **Council**
185 CA23-301, Endorsement of Candidate
186 Submitted by Chairman James

To endorse Adam Schiff for California State Senator seat (Formally Senator Feinstein's seat). Item tabled.

189
190 CA23-304, Call for Cease Fire
191 Submitted by Vice Chair Myers

Motion made by Councilmember Provolt/Councilmember Vanlandingham to request Yurok Tribal Council to take official stand to call for a Cease Fire. Motion carries by consensus.

194
195 CA23-308, Promise Neighborhood Travel
196 Submitted by Councilmember Williams

Motion made by Vice Chairman Myers/Councilmember Natt to approve travel for Councilmember Williams and Councilmember Ray to attend 2023 Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community Schools Conference on December 11-13 in Washington, DC. Motion carries by consensus.

201
202 CA23-309, Bluff Creek Resort Management
203 Submitted by Vice Chair Myers

Motion made by Vice Chairman Myers/Councilmember Vanlandingham to transfer management of Bluff Creek Resort from the Yurok Economic Development Corporation (YEDC) to the Yurok Indian Housing Authority (YIHA) contingent on YEDC and YIHA Board approvals. Motion carries by consensus.

208
209 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:**

210 Che'shepe James-Robinson: I am the YIHA rep for Weitchpec, we wanted to have the project
211 stay in Weitchpec because the grant was here for Weitchpec.

212
213 Noreen Jones: This was called Greasy Spoon a long time ago. We do need to take care of our
214 Veterans. There was person who passed away about 10 years ago and it was a disease that was
215 going to consume her, and no one wanted to take care of her because she was contagious. If
216 there was a place for people to go like that.

217
218 Lori Hodge: I am worried about the word, "transitional" and that's the word Nicole said
219 yesterday. Remember the difficulties we had the last time we had transitional housing there.
220 We had people who didn't want to leave, who couldn't leave. I would want Council to maintain
221 some kind of control over it, because we need more housing opportunities for those working on
222 the river projects, for economic reasons, for tourists and fishermen.

223
224 **AGENDA ITEMS:**

225 **Council**

226 CA23-316, Appointment Terms

227 Submitted by Councilmember Vanlandingham

228 **Discussion/Action on adjusting Chief Judge contract to coincide with term of appointment of**
229 **the Chairperson. Item tabled to Council Retreat.**

230
231 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:**

232 Lori Hodge: You can put anything you want in a contract if the ordinance already says 3 years.

233
234 CA23-317, NCAIED 40 Under 40

235 Submitted by Councilmember Provolt

236 **Motion made by Councilmember Williams/Councilmember Vanlandingham to approve a**
237 **letter of support for Pam Ames for National Center for American Indian Enterprise**
238 **Development (NCAIED) 40 under 40 award. Motion carries by consensus.**

239
240 CA23-319, October 24-25, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

241 Submitted by Councilmember Provolt

242 **Motion made by Councilmember Williams/Councilmember Vanlandingham to approve edits**
243 **and corrections of Council meeting minutes for October 24-25, 2023, Council Gaming Meeting**
244 **Minutes, Council Finance Meeting Minutes, Council Planning/Action Meeting minutes.**
245 **Motion carries by consensus.**

246
247 CA23-297, Legal Opinion on Executive Session

248 Submitted by Councilmember Crawford

249 **Action/Discussion directive to General Counsel to provide the Tribal Council with a legal**
250 **opinion on when a Councilmember can be excluded from Executive Session. Item tabled.**

251
252 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:**

253 Rose Sylvia: I was listening yesterday; I really think that you should consider changing your time
254 of your meetings and the availability of the meeting times. My district meetings are held during
255 working hours, so there's no chance to have any input. There's never any mailouts for any
256 input. I have always been involved; I would like an easier opportunity for Tribal members to
257 participate. I would say weekday evening. It is rough when you work all week and then must
258 work on Saturday.

259
260 Lori Hodge: Even when you change meetings up, the word doesn't really get out there. The only
261 thing that gets out there is the agenda. At least if the corresponding memo for each item was
262 provided along with the agenda, that would help. I really wish you would consider adding the
263 memos to the agenda items.

264
265 Noreen Jones: I would like to be at all the Council meetings, but I have a lot going on, I have
266 people to take care of. When we are sitting out here and watching you up there. You are
267 making decisions that affect the whole Tribe. As a Council, I think you are doing a pretty good
268 job, but you could do a little bit better. Thank you for having us today. Speaking of yesterday,
269 we mentioned our dad for the building being named after. Our dad was one of the people who
270 pushed for this tribe.

271
272 Dewey Jones: I would like to speak for my grandfather and to name the East District Office to
273 honor him and his legacy. I lived next door to him growing up. I would get off school and I
274 would hear him singing. He was a singer and a language teacher. He was a full-blooded Yurok.
275 He told me a story, he was a little kid when he got taken away to boarding school, he was 5
276 years old. This is what came to my mind when they told me the idea of naming the building
277 after him. They tried to beat the language out of him. He was a dancer, singer, teacher, father,
278 and grandfather. To honor his legacy is a beautiful thing. They brought back the brush dance,
279 jump dance. I still sing his songs to this day. My sister works and speaks the Yurok language
280 every day, that's because my grandpa and grandma taught us to share what we know. All these
281 other elders that have these buildings named after them, it's a beautiful thing to honor them.

282

283 **LUNCH:** 12:45pm-1:45pm

284

285 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:**

286 Herman Quinn:

287

- The estuary, what is the plan for Requa? I guess there's more plans to make something,
288 a better park, better seating, trails and stuff like that, but when are they going to look at
289 it, it's like at the sand pit in the middle of the estuary, man.

290

- It's important to all of us. It's important to all the Yurok tribal members. Our
291 community, the river, and the fish. It's our resource, so it's important to us.

292

293 **AGENDA ITEMS:**

294 Executive Session: 1:22pm-2:50pm

295

296 CA23-305, RWE Communication NDA

297 Submitted by Vice Chair Myers

298 **To approve RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC Non-disclosure Agreement. Item tabled.**

299

300 CA23-306, RWE Communications Plan

301 Submitted by Vice Chair Myers

302 **Discussion/Action on RWE Native American Tribes Communications Plan. Item tabled.**

303

304 CA23-310, Parcel B Skeleton Proposal

305 Submitted by Vice Chair Myers

306 **Motion for discussion on Parcel B Skeleton Proposal (Executive Session). Item tabled.**

307

308 CA23-311, Executive Session RE: Enrollment

309 Submitted by Vice Chair Myers

310 **Motion for Executive Session RE: Enrollment Criteria. Item tabled.**

311

312 No action out of Executive Session.

313

314 **Motion made by Natt/Williams to suspend the rules and add CA23-322. Motion carries by**
315 **consensus.**

316

317 **Motion made by Councilmember Natt/Councilmember Vanlandingham to approve Yurok**
318 **Tribal Council to officially endorse Vice Chairman Frankie Joe Myers as candidate for**
319 **California State Assembly 2nd District for 2024 State Election. Roll call: Vice Chairman Myers-**
320 **np, Councilmember Crawford-np, Councilmember Ray-yes, Councilmember Vanlandingham-**
321 **yes, Councilmember Provolt-yes, Councilmember Natt-yes, Councilmember Williams-yes,**
322 **Councilmember McCovey-yes. Yes-6, no-0, abstaining-0, not present-2. Motion carries.**

323

324 **AGENDA ITEMS:**

325 **Council**

326 OSG23-013, Calstrat Lobbyist Contract

327 Submitted by Megan Siasoi

328 **Motion made by Councilmember Vanlandingham/Councilmember to approve contract for**
329 **California State Lobbyist firm: CalStrat. To utilize \$60,000 (6 months) from of Morgan Stanley**
330 **xxx576 Council Discretionary Account. Roll call: Vice Chairman Myers-np, Councilmember**
331 **Crawford-np, Councilmember Ray-yes, Councilmember Vanlandingham-yes, Councilmember**
332 **Provolt-yes, Councilmember Natt-yes, Councilmember Williams-yes, Councilmember**
333 **McCovey-no. Yes-5, no-1, abstaining-0, not present-2. Motion carries.**

334

335 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:**

336 Charlene Colegrove: Yeah, I got a question. So, you have got to allocate funds and use the
337 money. I don't even know how to explain it. I don't even understand what he said.

338

339 CA23-320, Travel for Tribal Leaders Summit

340 Submitted by Councilmember Williams

341 **Motion made by Councilmember Natt/Councilmember Provolt to approve travel for**
342 **Councilmember Williams to the Tribal Leaders Summit, December 5-8, 2023, Washington, DC**
343 **in place of Chairman James. Motion carries by consensus.**

344
345 CA23-314, Bluff Creek Campground Potential Uses
346 Submitted by Councilmember Ray

347 **Action/Discussion regarding Bluff Creek Campground and potential uses and/or transfer to**
348 **another Tribal entry. Request to have Executive Directors from Yurok Indian Housing**
349 **Authority and Yurok Economic Development Corporation present for agenda item. Item**
350 **pulled.**

351
352 **TRIBAL MEMBER COMMENT:**

353 Herman Quinn: How are you able to do that? Are there bylaws that you follow to be able to do
354 that?

355
356 **CLOSING PRAYER:** Provided by Councilmember Williams.

357
358 **ADJOURN:** 3:28pm

359
360 **MEETING MINUTES APPROVED ON:**

December 13, 2023

361
362 

12/15/23

363
364 **Sherri K. Provolt, Secretary**

Date

365