



The Council's Voice



State of the Tribe featuring

Dale S. Williams, Tribal Councilman

Sitka Tribe of Alaska supports Sealaska Lands Bill (Haa Aani)

The Tribal Council in it's meeting of February 17, 2010 voted unanimously to reconfirm it's support of Sealaska. At the recently held hearing at the Centennial Building Friday, March 12, 2010 Sitka Tribe of Alaska showed it's staunch support for Senate Bill S. 881 which would mean an almost 40-year old completion of land selection for Sealaska. This is significant to STA because an overwhelming majority of our Tribal Citizens are also Sealaska shareholders and support the final selection of our lands.

Chairman Woody Widmark represented us on the panel as well as former Councilman Mike Miller who sat in for Sealaska. Seven Councilman were on hand to speak: Chairman Woody Widmark, Secretary Clara Gray, Tom Gamble, George Paul, Treasurer George Ridley and Vice-Chairman Mike Baines and Dale Williams.

I apologize if I have forgotten anyone, my intent is not to offend anyone. Sitka Tribe citizens who also showed support were: Nels Lawson; Gerry Hope, ANB President; Harriet Beale; Paulette Moreno; Kenyatta Bradley; Sonia Smith; Bob Gamble; and Teresa Moses. Our appreciation to all those that attended and to the dancers who sang at an occasion that was anything but festive. Thank you for your courage. Thanks to the non-Tribal members who also supported the land bill.

Some things should be said that were said by our Tribal Citizens. THIS IS NOT A LAND GIVEAWAY IT'S RETURNING OUR LAND! Non-tribal members who oppose our land selection should not speak for us. Let us speak for ourselves. We are not being bad citizens because we advocate for our rights. Those rights are guaranteed by the Constitution. Over 700 treaties with American Indians were made and over 500 were broken or forgotten. The Federal government felt some responsibility when it enacted Secretarial Order # 3206 which establishes a Federal Trust to American Indians. This document speaks of the Government to Government relationship that STA has with the Federal Government. A lot of the anti-Sealaska testimony ignores the Federal Trust. It is time Sitka Tribal Citizens remind our congressional delegation of this trust and of our support for Sealaska.. Below is contact information for our Congressional Delegation.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski: Email or call—(202) 224- 6665 (DC Office) or (907) 225-6880 (Ketchikan Office)

U.S. Senator Mark Begich: Email or call—(202) 224-3004 (DC Office) or toll free (877) 501-6275

U.S. Representative Don Young: Email or call—(202) 225-5765 (DC Office) or 907-586-7400 (JNU office)

Upcoming Events

April 7, 2010: Tribal Council meeting, Noon at 456 Katlian Street

April 21, 2010: Tribal Council meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi

May 5, 2010: Tribal Council meeting, Noon at 456 Katlian Street

May 19, 2010: Tribal Council meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi

June 2, 2010: Tribal Council meeting , Noon at 456 Katlian Street

June 16, 2010: Tribal Council meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi

Your Tribal Council

Lawrence "Woody" Widmark
Tribal Chairman



Michael Baines
Tribal Vice-Chairman



George Ridley
Tribal Treasurer

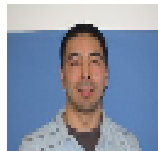


Tom Gamble
Tribal Council member



Clara Gray
Tribal Secretary

Archie Nielsen
Tribal Council Member

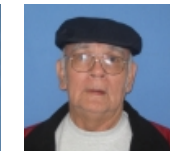


Dale Williams
Tribal Council Member



Rachel Moreno
Tribal Council Member

George Paul
Tribal Council Member

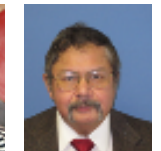


George Paul
Tribal Council Member



George Paul
Tribal Council Member

George Paul
Tribal Council Member



Monthly Council Meeting Summaries

At the February 3, 2010 meeting, the Council:

- Received comments from a Tribal citizen under persons to be heard.
- Approved two recommendations of the Herring Committee to: 1) investigate a moratorium on the herring fishery and report back to the Council by their May meeting and 2) submit a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game detailing our concerns at the “pre-fishery meeting” to be held on February 5, 2010
- Approved the assignment of Council to Committees and Council travel for 2010
- Discussed requesting a meeting with the SEARHC Board of Directors and the Executive Management Team regarding issues Tribal citizens had brought to the Council
- Approved contributing \$200 to the Native American Rights Fund
- Determined Council would like the monthly newsletter “The Council’s Voice” to continue. They also designated which Council would write articles for the Council’s Voice on a monthly basis for the 1st quarter of the year
- Requested staff set up a meeting with the Forest Service to further discuss the Forest Service Interim Reburial Process
- Approved a letter to the Department of Transportation with comments about Phase III of the Sawmill Creek Road Reconstruction project.

At the February 17, 2010 meeting, the Council:

- Received government-to-government updates from National Park Service Liaison Mary Miller, Carol Goularte from the Forest Service, and Reber Stein from the City of Sitka
- Received an update from Eric Morrison on the 2010 Census. Eric let the Council know the latest on the Census effort
- Received a Herring update from the Resource Protection staff
- Approved two Herring committee recommendations to:
 - 1) Send a letter to the Regional Advisory Council requesting additional federal marine waters to be added to the Federal Subsistence Board jurisdiction
 - 2) Submit a Fishery Regulatory Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting a regulation change
 - Re-affirmed STA’s support for Sealaska’s land bill
 - Approved two limited and express waivers of sovereign immunity
 - Authorized the Chairman to sign a lease agreement extending the term of the Boys and Girls Club at their current location
 - Approved the Village Committees request to ask the City for a property currently located in the village
 - Approved Legislative Affairs committee recommendations to send a letter to the federal agencies requesting comments on their Tribal consultation policy and adopted the State and Federal Legislative Priorities. The federal and state priorities established are summarized below this summary of the meeting
- Enrolled 29 individuals as Tribal citizens
- Received a SEARHC Update from Rachel Moreno. Council requested this item appear as old business for each Council meeting
- Adopted Resolution 2010-43 requesting federal funding of Indian Housing programs be funded at least as 2010 levels opposed to cut
- Heard from citizens requesting the Tribe support modification to the Indoor Air Ordinance
- Accepted staff and committee reports

Federal Legislative Priorities for 2010

Advocate for increased Tribal Court Funding: work to eliminate the Steven’s rider that prohibits Tribal Courts in 5 larger communities in Alaska (including Sitka) from being able to apply for grants for Tribal Court from the Department of Justice

Veterans and Shields Allotments: work to increase available land, expand military service dates, work to replace existing use and occupancy requirements with legislative approval of allotment applications

Land in to trust: advocate for Alaska Tribes ability to put land in to trust

Self-Governance: Support efforts to increase self-governance through amendments to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act

Reaffirm Support for Sealaska Land Bill: Senate Bill 881 (see feature story for more information)

State Legislative Priorities for 2010

Improved Ferry Service to Sitka: STA supports increased ferry service to Sitka

Financial Support for the Sitka Boys and Girls Club: advocate for the State Legislature to provide funding to support the Boys and Girls Club in Sitka

Increased funding for Elders and Elders programs: increase funding support for elders and elder programs, including but not limited to trainings on dementia/Alzheimer's, establishment of adult day care programs in Alaska regions.

Government-to-government relationship between State of Alaska and Tribes: Contact Tribes when the Governor is visiting communities, implement the Millenium Agreement signed by former Governor Tony Knowles, recognize Tribal governments throughout the State

Herring Research and Management - Continued funding for herring egg harvest monitoring program and increased funding for scientific study of the Sitka Sound Herring