



KITSELAS BAND COUNCIL Regularly Scheduled Meeting

June 24, 2025 Minutes (Gitaus)

Present: Chief Councillor Glenn Bennett, Councillors Cyril Bennett-Nabess, Ken McDames Jr., Jordan Squires, Cheryl Campbell, Gerald Nyce, Jericho Collison, Victor Wright, Sharon Bennett, Matilda Henry, Dr. David Try (virtual), Linda Morven
Guests: Marlene George, Debbie Moore, Freda Wright, David Hansen, Fred McKenzie

1. Call Meeting to Order & Opening Prayer – The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm. Opening prayer – Sharon. Glenn opened the meeting with introductory remarks, welcoming returned and newly elected Council members.

2. Adoption of Agenda – Gerald requested to add a briefing of his discussion with Brandi Trudell-Davis, Primary Care Network – to be added under #22.

MOTION 2025-06-24 (ONE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the agenda for June 24, 2025 as amended.

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried

It's great to see everyone in the same room for our two years. It will go by fast, and we have a lot of work ahead of us. One of the issues is drug dealers in our community. We mean what we say. We need to start working with the RCMP as they have the responsibility for enforcement. How is this going to be implemented for Treaty? We need more action, less talk. We value keeping our community safe. We need to have effective Council meetings and get the job done.

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION 2025-06-24 (TWO)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the minutes of May 27, 2025 as amended, changing the meeting location in #17 from Queensway to Gitaus.

Moved by: Jericho Collison

Seconded by: Gerald Nyce

Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Teare Creek, page 1 – Glenn provides an update of Teare Creek. It's still hanging over us, and facing up to \$1.5 million in fines. We want this resolved. I have a call in with Stan Ashcroft. He will act on our behalf. This is something that we're paying close attention to. Darrin advised there's no update. The ruling could take anywhere from several weeks to several months.

Gerald – Can Teare Creek take responsibility?

Linda – At the last meeting, Darrin mentioned it seems they're just a shell company. There is no update. The ruling can take several weeks or several months.

- FAC Recommendations, page 2 – We're addressing the recommendations made from FAC. The Director of Community Services is working on her surpluses and with her team on planning.

- Kitselas Election Update, page 5 – Councillor Portfolios: No discussion on the portfolios. It will be added to the next Council meeting agenda.

Community Services

5. Local Education Agreement

Debbie provided an overview of the model LEA including our children not graduating and lack of supports. A new committee came out of it – Indigenous Education Council. The last one was signed in 2004. We just approved hiring another language and culture coordinator in the school as the other coordinator was overworked.

Any formal graduations or events, to please advise the schools to include Kitselas in the invites.

Gerald – When will the LEA be effective?

Freda – End of July.

Jorden – Kitselas is underrepresented. If we put together a scholarship, it will be monumental. It doesn't have to be a lot - \$250 or \$500. There's not a lot of First Nations students on the stage.

Glenn – We have to change the mindset, so our children need to know where to go if they're having issues. Our children don't even have basic needs – all have smartboards. We can't tolerate that. If there's anything we can do, please let us know, and if we need to meet with the Minister of Education, we're prepared to write a letter and request to meet. We need to make sure our children are successful in education. We need to buy them laptops. We need to bring back tutors. We have a surplus and shouldn't have a surplus.

Debbie – We're addressing laptops, and looking at other planning requirements.

Glenn – You need to be very clear to the School District that if things don't improve that Kitselas will build our own school. Education is very important to this Council and has to be at the forefront.

MOTION CS-2025-06-24

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the model Local Education Agreement, and the proposed letter to Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, and Margaret Warcup, Board Chair, School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains).

Moved by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Seconded by: Ken McDames Jr.

Carried

Infrastructure

6. Update on Kulspai Houses & Daycare

Ulyses reviewed his briefing on the issues around Robert Bennett's house that burned down. It put us in a tough situation, and put Robert in a tough situation.

Glenn – Provide documentation to Robert on what's on file and advise that your options are very limited. Present Robert the information and make the best decision possible. Get Robert here and present him all the information

Cyril – When it comes to the vote, I will remove myself from the vote. Who was the lands manager of the day? Sonya Force.

Glenn – I don't have a problem with the recommendations. In my mind, it's very clear.

Linda – One option is to repay it, but recommend it be applied to the mortgage.

Ulyses – The mortgage is \$76,500.00.

David – We can potentially build a house under a training program.

Ulyses – We need to review materials as well. It's going to cost about \$100,000.00 to demolish the home.

Victor – That house would slowly come apart. Asbestos is a real bad thing to work with.

Glenn – Meet with Robert and come back to the next Council meeting with recommendations, and discuss the cost with Linda. Put it in writing so we have a paper trail.

Jericho – Why don't we have daycare? We have headstart, but not daycare.

Ulyses – FNHA is paying Health department for 16 children. In discussion with Anne, we're planning for the daycare when they move here.

Linda - We need space for additional staff, and beginning to do some renovations where we can starting downstairs for 3 new offices, so there'll be 5 offices downstairs.

Ulyses – We'll also have 3 additional offices in Lands and Resources.

Lands & Resources, K5T, and Administration

7. Update on Fish Wheel

David provided a review of last year's fish wheel operations and the success of the project. All of the groups are rallying for Kitselas selective fishery. This year, we're seeing much more interest who want to be part of the team. We have 8 applications for the fish wheel. We have our confirmed budget for this year. We'll be mobilizing the wheel to Gitau on Thursday/Friday, and building the wheel. We hope to have it in the water July 2 or 3, and waiting on the decision on the commercial fishery this year. Lands and Resources have submitted an application. It's quite a different fishery than the food fishery. There has to be 3rd party monitoring. We're looking at installing cameras with AI software for the monitoring, and looking at local sales first before export sales. Right now, the plan is to allocate to community first. We'll have scheduled days for commercial days.

Glenn – I would consider the Farmer's Market at a cost. We have a great relationship with the First Nations Stewardship Society.

Fred – We'll have 2 wheels in the water. We would have 1 wheel designated for commercial fishing, and one for food fishing.

Gerald – We need to have our own fisheries program.

Ken – Find an elder on the boat and bless the wheels before it turns.

Victor – Good to hear them running.

Linda – Thankful for David for moving on the 2nd wheel as soon as we raised it last year. We're looking at operating the fish wheel until August 31. Not funded this year, so we're covering the majority of the cost with Pembina funding and in administration. We need to be more proactive on funding to operate it each year.

8. Update on Kulspai Learning Village – 3rd property was purchased. Kitselas to endorse the mortgage. I have the Ashcroft documents for signature. The 3rd property was leased out and so bringing money in. David provided an overview of the Business Administration program.

Glenn – Who is running the summer employment program?

David – Dori-Ann, the Employment and Training, and we're supporting her.

Finance Report

9. Review of Financial Statements as at March 31, 2025 – Linda presented the review of the financial statements for all departments.

Glenn – Education shouldn't be having a surplus. Ultimately, as the CAO, you'll bear the brunt of it. We can't let this slide. Whatever you need to do, do it. Our children need laptops. We should be buying every child a laptop. I'm really disappointed that we're still struggling with post-secondary that the funding isn't going where it should be.

Cyril – Thank you very much for the report. It identifies the surpluses that are prevalent in Kitselas. Highlights the need for support for other programs. The potential for the Directors for a surplus policy, and needs are identified in the community, the Council can approve the transfer of funding from one department to another. Departments to work toward needs and requirements at year end.

Linda also raised concern over a deficit in Housing and Public Works, referencing funding from CMHC and ISC.

Discussion took place on possibly restructuring or dividing departments to improve oversight and management.

Linda – We've been playing catch-up on ISC funding. ISC just completed the 22/23 review and will complete the same review for 23/24, so we may have additional surpluses.

MOTION 2025-06-24 (THREE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the Financial Statements as at March 31, 2025.

Moved by: Gerald Nyce

Seconded by: Victor Wright

Carried

10. Finance Policy Amendment

An amendment to the finance policy was proposed to allow the expenditure of alcohol during business dinners referencing a recent business dinner with proponents as an example.

MOTION 2025-06-24 (FOUR)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the amendment to Section 6. Expenditures E. Procedures (4) Meals and Entertainment (Hospitality) on page 38 and 39 of the Kitselas Finance Policy to delete c. iii Alcohol must not be purchased using hospitality funds. and replaced with d. Alcohol can be purchased using hospitality funds for business dinners/events, and on an exceptional basis for staff events, for example, the Annual Staff Christmas dinner.

Moved by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Seconded by: Jorden Squires

Carried

Treaty

11. Final Report of the Kitselas Ratification Committee – John Balogh provided a report.

Everything went well, and he made some recommendations. We have a clean audit.

12. Kitselas Interim Fiscal Finance Agreement & Requirements – Canada made a mistake on it, so we have to re-sign it. The Implementation Strategy will be postponed. We'll be receiving \$10.5 million dollars that we'll use to make the member benefit payment payout - \$9.4 million payout.

13. Trust Administrator – David provides an overview of the RFP Trust Administrator.

Victor – We've been talking about the cost of living. They don't want to put their money in trust, because of the cost of living. Do they have the option?

Glenn – No, we'd potentially open ourselves up to legal action. This is what was decided.

\$20,000.00 for elders, \$10,000.00 for members, and \$10,000.00 held in trust for youth.

Linda – There wouldn't be any payout on the interest earned on the funding held in trust for youth. The interest would be utilized to replenish some of the payout. The payout is for enrolled members as at April 10, 2025 and whatever that allocation was at that date.

Gerald – Ask the Royal Bank to provide some budgeting for members who are struggling with financing. One option is that the interest for the funding held in trust can go toward youth programming.

Glenn – Noelle Bellami indicated she's happy to come to community.

MOTION TRE-2025-06-24

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves that the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Treaty negotiate terms and engage Royal Bank as the Trust Administrator for Kitselas Treaty funds.

Moved by: Jorden Squires

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried

Tsimshian Leadership Table

14. Coast Gas Transmission Pipeline Letter – Chris Sankey provided a letter for the 4 Nations to sanction the letter for the Coast Gas Transmission Pipeline.

MOTION 2025-06-24 (FIVE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the Tsimshian Leadership Table letter to The Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia, The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, The Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks, and The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation West seeking support for the Coast Gas Transmission pipeline (WCGT) as an Indigenous led energy project.

Moved by: Gerald Nyce

Seconded by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Carried

CAO Report

15. Gas Bar & Convenience Store – Linda provided an overview of the Gas Bar that is being constructed in Gitlaxt'aamiks. It's 100% owned by the Village. AllNorth is working with them so I reached out to them on it and received a brief overview on it. This is a very good option and there's funding available in the Ksi Lisims IMBA that identifies some priorities including the gas bar and convenience.

MOTION 2025-06-24 (SIX)

THAT Kitselas Band Council sanctions the Chief Administrative Officer to schedule a meeting with All North, and pending the potential viability of the project with All North, approves \$25,000.00 for the completion of the Conceptual Study.

Moved by: Gerald Nyce

Seconded by: Victor Wright

Carried

16. Ocean Vessel

Glenn – Council approved the purchase of the ocean vessel previously. A \$25,000.00 deposit is needed to maintain a production slot. Linda reviewed the wording from Eaglecraft for the motion.

MOTION 2025-06-24 (SEVEN)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the \$25,000.00 deposit to Eaglecraft Boats Inc. to secure their one remaining production slot for delivery in summer of 2026 for delivery of a completed vessel in early 2027.

Moved by: Jordan Squires

Seconded by: Victor Wright

Carried

17. Four Pillars – Linda provided an overview of the meeting held on Friday on the Four Pillars – language, culture, heritage and wellness – and set timelines for the announcement of the project and community engagement. An announcement will go out on July 9, 2025 and community engagement sessions will be held on August 13 and 20, 2025. We're doing a tour of the New Aiyansh Smokehouse project, Interpretive Center, and gas bar on July 10.

18. Employment and Training Plan – We've completed a draft plan for Ksi Lisims that we'll be updating to include other industry agreements, implementation/Treaty, administration, so it's all inclusive. It will include an engagement strategy.

19. Risk Management Plan – This is part of the requirement to meet certification for the First Nations Financial Management Board. With the 10-year grant review that we completed, it brought us halfway through to certification. Senior management met to complete the plan. It will help support some of the gaps and risks in our work.

20. NCTL Leadership Meeting, July 8, 2025 – The proposed leadership meeting for the NCTL project is set for July 8.

21. Riverboat Days – The parade is being held on August 2. The theme is Shores for Celebration. We're planning for the parade.

22. Director of Health – We've posted internally for the position. I don't anticipate having any issues filling the position and the transition.

Gerald – I talked with Brandi Trudell-Davis about the Primary Care Network, and looking for space for designated workers. This is ongoing discussion.

23. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment – July 7, 2025, 12:00 noon, Gitau (pending confirmation of July 8 NCTL Leadership Meeting)

MOTION 2025-06-24 (EIGHT)

THAT Kitselas Band Council adjourns the meeting (8:04 pm).

Moved by: Victor Wright

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried