



KITSELAS BAND COUNCIL

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING – May 13, 2025 Minutes (Gitaus)

Present: Chief Councillor Glenn Bennett, Councillors Cyril Bennett-Nabess, Ken McDames Jr., Gerald Nyce, Jericho Collison (virtual), Dr. David Try, Cheryl Campbell, Linda Morven

1. Call Meeting to Order & Opening Prayer – The meeting was called to order at 2:58 pm.
Opening prayer – Cyril.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION 2025-05-13 (ONE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the agenda for May 13, 2025.

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.

Seconded by: Gerald Nyce

Carried

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION 2025-05-13 (TWO)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the minutes of April 29, 2025 as presented.

Moved by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

All follow-up is encompassed on the agenda for today's meeting.

North Coast Transmission Line – Cyril Bennett-Nabess, Linda Morven

5. NCTL Update, Treaty Right of Way, and Next Steps

Cyril reviewed the Briefing provided on the NCTL and the Treaty Right of Way request.

Glenn – The activity that takes place on the Copper River, only licensed guides are allowed to fish in that area. IR#5 – the erosion that's taking place, need to notify MOTI. Need to use drones to do a survey of IR#5. The area is very unstable. Kitselas is heavily impacted. People that are at the table need to continue reminding all parties of Kitselas interests. The environment will forever be changed. I don't know who the registered traplines are in the area.
Ken – Are we going to do this with all of the other projects that are going to go through, references CGL.

Cyril – Dr. Try and I can provide you a briefing. Work to identify the changes that will happen as a result of the Treaty.

Linda – Met with Minister Mike Farnworth, and gave a brief update to him on the erosion. I advised him we will provide him with our briefings. This is the event I attended with your support with Premier Eby, and other Ministers.

MOTION 2025-05-13 (THREE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council moves to maintain the negotiations with BC Hydro, and approves recommendations on Schedule E, 1-6 as presented.

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.

Seconded by: Gerald Nyce

Carried

Lands & Resources

6. Fish Wheel Update

Cyril reviewed his briefing provided.

Glenn – We need to ensure that we're working with people who have a good understanding of the fish wheel and the selective fishing program.

Gerald – Reach out to LNG for projects like this. For the permit sales, are we looking at selling to the grocery stores?

Glenn – For the commercial sale, we'd have to work with DFO. Back then, we sold to the only processing company in Prince Rupert. We could work with Angela Addison on it who is responsible.

Ken – Want to ensure that whoever is working on it, community is priority and not a focus on the sales.

LMO MOTION 2025-05-13

That Kitselas Band Council approves the Pembina Community Investment Fund allocation, supports continued work of K5T to carry out the 2025 Kitselas Fishwheel activities, and the Chief Administrative Officer to explore other funding sources within Kitselas to cover the difference in the operational funding that's needed.

Moved by: Gerald Nyce

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried

7. Ocean Vessel Update

Linda – We went from purchasing to custom build to purchasing.

Glenn – Eaglecraft, have a vessel under construction in Campbell River. I will be in Victoria from May 27-29. This is important for us to follow through. We're looking at a year when placing an order. We're still in the early stages of this project. It's very important to our community.

Cyril – We'll need to complete a high level feasibility and what potential funds could be used for a marine vessel to support the procurement of an ocean vessel.

Linda – And the time to complete the stewardship and food security plan to support the purchase.

Gerald – BCH to provide funding for a guardian program to add to the jobs.

Glenn – Kingfisher, another company that we can consider, and some work to be done to purchase a vessel.

MOTION 2025-05-13 (FOUR)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the Feasibility Study for the purchase of an ocean vessel, and the work plans – operating, stewardship, and food security plans.

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried

8. Dog Control

Glenn – Can we include cats with our work with the Regional District?

Cyril – We've been in contact, and they don't have the capacity to include cats. We've been in contact NARA to support our work on this.

LMO MOTION 2025-05-13 (TWO)

WHEREAS: the *Kitselas Dog Control Act, KBC 2012-03*, establishes the framework for responsible dog ownership and enforcement measures within Kitselas Reserve Lands;

AND WHEREAS: Kitselas Chief and Council have reviewed and support the Dog Control Service Agreement 2025 with the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, which will provide professional dog control services on Kitselas Reserve Lands for a three-year term;

AND WHEREAS: Kitselas Chief and Council support the Board of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine in executing of the same Dog Control Service Agreement at their next duly convened meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Kitselas Chief and Council formally approve the Dog Control Services Agreement 2025 with the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Kitselas Chief and Council authorize the designation, in writing, a representative employed in the Kitselas First Nation to act in their place to authorize approval on behalf of the Nation for matters related to dog control;

AND BE IT FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: that Kitselas Chief and Council designate the Director of Lands and Resources, or their delegate, to authorize approval on behalf of Kitselas First Nation for matters related to dog control.

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.
Seconded by: Jericho Collison
Carried

Membership

9. Band Transfers

Jericho – Will they be eligible for post-secondary funding support.

Sharon – They wouldn't be eligible.

Linda – They also wouldn't be eligible for FNHA benefits.

Ken – Are they eligible for Treaty benefits?

Sharon – If they enrolled prior to ratification.

Glenn – What's our total membership?

Sharon – Still about 740.

MOTION 2025-05-13 (FIVE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the following transfers to Kitselas, granting permission to use the Council's electronic signatures for the acceptance of the Band Council Resolutions (BCRs), and additionally, it is acknowledged that the children who were denied entitlement (demonstrated attachment through the Father) will not qualify for benefits from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA):

Attachments to Kitselas - 1. Melynee McDames; 2. Fred George
Demonstrated Attachment Through Marriage/Common-Law - 1. Rachael McDames
Demonstrated Attachment Through Father - 1. Austin Harder; 2. Cruz Harder; 3. Hannah Harder; 4. Quinn Harder

Moved by: Gerald Nyce
Seconded by: Ken McDames
Carried

Infrastructure

10. Community Centre Update

Ulyses provided an overview of his briefing provided. The completion of the community centre is a priority.

Glenn – Is there anything we can do to support you? You mentioned we're looking at completion end of September.

Ulyses – I recommend bentonide for the grounding.

Glenn – Is there anything we can do with BC Hydro?

Ulyses – We need three phase power. The community wants to grow some more, and the power is limited what they send this way.

It's agreed to present the need for 3-phase power at the provincial Budget 2026 Consultation on June 12.

11. Security Cameras Update – Ulyses advised we have the security cameras, and waiting on BC Hydro to approve installing them on their poles.

Treaty

12. Implementation Planning, Vancouver – We'll be meeting with Kitsumkalum and Comox. We have a Strategy, and will share after this meeting.

13. Nation to Nation Meetings – We're in the process of setting up meetings, working with Albert and Mark. Overlap meetings next week, shared territory with our 6 neighbouring Nations. This will be sent out to community. On the overlap issue, we've contacted Murray Rankin to act as a 3rd party facilitator. We're not trying to mediate. We just want to ensure discussions move forward in a good way. We can't impose a facilitator. Have to agree, to keep a balanced discussion in the room.

14. Celebration Dinner & Swearing In – Having a celebration on June 17 in Kitselas Hall.

15. Treaty Main Table, May 29, 2025 (and Meeting with Minister Parmar).

Elders Meeting – June 11.

Leadership Camp in July. Gerald has 2 weeks, and Treaty 1 week.

Member Benefit Payout - \$10k per person and \$20K for elder, and anyone under 18 will be held by administration until they turn 18, for a total \$9.45 million dollars. Been advising payments may go out by November or before Christmas.

87 elders receiving \$200.00.

Glenn – We need to look at funding for a government building, and understand there's funding for a new building.

CAO Report

16. Hiring Policy

MOTION 2025-05-13 (SIX)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the amendment to Section 7. Employment Policy as follows, and effective immediately:

New positions are posted internally first, *to Kitselas members only secondly*, and then (if necessary) advertised externally on our website, in print media and on electronic job boards.

Moved by: Gerald Nyce

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried

17. Audit Update – We had our auditors onsite on May 8-9, 2025. It won't be ready by the May 21, 2025 meeting. It depends on how long it will take our auditors to complete the audit and acquire requisite information from our entities.

18. KBC Elections – Swearing in of new Council will be held on June 16, 2025.

Gerald – It's unfortunate that Judy's health wasn't too well. I kind of feel that her voices weren't being heard in the meeting. If she can't make it, have somebody else step in.

Linda – Normal rules, if you miss so many meetings, would have a by-election.

Glenn – Consider some sort of acknowledgement for her years and thank her and her family, and thank Geneva. Any meetings she attended, she spoke up. Acknowledge at an upcoming community meeting. It's an important position and thank Gerald for bringing it up.

Ken – Have a question on an all candidates forum.

Cheryl – We had a forum in years past, and we asked the electoral officer to come and MC and facilitate it. It was administration who covered the cost. It all depends on administration to cover.

Glenn – Administration to look at coordinating a candidates forum.

Linda – We could look at having a Chief Councillor forum by itself and Councillors on another day.

19. A&A Tenure Update – Linda provided an update on the completion of the transfer. The wire transfer process took some time. Glenn provided an update on the Asia trip. We need to ensure we're always profitable. It's an investment that's well needed. Please review the report, and some time in the future, we'll invite John to a dinner and present him a gift.

20. May 21, 2025 Community Engagement – Linda provided an overview of the meeting and agenda for the Kitselas-Ksi Lisims Signing Ceremony that will be held prior to the Budget and Work Plans.

21. Premier Eby & Ministers Event – noted above.

22. Analytical Report – We're working on assessing the 5 years of the Determinants of Health Surveys that were completed and raised a number of times at this table. Please review the Analytical Report provided, and provide any questions or comments you may have.

23. Net Mending, May 17-18, 2025 – The workshop will be provided at Kulspai Hall.

24. Four Pillars Planning Update – Held 2 planning meetings to date – Language, culture, heritage, and wellness. It's really exciting work! Dr. Travis Freeland is overseeing the work with an internal committee that's been established.

Gerald – It's very exciting work. We've been trying to get our language program going for some time. Youth programming, elders, etc. This is something I've been trying to focus on. Now, I want to focus on our cultural portion of it.

25. Risk Management Planning – June 12-13, 2025 planning session for senior staff to develop a risk management plan at all levels.

26. Annual AGM – October 17-18, 2025, beginning planning now.

27. Christmas Leave & Staff Dinner – December 6, 2025 & Christmas Leave, December 22, 2025-January 2, 2026

28. Chief & Council Dinner – Do acknowledgement of current Council at the June 16, 2025 swearing in dinner.

29. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment – May 27, 2025, Queensway

MOTION 2025-05-13 (SEVEN)

THAT Kitselas Band Council adjourns the meeting (6:46 pm).

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.

Seconded by: Gerald Nyce

Carried