



KITSELAS BAND COUNCIL Regularly Scheduled Meeting

May 27, 2025 Minutes (Best Western)

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

Guests: Darrin McCormack, KDC; Patricia Squires

1. Call Meeting to Order & Opening Prayer – The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm. Opening prayer – David. Glenn provided an overview of the work we've achieved in the 2 years including the successful ratification of the Treaty. Business development is important – gas bar and convenience store – and need to work on lands and resources. I want to wish each and everyone of you well in your re-election. I want to thank you all for making yourself available, and we have a small token of our appreciation.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION 2025-05-27 (ONE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the agenda for May 27, 2025.

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.

Seconded by: Victor Wright

Carried

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION 2025-05-27 (TWO)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the minutes of May 13, 2025 as presented.

Moved by: Jericho Collison

Seconded by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Business arising is encompassed on the agenda for today's meeting.

Kitselas Development Corporation – 1:15 pm, Darrin McCormack, Patricia Squires

5. Teare Creek Update

Darrin provided a review of his briefing dated May 18, 2025. I'm not making any recommendation at this time, but just to share the information/updates, and to continue to work with Ashcroft & Company. Darrin reviewed the documentation provided.

Glenn – This is criminal. I don't know who profited from this. This is extremely serious, especially if we're looking at over \$1 million in fines. Wait for legal advice on next steps. Unfortunately, some of our own Band members were involved. This could potentially bankrupt KDC, and hope we have insurance. Somebody made money. This is something that we didn't do. Same with Darrin. It's something he inherited and he's still dealing with it. In my mind, it's hanging over our heads and tarnishes Kitselas. We'll let Darrin deal with it, and cross our fingers that Ministry of Forests is lenient, but certainly, something has to be paid. Thank you for your update, Darrin. I hope we come out of it in a positive way.

Victor – Can't we bring Teare Creek back. Certainly, they have liability insurance. They should bring them back here.

Darrin – So far, Teare Creek is not responsive to any requests. Think it's just a shell company now. Something doesn't gel, and someone is not telling the whole story.

Geneva – Provide a summary of this to the next Chief and Council, so they're just as informed as we are.

Glenn – 4 years ago, we heard a forensic audit should be completed. Something needs to be communicated to our community. We have people running for Chief who were part of this.

Patricia – Want to thank Darrin for working through this mess. The outcome of this may jeopardize our future work. Very serious. In the future, I don't want to have anything to do with those people anymore.

Cyril – Thank you for the update, very comprehensive and addresses potential for creditor claim.

Darrin – I don't have an answer whether we're protected in this regard. We have over \$2 million in the bank. This won't bankrupt us, but it will hurt us. It's taken us 2 years to get to this stage.

Glenn – Do what he needs to do with his Board of Directors.

NCSFNSS, Angela Addison – 1:40 pm

6. NCSFNSS and Kitselas Projects

Angela provided an overview of her presentation – 2024-25 Program Highlights.

Glenn – We have a very good relationship with the Society. Need to be monitoring, patrolling the North Coast. Can take advantage of what the Society can support us on. Wild stocks are going to continue to decline, what we hear from DFO. Glenn provides an overview of the fish wheel project. My goal here is to re-introduce the Society.

Glenn – I believe the Society is doing great work, and we certainly support the work. Look at careers that may be available. Continue to share our concerns with DFO. We need to build up our quota. I don't know if DFO will take back our quota if it's not being utilized. If we purchase an ocean vessel, we want to make sure it's working for us. In my mind, you're doing great work for the 4 Nations.

Finance, Jericho Collison

7. FAC Report/Recommendations

FAC met last Tuesday, and 3rd quarter and 25/26 budget. Interest revenue – break-down of where the interest is. Admin surplus – what is the plan for the surplus? Maybe we can put it toward the fish wheel. What's the plan for the 4th quarter?

We shouldn't have a surplus in education when students are being denied basic necessities such as a laptop. We should consider providing another increase to post-secondary students. Would be great to reward our students. Laptops, clothing allowance. Need for library, computer use, printer use. Look at ways to promote education. Landscaping, beautification, and signage. Adult education building needs some work yet it's a place of learning and gathering.

Get together an education committee to expend the funding as there's a surplus in education as it's a lot of money.

Glenn – All our funds are spent accordingly, and want to see our members benefit. It's not acceptable that education carries a surplus.

405600 account – it's the social development, recommendation is to zero it out as we don't get money for it. LET ISABLE KNOW TO ZERO IT OUT.

IT department is in a deficit – securing a funding source for IT. IT should be funded from each of the departments as it provides a service to all departments. It could also be moved to administration.

Do budgets and work plans with employees. Can work with employees to complete budgets and work plans. Provide a workshop to Directors and staff on budgeting.

Separate housing and public works on organizational chart. Housing and public works are budgeted separately, and it's already an area that we're looking at separating similar to what Lands and Resources is proposing. It should be separate.

Question about new hall. When will the mortgage be finalized on it? When the centre is completed. It's cheaper on Kitselas to wait until the construction is complete.

25/26 Budget – Adding an HR to the staff.

North Coast Transmission Line – Cyril Bennett-Nabess, Linda Morven, Darrin McCormack – 1:30 pm

8. 4 Tsimshian Nations and Energy Generation Project

Cyril provided an overview of the briefing.

MOTION 2025-05-27 (THREE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves participating in the wind energy investigative study submitted by Renewable Energy Systems Canada (RES), in collaboration with Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla, and Lax Kw'alaams First Nations.

Moved by: Ken McDames Jr.

Seconded by: Jericho Collison

Carried

Treaty Implementation

9. Implementation Communication Strategy – David provided an overview of his handout – Communications and Communication Overview.

We received a Contribution Agreement for \$10 million, so we may receive the funding sooner rather than later. \$3 million in Ratification funding. That money is coming in. Linda and I are working on an Implementation Plan. Treaty is not going to stop communicating with people. This is FYI only. These are the 6 themes that we need to deliver on. We intend to be doing regular communications – weekly, monthly, etc. This is a strong effort to keep people engaged. We're planning to do some upgrades on the Kulspai Hall at a cost of \$25,000.00. It's a good home system, not a hall system. We still get Treaty funding coming in annually up until effective date.

Glenn – Provide as much training as possible when we look at implementation. We have a plan for the \$139 million so that it can continue on long after we're gone. Let's start to try reassure them. Let's reach out to those who were against Treaty and address the concerns they have. Let's set a mark, like 75% of our people.

Ken – Will there be training. It's a 3-year implementation. We need to begin education and training. Where's my starting point.

David – Not in the next couple of months. Motivating people is our key challenge.

Linda – We're working on an Employment and Training Strategy – Treaty, industry, and other needs.

10. Elder's Pension and GIC

MOTION 2025-05-27 (FOUR)

WHEREAS:

- In June 2024, Kitselas First Nation (KFN) allocated \$2 million of the \$5 million Kitselas Treaty received for initialing the draft Treaty into an Elder's Pension Fund (the remaining \$3 million was allocated for Youth and improvements to Endudoon IR-4).
- With 85 elders as of May 2025 at \$200/month, KFN requires \$204,000 each year for payments, minus the interest earned on the balance of approximately \$60,000 under prudent investment.
- At current interest rates of 3%, for 85 elders, KFN has sufficient funds to make these payments until 2037, before depleting the fund. It is expected that on Treaty Effective Date, additional capital would be allocated to permit ongoing payment of a Kitselas elders pension.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Treaty to place funds not required in the current fiscal year in GICs to maximum the interest received, and ultimately, the durability of the elders pension payments.

Moved by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Seconded by: Victor Wright

Carried

New Business

11. Boat Launch

Glenn – A member reached out to me and heard that we're shutting the boat launch. Fred McKenzie shared.

Victor – When I heard, I went down to look at it. It's going to need some good structure.

Glenn – I would imagine our boat launch will be used this year for our fish wheel. If it needs to be fixed up, we'll need to identify a plan and budget. K5T will continue to use it. It will cost \$60,000.00 to build that road.

Ken – One of the barriers is they lock the gate up.

Glenn – I'm glad to hear it's going to continue to be used.

12. Church

Victor - A couple of people have indicated we need a small Church – a non-denominational Church.

Cyril – References the \$25,000.00 for a small structure at the cemetery.

13. Dawn Derrick

Clearing - Brush and bush around our houses, and a lot of us don't have the money to clear the yards like some other people do. With the lack of snow during winter and dry, dry summers, it should be a priority for the Kitselas people for protection of all of our homes. I've asked Ulyses to get some help as I don't have a chainsaw or an excavator. During the summer months, the summer students could clear it.

Jobs – I don't have a job. I have a store. I actually need a job. Would Chief and Council offer training to get enough hours for employment and insurance. That's what other Nations are doing for their members.

Glenn – We certainly take your comments into consideration. We have Linda here who is managing our administration and senior staff responsible for their respective departments.

Council has no role in these matters. We understand the serious nature that community safety is a high priority. References security cameras as one. Safety of the community is a consideration. If we do brushing around the community, that is a responsibility of the lands department.

Linda provided an overview of the Employment and Training Strategy.

Dawn – Perhaps can submit her idea to the Employment and Training Strategy. I have submitted my resume to the Band Office. I don't know if it went to the proper place.

Cyril – With my Lands and Resources hat on, we're doing fuel reduction work around IR#1. We will put on our schedule the surrounding areas around the smokehouse which is adjacent to your department. We'll certainly engage with you and other members and highlighting important topics.

CAO Report

14. TriCorp – David Hansen and I met on Tricorp to improve on the relationship or carve out funding for Kitselas.

15. Net Building – Was held long weekend, and very successful. It wasn't net mending. It was net building and greatly appreciated by the members who participated.

16. Community Engagement, May 21, 2025 – We had a very successful event on May 21, 2025 on the Kitselas and Ksi Lisims Signing Ceremony, and the Work Plans and budgets. I've requested that Matilda begin to provide reports on our website and on social media on our events so our members can see the good work that we're doing at all levels.

16. Minister Parmar Meeting – We have a meeting with Minister Parmar tomorrow with Kitsumkalum, Darrin, and Rick.

17. Kitselas Election Update & Swearing In – With the potential Canada Post Strike, we changed it for members to courier their ballots and we'll reimburse them. People have to go to a post office in any event, so we feel it won't cause too much hardship except the cost.

18. Kitselas/Eguana Meeting re Battery Opportunity Update – Chris Sankey set up a meeting for us on a potential backup battery. We're looking at a cost of \$30,000.00 per battery and it runs on electricity, and the life span isn't very feasible.

19. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment – June 24, 2025, Gitaus

MOTION 2025-05-27 (FIVE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council adjourns the meeting (3:52 pm).

Moved by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Seconded by: Victor Wright

Carried