

**Karuk Tribe – Yreka Council Meeting
January 25, 2024 – Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 10am by Chairman Attebery.

Present:

Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman
Kenneth “Binx” Brink, Vice-Chairman
Scott Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer
Eli Hensher-Aubrey, Member at Large
Arron “Troy” Hockaday, Member at Large

Absent:

Arch Super, Member at Large
Kristen King, Member at Large
Jennifer Goodwin, Member at Large
Elizabeth “Liz” Bentley, Member at Large

Prayer and Mission Statement conducted by Chairman Attebery.

Agenda:

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve the agenda with changes, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Consent Calendar:

Scott Quinn moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve the consent calendar, 3 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Troy).

Meeting minutes of December 21, 2023:

Buster asked about the reservation proclamation. Scott explained that when land is put into trust there is a reservation in the Indian regulatory act. There are some old codes and laws that may only mention reservation status, so it’s good to make this proclamation moving forward.

Scott Quin moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve meeting minutes of December 21, 2023, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Old Business:

Troy brought up working with the USFS KNF at the last meeting. He followed up with a meeting with Meeko and they are working on road designs and replanting some road areas and then removing some logs from Doolittle and South For. They will remove Sugar Pine and Port Offord. Buster will ask to obtain additional information at a later time.

Language:

Ishyaesh Akpiththyuram “Dirty water”

Scott noted that the river looks dirty. Binx added that it is due to the fire scar as well and not directly due to the dams being removed. Yes, it looks bad but there are other factors as well.

Guests:

- 1) **Jonathan Nez, Nez Consulting:**

Jonathan is present to seek Karuk Tribal Council support regarding an initiative. He first honored the Karuk word of the day, and honored elders by introducing himself in Navajo language.

He transitioned out of Tribal politics a year ago and thought he would retire out of politics. However, he is a candidate for District 2 of Arizona. As he transitioned out of government his wife and himself were asked to work in different areas.

Reinstating indigenous nutritional knowledge is important and in many things. This would include co-management on federal lands and in the way of life.

Secretary Haaland was the first Native American to be representative of Congress and then the Director of Department of Interior. Historically Native Americans had plant-based diets, but that changes region to region. Acorns were a great source of protein and strength. He visited the Tribes garden and that is true sovereignty.

The dietary guidelines are being debated. This sets the standards that is being served in the schools, communities, etc. The 2025-2030 is being reviewed at this time. The Committee will set the standards for the USDA for food distribution and what is served.

He presented a resolution that he would like the Tribal Council to support. He noted that there are several other Tribes and other agencies that support this effort. It builds upon tribal nations and the education that they are already setting forth. They will then move to media outreach to allow the Advisory Committee to know that Native Americans want to take back food sovereignty.

He would like to challenge this nation to offer healthy foods and using the Tribes own foods and this supports the local farmers and is an economic opportunity.

Troy liked Jonathan's presentation and he hit it on the button. For this area, he looks at it that Karuk's promote natural foods. It happens sometimes that mushrooms are over harvested and destroying the grounds. Mushrooms are good for the Karuk people but they don't manage it well. He does back Jonathan on this but we have to be mindful of over harvesting. Vice-Chairman wants to see putting organic gardening under health to combat and prevent diabetes with healthy foods. It is cheaper to prevent diabetes than to treat it.

The Tribal Council will consider the resolution and respond.

Buster then went on to discuss education and partnerships with TIBC to allow for more education to native American. He would like to bring back home gardens, and supply seeds, compost, and set up a program to have workers to provide assistance and to allow for home gardens in housing. Also, incentives for growing gardens would be good.

Eli asked about Tribes are implementing bison meat into food distribution and he has seen that locally. He asked about if programs start locally and then go nationally. It would be hard to spread out Karuk food locally but perhaps not nationally. He commented that the difference in this area from others he mentioned is that traditionally the Karuk's don't farm their foods, but it may be something to do. Once the resolution is approved then perhaps education on how to farm Karuk traditional foods would be good information. There needs to be information on farming, etc.

Jonathan added as well that the Chairman Attebery's voice is in Indian Country and he speaks up in different committees and expresses thanks to the Chairman and the Karuk Council for their

continued advocacy. He then added that having Tribes have access in Federal lands and medicinal plants is imperative and holding ceremonies.

There was additional information provided on his campaign for Congress. He thanked James Davis for coming to the Karuk Tribe.

He then noted that Native Americans are a sovereign nation. The push is to develop their own food processing facility and certify their own foods with their own regulations. Binx agrees to have Tribes be their own USDA equivalent inspector.

Food is medicine and that is an important statement so the HHS programs can prescribe foods to provide the health benefits to the Tribes citizens.

2) Ray Virgen, Virgen Athletics:

Ray is present to discuss a few items. He received word from HR that the Tribe no longer wants to contract with Virgen Athletics but he does have paperwork on his background expungement. He has formed a non-profit. He grew up in Karuk ways and although he is not Karuk he has experience in Native ways and in the communities. He provides life coaching to youth and self-belief in oneself. They are hoping to get a grant through DOJ. He is the President of Virgen Athletics and it is a double-edged sword to teach youth boxing, but there are also positives to this exercise. The grant he is hoping to obtain is from DOJ, at risk youth, diversion program. He works with post adoption youth and requests to have his record cleared and have the opportunity to contract with the Tribe again. He reports he gets calls in the early AM to reach out to youth. He has some youth that are incarcerated and he would like to have them be successful members of society.

Troy thanked Ray for his work and having his record expunged. Binx agrees that getting children off the street and giving them something positive to do, is important. Binx believes that not allowing mistakes of life hold him back, is a good thing. He acknowledged that accomplishment.

3) Theodora Johnson, Scott Valley Agriculture Water Alliance:

Theo is present and is from Scott Valley. He was born in Happy Camp and her family is from the Collards. She is a sixth-generation farmer. They grew up on a little ranch. She loves her home and she believes that food sovereignty and family sovereignty is important. What is going on with the water is not going work for small farmers. She noted that the flow cuts that are being considered by the State Water Board are happening, and there is little to no communication. With the removal of logging in Happy Camp, everything suffered. She doesn't want to see the same thing happen in the Valley for ranching, because that is all that is left. She likes to see the little Indian kids, brown eyed kids, and likes to see those kids in sports and school activities. It is so important that kids have experiences and if agriculture goes away the opportunities go away in the Valley. She is evaluating different opportunities for her farm and adjusting, or she is concerned that maybe corporate ranchers will take over. If the nature conservancy takes over because they have deep pockets that pushes out small ranches. The small ranchers cannot continue under this water issue. When she looks at the different future options she doesn't see an option for the youth and the Indian kids here because there is not much economic development. The small communities are getting smaller so she wanted to ask the Council to stay in communication and to discuss what the vision is for the Scott Valley, which is her home. She would like to protect to her home and defend it.

The petition that is being looked at by the State Water Board is not something that she can support and other small families will lose a lot as well.

Buster noted that the family of hers is very close to him. More communication is important. The Karuk Tribe doesn't want to see the farms go away. What needs to happen is to be able to communicate and discuss solutions. Water conservation efforts by the way of offshore reservoirs, capturing winter water, lining the canals are all options. Reintroducing the beavers is important as well. The Tribe supporting upslope fire prevention, which is a win win situation that can support a better snow pack. Creating an economy and equitable funds, so when you go reintroduce an economy then making it self-sufficient. Buster noted that everyone needs to join forces together to obtain feedback and discussions.

Buster provided that pumping ground water takes the surface water. The Siskiyou County report was never released. Buster would like solution orientated ideas.

Binx commented that Karuk people have been downriver since the beginning of time and salmon is the Tribes fish. The Karuk people have a connection to fish and have to speak up for the fish, it is important to protect them from becoming extinct. The Karuk's lost their culture, their way of life, and for fish they need protected. When water is cut off it affects everyone. Cows and Alfalfa are not on the endangered species list but fish is and it was not indigenous to the area.

Scott commented that the way to recharge the groundwater is important and to work on opportunities to make changes that benefit others. Redesigning some surface diversions, etc. there are different strategies.

Troy thanked Theodora for coming today. He has been leading the way for water diversions. He has been a fisherman his whole life, he is not against farmers and neither is the Tribe. He has been working with the BOR and hopefully by the end of the month there will be an MOU where the federal government will provide funding that will introduce solutions. Troy then noted that the Scott Valley people did not want to meet with the Tribe. He doesn't want to take farming away nor the fish.

Buster will set up a meeting and see if they can have solutions and come to a compromise.

Marsha asked if the farmers are having issues with bigger ranchers, hurting the smaller farms. Scott then went on to ask if the illegal diversions happening affect the regulated water. She is unaware of the specifics.

Troy noted that the Karuk Tribe and the Yurok Tribe are going to be working on a big project, which is for farmers ditch which is millions of dollars. That story is not being told by the farmers in the valley.

4) Brenda Wilcher, Tribal Member:

Not present.

5) Gareth Plank, Wendy Whitson, Kathleen Hit:

Gareth is present representing Siskiyou Land Trust. The mission is to work the land and be sovereign nation neighbors.

Kathleen is present to comment on her mission on long term stewardship. Siskiyou County's 4 million acres, 2 million are held in private ownership. She would like to acquire land and conservation easements. They also want to protect water ways. They purchased up to 38,000 acres and they have stewardship activities. They are starting to launch and become effective.

They have more staff, more relationships, and more funding. She would like to share their current status of success and find their path forward. The lands that they hold now doubled to over 1,500 acres this year. The stewardship responsibility is really here and learning how to partner with private owners is important. Most of the land that is held in conservancy have some head waters. She really looks forward to engaging on traditional knowledge. She would like to work on fire, reintroducing beavers, or connecting Tribal folks with forest or ag land owners to access their land for river enhancement. She would like to partner or pass on projects that come their way for restoration or conservation.

Buster thanked her for being present and the Council is interested.

Troy then noted that if they bring ideas then those can be discussed with DNR. Binx added that the Karuk Tribe has good ideas that can be brought to the conservancy regarding stewardship as well.

Director Reports:

1) April Attebury, Judicial Systems:

April is present to review her report. She updated that Devin will work on submitting a proposal for review.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve April's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

2) Jack Lantz, Director of Public Works:

Jack is present to review his report. The department is very busy. Misty, Eric, Darrell Frost, Robert Perez, all continue to do their work.

Troy asked if he was able to talk to Misty on the Grayback Road. The Tribe submitted a grant but there hasn't been an update. Troy asked for that to be followed up on.

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Jack's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

3) Sara Spence, KTHA ED:

Sara is present in Happy Camp to review her report. Troy asked Sara to tell the crew good job for building houses in the rain and weather. They have made a lot of progress. The Force Account Crew is building 7 single family homes in Happy Camp.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Sara's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

4) Dion Wood, TERO/Childcare:

Dion is not present to review his report. Tamara is present to seek approval of Head Start policies. All three policies have references to KCDC removed. The Office of Head Start Review will happen in the first week of March.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve the revised policy for New Hire Heath, Wellness and Background Clearance, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve the Karuk Head Start Reporting Systems, 4 haa, 0 puuhara 0pupitihara.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Head Start Policy Head Start Performance Standards, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

She added that the Head Start program is able to purchase items that are tribally relevant. However, there is not funding for meal supplies that are not approved by the USDA. She noted that salmon can be served without the USDA stamp but they won't be reimbursed for it.

Binx asked if its not able to be counted as a food, because it's not considered in dietary guidelines. Binx asked if nutritional value set then that could be presented to request approval. Troy noted that acorns are a superfood. Eli asked if there is a section to note or document the foods and what was provided that was not reimbursed. Tamara noted that yes it may be able to be added into the report.

Binx commented that the farm to school grant was received as well. Tamara noted that Kristy was able to collaborate with DNR and the farm. Cecelli commented that she has been doing research on food and there are already studies on the nutritional value of tribal items.

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve Dion's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

5) Erin Hillman, Director of Operations:

Erin is present to review her report. She noted that she sent the newsletter for review. Troy asked about Skyline property. There were five companies at the onsite review.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve Erin's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

6) James Davis, Self-Governance Director:

James is present to review his report. He thanked the Council for having the former President Nez present and it is a pleasure to work under the Karuk Tribe as well as President Nez.

He has been working on Parcel B Lands and will be following that along. He was responsible for submitting reports and those were successful. The BIA provided some observations on operations of the Tribe.

The Progress Act is ongoing and there will be posting for comments, approval and then presentation. Most of the work done by attorneys has to be reviewed.

James then noted that he is briefed on BOEM, Good Fire report, etc. Troy noted that he gets a lot of communications on windmill energy and he would like to follow up with James on that. James noted that he defers technical questions to DNR who are the experts, and he is policy. But the collaboration should be done with guidance from the professionals.

His daughter finished her schooling and passed her board exam. She is seeking her licensing for a veterinarian.

James then presented resolution 23-R-195 which is what Jonathan Nez spoke about, however there is a new number needed. The content is exactly the same but due to time frames of getting this reviewed the number will be updated.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve resolution 24-R-016, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

7) Bill Tripp, DNR Director:

Bill is present in Orleans to review his report. 24-R-004 if a time sensitive resolution and has been sent in DocuSign and that is needed as soon as possible.

Scott Quinn moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve Bill's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Phone Votes:

1. Request to approve burial assistance for Tribal Member #717. Passed.
2. Request to approve resolution 24-R-006 authorizing Tribal Customary Adoption. Passed.
3. Request to approve the Karuk Tribes Trust Evaluation Report. Passed.
4. Request to approve providing the HHS CEO access to the former Operations Manager email account. Passed.

Closed Session:

Consensus: to have the Enrollment Coordinator process agreement according to policy.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve out of state travel for Kenneth Brink and Chelsea Cook to Hawaii, March 2024, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Would like support from each Tribe which is grass roots support.

Informational: refer request from Tribal Member DS to TANF to seek assistance and bring the matter back by the deadline of April 1, 2024 should there be additional needs.

Troy Hockaday moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey denied former employee AB to access to her former Karuk.us email account, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara. IT shall be assigned to review account for missing receipts

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve former employee AB to have access to signed documents and certificates from HR file, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Youth Empowerment provided an overview of programs and collaboration opportunities with the Karuk Tribe, education, outreach, etc.

Buster excused.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to waive the waiting period for re-enrollment of TM RC, 3 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara. (Binx chairing).

Buster returned.

Informational: Gaming Authority Chairperson will reach out to GM and discuss outstanding items for former employee and determine resolution to money in cubby, outstanding hours for show up time, and review of policy.

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to deny Tribal Descendant CS request to pay \$36,503.01 quote under the Slater Fire Construction fund, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Judicial Systems Director is concerned about providing ample communication regarding actions taken. There are multiple departments and if information isn't shared then projects may conflict or programs may suffer.

Consensus: to send the communication to the Management Team regarding children in the workplace.

Informational: HR Director provided health insurance information for the Council Members to review.

Informational: HR Director presented PAN's for employees as the Council requested. Those were signed.

Informational: Public Works Director provided requests for permits within the Sacred Lands area. There is little response from KRAB. He will take it back to them for review again.

Consensus: to not seek the purchase of Orleans property.

Informational: CIO will cc Vice-Chairman on KRBBBI meetings and he will reach out to Yurok Tribe to see if additional communications can happen to bring the project back to current.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve livestreaming Council/Health Board Meetings which will start 2/22, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Consensus: to not post the meetings on the Tribes website.

Informational: website design options were reviewed with the Council.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve burial assistance for #2761, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 puuhara.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve resolution 23-R-164, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey to approve paying \$36.34 from the pizza house missing receipt for TANF staff meeting, 3 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to pay \$525 from discretionary from charges to the NEW program that were not allowable, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: the Gaming Authority drafted a new agreement for the GM and used a template for rental housing.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve the payment to A-1 auto from discretionary (\$6k), 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara. A letter from Dion shall be provided as well that the Tribe will not submit payment for non-binding services.

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve the newsletter and send to print, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Next Meeting: February 22, 2024 at 10am, in Happy Camp. CA

Adjourn at 5:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman

Recording Secretary, Barbara Snider