



## COUNCIL OF ATHABASKAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

### BOARD TELECONFERENCE MEETING

AUGUST 29, 2014

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

link: <https://meetme.catg.org/Lw41CylDF9>

#### DRAFT MINUTES

**Call to Order:** The CATG Board meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by chairperson, Rhonda Pitka.

Opening Prayer by Edward Alexander.

**Roll Call showed present:**

Arctic Village – Louie John

Venetie – Jean Tritt

Chalkyitsik – Patty Salmon

Beaver – Rhonda Pitka

Fort Yukon – Ed Alexander

Birch Creek – Jackie Baalam

Canyon Village – Delma Fields

Rampart – Peggy Wright

Quorum was established with 8 present and two absent, Circle and Stevens Village.

**Staff present were:** Roxanne Knudson, Rachel Solomon, Mike Hardy, Bunny Stevens, Andrea Thomas, Melinda Peter, Kelda Britton, Alisha Kelly, Joyce Hughes, James Pool, Pat Stanley and Linda Wells.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Addition to the agenda under old business, add BLM Eastern Interior Management Plan for 1 and under new business add Annual Meeting as number 6 and number 7 under New Business ANILCA 910 filing; under New Business on Number 1, add Resolution. There are some resolution to resolution list: 2014-18, 2014-19. Resolution should be at the end before Tribal members Comments.

**ACTION: Second Chief Ed Alexander moved to adopt the agenda with changes. Seconded by Patty Salmon. Motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 28/May 1, 2014 and June 6, 2014 were presented.

**ACTION: Second Chief Ed Alexander moved to adopt the April 28/May 1, 2014 and June 6, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Chief Delma Fields. Motion passed.**

**Tribal Member Comments:** There were no tribal member comments at this time.

**Reports – UPDATES:**



**Executive Director – Pat Stanley** presented her report. The negotiation for the Contract Support is completed. This is dependent on what it auditable expenses for the taxes and benefits. We are getting about \$16,000 more to the contract, which is a little better. We have an opportunity to strategize for 2015. Explanation on CSC and indirect. Joyce and Pat talked with the Architect about the ambulance garage the building. They will provide drawings so that they could go to funding agencies with. Working with Office of Head Start on the building grant. USDA was glad to offer a loan. Ed Alexander wanted the Board to consider as they move forward the hybrid entity that Melinda Peter mentioned in her report. The TCC and CATG MOA was worked on and finished the parts that they agree on and sent back and are waiting on the reply.

Discussion followed on patients who are still getting bills when they go through TCC or the ER in Fairbanks and it is not being credited to Contract Health. This is ruining the patients' credit rating and they are being turned over to small claims. It was suggested that they need to get a step by step list of what to do if the patients get billed for services through TCC or the ER. Joyce suggested they will be meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> with Jacoline, Joshua on EHR and could bring this issue up.

Since Kim is out sick there will be no Financial Report. The financial report was emailed out to each Chief, they could look this over, if they have any question, they could call in or if they want they could request a special meeting just to discuss the financial report.

**Health Dept.: Melinda Peter** summarized the Health Department report. She mentioned that concerns were expressed about the medivacs at the last meeting. The main concern is the on-going harassment and verbal abuse directed at the providers by the community members. We are still advertising for three mid-level position. Monica Peter transferred to case manager position, so advertising for medical assistant position. Will have a resolution at the next meeting for the hybrid entity. The report contains a description of what the hybrid entity is. Working with Starla on the HIPAA policies and incorporating all the new regulations and changes. She will be coming up at the end of October and work with us on that and hope to get this approved by the Board so she could train our staff. IT is working with TechPro the security system. The Health Department is still working on the wellness program. Updates on employees and who was working at which site. Updated on some of the issues regarding the Health services. One of the huge issues is the Medicaid management information system. They haven't had any payments from Medicaid for about a year now.

Dr. Kelly mentioned that with the diabetes program, they would like to plan a program around walking and cooking using the VTC program. In August they had a PA who had a back ground in pain management. She has been doing a lot of stuff in pain management. She has been teaching a Yoga class. She is interested in alternating with Alexander London. Planning to attend the North West Primary Care in Denver in October. She explained alternative programs to working with patients with pain. Would like to bring this person up as a consultant.

Home visits for elderly was discussed. Let Diane and Debbie know and they will plan the visit and work with the PA.



**Joyce Hughes** submitted a written report on what is going on with the grants and contract. She followed up on the Behavioral Health site visit that took place on Wednesday and Thursday. They were pretty impressed with our performance. The Addie Shewfelt Building was cleaned up. They discussed the type of services that are offered at the Clinic. We are hoping to be approved to bill for medication management and prevention and treatment. We are going to expand our community program and hire additional staff to work at the Addie Shewfelt Building. We are going to coordinate with the tribe. We have the crisis response team meeting and are talking about coordinating after school activities for the youth. There are exercise equipment at the Addie Shewfelt building. We talked about having services at night for safe place. When we get this report we will need to work on policy and procedures, integrated policies and procedures for the Behavioral Health and the Clinic. Within the next year we need to get certified or accredited by GARP. The other part is to look at the clinic and design for more effective patient care. Dr. Kelly talked a little about NWRPCA, the patient center medical home certification, which is happening the same time we are doing the GARP certification for the Behavioral Health Program. We will begin to work together. ANTHC Division of environmental health and engineering will be looking over the building for redesign and also for the ambulance building. The billing for the behavioral health needs to be worked on. We are looking at going to an independent billing instead of going through TCC. We are having some problems on getting the bills processed through the TCC billing package. Right now we can't bill behavioral health and dental through TCC. We are working toward improving our system. One of the things we will receive is the technical assistance through Division of Behavioral Health in assisting our new behavioral health aide to learn documentation to meet Medicaid standard to bill for behavioral health aide services. The other technical assistance we are going to be getting is from the Alaska Primary Care Association and that is related to patient center and medical hall. We are going to be having a team out before the end of September to come to the clinic and look at the space and the space re design for all of our providers to be able to work together.

Comments made was on the abuse of medical staff and one of the providers is not returning, this affects the recruitment, because they are all tied together. CATG is becoming known as a difficult place to work, a negative reputation from some of the client harassing the providers creating an unsafe and undesirable environment. Need polices to apply externally also. CATG do have a harassment policy in place. A suggestion was to put comments of past Chiefs regarding the goals and objectives; their intentions were of CATG or of the clinic of CATG on DVD and play on the TV in the Clinic lobby. The security system has been ordered. The company was just here for a site visit and said our clinic would be an easy install.

During our strategy meeting and the most part was spent on wellness because Gary Ferguson was there. Gary Ferguson will be coming up to the Yukon Flats once a month for 2 or 3 days.

Natural Resources – Kelda Britton briefly summarized her report. The negotiation with BLM Fire Service. On August 25<sup>th</sup> negotiations with BLM began. They are still in negotiation process. They do have the initial budget drafted with the agreement and project work descriptions for 2015-16. There are some revisions due to the annual scope of work. We are waiting on Steve to debrief



with him. We are talking about increasing a multi-day training for 2015-16, and offering more courses. We usually have our EFF training in the spring and are talking about increasing the multi day and including more classes in the winter so that it is all not blocked together and pressed for time. We would like to see is creating a Type 2 IA crew. Right now we are looking at what that process would entail as far as contracting. We would like to get started on this. Another thing we talked about is occupational endorsement, what it takes for this. Kelda complimented on the working relationship with Louie Silas. On the 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of August in collaboration with the Alaskan Division of Forestry and TCC we provided a forestry technician training and sawyer certification class in Fort Yukon. I worked directly with Jeff Graham to get this training going. Working with the State has been interesting. They have recommendations as to who they want as their instructors. We told them we are capable to doing this ourselves. From the forestry training, this was delivered by two of TCC's foresters. We had a good turnout. There are no update on the Biomass. We did have a chipper training in Fort Yukon. We are planning a Phase two which will be more community involved. Pictures are available and will be shared in next presentation. Bridging Yesterday with Tomorrow, this was a project that Bryan and Carrie started. We are moving forward, we received all the modification paperwork. I met with Jessica Black yesterday and am in the process of finding someone to conduct interviews. I would prefer to hire locally but if this is not possible would conduct the interviews herself.

Patty Salmon of Chalkyitsik would like her name put on the List so she could receive notices on the meetings on Biomass.

The BLM Land Use Partnership Grant – the traditional land use mapping project. Met with Ian Johnson, a graduate student of UAF, Ian has been helping her. They are missing two of Chalkyitsik maps. This kind of set the project back a little. Scheduling some meetings with BLM so they can share agreements and make sure the goals and objectives are alright. The maps missing are for the Black River land use mapping project. This project was a cost share with CATG, BLM, and the University. This project started probably in 2011. Our commitment is to work with this graduate student and he is working on is providing research support for the compilation of the published data for the QA QC maps. It was suggested that they talk to Joe Matesi about the traditional land use, he was putting the data base together and is talking to elders regarding place names and traditional land use. The Dept. of Fish and Game at the Creamers Field base has a subsistence division, the report authored by Rick Caulfield, his maps are available and the original files are available in the drop box. This would be nice if put in the GIS. Information might be available with the Oral History at UAF with Bill Snyder. First week in December will have 2 day meeting on moose management.

**Education Dept. – Rachel Solomon** presented her report. They are fully staffed. Welcome to Carol Shewfelt and Jennell Lawrence. Had a teleconference yesterday, going over the quality improvement plans, program monitoring, and over what they need to do in the deficiencies. They have until February to finish this. Had a pre service, which went ok. They had their Health Fair. They had 7 families show up. They had the deficiencies from 2009 review, they had one year to correct. They had to provide all the training to correct this. There will be a governance training in October for the Board at their meeting in Anchorage.



Michael Hardy overviewed his report. He is working on NACTEP final reports. Asked for acceptance of some students into the program. Did not travel to any of the village, but still in the plans. Received the numbers for year two and that is down about \$30,000.00.

#### **ACTION:**

**Second Chief Ed Alexander made a motion to approve Mandy Cadzow, Ethan Cadzow, Elsa Carroll and Kelda Britton to be considered for NACTEP scholarship. Seconded by Chief Jean Frank Tritt. Roll call votes: Jean Tritt, yes; Patty Salmon, yes; Delma Fields, yes; Rhonda Pitka, yes; Jacki Baalam – yes. Ed Alexander – yes. Motion carried with 6 yes votes and Rampart and Arctic Village – no answer; and Rampart and Stevens Village absent.**

**Motion carried with majority vote.**

Discussion followed on the Gwitch'in language. The School District recently declared the Gwitch'in Language position to half time. They got rid of the language coordinator position for the district as a whole. Need to know why. **Suggested that perhaps Mike could find out about this for the rest of us.** There may be additional funding through the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health for grants for the language program. There are grants for language revitalization programs. CATG should consider applying for something like this, perhaps using the traditional land use mapping project as an in-kind to show that there is already a commitment, and maybe expanding that out into the educational department or probably the Early Childhood Department.

Chief Ed Alexander stated that a few years ago, he worked with Karen Dixon who was the education director at the time; there were about 14 educators and educational policy makers from the Yukon Flats, and we sent that group to Hawaii. It was a transformative experience for them. They got to see how the language revitalization occurred from having seven speakers left, and they were second language speakers, they only had a few first Hawaiian language speakers left and they had 7 of them together and they worked together and revitalized their language. Now they have over 14,000 speakers who could speak Hawaiian as their first language. They speak English too. We should consider sending CATG leadership, Early Childhood and education leadership to Hawaii and have a similar program and probably work in partnership with the Tribe as a whole and get some movement happening. It could be a positive experience and regenerative experience. The last time we sent people, we got the language revitalization plan for the flats, there was a meeting in Beaver, and we started a class here. **If there is not objections from the Board, would like to put to the Administration to find funding to make something like this occur.** Ed Alexander still have documentation of this event, still have contacts in Hawaii so could assist in planning the itinerary. The ANA revitalization grant will be coming out again. CATG do not want to take anything away from the village. This should be a partnership.

**Communications – Roxanne Knudson** overviewed her report. The directional arrow signs are ordered for the Health Center. Need a program to finish up the newsletter. Updated the Web page.



Thanked the employees who went on KZPA radio show on Tuesdays to update the public on what is going on. Hope to use the Pro Website recording to incorporate a language center on that page.

The Chiefs approved a resolution in March to create a public relations arm with TCC. That PR is going forward. Doreen Deaton will do interviews in the Yukon Flats regarding life styles. Perhaps if Roxanne meet with Doreen and work together to get a joint media release signed by all participants so we could utilize any media created out of it.

**Information Technology Director's Report – James Pool** presented his report. We do have our new video conference equipment in place. We are working on fine tuning this. We are not 100% yet. One of the nice features is that I could share my content with everybody. We could have 25 participants dialed in. Working on the EHR issues to cut down on the latency of that system. Something new to consider for the future is expanding the scope of work for the IT department so they could look at broader questions energy sustainability, renewable other kinds of technology to benefit our villages, within the scope of technology as a whole. Consider the cost of electricity to look into solar panels, working together with the villages so this could be provided.

**Human Resource – Andrea Thomas** summarized her report. She has been updating all employee files, working with Pat on evaluation policy, so managers could begin their evaluations, working towards implementing employee recognition policy. Since she started working, they filled ten position, and in the process of interviewing applicants. Working on advertising the 2 mid-level providers.

**Gwitch'in Council International/Arctic Council-** reported from Edward Alexander. There was supposed to be a report from the Executive Director Grant Sullivan. The Chiefs had a side meeting up there, they drafted a water resolution. There are only two people on the Board of GCI right now. No reports were received. GCI is supposed to represent all our people on the Arctic Council as a permanent participant. It is hard to get on to, an important group on other international issues, like interfacing with the UN, climate change, contaminants of the north, energy, etc. They haven't had any outreach. Put forward a resolution to the tribe in Fort Yukon and also one to CATG, 2014-19. This resolution would remove Ed Alexander from GCI but it will place all of the First Chiefs as Board member of GCI. The reasoning is to give it credibility and have directives from the Chiefs. Right now the position that GCI has taken cannot reflect the wishes of our people. Creating a structure of an annual meeting for GCI. Another position of the resolution is an ambassadorship on different issues. The Porcupine Caribou Herd for instance, we could have Sarah James, or Contaminants of the North, we would have Alexander Bergman from Fairbanks. We could get a lot of people from these areas that are knowledgeable to represent us so the Chiefs don't travel and represent every issue. People that are qualified on these issues could attend and report back to us. US takes the chair for the council for the next two years. When Ed Alexander went to Anchorage he advocated that funding flow through CATG for GCI so the Chiefs could go to the Arctic Council meeting. Right now the funding flows through the Aleutian Islands Association, our funding for GCI is flowing through Pribiloff, this is inappropriate. State need to be contacted and have the funding flow through CATG so we could get adequate



participation at the meetings and fully informed on the issues. Without being informed on the issues on the table, we cannot offer our consent. We are not active at the table.

Ed Alexander was approached by Santina Gay of the Environmental Protection Agency, they have special projects money that may assist in getting to the table and being effective at the meetings. This may be another revenue spring. These meeting are expensive because you meet in Copenhagen, Oslo and places like this. I invited them to Fort Yukon to understand the challenges we face.

Rhonda Pitka: need to learn more about GCI and what they do.

When Gwitch'in Council International when it first started, it was put together rather quickly and there was someone in charge of Chair and Co-chair, and sort of left that way. It was never discussed what to do. Need more discussion on the current structure to meet the needs of our people. Right now there is oil and gas exploration upon Eagle Plain that will affect the Porcupine River. Contaminants are now showing up in the McKenzie River. Because of our divided structure, we don't have an effective way to communicate. The Arctic Council supposed to protect our environment.

**AFN October 23-25 Meeting/CATG Meeting:** One of the things is all of our Health Department employees will be traveling. They will be in Denver, Colorado on October 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Perhaps this could be discussed at our next meeting. It was decided that the chiefs could meet and the directors turn in written reports. Rachel said that EHS governance would like to meet and train could even meet during lunch.

**NCAI in Atlanta, GA October 26-31, 2014:** Pat Stanley would like to see the council attend the self-governance meeting that the NCAI. Ed Alexander suggested that one person represent us at NCAI to see what happens to our resolutions.

**Annual Self-Governance Conference April 26-30, 2015 in Reno, NV-** Pat Stanley suggest this is the meeting that the council will benefit the most from.

**30 year CATG Anniversary Celebration – 9/17,18,19/2015:** It would be good for CATG to have an annual meeting where they get together in different village in each year, as a way for CATG to outreach in the different villages and understand some of the realities of what is going on out there with the Staff. One in Chalkyitsik, one in Arctic and one in Fort Yukon, every year go to a different spot and build ground support for CATG and outreach and understand how we can make our programs more effective as a way of communicating what actually happens. People will see what actually goes on. One of the things that would go into a grant, is the planning meeting in all village.

**RECOMMENDATION: Second Chief Ed Alexander directed that Admin find funding for annual meetings and the basis for it would be to rotate between the different villages.**



Second Chief Ed Alexander suggested that the next time of concern is the ANILCA 910 filing. The Fort Yukon Tribal Council approved an ANILCA 910 filing for salmon issue in April of this year. 910 basically limits, it is an ANILCA procedure, that during times of low resources, that resources be allocated to subsistence users and users in rural areas first before commercial areas. This was not filed yet, but it has the potential of affecting what is going on in federally managed ocean fisheries, it is something that we should examine as a board, on the issue of large animal management in the Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We have moose management but no protection or priorities for the moose, caribou and sheep for the users here. Users are competing against the hunters flying in to hunt, or going up on a boat being guided and shooting a bunch of caribou. Our folks have to go twice as far and it is being an economic burden for them. The fishing collapse this year, and we were not allowed to fish and then lowest moose population per mile basis in the state, we should be able to file 910 to protect our area to allow our folks to have access first.

**ACTION: Second Chief Edward Alexander made a motion to request from the Board that CATG have Hobbs, Straus to look into this procedure on this filing and what are the possible ramifications pros and cons and present it to the board at the November meeting and begin enacting this process with the Federal Subsistence Board if the Board approves, to protect our hunters and fishers within the Yukon Flats – a Legal Review. Seconded by Chief Delma Fields. Motion passed.**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Res. 2014-14 Passed June 6<sup>th</sup> need signatures

Res 2014-17 – Protection of Watersheds and Water Quality

Res 2014-18 – Authorization to administer documents and contracts for ICHS NIH Community Partnership Projects

Res 2014-19 - Request that GCI amends current By-Law Structure

**ACTION: Second Chief Edward Alexander made a motion to approve Resolutions 2014-17, 2014-18 and 2014-19. Seconded by Delma Fields. Motion passed.**

**Tribal Member Comments:**

Jackie Baalam said that their elections are coming up on September 11 and her seat is up. She will be running. Need Joyce to call her regarding an open position.



Ed Alexander commented that his father, Clarence is involved in a law suit right now. He was ticketed in 2013 and is fighting that under ANILCA. He appreciate any support CATG could offer. The ticket is only \$250, feels it is an issue of everyone was shut down. The tribe supported through legal resources.

**ACTION Adjournment: Chief Delma Fields moved to adjourn. Seconded by Chief Edward Alexander. Motion passed.**