

# Listening Session

ANB Hall, Yakutat, Alaska

August 25, 2015

Contact:

Primary: Secretary/Treasurer, Don Brenner, [dbrenner@gci.net](mailto:dbrenner@gci.net)

Alternate: President/CEO Tom Harris, [atomharris@gmail.com](mailto:atomharris@gmail.com)

Alternate: Chair, Debra Lekanof, [dlekanof@gmail.com](mailto:dlekanof@gmail.com)

# Purpose of the Listening Session

**“We have reached a point in our community where our decision makers, the City, Tribe and Kwaan will need to work together on the challenges and opportunities, and to be inclusive of businesses and community members”**



*“As we address the challenges and opportunities, we need to ensure the integrity, culture and capacity of the community carefully taken into consideration.”*



Purpose of the Listening sessions is to respond to the Shareholders request for increased communication in the community and to respond to the need to build relationships with governments, organization, businesses and community members. Outcome is to provide an information gathering and sharing platform with intention of strengthening trust and transparency with the Shareholders and Community. Today is the first of a series of sessions.

## Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Prayer
- Opening Comments and Purpose: Secretary/Treasure, Don Bremner, and Vice Chair Verna Henniger
- Presentations 15 to 30 Minutes and Open Floor Discussions
  - YTT/Kwaan Toxic Clean up Presentation
  - Yakutat Seafoods, Future Harvesting Salmon
  - City of Yakutat, City Sale of Yakutat Power and Future of Energy
  - Yakutat Chamber of Commerce: Tourism Future
  - USFS, Federal Relationship on Management of Natural Resources and update on Cultural sites
- Shared Ideas and concepts for Yak Kwaan Strategic Planning

## Common Grounds for Partnerships

- Common policy partnerships and demographic information gathering, sharing and storing
  - Engage on Congressional and Legislative policy, laws and funding to support enhancement of Yakutat unmet needs and partnerships
  - Information sharing and relationship building with federal and state agencies from US Forest Service, USDA to US Parks Service, to name few, in the Yakutat area. Enhance program opportunity for all to benefit from economic diversity to jobs.
  - Expand discussion to fellow landowners from Chugach Corporation, Icy Bay to Sealaska Corporation and other sports fishing and hunting businesses depending on natural resources
  - Exploring enhanced data gathering, sharing and storage to support all opportunity building from housing, jobs to economic investment from all governing bodies, business and corporation, beyond the consensus



- Investment in economic diversity related to community governmental and non governmental services, business, natural resources and jobs
  - Cross federal, state, tribal and corporate funding support on common grounds
  - Tax base growth with enhanced economy and population growth
  - Advantage of federal program opportunity for resources to land for housing to businesses
  - Explore and identify common economic investment from small businesses, tourism, health care, to other opportunities
  - Enhance the science, policy and legal capacity for Yakutat to address fisheries management, as we are now at 25% of the salmon catch
- Infrastructure enhancement from growth and diversity of economy
  - Affordable housing and housing assistance, housing for middle class and homeless is an issue for us all and relief comes out of each of the opportunities found in governments, organizations and non profits
  - Water and Sewer Infrastructure assessment and phase in plan for improvements

- Emergency and Safety analysis and supported based on diversity of land ownerships as well as operations and management of resources
- Transportation infrastructure enhancement based on federal, state, tribal and land owner collaboration
- Internet capacity removes barriers to enhance business, education, economic and important factors of adaptive community development



- Job Growth and Diversity evolves from education, training and economic diversity
  - Yakutat is and always will be a fishing community, however the economy faces a fluctuation of a harvesting season, therefore diversity of jobs is a general goal
  - Federal, state and tribal, as well as corporations have opportunities to provide support through funding to programs for job training.
- Education stability for funding, infrastructure to operations and management and impacts on enrollment and taxation
  - Community faces impacts of loss in community members from adults to families due to lack of stability from economic diversity to education, thus impacting community from tax payers to education funding.
  - Cross agency funding from tribal (i.e. Bureau of Indian Affairs) to non tribal governmental funding from federal to state, and even support of non profit development for sports and after school activities

- Rural Energy analysis of best model for community and ongoing opportunity for partnerships for energy services for community
  - Reasonable power rates on traditional and new energy
  - Energy development incorporated based on community needs, roles and responsibilities,



- Cross natural resources management plan on land, water and resources
  - Tribal Conservation District enhances the capacity of collaboration between Kwaan, the City and a third partner, potentially the Borough.
  - Enhance the science, policy and legal common grounds on collaboration for resource management
  - Clean up and restoration of lands and waters, as well as healthy subsistence/first foods resources through collaboration of political support for sound regulation, policy and funding at the federal and state agencies.

## Information Sharing and Next Steps

Yak-Tat Kwaan shareholders recommended the Board and staff enhance the relationship and communication not only our shareholders, but with the governing bodies, businesses, organizations and overall community members. The August 25th meeting was one of three listening sessions the Executive Committee<sup>1</sup> and President/CEO will manage and all Board members will engage as they can based on scheduling.

Next Steps: Information from the Listening sessions will help support the information gathering, sharing and storage for the November 9-13th Strategic planning session co supported by Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, City and Borough of Yakutat and Yak-Tat Kwaan. The information will also be incorporated into Yak-Tat Kwaan Strategic planning sessions and provide a foundation of education and learning for the Board as we make important decisions that impact the prosperity of the Corporation, but the overall co engagement with other decision making entities in the community.

## Shareholder Listening Session Scheduled for late October

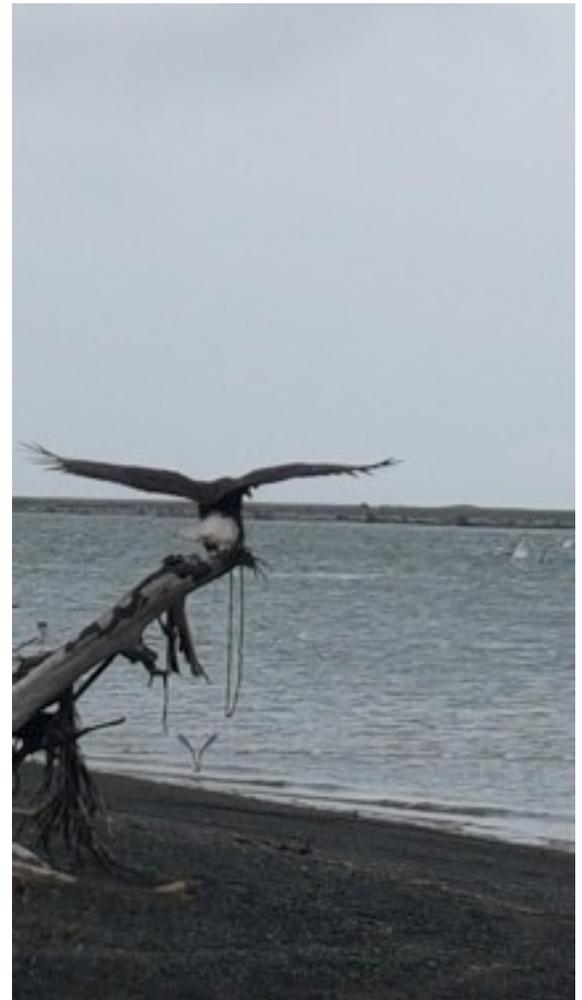
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Draft Agenda:

- Welcome and Opening Prayer
- Opening Comments and Purpose: Secretary/Treasurer, Don Bremner, and Vice Chair Verna Henniger
- Discussion
  - Yakutat Community Challenges and Opportunities
  - Economic Diversity
  - Energy
  - Land Conservation
  - Natural Resource Restoration
  - Shareholder Relations
- Shared Ideas and concepts for Yak Kwaan Strategic Planning
- Adjourn

Point of Contact for more information: Primary Kwaan Director, Don Bremner, Secretary/Treasurer, [dbremner@gci.net](mailto:dbremner@gci.net) and Alternates, Chair, Debra Lekanof, [dlekanof@gmail.com](mailto:dlekanof@gmail.com) and President/CEO Tom Harris at [atomharris@gmail.com](mailto:atomharris@gmail.com)



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<sup>1</sup> Kwaan Executive Committee consists of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer

## A Few General Comments from Participants

- We need to move forward, problem solve and provide solutions, and we have to address this in partnership.
- Of the 30+ participants, Education was the number one challenges brought forth with a message that this is not only an educational issue, but an issue that stretches from economy, human and social health and community moral.
- Yakutat faces a detrimental crisis with the continued unstable education present and future situation.
- The educational crisis cuts deep into our families, as we are faced with families having no choice but to split up, as parent send their children out of the community to fulfill their educational and school activities.
- We are talking about changes that fit our “Yakutat” definition of middle class, but we cannot forget those who are in a situation where they are jobless, homeless and facing harsh times. Whereas, the situation for us maybe how do our governing bodies. provide the services to support their situation.
- Yakutat has had many plans done from economic development and analysis, renewable energy, to economic indicators, as well as tourism. The shared consensus of the group for an analysis of the work to be complied and shared at the November Strategic meeting and for us to identify common grounds of what works for and what does not for Yakutat, who can work on what, cross funding opportunities.
- Take care what is here.
- Political support to help address challenges from fuel and gas prices, energy management and costs, natural resources management from hunting, fishing and gathering and form resources form salmon, timber, aquaculture to environmental standards, regulations and laws.
- Removing barriers for economic enhancement, raising the opportunity for diversity and job creation and sharing cross funding and programs, as well as services to help all Yakutat community members.
- Conversations have changed away from the negativity and action oriented efforts are moving us towards a flourishing future.

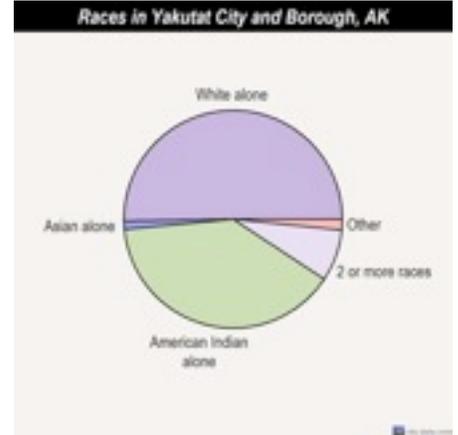


## Background Information: Yakutat Demographics<sup>2</sup>

For more information: [http://www.city-data.com/county/Yakutat\\_City\\_and\\_Borough-AK.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Yakutat_City_and_Borough-AK.html)

### Demographics:

- County population in 2012: 668 (all rural); it was 808 in 2000
- County owner-occupied with a mortgage or a loan houses and condos in 2010: 69
- County owner-occupied free and clear houses and condos in 2010: 84
- County owner-occupied houses and condos in 2000: 158
- Renter-occupied apartments: 117 (it was 107 in 2000)
- % Living in Poverty: 5.5% and % Living in Poverty in Alaska: 9.3%



### Housing/Renters

- % of renters in Yakutat: 40%
- % of renters in the State: 37%

### Land, Water, Population:

- Land area: 7650 sq. mi.
- Water area: 1808.8 sq. mi.
- Population density: 0 people per square mile (very low).

Mar. 2013 cost of living index in Yakutat City and Borough: 103.7 (near average, U.S. average is 100)

- Transportation and warehousing, and utilities (10.5%)
- Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (10.5%)
- Educational, health and social services (10.5%)
- Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (10.5%).



### Type of workers:

- Private wage or salary: 73%
- Government: 23%
- Self-employed, not incorporated: 5%
- Unpaid family work: 0%

### Average Age:

- Median resident age: 39.0 years and Alaska median age: 33.0 years
- Males: 360 (72.4%) and Females: 302 (27.6%)

## Participants

Kip Hoades , AC Commercial Co.

Rolland Gregg, Discover G.E.T. com

Robin Gray, Yakutat School District

Jack Endicott, Icy Waves Surf Shop

Nelson Inada, FAA, CBY Assembly Member

Cathy Bremner , CBY

Daryl James , USFS

Greg Indreland , Yakutat Seafoods

Martha Indreland, CBY and President, Yakutat Chamber of Commerce

Jim Capra, US Park Service

Jon Erickson, CBY Manager

Alex James, YTT, NAELMP

Jay W. Stevens, Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc. Board Member

Marvin Adams, Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc. Board Member

Don Bremner, Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc. Board Member

Verna Henniger, Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc. Board Member

Debra Lekanof, Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc. Chair

Tom Harris, Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc. President/CEO

Bert Adams, Jr. , Yakutat Tlingit Tribe General Manager

Charmaine Ramos, Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc. – Executive Assistant

Charles Russell, CBY Assembly Member

Sean Langhelm, Alaska Airlines, Manager

## Acknowledgement

We can't express how much we appreciate the dedication, long hours and time that our staff commits for Kwaan and for our shareholders and community. Special thanks to our Kwaan staff at who made the listening session possible for us all. Thank you Tom Harris, Cynthia Peterson, Charmaine Ramos, Shelley Bremner and to their families for supporting them.