

August 13, 2025 Charter Review Commission Land Acquisition Committee Meeting

Minutes from August 13, 2025, Charter Review Commission Land Acquisition Committee Meeting.

The meeting commenced at 1:00 PM on August 13, 2025, in the Clallam County Commissioners conference room.

Roll Call. Commissioners Jim Soffer, Ron Cameron, Cathy Walde and Ron Richards were present.

The First Public Comment period commenced. Ed Bowen provided input that the trust land issue should not be addressed as a recommendation to the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Jim Stoffer announced he had forwarded to the members of the committee the document entitled Jamestown Tribal Government Fact Sheet dated 2025.

Commissioner Walde announced she was still waiting for a copy of a map showing tribal lands within Clallam County and that she had located a copy of the treaty of Point No Point at the Governors Office of Indian Affairs. Commissioner Richards raised the issue that federal statutes might apply more than the treaty and that we should ask the Prosecutor to advise us on this issue. Commissioner Walde mentioned the treaty allowed tribal members one year to move to the reservation.

Commissioner Stoffer referred back to the Jamestown Tribal Government Fact Sheet dated 2025 and referred to reservations being specified for the Port Gamble and Elwha tribes. He also mentioned that the Jamestown Tribe was recognized as a tribe but given no reservation land. Then he mentioned the Jamestown tribe eventually bought back some land for their reservation. He wanted to refer the issue to the County Commissioners and mentioned how the County had responded to recommendations from the previous Charter Review Commission.

Commissioner Richards again spoke to the need to ask the Prosecutor for advice on what provisions apply, treaty, constitution or statute.

Commissioner Stoffer wanted me to submit proposed legal questions to the Committee and then expressed his concerns over other commissioners speaking to county citizens.

Commissioner Cameron said he would support Commissioner Richards asking Chair Fisch whether Commissioner Richards could speak to Deputy Prosecutor Boughton on how to frame a legal question on what provisions of the treaty, constitution and federal statutes apply. All four commissioners agreed to authorize Commissioner Richards to do so.

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Commissioner Stoffer stressed his efforts would be directed at making sure we were complying with the legal framework mentioned in the Jamestown Tribal Government Fact Sheet dated 2025.

Commissioner Richards suggested approval of past meeting minutes be placed on the next committee meeting agenda. Commissioner Stoffer summarized what was discussed at the previous committee meeting and said he would have the minutes written up for the Committee's next meeting.

The second Public Comment Period opened.

Kenneth Reandeau said the willing seller, willing buyer principles should apply.

Ed Bowen expressed concern that the 10th Amendment was being violated by some trust land issues. He stated that he disagreed with the suggestion that the trust land issue be presented as a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Worthington stated that citizens can object to the BIA over trust land additions. He doesn't think the County Commissioners have been protecting the county's interests. He thinks the Jamestown Tribe should have one big reservation in the foothills because their current location is not a good place to build.

Commissioner Richards explained the difference between simple willing buyer and willing seller deals and the trust land transfer issues.

Wednesday, August 26th at 1 PM was agreed to as the next Committee meeting.

Jim Stoffer mentioned that October 5, 2021, was the date the County Commissioners addressed recommendations from the previous Charter Review Commission.

Jim Stoffer moved, and Ron Cameron seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Ron Richards