

Summary of Work Group on the Unique Role of Native People, February 23-24, 2010

Robert Sanderson, co-chair, opened the meeting (the agenda is attached to this summary). After introductions, there was a brief overview of the Roundtable and the work group recommendations from the Sitka meeting. The group listened to the experiences of the Native people in the room. Each person attending had the opportunity to speak. At the end of the afternoon, we began to shape the sessions for the second day, but the group decided that listening to people's experiences had been so rich that we needed to reserve more time for that process on the second day. We continued this process through the second day.

Rosita Worl then chaired the second day afternoon discussion during which we focused on carrying out the recommendations from the Sitka meeting. The group came to the following conclusions:

- Before we can further outline the charter and workshop, we need to ensure there is a balance of different Native groups from throughout Southeast Alaska. The work group will continue to be open to all who wish to participate, but the work group will make a special effort to outreach to people who could not attend this meetings. Suggestions included but were not limited to clan leaders, IRA tribes, village corporations, Alaska Native Brotherhood, Alaska Native Sisterhood, Grand Camp, communities such as Wrangell, Hydaburg, Hoonah and Kake and the Council of Traditional Scholars. We discussed technological opportunities to make meetings available to remote communities without the cost of travel. It was suggested that a small delegation brief media outlets. Merle Nancy Hawkins and Marlene Johnson volunteered to compile an extensive contact list of Native people and entities in the region so that we can send out a summary of these meetings, encourage others to attend and maintain transparency. Brad Fleutsch volunteered to assist with technology, and Brad broadcast portions of the meeting live on the internet.
- Co-chairs Rob Sanderson and Rosita Worl will work with Erin Dovichin to draft a potential workshop agenda based on the issues raised in the Sitka recommendations and the issues raised during this meeting. We will send it out to everyone who attended along with a date and time for our next work group meeting. This draft will provide the foundation for mapping out the workshop.
- Finally, the work group also voted unanimously to make the following recommendation to the Roundtable at the February 25-26th meeting:

The work group recommends the Roundtable amend its Convening Values to include the following statement:

“From time immemorial, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimpsian peoples have maintained their stewardship of the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass Futures Roundtable recognizes, values and respects their customary and traditional way of life and their traditional knowledge.”