

**TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD INDIAN NATION, MONTANA**

Volume 22 Number 40
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: March 15, 2022
Approved: March 17, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy McLeod, Treasurer; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; Jennifer Finley; Jim Malatare; Mike Dolson; and Anita Matt.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; Jim Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:02 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Bing Matt.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 10, 2022 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 8 for; 2 abstentions (Jennifer Finley and Jim Malatare).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Don Webster and **Jaspen Webster** discussed a well issue. There is a well being drilled on Leighton Road. The Websters are supposed to be moving into their house but they did not get their well yet. They got the septic system in November. They were approved by SKHA on July 21, 2021 for a well and they broke ground in August. The contractor must continue paying insurance since it is not completed. Their loan was sold to First Nations, so they cannot close out the loan until the well is drilled. **Len TwoTeeth** advised council will follow up. **Carole Lankford** commented that Patricia Hibbeler was working to get them a portable system. **Chairman McDonald** will have an update with legal today. They are moving as fast as they can with the Unitary Water Board, hiring staff, etc. A permit for a well is required from the Unitary Water Board. It is questionable

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whether the people drilling wells now will be able to use those wells in the future. **Carole Lankford** suggested providing rental assistance. **Patricia Hibbeler** stated she has an upcoming conversation with our legal team to talk about the concerns coming across her desk so they can begin to think about how we might address these. She was unsure whether or not we have a way to assist with rent in the interim, but she can explore that. She asked Jaspen to visit with her to follow up on any possible resources available. She can find out if the water tanks are available. **Martin Charlo** commented that Salish Kootenai Housing Authority has rental assistance. That may help supplement their costs.

Chairman McDonald informed council that the Ninepipe Museum is doing a new chapter on Indigenous Cultures and Ritual Care Policy and wants input from CSKT.

Chairman McDonald informed council that the Inter-Tribal Bison Council is seeking a letter of support for the Indian Buffalo Management Act.

Chairman McDonald informed council that the Tribal Interior Budget Committee will be hosting virtual meetings this week. Next week the DOJ is holding meetings on the 16th and 17th on the tribal member justice and law and the unbalance of justice for tribal members.

Chairman McDonald informed council that Anita Matt is interested in being nominated to the Department of Interior Tribal Advisory Committee.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to nominate Anita Matt to the Department of Interior Tribal Advisory Committee. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Jim Malatare gave a report on the trip to Washington, DC. Jim discussed his concerns regarding the Highway 93 corridor being so dangerous. He wants MDT to address it. They handed out invites for representatives to attend the Bison Range event. **Martin Charlo** thought it was very informative and was good government-to-government interaction with the senators and lobbyists. It is good to have a presence in DC. **Jennifer Finley** reported they met with the Sonosky Law Firm and the team that worked on the water compact. The Tribes are fortunate to have such a brilliant and high caliber team working on our behalf. She wants a celebration for the passage of the water compact. Council met with the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture to discuss the state land exchanges. The council also met with Senators Daines, who is working with Senator Warren on SB 2907, which is the truth and healing commission on boarding schools throughout the United States. Senator Tester supports the Violence Against Women Act and stated he would support CSKT in any way we want to address trauma in our community.

Carole Lankford informed council she received an email from a SKHA staff member about the CDC protocols being different than the CSKT's and requesting that a memo be sent to the staff on what the protocols are. **Chairman McDonald** advised Rick Eneas and Tribal Health Department are drafting some protocols and the draft should be ready by the end of the day.

Mike Dolson would like the Tribal Council to provide guidance to Tony Incashola, Jr. regarding the state timber sales he is dealing with. There are two proposed sales in Arlee and Evaro. Both sales require access through tribal lands. Mike wants to tell the state we are protecting our lands since we have a law in place saying those lands are to be transferred to us. **Len TwoTeeth** mentioned a proposed exploratory mining permit in the Hog Heaven Management Area. The Tribes need to keep the dialogue rolling and let the state and feds know we want ownership of those parcels as soon as possible.

Council met in **executive session**. **Patricia Hibbeler**, Tribal Member Services Director, was present for discussion.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department; **Clare Ann Harff**, **Craig Falcon**, and **Shadow Devereaux**, MAPS Media Institute, would like the council's support to offer a six-week afterschool music production class with artists Shadow Devereaux and Colter Olmstead. Classes would be held afterschool each Monday and Tuesday from April 4 to May 10, 2022, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Ronan Community Center. The classes would be offered free of charge for students in grades 8 through 12. The MAPS Media Institute receives funding from the 21st Century Learning Grant. The group would like to work with the Tribal Council, Preservation Office, Tribal Education Department, and the School District. This class would prepare students who are interested in attending film school at the university. **Carole Lankford** commented that the Boys & Girls Club will be starting their own film program. **Anita Matt** would like the program expanded to other schools. **Council** supported the program.

***** **Break** *****

Elaine Frank, **Dr. Rick Everett** and **Doug Ruhman**, Salish Kootenai College, informed council that SKC is now offering a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Management and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. They provided an overview of the new degree programs that will be offered. Elaine requested council support and encouragement for employees to actively participate in the degree offerings as part of the Educational Leave Policy.

Dan Decker, Brian Upton, Stu Levit, Melissa Schlichting, Lynsey Gaudio, Katie Jones, John Harrison, Christina Courville, and Chelsea Colwyn, Legal Department; **Shane Morigeau**, Public Affairs & Communication; and **Ryan Rusche**, Sonosky Law Firm; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Patricia Hibbeler**, Tribal Member Services Director, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

***** **Break** *****

Jace Smith, Natural Resources Department; and **Molly Davidson**, Morrison Maierle; gave an overview of the Jocko Area Canal Conversion project north of the Jocko River. Jace was asked to provide an update at the Arlee district meeting. Jace requested approval of the master plan for Jocko Canals Conversion – North Area K Canal Service Area for public sharing with Lake County Roads and the Arlee irrigators.

MOTION by Anita Matt to move forward with the proposed plan and take it to Lake County and the irrigators. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 9 for; 1 abstention (Mike Dolson).

Vernon Finley, Kootenai Culture Committee; **Chrissy Ewing, Cheryl Mathias, Loretta Hoots, Leonard Michel, Marvin Saloway, Levi Hewankorn, Dacia Whitworth, Danielle Lefthand, Naida Lefthand, Gina Bigbeaver, Louis Caye, Jr., Jerry Nicolai, and Laurence Kenmille**, Kootenai Elder Advisory Committee; met with council for the monthly elders meeting.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 4:02 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary