

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

Volume 23 Number 72
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: August 24, 2023
Approved: August 29, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Mike Dolson; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; and Terry Pitts.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ellie Bundy, Treasurer (Personal Time Off); and Jim Malatare (Personal Time Off).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Tribal Council Support; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established. **Martin Charlo** is providing the welcoming remarks at Two Eagle River School and will join the meeting later.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Jennifer Finley.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for August 22, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for August 22, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Jennifer Finley to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Glen Gardipe, Tribal Member, informed council he has been homeless for the past 18 months and has been living in a tent. Being an ex-felon has been a challenge for him being able to get into housing. Glen did his time for 15 years and now he is sober and has been employed at Sylvia’s Store for a month. He also worked security at the pow wows. It has not been easy living in a tent during the wintertime. Glen has applied for housing in Ronan, Section 8, and HUD, and he is number 100-something on the waiting list. He applied at the Transitional

Living Center, but he was denied due his background. His tent is by the old Pablo Bank building. Glen had his tent in his sister's yard at the Maggie Ashley Trailer Court, but he was told he had to leave and he is not allowed to have contact with her. Glen is not a registered offender. **Patricia Hibbler**, Tribal Member Services, will follow up to find a possible solution.

Martin Charlo joined the meeting.

Carole Lankford attended the Tiwahe training in Salk Lake City. The training reviewed ways the funding can be used. It is a smaller version of self-governance set up with those programs. There are opportunities that will work for our people instead of using the federal agency process. There is about \$4 million in total funding available. The initial start-off funding is \$500,000 to be used to do the plans. She wants the council to review the plan to make sure it fits their desires. It is possible to do car repairs so people have transportation to get to work. Documentation on why they need the car repairs would be required. The funding also provides funding to hire attorneys to help people that need defense counsel when their families are in trouble and help families with reunification.

Chairman McDonald informed council that yesterday the Northwest Power Planning Congressional group toured Blue Bay to observe fisheries management and there were 40 individuals that participated in lake trout netting, which gave them insight into management issues for long-term funding. The Bonneville Power Administration has increased its participation in the lake trout reduction efforts. We had other meetings with the Department of the Interior about lake management. During the climate change workshop we did this spring, there was a presentation that took pictures from a slideshow talking about predictions for rainfall and snowpack.

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a resolution authorizing the continued membership to the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society.

MOTION by Terry Pitts to approve the resolution authorizing the continued membership to the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 23-147

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MEMBERSHIP OF CSKT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES THAT:

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are a federally recognized Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 and recognized by the United States Government through the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes located in western Montana on the remnants of and including our ancestral territory on the Flathead Reservation, desires to promote the protection and preservation of its fish and wildlife resources through proper management for the use of its members and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) as incorporated in 1983 to develop a national communications network for the exchange of information and management techniques related to self-determined tribal fish and wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS can assist the Tribes directly in:

1. Establishing new fish and wildlife programs;
2. Protection of treaty fish and wildlife rights and resources;
3. Obtaining funding for Tribal fish and wildlife programs;
4. Educating and training Indian fish and wildlife biologists;
5. Representing future tribal fish and wildlife needs throughout the national Congress process; and
6. Promoting Tribal management capabilities on a national level through an exchange of information via newsletters, technical bulletins, and a journal of Tribal fish and wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes fully supports the efforts and activities of the NAFWS as stated above and in the Society's Articles of Incorporation; and

WHEREAS, in order to benefit from the above listed services, a membership in the Society is required which includes a monetary donation of \$250.00 and application annually to the NAFWS; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes hereby authorizes the application and annual payment for membership in the NAFWS.

Bing Matt is the delegate and he asked if there has been any meetings and if the organization is still active. Whisper thought he was referring to the Tribal Fish & Wildlife Commission, which has not been active since the COVID-19 pandemic. **Chairman McDonald** reported the Montana-Wyoming Fish & Game Commission

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has not been meeting very often. The society meets regionally every year and holds an annual convention. Tom asked Whisper to get the information to Bing so he can participate. Whisper informed council that the national conference took place in April and they are also meeting this week. She will send the information to Bing in the future.

Whisper Camel-Means and **Peter Bugoni**, Natural Resources Department; **Mike Durglo**, Tribal Preservation Office; **Dr. Maureen McCarthy**, Montana Climate Office; and **Virgil Dupuis**, Salish Kootenai College; requested approval to sign on as a co-applicant for a grant proposal to do field surveys of native and mixed native and invasive plant structure and function that will be conducted by Salish Kootenai College students and Bison Range staff using multiple plots established in bison grazing areas. Combined with regular soil carbon sampling, these will probe the impacts of bison herbivory on primary productivity and ecosystem carbon storage. The proposed project activities include: (1) review and catalog historical reports and data transferred to CSKT from US Fish & Wildlife Service; (2) conduct field study of vegetation structure and function and soil carbon content on the Bison Range; (3) measure total ecosystem CO₂ and H₂O fluxes in EcoCELL facility with native and mixed native-invasive plant species and soils acquired from CSKT; (4) derive downscaled future climate projections for the CSKT Bison Range; and (5) train students to survey vegetation composition and conditions in the field, collect and analyze soil carbon samples, cultivate native grasses and collect invasive plant seeds for use in the EcoCELLs, interpret and use downscaled climate data, and identify climate analog systems.

MOTION by Jennifer Finley to authorize the Natural Resources Department to sign on as a co-applicant for the grant. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Mike Durglo invited the council members to attend the Building Drought Resilience in a Changing Climate with Upper Columbia and Missouri Basin Tribes Workshop that will take place September 26-28 at the Kwataqnuq Resort.

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department; **Micah Hernandez** and **Jeff Mauk**, USGS; gave a presentation on the results of the collection permit to survey and correct geological surveys on the Bison Range.

Mark Couture, **Rachael Bigsam** and **Tammy McCrea**, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to hold a Land Committee meeting.

Mike Dolson left the meeting to participate in a Self-Governance meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Len TwoTeeth asked if the Lands Department has identified any land for the Food Sovereignty program. **Mark Couture** responded the staff has been working with Dana to find a location that meets the program needs.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to terminate Agriculture Lease 4528, due to a conflict of shared landownership. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, 6 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt); 1 not voting (Mike Dolson out of the room).

MOTION by Carole Lankford to show interest in purchasing Allotment No. 4246 from Jeanine Allard, containing 10 acres. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Mike Dolson out of the room).

MOTION by Bing Matt to show interest in purchasing Tract 1058 and Tract 4564 from Leonard Gray, containing 160 acres, with a ten-year leaseback option along with a fence. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Mike Dolson out of the room).

MOTION by Carole Lankford to show interest in purchasing 75 acres of Tract 201 from Gary Plouffe, located in the St. Ignatius area, and allow a fee patent for the remaining 5 acres. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Mike Dolson out of the room).

MOTION by Carole Lankford to show interest in purchasing Tract 1181 and Tract 1181-A from Allen Sloan, and approve a life estate for Allen and his wife. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Mike Dolson out of the room).

MOTION by Martin Charlo to show interest in purchasing Tract 588 from Marie Stockstad, Shannon May, Fred Tapia, and Constance Tapia. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Mike Dolson out of the room).

MOTION by Martin Charlo to show interest in purchasing Arlene Groepper's share and Rochelle Allison's share in Allotment 99, located in the St. Ignatius area. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Mike Dolson out of the room).

Terry Pitts asked if the Lands Department has been contacting landowners to find out how we can assist them due to the fires. **Mark Couture** advised the staff is working with the National BAER Team for fencing or any other type of mitigation. The landowners were contacted to fill out the necessary paperwork to receive funding for their losses. The USDA RCNS Tribal Liaison is familiar with the fire impact grant funding that is available for costs not covered by the BAER program. Landowners can be fully reimbursed for their lost forage for this season and possibly next season due to the severity of the fires.

Bing Matt asked if a tribal parcel of land will be landlocked if a nontribal member purchases it and if there will be any issues with the Tribes gaining access. **Mark Couture** did not believe access would be an issue. There is a road system on the back side where the Tribes have perpetual use to access the tribal trust parcel and it should not be landlocked.

Len TwoTeeth requested the status of a request from the Polson Volunteer Fire Department. **Mark Couture** responded the Polson Volunteer Fire Department made a request for a small tract of land for a rural station to house their apparatus and be able to respond to emergencies in the Rocky Point area much quicker. There are some volunteer firefighters that live in that area. The Lands Department is still waiting to receive the design of the footprint and Mark will return to council once the documents are received. There is a tract of land near King's Point that has potential for a well to be drilled so they can pump water, but the details have not been worked out yet. The Fire Department is concerned about the seasonal out-of-staters that are not aware they are on tribal property and have started fires due to ATV use. **Chairman McDonald** suggested they consider the Monticello Club since it is a half-mile away, is a community property with a well, and may be owned by the county. It would be more cost effective to develop that property, and their response time would only be a couple of minutes. The Lands Department will follow up and return to council to discuss options at a future date.

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

Brian Upton, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

***** **Lunch** *****

Tony Incashola, Jr. Tribal Member Resources, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss departmental matters. **John Harrison**, Legal Department, was present for discussion. **Renee Joachim**, Personnel Department, joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the USDA, Forest Service, Kootenai, Flathead, Lolo, and Bitterroot National Forests for a Forest Coordinator position for the Tribes. Seconded by Terry Pitts. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Mike Dolson – not present for full discussion).

Terry Boyd, Montana Department of Corrections Native American Liaison, presented a slideshow of current duties with the Montana Department of Corrections and current issues. The DOC has 1,300 employees and 42 facilities/offices. Mr. Boyd serves as a subject matter expert and advisor to DOC staff; acts as a liaison between the department and tribal councils; delivers training and information on Native American culture related to correctional practices; and communicates with Native American inmates and families about concerns regarding culture and correctional practices. Native Americans make up 19.8% total DOC population, despite being 6.6% of Montana's total population. In Montana prisons, 21% of the males and 37% of the females are Native American. Challenges include obtaining Native American volunteers from the communities to assist with religious ceremonies and cultural activities, and striking a balance between safety and security while ensuring access to religious opportunities and artifacts and helping inmates and families understand the balance. To help ensure the successful return of Native American inmates to Montana communities, the DOC delivers culturally specific programming, along with religious opportunities at its facilities. The DOC is preparing to transition to the Integrated Correction Program Model, which includes integrating multiple programs into one to address all criminogenic aspects of the risk, needs, and responsibility model; it includes a specific track for Native Americans; staff training is scheduled for this fall; and providing religious and cultural programming opportunities that includes drum groups, pipe ceremonies, smudging, sweats, and talking circles. The sweat lodge was rebuilt in June. **Len TwoTeeth** wants to hold quarterly meetings with the tribal member inmates. Mr. Boyd can make that happen. **Carole Lankford** recommended having the Tribal Leaders Council consider meetings with their tribal member inmates, as well.

Chairman McDonald informed council that the Flathead Basin Commission was reformatted and they are requesting a new representative be appointed to the voting seat and appoint a council designate to the Western Basin Conservation Commission.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to appoint Rich Janssen as the tribal council appointee voting member on the Western Montana Conservation Commission. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Bing Matt to appoint Martin Charlo as the council representative on the Commission and Mike Dolson as the alternate. Seconded by Terry Pitts. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council **adjourned** at 2:26 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary