

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

Volume 23 Number 35  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: March 16, 2023  
Approved: March 21, 2023

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jennifer Finley.

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Len TwoTeeth.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 14, 2023 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Jim Malatare to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Mike Dolson).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Ellie Bundy to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Ellie Bundy** provided testimony yesterday on SJ5 urging congress to fully fund public safety in law enforcement within the reservation that was sponsored by Senator Brown.

**Martin Charlo** provided testimony on SJ6 yesterday, which is a bill to acknowledge that boarding schools happened. Martin attended the Salish Language conference last week with Bing and Jim. Echo Bell and Chaney Bell were recognized at the conference. **Bing Matt** reported there were over 600 people that attended the event. It was a good gathering.

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**Ellie Bundy** informed council the Fish & Game staff were out on their new snowmobiles this past weekend. They met with staff on the border going to Seeley. They have been certified.

**Brian Lipscomb**, USS Commissioning Committee, requested approval of a letter to the Montana Historical Society requesting supporting the nomination of CSKT for the USS Montana Committee Heritage Keeper Award.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the letter to the Montana Historical Society requesting supporting the nomination of CSKT for the USS Montana Committee Heritage Keeper Award. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Jim Malatare out of the room).

**Council** met in **executive session** to discuss departmental matters. **Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department, joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Forestry, requested approval of a five-year memorandum of agreement with Salish Kootenai College to pass through BIA funds for the TREES program. The program provides education, mentoring, and internship opportunities to Native American youth and natural resources students throughout the nation.

**MOTION** by Terry Pitts to approve the five-year memorandum of agreement with Salish Kootenai College to pass through BIA funds for the TREES program. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, presented a request for the Natural Resources Department Safety of Dams to purchase capital equipment consisting of a 2019 F-550 truck in the amount of \$12,234.00. Safety of Dams leased the vehicle from Sovereign Leasing & Financing and would like to exercise the purchase option now that the lease has expired and paid off. There are sufficient funds in the capital equipment budget.

**MOTION** by Ellie Bundy to authorize the Natural Resources Department Safety of Dams to purchase capital equipment consisting of a 2019 F-550 truck in the amount of \$12,234.00. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, requested approval of modification 10 to the fiscal year 2023 Total Budget Allocations.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution modification 10 to the fiscal year 2023 Total Budget Allocations. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 23-073**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING MODIFICATION 10 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS**

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

**WHEREAS**, general fund revenues and increases in Contracts and Grants are available to appropriate in FY 2023 to the programs, services, functions, and activities approved by the Tribal Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the increases and decreases in total allocations by Fund and by Function are as follows:

Function	Total Revised Mod 9 - 2/28/2023	Increase/ (Decrease) General Fund	Increase/ (Decrease) Compacts, Contracts, and Grants	Total Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Revised Mod 10 - 3/16/2023
<b>PERMANENT</b>					
Government Services	\$840,000				\$840,000
Government Operating	\$750,000				\$750,000
Capital Programs	\$2,000,000				\$2,000,000
Per Capita	\$12,096,000				\$12,096,000
<b>SUBTOTAL, PERMANENT</b>	<b>\$15,686,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,686,000</b>
<b>MANDATORY</b>					
Government Services	\$19,018,826				\$19,018,826
Health and Human Services	\$96,790,817		\$246,374	\$246,374	\$97,037,190
Natural Resources	\$62,829,793		\$454,580	\$454,580	\$63,284,373
Government Operating	\$2,064,000				\$2,064,000
Education	\$2,994,180		\$80,576	\$80,576	\$3,074,756
Administration	\$21,755,896				\$21,755,896
Court/Probation	\$1,696,548				\$1,696,548
Law Enforcement	\$2,983,450				\$2,983,450
Legal	\$3,436,000				\$3,436,000
Forestry	\$6,373,496				\$6,373,496
Capital Programs	\$865,000				\$865,000
Indirect Costs	\$4,041,000				\$4,041,000
<b>SUBTOTAL, MANDATORY</b>	<b>\$224,849,006</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$781,530</b>	<b>\$781,530</b>	<b>\$225,630,536</b>

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Function	Total Revised Mod 9 - 2/28/2023	Increase/ (Decrease) General Fund	Increase/ (Decrease) Compacts, Contracts, and Grants	Total Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Revised Mod 10 - 3/16/2023
<b>DISCRETIONARY</b>					
Government Services	\$11,107,000	\$30,000		\$30,000	\$11,137,000
Health and Human Services	\$17,836,500			\$0	\$17,836,500
Natural Resources	\$11,746,000			\$0	\$11,746,000
Government Operating	\$820,350			\$0	\$820,350
Education	\$585,845			\$0	\$585,845
Administration	\$172,000			\$0	\$172,000
Tribal Earmarks	\$3,270,919	\$1,278,731		\$1,278,731	\$4,549,651
<b>SUBTOTAL, DISCRETIONARY</b>	<b>\$45,538,614</b>	<b>\$1,308,731</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,308,731</b>	<b>\$46,847,346</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$286,073,619</b>	<b>\$1,308,731</b>	<b>\$781,530</b>	<b>\$2,090,262</b>	<b>\$288,163,882</b>

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to approve Modification 10 to the FY 2023 Total Budget Allocations for Compacts, Contracts, and Grants for a net increase of \$2,090,262; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the FY 2023 Total Budget Allocations are increased from \$286,073,619 to \$288,163,882; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Office of Financial Management is delegated authority to revise, reallocate, and correct the amounts for programs, services, functions, and activities within the Total Budget Allocations authorized and available in the aforementioned Funds.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Mike Durglo, Kevin Askan, Mary Rogers, and Katie McDonald**, Preservation Office, requested approval of a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting assistance under the authorities of the Tribal Partnership Program Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to address feasibility, design, and construction for an archeological curation facility. Thousands of artifacts were excavated during the construction of Libby Dam and those items are being stored at Salish Kootenai College. There are over 300,000 artifacts in storage in a facility that does not meet the ACOE standards.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve the letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting assistance. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Chairman McDonald** mentioned a proposal for open pit mining in the Bitterroot. **Katie McDonald** is researching the matter.

**Patricia Hibbeler**, Tribal Member Services; and **Nancy Eastham** and **Tyson Wright**, Operation Underground Railroad; gave a presentation and requested authorization for the Education Team to provide awareness and prevention training to tribal law enforcement. OUR was founded in 2013 by former Homeland Security Agent Tim Ballard. It is a nonprofit, bureaucracy-free organization whose mission is to rescue and provide aftercare for sex-trafficked children. The organization also offers cutting-edge training and tools for local law enforcement and help with organizing and assisting in rescue operations. OUR offered to provide age-appropriate educational presentations on child sex-trafficking awareness and prevention to schools, organizations, and the general public. OUR has operations in nearly 40 countries and all 50 states. The organization provides grant funding to help cover the costs for resources, training and supplies to investigate cases.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Teresa Wall-McDonald** and **Dan Depoe**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board, presented a request from the Lonepine Community for a donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 to assist with the upgrades and maintenance costs of the Lonepine Community Hall. The community held fundraisers to raise funds. The Utility Board approved the request and it requires tribal council concurrence due to the amount being over \$500.00.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to concur with the donation of \$2,000.00 to assist with the upgrades and maintenance costs of the Lonepine Community Hall. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Teresa Wall-McDonald** and **Dan Depoe**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board, requested approval of a letter to Kurt Fredenburg, Deputy Regional Director – Indian Services, Indian Self Determination Office, Northwest Regional Office, requesting support for tasks directly related to the September 2021 BIA Report on deferred maintenance for the federal utilities. Mission Valley Power would like to bring the engineering firm/staff who did the utility physical condition assessment report here to spend time with the Utility Board and Engineering staff to better understand the assessment assumptions. That will be an estimated cost of \$15,000.00. Mission Valley Power is also requesting financial assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to purchase software, as recommended by HDR Engineering, which allows Mission Valley Power to track and monitor the work order process.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the letter requesting technical assistance. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Teresa Wall-McDonald, Dan Depoe and Richard Erb**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board, discussed the General Manager vacancy and requested authorization for the Utility Board to participate in the General Manager interviews and selection process, due to the complexity of the position. The vacancy is being advertised. It is opened until filled, and the first screening will begin April 25, 2023. The selected candidate will be initially hired on a 15-month contract. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

**Teresa Wall-McDonald, Dan Depoe and Richard Erb**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board; **Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; **Dan Decker and Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session**. **Stu Levit**, Legal Department, was present for discussion.

\*\*\*\*\* **Lunch** \*\*\*\*\*

**Council** continued to meet in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the S&K Technologies Board of Directors vacancy. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Pete White to the S&K Technologies Board of Directors for a four-year term. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Bing Matt** stated for the record that he gave council the letter he received from an individual regarding Fish & Game.

**Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from One Heart to transfer the business lease for the Black Bear Ranch to the Kootenai Culture Committee to take over management of the property and ensure there is a caretaker there at all times. **Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, questioned where the costs would reside. If it is government or program use, the cost should remain relatively the same. Administrative Services will need to figure out the utility costs. Ruth asked if all other uses will be determined by the Tribes. Granting exclusive use would be easier than doing a business lease. The costs, such as property taxes, would remain with the Tribal Lands Department. Once the fee-to-trust process is completed the property will be placed into trust status. Mark advised the Lands Department will continue to pay the irrigation fees and taxes. **Martin Charlo** asked if the home had been winterized. Mark responded that the Tribal Lands crew did an assessment and winterized the house. The caretaker had left and had put some heaters in there to keep the house warm. The Tribal Lands staff monitors the property every week and the Game Wardens also monitor it. One window had been shot out. **Vernon Finley**, Kootenai Culture Committee, informed council that as soon as the caretaker left there was

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evidence of people trying to enter the home, so getting it secured is a priority. Vernon is aware of the wildlife issues in that area and there are poaching issues going on. The employee is willing to live in the house as the caretaker. Tribal Elders have expressed their desire to secure those areas.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to transfer the Black Bear Ranch to the Kootenai Culture Committee. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Martin Charlo – I would like more information and discussion before making a decision).

**Martin Charlo** was concerned about the caretaker being an employee, and he would like the lease to be in the employee's name. Vernon stated the staff member was in agreement with the arrangement he and Vernon had spoken about. The Culture Committee had the primary responsibility for the Ciotti house in the past, but it did not work out due to lack of use. **Chairman McDonald** would like to see a budget for this. The employee's position description may need to be modified to include the caretaker responsibilities. **Vernon Finley** will follow up with Dan McClure.

**Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, informed council two houses were abated. The surveyor needs to finish six other houses. Asbestos needs to be taken care of. The Ronan Fire Department wanted to know if they could do their annual home training at those two homes at KHJCC this weekend or next week.

**MOTION** by Ellie Bundy to approve the Ronan Fire Department to practice burn the two houses at KHJCC within the next week. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Miranda Burland**, Tribal Education Department, requested the chairman's signature on a letter inviting the schools to the River Honoring May 8-10, 2023. It was the **consensus** of council to authorize Chairman McDonald to sign the letter.

**Michelle Mitchell, Pat Songers, Brady BigSam, Miranda Burland, Alex Plant, Selina Kenmille, Kristen TwoTeeth, Malia, Tammy, Lisa Bible, Marie Torosian, Geraldine Hewankorn, and Loushie Charlo**, Tribal Education Department, provided orientation on the Tribal Education Department. **Miranda Burland** informed council that the License Plate Scholarship program still has funding available for the next two or three years. The Tribal Education Department partners with the National Forest Foundation for the Mission Mountains Youth Crew for the purpose of getting youth interested in the natural resources career fields. **Alex Plant** informed council the Education Advocates work as liaisons between the parents, students and the school and support individual education plans; 504s student assessment teams; behavior plans; disciplinary actions; community resources; and parent support, based on

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student and parent needs. The Indian Education Committee provides guidance and help with the Johnson O'Malley funding and the Indian Education Committee's involvement. **Carole Lankford** mentioned she had requested an assessment for an individual through the Tribal Health Department, and she wondered if she should have made the request to the Tribal Education Department. **Alex Plant** stated it must come from the child's primary care provider and it must be reviewed every year. The Education Advocate can provide support. **Terry Pitts** asked about truancy. He would like the parents to be contacted to find out if there is something going on with the family instead of waiting for the child to miss 10 days of school. Alex is notified by the school when the student misses 3-5 days of school. **Selina Kenmille** is helping to set up the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court.

**Carole Lankford** left the meeting for the remainder of the day to go to Drug Court.

**Kristin TwoTeeth** gave an overview of CSKT project AWARE and showed council the AWARE video. The program is funded by SAMHSA and partners with Salish Kootenai College, Tribal Health Department, the Culture Committees, and the public schools in St. Ignatius, Ronan, and Polson to support student wellness and resiliency. There will be a dry meat social in Hot Springs on March 23.

**Jim Malatare** left the meeting for the remainder of the day to go to an appointment.

**Lisa Bible** gave an overview of projects that were done with the sixth grade students, including attending the Salish Language Conference in Spokane. There are plans to take the students berry picking, Kootenai Falls, River Honoring, and the Vanderburg Camp.

**Marie Torosian** provided orientation on the Three Chiefs Culture Center. The People's Center was established in 1990 and was rebranded as the Three Chiefs Culture Center after the 2020 fire. The staff is working with Gecko to redesign the website. Its mission is to provide public education on aspects of traditional lifestyles and histories of the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille people as sanctioned by tribal elders and the Culture Committee. The TCCC will be moving to the bank building in Pablo. **Geraldine Hewankorn** works in the museum and takes care of the collections. The staff are working on three different grants. The Three Chiefs staff provides education/history presentations to local and off-reservation schools, tourists and visitors, private organizations, tribal membership, nontribal members, and community members. The appraisal for all the artifacts will be completed soon. The staff will be scanning the historic photos. All the artifacts were entered into the data program. Two new donations were received. The program applied for a grant from the Historical Society for supplies that are needed. There is an exhibit at the Gray Wolf Peak Casino. The



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Hank Baylor collection and Bill Swaney collection will be placed in Kalispell. Programs offered by Three Chiefs Culture Center include museum tours, craft classes, demonstration-cultural, cultural activities, rotating exhibits, history packets, tribal history presentation, and community outreach. **Loushie Charlo** reported the annual events are the dry meat social, art markets, social pow wow, new exhibits, new cultural education programs, new history presentations, and return of traditional camas bake. Community outreach includes donations of beaded items, t-shirts, water bottles, and staff time to tribal and nontribal organizations; assist with setting up speakers/presentations, dancers, and drummers for community events; sending educational packets about our tribal history to people all over the country; and travel to schools and communities to present tribal history, arts and crafts. There will be a sign posted south of Two Eagle River School and a sign posted north of the turnoff. Three Chiefs will also post additional signs. **Terry Pitts** suggested offering a horse project. **Michelle Mitchell** responded that having a Horse Camp was included in the Project Launch grant. Three Chiefs Culture Center has partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs; local schools and Missoula Public Schools; individual tribal members; tribal departments (Department of Human Resources Development, Early Childhood Services, Tribal Health Department, Behavioral Health, Two Eagle River School, Salish Kootenai College); local small businesses; Salish Kootenai College; University of Montana; Flathead Reservation MSU Extension; Salish Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee; Kootenai Culture Committee; SciNation; Montana Office of Public Instruction; Northwest Montana Co-op; and the National Forest Foundation. **Chairman McDonald** would like to have the ability to integrate horses with Three Chiefs.

**Michelle Mitchell** asked if Terry Pitts and Mike Dolson could attend the State-Tribal Education Summit in Billings April 5-6. It coincides with the youth conference in Billings. There is Project Aware funding that can cover the travel expenses. **Mike Dolson** could not confirm whether he could attend the summit.

**Leeann Courville**, Salish Kootenai College, discussed a proposal to add a rider to the Farm Bill for child care and requested the Tribes' support for that. The SKC Early Learning Center is open to the community. An infant room was recently added. They would like to add an additional classroom for the language program at SKC. It was the **consensus** of council to support the request.

**Don Bell**, Lake County Sheriff, informed council he is here to serve the people of this community and is not involved in the politics regarding Public Law 280. Sheriff Bell supports Public Law 280 and wanted to know if the Tribes do not think Public Law 280 is a benefit. He would like to support and take care of the citizens of this valley. Sheriff Bell was scheduled to meet with the council after next Monday's chairman's meeting. **Len TwoTeeth** is frustrated by the misinformation out in the public about the Tribes. When we had the opportunity to tour the Lake County jail and see how segregated it was. It made him think

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about the options we have in front of us. It is a tough decision. Len realizes it puts Don in an odd circumstance and he feels fortunate to have a tribal member in the Sheriff's position. **James Steele, Sr.** commented politics need to stay out of it; it becomes a problem when politics interfere. **Chairman McDonald** commented it is not our initiative. We have had different times where we sought to empower ourselves as much as possible under federal law. Tom would like the Tribes to have the same enforcement ability as any other government. The catalyst is a lack of funding and not being able to get a bond passed. Chairman McDonald appreciates Don running for public office and serving as the sheriff. **Sheriff Bell** invited the council to take a tour of the jail since some improvements were made. Mr. Bell's goal is to help people; he would like people to be able to go to treatment instead of jailing them.

Council **adjourned** at 3:57 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary