

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

Volume 24 Number 46
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 16, 2024
Approved: April 23, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McDonald, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; James Steele, Jr., Treasurer; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; Danielle Matt; James “Bing” Matt; and Len TwoTeeth.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Dolson, Chairman; and Jennifer Finley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Support; Leniece Trahan, Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:01 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 11, 2024 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, 6 for; 2 abstentions (Bing Matt and Jim Malatare).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Father Victor Cancino, St. Ignatius Mission, invited council to church on May 12, at 11:00 a.m. Bishop Vetter will say an installation mass.

Carrie Antoine and **Francis Antoine**, Early Childhood Services, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for discussion.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to waive the background check policy to move forward with the hiring of Francis Antoine for the Grandparent position

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at Head Start. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 7 for; 1 opposed (Martin Charlo).

Speedy Matt requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Mark Couture and **Bradley McCrea**, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a departmental matter. The Tribal Lands staff was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Danielle Matt to determine AF to be ineligible for a homesite for two years. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried 6 for; 2 opposed (Len TwoTeeth and Jim Malatare).

Len TwoTeeth gave an update on security cameras. There was discussions with Leroy when the security manual was approved. One of the issues brought up was who was responsible for installing the security cameras and Information Technologies did not want to be involved. We had another tribal facility broken into recently and although the facilities has cameras, they were not hooked up. Len wants a timeframe set for getting this done. Every time the council gives a directive or makes a request it just gets put to the side and nobody is being held accountable. Len wants the executive team to meet with council regarding this matter.

Len TwoTeeth informed council that the floor at the Hall in Elmo is falling apart and deteriorating. It has been brought to the Facilities Maintenance Department for years, but nothing has been done. The chairs are 30+ years old and if they could not get a new floor they requested to at least give them new chairs. The floor is peeling and is going to cause someone to trip, which is a safety hazard. Len wants something done about this as soon as possible. It has been put to the side way too long. This needs to be put in the realm of Facilities Maintenance. The council asked them to budget for it and they said they would, but then nothing happened.

Martin Charlo gave a report on his trip to Washington State University last week for the Native American Advisory Board. CSKT signed a memorandum of understanding to work with WSU in 1998, along with 13 other tribes from Washington, Idaho and Oregon. CSKT is the only Montana tribe working with them. There was a panel discussion on the Land Grant History on Thursday and an Advisory Board meeting on Friday about how to form curriculum to help Native American students and improve recruitment and retention. Miranda Burland from CSKT Tribal Education Department attended the meeting virtually. Tribal Relations resides in the office of the President to foster respectful and

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reciprocal relationships between WSU and Tribal governments and communities. WSU recognizes that Tribes are sovereign nations, therefore, WSU established an MOU agreement with regional Tribes to facilitate a Native American Advisory Board to the President that consists of Tribal government leaders and delegates. The office is led by Dr. Zoe Higheagle Strong Nimíipuu (Nez Perce).

Craig McClure, Lake County Democrats, requested approval to post political campaign signs on tribal property for democratic candidates. There are four candidates in the upcoming election that are tribal members.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the permit as processed with the Tribal Lands Department. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

John Wheeler, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to renew a noncompetitive contract with Tegria/EPIC. The system is used for patient registration, insurance, and billing. The contract underwent legal review and the only concern was jurisdiction being Washington.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the renewal contract with Tegria/EPIC for patient management. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Shannon Clairmont, Natural Resources Department, presented a request from Lauren Gilmore, Princeton, for a research permit to investigate soil, water and vegetation samples at 10 different sites to compare correlations between bison teeth analysis and nutrient uptake and environmental impacts to bison.

MOTION by Danielle Matt to grant Lauren Gilmore a research permit to investigate soil, water and vegetation samples at 10 different sites. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Peter Bugoni, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a permit for Rebekah Fields, University of Montana Spatial Lab, to collect reservation-wide data on ventenata presence. The researchers will be required to wash their vehicles and walk into the research sites.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to grant the University of Montana Spatial Lab a collection permit to collect reservation-wide data on ventenata presence. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Peter Bugoni, Natural Resources Department, presented a request from Jessica Alexander, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, for a collection permit for the Inter-Tribal Grasslands Monitoring Network for a

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Smithsonian-based research project to examine the effects of bison grazing and management on flora and fauna across reservation bison herds.

MOTION by James Steele, Jr. to grant the Jessica Alexander a collection permit to examine the effects of bison grazing and management on flora and fauna across reservation bison herds. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Peter Bugoni, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to apply for funding from the National Science Foundation for a grant titled Translating Interactions Between Plant Diversity and Bison Herbivory into Conservation Activities on the CSKT Bison Range. The Paul Alan Foundation budget for \$1.7 million and the research budget of \$1.4 million cannot include indirect costs. The data collected from this project will be owned by CSKT.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to authorize submission of the application for the National Science Foundation grant funding, with the stipulation of no indirect costs. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Bing Matt told Shannon he went to a meeting in Bozeman with ITBC and NCRS and they offered to do studies on the Bison Range and bison management areas. They also have funding for fencing. They could do a study of plants and weeds on CSKT. **Shannon Clairmont** will follow up.

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

John Harrison, Legal Department; and **Tom France**, Consultant, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders; provided an update on the status of tribal bison restoration efforts of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders.

John Harrison, **Chelsea Colwyn**, **Katie Jones**, **Lynsey Gaudioso**, and **Zach Zipfel**, Legal Department; **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; and **Gwen Lankford**, Consultant; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

John Harrison, **Chelsea Colwyn**, **Katie Jones**, **Lynsey Gaudioso**, and **Zach Zipfel**, Legal Department; and **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; continued to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Patricia Hibbeler, Director of Tribal Member Services; and **Patricia Courchane**, Department of Human Resources Development; requested a change of duty for tribal employees to attend the first annual Elders Abuse Prevention Conference at Kwataqnuk Resort on April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Len TwoTeeth** would like to offer transportation for elders to attend the conference. **Patricia Courchane** advised Transit has a plan to provide transportation. Vance Home Gun will provide the opening remarks and there will be a drum group to sing a song.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to grant tribal employees a change of duty, with supervisor approval, to attend the first annual Elders Abuse Prevention Conference at Kwataqnuk Resort on April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Carole Lankford out of the room).

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department, requested approval to apply for funding from the National Forest Foundation to provide funding for a 9-week summer program.

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve by resolution submission of an application to apply for funding from the National Forest Foundation. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 7 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Carole Lankford out of the room).

RESOLUTION 24-070

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS TO THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENCE FIELDS AND GAINING THE CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF LAND AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department was established to support youth career opportunities and promote cultural learning experiences on the Flathead Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department, as part of its effort to promote and support career and cultural experiences, will support eight CSKT enrolled and descendant local high school students to participate in the Mission Mountains Youth Crew program for nine weeks this summer; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department is soliciting funding in the amount of \$48,179 to support eight CSKT local high school students on their career pathways in the Natural Resources field through the Mission Mountains Youth Crew program on the Flathead Reservation; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Education Department is authorized to submit the National Forest Foundation proposal documents with its updates and revisions to further carryout the purposes of the funds requested, and to integrate and implement its most recent Mission Mountains Youth Crew summer program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes supports the submission of the Mission Mountains Youth Crew program proposal documents and authorizes the Tribal Chair and his designated representatives to negotiate and sign all documents and execute this contract on behalf of the Tribes.

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department; and **Carolyn Hall**, Dayton Elementary School, presented the 2023-21024 Indian Education Report for the Dayton School. The legislation passed an open enrollment law, which requires each home district to pay for students attending an outside district school, will be an approximate cost of \$61,000. Student population has reduced. There are 42 students (9 tribal and 33 nontribal). The school submitted an impact aid report this year. Carolyn reviewed the test scores for the Smarter Balanced Assessment and Measures of Academic Progress. The attendance has grown in a positive way at 93.4 percent (95% for tribal students). The building is being remodeled and hopefully the school will be able to offer a hot lunch a couple days per week. Eventually, the school would like to have the seventh and eighth graders there. Carolyn gave an overview of the curriculum. She met with the county and superintendents about her concerns regarding the number of students being lost and she would like to have a plan for students who are falling through the cracks. She has another meeting coming up with the county and superintendents to discuss a plan to provide an alternative for those students and the possibility of having a county alternative high school. There needs to be a commitment and location to make that happen. **Len TwoTeeth** talked about the importance of feeding children hot meals. Carolyn advised the Dayton School does not have a kitchen to provide hot meals.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to accept the 20230-2024 Indian Education Report for the Dayton School. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

James Steele, Jr. mentioned the school is located on tribal land that is leased from CSKT. He would like the market value of the land to be counted as an in-kind contribution from the Tribes. CSKT provides that type of in-kind

contribution to airports, schools, and fire departments. **Carolyn Hall** requested the Tribes' support for an alternative high school. She was not asking for any financial commitment. **Len TwoTeeth** would like the Tribal Education Department to provide some options for council consideration.

WJ Buck Richardson and **Bill Rogers**, Rocky Mountain Network; **Laurence Kenmille**, Tribal Veterans Representative; and **Tracy Plaiss**, Tribal Health Department Veterans Healthcare Advocate; informed council that CSKT will be hosting a PACT Act Presumptive Conditions Campaign event on September 17, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Salish Kootenai College. The event will be focused on identifying and assisting veterans who may have presumptive disabilities and be eligible for a VA claim. The Veterans Administration staff will assist veterans and spouses in filling out disability claims paperwork and will review the claims on the spot with the goal of same-day approval. They were informed that the program was no longer going to be at CSKT, and they asked to keep the program going at CSKT. **Len TwoTeeth** thought Tribal Health was taking over the VA advocacy program for the Tribes, but he was not aware that this particular program would no longer be available at the complex. **Laurence Kenmille** mentioned that the representatives worked well with John Wheeler when he was the Tribal Health Veterans Advocate. Laurence has always provided services to all veterans, regardless of their race. Tribal Health only receives funding for Native American veterans. They want a notice in the Char-Koosta News to let veterans know that the representatives are at the tribal complex on Wednesdays. **Council** had no objection to the requests. It was the **consensus** of council to announce the services provided by the Tribal Veterans Representative. **Buck Richardson** requested that the veterans resource center be named after Lloyd Jackson for all his years of service. **Laurence Kenmille** supported the request since Lloyd was very dedicated and committed to helping veterans. **Council** took the request under advisement.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to name the program the Lloyd Jackson Memorial TVR and Veterans Resource Center of the Flathead Reservation. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council **adjourned** at 2:17 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary