

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

Volume 24 Number 34  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 29, 2024  
Approved: March 5, 2024

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Dolson, Chairman (PROGRESS Act Negotiated Rulemaking Meeting – Washington, DC).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Tribal Council Support; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:05 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Jim Malatare.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 27, 2024 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Jim Malatare); 1 not voting (Danielle Matt out of the room).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Danielle Matt out of the room).

**Dana Comes At Night**, Healing Court, gave an update. The Healing Court accepted its first participant in June 2023, and it now has 10 participants. Court is held every other Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Council was invited to observe the court. **Carole Lankford** suggested having it scheduled on next Thursday’s council agenda so the council can observe the court. Carole would like to have a sober house in every community. **Council** was proud of the participants for

going to the Healing Court and having the courage to seek help to improve their lives. It is important to have a support system.

**Terry Tanner**, Tribal Member, discussed tribal member hunting rights and the importance of protecting and preserving the wildlife on and off the reservation. We need to protect our hunting rights for our future generations. The Tribes need to remind the state that this is our land. CSKT is a nation within the United States and it will always be our land. Terry would like to get rid of the blood quantum requirement. It was something the nontribal members put upon us to make us extinct.

**Corky Sias**, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval of the Coordination Plan for the period of July 1 – June 30, 2026.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the Coordination Plan for the period of July 1 – June 30, 2026. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Corky Sias**, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval to apply for fiscal year 2025 5311F Inter-City Operating formula funds from the Montana Department of Transportation in the amount of \$167,701 for operating and preventive maintenance.

**MOTION** by Danielle Matt to approve by resolution submission of a grant application for fiscal year 2025 5311F Inter-City Operating formula funds from the Montana Department of Transportation in the amount of \$167,701 for operating and preventive maintenance. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

## **RESOLUTION 24-051**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DHRD) TO APPLY FOR FY25 5311F OPERATING FORMULA FUNDS FROM THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,701 FOR OPERATING AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is the dully recognized governing body of the Flathead Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have directed the Department of Human Resource Development to continue efforts to seek

resources for the families in need including finding ways to increase transportation opportunities for those who are disabled, elderly, unemployed, lacking reliable vehicles, and insurance; and the Tribal Council has asked the Department of Human Resources Development to seek these types of funds for the one-stop environment and provide transportation services to those who need it the most; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Human Resource and Development plans to submit for approval for funding for \$167,701 Operating Funds grant from the Montana Department of Transportation, FY25. **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes approves for submission of a proposal for funding from the Federal Transportation Administration in the amount of \$167,701 for Operating and Preventive Maintenance.

**Corky Sias**, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval to apply for fiscal year 2025 5311 Operating formula funds and TransADE matching funds from the Montana Department of Transportation Administration in the amount of \$74,601 for operating and preventive maintenance and Tribal TransADE matching funds of \$56,732.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution submission of a grant application for fiscal year 2025 5311 Operating formula funds and TransADE matching funds from the Montana Department of Transportation Administration in the amount of \$74,601 for operating and preventive maintenance and Tribal TransADE matching funds of \$56,732. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

## **RESOLUTION 24-052**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DHRD) TO APPLY FOR FY25 5311 OPERATING FORMULA FUNDS AND TRANSADE MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION FOR \$74,602 FOR OPERATING AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND STATE OF MONTANA TRANSADE MATCHING FUNDS FOR \$56,732**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is the dully recognized governing body of the Flathead Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have directed the Department of Human Resource Development to continue efforts to seek resources for the families in need including finding ways to increase transportation opportunities for those who are disabled, elderly, unemployed, lacking reliable vehicles, and insurance; and the Tribal Council has asked the Department of Human Resources Development to seek these types of funds for the one-stop environment and provide transportation services to those who need it the most; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Human Resource and Development is requesting approval for funding for \$74,602 For Operating Funds the grant is from the Montana Department of Transportation, FY25, and State of Montana TransADE matching funds for \$56,732. **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes supports the acceptance of funds from the Federal Transportation Administration for \$74,602 for Operating and Preventive Maintenance and State of Montana TransADE matching funds in the amount of \$56,732.

**Corky Sias** informed council that three dispatchers answer the phones. The new app is working well. **Carole Lankford** mentioned there are some Dixon residents needing transportation. Corky said they pick up riders in Dixon.

**Corky Sias** informed council that three dispatchers answer the phones. The new app is working well. **Carole Lankford** mentioned there are some Dixon residents needing transportation. Corky said they pick up riders in Dixon. **Danielle Matt** commented there were issues with the app and she is glad to hear the issues have been addressed. Due to the previous issues, some community members were no longer using the app. There was only one pick up time in Dixon that was really early in the morning prior to the phone/computer app. Lack of cell service and internet service in the Dixon area still makes it difficult for some to set up transportation. Corky asked council to refer any issues to him or Leann.

**Chauncey Means**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to apply for a grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation for \$400,000 to collect data for wetlands.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve by resolution submission of the grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

### **RESOLUTION 24-053**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO TRIBES GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR FY 2025-2026**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes strongly support protecting water resources and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes approved a Wetlands Conservation Plan in 1999, which set goals for wetland restoration and monitoring of all seven watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes signed the Cultural Waterways Ordinance in 2021, designating the Lower Flathead River as the first cultural waterway on the Reservation and requiring a management plan for the river corridor within 2 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribes have committed and continue to commit considerable financial resources to protecting, enhancing and restoring wetlands and waterways on the Flathead Indian Reservation; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tribal Council supports the submittal of the proposed Bureau of Reclamation Technical Assistance to Tribes grant application for assessing wetlands in the Little Bitterroot River watershed and writing the Lower Flathead River management plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proposed work plan will be submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for review and possible funding.

**Len TwoTeeth** left the meeting for the remainder of the day on personal time off.

**Barry Hansen**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a noncompetitive contract with DMC Boat Lifts to install a boat lift attached to the Blue Bay Marina. The cost of the project will be paid for with grant funding.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the noncompetitive contract with DMC Boat Lifts to install a boat lift attached to the Blue Bay Marina. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Danielle Matt out of the room).

**Juanita Swaney**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a noncompetitive speaker contract with Daniel Lament to provide a presentation on his journey leading up to and following a double-lung transplant due to

vaping to reservation schools and community. Montana is the second highest state that uses vaping. Council was invited to the public presentation on April 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the Salish Kootenai College Auditorium.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the noncompetitive speaker contract with Daniel Lament. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Carole Lankford** gave a report on the Medicaid Expansion Reauthorization meeting she attended yesterday about the impacts to individuals if Medicaid Expansion is not reauthorized. It is important for legislators to understand the impacts of funding they would lose if it is not reauthorized. Carole will provide the tribal leadership a packet of talking points on this important matter.

**James Steele, Jr.** gave a report on the Western Native Voice Tribal Council Gathering he attended. There was a presentation from Dr. Joseph Robertson, who is working on a sovereign initiative project for tribes to use the 9-1-1 addressing system for such activities as the Get Out The Vote efforts. Senator Daines was there via a recorded video and Misty Kuhl, Director of Indian Affairs, gave a presentation. Senator Tester gave a presentation and answered questions, and he reminded the tribes that if they work together on issues that are common to all tribes it makes a bigger impact when trying to get things through the House and Senate. Senator Tester is up for re-election.

**James Steele, Jr.** informed council that he has been working with Carole Lankford and Jim Malatare to try to get a tribal member's roof fixed in Dixon. James requested a copy of the ARPA policy and got no response. James wants the roof fixed or we will end up having a homeless tribal member. Jim Malatare has some issues he is working on with tribal members and is not getting any responses either. If James does not receive a copy of the report he requested he will make a motion next week to fix the roof.

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

**Shane Morigeau**, Legal Department; **Whitney Williams**, Williams Works; and **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management; gave an update on the skateparks project. Jeff Ament is the founder of Pearl Jam, and he has a foundation to bring skateparks to rural and isolated communities in the west. There are 32 skateparks in Montana. Nike did some basketball courts in reservation communities. The Thunder Park in Browning is the largest skatepark in Montana, and the community came together to build it. Jeff will be building a number of skateparks in Montana this year and has committed to build skateparks in Arlee and Ronan. The goal is to have more skateparks on the CSKT reservation than anywhere else in America, and two more skateparks are needed to accomplish that goal. A parcel of land was identified for a skatepark and Jeff

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
February 29, 2024

has committed to contribute \$100,000 for the project. **Martin Charlo** would like to have playground equipment, basketball courts, and restrooms at a location in Pablo, and he would like to do some public scoping about having a skatepark. Whitney stated there is an opportunity for additional skateparks in other communities. The foundation would like to have 5 skateparks in Montana. Dixon was identified as a potential location. **Danielle Matt** was glad the Dixon community was considered, but the community does not meet some of the basic infrastructure requirements such as public restrooms. **Tom McDonald** thought Elmo was a possible location. **Bing Matt** mentioned the need to have public restrooms at the skateparks. Greg had questions about maintenance costs. Tom mentioned mowing would be a maintenance cost. **James Steele, Jr.** wondered if Taelman Park skate park could be reviewed for deferred maintenance, and the basketball courts at the park and near the Longhouse; also, see what could be included at the Mission Dam homesites. The ARPA funds set aside for tribal communities must be obligated by the end of this calendar year. Whitney advised that the Arlee and Ronan projects will be moving forward on the schedule. Whitney advised they would be able to build one more skatepark during this building season of May – September and asked if there were any other skatepark locations to be included in this building season. If they are not built this year, then it would be a couple of years before they could be built. The goal is to fund the build, design, and concrete, but Jeff does not fund the add-on services. **Larry Hall**, Ronan City Council Member, will find out if the city will contribute any funding for the skatepark project in Ronan.

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 11:13 a.m. to conduct an S&K Electronics shareholder meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 11:37 a.m.

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Director of Tribal Resources Management; and **Andrew Meyer**, Associate Professor in Sport Foundations at Baylor University; gave an overview of a project with community members in St. Ignatius. Andrew will hold three focus groups in March, August and December about the role and meaning of basketball and how it might relate and reflect the identity of, and be a source of pride, for that community. **Tom McDonald** wondered if it would require review by the Institutional Review Committee. Andrew wants to study what non-western ideals of sport look like and measure contemporary sport ideals, and its role and function in communities. Andrew received a grant from Baylor University to cover the costs of the project. Participants will be compensated for their participation. The report will be provided to the community and a summary report provided to the Tribal Council in the summer of 2025. Andrew will conduct the first focus group next week, which will be used as foundational research content to include in the larger grant that he will submit in June 2024 to the National Endowment of Humanities. The grant would re-work what he had proposed with stickball three years ago where the basketball teams would use

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
February 29, 2024

Gopro cameras to record practice, games, and to have prompting questions about understanding the role and meaning of basketball in their lives in an indigenous community over a two-year period. Andrew will purchase 20 Gopros and they will be donated to the library after completion of the project. The school would be a sub-recipient of the grant.

**Greg Spahr**, Financial Management, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a departmental matter.

**Council** met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

**Jim Malatare** left the meeting on personal time off for the remainder of the day.

**Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss personnel matters.

**Mark Couture** and **Bradley McCrea**, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to hold a Land Committee meeting. **Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the advertisement of the 2024 Agricultural Spring Bid. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the Tribal Land Ordinance 45C. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 7 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**ORDINANCE 45C**

(Due to the length of the ordinance it does not appear in the minutes; a copy may be obtained from the Office of Records Management).

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to show interest in purchasing the 10 acres from Ada Davis. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

It was the **consensus** to assist the individual with the advertisement of Allotment 182-A.



Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
February 29, 2024

It was the **consensus** of council to proceed with the land exchange for the property on the east shore.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to reappoint Kim Azure and Gene Sorrell to the Salish Kootenai Housing Board of Commissioners and readvertise the remaining vacancy. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Joe Durglo**, Tribal Health Department, met with council regarding a letter in the newspaper from a tribal member regarding her complaints about the Tribal Health Department. The individual was scheduled for surgery but was not able to get her surgery done because the Tribal Health transportation staff did not pick her up. The Quality Control Department will address it with the staff person in question, and the department will follow the process. There was a mix-up and the internal protocols have been changed to resolve that issue in the future. Joe would like these types of complaints to go through the process instead of being addressed in a council meeting. **Tom McDonald** clarified that the individual published a letter in the newspaper. Tom asked what the Tribal Health's portion of the Medicare Part B premiums would be. Joe did not have that information, so he will give an update at the next Health Committee meeting on March 18th, at 1:00 p.m.

Council **adjourned** at 3:21 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

/sgnd/

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary