

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

Volume 24 Number 40
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: March 28, 2024
Approved: April 2, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Dolson, Chairman; 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.

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:00 a.m. Quorum established. **Len TwoTeeth** will join the meeting later today.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 21, 2024 were presented for approval.

MOTION by James Steele, Jr. to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Tom McDonald. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Jennifer Finley out of the room).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Jennifer Finley out of the room).

Tom McDonald discussed the agenda for the quarterly council meeting and the list of individuals that will be honored. **Carole Lankford** would like the executives to provide a report; and have S&K Mission Management provide a report. **Martin Charlo** would like to recognize the Ronan state championship girls wrestling team. **Chairman Dolson** would like an update on Public Law 280.

Tom McDonald discussed the field trip to tour the bathhouse facility tomorrow and had some questions about the leases and funding. **Chairman Dolson** can find out the specifics of the lease. **Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department,

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answered questions and advised we have to get through all the Water Court processes and exhaust all appeals, which may take a couple years.

Danielle Matt was contacted by the Dixon School regarding the Bison Range fees. The school plans to have their annual end-of-year picnic at the pavilion and have never paid a fee. The school is requesting a waiver of the fees this year and will budget for the cost next year.

Chairman Dolson presented for approval a letter to the United States Department of the Interior nominating James Steele, Jr. to the Department of the Interior Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the letter to the United States Department of the Interior nominating James Steele, Jr. to the Department of the Interior Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee. Seconded by Tom McDonald. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Chairman Dolson presented a draft advertisement about the Tribal Council Enrollment Study and Tribal Member Advisory Group announcement. **Council** provided input/changes.

Council met in **executive session**.

Len TwoTeeth joined the meeting.

Dan Decker and **Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department; and **Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Len TwoTeeth left the meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Zachary Underwood, Tribal Forestry, requested approval to advertise the SV Tractor Logging Unit timber sale.

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve by resolution the advertisement of the SV Tractor Logging Unit timber sale. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 24-064

RESOLUTION APPROVING SALE OF TIMBER ON THE SV TRACTOR LOGGING UNIT

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Forestry Department proposes to offer the sale of tribal timber in an area known as the SV Tractor Logging Unit:

<u>Sale</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Sale Information</u>	
		<u>Advertised</u>	<u>TSI</u>
SV Tractor L U	14,956 TONS	<u>Bid Rate</u>	<u>TSI</u>
	1,879 TONS	\$10.00/TON -DF & O -	\$3.00/Ton
		\$5.00/TON- Whitewoods	\$3.00/Ton

WHEREAS, the sale will provide for the salvaging of mature, overmature and diseased trees; and

WHEREAS, the minimum acceptable bid rate for sawlogs on the SV Tractor Logging Unit is \$10.00 per Ton for Douglas fir & Others and \$5.00/Ton for Whitewoods Species; and

WHEREAS, an additional amount will be collected to cover Timber Stand Improvement on this unit;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes hereby approves the sale of timber on the above-listed timber sale unit; approves the contract; and authorizes the Chairperson of the Tribal Council to sign the timber sale contract on the above-listed unit for and on behalf of said Tribes, after review of bids by the Tribal Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Approving Officer is authorized to make error corrections in the contract without referral to the Tribal Council, provided such corrections do not materially alter the form and substance of the contract.

Brian Upton, Legal Department; **Tabitha Espinoza** and **Les Evarts**, Natural Resources Department; discussed a site protection mechanism for the Jocko Spring Creek mitigation project. The Natural Resources Department is partnering with Montana Freshwaters Partners to design and construct a wetland compensatory mitigation project on the fisheries-managed lands. Montana Freshwaters Partners is a nonprofit statewide in-lieu fee program and is overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers. The arrangement is for Montana Freshwater Partners to monitor the site for five years. It would no longer be monitored after the five-year period. The property is currently in fee and the

Tribes intend to place it into trust. It was recommended that the Tribes pursue a deed restriction on the property in order to comply with the Army Corps' requirements for long-term conservation protection of the property. **Council** did not object to having a deed restriction.

Rick Smith, Onno Wieringa, Brian Campbell, Mark Peterson, and Marilyn Roberts, Flathead Lakers Board, discussed lake level issues. **Jan Swanson** and **Steve Rosso** were present for discussion. The Flathead Lakers stated they honor the Tribes' sovereignty and they do not believe in resolving differences by publishing articles in the newspaper. The anti-water compact folks have used the lake levels effectively to go after the Tribes and they have convinced people that the lake levels are the Tribes' fault. It was suggested that the CSKT publish educational materials in an easy-to-access format. The Flathead Lakers want to be a source of accurate information and assist the CSKT in distributing that information. There is a large number of individuals that will not acknowledge climate change. The Flathead Lakers want to work with the CSKT and Energy Keepers, Inc. to provide updated and accurate information to the public and be part of the discussions about how to help keep the lake as full as possible. The low levels have huge impacts to the community. **Carole Lankford** would like the Tribes to be part of the public meetings. **Tom McDonald** mentioned what's right is right and factual information needs to be distributed. Climate change is real and there will be negative impacts if we do not reduce our carbon footprint. Tom welcomed the Flathead Lakers to play a critical role by distributing factual information. The trends have shown that the weather patterns continue to change, the glaciers are disappearing, and Glacier National Park is opening much earlier than in the past. **Rob McDonald**, Energy Keepers, Inc., was recently hired as the Communications Director for EKI. Allies are critical, and Rob applauded the Flathead Lakers Board for being here today.

Dan Decker, Melissa Schlichting, John Harrison, Shane Morigeau, Lynsey Gaudioso, Chelsea Colwyn, and Michael Wheeler, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve an extension for the union negotiations until June 30, 2024. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

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

Len TwoTeeth returned to the meeting.

Dan Decker, Melissa Schlichting, Shane Morigeau, Lynsey Gaudioso, Chelsea Colwyn, Danna Jackson, and Michael Wheeler, Legal Department;

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Jordan Thompson, Tribal Executive Office; **Ann Miller**, Tribal Defenders Office; **Brad Pluff**, Tribal Court; **Craige Couture**, Law & Order; **Maylinn Smith**, Tribal Prosecutors Office; and **Tribal Programs Staff**; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 2:45 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary