

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

Volume 21 Number 51
Zoom Meeting

Held: April 6, 2021
Approved: April 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; Anita Matt, Vice-Chairwoman; Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary; Martin Charlo, Treasurer; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; Fred Matt; Charmel Gillin; Mike Dolson; and Len TwoTeeth.

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 9:09 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Ellie Bundy McLeod.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 30, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 2, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Anita Matt informed council she was notified by a tribal member who wants travel assistance to go to her sister’s funeral in Crow. The sister is not enrolled and neither of them resided on the reservation. The Department of Human Resources Development said they could not provide assistance either because of

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that same policy. All programs looked at what services they could offer, and there were none at this time.

Bernie Atwin informed council that George Ducharme received a phone call from Jeffrey Glover about the original veteran's memorial located between Law & Order and the Tribal Court building. Mr. Glover has family members on that memorial and would like to restore it because the rocks and cement are falling apart. **Chairwoman Fyant** asked Rick to follow up since he supervises the Facilities Maintenance Department. We also have the Tribal Court remodel project going on through the CTAS funds. **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management, joined the discussion. He did not know any specifics about the memorial, but there is a courtroom remodel project in the planning stages. They are just starting with the design concept and he will follow up with John Neiss and the CTAS group to see if that means any potential change for that memorial. Then he can follow up with Bernie or the individual in Seattle. If Mr. Glover still wants to contribute to the memorial, we should be able to make that happen. Our plans may address his concerns.

Bernie Atwin asked if the Three Chiefs Culture Center is not going to move back to the old People's Center location, could the council think of a justice center out there. She has been waiting 28 years for a justice center. **Chairwoman Fyant** advised that the Tribal Council has not talked about what to do with that land, and she will put it on the council's to do list.

Jean Matt, Chelsea Kleinmeyer, Dale Nelson, and Rob McDonald, Unified Command Team, gave an update. **Chelsea Kleinmeyer** reported that Lake County has had a total of 2,118 confirmed cases; 18 active cases; 0 current hospitalizations; and 29 deaths to date. The data released yesterday from the state of Montana is that 48.5% of the county residents eligible have received at least one vaccination. 36.5% are fully vaccinated. There is going to be a vaccine clinic at Salish Kootenai College. People can visit mtreadyclinic.org to schedule an appointment or call the Tribal Health Department to get scheduled. They still have 470 appointments available. They have not had as many people requesting appointments as they had hoped. Chelsea asked people to spread the word. It is a great opportunity to get vaccinated. People will only be there for 30 minutes at the most, and then they will receive the second dose three weeks later. We want to get as many people vaccinated as possible to help stop the spread of the virus. **Chairwoman Fyant** commented that Chelsea was going to follow up on the number of tribal members that have been vaccinated. Chelsea responded that she requested that the staff obtain the data from the EPIC system, and she will share it with the Tribal Council as soon as she receives it. **Martin Charlo** asked if people could request the Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine or is it first come first serve. Chelsea advised that anyone could request it. When people make their appointment, they will speak to an office manager, and they are making a list of people that are interested in the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

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and arranging for them to come in smaller groups. The number that is coming is small. There will be a vaccine clinic held in Hot Springs on April 21 to give out the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. People will be scheduled for a follow up after the initial shot on May 1 or 8. **Dale Nelson** reported that he connected with Tribal Health Department and Salish Kootenai College yesterday to do a walkthrough of the facility to determine their needs for the vaccine clinic in terms of tables and chairs. They will reconvene there on Friday at 3:00 p.m. to get set up and put up signs so they will be ready to go Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Dale put the word out to the local county's Emergency Services Offices that if people in their county need the shot to come here on Saturday to get it. Dale has a few boxes of masks left and he still has 200 gallons of hand sanitizer if any departments need it. Dale spoke to the local church officials in the Polson area to put the word out to get the shot and he hopes to get a large crowd at the vaccine clinic. **Jean Matt** reminded folks to sign up for an appointment. They can go to the mtreadyclinic.org website or call 745-3525 to make an appointment. The vaccine clinic will be held on April 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Salish Kootenai College. **Rob McDonald** reported that the advertising for the vaccine clinic is going well. He asked to be notified if the April 17 vaccine clinic will allow walk-ins so he can have time to make the print ad changes. Jean Matt is doing a chat with Jeff Smith that will go out on the radio. We have a series of radio ads running, print ads in the weeklies, and the Char-Koosta News is pushing it on social media, so the word is getting out. It was interesting to hear from Audrey, FEMA, that the state is seeing people statewide not filling up to capacity to get vaccinated, so we are not alone in the struggle. The number of people getting vaccinated was lower than expected. He thought it was a good idea from Dale to go to the smaller communities to get people vaccinated. Rob made a request to Two Eagle River School, KwaTaqNuk Resort, and Quicksilver to push the word about the vaccine clinics on their reader boards, but he has not heard back from them yet. **Martin Charlo** suggested asking the Boys & Girls Club to post it on their reader board. **Chairwoman Fyant** suggested contacting the Arlee School to advertise it on their reader board. Rob will follow up with those entities. **Martin Charlo** hopes people will share the information. He asked people on Facebook Live to help us out with this to promote the clinics. There are plenty of sites with correct information on vaccines. All of the Tribal Council members are vaccinated and are leading by example. 9 of 10 council members are meeting in person today. We control our own destiny. We can have a regular summer, take the precautions recommended, or transmit the virus and be a carrier. Martin encouraged everyone to avoid big gatherings, but to be smart if anyone does go and be sure to wear a mask. He understands that it is becoming less sociable to wear a mask, but the science is there, especially with the variants. We need to be safe. Martin will be helping at the April 10 vaccine clinic. **Chairwoman Fyant** commented that we are not sure about the variants out there, so we need to be cautious and follow the protocols. Tourism is fast approaching us, and the snowbirds are returning. The no mask mandate by the state is also a variable. We need to be mindful of those.

Rob McDonald, Communications, presented a request from the Natural Resources Department to have a Facebook page for the Bison Range in their efforts to educate the public. This will be the 23rd Facebook page council has approved for use. Rob recommended approval of the request.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to authorize the Natural Resources Department to have a Facebook page for the Bison Range. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Chairwoman Fyant followed up on a matter that was discussed in the chair's meeting. It was a request from a tribal member wanting to use the CSKT flag on one jacket that she is making for her grandson. Council wanted to check with Rob about previous practices regarding use of the tribal flag. **Rob McDonald** responded that these types of requests come up from time to time. Historically, the council is extremely conservative in granting use of the tribal flag or seal. He does not recall council ever approving the tribal seal for decoration, but the flag is different since people can buy a flag through Property and Supply. Rob has seen nontribal members purchase tribal flags. There is not much control over people getting a flag and being creative with it. To ask for it specially would set a precedent to make clothing with a tribal flag and sell it, and it would open the door for that. If the council says yes to one, they say yes to all, so they should be conservative in granting permission. Approval of this request changes our practices and could lead to a next step; however, if a person obtains a flag and makes it for a relative, he could not imagine the council calling the authorities or confronting the individual. We are not set up that way. He speculates that people unofficially use it already. Rob will follow up with Ms. Clairmont.

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

Steve McDonald, Tribal Forestry, requested acceptance of the apparent high bid from Dupuis Logging for the Alder Ditch 2021 Logging Unit. **Len TwoTeeth** asked if they ever separate the sales since the bids vary on the species. He would like to give tribal member contractors an opportunity to work. Steve had in the past set up sales where the market for pine was bad and they took the Douglas fir out of it. It becomes problematic when there are two contractors working the same unit. Forestry has them market their materials the best they can. Forestry broke up management areas with different types of projects in sales that would interest a purchaser for different parts of the sale.

MOTION by Anita Matt to accept the best bid by Dupuis Logging for the Alder Ditch 2021 Logging Unit. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Johnathan Owens, Jessi Cahoon, and Cameron Neiss, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a revised organizational chart to add two clinical pharmacist positions. THIP and COVID funds will pay the costs through 2021, and then one position will be funded from the general budget in 2022.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the organizational chart changes. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Johnathan Owens and Jessi Cahoon, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to extend the TEA with Chelle Brown, Pharmacy Technician. It expires in July, so Jessi wants to extend it for 41 days until she goes to school to help with the transition.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to extend Chelle Brown's contract for the requested 30-day period. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Johnathan Owens and Jessi Cahoon, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a revised organizational chart to change the pharmacy clerk to a pharmacy technician (position # 1175). The Pharmacy Clerk position is filled by a tribal member that wants to become a certified technician. Anita Matt asked when THD hires a nontribal member if they enter into an agreement to have them stay there if we train them and have them train tribal members. Jessi advised that she has only filled these jobs with tribal members.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the revised organizational chart. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Johnathan Owens, Milissa Grandchamp, and Dr. Bernadette Corum, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to hire Tiffany Naugle on a one-year contract to fill the Medical Assistant position at the Arlee Clinic. There were two vacancies that were advertised and there were no tribal member applicants. Tiffany can only work part-time, and the providers were okay with that. THD will be readvertising the other position that was not filled.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the hire of Tiffany Naugle on a one-year contract to fill the Medical Assistant position at the Arlee Clinic. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Johnathan Owens and Brenda Bodnar, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a contract with Lindsey O'Neil for three years, to fill the WIC/CPA-1 position. The terms of the contract include an increase in the rate of pay. This is an exempted position because it is a certified position.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the three-year contact with Linsey O'Neil to fill the WIC/CPA-1 position. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rhonda Swaney, Dan Decker, John Harrison, Brian Upton, Stu Levit, Ryan Rusche, and Jordan Thompson, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Bryon Miller, S&K Gaming Chief Executive Officer; **Troy Felsman, Pete White**, and **Carole Holyan**, S&K Gaming Board of Directors; **Sheila Matt**, KwaTaqNuk Resort General Manager; and **Rob McDonald**, Communications; met with council in **executive session**. **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management, was present for discussion.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Len TwoTeeth informed council that he received a call from Patrick Lozeau. Patrick informed Len about some tribal lease lot issues, so Len asked him to put together some proposals. Patrick did that and Len placed the proposal folders in the council mailboxes. He would like to have council discussion at the next Land Committee meeting. Len will let Patrick know it will be discussed at the next Land Committee meeting.

Brian Upton, Legal Department; **Tony Incashola, Sr.** and **Thompson Smith**, Salish Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee; requested approval of a resolution. They are working with the Wilderness Society on replacing geographical names in Montana.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the resolution. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Fred Matt out of the room).

RESOLUTION 21-052

WHEREAS, the territories of the Séliš (Salish or Flathead), Ql̓ispé (Kalispel or Pend d'Oreille), and Ksanka (Kootenai) Nations are vast, encompassing areas on both sides of the Continental Divide within what is now the state of Montana; and

WHEREAS, our relationship with the land is powerfully reflected in our traditional place-names, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have documented thousands of place-names across our homelands; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the nineteenth century, our placenames were supplanted by English words, in many cases contributing to the erasure of our history and culture from the land; and

WHEREAS, in certain cases, the new names were themselves a reflection of the racism that helped fuel the assault on our cultures and sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, in the early to mid 2000s, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and especially the Séliš-Qlispé Culture Committee and Elders Cultural Advisory Council, expended considerable time and resources in contributing to the renaming of dozens of “s-word” place-names within Montana, and succeeded in gaining their official establishment through the U.S. Board on Geographic Names; and

WHEREAS, there are three place-names within Montana named in honor of Jefferson Davis, a racist traitor who served as president of the Confederacy during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, all three of these place-names are located in areas of cultural and historical importance to the Séliš people; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of groups has been pursuing the renaming of these three place-names, and in 2020 entered into respectful consultation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Séliš-Qlispé Culture Committee regarding this issue; and

WHEREAS, the Séliš-Qlispé Culture Committee and Elders Cultural Advisory Council has researched these places and met to discuss the issue numerous times, and has put forward three placenames to replace the existing toponyms, namely:

- Three Eagles Peak, in honor of Cəl Sqeymí (Chief Three Eagles), head chief of the Séliš at the time that Lewis and Clark passed through our territories;
- Choos-wee Creek, an Anglicization of the Salish word Cuswí (Chinese people), in recognition of the Chinese community that existed along this creek during the nineteenth century, and the many forms of discrimination they suffered; and
- In-qu-qu-leet Gulch, an Anglicization of the Salish word Nq^wq^wli?it, meaning Place of Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*). Lodgepole is a tree of

great importance in our traditional way of life, and the area in which the gulch is located (east side of Mullan Pass) has always been well known to the Salish for its abundance of lodgepole. Not far is the old place-name *Snč̓d̓ey̓q̓ey̓mtn*, meaning Place Where Tipi Poles Are Harvested; and

WHEREAS, the coalition of groups has expressed its support for these three place-names and its willingness to lead the official renaming through the process before the U.S. Board on Geographic Names;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes hereby approves and supports the three placenames brought forward by the Séliš-Q̓lispé Culture Committee and Elders Cultural Advisory Council, and gives its support to the coalition of groups led by the Wilderness Society in leading the official renaming through the process before the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Louis Fiddler, Law & Order, requested approval of a contract with Lexipol to redesign the department's standing operating procedures.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the contract with Lexipol to redesign the department's standing operating procedures. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rick Eneas, Financial Management; and **John Neiss**, Facilities Maintenance; requested approval to pay an invoice to Missoula Valley Services in the amount of \$73,795.00 to be paid with CARES Act funding. This was an idea between the Maintenance Department and Information Technologies, and it was some miscommunication that caused no contract being put in place.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve payment of an invoice to Missoula Valley Services in the amount of \$73,795.00 to be paid with CARES Act funding. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rick Eneas, Financial Management; **Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; **Stu Levit**, **John Harrison**, and **Chelsea Colwyn**, Legal Department; **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management; requested to meet with council in **executive session**. **Velda Shelby**, Economic Development Office, was present for discussion.

Carole Lankford left the meeting on personal time off to go to a medical appointment.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Anita Matt to authorize travel for Brian Lipscomb, Rich Janssen, John Harrison, and Shelly Fyant to participate in the April 14-16

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meeting in Pendleton. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

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

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department; **Mike Wheeler** and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss the Tribal Lands Ordinance.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 3:42 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary