

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

Volume 22 Number 48
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 7, 2022
Approved: April 12, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Finley (Medicine Tree).

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 9:02 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 5, 2022 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Ellie Bundy McLeod presented a request on behalf of the St. Ignatius Fire Chief. They have an ISO (Insurance Services Office) inspection happening soon. This scores fire departments on how they are doing against organization standards and will help determine community property insurance costs. The chief is asking if council would consider allowing them to count the tribal hydrants in their inspection. The St. Ignatius Fire Department is willing to flush and test flows on the tribal hydrants on an annual basis. It was the **consensus** of council to allow the St. Ignatius Fire District to count the tribal hydrants in their inspection.

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Mike Dolson asked the status of where we are at with the Institutional Review Board we are supposed to be putting in place for the Tribes. Mike was informed that there are some unanswered questions with some of the projects that have been approved. **Chairman McDonald** advised Brian Upton and Chelsea Colwyn was working on that, and he will request an update from the Legal Department.

Mike Dolson informed council that the Forestry Advisory Committee had a meeting yesterday and they are working on the Forest Management Plan. Mike wants to include a stronger component on economics.

Mike Dolson informed council that MACIE wants to emphasize on getting the word to superintendents that students have the right to use regalia in public ceremonies. There is a law on the books for that and people are still being denied to right to use regalia. It will be sent to the Board of Public Education.

Mike Dolson discussed Class 7 recertification; they want to eliminate the tribal chair's responsibility in certifying the renewal of certifications. Mike disagreed with that. The language is changing rapidly and we need to have control of who our teachers are and we need to be part of that renewal process. Some tribes are not responding for renewals so that is why they want to get rid of the requirement. It will be on us to have something in place to demand we are a party to the renewal process. **Chairman McDonald** commented that people are required by law to get approval by the IRB to do human research studies. We are trying to protect our cultural resources/people from being exploited. He will get an update on the IRB.

Jim Malatare gave an update on the Arlee district meeting last night. It was well attended. He thanked Chairman McDonald, Carole Lankford and Martin Charlo for attending the meeting and his family for providing the meal. He appreciated the people voicing concerns. Jace Smith gave a presentation on the J Canal, Dan McClure addressed nonmember issues, and Will Mesteth and Louie Fiddler gave a drug presentation. Jim almost had a close relative die from fentanyl use a couple of weeks ago; it's a scary thing. It is important for family members to be able to identify symptoms. **Carole Lankford** mentioned at one of the elders meetings they talked about why we don't open district meetings and have a full discussion. There are a lot of those things that happen in the council meetings and we need to get the information to the public. Carole is glad we let programs have the opportunity to get their message out to the public. Jim commented that the tribal staff is good at what they do and are professional. He hopes people will listen to the staff. **Anita Matt** agreed with Carole's comments. They need to have agenda items. It is good to open it to the public to talk about their issues. It's a good way to educate the people on issues that are happening.

Anita Matt informed council that Calvin Bourdon brought in something from March 20. Council never addressed his issues. He talked about minimum wage,

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rights of the tribal membership, water rights, economic development, explaining settlements, per capita, and the casinos. We should say something to Calvin about it. **Chairman McDonald** talked to Calvin about his issues. **Jim Malatare** also spoke to Calvin. Calvin was wanting each council person to read his paper and reach out if they have anything they want to talk about.

Bing Matt thanked Jennifer for her help with the district meeting. If not for her we wouldn't have had the people present the issues. She did a lot of work.

Chairman McDonald mentioned an issue regarding talk about naming the Bison Range Visitor Center building after the late Michael T. Pablo. If that was a commitment of the previous council we should consider that.

Ruth Swaney, Financial Management, presented a request to purchase capital equipment for the Bison Range consisting of a skid steer and post pounder at a cost of \$60,000. A bobcat will be traded toward the purchase. There are sufficient funds in the General Fund budget for the purchase so no budget increase would be required.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the purchase of capital equipment for the Bison Range consisting of a skid steer and post pounder at a cost of \$60,000. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Len TwoTeeth would like to give the membership an opportunity to bid on capital equipment purchases.

Ruth Swaney, Financial Management, presented a request to purchase capital equipment for the Division of Water consisting of a Trimble Geo 7x at an estimated cost of \$8,500. The program needs a GPS unit with sub-meter accuracy to complete wetland delineations and other types of environmental mapping.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to authorize the purchase of capital equipment for the Division of Water consisting of a Trimble Geo 7x for an estimated cost of \$8,500. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Ruth Swaney, Financial Management, presented an overview of the fourth quarter financial report.

Cinda Ironmaker, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, gave an overview of the Chef Ann Foundation. The foundation will be doing some work with the Arlee School and will be working with the Diabetes and WIC programs. Cinda talked about the epidemiology center that the RMTLC has to address public health

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priorities of the tribes. The Tribal Council was invited to attend the Tribal Health Conference in August.

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

Janet Camel and **Velda Shelby**, Economic Development Office; **Vern Clairmont** and **Jeff Clairmont**, Raven Consulting; presented the results of the feasibility study that was done for a mobile slaughter unit and meat processing facility. Local producers, processors and grocers were surveyed on the need and demand in the area for USDA inspected slaughter & processing. Most of the processors are custom-retail or custom-exempt and only 1 producer is a USDA inspected processing plant. There is enough livestock locally to support a small USDA inspected plant.

Chairman McDonald left the meeting to go to a funeral.

The feasibility study covered three different scenarios (mobile slaughter units, mobile slaughtering and purchase of animals for retail or wholesale, and a full slaughtering and processing plant at a fixed site). It was the **consensus** of council to move forward with option 3.

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

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 11:26 a.m. to conduct an S&K Technologies shareholders meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 12:26 p.m.

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

Carole Lankford out of the room.

Jeanne Christopher, Early Childhood Services; **Christine Williams** and **Eva George**, Auditors; interviewed the Tribal Council as part of the audit on the Early Childhood Services program. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Ryan Rusche, Sonosky Law Firm; **Jordan Thompson**, Deputy Executive Officer of Special Projects & Planning; and **Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; discussed the Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. **Council** will approve the staff to continue the work to finalize the comments to be submitted by the deadline once there is a quorum.

Carole Lankford returned to the meeting.

Brian Lipscomb, Energy Keepers, Inc., discussed the commissioning of the USS Montana scheduled for June 23-25 in Norfolk, Virginia. Brian would like a council representative to go, along with the sponsorship of the Brothers Drum, which is a five-member tribal drum group. It would cost \$12,500 for the drum group, and EKI can help sponsor the drum. **Carole Lankford** suggested that Bing Matt and Daniel J. Decker attend since they are both veterans. **Council** agreed to pay the expenses.

John Harrison, Legal Department, gave an update on the voting rights case. There will be a trial in June. CSKT asked that those laws do not go into force until a ruling is made. The judge issued an opinion to strike those laws from going into effect until the trial concludes. The elections will be held as is for now. The CSKT, Montana Youth Vote and Western Native Voice cases were enjoined. The State committed to filing an immediate appeal.

Council reviewed a letter regarding the CSKT's comments on the DOE Bipartisan Infrastructure Law comments that are due by tomorrow. It was the **consensus** of council to authorize the chairman to sign the letter.

Council **adjourned** at 2:08 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary