

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

Volume 22 Number 25
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: January 18, 2022
Approved: January 20, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary; and James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:00 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Jennifer Finley.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for January 13, 2022 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Martin Charlo gave an update on COVID-19. The numbers are increasing. There were 140 new cases. The latest numbers reported were 178 for Lake County. Being vaccinated helps with recovery. The Omicron variant is not as severe as the Delta variant and has less symptoms. The flu is also going around. There is a shortage of rapid tests available. St. Luke’s and St. Joseph’s have a drive-through testing site and people can also go to their medical provider to get tested. **Len TwoTeeth** asked if the Tribal Health Department will be hosting anymore vaccination clinics. Martin advised they are having their regular clinic at KwaTaqNuk on Wednesdays. He will post the information. Martin would like to hold additional vaccine clinics in the communities, and he will discuss further with Patricia Hibbeler. Len suggested doing a mobile clinic for those who cannot

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

go to a clinic. **Chairman McDonald** commented that the current variant is spreading to the youth throughout the school systems. **Carole Lankford** thinks appointments are required to receive the vaccine.

Chairman McDonald reminded council that they have a luncheon meeting with Ralph Foster this Wednesday at Ninepipes, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Council reviewed the boards/committees list. AMERIND. Carole Lankford will remain the delegate. Carole receives a stipend for serving on the board and she donates that money to the Boys & Girls Club. Ellie Bundy McLeod will serve as the alternate. AMERIND Cell. Carole Lankford will remain the delegate and Ellie Bundy McLeod will be the alternate. Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. Jennifer Finley showed interest in serving. Anita Matt thought those positions were designated for the chairman and vice-chairman. Carole Lankford suggested reviewing the bylaws. No appointments made. The bylaws will be reviewed. Border Crossing. Len TwoTeeth will continue serving as the delegate and Carole Lankford will serve as the alternate. Columbia River Treaty. Mike Dolson will serve as the delegate and Bing Matt will be the alternate. Clark Fork Task Force. There is no council delegate. Mary Price is the staff person that represents the CSKT. No change made. Salish Kootenai Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Ellie Bundy McLeod was assigned as the delegate and Carole Lankford will serve as the alternate. Carole would like the council representatives to be allowed to receive compensation for serving on paid boards. She also wants to allow the individuals to keep the stipend they receive for speaking at events. Current policy requires them to turn in that money. Len agreed to compensating council for serving on paid boards. Carole offered to shepherd the language to allow council compensation. Indian Agriculture Council. Anita Matt will remain serving as the delegate and Mike Dolson will be the alternate. Inter-Tribal Monitoring Association. Jennifer Finley will serve as the delegate and Jim Malatare will serve as the alternate. It was the **consensus** of council to approve the board/committee appointments.

Tabitha Espinoza and **Seth Makepeace**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to pursue a five-year noncompetitive negotiation contract with Geum Environmental Consulting, Inc. to assist with compact implementation projects. Services and compensation will be provided on an as-needed basis per each task. The Division of Engineering and Water Resources plans to bring the environmental aspects of rehabilitation and betterment projects in-house and Geum would assist with that.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to authorize the department to pursue a five-year noncompetitive negotiation contract with Geum Environmental Consulting, Inc. to assist the Division of Engineering and Water Resources with compact implementation projects. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present - Martin Charlo out of the room).

Carole Lankford informed council that there is a person that was wanting to meet with council regarding use of the tribal centers, but she thinks that issue was taken care of. Carole is concerned about the length of time it takes for folks in recovery to be able to use the centers for their meetings. **Martin Charlo** advised the policies are being developed and it sounds like the centers will be open for public use by the end of the month.

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department, requested approval of the 2022-2023 Higher Education Scholarship Student Policy Handbook. The policy was reviewed and approved by the Tribal Education Committee. The application deadline is May 2, 2022. August 5, 2022 is the deadline for students to submit the required paperwork that accompanies their application. The student agreement form was added to the policy. The higher education funding was changed from \$5,000 to \$6,000 for specific degree fields. Council action is needed to increase the graduate funding level. It was based on last year's numbers. There are currently 10 graduate students in those specific degree fields. There are 200 students, including 30 graduate level students, who applied this year. The updated handbook will be provided to students by next week. **Jennifer Finley** wanted to know how many graduate and undergraduate students are being served and how many are graduating. Miranda stated there are 30 students on average that are in graduate or undergraduate level that will graduate annually, with 6 of those at the graduate level and the rest are undergraduate students. Vocational training does not receive many applications and the average yearly number is 10. The Trade program averages 5 students. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that sometime ago the Legal Department provided a list of positions that will be needed for water compact implementation and he wanted to know if she has that list and is sharing it with the student applicants. Miranda will ask the Legal staff to send her the list so she can post it on the website and visit with students about it.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the 2022-2023 Higher Education Scholarship Student Policy Handbook. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

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

Council continued reviewing the board/committee appointments. Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council. Bing Matt will be the delegate and Len TwoTeeth will be the alternate. Inter-Tribal Timber Council. Bing Matt will be the delegate and Carole Lankford will be the alternate. Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education. Mike Dolson was appointed as the delegate and Jennifer Finley will be the alternate. Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council. Len TwoTeeth is an officer on the Leaders Council so he will remain the delegate. Carole Lankford serves on one of its subcommittees and will remain as the alternate. Native American

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

Fish & Wildlife Society. Bing Matt will be the delegate and Martin Charlo will be the alternate. National Congress of American Indians. Len TwoTeeth thinks the chairman needs to engage in this board. Tom McDonald will be the delegate and Ellie Bundy McLeod will be the alternate. National Indian Gaming Association. Bing Matt is the delegate and Martin Charlo is the alternate. Len TwoTeeth wants Jim Malatare to serve on this board. Jimmy was added as an alternate. Highway 93 Oversight Group. All council members were appointed. Self-Governance. Martin Charlo will be the delegate, Mike Dolson will be the first alternate and Anita Matt will be the second alternate. State-Tribal Economic Development Commission. Len TwoTeeth stated this was a governor-appointed position. Anita Matt informed council that Shelly Fyant told her she was appointed as the chair to STED and she would like to continue serving on the committee. Carole Lankford recommended looking at the bylaws to find out if the delegate needs to be an elected official. The Tribes have not allowed former leaders to continue serving in those capacities on behalf of the Tribes. She suggested sending a letter to the Governor asking him to nominate a tribal leader to replace Shelly since she is no longer a tribal leader. Jennifer Finley will serve as the delegate and Carole Lankford will serve as the alternate. A letter will be sent to the Governor's Office. Tribal Education Committee. Mike Dolson will serve as the delegate and Jennifer Finley will serve as the alternate. S&K Gaming Committee. Bing Matt will be the delegate, Jim Malatare will be the first alternate, and Carole Lankford will be the second alternate. National Indian Education Committee. Mike Dolson will be the delegate and Jennifer Finley will be the alternate. Round Table of the Crown of the Continent. Anita Matt will be the delegate and Martin Charlo will be the alternate. Two Eagle River School. Mike Dolson is the delegate and Jennifer Finley is the alternate. IBMP. Tom McDonald will be the delegate, Bing Matt will be the first alternate, and Len TwoTeeth will be the second alternate. Native Farm Bill Coalition. Anita Matt will be the delegate and full council will be the alternate. Native American Advisory Board for WSU. Michelle Mitchell was the delegate. Mike Dolson has been serving on the committee and wants to continue doing that. Mike will be the delegate and Martin Charlo will be the alternate. MMIP Task Force. Ellie Bundy McLeod was appointed by the Attorney General. She will remain the delegate and Martin Charlo will be the alternate. Equal Work For Equal Pay. Carole Lankford will remain the delegate since she was appointed by the Governor. Montana Invasive Species Council. Martin Charlo will be the delegate and Tom McDonald will be the alternate. Upper Columbia Basin. Martin Charlo will be the delegate and Tom McDonald will be the alternate. Gaming Advisory Board. Carole Lankford was appointed by Tim Fox but she resigned. The last meeting was not welcoming when the republicans came into office so she stepped back from it. Chairman McDonald will check status of this board with the Governor's Office. Len TwoTeeth wants to serve on that board. Budget Committee. All council members were appointed. Land Committee. All council members were appointed. Enrollment Committee. All council members were appointed. Legislative Weekly Meetings. All council members were appointed.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

Lake County 911 Board. Ellie Bundy McLeod was appointed as the delegate by Fire Control. It will be added to the list. Tribal Conservation Issues. Anita Matt advised this is a board the Tribes are affiliated with regarding NRCS and set asides for Indian tribes. She wants to remain as the delegate on this board with Mark and AJ as the alternates. Boys and Girls Club. Carole Lankford wants this board added to the list. She has 2 years left on her term. The clubs will be expanded to other communities, such as Arlee and Hot Springs. Carole is the delegate and Jim Malatare will be the alternate. Drug Court. Carole Lankford has served on the Drug Court for four years and wants it included on the list. Carole invited the council to go to the court hearings and observe the proceedings. Carole will remain the delegate, and Ellie Bundy McLeod and Martin Charlo will be the alternates. **Mike Dolson** advised that the Washington State University has two boards. Mike serves on the Native American Health & Science Board and Michelle is the delegate to the Native American Advisory Board. **Chairman McDonald** will clear up the two titles and reflect it correctly on the list. It was the **consensus** of council to approve the board/committee appointments.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the board/committee appointments. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Dan Decker, Melissa Schlichting, Mary Price, Brian Upton, Chelsea Colwyn, John Harrison, and Michael Wheeler, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Carole Lankford requested clarification on mileage since she was not sure how everyone is doing it. She claims mileage when she is conducting tribal business. Carole wants it consistent so she does not get in trouble for requesting mileage since she has been questioned about it in the past. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that if she is assisting or meeting with tribal members it would be appropriate to collect mileage. **Chairman McDonald** was unaware whether the process was in written form but thought if the council members are conducting tribal business in their official capacity they would be approved for mileage. **Jennifer Finley** was not aware council received mileage since she received no orientation when she was sworn into office, and she needs to know what the procedure is for that. **Martin Charlo** suggested that she meet with Jennifer Trahan to find out the processes. **Carole Lankford** recommended putting the mileage policy and process in writing. **Chairman McDonald** will follow up to make sure there is a clear mileage policy.

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

Vernon Finley, Kootenai Culture Committee; **Diane Michel**, **Louis Caye, Jr.**, **Francis Auld**, **Mike Kenmille**, **Levi Hewankorn**, **Leonard Michel**, **Cheryl Mathias**, **Marvin Saloway**, **Naida Lefthand**, **Laurence Kenmille**, and **Loretta Hoots**, Kootenai Elder Advisory Committee; met with council for the monthly elders meeting. The newly elected tribal council representatives introduced themselves. **Chairman McDonald** would like to do more with our language, education, and economic pursuits. **Leonard Michel** had concerns about filling the Kootenai National Forest position that has been vacant for quite some time. He has always advocated for two positions. Leonard wanted to know why it is taking so long for the council to make the effort to hire someone to man that position in Libby. It was suggested that there be an intern. **Vernon Finley** advised that the Liaison position is cost-shared and the Tribes' portion is included in the Tribal Preservation Department's budget. The Tribes would need to identify funding for the second position. **Loretta Hoots** spent 13 years serving as the Liaison. She discussed being involved in the projects that took place, such as the forest planning process. **Council** suggested following up with the Forest Service and work with Salish Kootenai College about a possible internship. The vacancy needs to be filled as quickly as possible. Salish Kootenai Housing Authority may be an option, as well. **Laurence Kenmille** mentioned the tribal organizational chart that was recently adopted to change the Elders Committee from being a direct advisory to the Tribal Council to being under the supervision of a department. **Mike Kenmille** wants there to be a pool to work with the youth in addition to having a Liaison. **Chairman McDonald** told Laurence that the council will be reviewing the organizational chart. Laurence stated it appears the committee loses its advisory role the way it is set up now. **Levi Hewankorn** wants the organizational chart put back the way it was for cultural awareness. **Leonard Michel** commented that moving them down on the chart diminishes the standing of the committee, so they need to be moved beside the council. The group has a lot of expertise and it needs to be sought after in the beginning instead of being an afterthought. It will show others that our Tribe is listening to the elders when making decisions. **Naida Lefthand** stated the group discussed this at the last meeting and she was hoping for an end road to this issue. The Elders Advisory Group needs to be placed alongside the Tribal Council on the organizational chart. It shows the public the council looks to the committee and they are not an afterthought. The Elders Advisory Committee needs to advise the Tribal Council since not all council members were raised with the culture and traditions.

Leonard Michel discussed the closure of Jette. They have asked for that on more than one occasion. It is getting overrun with the nonmember public. **Chairman McDonald** responded that the Tribal Council knows Sunny Slope and Jette are high-use recreation areas and the staff is looking into it to make management recommendations in the future and working with law enforcement on trespass issues. **Mike Kenmille** discussed the Elders program. There are calls that need to be made to the elders and things are not happening in a timely

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

manner. He talked about customer service. Mike would like the departments to keep a call log to indicate the time of the call, what the conversation was, and what the follow-up would be. It would be good to have a checkoff list. **Chairman McDonald** advised that there was a meeting with the Executive Team last week to strive for improvements. There are some workgroups assigned to follow up on that matter. **Francis Auld** discussed the two Tribes here having different languages and set of values. The council approved Resolution No. 21-085, which talks about the desire and commitment to fully integrate the cultural values and language in our daily lives. The Kootenai Culture Committee is focused on the language and he can see the results. Language is a good focus point. Section VI 1(a) of the constitution is always stated in the resolutions. A Kootenai language lab building with the necessary equipment should be built. It needs to be a separate building that addresses the cultural values. Francis talked about a cultural fieldtrip they plan on taking to significant sites. He hopes that the council would support their trips in a financial way, including gas money and a place to stay. The songs are significant and the young Kootenais need to understand that portion of their history. The Kootenai language lab building would provide space to do that. **Chairman McDonald** commented that Francis needs to get his concepts into the floor plan. The executives are working on the building plans. **Jennifer Finley** thinks there is a need to have a community outreach person. She liked the idea of having a language lab. **Leonard Michel** discussed the thinning practices in the Ferry Basin and Hog Heaven areas. Our big pines are being snapped in half and uprooted. Climate change has affected our landscape. He hoped it would be included in the management plan. Leonard mentioned Forestry selling the larch in their sales as pulp. It should be left as firewood for the membership. **Loretta Hoots** talked about a job in Plummer Idaho's Health Center. They had an ambassador in their clinic. Upon your entrance into the facility, that person introduced himself and asked which department you were going into, whether it was dental, pharmacy, doctor's office, etc., and you told him that information and what time your appointment was. He checked in his computer to see where you're at in line for your appointment and if they are on time or running behind. He made you feel comfortable, gave you coffee, and sat down and visited with you. Loretta thinks that would be a great opportunity. Joe Durglo told her he would look into doing that at the Tribal Health Department, but she does not know the status of it. **Leonard Michel** talked about carbon sales. The company was willing to pay us \$90 million for 100 years. He is opposed to saddling our future generations with this for such a little amount of money. **Chairman McDonald** commented the polluters need to stop polluting to address climate change. **Carole Lankford** stated the council has discussed this issue for a long time. She is not in agreement to locking up future generations. **Ellie Bundy McLeod** may have given it more consideration if it was not for 100 years, but she completely trusts the staff's opinion about carbon credits.

Ellie Bundy McLeod left the meeting to go to an appointment.

Anita Matt agreed with the Forestry staff's recommendations. It does not pay enough money for the term of the lease. **Mike Dolson** thought it would close opportunities for our people and he did not support the carbon credits. **Bing Matt** did not agree with it either. It is a shame to have it pulp wood instead of firewood for ourselves. He agreed with Forestry's recommendations. **Loretta Hoots** discussed pollution on the reservation. The Aquatic Invasive Species check station in Ravalli does a tremendous job. She is worried about the other entries onto the reservation. Our lake had a lot of boats from everywhere. The other AIS stations did not do as good of a job as ours did. She would like to extend our services to the other AIS stations. **Chairman McDonald** will obtain a report from the department. There is much redundancy in the overall statewide AIS program, with boats coming from the east and south being inspected multiple times before they get to our watershed. The program has made leaps and bounds. There has been an increase in new residents these past two years. The state has entered into new cooperation agreements with local entities to improve operations. The tribal staff at the check stations have been doing well. Other check stations do not have the extra financial backing that may be needed and we do not want the State to let up on the operational support in the future. **Francis Auld** talked about airplanes landing in the lake. Every year Elmo Bay has planes flying in and out and it creates noise pollution. Council needs to consider that type of activity. Francis asked if there will be some kind of a record that shows the raising of the recreation permit fees and if the flow will be tracked to see if it is making an impact. **Chairman McDonald** advised that the staff will be tracking that information. There will also be the Game Warden reports.

Francis Auld commented that the water compact agreement talked about state land converting back to the Tribes. He wants to know council's position on that for Elmo, Big Arm, and Wild Horse Island. **Chairman McDonald** responded that the Elmo State Park should be transferred to tribal ownership. Wild Horse Island was not considered. The last action for Big Arm State Park would make it unattainable for tribal ownership. All the other state DNRC lands that are adjacent to tribal land are eligible to be transferred. **Leonard Michel** asked if we could get the smaller islands on Flathead Lake transferred to the Tribes. **Chairman McDonald** explained that they need to be state DNRC lands to be considered for transfer to the Tribes; otherwise, they will not be considered. **Leonard Michel** suggested that prohibiting four wheelers on tribal lands would help, and enforcement would be part of that. **Vernon Finley** wants to know what happens to the people that get citations. He keeps hearing people don't do anything about their citations and nothing happens to them, so that needs to be tracked. The four-wheeler use needs to be looked at carefully. There is a business that rents four-wheelers and drives them up to the tribal lands. **Loretta Hoots** asked about the lands owned by the railroad and if those can go back to the Tribes. **Anita Matt** thought the council could get a report from Montana Rail Link in March. **Junior Caye** talked about pollution on our lakes. The water used

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

to be crystal clear and he could drink the lake water. He asked if the fishing derby is helping us. We should do away with the nontribal member docks along the lake. We are not doing anything to help the lake. We are not getting anything from it and it destroys the lake. Junior hopes this new council thinks about that. We have to go other places to dump our trash. Council is there to stop all this nonsense. We need to stand up and put our foot down. The lawyers always meet with council in executive session, so the membership does not get to hear anything they talk about. We are the people and want to know these things. The Tribes work with nonmembers and allow them to do what they are doing. We are the keepers of this land and need to take a step back. **Carole Lankford** disagreed with Junior's comments. Council protects what we can as a Tribe. We can take all the docks off the lake but we would be in court over it. She does not want to end up in the Supreme Court and lose the bed and banks of Flathead Lake, so she will not make rash decisions. We have to work with people when we can or we set ourselves up to go to court. Council meets with the attorneys in executive session to strategize and she does not want to open it up for the public to know what their strategy is. Carole is proud of who we are and what we do for our people. **Junior Caye** disagreed with everything Carole just said and the Tribal Council needs to start thinking about the membership. They need to make decisions for the people. Carole should know who we are and what we stand for and he does not want to come here to be jumped by Carole. **Anita Matt** stated we had an influx of people coming here and they wanted to do the fishing derby, and she was opposed to it. Anita wants a report on the lake. There was discussion about increasing our fees for nonmembers and she wants to see the impact. We need more Fish & Game officers. There are nonmembers that are recreating on our rivers.

Chairman McDonald saw in a recent Flathead Lake bio-station report that there has been some improvements in water quality on Flathead Lake. But water temperatures have gone up due to climate change which caused changes in the algae production. It's a combination of large-scale world pollution from overseas depositing in our watersheds and the warming temperatures that needs to be addressed. There needs to be consideration for that. The fishing derby has nothing do to with anglers; it protects our native species Bull Trout. The derby is designed to keep the Bull Trout from becoming extinct. We are now relying on administrative fish netting to further reduce the nonnative Lake Trout instead of depending on Mack Days only. We use all the tools we have to accomplish that. Tom will have the staff provide a Lake Trout suppression presentation to the elders. **Leonard Michel** stated that the Fisheries staff gave a report three or four years ago, and they said all the fishing the anglers do with Mack Days isn't removing Lake Trout whatsoever; if that's the case, then we should take those mitigation monies and buy more boats and do more gillnetting and employ more tribal members. The anglers will be there anyway, so we should take another approach. Leonard wants the Tribes to help regulate and monitor the docks. **Chairman McDonald** responded that we invested in bigger and better boats and

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

are starting to figure out new locations to net on the north half of the lake to increase the benefits to Bull Trout. It's a slow progression but there has been an improvement. Fisheries would like to put in trap boxes to make sure no bull trout are accidentally killed. Gillnetting is a lethal tool and it is difficult to survive that. The goal is to not catch any Bull Trout. There may be an additional tool for us to use for dock management. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses hydro power sites and related facilities and impoundment easements for privately owned dams. The top ten feet of our SKQ Dam is the reservoir's easement for the entire Flathead Lake waterbody. The dam operator/owner can be the controlling entity of anything that may affect that easement or shoreline. So for the hydro power facility here, when it was built those rules weren't utilized, but they might be something to use now. Montana Power Company owned it originally and the stockholders were major landowners around Flathead Lake and he thinks the company did not want to restrict those folks in any way. The dam owner allowed local municipalities to take care of that regulatory business. The FERC license allows us to impound the entire lake up to the mouth of the river. The Namen case allowed us to protect and regulate the bed and banks of the south half of the lake and we never want to jeopardize that.

Junior Caye goes to the Fitness Center in Elmo and all the equipment is hand me downs. He would like someone to look into this to find out why Elmo gets all the hand me downs. **Chairman McDonald** responded that we are looking into this. Health and prevention goes together to stay physically and mentally fit and he wants each community to have a place to go to. With existing funding there should be money to help take care of that need. Council can redirect things in the future to meet the needs. **Leonard Michel** brought up getting more Game Wardens. Our officers used to be federally certified. If there is a waiting line to be certified by the State, they should be certified federally. **Chairman McDonald** stated that having Gate Guards would also be helpful. **Laurence Kenmille** suggested looking at how many large structures there are that are not really commercial but have boat slips. The Shoreline policy/procedures need to be reviewed to be more stringent to lessen the impact. **Chairman McDonald** stated the Shoreline Protection Board does its due diligence and tries to minimize the number of docks. The policy should be reviewed/updated on a regular basis. **Leonard Michel** asked if the Tribes will be starting a corporation so we can do the reconstruction of the FIIP ourselves. That would put a lot of tribal members to work. There are tribal members qualified for these positions. We need to get the membership hired with good wages and build our own irrigation system. **Francis Auld** asked if the Tribes have considered allocating funds for the Tribal Preservation Office now that we got the \$90 million from the water compact. There are many unmarked burial sites that are being monitored and that needs to be revived through the Preservation Office to do that monitoring. He does not trust the archeologists doing that monitoring.

Mike Kenmille commented that he looks at how we have to take care of what was given to us since the beginning of time. He is a full-blood Kootenai. The Indians were given land and we need to take care of it. The Two Eagle River School students ask him if we are a sovereign nation and he does not know how to answer that question since our leadership has forgotten that. We need to hang on to what little we have left. He hopes the council starts looking at this so-called sovereign nation. The Indian people were not asked to be placed on a reservation and now they want to chip away at it. We are the law of the land and council needs to look into what that means. **Leonard Michel** talked about tribal employees being denied cultural leave. Department heads need to go to orientation. It needs to be addressed with the supervisors. Employees want to go to a cultural event or funeral and are made to feel it's either their job or they can be cultural, and this needs to stop immediately. The organization should not threaten our employees.

Vernon Finley suggested that the Executive Team review the information and data points they are asking for a report on. That would reduce the issues coming up every month. The reports should include the closures for the Jette area and the council's thoughts on restricting four-wheelers, RVs and ATVs; and the Elderly program services priorities and how decisions are made. Part of the elder population feels they are not receiving services. They also need to know the procedures to access services. No council were in support of the carbon credit issue at this time. The elders want a report on the fee increases and what type of feedback came with those, and for the Chief Game Warden to report to the elders on the number of citations and what happens with those, and if everyone is abiding by their citations and paying them. A report on the State land transfer to the Tribes is requested. Elmo State Park is the only one so far. There needs to be a review or summary of the Shoreline Protection Ordinance and how we address the commercial docks. They want to discuss the percentages of the docks and fee increases. Water compact goals were part of the discussion. The elders want to know what is going on with the compact monies, planning, and how are we moving toward the construction and other funds that go along with that, and what is the progress and steps being taken there. The water quality report is needed. Vernon wants that presented at the elders meeting the second Wednesday. Along with that, what are some of the activities about Lake Trout suppression successes and how will it be more effective. They want a report on the BIA question on the north end of the lake and why we are not expanding what we need out of there. The elders want to know what is planned for the facilities and where is that. Vernon wants to meet with the Executive Team about what our needs are, such as a youth facility and language lab. Cultural leave is the other issue. Some supervisors keep track of comp time. Vernon was under the impression that comp time was not legal and if you are working extra time you need to be paid overtime. He wants to know the standards for that. The supervisors are taking away the comp time whenever employees use cultural leave. It was suggested that the supervisors get a refresher on cultural leave. The

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

goal of the leave was so that eventually everyone would understand the times that cultural leave is used and the purpose of it and that the supervisors would plan accordingly so the employees can take care of the cultural things that come up. There are folks that assume tribal land can be accessed. When he was there, we traded Salish Kootenai College for lakeshore property in between Melita and King's Point area. The only way to access that is to cross tribal land. People bought land there and cross tribal land to access their properties without having a tribal easement. He wants a report on that and whether that's true and if the council will consider what to do with easements that are not paid for or negotiated. Vernon wants a report on the businesses that use tribal land and what they use it for, such as horseback rides and four-wheelers. Vernon wants the Executive Team to send him a report on all these issues.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jennifer Finley.

Council **adjourned** at 3:55 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary