

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

Volume 22 Number 41
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: March 17, 2022
Approved: March 22, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; Jim Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:01 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 15, 2022 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Brian Lipscomb discussed a briefing yesterday regarding future follow up meetings. The 15 tribal leaders were invited to a meeting. Brian requested formal action to appoint Mike Dolson so he can speak for CSKT at next Monday’s meeting and relay the message to the Secretary’s Office. Topics of discussion will include restoration of salmon, removal of the Snake River facilities, and reintroduction above the Grand Cooley on the Columbia arm of the system. It was the **consensus** of council for Mike to proceed and for Brian to provide support.

Brian Lipscomb informed council of the passing of an individual. The person’s obituary highlighted his career working with CSKT. Carole Lankford suggested

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sending a personal letter from the Tribes. Brian will draft a letter for the chairman's signature.

Brian Lipscomb gave an update on the dedication of the USS Montana. The event for the commissioning of the USS Montana is set for June 23 & 24. Brian will be requesting the tribal chairman and intertribal drum to attend the ceremony. Gene Sorrell facilitated Dwight Billedeaux's making of a pipe for presentation that will reside on the ship for its entire life of service. That will be the gift provided to the Navy on Friday night, and then Saturday is the ceremony and commissioning of the boat. Senator Tester, Senator Daines, and Representative Rosendale will be invited to attend, as well as Governor Gianforte. Brian will provide more details as they get finalized. The ship is being built and will be commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia.

Martin Charlo asked when the stairs would be opening. **Brian Lipscomb** said the standard opening date is April 15.

Anita Matt reminded council that she previously mentioned the Blackfeet Nation implementing a livestock feed program to assist producers, due to the high costs of hay. The Blackfeet Nation has 200+ producers and they were given protein feed supplements. The tribe set aside \$1.5 million out of the ARPA funds. CSKT has between 50-70 producers. Rick Eneas will speak to Greg Spahr to find out what funding is unused or could be reallocated for a CSKT program and bring it back to council for consideration.

Anita Matt informed council that she received a call from Chaney Bell about the name change of the Dixon Agency. Vernon Finley mentioned it in during the elders meeting. Anita let Chaney know that the council contacted the Kootenai Culture Committee for input, history, and proposed name change ideas.

Chairman McDonald reminded council of the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission meeting that will take place next week from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Kwataqnuq Resort & Casino. There will be some tribal staff and tribal businesses giving presentations, and Tom will provide the welcoming remarks. Tom encouraged council to attend the meeting.

Chairman McDonald discussed the quarterly council meeting coming up in April and asked for input on any agenda items. **Anita Matt** would like to see the Personnel Department to start recognizing the employees for their years of service. That has not been done for a long time. Employees should be recognized for their years of service and the work they have done. There are a number of employees retiring this year. **Chairman McDonald** commented that some departments do the recognitions on their own, but it would be great to do in a council meeting. There have been quite a few outside acknowledgements of our tribal membership and Tom wants to get a summary of those to read during the

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quarterly meeting. It was the **consensus** of council to develop a list of awards the staff has received to be presented at the quarterly meeting. **Carole Lankford** informed council she attended a meeting yesterday that was chaired by Casey Ryan. She listened to each component of this group on developing the water compact and she was impressed with the group. Carole encouraged everyone to attend the meetings. **Ellie Bundy McLeod** saw on Facebook that one of the Student Support Services employees at Salish Kootenai College received the Montana College Attainment Network Practitioner of the Year 2022 award. Ellie worked with Allen Addison at SKC and he does amazing work for the team. Ellie acknowledged him for receiving that award. **Jim Malatara** wants to recognize employees for their years of service and for everything they do for the Tribes, so he was glad to see the Tribes are thinking about doing those recognitions again. Agenda topics for the April quarterly council meeting include the Bison Range, water compact, employee awards, and outstanding tribal members.

Anita Matt commented that the council has no idea what is going on with the Tribal Health Department and we need to start having monthly meetings again. It could keep us updated on what services are being provided. **Chairman McDonald** advised that Rick Eneas is putting the committee back together.

Carole Lankford informed council she was asked by a nonmember about the increased fees for recreation permits. The nonmember family is a local resident and it would cost them \$500 for the family to recreate on tribal lands. Carole suggested that they submit comments during the public comment period next year. The other concern was about the closure of some tribal lands, such as Twin Lakes and Jette, to nonmembers. **Len TwoTeeth** stated that he wanted to focus on out-of-state recreationalists. His intention was not to include our on-reservation residents. Many of them are descendants and may not have close family ties where they can be included in family activities and must pay the fee. We need to look at this next year and consider changes then if they are needed. Len receives the same concerns from people who have lived here their entire life, are in the process of getting enrolled, and have been a part of our tribal community. **Chairman McDonald** reminded council that he was involved in those fee increases as a staff member. The staff did not recommend a general fee increase for recreation permits for the local residents. The staff only recommended the increase for camping stamps because of the limited camping sites available to the membership. The Tribes charge \$100 for year-round camping permits and the Forest Service charges everyone \$20 per night.

Tony Incashola, Jr., Tribal Forestry, requested approval of the fiscal year 2021 deduction expenditure report.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the fiscal year 2021 deduction expenditure report. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Tony Incashola, Jr., Tribal Forestry, requested approval of the fiscal year 2022 expenditure plan for forest management deductions.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve by resolution the fiscal year 2022 expenditure plan for forest management deductions. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 22-081

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

WHEREAS, the Expenditure Plan for Forest Management Deductions is administered under the authority of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 25, Subchapter B, Section 163.25 (f)(l); and

WHEREAS, the Expenditure Plan requires the approval of both the Tribes and the Bureau; and

WHEREAS, funds are available from the deductions from timber sale revenues for the administration of the Expenditure Plan;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Fiscal Year 2022 Expenditure Plan for Forest Management Deductions is hereby approved and the approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is requested; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Forest Management Deductions collected will be properly deposited and expended on items designated in the Expenditure Plan and in accordance with 25 CFR.

Chairman McDonald asked for recommendations to assign a representative to the Forest Service Regional Wildfire Crisis Strategy roundtable to develop a comprehensive 10-year strategic plan. **Tony Incashola, Jr.** recommended that he be appointed.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to assign Tony Incashola, Jr. to the Forest Service Regional Wildfire Crisis Strategy roundtable to develop a comprehensive 10-year strategic plan. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present – Ellie Bundy McLeod out of the room).

Constance Morigeau, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval to submit a grant application to the AARP of Montana to provide dining services for elders.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution submission of the AARP of Montana grant to provide dining services for elders. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Ellie Bundy McLeod out of the room).

RESOLUTION 22-082

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS TO AARP OF MONTANA AGENCY TO PROVIDE DINING EXPERIENCE SERVICES FOR TRIBAL ELDERS

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

WHEREAS, we have declared Tribal Elders as one of our most precious resources.

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Elders have experienced isolation and lack of congregate meals at the Tribal Senior Citizen Centers or elsewhere due to health precautions.

WHEREAS, by providing opportunities for Elders to dine out, on their own time schedule, allowing Elders to dine with family, friend, and offering a choice of venture, meals and reduces social isolation.

WHEREAS, this funding will allow this opportunity for our Elders while supporting our local community restaurants. **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes hereby approves the grant proposal submittal for funding to AARP of Montana totaling \$15,961.00.

Mike Dolson left the meeting to participate in a conference call.

Constance Morigeau, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval to submit the AARP application for a grant in the amount of \$12,600.00 for lawn and garden for elders. The program will purchase a greenhouse, automatic water drip, a riding lawnmower, two push lawnmowers, a smaller lawnmower, two rototillers, and weed eaters. **Ellie Bundy McLeod** pointed out some typos in the resolution that need to be corrected. **Chairman McDonald** would like the program to please look for electric mowers, if possible. Constance will do that.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve by resolution submission of the grant application to AARP of Montana for garden and lawn service for tribal elders, with the correction of typos. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Mike Dolson out of the room participating in a conference call).

RESOLUTION 22-083

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS TO AARP OF MONTANA FOR GARDEN AND LAWN SERVICES FOR TRIBAL ELDERS

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

WHEREAS, we have declared the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe Elders as one of our most precious treasures.

WHEREAS, one of the major concerns for our Elders is their nutritional needs and ability to obtain affordable fresh vegetables during the summer months.

WHEREAS, providing a community garden to provide vegetables will accommodate our Elders nutritional needs while allowing them to be a part of that growing process and harvest.

WHEREAS, CSKT Elders need assistance in manicuring their lawns due to safety precautions and fall prevention.

WHEREAS, this grant proposal is to purchase lawn and gardening equipment to assist our Elders; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes hereby approves the grant proposal be submitted for funding to the AARP of Montana agency totaling \$12,600.

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

Council met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the Salish Kootenai College Board of Directors vacancies and the Chief Justice of the Appellate Court vacancy. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to appoint Jamie Cahoon for the partial term ending August 4, 2022; Linda King to fill the partial term ending July 1,

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2024; and Germaine White for a four-year term to serve on the Salish Kootenai College Board of Directors. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present – Mike Dolson out of the room participating in a conference call).

MOTION by Martin Charlo to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Daniel Belcourt as the Chief Justice of the Appellate Court to fill the partial term ending July 31, 2023. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present – Mike Dolson out of the room participating in a conference call).

Chairman McDonald commented that it was good to have so many qualified candidates apply for the Chief Justice position, and he appreciated the amount of interest there was in that position.

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

Council met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Bing Matt to appoint Carrie Irvine and Carrie Antoine to the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a four-year term. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present – Mike Dolson out of the room participating in a conference call).

Michael Wheeler, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Davin Sorrell, Tribal Member, met with council to discuss cannabis and the two indigenous businesses to provide cannabis services. **Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department, discussed jurisdiction on state and tribal lands and trust responsibilities. Michael has told Davin we cannot assist him and recommended that he hire good legal counsel for this. **Chairman McDonald** thought one possible solution to limiting the number of nonmember-owned vendors on the reservation is to enter into a compact with the state to limit it. Tom would like to have a committee review the proposal. **Mr. Wheeler** was not sure of the prospects of limiting businesses. Most compacts deal with taxation from tribal members on the reservation. To limit participation, it could be some type of zoning ordinance. He does not know what we can do to limit lawful businesses on fee lands and he is not prepared to answer on that specific situation. Davin talked about other tribes and what they are doing. Some tribes are opting out due to the risks associated with marijuana. The Crow Tribe is one example of that. There are some grassroots efforts for the Crow Tribe that are making some

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pushes. The Blackfeet Tribe is looking into possibilities. The compact tribes in Washington are doing what they can to prevent the markets from being saturated by nonmembers on the reservation. The Paiute Tribe in Las Vegas passed a compact with the state and set up a dispensary. The Tribes would have financial capital if they used a business like Davin's instead of relying on federal government money and grants. Davin thinks the Tribes need to be progressive and suggested they use his business. This is a cutthroat industry and he wants to provide his resources and knowledge to the CSKT. Davin apologized to council for the comments he made on Facebook, but he is just passionate about this issue, and he appreciated council taking time to meet with him today. It would cost about \$300,000 to get a facility constructed and get the business going. Davin wants to work together and find a way to offer tribal members products at a reasonable cost. He stated CBD oil is a healthy alternative.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 2:06 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary