

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

Volume 23 Number 10
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: November 15, 2022
Approved: November 22, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy, Treasurer; Mike Dolson; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; and Terry Pitts.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Malatare (Travel Status – Fort McDowell, Arizona); and James “Bing” Matt (Travel Status – Fort McDowell, Arizona).

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 9:00 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Carole Lankford.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for November 8, 2022 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for November 8, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Steve Lozar informed council that he had served on the Montana Historical Society Board for the past 19 years. Governor Gianforte did not reappoint the Board of Trustees. The tribes are building a Heritage Center so they can tell their own story and they want to put together a group from CSKT consisting of Steve Lozar, Tim Ryan, Jim Malatare, and Marie Torosian to serve as the Tribal Shareholders Group for a two year term. It is a subcommittee of the Montana Historical Society and has its own bylaws. **Carole Lankford** would like to add it to the council board list, so there is a mechanism for the Tribal Council members to serve on the board in the future. **Martin Charlo** wanted to make sure the

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Kootenai Culture Committee is not excluded and he would like a representative appointed to the board.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the appointment of Steve Lozar, Tim Ryan, Jim Malatare, and Marie Torosian to serve as the Tribal Shareholders Group for a two-year term and add a Kootenai representative. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Brit Salois wanted an update on the bitcoin operation. He had read an article about it in the newspaper. Brit suggested the council keep the membership informed of issues. **Chairman McDonald** clarified the CSKT has not done anything with bitcoins and they have no control over what the media reports.

Kaileen Howard informed council she is involved with the Inter-Tribal Agriculture Culture Community. She entered an essay contest and was chosen to go to Las Vegas to attend the conference. Kaileen requested the donation of a tribal flag to take with her to the conference. It was the **consensus** of council to donate a tribal flag. Kaileen can fill out a donation request form if she is seeking a financial donation.

Carole Lankford invited council to the open house at the new Boys & Girls Club on December 8 in St. Ignatius. Lunch will be served at noon and the grand opening will be at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman McDonald would like to honor a recent retiree at the January quarterly council meeting. **Council** agreed to honor the employee.

Council met in **executive session**.

Jim Malatare joined the meeting.

Bing Matt joined the meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

John Neiss, Facilities Maintenance, requested a modification to Contract No. 22-159 to increase the amount by \$53,219.70 for the old complex remodel project, for a total contract amount of \$490,969.70.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve a modification to Contract No. 22-159 to increase the amount by \$53,219.70 for the old complex remodel project. Seconded by Elly Bundy. Carried, unanimous (9 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

Bing Matt left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Len TwoTeeth requested a change of duty for tribal employees Jim Adams, Laurence Kenmille, and Mary Antiste to attend the veteran's ceremony in Washington, DC. It was the **consensus** of council to grant the employees a change of duty, with supervisor approval.

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

Len TwoTeeth left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Louise Mitchell, Tribal Lands Department, requested approval of a resolution authorizing the purchase of fee land in Lake County from Pablo Plum Creek Holdings, LLC.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve by resolution the purchase of fee land in Lake County from Pablo Plum Creek Holdings, LLC. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 23-019

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF FEE LAND LOCATED IN LAKE, MONTANA

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Land Acquisition Program was approved by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984); and the Act of July 18, 1968 (PL90-402);

WHEREAS, Pablo Plum Creek Holdings, LLC, has offered to sell, All Right, Title and Interest in property situated in Lake County, Montana, more particularly described as follows: A tract of land in the NE1/4SE1/4 and the SE1/4NE1/4, Section 2. T21N, R20W, P.M.M., Lake County, Montana, totaling 10.89 acres, more or less.

WHEREAS, Pablo Plum Creek Holdings, LLC, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have accepted the negotiated value.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above-described property be purchased from Pablo Plum Creek Holdings, LLC, and that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), transfer title to the property to the U.S.A. in trust for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Tribal Council, or his delegated representative is authorized to execute the transactional documents

necessary to complete the land conveyance for Real Property situated in Lake County, Montana.

Lynn Ducharme, Natural Resources Department, discussed an offer to purchase a portion of trust property containing 20 acres from Mark Thompson, to be purchased with Bonneville Power Administration resident fish mitigation funding.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to show interest in purchasing the Mark Thompson parcel with Bonneville Power Administration resident fish mitigation funding and enter into a buy/sell agreement. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Randy Ashley, Natural Resources Department, was awarded a grant for the purchase of two pieces of air monitoring sensing equipment from the American Rescue Plan through the EPA Air Quality program. Randy requested authorization to purchase the equipment.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the purchase of the air monitoring sensing equipment. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Randy Ashley, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to purchase a 4x4 vehicle for the Air Quality Program from the EPA Performance Partnership Grant for an amount not to exceed \$38,367.00.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to authorize the purchase of a vehicle for the Air Quality Program from the EPA Performance Partnership Grant for an amount not to exceed \$38,367.00. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Chairman McDonald discussed a group that is working with the State Department regarding the Canadian boundary issue. The documentaries they filmed will be used as a part of their major talking points. Erin Sexton and Rich Janssen will be going to Washington, DC and they wanted to know if a tribal council representative was interested in going.

David Roemer, Glacier National Park Superintendent, discussed a proposal for reservation entry at Glacier National Park in 2023. The reservation entry was initiated as a pilot in 2021 along the Going to the Sun Road in response high visitation levels in the summer months. Reservations were increased to the North Fork, Polebridge vicinity in 2022. The third year of the pilot may see further reservations along the roads in the park. Glacier Park is the number one destination for travelers in northwestern Montana. The construction project will be completed in 2023. The improvements will help ease congestion to improve

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visitor experiences. There is no parking pass requirement for Logan Pass and that area remains congested throughout the day. **Chairman McDonald** recommended requiring parking permits or timed parking limits at Logan Pass. Tom talked about the carbon footprint. He wanted to know what the Park is doing to do improve the carbon footprint. Tom suggested having electric chargers available. David commented the improvements are being made in the government fleet towards energy conservation; they have been retrofitting the busses to be more energy efficient; they are installing rooftop solar; will be having energy conservation on buildings at their headquarters; a large portion of their energy is hydro; The Park Service suggests visitors to take the shuttle; and this summer the Park Service will install charging stations at headquarters. North McDonald may have an electric charging station. David would like to make some improvements and he continues to meet with the green team to discuss sustainable goals. **Chairman McDonald** would like our tribal youth to be engaged. The CSKT used to have a program for the youth to take hiking trips and camps in Glacier. He would appreciate any opportunities like that in the future.

Martin Charlo announced there is a veteran's pow wow this Saturday. Grand entry will be at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

Dan Decker, John Harrison, Michael Wheeler, Melissa Schlichting, Chelsea Colwyn, Katie Jones, Brian Upton, and **Grace Judge**, Legal Department; and **Shane Morigeau**, Tribal Executive Office; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Chuck Reese**, Information Technologies, was present for discussion.

Jim Malatare left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Bill Lombardi, Jim Morrison, Lucy Dayton, David, and **Grace**, Save Holland Lake Coalition, discussed the coalition's opposition to a ski developer's proposal to triple Holland Lake Lodge and bring commercial recreation and industrial tourism to Holland Lake. The lodge is located on Forest Service land. The group is concerned about the potential impacts to the valley, wildlife, water, and ecosystem. The coalition met with the Regional Forest Service regarding their concerns. David showed a PowerPoint on why the master development plan should be denied. The special use permit is not valid since ownership has transferred. The master development plan should be denied sine it is inaccurate and incomplete. The acreage in the scoping letter is incorrect; it was 7.93 acres

in 1935 and 4.95 acres in 1951. The operating season has not been planned to determine any impacts to the resources. The project is not appropriate for categorical exclusion. 6,493 comments were received; 74 comments supported the project and 6,419 comments opposed the project. The group would like the Tribes to join their efforts to oppose the project. 37 biologists submitted opposition comments due to the impacts to the wildlife. The Flathead National Forest Service is required to consult with the CSKT. The Lolo National Forest Management Plan will be revised. The coalition has an online petition opposing the project and it already has over 4,000 signatures. **Chairman McDonald** advised the Tribal Council received a presentation by the Forest Service. The Tribal Council was waiting to take any formal action until they received information from the Tribal Preservation Office. **Terry Pitts** was opposed to the project. **Carole Lankford** suggested drafting a letter to support their efforts to oppose the project.

Velda Shelby and **Janet Camel**, Economic Development Office; **Vern Clairmont** and **Jeff Clairmont**, Raven Consulting; presented the results of the feasibility study for a livestock finishing yard for meat processing. The consultants looked at the Bison Springs Ranch to determine its usability as a finishing plant. There would need to be a hay shed on the property, lids for protection, and other equipment. The revenue generated from the slaughter could be used to cover some of the operational expenses. It would operate as a continued loss. Because of that, the startup costs would need to be provided by the Tribes. It would not qualify at banks for a standard loan since the operation could not repay the loan. The operation would be set up as a Section 17 corporation with a three-member Board of Directors. The Board of Directors would hire a General Manager. The recommendation was to not use the Bison Springs Ranch property for a finishing yard. Janet requested approval to share this report with other tribes. It was the **consensus** of council to share the report.

Andrea Thomas, Voice of Awareness Foundation, discussed fentanyl prevention and how the team can assist with resources to curb overdoses in the community. August 21 is Fentanyl Awareness Day. There have been 107 deaths this year due to fentanyl. The team would like to hold a town hall on the reservation for families to learn about the dangers of fentanyl poisoning or overdose. Opioid reversal and education kits would be provided. **Ciara Coon** was in treatment and reached out to the Voice of Awareness Foundation. She was told there is a new drug coming and Narcan does not help with an overdose. There were three deaths in two weeks in Miles City due to fentanyl. **Austin Knutson**, Attorney General, stated fentanyl has become the most dangerous public safety issue in the state of Montana. Three years ago, Mr. Knutson was a prosecuting attorney at Fort Peck and dealt with his first fentanyl bust. Since 2017, the fentanyl deaths increased by 1,100% and the State's criminal investigations into fentanyl crime has gone up 1,600%. As of September 30, 2022, the task force ceased almost 155,000 doses of fentanyl, compared to 37,000 last year. The number

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one cause of death of individuals between the ages of 18-46 in the United States was from fentanyl overdoses. Many drugs are now laced with fentanyl which is causing overdoses. The State should have some resources become available from the opioid litigation. He would like to expand the Drug Courts. **Carole Lankford** mentioned she is involved in the Lake County Drug Court. The CSKT is in the process of establishing a Healing Court. An individual discussed how recovery has improved his life. Andrea invited the council to a presentation at Salish Kootenai College today at 5:00 p.m. There is another presentation in the tribal council chambers at 6:00 p.m. **Craige Couture**, Law & Order, stated the tribal officers have taken down 35,000 doses of fentanyl so far this year, in addition to many other drugs. Craige introduced tribal officers Will Mesteth, Vern Fisher, Christian Haynes, Desmond Joseph, and Louis Fiddler. **Council** thanked the officers for the work they do to keep our communities safe.

Martin Charlo left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

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

Melissa Schlichting, Legal Department; **Seth Makepeace**, **Casey Ryan**, and **Rob McDonald**, Natural Resources Department; and **Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 4:00 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary