

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

Volume 23 Number 67
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: August 8, 2023
Approved: August 10, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carole Lankford (AMERIND Meeting).

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 9:04 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Martin Charlo.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for August 3, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Terry Pitts to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Jordan Thompson, Tribal Executive Office; **Dr. Mary Strahan**, High Stakes Foundation; **Felicia Ennis**, Oro Y Plata Foundation; **Caroline Byrd**, Cbyrd Consulting; **Peter Brown**, AMB West Foundation; **Tim Stevens**, Kendeda Fund; **Cathy Leyman**, Harder Foundation; **Andi Pearl**, Volgeanu Foundation; **Beverly Dupree**, Cinnabar Foundation; **Deb Love**, Resources Legacy Fund; **Danielle Levoit**, Doris Duke Foundation; **Gabriel Langbauer**, Harder Foundation; **Lillian**

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2023

Bigelow, Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation; **Tasha Allyn Given**, Allyn Family Foundation; **Melissa Grumhaus**, Tumalo Creek Partners; **John Daly**, Wilburforce Foundation; **Lauren Volgeanu**, Volgeanu Foundation; **Lisa Volgeanu**, Volgeanu Foundation; **Jennifer Volgeanu**, Volgeanu Foundation; **Chris Peters**, 7th Generation Fund; **Megan Lopez**, Wilburforce Foundation; **Michael Jamison**, National Parks Conservation Association; and **Elijah Stevens**, Driver/Photographer; met with council for a meet-and-greet. The group is interested in funding wildlife conservation. **Chairman McDonald** acknowledged Dr. Mary Stranahan for being an outstanding citizen and member of our community, Michael Jamison for stepping up for Indian country in a big way, and Peter Brown from the AMB West Foundation for all he has done. **Tim Stevens** wants to build hopeful partnerships to help the Tribes with the work they are doing. Mr. Stevens appreciated the history lesson provided by Jordan Thompson; it was a great foundation and eyeopener. They toured the Food Sovereignty building and were impressed. The group toured the location for the future Bison Range Gift Shop & Museum and they think it will provide a great educational experience. **Council** welcomed the group and thanked them for being here. **Chairman McDonald** gave a brief history of Blue Bay. Tom thanked the organizations for giving to tribes; they give him hope. Climate change is a big issue.

Chairman McDonald informed council that he will be attending the U-Cut Conference at Spirit Ridge the last week of September and will attend the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference the week before that.

Clem Lafley requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council met in **executive session**.

Shane Hendrickson, Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent, met with council in **executive session** to discuss a tribal issue.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Shane Hendrickson, Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent; **Ron Swaney** and **C.T. Camel**, Division of Fire; gave an update on local fires. **Mr. Hendrickson** discussed the fire in the Jocko. He followed up on alternatives with the team and there is zero to low confidence they can get anything done with the time and staff that we have. Mr. Hendrickson recommended taking steps for structural protection to protect bridges. A longer term plan assessment needs to be done. **Ron Swaney** reported that there was a fire in Ravalli and a fire on Mercer Lane,

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2023

and those fires are now out. There are smokejumpers on the Holmes Creek fire and they should be coming off there tomorrow. The fire will be secure, but it will not be out. Two of the Division's folks joined them and are auditioning to become smokejumpers. Dickey weather is coming tomorrow through Thursday, which will challenge the Niarada fire and the primary objective of that fire. Ron talked about tribal contracts for equipment; he is navigating through that with the team and there is a meeting in Elmo today to discuss priorities and provide a current list. The information group is gathering information. **C.T. Camel** received a call from Northwest Energy about the Mercer fire and they admitted to starting the fire. It was two acres in the slash. C.T. needs to follow up and get the paperwork completed. The fire is on state property, and just a small tip of it burned on tribal land. C.T. will follow up and report back. We are in extreme fire danger and will remain at stage II fire restrictions until the end of fire season. The South Fork Road and Canal Road are still closed. The Nirada fire has no closures or evacuations. There will be a community meeting at the Elmo Community Center on August 9 at 6:00 p.m. and at the Arlee Community Center on August 10 at 6:00 p.m. Ron ordered a BAER Team to make a preliminary assessment of needs. Shane will transition today with Erin Carey, BLM Agency Administrator. Shane will be off work Wednesday and Thursday, and Erin will cover for him while he is gone. **Bing Matt** heard they are putting in some lines in at Dry Lake and was doing some fire suppression yesterday. Bing also heard some of the Eagle Lakes area burned. Shane does not have any crews there and was not aware of any work being done up there. Ron advised there has been some activity north of Agency Creek. He was not aware of any fire suppression in the area that Bing mentioned. It is a natural process, but it is tough to watch it burn. **Len TwoTeeth** commented usually there is an issue with the contractors getting paid and he wanted to know if the Division of Fire has done anything to ensure they will be paid. Ron responded there has not been payment issues for the past two years and he is not aware of any issues this year. Having a payment team would expedite those payments. The Division of Fire wants all contractors to be paid, but they are at the mercy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on how those payments are processed. **Len TwoTeeth** wants both Elders Committees involved in the restoration planning process. There were comments made in the last year or two where the team established a plan and then presented it to the elders for approval, but the elders want to be involved in the planning process. Ron will follow up on the issues mentioned at this morning's briefing, which includes holding the primitive area is something that Bing Matt supports and wants to see happen; Len TwoTeeth is looking at payments for contract equipment; and Len wants the elders involved in the development of the restoration plan as opposed to the approval of the plan. Chairman McDonald's main concern is the fish. Red Sleep Drive at the Bison Range allows morning tours and it closes for the afternoon. Tom received a call from a sales representative at The Leader wanting to know if we wanted to buy any ads for the stage II fire restrictions. Ron responded Devon usually handles those inquiries.

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

Patricia Hibbeler, Tribal Member Resources; **Patricia Courchane** and **Diane Matt**, Department of Human Resources Development; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss personnel issues. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to waive policy to require a background check and allow the individual to be a personal home caregiver for his elderly mother for the remainder of her care. The waiver is specific to this particular situation only. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Dan Decker, **Melissa Schlichting**, **Zach Zipfel**, **Lynsey Gaudioso**, and **Katie Jones**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Craige Couture**, Law & Order; and **Maylinn Smith**, Tribal Prosecutors Office; were present for discussion.

Dan Decker, **Melissa Schlichting**, **Zach Zipfel**, **Lynsey Gaudioso**, and **Katie Jones**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Seth Makepeace** and **Eric Hull**, Natural Resources Department, were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

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

Kathy Baylor stopped by to say hello to the Tribal Council. She is Hank Baylor's daughter. Kathy owns a parcel of land that she is offering for sale to the Tribes. The offer will be reviewed by the Land Committee.

Kelly Dickenson, Montana Forest Service; **Dan Mckeague**, Deputy Regional Forester; **Tim Garcia**, State-Tribal Forest Director; **Zach Zipfel**, **John Harrison** and **Katie Jones**, Legal Department; **Sadie Stops** and **Thompson Smith**, Salish Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee; **Mike Durglo**, Tribal Preservation Office; and **Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Resources Management; met with council for a government-to-government consultation. **Chairman McDonald** informed the Forest Service that he is deeply concerned about having placenames that are negative. We are offended by the name of Jefferson Davis. The CSKT were partners with the Wilderness Society to change the name for locations with Mr. Davis's name on them. CSKT was on the forefront of getting the placenames changed. The disappointing thing to Tom is that the majority of Montana is our

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2023

ancestral homeland, including all of the forests except past the Tongue River on Yellowstone, and CSKT offered our own Salish placenames but was excluded from the process and any consultations. That was hurtful, especially because CSKT is the Tribe that initiated this. The name Jefferson Davis is offensive to us and Chairman McDonald hopes Region I would consider the name change, regardless of what it is. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe was invited to consultations from the beginning. CSKT wants to address any lack of communication with the Forest Service. The Tribes want the name changed; it should be done all across the landscape. **Kelly Dickenson** did not know the Forest Service was holding up the process with the Board of Geographical Names, and she let the Board know the Forest Service is supportive of the name change. Kelly hopes that will prevent any stalls. The Forest Service wants to prevent any future missteps of not reaching out and consulting with the Tribes on a proper basis. It was not intentional by any means. Working with the Board of Geographical Names is not something Kelly works with regularly, and she apologized for her missteps in handling the matter. **Chairman McDonald** did not see any response or correspondence from the Forest Service and he was frustrated that they were being nonresponsive. It could have been done quicker and better and without conflict between the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and CSKT. Relationship building is a necessary step to properly manage resources and any improvements would be appreciated. **Katie Jones** mentioned their next meeting is set for September 15 and she wanted to know if our petition is on their docket. Kelly did not know, so she will need to follow up and report back. **Tony Incashola, Jr.** wants to follow the same process for consultation since the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe was consulted, but CSKT was not. The map needs to be updated to include all of our aboriginal territories so the Forest Service will know that the CSKT is an interested party in those areas in the future. **Mr. Garcia** informed council that there is enough new leadership in the Region I National Forest Service for them to bring in the supervisors and managers to visit with the Tribal Council and engage in those conversations; it would be a great learning experience for them to understand the relationship with the lands and their responsibilities for stewarding those lands on the Tribes' behalf. Additionally, they have two new staff members to support the Forest Supervisors. Tim will get with the secretary and determine a time that works to get everyone at the table. **Chairman McDonald** would like that meeting to take place as soon as possible. CSKT is interested in the Good Neighbor Agreement. We have a protected interest and want to make sure our rights and access are protected and do not get put to the side. Our subsistence uses of the land need to be in place in perpetuity and not affected. We need to reduce our carbon footprint. **Tony Incashola, Jr.** was interested in a meet-and-greet with all the forest supervisors and managers. He spoke to Heidi to finalize the initial funding agreement. Once it is finalized he will push it all to the table at the same time, and that will happen soon. Kelly thanked the Tribal Council for reaching out and inviting them here for consultation. There have been a lot of changes, and it would be great for everyone to get together for a face-to-face consultation. Kelly

appreciates the partnership with the Tribes.

Len TwoTeeth asked about the funding of \$100,000 that was set aside for the communities. **Chairman McDonald** responded that some of the funding was used for the Dixon Agency. **Terry Pitts** reported the building in Dixon got a refrigerator and a microwave but they have not been hooked up yet, even though they have requested it many times. Jim Malatare provided a meat rack at no charge. Len wants to use that funding to have a playground for the children, more picnic tables, and a basketball court in Elmo. **Mike Dolson** suggested establishing a group in each district to discuss uses of the funding and give the group access to that money to do community improvements. **Jim Malatare** wants a request for funding from Nkwusm considered. **Chairman McDonald** responded that a request needs to be submitted for use of that community funding.

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

John Harrison, Chelsea Colwyn and **Lynsey Gaudio**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

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

Dan Decker, Michael Wheeler, John Harrison, Brian Upton, and **Katie Jones**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 4:32 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary