

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

Volume 23 Number 70
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: August 17, 2023
Approved: August 22, 2023

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jableau Arlee, Tribal Council Support; 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 Chairman McDonald.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for August 15, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, 8 for; 2 abstentions (Jim Malatare and Jennifer Finley).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Michelle Mitchell, Kristin TwoTeeth and Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department, informed council that the department had submitted an agenda request to have the Flathead Youth Council meet with the council today at 1:30 p.m., and Michelle asked if she could have that time slot. **Council** agreed to meet with the Flathead Youth Council this afternoon.

Michelle Mitchell, Kristin TwoTeeth and Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department, informed council that Tribal PIR Day is scheduled for September 18, 2023. The department put out an RFP for a videographer and producer for the departments, Tribal Council, and Executive Team. The CSKT 101 course will be provided by the Flathead Youth Council. The Tribal Council members will be

contacted by the videographer to do an interview to talk about what it means to be a Tribal Council representative.

Michelle Mitchell, Kristen TwoTeeth and **Miranda Burland**, Tribal Education Department, requested approval of the 2023-2024 Tribal Consultation Plan and a resolution supporting the efforts of the Tribal Education Department through tribal consultation with Flathead Reservation local education agencies, consistent with the purposes outlined in the resolution.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the Tribal Consultation Plan for 2023-2024 and resolution supporting the efforts of the Tribal Education Department through tribal consultation with Flathead Reservation local education agencies, consistent with the purposes outlined in the resolution. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 1 abstention (Mike Dolson).

RESOLUTION 23-144

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THROUGH TRIBAL CONSULTATION WITH FLATHEAD RESERVATION LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES, CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THIS RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes believes that Native students should have an opportunity for an inclusive understanding of self through their tribal identity, language, traditional teaching, cultural practices, and healing; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) support an inclusive educational approach that reaffirms our traditional ways of living centered in our oral traditions and values. We support the CSKT Tribal Education Department (TED) in engaging in Tribal Consultation with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on and near the Flathead Indian Reservation as the appropriate representative department for this consultation; and

WHEREAS, TED maintains consistent efforts in consultation with the all stakeholders but especially Knowledge Keepers in our Tribal Communities while seeking guidance on issues regarding student identity, mental health through culture, and value teachings through traditional methods of knowledge transfers maintained since time immemorial; and shall adhere to the 23 - 24 Education Tribal Consultation Plan; and

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2023

WHEREAS, TED shall work directly with the LEAs as approved by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, as directed. Upon agreement by TED and each LEA, the TED Department Head shall be granted signatory authority to confirm this year's Tribal Consultation verification forms 1 and 2; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, desires to support the efforts of TED and LEAs while providing direction through consistent consultation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, hereby supports the efforts of the Tribal Education Department and the Local Education Agencies to support our tribal youth/students, consistent with the purposes outlined in this Resolution.

Thomas “Sonny” Lozeau read a letter from Thomas Lozeau III thanking the Tribal Council for helping the family in their time of need and sharing information regarding his court case, Civil Rights, Public Law 280, the Department of Corrections, and the State of Montana. **Council** thanked Sonny for sharing the letter with them.

Thomas Krouch requested assistance due to his home burning down in Evaro last winter. He needs help with the cleanup and water. The fire truck could not get up to his place and he ended up losing everything. Mr. Krouch did not have any homeowner's insurance. **Jim Malatara** would like to provide any assistance possible. That road is treacherous in the winter and some of the homeowners cannot even access their homes. **Len TwoTeeth** would like to get the necessary equipment up there to get the place cleaned up. **George Ducharme**, Tribal Lands Department, advised the department could provide assistance. **Terry Pitts** commented there has been talk in the past about having loads of sand brought into those places and it would be nice for those folks to have access to gravel or sand since it is difficult for them to get up in that area.

Clarence Lafley returned to council to follow up on his previous discussion with them regarding what occurred when he was arrested. He has a flash drive with information for the council to look at. There are no issues or lawsuits pending. Everything got dismissed so there is nothing he can do. Mr. Lafley's case was dismissed because he does not know how the system works and he missed a deadline. **Len TwoTeeth** told Mr. Lafley to submit an offer for settlement in writing so they could take it under advisement. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Dan Decker, Legal Department, met with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Seth Makepeace, Natural Resources Department; **Katie McDonald** and **Yamn Gavillot**, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology; discussed a request from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology for a five-year collection permit to update existing baseline geological maps on the north half of the reservation. They would provide an annual update to the Natural Resources Department and Tribal Council.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to grant the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology a five-year collection permit to update existing baseline geological maps on the north half of the reservation, on the condition they provide an annual update to the Natural Resources Department and Tribal Council. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Mike Durglo, Preservation Office; **Kyle Bocinsky**, University of Montana Climate Office; requested approval to install PurpleAir monitors at various locations across the reservation to monitor the air quality. The Native Drought Resilience project is a partnership between the CSKT, Salish Kootenai College, University of Montana Climate Office, and the Wilderness Society.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the installation of PurpleAir monitors at various locations across the reservation to monitor the air quality. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Jeanne West, Mission Valley Power; **Teresa Wall-McDonald**, **Gordon Fyant**, **Cindy Benson**, and **Michael McKee**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board; gave an overview of proposed changes to the Operations Manual and Fee Schedule. The recommended changes are: (1) charge for the service fee for when customers pay their utility bill with a credit card (cost recovery); (2) charge actual costs when utility personnel are dispatched for reconnects and at customer request (cost recovery); (3) eliminate the \$500.00 aid to construction credit to new customers as other utilities have done which ensure that new customers pay their costs instead of present customers subsidizing new customers; and (4) place a time frame on new customer and line extension cost estimates of two weeks as supply issues and materials costs are so volatile (cost recovery and sound business principles). The Consumer Council will hold a public meeting on August 24, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The deadline to submit written comments is September 1. On September 18 the Consumer Council will issue written recommendations and decision record on the proposed changes, and September 19 or 21 the Utility Board will inform the utility contractor of the changes. There was discussion about the amount of late fees DHRD pays for clients. There will be a meeting scheduled to discuss the LIHEAP program. The Utility Board will follow up on budget billing. It may be beneficial to enter into a mutual aid agreement where utilities can share resources.

Martin Charlo informed council that the Lake County Centennial Celebration is scheduled for August 19, 2023.

Martin Charlo informed council there is a democratic gathering in Helena on Sunday. Shane Morigeau sent out the invite and the council members can contact Shane if they are interested in attending.

Tony Incashola, Jr., Tribal Member Resources; **Sonya Germann, Katie Stevens, Marcia Pablo, Amanda James, Lindsey Babcock,** and **Erin Carey**, Bureau of Land Management; discussed an agreement for the Tribes to be co-stewards of Bureau of Land Management lands in western Montana. BLM wants to develop a strategy to engage the CSKT in co-stewardship of BLM lands to help incorporate indigenous knowledge into a management framework to ensure that tribal values and perspectives are present to guide the public's experience of the lands that have shared interest in conserving.

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

Ellie Bundy, Carole Lankford, and **Mike Dolson** out of the room.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department; **Ezra FastHorse, Angeleah Sheridan, Saisha North Piegan, Brandi Bigby, Saanjay SmallBoy, Keithetta Quequesah,** and **Paisley Couture**, Flathead Youth Council; met with the council. They raised \$1,000 from a fundraiser. The money will be used for future events. They helped with a back-to-school event in Arlee. They will be having a 50/50 drawing to raise funds for the Seventh Generation Pow Wow. The Youth Council had an Elder Cleanup Day. **Len TwoTeeth** would like the Youth Council to meet with the council on a regular basis. He encouraged them to meet with the youth in the communities to find out what the needs are. Len suggested having the Tribes fund this group for their activities. **Council** appreciated the efforts of the Youth Council and took a group photo with them.

Council **adjourned** at 1:50 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary