

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

Volume 23 Number 73
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: August 29, 2023
Approved: August 31, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Malatare (Personal Time Off); and Terry Pitts (Personal Time Off).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Tribal Council Support; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:06 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Mike Dolson.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for August 24, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for August 24, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Ellie Bundy).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Mary Whitsett met with council to discuss various topics. She lives in Hot Springs and is a nontribal member. Mary’s children attended school in Ronan and she went to Salish Kootenai College. She wanted to give council a report from the west end of the reservation and what she is seeing both on and off the reservation. Mary calls nonmembers immigrants and the people coming to our borders she calls refugees. She does freelance anthropological excursions. There are people that have the means to buy whatever land that is for sale. There is a threat to habitat. Mary learned about wetlands while she was in college. Mary appreciates everything the Tribes do.

James Taylor informed council Bob Stahl used to work for the Tribal Court as a Law Clerk, but he had to resign to care for his wife. Bob passed away in May. Mr. Taylor handed out a copy of Bob's obituary. Bob wanted the tribal council to know that the work he did at CSKT was the most important work he did in his career and he appreciated working for the Tribes and tribal people.

Louis Fiddler, Law & Order, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

C.T. Camel, Division of Fire, gave an update on local fires. The crews are doing the rehab on the Niarada and Little Ridge fires. The Division of Fire will take over the Big Knife fire at 6:00 a.m., and Robert Bernie will be the Incident Commander. **Chairman McDonald** asked if there have been any charges filed for the Communications Butte fire. C.T. responded not yet. Tom wanted to know the status of the River Road East fire. C.T. advised there were 670 acres on the reservation. **Len TwoTeeth** mentioned a tribal parcel on the reservation boundary that had a cabin and he wanted to know if the cabin survived the fire at McLaughlin Creek. C.T. was not aware of any structures. **Bing Matt** went to the South Fork and drove around. There were a lot of spots smoldering and stumps here and there burning, but there were no large fires up there. He asked if the crews would be going up there and putting out those spots that are burning. C.T. responded that the Incident Commander will determine next steps.

Chairman McDonald presented for consideration a resolution for tribal council board positions.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the resolution for tribal council board positions. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 23-148

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is entrusted with the responsibility to protect Tribal property, wildlife and natural resources, and the health, security and general welfare of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has chartered, or otherwise created, a number of organizations with respective boards of directors for whom the Council appoints

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2023

the board members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council seeks to support these boards in order to maximize their abilities to effectively lead and guide their respective organizations; and

WHEREAS, individuals who have never previously served on a board of directors or equivalent body sometimes serve on boards appointed by the Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, training can provide constructive and current information for all members of boards of directors; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes that providing training for board members is an important form of support; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is committed to providing board member training for all of the boards of entities created by the Tribal Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Tribal Council will require and provide training for all members of boards of directors for entities created, chartered, or overseen, by the Tribal Council.

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

Council met in **executive session** to conduct an interview for the Chief Justice vacancy. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for the interview.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Jennifer Finley to appoint Kelly McDonald to fill the Chief Justice vacancy for a four-year term. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Jordan Thompson, Tribal Executive Office; and **Dana Hewankorn**, Food Sovereignty Program; gave an update on the program and priorities moving forward. Headwaters provides the foundation for the program and base funding for 4.5 full-time employees, emergency hire workers for distribution, and 2 support contractors. The program serves 200 elders soup twice a week. The program received funding from the NDN Collective grant, which funds the local food specialist. The First Nations Gather grant provides funding for educational efforts, such as huckleberry gathering. The program received \$200,000 from the USDA Local Food Purchase Agreement grant and \$910,000 from the tribal

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2023

specific grant to be used for purchasing local foods and distributing food boxes. The Elders Soup program is funded by Headwaters, the Garden and Wild Game program is funded by the NDN Collective grant, funding for Education is provided from the First Nations grant, the Food Box distribution is funded by USDA, and the base program (staff and operating) is funded by the Headwaters Foundation. The main focus was on food security during the pandemic. The program's top 3 priorities are: (1) Communications – paradigm shift around healthy foods language; (2) Outreach: provide classes on foraging, preserving foods, and cultural stories and connections with foods; and (3) Gardening – gain traction and include youth. Next steps include a funding request approval and communication to Headwaters regarding the next funding cycle; farm feasibility and development; meeting with the Culture Committees and Elders regarding food sovereignty future, name; and open house next Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Len TwoTeeth** advised the Tribal Lands Department was directed to find a parcel of land to be used for the program and Bison Springs Ranch was a possibility. Len would like the program to have sufficient funding to be sustainable. There is Tiwahe funding that will be available and Carole Lankford suggested that Jordan be included in the planning process. Jordan discussed the base budget for Headwaters, which will be spent by the end of September and he requested approval of the budget. The program has a need for a food-safe HVAC system. **Council** suggested the staff follow up with the Director of Administrative Services to ensure the needed HVAC system is installed at the facility.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Headwaters Foundation budget and accompanying letter. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Dan Decker, Brian Upton, John Harrison, Melissa Schlichting, Zach Zipfel, Chelsea Colwyn, and Lynsey Gaudioso, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 1:03 p.m. to conduct an S&K Bancorporation shareholder meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 1:44 p.m.

Jim Durglo, Germaine White, Ronda Howlett, Felicia Paul, and Linda King, Salish Kootenai College Board of Directors, met with council in **executive session** to give a presentation. **Brian Upton**, Legal Department; and SKC Attorney; were present for discussion.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2023

Council met in **executive session**. **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 4:27 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary