

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

Volume 23 Number 57  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: June 22, 2023  
Approved: June 27, 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:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; 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 Carole Lankford.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for June 20, 2023 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

**Chairman McDonald** talked about the meeting with the County Commissioners regarding Marshall Mountain and potential collaboration. The Salish Pend d’Oreille Elders are taking a fieldtrip to Primm Meadows next Monday morning and Marshall Mountain in the afternoon. Council is invited to go on the fieldtrips and can get the schedule from Tony Incashola, Jr.

**Jennifer Trahan** reminded council that the Salish Kootenai College Board will be meeting with the council at next Monday’s chairman’s meeting. **Jennifer Finley** will be in Oklahoma, but she can attend the meeting via Zoom.

**Chairman McDonald** will be meeting with the Canadian-US Boundary Waters

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Treaty Commissioner tomorrow in preparation for next week's meeting. Next Wednesday Tom and Len will be meeting with the Kootenai Bands in Canada regarding selenium and Elk River.

**Chairman McDonald** will be meeting with a group of about 20 Salish Kootenai College Ag/Natural Resources students tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. The students will be providing a presentation to the council next week.

**Mike Dolson** gave an update on the Progress Act negotiations. There was a meeting with the Progress Act Association Regulations Working Group yesterday. The IV-E right to regulations has been suspended and they are wanting to get an act of congress to extend it. The republican senator placed a hold on the bill that was introduced and they will miss this session if the hold is not lifted. The Sonosky team is trying to get the hold lifted. There will be a work group meeting in July in Washington, DC.

**Sam Barnaby** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

**Jody Perez**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, presented a request from the Natural Resources Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation to purchase capital equipment after the July 1 deadline if the procurement is not completed by the deadline. The Bureau of Indian Affairs awarded \$300,000 for aquatic invasive species and the program will be purchasing a vehicle fleet. The request for capital equipment consists of a 2023 Toyota Highlander Hybrid (\$50,000), a 2023 Toyota Rav-4 Hybrid (\$40,000), and a trailer-mounted commercial wash station (\$11,000).

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to authorize the Natural Resources Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation to purchase capital equipment after the July 1 deadline if the procurement is not completed by the deadline. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Corky Sias**, Quicksilver, requested approval to apply for funding from the Federal Transit Administration in the amount of \$801,845.00, to be used for operating expenses and the purchase of an elevator.

**MOTION** by Terry Pitts to approve by resolution submission of the grant application to the Federal Transit Administration requesting funding in the amount of \$801,845.00, to be used for operating expenses and the purchase of

an elevator. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 23-117**

**RESOLUTION CSKT TRANSIT IS SEEKING APPROVAL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSED COUMENTS TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are committed to seeking resources for children and families as they work toward health lifestyles and stable families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have directed the Department of Human Resource Development to continue efforts to seek resources for the families in need including finding ways to increase transportation opportunities for those who are disabled, elderly, unemployed, lacking reliable vehicles and insurance; and the Tribal Council has asked the Department of Human Resources Development to seek these types of funds for the one stop environment and provide transportation services to those who need it the most; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Human Resources Development (CSKT TRANSIT) is soliciting funding in the amount \$801,845 for Operating FY21 Funds to utilizes CRRSAA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.) Funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus & Rehab/Renovation for the Building/Facilities (Elevator Installation); **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, The Department of Human Resources and Development is requesting approval for funding in the amount of \$801,845 for Operating FY21 funds to utilized CRRSAA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.) Funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus and Building/Facilities and install of Elevator.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes supports the submission of the Tribal Court Improvement program proposal documents and authorizes the Tribal Chair and his designated representative to negotiate and sign all documents and execute this contract on behalf of the Tribes.

**Corky Sias**, Quicksilver, requested approval to apply for ARP funding from the Federal Transit Administration in the amount of \$804,636.00, to be used for operating expenses.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution submission of the grant application to the Federal Transit Administration requesting funding in the amount of \$804,636.00, to be used for operating expenses. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 23-118**

**RESOLUTION CSKT TRANSIT IS SEEKING APPROVAL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSED DOCUMENTS TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are committed to seeking resources for children and families as they work towards healthy lifestyles and stable families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have directed the Department of Human Resource Development to continue efforts to seek resources for the families in need including finding ways to increase transportation opportunities for those who are disabled, elderly, unemployed, lacking reliable vehicles and insurance; and the Tribal Council has asked the Department of Human Resources Development to seek these types of funds for the one stop environment and provide transportation services to those who need it the most; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Human Resources Development (CSKT TRANSIT) is soliciting funding in the amount \$804,636 for one year under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to utilize the (American Rescue Plan) funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus. **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, The Department of Human Resources and Development is requesting approval for funding in the amount of \$804,636 for Operating FY21 funds to utilized (American Rescue Plan) Funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes supports the submission of the Tribal Court Improvement program proposal documents and authorizes the Tribal Chair and his designated

representative to negotiate and sign all documents and execute this contract on behalf of the Tribes.

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Resources Management, requested approval to apply for a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - America the Beautiful Challenge 2023.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve by resolution submission of the grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - America the Beautiful Challenge 2023. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 23-119**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGE 2023**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have been organized to represent, develop, protect and advance the views, interests, resources, and education of its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribes have established Tribal Programs to protect and manage tribal resources, to restore Whitebark pine habitat, manage invasive plant species, engage and educate control measures of invasive plants, promote the management of bison, restore open water conditions, increase productivity of pasture on CSKT bison range, restore culture connection to the land, plant and animals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribes are eligible to receive funds to apply landscape-level projects for conservation and restoration priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal resource management departments including Forestry, Natural resource Department, and Tribal lands Department strives to improve management opportunities on the Flathead Indian Reservation and within the CSKT aboriginal territories; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has funds available under the America the Beautiful Challenge program that will assist CSKT and the Crown of the continent in meeting CSKT management restoration priorities; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes approves the submission of the attached application for funding to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Bio-cultural restoration within the Crown of the Continent.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council Chairman is authorized to negotiate and execute the grant documents and any amendments hereto.

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Resources Management, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Ronnie Jo Horse, Ta'jin Perez, Adam Fisher, and Sami Walking Bear**, Western Native Voice, gave an update. **Dan Decker, John Harrison, Lynsey Gaudio** and **Katie Jones**, Legal Department; **Jordan Thompson** and **Shane Morigeau**, Tribal Executive Office; were present for discussion. Elissa Latray was added to their team and will begin working in her new position on July 5. Ta'jin gave a report on the 2023 legislative session. The Montana constitution was protected. WNV was the plaintiff in some voting rights cases and some favorable decisions came out of the district courts. There is an appeal to the Supreme Court on one of their wins. A number of bills were good for tribes, such as Bill 338 (Indian Education For All), Bill 317 (Montana ICWA), Bills 189 and 163 (MMIP), Bill 648 (Best Beginning Scholarships for Child Care), and some healthcare bills to support rural clinics. There were some bills that are not good for tribes, as well, such as Bill 141 to create Indigenous Peoples Day did not pass, and Bill 117 prevents certain funds to be used for elections. There may be some litigation on that. WNV will be starting a community tour on July 13 and will be stopping by CSKT communities. They will be in Ronan on August 14 at 3:00 p.m. and at SKC at 6:00 p.m.; St. Ignatius on August 15 at 12:00 p.m. and Arlee at 3:00 p.m. Food will be provided and legislators will be invited to the event. They are looking for locations for the events. Carole Lankford suggested they contact the Ronan Boys & Girls Club for a possible location, and Chairman McDonald suggested that they check with Jennifer Trahan to see if any tribal buildings are available those dates. WNV will be looking at federal policy to provide another arena for our members to be engaged and add value to tribes by having an additional voice on issues and leveraging our membership. WNV reaches around 5,000 folks via email on a regular basis. They are looking at ways to reintroduce the Native American Voting Rights Act bill. There are a number of bills WNV is monitoring. WNV will be offering a volunteer training. Western Native Voice would like to support CSKT's Get Out The Vote efforts.

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**Bing Matt** presented a request for the Arlee Pow Wow Committee members Carlin Matt, Josh Decker, Amanda Decker, John Hammer, Lena Tewawina, and Quenell Matt for a change of duty, with supervisor approval, from June 27 – July 5.

**MOTION** by Jennifer Finley to grant a change of duty, with supervisor approval, for Arlee Pow Wow Committee members Carlin Matt, Josh Decker, Amanda Decker, John Hammer, Lena Tewawina, and Quenell Matt from June 27 – July 5. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Chairman McDonald** suggested getting the list of names for the Standing Arrow Committee members so they can get a change of duty. **Martin Charlo** requested that Facilities Maintenance have staff on call during the powwows. **Chairman McDonald** will follow up to have Maintenance provide a phone number.

**Jim Malatare** was at the Jocko Cemetery yesterday and they are doing research in the southwest corner to see if there are any graves there. There is nothing marked there. The data they collected will be sent to SKC. He commended Ron Matt for mowing that area and it looks good. They need a storage shed to house the lawnmower. The Tribal Lands Department said they have one for them but Ron has not heard back. Ron uses his own fuel and spends his own time taking care of the cemetery and is not receiving any type of support. Jim wants an update from the Lands Department. **Martin Charlo** does not understand why there are no paid caretakers on the south end. **Brad McCrea** and **Willie Birthmark**, Tribal Lands Department, joined the meeting and said it has been with Property & Supply. The department ordered some equipment. The department does what they can to support them. The staff maintains and mows the cemeteries but were told not to mow the Elmo cemetery. **Chairman McDonald** requested a list of the cemeteries maintained by the Lands Department.

\*\*\*\*\* **Lunch** \*\*\*\*\*

**Greg Spahr**, Financial Management; **Alex Mercer**, **Christopher Bitakis** and **Jonathan Rothweiler**, REDW; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to review the fiscal year 2022 audit report.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**JR Bluff**, Kalispel Tribe, gifted the Tribes with a bench as a token of appreciation for all the support CSKT has given to the Salish Language Conference. The bench was made at the Kalispel Training Center. **Council** thanked JR for the bench and commended the Kalispel Tribe for hosting such a great conference. The council plans to continue supporting the conference in the future.

**Carole Lankford** left the meeting for the remainder of the day to go to Drug Court.

**Teresa Wall-McDonald** and **Dan Depoe**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board, met with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Cory Clairmont** and **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, joined the discussion. **Zachary Camel** joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Jim Malatare to accept the results of the verbal polling and offer the Mission Valley Power General Manager position to Zachary Conko Camel at the stated terms. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt – was not present for interviews).

Council **adjourned** at 3:17 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary