

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

Volume 23 Number 58
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: June 27, 2023
Approved: July 11, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Dolson (Self-Governance Meeting – Tulsa, Oklahoma); and Jennifer Finley (Self-Governance Meeting – Tulsa, Oklahoma).

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 9:09 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for June 22, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for June 22, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Chairman McDonald informed council that there were three vacancies for S&K Business Services Board of Directors that were advertised and the only two applicants are incumbents. Tom recommended appointing John Wheeler and Rich Janssen to fill two vacancies and readvertise the remaining vacancy.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to appoint John Wheeler and Rich Janssen to the S&K Business Services Board of Directors and readvertise the remaining vacancy. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Chairman McDonald informed council the lake level announcements went out due to the supreme drought we are experiencing, so the lake levels will begin to drop and unless there is some significant rainfall it will be down by 1.5 feet by the end of July. There is potential for how they manage Hungry Horse Reservoir and the releases out of there can benefit instream flow at SKQ Dam and have a secondary benefit of pool elevation. The primary concern is if temperatures get hot we have instream flows. EKI will give a presentation to the Flathead Lakers. Tom spoke to the retired Flathead Lakers Board Chairman and there are some different strategies we can discuss in-house with legal staff.

Council discussed the quarterly meeting agenda, which will be roll call, flag song, elders speak, council updates, names of recently retired employees, open floor for the membership, and a closing prayer at 10:30 a.m. Chairman McDonald requested snacks be provided. Jim Malatare asked who the drum group will be. Willie Stevens wants to use the Two Eagle Drum. Jennifer Trahan responded the Veterans Brothers Drum Group will be used for the July quarterly, so she can schedule the Two Eagle Drum Group for the October quarterly meeting.

Martin Charlo informed council that the SQCC Elders went on a fieldtrip to Marshall Mountain and Primm Meadows. Martin, Jim and Bing met with the group in Bonner. The Missoula County Commissioners, the Mayor of Missoula, Five Valley Land Trust, and the Culture Committee Elders were there. It was nice to work with Missoula County and having the elders looped in the process early on. **Bing Matt** said the elders were not informed about what the trip was about so there was some confusion. When there was discussion regarding Marshall Mountain, the elders did not know what was going on and said they would go back and talk about it. Someone needs to inform them what's going on with it because they are lost on this issue. **Jim Malatare** commented the elders did not have any questions so they will need to think about what they want to do with that site. It was a beautiful place. The staff did a great job with their presentation. **Chairman McDonald** mentioned it was never presented to the Elders Committee. The intent for the Marshall Mountain fieldtrip was for the council to go see that location and the elders were included in the fieldtrip. He can have Tony do some follow up and get the elders involved. We can look at having signage there. **Martin Charlo** stated the first thing Tony advocated for was what the area is; the City of Missoula are doing a lot of programming up there. They have kid camps and child care up with programming attached to it and they wanted to have us tell our story. It is nice to have that collaboration and opportunity to allow us to do what we have been doing forever and allow us to showcase that. Thompson Smith talked about the area and placenames. Shane Hendrickson went on the trip and he has extensive knowledge about that site. **Tony Incashola, Jr.** gave an update on the fieldtrip. They have tried to get the elders group to Primm Meadows since before the pandemic so it was a good

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023

opportunity to get them there. The intent is to start reconnecting and get an update on what happened in prior years and what we want to do with that land moving forward. Some of the elders have never experienced that area because of the exclusion of our traditions for centuries. It was an introduction of the history, the partnerships we have with BLM, and discussions moving forward and working with TNC acquiring the land back. It was an experience to get the elders back on the land and reconnecting and thinking of ideas what we can do with this parcel of land as a tribe. The second trip was Marshall Mountain. The commissioners met with the tribal council a couple weeks ago about doing a co-management or inclusion of CSKT in the Marshall Mountain recreation area as they purchase it and turn it into public use. He is trying to be more proactive by including the elders in the processes before any decisions are made. They were included just as an introduction to the area and trying to introduce them to the commissioners and city staff and let them know this is coming and we will be part of the planning decision moving forward. Once we get planning documents Tony or staff will go to the elders and bring them up to speed on the first steps of the plan and get their input and guidance.

Chairman McDonald mentioned he sent an email to Tony and Lisa. He wants to make sure we have contact information for the pow wow committee. Maintenance needs to have their contact information available to be there 24/7 in case there is a need. Tony will follow up with Lisa and provide the names and numbers to the committee.

Terry Pitts talked about the costs for age restoration, costs, and insurance for Marshall Mountain. There is a strong liability for that place; it has been there for a long time. There needs to be some restoration to get it up to servicing people at that lodge and it will be costly. Tony spoke to the caretaker and Morgan said the main lodge is in bad shape. The smaller facility is down below and seems to be in working order; they are using it so they must have remodeled it or did some work. He was not sure of the plans for the structures moving forward. We need to know what will make it usable if we proceed in that direction.

Whisper Camel-Means, Les Evarts, Kari Kingery, and Dan McClure, Natural Resources Department, presented a request from Dr. Jeffrey Mauk, USGS, for a collection permit to continue their geological survey and ground truthing at the Bison Range July 18 – 21, 2023. The mapping of the rock formations were not correct, so USGS will be looking at the fault lines and remapping. Conflict with wildlife is the biggest concern when people do projects, so the department tries to keep that at a minimum. They will work in pairs and tribal staff will accompany them. They would be required to leave the area if there are any concerns. USGS will provide a presentation of their findings and data when they are done with the project.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to grant the USGS a collection permit to

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023

continue their geological survey and ground truthing at the Bison Range July 18 – 21, 2023. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, abstention (Terry Pitts – would like them to come in prior to update the council).

Chairman McDonald asked Whisper to have USGS provide a report to the tribal council.

Whisper Camel-Means, Les Evarts, Kari Kingery, and Dan McClure, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of the updated 2023-2024 Nonmember Bird Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Regulations. Once approved by the council, the regulations will be forwarded to the Fish & Wildlife Board for approval. There was discussion about the need for individuals to be bear aware. Tom and Len were opposed to including the regulation to allow nonmembers to carry firearms (pistol) in the tribal wilderness area. Tom would prefer having a regulation to require recreationalists to carry bear spray instead of allowing them to carry a firearm. It was the **consensus** of council to not move the recommendation forward to allow pistols. The next proposed change was restricting the use of motorized boats from March 15 to June 30 to protect nesting birds and wildlife. The reconciliation would be for tribal members and nontribal members. Council had no concerns about the proposed change. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward. The next changes were for the fishing regulations and possession limits. Fish not specifically listed could be taken without any limits. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward. A change was proposed for the exemptions to standard fishing and limits for the Jocko Draining. The South Fork Primitive Area is closed to nonmembers. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward. Proposed changes to recreation regulations. There would be a seasonal closure at Lake Cave in Jette area during bat season from November 1 to April 1. Section X would be added to protect bats. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward. The next proposed change was to add American Bull Frog to hunting regulations. It's a new section under the hunting/tapping section. They may be legally taken day or night by hook/line or hand. Any other method of taking is prohibited. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward. There is a proposed change to add language about dogs in Kicking Horse Reservoir to say posted fish, habitat and conservation areas must be on leash. Fish conservation areas would be added to protect nesting birds March 1 to August 31. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward. Carole Lankford was concerned about the number of turtles killed on the highway and asked if there could be some signage. Whisper was concerned about posting any signage regarding turtles because stopping on Highway 93 is too dangerous. She would rather the department build tunnels for turtles instead of having drivers stop on the highway. The department received some grant funding

and plans to have turtle crossings after the top of Post Creek Hill. CSKT did not receive the full funding requested, so the project is proposed for the Post Creek Bridge and up the hill. The staff is working on a grant application to have a wildlife structure crossing that includes the overpass north of Eagle Pass Trail. The final proposed change is to prohibit vehicles allowed on mitigation properties. There would be a parking area by the railroad tracks with a fence and gate to encourage walk-in use only to the property. The area would be gated so administrative use could still occur. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward. It was the **consensus** of council to go along with the recommendation to move the regulation forward.

Jordan Thompson, Andrea Adams and **Dana Hewankorn**, Food Sovereignty, gave an update on the grant funding. Headwaters gives them the base funding and funds 4 FTE positions and 4 emergency hire positions. Summer Youth funds 7 summer workers. The soup distribution has been popular for elders. The NDN Collective grant pays for community gardening network and pays for Andrea's salary. They have 8 gardens throughout the reservation (Elmo, KHJCC, Arlee, St. Ignatius, Hot Springs, Ronan, Green House North, and SKC). Len asked about capital equipment and if they have company vehicles or freezers. Dana has a box truck and she requested a GSA van. There's a need for capital equipment. Len asked her to send council the list of capital equipment needs. Dana said they need more volunteers; they do not have many tribal participants. Carole suggested they reach out to the Drug Court or give her the information and she make the referrals. Dana wants a bus to go to housing units to pick out the food they want to eat. The NDN Collective Grant funding was used to hire Andrea Adams, who is in charge of the gardens, the wild game, and traditional foods. The program wants to educate people to get involved in their food systems. The Lands Department is putting in their fences in tribal lots that have the gardens. That saved the program a lot of money. Chairman McDonald asked Dana if she bid on the old Head Start buses. Dana inquired about the buses but never heard back on them. DHRD told her they had a bus so she will follow up on that. Dana will follow up on the old buses with Property & Supply. The First Nations Gather Grant will provide educational opportunities that will include traditional meat education. They will have a meat social and bring in people to share their knowledge so people can get back to the ways we used to do things. The program partnered with Mission West on the USDA LEPA Assistance Grant. The grant provided funding for the food distribution. Food boxes were distributed to 1,200 boxes to tribal members in 8 different communities. They did not give out gift cards this time. Dana wants to move away from the gift cards since that is not the intent of food sovereignty. The food boxes contained cheese, eggs, local beef, and produce. There will be another distribution in September 2023 and January 2024. They applied for a second LEPA application for \$1.2 million that's specific to CSKT.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023

The program is looking into other funding opportunities and hopes to include language in the food production. Tom would like more inclusion of fruit. Len thanked them for all they do; the food boxes help tribal member families in need. There has been low tribal member participation. Dana talked about approving the Garden For Life Network participants to be eligible for physical fitness leave. Martin Charlo suggested changing the physical fitness leave to health leave to allow employees to work in the community gardens. Tom thought allowing employees to tend to the gardens would be a great idea; it's a mental and physical reward and he encourages them to do that. Martin wants each department to adopt a row. It could be a place with fruit trees and flowers in the gardens. The Defenders program could help people with good behavior that are on probation to work in the gardens. Many employees sit all day under fluorescent lighting and it would be nice to let them tend to the garden during the day so they can get outside and in the sunlight. There will be an open house at KHJCC in August or September and Jordan will keep council updated on the details. Terry Pitts talked about the challenge of having cooking classes for students all summer in Dixon. They don't have a stove or a vent. They have a microwave that needs a vent but they have no vent. They also need a freezer. Jimmy Malatare is building a dry rack and needs to have a place after it's ready. Terry got approval to have a community landline phone there, but they need the wiring for the jack to install the phone. Dana has someone under contract so she will have him go look at it and see what can be done.

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

Brian Upton, John Harrison, and Lynsey Gaudioso, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **recessed** the regular meeting to attend the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority annual meeting and luncheon.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting.

Mike Dolson left the meeting for the remainder of the day to go on travel status.

Carole Lankford out of the room.

Ruth Swaney, Financial Management, presented a request to correct her previous request to purchase capital equipment for the AIS program. Ruth had received approval for two vehicles and it needs to be 4 vehicles. The program will be purchasing 1 Highlander and 3 RAV-4s.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to authorize the purchase of capital equipment consisting of 1 Highlander and 3 RAV-4s. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Carole Lankford out of the room).

Jennifer Trahan presented a request from Katrina Stevens to get 60 hours of leave sharing this pay period.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to waive policy and allow Katrina Stevens to have 60 hours of leave sharing this pay period. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Carole Lankford out of the room).

Rene Dubay, representing Virgil Dupuis, SKC Extension Department's USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection (APHIS) Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Program; **Daniel LaFreniere**; and **Students**; gave a presentation on the Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Program. The camp was held at Blue Bay and 18 students participated. There are 6 tribal colleges funded by the Animal Plants Health Inspection Service. Daniella Hoskinson and Beverly Wilds gave a presentation on animal welfare including bear cowboy, Chronic Wasting Disease, and Animal Plants Health Inspection Service. The five different animal welfare checks are food and water, natural habitat, shelter, mental wellbeing, and medicine. They learned about Climate Change. It is predicted the glacier will be gone by 2030. Five things that cause climate change is manufacturing goods, cutting down forest, using transportation, producing food, powering buildings. Saisha North Piegan, Annie Adams, and Arryana Means gave a presentation on what they learned to be bear aware. The tools are critter getter, bear spray, bear proof trash cans, ear resistant food containers, bear bells, and rubber bullets. The basic knowledge they learned is don't feed bears, keep food and garbage secured, be loud and noisy, do not leave windows cracked open, and don't run if approached.

Chrome Louie and Lita Bourdon gave a presentation on what they learned about natural resources. They learned tribal departments/programs and people's efforts on protecting and reproducing natural resources; lands on the reservation, such as how the bison were first brought back and established on the reservation; agriculture on the reservation is why the white bark pine is endangered and why we need it, and planting like our ancestors did; water on the reservation is the introduction of invasive species to Flathead Lake, pollution of streams from mining operations in Canada, and the redirection of water to create wetlands. Darius Yellowhorn, Clayvid Pierre, and LaSean Big Day gave a presentation on what they learned about SKQ Dam. The dam's main purpose was to control and prevent floods and produce hydroelectric power and is the only dam owned by a tribe in the US. The project provided benefits such as forest conservation and public recreational uses. The dam was named after Frank Kerr which was the present of the Montana Power Company at that time. During the

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023

time of when it was being built most tribal people who lived on the outside of the reservation were forced to relocate on the reservation. The dam was built from 1947-1952.

Skylar Sias, Mitchell Kauley, and Dennis Juneau gave a presentation on what they learned about careers. The careers they learned about were a Game Warden, APHIS, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and Reforestation Specialist. Game Wardens protect humans, animals and natural resources; APHIS administers the Animal Welfare Act, safeguards the health of American agriculture and natural resources, and promotes the coexistence of people and wildlife; the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer is federally recognized and is appointed by an Indian tribe to oversee National Park Service-approved programs; and the Reforestation Specialist's mission is to promote perpetually productive ecosystems for future generations in accordance with the goals of CSKT. Heaven Diaz-Morigeau and Kamiah Pretty on Top gave a presentation on what they learned about cultural history. They learned the Tribes were seen as vulnerable and were taken advantage of on multiple occasions. Native peoples were deeply connected to nature and animals. Whatever happens to you, happens to me. The importance they learned about was preventing future problems and repetition, who we are, origins of the food we eat and how, remembrance of all the sacrifices made and lives lost, and acts as a bridge.

Josh Hoskinson, Jesse Hoskinson, and Jeff Tougas gave a presentation on Safeguarding Natural Heritage. ShiNasha gave them a presentation on white bark pine and they learned keystone species for filtration, are prone to blister rust, and there are occupations to conserve white bark pine. They received a native climate presentation by Maureen McCarthy, research professor of Environmental Science. They knew climate was getting warmer and greenhouse gases are the main cause and humans are primarily responsible. They learned with more hot days there'll be a few good things like increased growing seasons; however, there will be less snowfall leading to less runoff which increases the number of droughts and more fires. The western US is reliant on snowpack for water. Future uses/applications from the native climate presentation we were reminded to stay mindful of our carbon footprint and to not take our current state for granted. Gary Adams, APHIS, gave them a presentation. Invasive species can be detrimental and can throw off the balance of any ecosystem. There is insane amounts of money and resources spent just to try to reverse the damage. They learned APHIS helps combat plant diseases/invasive species and helps keep them out of the US. They are researching ways to combat invasive species like using weevils to combat invasive knapweed. Future uses/applications with this knowledge we can better understand how to prevent the spread of invasive species. Payton Adams and Paden Alexander, Wildlife Biologists, gave presentation. They know wildlife biologist help to conserve wildlife and Payton had presented before as a game warden. Wildlife biologist monitor/manage population on a regular basis. They learned about bear control, trumpeter swan

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023

releases, wolverine monitoring, bighorn sheep monitoring, and CWD, and how to prevent bear problems with things as simple as property disposal and various ways to deter them. We can prevent bears from coming into our neighborhoods and possibly causing damage.

They gave a presentation on what they learned about groundwater. Everyone relies on aquifers. If used irresponsibly they can be completely drained. They can be polluted easily by improper disposal of chemicals. Contaminated groundwater can seep to other places and contaminate things like wells and water bodies. Contaminated groundwater can be absorbed into the plans and harm people and animals. With this information we can help detect/prevent the pollution of groundwater in our community. They gave a presentation on what they learned about water quality. The water in our area is significantly cleaner than water in many other places. Everyone relies on water on a daily basis for a vast number of things. They learned turbidity (clarity of water), oxygen levels and key indicator species are signs of a healthy water body. Nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer can lead to overgrowth of algae in water. Wetlands play a huge role in filtration of our water by plants absorbing the nutrients. Future uses/applications are we can monitor local sources of water and see how human interaction, good or bad, affects the hydrosphere like construction and conservation as a few examples. They went to Flathead Lake Biological Station. The FLBS monitors Flathead Lake and students go there to learn about hydrology. They learned invasive Mysis shrimp completed with native salmon while being a stable food source for lake trout leading to extinction of the native salmon. The lake completely cycles its water approximately two and a half years along with low nutrients helping it to be very clear throughout the year. They learned how to use different tools to monitor the lake's purity, temperature, capture macroinvertebrates, and turbidity. Future uses and applications are we can monitor the bodies of water for ourselves, can go to the biological stations to study through the UM and can work there to help preserve/study Flathead Lake.

Council **adjourned** at 3:44 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Friday, July 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., for the quarterly council meeting.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary