

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

Volume 23 Number 49
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 23, 2023
Approved: May 25, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Finley (Death of a Family Member).

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 9:00 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Stephen Smallsalmon.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 16, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Chairman McDonald reminded council that the Yellowstone Bison Hunt Managers meeting is tomorrow at the Double Tree in Missoula from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All council members are invited to attend.

Jamie Stevenson, Brandy Bigby and **Sean Trahan**, Two Eagle River School, gave a presentation on their community-based research project that will be presented to the community. Community issues were discussed and the students did research on the question what issues native students have and encounter in public schools. Students, parents and staff were surveyed. The reasons students attend TERS is because of the community, culture,

curriculum, family legacy, and discrimination at other schools. **Council** thanked the students for the presentation and commended them for a job well done.

Stephen Smallsalmon requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Melinda Charlo, Indian Preference Office, requested approval of a Project Specific Agreement between CSKT and Montana Department of Transportation for a project named SF 169 South of Pablo Safety Improvement. The work involves rebuilding the 4-leg existing intersection of US 93 and Old Highway 93 into a Restricted Crossing U-Turn intersection. This PSA is specific to the preconstruction consultant contract work only which includes site investigation for the design of the preconstruction highway project. Examples of the work are surveying, geotechnical exploration, wetland delineation, utility mapping and other field work and project meetings.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Project Specific Agreement between CSKT and Montana Department of Transportation for the SF 169 South of Pablo Safety Improvement project. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department; **Ben Davis**, Friends of the Children; **Nicole Callahan**, Social Services; and **Jon Gustafson**, Cherry Valley School; requested approval for CSKT Tribal Education, CSKT Tribal Social Services, CSKT ECS, together with Polson School District, to partner with Friends of the Children to start an Indigenous chapter beginning next school year in Polson. Friends of the Children is a national nonprofit organization that selects and invites youth, all of whom have unique talents, interests and dreams, and face multiple systemic obstacles, to be paired with a paid, professional mentor called a Friend. They hire and train Friends to support our youth from as early as age 4 through high school graduation and 12+ years. The pilot program will begin in Polson and serve children between the ages of 4-6. Social Services has 181 children in care and 41 fall within the 4-6 age range. There are 16 children enrolled in the Missoula mentor program. **Terry Pitts** talked about having parent advocates to check in with children when they miss school. **Mr. Gustafson** informed council the school district has an improvement committee that worked on the bond for the Polson Public School, and the bond passed. Family engagement will be its next focus.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to authorize CSKT Tribal Education, CSKT Tribal Social Services, CSKT ECS, together with Polson School District, to partner with Friends of the Children to start an Indigenous chapter beginning

next school year in Polson. Seconded by Terry Pitts. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 23-096

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE CSKT TRIBAL EDUCATION, CSKT TRIBAL SOCIAL SERVICES, CSKT TRIBAL ECS, POLSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR YOUTH, CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THIS RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, Tribal Education, Social Services, ECS, Polson Schools and Friends of the Children believe that Indigenous students should have an opportunity for a supportive adult to engage with them throughout their entire academic career to help strengthen their understanding of self through identity, language, cultural practices, community building and healing; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes support an inclusive educational approach that reaffirms our traditional ways of living centered in our oral traditions and values. We support the TRRU in facilitating connections with our elders to support land-based tribal knowledge and traditions to improve educational outcomes for tribal students in our Polson School district.

WHEREAS, Friends of the Children maintains consistent efforts in consultation with the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes 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

WHEREAS, Friends of the Children seeks guidance to support a foundational approach to incorporate the teachings of land-based understandings and holistic intrinsic skill building of our tribal students to teach self-efficacy and inherent understandings, and create an environment of inclusive self-actualization for our students; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Children shall work directly with the people of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and Polson School district as directed. The approval will be sought from these entities as guidance toward youth impact and preparation as we seek additional opportunities to equip the child to make decisions with their own best interest; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, hereby supports the efforts of the Friends of the Children to support tribal students consistent with the purposes outlined in this Resolution.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department, requested approval to apply for a SAMHSA grant. CSKT has not applied for or been awarded a grant under the "Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for States" in the past but through a partnership with local reservation schools and CSKT Tribal Health/Behavioral Health they hope to change that. Tribal Education has previously received a STEP grant from 2014 - 2019 and would like to continue this important work. Both Dixon district and OPI have agreed to partner on this project. Michelle wants to do a build your own for Project Aware in the future.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve by resolution submission of an application to apply for the SAMHSA grant. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 23-097

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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

WHEREAS, The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has published a request for proposals under the FY 2023 Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for States Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department is the authorized Tribal Education Agency of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department, on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, desires to help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of state and community substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion services by implementing evidence-based programs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration be requested to make available a grant, pursuant to the terms of the request for proposal, to the Tribal Education Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Tribal Council or his delegated representative is authorized to execute the transactional documents necessary to administer the grant on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department, requested approval to apply for a STEP grant from the Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Indian Education.

MOTION by Terry Pitts to approve by resolution submission of an application for the STEP grant from the Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Indian Education. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 23-098

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION

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

WHEREAS, The U. S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Indian Education has published a request for proposals under the State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department is the authorized Tribal Education Agency of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department, on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, desires to utilize the STEP funding to: (1) promote Tribal self-determination in education; (2) improve the academic achievement of Indian children and youth; and (3) promote the coordination and collaboration of Tribal educational agencies (TEAs), as defined in this notice, with State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) to meet the unique education and culturally related academic needs of Indian students.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U. S. Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Indian Education be requested to make available a grant, pursuant to the terms of the request for proposal, to the Tribal Education Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Tribal Council or his delegated representative is authorized to execute the transactional documents necessary to administer the grant on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of the final 2023 SKQ submittal to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve submission of the final 2023 SKQ submittal to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department, requested retroactive approval of the AARP Grant Flagship Program in the amount of \$20,729 to install equipment at the Bison Range. Heart of the Rockies will sponsor \$25,000. Whisper requested a waiver of the IDC in the amount of \$3,550.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to retroactively approve the AARP Grant Flagship Program in the amount of \$20,729 and a waiver of the IDC in the amount of \$3,550. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Bing Matt received a report that the toilets at the Turtle Lake Campground were tipped over. **Whisper Camel-Means** will follow up.

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

Martin Charlo announced the Montana Healthcare Foundation and Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority *Help Us Revitalize Passenger Rail in Southern Montana* community event at the Ronan Boys and Girls Club on May 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. The event will also be held in Paradise tomorrow from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested final approval of the Land Ordinance 45C. This ordinance rescinds Ordinance 45B.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the Land Ordinance 45C. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Mike Dolson out of the room).

ORDINANCE 45C

(Due to the length of the ordinance, it does not appear in the minutes; a copy may be obtained from the Office of Records Management.)

Chairman McDonald asked if the Land Ordinance provides any new powers to address issues in the Beaverhead area. Tom asked Mark to review the matter with Shane and find out who the allotment owners are. **Mark Couture** will follow up. The Land Ordinance has a section regarding allotments and the department works closely with the BIA Superintendent to enforce the regulations.

Jim Malatare requested an update on the fence at Nkwusm. **Mark Couture** responded the project is being done by Ferrier Fencing and he will follow up on the anticipated completion date and report back via email.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested the purchase of a parcel of property located in Pablo from Archie Fuqua, Alan Fuqua, and Arlene Templer, to be purchased with ARPA funds. The issue with the appraisal was resolved.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve by resolution the purchase of a parcel of property located in Pablo from Archie Fuqua, Alan Fuqua, and Arlene Templer, to be purchased with ARPA funds. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Mike Dolson out of the room).

RESOLUTION 23-099

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TRUST LAND LOCATED IN LAKE, MONTANA

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Land Acquisition Program was approved by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984); and the Act of July 18, 1968 (PL90-402); and

WHEREAS, Archie Fuqua, Alan Fuqua, and Arlene Templer have offered to sell all right, title and interest in Tract 1084-C, described herein as metes and bounds: a portion of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 2, Township 21N, Range 20W, Principal Meridian, Lake County, Montana, COS-3563, containing 1.550 acres, more or less, totaling 1.550 acres, more or less; and

WHEREAS, Archie Fuqua, Alan Fuqua, Arlene Templer, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have accepted the negotiated value; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above-described property be purchased from Archie Fuqua, Alan Fuqua, and Arlene Templer, and that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), transfer title to the property to the U.S.A. in trust for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Tribal Council, or his delegated representative is authorized to execute the transactional documents necessary to complete the land conveyance for Real Property situated in Lake County, Montana.

Dan Decker, John Harrison, Brian Upton, Michael Wheeler, Stu Levit, Chelsea Colwyn, and Grace Judge, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Chairman McDonald asked if any council members are planning to go on the Friends of Glacier fieldtrip on Thursday.

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 1:07 p.m. to conduct an Energy Keepers, Inc. Shareholder Representative meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Council met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the S&K Gaming LLC Board of Directors. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Troy Felsman to the S&K Gaming LLC Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term ending October 1, 2024. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt).

Council **adjourned** at 3:37 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary