

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

Volume 24 Number 31
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 20, 2024
Approved: February 22, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Dolson, Chairman; Tom McDonald, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; James Steele, Jr., Treasurer; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; Danielle Matt; and James “Bing” Matt.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Finley (State-Tribal Economic Development Commission Meeting – Helena, Montana); and Len TwoTeeth (Attending a Funeral).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jableau Arlee, Tribal Council Support; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by James Steele, Jr.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 15, 2024 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Carole Lankford).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Tom McDonald followed up on the action council took for tiny homes that there would be a plan presented to the council within a certain time period. He anticipates seeing that any day now, and wanted to remind folks to bring in that plan. **Martin Charlo** reached out to Patricia Hibbeler last week and was told there was a draft, and he will follow up again. **James Steele, Jr.** has had different people say they are on the list, so he had some questions about tiny homes.

Ruth Swaney, Financial Management, requested approval of modification 5 to the fiscal year 2024 Total Allocations. Increases in General Fund Tribal Earmarks and adjustments in Self-Governance Compacts and Contracts and Grants require modification to the Fiscal Year 2024 Total Allocations; and the increases by Function and by Fund are reflected below for a total increase of \$3,669,817.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution modification 5 to the fiscal year 2024 Total Allocations. Seconded by Tom McDonald. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 24-048

RESOLUTION APPROVING MODIFICATION 5 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 TOTAL ALLOCATIONS

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

WHEREAS, increases in General Fund Tribal Earmarks and adjustments in Self-Governance Compacts and Contracts and Grants require modification to the FY 2024 Total Allocations; and

WHEREAS, the increases by Function and by Fund are reflected below for a total increase of \$3,669,817:

Function	Total Functions Revised Mod 4 1/4/2024	Increase/ (Decrease) General Fund	Increase/ (Decrease) SG Compacts	Increase/ (Decrease) Contracts and Grants	Total Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Functions Revised Mod 5 2/20/2024
Government Services	\$22,610,015			(\$14,664)	(\$14,664)	\$22,595,351
Health and Human Services	\$101,598,602			\$903,944	\$903,944	\$102,502,546
Natural Resources	\$82,620,625		\$336,217		\$336,217	\$82,956,842
Government Operating	\$3,678,000				\$0	\$3,678,000
Education	\$2,032,474				\$0	\$2,032,474
Administration	\$23,590,866				\$0	\$23,590,866
Court/Probation	\$1,627,000		\$200,000		\$200,000	\$1,827,000
Law Enforcement	\$3,075,159				\$0	\$3,075,159
Legal	\$3,931,906				\$0	\$3,931,906
Forestry	\$6,661,026		\$450,000	\$1,664,451	\$2,114,451	\$8,775,477
Capital	\$3,625,000				\$0	\$3,625,000
Per Capita	\$12,150,000				\$0	\$12,150,000
Indirect Costs	\$4,400,000				\$0	\$4,400,000
Tribal Earmark	\$1,208,876	\$129,869			\$129,869	\$1,338,745
Total	\$272,809,548	\$129,869	\$986,217	\$2,553,731	\$3,669,817	\$276,479,366

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Fund	Total Fund Revised Mod 4 1/4/2024	Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Funds Revised Mod 5 2/20/2024
General Fund	\$75,070,498	\$129,869	\$75,200,367
IHS Compact	\$57,611,490		\$57,611,490
IA Compact	\$47,339,270	\$986,217	\$48,325,487
Contracts and Grants	\$20,341,955	\$2,553,731	\$22,895,686
Third Party	\$18,296,000		\$18,296,000
Settlement Funds	\$4,150,335		\$4,150,335
Water Compact	\$50,000,000		\$50,000,000
Total	\$272,809,548	\$3,669,817	\$276,479,366

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to approve Modification 5 to the FY 2024 Total Allocations for a total increase of \$3,669,817; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Modification 5 increases the FY 2024 Total Allocations from \$272,809,548 to \$276,479,366; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Financial Management is delegated authority to revise, reallocate, and correct the amounts for programs, services, functions, and activities within the Total Allocations approved in the aforementioned Funds.

Carole Lankford had questions about a resolution for water compact funding that was approved. **Tom McDonald** stated it was the drawdown of funds for DEWR betterment projects.

Shannon Clairmont and **Peter Bugoni**, Natural Resources Department, presented a request from Madeline Jackson, University of Montana Student, for a collection permit to do some trapping of deer mice by Buffalo Bridge to assess Hantavirus co-infection dynamics; a collection permit for Jack Hogg, Montana Conservation Science Institute, to study family genetics analysis and disease on the sheep herd on the Bison Range; a collection permit for Salish Kootenai College students to do ongoing research on plants, pollinators, scat, animal photographs, and bird and bat acoustics; and a collection permit to collect moth samplings on the Bison Range.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve a collection permit for Madeline Jackson to do some trapping of deer mice by Buffalo Bridge to assess Hantavirus co-infection dynamics. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present)

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve a collection permit for Jack Hogg to study family genetics analysis and disease on the sheep herd on the Bison Range. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Jim Malatare to approve a collection permit for Salish Kootenai College students to do ongoing research on plants, pollinators, scat, animal photographs, and bird and bat acoustics. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve a collection permit to collect moth samplings on the Bison Range. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Peter Bugoni, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of the NRCS upland habitat management grant for the Bison Range. The grant will provide funding for 5 years for habitat improvement projects.

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve the NRCS upland habitat management grant for the Bison Range. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Melinda Charlo, Indian Preference Office, requested approval of a project specific agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation for an epoxy project at US 93 North in Polson and US 35.

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve the project specific agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation for the epoxy projects at US 93 North and US 35. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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

Tasha Hubbard, Filmmaker; **Jade Tootosis**, Buffalo Relations Institute; and **Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department; showed council the trailer for the *Singing Back the Buffalo* film. Council was invited to the screening and brunch on Saturday, February 24. The screening will take place at the Wilma Theater at 12:30 p.m. and brunch will be at the Holiday Inn Downtown. All individuals featured in the film signed written permission for the filmmaker to use their likeness in the film. The filmmaker set aside 10 tickets for the council. Council suggested using some of the tickets for NRD staff to go to the screening. Jableau Arlee will be the point of contact for tickets. The 10th Anniversary of the Buffalo Treaty gathering is scheduled for September 22-25, 2024 in Stand Off.

Carole Lankford provided a written report on the AMERIND meeting she attended and gave an overview. NAHASDA Cell is experiencing some difficult times, and AMERIND is looking at continued rate increases due to inflation and non-increase in the past. AMERIND is working with two tribes from California, who will purchase their workers compensation, renters, homeowners business

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and exchange Amerind will cover individual tribal members homes. Tribes in California are seeing substantial increases in the open market or if you can find coverage at all. Most of the Cells the Cell Commission monitors are doing well and are in compliance. One investment made a substantial amount in a short amount of time. AMERIND is investing its money and working on keeping it AM Best rating, which has help to bring in more business. The goal is to cover tribes' losses and keep AMERIND healthy to cover losses along with buying Re-Insurance. There was a major fire in Alaska and there was loss of life, and that claim was substantial. There are compliance issues and the AMERIND Board of Directors are dealing with. **Tom McDonald** had questions about our liability as a tribe. The company has changed its original footprint and now it has large offerings and is functioning like a private insurance company and acting as a for-profit company. Tom is interested in knowing what our liability is. There may be tribal members that are interested in doing business with AMERIND but they do not know anything about the company. Carole had asked the managing attorney that question, and will get an answer. Companies under CSKT section 17 Corporate clause can claim sovereign immunity. Carole will follow up when the Legal Department meets with council and invite AMERIND Executives to meeting with Council.

Melissa Schlichting, Lynsey Gaudio and **Katie Jones**, Legal Department; and **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Ryan Rusche**, Sonosky Law Firm, joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 1:00 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary