

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

Volume 21 Number 71  
Zoom Meeting

Held: June 22, 2021  
Approved: June 29, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary; Martin Charlo, Treasurer; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; Fred Matt; Charmel Gillin; Mike Dolson; and Len TwoTeeth.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman (Attending Virtual National Congress of American Indians Conference); and Anita Matt, Vice-Chairwoman (Personal Time Off).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:01 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Fred Matt.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for June 15, 2021 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Herbie Couture**, Tribal Member, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to authorize Herbie Couture to park his daughter's trailer on his homesite lease for six months. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Carole Lankford** informed council that she received a call from Bear Salois regarding the need for a caregiver. There is a waiver required. She preferred to have the Elders program make this request. Mr. Salois needs a caregiver, and the program is working through that. There are some things that need to be reported back by Constance Morigeau. Mr. Salois needs 24-hour care, but the program does not do that, so the caregiver was willing to provide 24-hour care for a 40-hour week paycheck. Carol McDonald is getting her issues taken care of. The tribal member that Carole had followed up on is getting his vehicle repaired and he got his home back.

**Charmel Gillin** reported that the chairwoman asked her to attend a dinner last week with the American Indian/Alaska Native Tourism staff, and she met them at Falling Waters for dinner last Thursday evening. They are doing a tour to visit the tribes on the Lewis and Clark Trail and wanted to make tribes aware of projects they can help with and what they are doing to highlight the tribes on that trail to help boost opportunities for tourism revenues for tribal nations. Charmel encouraged anyone wanting more information to visit the [www.aianta.org](http://www.aianta.org) site. They wanted to know about our tribally owned businesses, and they plan to reach out to those businesses to find out ways to enhance their operations, website development, and enhance marketing plans. Charmel directed the group to our tribal website and gave them other information. She will send them more information on other businesses, such as the Flathead Raft Company in Polson. If anyone wants to make contact with them, they can do it directly or send us their information and we can pass it on to them.

**Charmel Gillin** gave a report on the Polson District Meeting. There were presentations by the Economic Development Office on the Polson West project, which was a general overview. People would like more information on the financial pro forma that was done by Raven Consulting and more details, and she would like permission to share that information with the membership. Bryon Miller gave an overall update on S&K Gaming. The most outstanding bit of information that seemed to generate dialogue is that S&K Gaming sold The Shadow. Rick Eneas gave an update on the reorganization. There was dialogue about how the three director positions will be supported and how those salaries will be paid for. Tribal Departments are being asked to be cognizant of the need to support the lifting of the pay freeze and the reorganization going forward so they can budget accordingly.

**Tony Incashola, Jr., Steve McDonald, Charles Bird III, and Joe Vanderburg,** Tribal Forestry, requested approval to accept the high bid from 3-MOR Enterprises for the Ferry Basin ITS 2021 Logging Unit Timber Sale.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to accept the high bid from 3-MOR Enterprises for the Ferry Basin ITS 2021 Logging Unit Timber Sale. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Tony Incashola, Jr., Steve McDonald, Charles Bird III, and Joe Vanderburg,** Tribal Forestry, requested approval to accept the high bid from Courville for the Eva Paul Small Contract Logging Unit Timber Sale.

**MOTION** by Bing Matt to accept the high bid from Courville for the Eva Paul Small Contract Logging Unit Timber Sale. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Michael Munson,** Salish Kootenai College, requested approval of a letter of support for the Salish Kootenai College collaborative grant proposal for the Funding Opportunity Announcement through the Administration for Native Americans' Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance, HHS-2021-ACF-ANA-NL-1924 for the Reawakening Language and Culture Through Education project. The project will grow these efforts by refining, developing, implementing, and supporting students in achieving one of two foci to further develop highly specialized language and culture educators for classroom, community and culturally based settings. To accomplish this, the project proposes to strengthen the perpetuation of the Salish language and culture and meet the critical need for highly skilled and well-rounded Salish language teachers who teach others Salish and/or use Salish as the medium of instruction in multiple educational contexts; and language and cultural educators who perpetuate the integrated language and culture of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille people utilizing traditional educational practices.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to sign the support letter. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Waylon Michel** thanked the council for allowing the stick game tournament at the Standing Arrow Pow Wow Grounds last weekend. He appreciates the opportunity to hold the event. **Len TwoTeeth** thanked Waylon for stepping up and getting the event going. This is exactly what the Elmo community needed. The stick game players look forward to these events. **Charmel Gillin** thanked Waylon for holding the event. She is happy the event turned out well.

**Melinda Charlo,** Indian Preference Office, requested approval of a project specific agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation to do a feasibility study for the Ninepipes area for an upcoming project.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the project specific agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation to do a feasibility study for the

Ninepipes area for an upcoming project. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Melinda Charlo**, Indian Preference Office, requested approval of a project specific agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation for an overlay project on Rocky Point Road.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve a project specific agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation for an overlay project on Rocky Point Road. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rich Janssen** and **Tom McDonald**, Natural Resources Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Renee Joachim**, Personnel Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Bing Matt to correct the action for the employee's retro pay back to August 2019. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rich Janssen** and **Seth Makepeace**, Natural Resources Department, requested signature by the chairwoman of the water rights compact implementation technical team task order 11 to support crop water monitoring stations and transferring \$32,000 to the Tribes for maintenance of the stations.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve task order number 11. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rich Janssen** and **Seth Makepeace**, Natural Resources Department, requested signature by the chairwoman of the water rights compact implementation technical team task order 10 to transfer \$165,335.00 to the Tribes to complete the reservoir monitoring network.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve task order number 10. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rich Janssen** and **Barry Hansen**, Natural Resources Department; and **Nanette Nelson**, Flathead Lake Biological Station; informed council that the Flathead Lake Biological Station was funded to do research to look at the management action by the Natural Resources Department in the suppression of lake trout and how the removal of trout affects the food web and mercury levels. They obtained IRB approval by Salish Kootenai College. The data will be presented at a half-day workshop to find out what the Tribes want to do with the data.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to proceed with the research. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rich Janssen** and **Tom McDonald**, Natural Resources Department, presented a request from the Cordier family for a group use permit to host a memorial service at Mission Dam Reservoir on Sunday, June 27, 2021 for tribal member Fred Cordier, who passed away on May 28, 2021. It will be a small service with 40-60 attendees and there will be a potluck barbecue from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be some nontribal members and descendants that will be attending. The group will clean up and preserve the land immediately following the event. Mark Cordier would like to be able to pay a flat rate for the group use permit.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to grant the Cordier family a group use permit to host a memorial service at Mission Dam Reservoir on Sunday, June 27, 2021 for tribal member Fred Cordier, at the rate of \$100, and apply the COVID rules. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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

**Council** met in **executive session**. **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; and **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Ruth Swaney**, Office of Financial Management; **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department; and **Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Forestry; discussed the Annual BIA Trust Audit finding responses. The trust auditor found 13 findings. We only concur with 5 of those findings. 4 of the findings were related to land transactions and 1 involves a Forestry timber sale contract. The deadline to submit our response is June 24, 2021. When the trust auditor delivered those findings, we had a 21-day response time. The responses were prepared by the departments.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the report. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Mary Price**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a legal matter. **Brian Upton**, **Stu Levit** and **Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department, were present for discussion.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department; and **John Neiss**, Facilities Maintenance; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Mary Price**, **Brian Upton** and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department, were present for discussion.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Mary Price**, **Brian Upton**, **Stu Levit**, and **Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department; and **John Neiss**, Facilities Maintenance; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Fred Matt to approve the letter to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the CSKT cultural resources mitigation plan for the Anaconda Smelter NPL site. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Sonosky legal team to vote, on behalf of CSKT, in favor of the proposed bankruptcy settlement plan for Purdue Pharma. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Fred Matt** asked about the permitting system for tribal members to enter the national parks at no cost and if that is still in effect. **Martin Charlo** stated that it sounds like it is still being honored. Vernon Finley went up there this weekend and he was allowed into the park at no cost when he presented his tribal identification card.

**Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer, requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the updated project estimate for the Ronan Health Clinic as discussed. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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

**Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; **Zachary Camel**, Central Accounting; **Katie Miller**, Contracts & Grants; and **Ruth Swaney**, Office of Financial Management; discussed the American Rescue Plan planning. **Zack Camel** stated that the allocation of funding to CSKT was based on our enrollment data of 8,000 tribal members. A top 5 and top 10 list of priorities was generated based off the tribal council's input. Some of the priorities identified do not fit within the guidelines of the American Rescue Plan and could be funded through other funding sources. The top priority was an individual economic relief payment to the membership. The guideline for a payout is to follow what the federal government did, and the federal government has paid out \$2,000 per year. We have three years to spend the money, so the suggestion is to not go over \$2,000

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per year. Option 1 is to pay out 100%. Option 2 is to pay out \$2,000 the first year, \$1,800 the second year, and \$1,064 the third year. Option 3 is to pay out \$1,000 and put the remaining funds in an economic hardship relief fund. There would be an application process to receive the funding. This option is based on the number and type of dire need requests that come to council on behalf of the membership. Option 4 is to pay out 50% as a relief payment, put 25% into the hardship fund, and put 25% towards the other council priorities that fit under the American Rescue Plan guidelines. **Carole Lankford** suggested doing a payout with this funding and then use the second round of allocations for assistance over the next two years. There are a lot of tribal members who are struggling just to put food on their tables. **Charmel Gillin** would like to know the number of Dire Need requests that have come in after the CSKT issued the individual economic relief payments. **Katie Miller** commented that costs have increased due to COVID and the number of people moving into our area. The funds must be allocated within three years, and we have five years to spend it. **Ruth Swaney** informed council that she and Katie developed the economic hardship list. A small percentage of the population consumes the majority of the resources. Ruth has a meeting with the Elders program regarding their request to increase the budget for elder services. The budget request is to add more employees; increase to the vehicle, supply, and equipment; and included some things that are not part of their budget. They would be going from a budget of \$622,000 to just under \$1 million. **Len TwoTeeth** supported putting some of the funding in the hardship fund. He does not want the criteria to be based on income and he wants all elders to be eligible for assistance. There are some tribal elders that do not have any income, and there are also some people who work that need assistance but do not qualify for programs. **Zack Camel** thinks the first payment could be issued by July 16, 2021, and then issue checks on a weekly basis as the applications are received. The April per capita information would be used for the payment if the payout is made before August. If the payout goes out after the August per capita, that information would be used.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to authorize a \$2,000.00 payout to every tribal member to be paid out by July 16, 2021, with no holds on the funds. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Zack Camel** will email the priority list to the Tribal Council and discussions will continue next week. **Council** will review the priority list to identify options for the long term that can be sustainable. **Rick Eneas** clarified that individuals must be alive and enrolled by the payout date in order to be eligible. The staff will prepare a resolution authorizing the economic stimulus payment and present back for approval. **Bing Matt** expressed concerns about the elders who do not qualify for assistance through tribal programs and Salish Kootenai Housing Authority. He has consistently requested that the elders not be required to pay for their water and sewer, but the requests always get denied. He would like to assist the elders.

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

**Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department; **Michael Wheeler** and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss the Tribal Lands Ordinance revisions.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 2:43 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Ellie Bundy McLeod  
Tribal Council Secretary