

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

Volume 18 Number 52
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 6, 2018
Approved: April 12, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman; Troy Felsman, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Dennis Clairmont; Shelly Fyant; Charmel Gillin; Leonard TwoTeeth; and Carole Lankford.

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Steele, Jr. (Ill).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; Bill Kehoe, Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:12 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Johnny Arlee.

The **Yamncut Drum Group** sang a flag song.

The floor was opened for comments from the elders.

Carole Lankford out of the room.

Stephen Smallsalmon was glad to see Pat Pierre here today. Pat has been spending time at Nkwusm. Stephen discussed the importance of the language. 19 people have learned to speak the language by attending Nkwusm. Nkwusm needs money. We need good teachers. Stephen has worked at Nkwusm for 15 years. He wants council to support Nkwusm. He shared stories and commented on various issues.

Pat Pierre shared a story about his health condition. He apologized to people he has hurt. Pat encouraged everyone to give council input on issues to help them make decisions. Pat discussed the importance of the language and Nkwusm. He thanked council and the membership for their continued support.

Len TwoTeeth left the meeting for the remainder of the day to attend a funeral.

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The floor was opened for council updates.

Dennis Clairmont reported that the council hired some new department heads and board members. Rhonda Whiting was appointed to the Appellate Court, Les Trahan was appointed to the Tribal Gaming Commission, Bob Fouty was appointed to the Salish Kootenai College Board of Directors, Teresa Wall-McDonald was selected as the new Tribal Health Department Director, Arlene Bigby was hired as the Kicking Horse Job Corps Center Director, and Chad Cottet was hired as the new Chief Executive Officer of S&K Technologies. Dennis met with the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission and the Flathead Basin Commission regarding aquatic invasive species issues. He also met with the Forest Service about the Liberty fire. The staff and Forest Service came up with some good solutions concerning the upcoming mushroom harvest. Dennis and Carole held some district meetings. Public Law 280, the Probate Code and the Density Map were discussed at those meetings.

Shelly Fyant gave a report. The State-Tribal Economic Development Commission is a governor-appointed position and she has been involved in that. The main goal is to work on the economic health and prosperity of our nation. There is a program for established businesses that need collateral support from a CD that the Commission holds. At last week's meeting it was brought up that in most communities 80 percent of the businesses are individually held and 20 percent are from the government; and in tribal communities it is the opposite. The STED Commission is moving forward with culturally appropriate tourism. There is a fund set aside from .5% of the bed tax money for Indian country. They want any tourism on the reservation to be culturally appropriate. The other meetings she attended were with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding Smurfit Stone. They are trying to get EPA to clean up the Smurfit Stone former mill site. They want the water protected and restored to its original health. We cannot eat fish from the Clark Fork and that is wrong. Shelly attended a meeting at the University of Montana on climate change. We are one of the first tribes in the nation to adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Our elders were instrumental in developing that plan. Shelly also serves on the Two Eagle River School Board.

Troy Felsman has been involved with the Gaming Board and self-governance. Troy congratulated Bryon Miller for making improvements in gaming; S&K Gaming turned a profit this month at Gray Wolf Peak Casino, so things are looking up. Improvements are being made to the Big Arm Marina. Once that land is placed into trust status then gaming machines can be installed at Big Arm. There are plans to enhance the Kwataqnuq Resort property and they will be revamping The Nook. The state was notified about some Class III facilities paying out jackpots in excess of \$800. We have bingo-based gaming on the reservation. In self-governance, we are unique. We are the most compacted Tribe in the state of Montana. We continue to be a leader. We are fortunate to

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have some new appointees to positions. Troy recognized Teresa Wall-McDonald and Chad Cottet for their new positions. Teresa Wall-McDonald is identifying areas in need of improvement at Tribal Health and making the necessary changes to improve services to the membership. S&K Technologies is an umbrella corporation with corporations underneath the umbrella corporation. He expects good things to come from Chad Cottet. Brian Lipscomb faced challenges with Energy Keepers, primarily due to the energy market. Energy prices are low, mainly due to fracking. We are in a very competitive market and EKI is doing what they can to try to be successful in that situation.

Anita Matt thanked the drum and prayers today. Anita has attended the Land Committee, Rural Development, USDA, Tribal Education Committee, Budget Committee, and Tribal Health Committee meetings. She held three district meetings in Dixon. The well got done and is working. Anita thanked the Lands Department for delivering water to the Dixon residents. At the last district meeting, Jordan Thompson talked about Public Law 280, the draft Probate Code, and the Density Map Regulations. She wants to have a building in Dixon to hold meetings at. A committee was formed consisting of representation from the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, Economic Development, Legal Department, Safety of Dams, and Lands Department to make improvements in the Dixon community and assist the residents.

Charmel Gillin shared her thoughts about how we go through this; we need to take time to enjoy all of the heartfelt things that come together in this room today. Some of her teachers are here today, and some are gone. Charmel thinks about how important the language is. She remembered some of the people that are no longer here but had put a lot of time and effort into the language. She thanked Johnny, Pat and Stephen and everyone that teaches the language. Charmel met with Daniel Stiffarm about the difficulties in finding teachers to teach the Kootenai language. Early Childhood Services is teaching infants and toddlers how to speak the language. We need teachers to expand the adult language program. The drum is powerful. She led a prayer at a meeting that council had and she was able to say the Lord's Prayer in Salish because of Johnny Arlee's willingness to teach. Her faith is the backbone of who she is. Charmel has attended departmental orientation this past quarter. She held two district meetings in Polson, and The People's Center gave a presentation on the Native American Indian Tourism. She acknowledged the good work being done by S&K Gaming. Tourism happens in the corridor of this reservation and we need to do it appropriately. Early Childhood Services did a workshop on brain development and language learning at her district meeting. It highlighted aspects of the pathways in the brain that open up. Learning multiple languages enhances many physical things in a person and opens up the ability to remember things in a person's past. A major project going on is the Drug Endangered Children grant that is administered through the Department of Human Resources Development program and the group

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called Community Strong. Community Strong is a good approach to this. She continues to support One Heart. They meet in Elmo most every Friday. The project is to establish a post-treatment facility where individuals can have a safe and sober environment to reintegrate into the community after going through addiction treatment. She tries to attend the Salish and Kootenai Elders meetings. Charmel attended the Celebrating Salish Language Conference.

Leonard Gray was happy to hear from the elders and the drum group. He has been involved with the Inter-Agency Buffalo Management Plan and Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council, in addition to the buffalo treaty group. The Buffalo Treaty Group will hold a reunion here in May. Leonard is the tribal representative on buffalo issues. The Yellowstone hunt will probably change significantly in future years. He thanked the Natural Resources staff; they brought back about 700 buffalo to the reservation for our people to purchase. It is good that the buffalo are coming back to Indian country. Leonard works with the tribal attorneys and follows the Columbia Treaty issues. He attended a meeting in Portland yesterday concerning the Columbia River Treaty Modernization with the 15 Columbia River Treaty Tribes and power groups of the northwest. The parties reached common interests objectives to present to the State Department April 24 & 25 in Spokane. Having 15 tribes speak together is powerful. Those are big steps.

Chairman Trahan thanked everyone for being here today. It is a privilege to serve on the tribal council and he tries to govern the right way for all the people. The chairman's colleagues help him a lot and the tribal council works as a team.

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

Council recognized the Arlee Warriors Boys Basketball Team for the suicide prevention video they made as part of the Warrior Movement. **Jordan Lefler** played the video that he made for suicide prevention. **Zanen Pitts**, Basketball Coach, spoke about the efforts made by the team. It is a powerful movement. **Council** acknowledged and honored the Class C back to back State champions and their parents, and thanked them for their efforts in suicide prevention. The team members that were present at the meeting that were recognized and presented with medallions were Cody Tanner, Tapit Haynes, Trey Malatare, Trey Tewawina, Troy Tewawina, Amare Vanderburg, and Sage Nicolai; coaches Zanen Pitts and Francis Brown-Lone Bear; and videographer Jordan Lefler. Medallions will also be given to the team members that were unable to attend the quarterly meeting.

The **Yamncut Drum Group** sang an honor song.

Carole Lankford returned to the meeting.

Zanen Pitts informed the membership that there are Warrior Movement t-shirts that are for sale. Jordan Lefler created a clothing line. They want to have billboards posted about the Warrior Movement. Zanen provided information on the toll-free numbers for suicide prevention. The team thanked everyone for their support of the Warrior Movement and hopes the video and their efforts will help save lives. **Art Trahan** commented on the importance of suicide prevention.

The **Yamncut Drum Group** sang a song.

The floor was opened for comments from the membership.

Tom McDonald commented on the suicide prevention efforts and how all families have been affected by suicide. Tom discussed bison meat being offered to the membership. The 700 bison are a significant part of people's homes and livelihoods. Those bison amounted to over 200,000 pounds of meat. Tom thanked the tribal council for the bison transfer program. Things will probably change in the future, but the program has been powerful to the families.

***** **Lunch** *****
(Prayer offered by Pat Pierre)

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council **adjourned** at 12:46 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Troy Felsman
Tribal Secretary