

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

Volume 17 Number 61
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: July 7, 2017
Approved: July 13, 2017

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vernon Finley, Chairman (Personal Time Off); and Patty Stevens (Unity Conference – Denver, Colorado).

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

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

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Pat Pierre.

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

The floor was opened for comments from the elders.

Stephen Smallsalmon told stories and discussed Nkwusm School, the language, the pow wow, and the earthquake.

Pat Pierre shared stories and discussed the weather changes, the importance of the language and culture, Nkwusm School, prairie chickens, health care, unpaid medical bills, and personal home caregivers.

Council honored Father Drew for his many years of service to the tribal community. Council presented him with a blanket.

The **Brothers Drum Group** sang an honor song for Father Drew.

The floor was opened for comments from the membership. No comments received.

The floor was opened for comments from the tribal council.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2017

Leonard Gray is humbled to work for the people. He has been involved in bison issues. Our people received nearly 700 buffalo and shipment from the Yellowstone area. The team continues to work through issues regarding hunting in the Gardiner area. He discussed the Hot Springs Bathhouse. The Camas Bathhouse project is progressing.

Anita Matt thanked everyone for being here today, the prayer and the drum. Council faces many issues on a daily basis. She has been trying to revive things in Dixon. She thanked NRD and Lands Department for the cleanup efforts and barbecue in Dixon.

Ron Trahan thanked the membership for attending today's meeting. He encouraged the membership to contact council representatives for any issues they have.

Carole Lankford announced that Rose Bailey's funeral services are going on this morning. Council attended a bison event regarding treaty rights, so it was important that council attend this event in Coeur d'Alene. The CSKT will enter into a MOU with other tribes. She went to the NIGA consultation in Billings. Carole has been working on the Drug Court. The Gianforte Foundation provided funding for the Drug Court since the grant they applied for was not funded. The Reentry Program is a big part of the Drug Court system. Carole is taking care of her grandchild on a full-time basis; she acknowledged all the foster parents and families that take care of children. Carole discussed the per capita payments. One-half of the minors' per capita payments are held in a trust account. Due to these economic times she recommended that the parents receive the entire per capita payment instead of half of it being held in trust. The government should not legislate what is done with per capita payments and the parents could use that money to take care of their families. Carole wants input from the membership on this matter.

Dennis Clairmont has been attending bison meetings this past quarter and some of the legislative hearings. He was appointed to the Montana Invasive Species Council as a tribal representative. He acknowledged the great work that the NRD staff did on AIS issues and their efforts to keep mussels out of our water bodies. Dennis accompanied the Legal Department to Washington, DC for a National Bison Range issue and water compact issues. He thanked Father Drew for the service he has provided to the community.

Shelly Fyant acknowledged Thomas Trahan for continuing the strong warrior in his family. Our dances and food are medicine. She is focused on economic development and serves on the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission. There is an Indian Equity Fund Grant is an opportunity for tribal members to apply for \$14,000. We need a healthy economy and she encouraged the membership to apply for funding for their own business.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2017

Health and wellness and culture perpetuation is a priority. We are one step closer to establishing our own buffalo herd. Shelly focuses on food sovereignty. The Flathead Tech4Good is offering a camp July 10-13, 2017 for high school students. Dr. Corrie Mathias will be one of the presenters at the camp. Shelly protects our water. She has been attending meetings with EPA about the Smurfit Stone Mill Site. She wants the membership to attend a meeting on August 3 in Frenchtown at 6:00 p.m., and she can assist with transportation. She also attended a meeting on Indian Agriculture in Phoenix and can assist people with writing business plans.

Troy Felsman stated this year has been an unexpected challenge due to the election of President Trump and it created challenges we were not expecting. The budget developed by the Trump administration has proposed cuts that affect Indian Country. Council is planning for any contingencies that come our way. Senator Tester has been a strong advocate for us. The retrocession bill passed the legislature and gives the Tribes the option to look into the pros and cons of retroceding. S&K Gaming had its grand opening for the Gray Wolf Peak Casino. The KwaTaqNuk Resort is on a significant upward trend compared to last year. Gaming machines will be installed at the Big Arm property once the property is placed into trust. Tribal Health is working through issues since it took over the PRC program from the Indian Health Service. Council adopted avuncular testing for enrollment purposes. This test will allow for DNA testing for siblings, aunts and uncles to determine paternity. Last year there was a shortage of firewood due to the condition of the access roads, so council allowed some tribal member loggers to cut logs in lengths greater than 8 feet. Troy supports revitalization of the language for both Salish and Kootenai.

Len TwoTeeth gave an update on projects in Elmo, consisting of paving the homesite roads, paving the dance floor pavilion at the pow wow grounds, and pathways that connect to the pavilion in Elmo. A grant was awarded to provide funding for the kitchen in Elmo to be renovated. The leadership has had difficulty addressing the issue of the number of suicides in the community. Council wants to hold youth activities to make sure the youth has something to do in the summer months. Len acknowledged Ruth Swaney and Corky Clairmont for putting together today's veteran memorial event.

The meeting was closed with a song and a prayer by Francis Auld.

MOTION by Dennis Clairmont to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council **adjourned** at 10:53 a.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Troy Felsman
Tribal Secretary