

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

Volume 19 Number 46
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 5, 2019
Approved: April 18, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman; Shelly Fyant, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Charmel Gillin; Myrna DuMontier; Fred Matt; Leonard TwoTeeth; and Carole Lankford.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Clairmont (Medical Appointment).

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 9:08 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Wilbert Michel.

The Lower Crossing Drum Group **sang** a flag song.

The floor was opened for comments from the elders. No comments from elders.

The floor was opened for updates from the tribal council.

Carole Lankford has been working on issues for the people and has been involved in the Lake County Drug Court. There are currently 30 candidates going through the Drug Court. People are finally listening to Judge Manley when he said you cannot jail the addiction out of somebody. Carole has also gone to some of the legislative hearings and provided testimony. There has been a split on the tribal council. The membership has called her about this. Carole takes this as a learning experience and she does not point fingers. She is appreciative of the council coming back together and doing the right thing. She is concerned about what is going on in congress with water rights. It is going to be difficult for congress to give us a settlement when the tribal council is not getting along. She has seen tribes ruin efforts like this, so it is important for us to work through our issues amongst ourselves and leave the outside out of it. We cannot risk losing this fight with water rights.

Chairman Trahan informed the membership that the displays in the back of the council chambers are luminaries for the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Shelly Fyant has been working on the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) initiative. CSKT passed a resolution establishing a work group. There was a community event last month on MMIW. There is a meeting on April 8, at 6:00 p.m., at the Salish Indian Center in Arlee. Everyone is welcome to attend. She testified in support of Hanna's Act and Indigenous Peoples Day. We wrote a letter of support for the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck, because they were denied the right to bring their tribal flag during the Class B Basketball Tournament. The Montana High School Association disallowed them that right because they said "other groups" had to have their flag on the end of the gym and not on the floor. The Chippewa Cree Tribe wrote a letter of support too. We also passed a resolution opposing the TransCanada pipeline in support of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. That pipeline is scheduled to go through or near the Fork Peck and Fort Belknap Reservations. That endangers our men, women and children. She serves on the Lake County Community Development Board, and the board is sponsoring a Cooperative 101 Workshop on the 16th, at 6:00 p.m., at the Hanging Art Gallery in Arlee.

Len TwoTeeth joined the meeting.

The meeting is open to the community. They are looking at a hemp cooperative. We presented a food sovereignty plan to the Kootenai Culture Committee and got a letter of support for our plan. On Wednesday, we went to the Salish Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee elders for a letter of support. There are a lot of food sovereignty efforts going on, and Salish Kootenai College will do a collective impact food sovereignty workshop. Everyone is invited. It will take place on April 23, at 3:00 p.m. at the Agnes Kenmille building at Salish Kootenai College. Regarding the climate change initiative, we have an advisory committee. The BIA resiliency grant was awarded to the committee. There is a meeting on April 17 at the KwaTaqNuk Resort, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. if anyone wants to attend.

Myrna DuMontier has said good-bye to many people who we lost in the communities; she supports and offers prayers to those families. The basketball season was great. She congratulated upcoming seniors this year. She experienced the legislative session by testifying on the language bill. Council supports the culture committees, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education; Office of Public Instruction; the Language Summit; Salish Conference; MMIW work group, Cemetery Board; district meetings; Forestry; the Tribal Court Improvement project; and Dr. Katie Carter to expand health care in a naturopathic way. We had special visitors this quarter. Johnny Arlee requested to meet with the Administration staff to uplift and encourage us and

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draw us closer together. Having conversations with the membership has been rewarding. Myrna's work plan includes developing policies for the governing body and membership so we work toward unity. Everybody deserves to be included in what we do in these seats and there should be no exclusion.

Fred Matt is spending time catching up on issues that the council has been working on. He is honored to be back on the tribal council and to serve the membership. It is honorable and important for him to be on the council. Fred wants to support the ongoing issues the Tribes are working on. Fred had been involved in the Inter-Tribal Timber Council for many years, and he was reappointed as the Tribes' representative when he was appointed on the council. It addresses timber issues. He went to Milwaukee. On a local level, we had a woodcutters meeting in the council chambers. It was well attended and he appreciated those who attended to express concerns/issues who are out there working in the forest. We want to make sure those woodcutters are supported by council. He appreciates everyone's support.

Charmel Gillin is honored to be here and to be a recipient of that healing song from the Lower Crossing Drum Group. She has not traveled this past quarter. It is difficult to maintain your pose when dealing with vicious adversaries and she is thankful for the council members that did provide testimony during the legislative session. She prays for everyone and it is an honor for her to continue praying for everyone and do what she can. Each of us has our part in life and for our people and she believes we have very important work at times. God's mercy is new every day. She is thankful for that. There is a new future for each of us and we have that commitment to make it better.

Anita Matt gave a report on activities she has worked on. Economic Development cosponsored her district meeting and there was good discussion in that meeting. There will be an Agri-Business meeting on April 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the conference room. Anita participated in the MSU Extension Office Agent interviews. Our agent resigned on May 31, 2018, so that position was vacant for 8 months. Three people applied, and the only tribal member applicant backed out. Brenda Richie was hired. In February, there was a Dixon project meeting, which is a project she is working on to get a community building in Dixon. Dixon has been without a meeting building for quite some time. She hopes to get a modular from the Montana Department of Transportation. Anita is working with the Tribal Lands Department to get a lot in the Dixon Agency and get that project off the ground. The Safety of Dams program has been involved too; there are other developments proposed for Dixon. The February Dixon district meeting was canceled due to bad weather. She will invite Jami to do the MMIW presentation at a district meeting in the future. Law and Order gave a presentation at the Tribal Education Committee meeting, and it was a very touching presentation. She wants Law and Order to go to each district. The government and community needs to take a better role with

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trafficking and drugs. She only traveled once this year; she attended the Ninth Annual Land Staff Meeting. She is hoping to bring some information to council and the membership. They talked about many land issues and carbon credits. We all tried to attend the woodcutters meeting; it is very true to people's hearts. Art Caye was here last week and it was touching when he spoke. He spoke of our roles in the community and how hard it is. She left there with Art's comments about love. We all need to love each other and get along. Anita feels the same, and she has love in her heart for everyone. She wants to continue serving the people and filling our needs.

Len TwoTeeth feels honored to be on the tribal council. He acknowledged Sharon Silberman in the audience. He remembers the first year he got on council and Sharon was a staff member. Len appreciated her advice on how to conduct himself as a council member and the things that work and do not work. He acknowledged that we work for the membership and was happy to see the large crowd here today. Council works hard for the membership. We have had to make some tough decisions, but at the end of the day, we got a lot of things accomplished.

Leonard Gray walked in this morning and there was a men's group around this table praying for our people and the council, and it really touched him. Then to hear the drum this morning, it made it a good day for him. He was glad to see everyone here.

Chairman Trahan thanked Wilbert for the prayer and the drum group for the song. We have some honorings we are going to do this morning. He thanked all of his colleagues. It makes it easier for him when they help him. He does not like to travel; he stays home to get things done locally. Ron appreciates them traveling. The council does what they can to help people but sometimes there are some restrictions on what they can do. He appreciates the membership's support. It is good to see people out in the audience today and good to know people care.

Shelly Fyant honored Roy Bigcrane. For many years, Roy filmed all of the tribal council quarterly meetings and SKC-TV broadcasted those meetings for those people who could not attend the meetings. Roy is very dedicated to his family, his work, our Tribes, and Indian people. He recorded those meetings for many years. Place of the Falling Waters and In the Spirit of ?Atatice? are films Roy made. Roy is the most sought after narrator in Indian country. He was given a gift. **Roy Bigcrane** thanked everyone, including the tribal council, his family, and the audience. He also thanked our ancestors for everything they have done. The elders looked down the road and saw us; they saw what would happen to us, they cried, they laughed, and they prayed because they knew we would come to hard times. But here we are. We are still doing our best and need to uphold

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what they have done and do our best to keep going for clean water, good food, and good places to talk to the spirits and pray.

The Lower Crossing Drum Group **sang** an honor song.

Rich Janssen, Natural Resources Department, acknowledged the Aquatic Invasive Species staff who is dedicated to protecting our resources and lake to prevent aquatic invasive species that would impact our wellbeing as a people. The council has been very supportive of this. He recognized the employees that work at the boat inspection stations: Amanda Bourdon, Eric Hansen, Jay Blue Arlee, Robert Howard, Lacy Burke, Salina Gardipe, and Mitchell Parker. **Tom McDonald**, Natural Resources Department, reported that the Ravalli station is the number one check station in the state and is the only check station in the state that operated 24 hours a day. People have commented that the Ravalli check station provides the most thorough inspection. The check stations conducted a total of 17,000 boat inspections, and 15,000 of them were done at the Ravalli check station. Rich acknowledged the Game Wardens for stopping vehicles that do a drive by of the boat check stations. Brandon Couture is really good about issuing citations (\$85.00 fine) for not stopping for a boat inspection.

The Lower Crossing Drum Group **sang** an honor song.

Myrna DuMontier recognized the police force. Last year she watched somebody drive by the checkpoint and she called in the license plate. All the police officers from Ravalli to Polson were trying to catch that vehicle.

Jordan Stasso informed council that the Lower Crossing Drum Group was selected to be the host drum at this year's Arlee Pow Wow.

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

Stephen Smallsalmon, Tribal Member, commented that our elders used to say we would lose our language and our Indian ways, but he does not think we will. He was raised with the old people. He talked about the schools he attended. He was happy there were many people here today. The council should help the people and respect the elders. People who have a job should be grateful. Prices continue to go up. Stephen wants to use the Kicking Horse Job Corps Center for the language program. He thought at one time the council was going to learn how to talk Indian. The Last Beyond is a film Stephen was in and it will be coming out soon. He asked the council to support the language.

Rhonda Swaney, Legal Department, provided a legislative update and a summary of the bills presented this year. Jordan Thompson, tribal attorney, is at the legislature and is doing a great job and provides us real-time updates. Shane Morigeau, tribal attorney, is a representative of District 90. The aquatic

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invasive species bill was introduced and is receiving support. The decontamination bill passed the house. We are hoping the Medicaid bill helps tribal people. It is status quo for Indian education and language. Language and culture funding is status quo. The Indigenous Peoples Day bill was tabled this session. Economic Development support maintained the course. The legislative session is winding down. The Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Indian Families Safety has been getting some attention through the legislature. The wildlife bills may be vetoed by the governor. It has been a rather quiet session for voting bills. A tax bill was introduced and was tabled. Historic horseracing and blackjack bills may be passed. Rhonda has a complete list of the bills, sponsors and status for the membership to view if they want to.

Jami Pluff, Policy Analyst, gave an update on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women. In October 2018 the family members of Jermaine Charlo requested financial assistance for a billboard they wanted to put up near Missoula. Council agreed to do that. They discussed this issue needing more attention by the tribal government and ways to address this issue. The issue was researched. In 1916, there was the murder of a Jane Doe on our reservation. The tribal council passed a resolution to establish a work group to develop an action plan. The work group had a planning meeting in March. On March 25, there was training on human trafficking for law enforcement, training on human trafficking indicators for hospitality, a self-defense class, and a legislative update on MMIW issues. Hanna's Act passed in the house and then passed in the senate with amendments. The discussion was why tribes could not pay for this since it is a tribal issue. There have been many negative comments on social media about this being a tribal issue. Governor Bullock and Senator Tester have been supporting the MMIW effort. An update will be provided at the April 8 Arlee district meeting. May 5 is the national day to remember the MMIW. An awareness event will be scheduled for that.

Greg DuMontier, Tribal Member, discussed the quarterly council meetings back in April 1976. There was a new law that the Tribes could take on more responsibility for taking care of their people. CSKT was one of the first Tribes in the nation to take that on. In 1984, we went from a hand full of employees at the Dixon Agency to 1,000 employees at a complex in Pablo. Within a few years, we were advocating that this self-determination contracting was okay but there are many rules and we need flexibility in that. Through that discussion, self-government was born and we were one of the first tribes to participate in the self-determination project. We did not stop there. Years later, we contracted Mission Valley Power. Then the Tribes established S&K Technologies. There was a group in Arlee that was concerned about losing the language. They started the Nkwusm Language School, and it is still with us today. A group of basketball players in Arlee were concerned about the number of suicides, and so they began the Warrior movement and got national attention for that for those efforts. He is worried about the spirit of self-determination being pushed back. He asked

everyone to work collectively to revive the spirit of self-determination. That is how we got where we are and is needed to get where we need to be.

Stephen Smallsalmon was thankful for the bonus that was given to the elders. Everyone should respect their elders and just let it go if the elders are wrong.

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

The floor was opened for comments from the membership.

Joel Clairmont, Tribal Member, announced that on April 17 there will be a meeting by the Tribal Economic Development for the ag producers to discuss the price of cattle and what to do locally to change things. The calving situation we find ourselves in has been difficult for the last couple of years. That ten days wreaked havoc on the producers. The losses are mounting. There was a drought in 2015 and the association is not eligible for drought assistance because the association members did not qualify. Last summer he appealed that and has not heard back yet. Every association is in this situation. The individual producers did not receive a denial letter. **Council** will discuss this matter in further detail next week. Joel wants to look at the association bylaws to see if something can be done to align with federal policy. Depending on the number of calves lost, the producers will not be compensated by the Livestock Indemnity program. Joel informed council that there is a new extension agent that was hired. He suggested we get an advisory committee developed to advise the agent. Anita had suggested that the MSU Agent position be located at the tribal complex, but the problem with that is the position's duties are only a portion of her job. There is a program for early parenting that the Tribes offer to work with parents on educating their young children. It has been a beneficial program and Joel encouraged council to extend that service to older children. **Patricia Courchane**, Department of Human Resources Development, advised that there are two programs and services can be extended for children aged 0-5.

The closing prayer was offered by Stephen Smallsalmon.

MOTION by Fred Matt to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 12:55 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Shelly R. Fyant
Tribal Secretary