

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

Volume 20 Number 3  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: October 4, 2019  
Approved: October 17, 2019

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Shelly Fyant, Secretary (Fifth Annual American Cancer Action Network – Missoula, Montana).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary; and James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:10 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Stephen Smallsalmon.

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

The floor was opened for comments from the Tribal Elders.

**Stephen Smallsalmon** addressed the council. His thoughts are with Tony Incashola and asked that everyone to pray for him. Stephen talked about the language and immersion school. Elders told him we would lose our language. It is good that the council helps with money. There are about 30 drums now. He shared stories from the past. He is happy to be here. He had been sick for a while but is feeling better now. Some people helped him get to L.A. to be in a movie. Whoever built the road in Dixon should take care of it. They should also take care of his bridge. There are not very many elders left. It is good to see Shirley here with her family.

**Charmel Gillin** left the meeting on personal time off for the remainder of the day.

**Shirley Trahan** is happy to be here at the quarterly meeting today. She is thankful for the tribal council and all the work they do. All we see in the minutes is a scratch on the wood; they make many decisions we do not see and travel many places to represent us. She thanked council for all their hard work. It is

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sad that people do not respect the council. The people should help them do their work; it is for all of us, just not a segment of the membership. We need to attend council meetings and read the minutes and see how we can help and support the council. Her intention is not to hurt anyone's feelings.

**Jim Westerman** and **CloAnn Westerman** thanked the council for all they have done for their family, especially during the loss of Jim's son and father and CloAnn's mother. It took them many years to grow organic tobacco seeds. They gave council a packet of tobacco from their crop.

**Chairman Trahan** opened the floor for council updates.

**Len TwoTeeth** welcomed everyone to the quarterly council meeting. According to the constitution, the council is only required to hold 4 quarterly meetings each year. Council realizes they have a job to do for the membership and he keeps that in mind. He has had tough times in his life and he feels blessed that he is finally in a position where he can help people.

**Anita Matt** thanked the drum and prayers and the membership for being here. It has been a busy quarter for the tribal council. She participated in many meetings and special events. Council has been looking for resources to help the elderly. Anita is still in the process of getting a meeting building in Dixon. She has a presentation on hemp if anyone is interested in a copy of it.

**Fred Matt** was thankful for the prayer and drum and the words from the tribal elders. It is an honor and privilege for him to be on the council again. Fred has been involved with the Inter-Tribal Timber Council. He commended the Legal Department for the good work they do for the Tribes.

**Myrna DuMontier** thanked everyone for being here today. John Carter retired from the Legal Department and she will miss him. They assisted Nkwusm with their camp in the Jocko last week. A lot has gone on with the language and culture over the years. Myrna serves on the Arlee Cemetery Board. The board is making improvements and making things more accessible for everyone. Stephen Smallsalmon thanked Myrna for the camp.

**Dennis Clairmont** thanked Stephen and Shirley for their words and the drum group for the song. The Columbia River Operations meeting is coming up. There is a proposal to take dams out of the Snake River and that will affect us. Dennis thanked the Legal Department for their hard work. APHIS sponsored a student camp at SKC. Students from our reservation and other reservations took fieldtrips and looked at different places and learned about agriculture. The Legal Department took council and Montana delegation on field trips. Plans are being made to prepare the pumping station. Dennis attended the Louis Charlo

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Memorial Highway Dedication event and the Veterans Memorial Annual Pow Wow in Spokane.

**Carole Lankford** thanked the drum group and elders for being here today; she takes their words to heart. Carole serves on the SKHA Board of Commissioners. The board will bring forward a proposed rate increase for water/sewer. She volunteers at the Bread Basket. The Tribal Council will be conducting interviews for the Economic Development Director, Tribal Lands Department Head, Tribal Health Department Head, and the Tribal Education Department Head vacancies. Carole serves as an ex officio board member on S&K Gaming. She was involved in the Forestry meetings. Carole serves on the Lake County Drug Court. The program has proven to be successful. People need guidance, compassion and understanding. The CSKT is looking at the development of having a Family Court. Carole does not look at the tribal council position as a job; it is a responsibility to the people.

**Leonard Gray** thanked the drum group and elders for being here. He cannot believe how fast the past 8 years on the tribal council has gone by; it has been a very rewarding position. The Tribes have very hard-working and dedicated employees who are the backbone of our organization, and he expressed his appreciation to the employees.

**Chairman Trahan** thanked Shirley, Stephen, the drum group, and the membership for supporting the tribal council. The council does try to do the best they can for everyone. The chairman thanked his colleagues for their support and help. He has enjoyed serving on the tribal council and representing our people.

**Leonard Gray** presented the Michael T. Pablo Tribal Chairman's Award to the Tribal Law & Order Department law enforcement officers for their bravery and courage and putting their life on the line every day protecting the public in dangerous situations. Accepting the award on behalf of Law & Order were Craige Couture, Chief of Police; Louis Fiddler, Captain; Brian Fyant, Patrol Sergeant; T.J. Haynes, Police Officer; and Barbara Kenmille, Dispatch Corporal.

The drum group sang an **honor song**.

**Fred Matt** talked about Chairman Pablo, who passed away in August 1999. Fred had filled in as the tribal chairman after Mickey's death and the tribal council honored his memory by giving out the Michael T. Pablo Tribal Chairman's Award to deserving individuals. **Craige Couture** commented that his grandfather, Alex Couture, was IO-2 and he died in the line of duty in 1964. Chief Couture was grateful for the recognition of the officers today.

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

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

**Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, discussed the 1935 constitution that we are governed by, which outlines the size of the tribal council and the representation for each district based on population. Arlee and St. Ignatius had two representatives and the other districts had one representative. Times have changed and population changed. In the 1980s, the Supreme Court ruled you have to have equal representation. The legal department looked at how to accomplish that so we would have equal representation. All people are represented by all ten council members. People are concerned since the population is growing in these districts and people petitioned the council to move the St. Ignatius and Arlee District council seat to Polson and Ronan. The council is doing a straw poll on the General Election ballot and it will be a nonbinding vote since it is not a referendum to get an idea what the membership wants. Council will decide what to do after the poll results come in.

**Ryan Rusche** and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, have been working on the federal ratification of the water compact and gave an update. In April 2015, the Montana legislature ratified the compact. There will be decisions that need to be made by tribal council. Montana is the first party to ratify it, the second party to ratify the compact is the government, and the Tribes are the third to ratify it. Federal ratification is a complicated process and takes an act of congress. None of this affects our Treaty rights, which exist in perpetuity. Ryan answered questions from the audience.

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Forestry, informed the membership that a public hearing was held Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at the request of Tribal Council to discuss proposed changes to the Timber Use Policy Statement (TUPS) document. Much discussion was heard from many including: small loggers, firewood cutters with and without equipment, CSKT Resource Specialists (Wildlife Biologist, Cultural Preservation, etc.), Council Members, and Tribal Elders. While differing opinions arose on several topics, eventually agreement was reached on a pathway. Tony gave an overview of the modifications to the proposed resolution. The following changes were discussed for the three proposed changes as published in the Char-Koosta and as listed in the September 18th Meeting Agenda.

**PROPOSED CHANGE 1**

Page 13, Section IV. Free Use Without Permit, - Personal Use Fuelwood

**K.** Fuelwood may/may not be harvested with the benefit of skidding equipment unless otherwise approved by the FOIC.

To:

- **Section IV. Free use without permit, sub-section Personal Use Fuelwood, Article K**, is changed to “Fuelwood may be harvested with skidding equipment within a 200 foot zone from a roadway. The use of skidding equipment beyond the 200 foot zone will be in an area with identified boundary’s, given the area has been evaluated and cleared by resource managers, and an appropriate NEPA compliance document has also been approved. A Performance Bond will be required for the use of skidding equipment.”

### **PROPOSED CHANGE 2**

Page 16, V. Free Commercial Use - Commercial Fuelwood and Post and Poles.

**L.** Skidding equipment may be used with prior written approval of the FOIC.

**To:**

- **Section V. Free Commercial Use with Permit, sub-section Commercial Fuelwood and Post & Poles, Article L**, is changed to “Fuelwood may be harvested with skidding equipment in an area with identified boundary’s, given the area has been evaluated and cleared by resources managers and an appropriate NEPA compliance document has also been approved.”

### **PROPOSED CHANGE 3**

Page 16, Section V. Free Commercial Use - Commercial Fuelwood and Post and Poles.

**R.** Fuelwood harvesting for commercial use shall be limited to dead trees within 200 feet from a roadway to assure snag retention.

**To:**

- Section V. Free Commercial Use with Permit, sub-section Commercial Fuelwood and Post & Poles,”**Remove Article R.**”

The Tribal Council was asking for comments from the Tribal Public on these proposed changes, and comments were due by October 3, 2019, to allow time for Tribal Forestry to compile the information and present back to the tribal council for consideration.

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

**Joe Durglo**, Tribal Health Department, announced a mass flu clinic hosted by Tribal Health Department on October 23, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Salish Kootenai College Gym.

The floor was opened for comments by the membership.

**Carole Lankford** commented that today is Ron Trahan and Leonard Gray's last quarterly council meeting. It has been an honor to work with them both on the tribal council.

**Rene Wildcat** and **Barbara Kenmille** have been walking on the overlook on a regular basis and have a list of some suggestions: provide the history of the dam (such as when it was built and when the Tribes took it over), have the pronunciation of the dam's name, there are 360 steps, it is 467 feet from the lookout to the top of the stairs, some of the steps are broken, feedback option on the app, provide a porta-potty for visitors, fix the problem of how the steps get repaired (do it in sections instead of one plank at a time), have metal siding rails on the stairs, and change the hours during the summer months. **Len TwoTeeth** suggested contacting the Energy Keepers Board of Directors to address these issues.

**MOTION** by Myrna DuMontier to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 12:54 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Shelly R. Fyant  
Tribal Secretary