

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

Volume 24 Number 55  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 28, 2024  
Approved: May 30, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Dolson, Chairman; Tom McDonald, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; James Steele, Jr., Treasurer; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; Danielle Matt; James “Bing” Matt; and Len TwoTeeth.

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Jennifer Finley.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 23, 2024 were presented for approval. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 23, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Bing Matt** joined the meeting.

The **agenda** was presented for approval. There is a meeting with the Missoula County Commissioners at 1:00 p.m. today in Missoula. The Lake County Commissioners were scheduled to meet with council at 1:00 p.m. today. The meeting with Lake County will be rescheduled.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a revised organizational chart to update the Division of Engineering and Water Resources. In 2021, the division underwent a change from one Division Manager to four Compact Officers within the division. The proposed changes consist of removing

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the Compact Implementation Officer position; creating a Compact Engineering Officer to oversee all programs involving engineering, such as irrigation infrastructure, Safety of Dams, and Roads; the creation of an Information and Education Program Manager to oversee GIS, information, website, and data portions of the division; and move the Contract Specialist position under the supervision of the Compact Administrative Officer.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve the revised organizational chart for the Division of Engineering and Water Resources. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**James Steele, Jr.** did not know why the reorganization changed signature authority for organizational charts and he wanted that changed back to the way it was previously. **Len TwoTeeth** understood the new reorganization changed the process to no longer require council action to approve organizational charts. **Tom McDonald** suggested changing the policy and require council approval.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to change policy and require the Tribal Council to approve all organizational charts. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Lynn Ducharme**, Natural Resources Department; **Kit Fisher**, Five Valleys Land Trust; **Laura Katsman** and **Paul Travis**, Flathead Land Trust; informed council that the Five Valleys Land Trust and Flathead Land Trust have approached the Tribes with interest in applying for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant through the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and have requested a letter of support from the CSKT. The grant would be used for a five-year period to fund primarily open space conservation easements in the Mission Valley. Lynn showed council a map of their focus area to place conservation easements on various lands. The CSKT would provide a match to the grant if council approves the request. Kit gave an overview of RCPP, which provides funding to do conservation easements. The Flathead Land Trust has partnered with the Tribes in the past.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve a letter of support. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Tom McDonald** left meeting for the remainder of the day to go to an appointment.

**Carole Lankford** informed Rich Janssen that she received a phone call about the Grace Lane Bridge falling down. Something needs to be done with it. It is a Bureau of Indian Affairs right-of-way. Carole received a bid from Luedtke for \$36,000, but it does not include removal of the old bridge. She requested direction on how to proceed. **Rich Janssen** advised he would investigate with

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Tribal Roads Program Engineer Scott Johnson and report back to Tribal Council. NRD has been looking at this issue for the past two years and the program did place the road and bridge on the BIA roads inventory. The program is waiting on a response from the BIA to get the final approval on the new roads system map and has not received that to date.

**Jennifer Trahan** informed council that the Lake County Commissioners were rescheduled to meet with the council this Thursday at 3:00 p.m.

**Len TwoTeeth** informed council he was contacted by Jon Denton, the owner of a tree removal business. There has been some projects on tribal lands and Facilities & Maintenance has not utilized the Indian Preference Office for those projects. This is a policy violation that continues to happen with that department and business owners and tribal members are seeing it. This has been addressed with the executive team several times and there has not been any response on how they will address these policy violations. It is very frustrating. Len requested a meeting be scheduled for the council to discuss changes to the reorganization.

**Dan Decker** and **Chelsea Colwyn**, Legal Department; **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; **Brian Lipscomb** and **Eve James**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Les Evarts** and **Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department; **Brian Upton**, **Melissa Schlichting**, **Zach Zipfel**, **Shane Morigeau**, and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; were present for discussion.

**Dan Decker**, **Chelsea Colwyn**, **Brian Upton**, **Melissa Schlichting**, **Zach Zipfel**, **Shane Morigeau**, and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; and **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Council** discussed the floating holidays for July.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to designate July 8, 2024 and July 22, 2024 as floating holidays. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Council **adjourned** at 11:46 a.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary