

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

Volume 22 Number 28
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: January 27, 2022
Approved: February 1, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy McLeod, Treasurer; James “Bing” Matt; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; Jennifer Finley; Mike Dolson; and Anita Matt.

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 9:01 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Carole Lankford.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for January 25, 2022 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Martin Charlo gave a COVID update. There is a surge in western Montana. There is a variant of the variant out now. Staff is encouraged to stay home if they are sick. The supervisors need to work with staff to allow them to work remotely or find alternatives for safe measures to work. The local numbers continue to increase. There have been 185 new COVID cases in the past week. Early Childhood Services has seen a surge in their student number of cases, which was 100+ positive cases. Martin encouraged people not to go out in public when they are sick. He sent his condolences to the families that have lost loved ones. The new variants have a higher chance of re-infection. **Anita Matt** listens to the news and it was reported that there was a surge in new cases yesterday and

there were 3 or 4 deaths. The people who got their vaccines 9 to 12 months ago need the booster or they are getting the virus.

Willie Keenan, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to submit the fiscal year 2023 – 2025 environmental grant applications to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve by resolution submission of the fiscal year 2023 – 2025 environmental grant applications to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 22-066

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF FISCAL YEAR 2023 THROUGH 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES THAT:

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes considers protection of the environment on the Flathead Indian Reservation to be among its highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Department, Division of Environmental Protection is held with the responsibility of protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes are eligible to apply for Environmental Grants to the Environmental Protection Agency; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Protection Agency be requested to make funds available for the following programs; Under the Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) is the General Assistance Program (GAP), Clean Air Act Section (CAA) 105 Ambient/Improve program, Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 106 Program, Nonpoint Source 319, and Wetland Management Program. The following stand-alone grants; Wetland stand-alone grant, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Brownfields Tribal Response (TRP), Hazardous Waste Management (SHW), Brownfields Assessment, Brownfields Cleanup, Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS), Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST), Multipurpose Grant (MPG), and EPA Special Project programs for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025 to continue development of environmental protection program capability on the Flathead Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council Chairman and his designated representative are authorized to negotiate and execute the contract documents and any amendments thereto.

Chairman McDonald mentioned the comments we will provide today and tomorrow for the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of the Interior discretionary funding for that law. We will make sure to remind everyone of our water rights settlement and the earmarked funds for that to ensure it stays on the top of the list for the Department of the Interior. The comments will be amended for tomorrow. February 4 is the deadline for written comments.

Chairman McDonald informed council that he was asked to provide the welcoming at the Ronan School Hall of Fame event to honor the outstanding athletes on February 4, at 2:00 p.m., at the Ronan Events Center. Tom requested concurrence to represent the CSKT at the event. **Council** concurred with having Chairman McDonald represent the CSKT at the event.

Chairman McDonald reminded council of the grand opening of the Thatcher Veterans Clinic. Martin Charlo will provide the welcoming remarks on behalf of the Tribes. Also in attendance will be the Chief Cliff Drum Group, the Yamncut Drum Group, Mission Valley Honor Guard, a prayer by Tony Incashola, Sr., and Senator Tester. Senator Tester has been a strong advocate for veterans and has brought a great increase in services.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department; and **Carolyn Hall**, Upper West Shore Dayton School District; presented the Annual Indian Education Report. The Dayton School has 59 students (53 nontribal and 6 tribal). Carolyn provided an attendance report. There was a decline in the attendance rate. They never dropped below 90% until the pandemic. Last year's attendance rate dropped to 86.7% and this year they are back in the 90s. Tribal students are attending school at a higher rate than the average nonmember students at 93.6%. The students listen to creation stories and create pictures of what they see. She showed some of the pictures to council. The students participate in the Kootenai Language classes. Barbara Barnes provides the class. The school hired their own Language teacher, with the approval of the Kootenai Culture Committee. Traditional Outfit Exploration and Design is another class they have for students. Dioramas of stories are created based on the Native American stories they are told. **Anita Matt** asked if the school has looked at a grant for transportation or a GoFundMe page to find busses to transport the kids. Carolyn advised that the school has done all kinds of things. Part of the issue is that once they fund an activity through a grant they need to sustain it. Finances are based on student enrollment. They are a small school and do not have the finances to sustain the program. **Len TwoTeeth** appreciates the report and he would like to find a way to support the school system. Carolyn wants to build a

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022

multipurpose building that would have a lunchroom. Dayton School does not provide transportation. The Valley View School and Swan Lake Prairie School do not have bus service either. Michelle asked about the social and emotional learning and supports in place for students, particularly during the pandemic. Carolyn advised that the school contracts with the Montana Small School Alliance to provide professional development and provide a licensed counselor to work with a target person at the school, and the school's person is Dr. Hartman, the school principal. There is a weekly guidance program. Michelle gave Carolyn kudos for hiring their own Kootenai Language teacher. It is important for students to receive that instruction.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to accept the Annual Indian Education Report for the Dayton School District. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Crista Anderson, Dixon School District; presented the Annual Indian Education Report. The goals of the school district include communicating and ensuring high expectations for all students and staff; provide student-centered instruction while learning within the context of culture; and support families in meeting student academic goals through strategic communication and outreach. The Native American population is 46 out of 68 students, which is higher than in the past. 29 students are JOM eligible. The staff professional development report included being part of the STEP Cohort for four years. They have had two different cohorts go through and the school still has some of those teachers on staff. The staff participates in PIR day and the staff completed a combined 96 sessions provided by the Tribal PIR Day presenters. The school offers personalized PIR Day that are staff directed. The school district works with Salish Kootenai College and Native Teaching Games. There are no Native American staff members due to no applicants. The Preschool Teacher is a Salish Kootenai College graduate. 50% of the certified teaching staff are Native American (5 out of 10); 10% of the classified staff are Native American (1 out of 9); and 2 staff members are non-American Indian SKC graduates. The school used to have a full-time school counselor five years ago and now it is a shared position with the Charlo School. The Dixon School District works with SKC to hire teachers. The Prior and Current Collaborations and Initiatives include the Montana Behavioral Initiative (restorative justice), STEP Grant partnership, SAMHSA grant partnership, College and Career Ready Grant partner, Breakfast in the Classroom Grant (No Child Hungry), Preschool Literacy block grant with Charlo; Technology Infrastructure upgrades and improvements, ESSER Modernizations and Improvements, Headwaters Cultural Innovations Grant, and the 21st Century After School Program Grant. Many students do not have internet access at home so that service is available at the school. Extracurricular activities are band; Charlo Athletics - basketball, football, and volleyball; Dixon Athletics - track and cross country; student council; and Ski and Snowboard Club. She provided the student achievements report for 2019 – 2020 for mathematics,

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022

reading and science. The student attendance report for 2021-2022 was 93.75%. The school is as transparent as possible to the public and post information on Instagram, Facebook and keeps the website updated. **Anita Matt** commented that the Dixon School is requesting to have the Hi Set program at the community building and she offered if they need the building we might have a building available in the agency. **Chairman McDonald** suggested taking the students on a fieldtrip to the Bison Range.

MOTION by Anita Matt to accept the Annual Indian Education Report for the Dixon School District. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Juan Escano, City of Polson, wants to keep the communications open with the tribal government. **Tom Mavity** used to be an Illinois State Trooper. He wants open lines of communication. He just moved to Montana last fall and has a lot to learn about the Tribes.

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

Len TwoTeeth mentioned some property that is up for sale in St. Ignatius and the owners want the Tribes to look at it. The fieldtrip is scheduled for tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. This property would be ideal for multiple uses. The Tribal Health Department and Department of Human Resources Development staff will be attending the fieldtrip. **Martin Charlo** thought we already looked at this land as a possibility to address homelessness. There might have been an inspection done on it. **Carole Lankford** saw some email traffic and she reached out to Bob Gauthier and Jason to see if there is anyone we can contact to expedite the foreclosure of homes so we can get something moving on that.

John Harrison, Legal Department; **Jaqueline De Leon** and **Emily deLisle**, Native American Rights Fund; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Dan Decker**, Legal Department; **Robert McDonald**, Natural Resources Department; **Gwen Lankford**, Tribal Health Department; **Shane Morigeau**, Public Affairs and Communications; **Jordan Thompson**, Deputy Executive Officer of Special Projects & Planning; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Anita Matt to authorize the proposal letters to be sent for satellite voting offices at all tribal facilities for the counties of Sanders, Lake, and Missoula for the upcoming election. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 11:05 a.m. to conduct an Energy Keepers, Inc. shareholder representative meeting.

Chairman McDonald out of the room participating in consultations for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 11:56 a.m.

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

Chairman McDonald returned to the meeting.

Council met in **executive session** to conduct interviews. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

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

Council continued to meet in **executive session** to conduct interviews. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Dan Decker, Brian Upton and **Chelsea Colwyn**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Martin Charlo gave an update on COVID-19. There have been 130 new cases for a total of 380 cases.

Brad Pluff, Tribal Court, was sworn in as the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court. **Patty Stevens**, Tribal Court, was sworn in as the Associate Judge of the Tribal Court.

Jordan Thompson, Deputy Executive Officer of Special Projects & Planning, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide orientation on the Council Handbook.

Council met in **executive session**. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department,, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to accept the results of the ballot and appoint James Steele, Sr. as the Sergeant at Arms for a two-year term. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 9 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt – due to the veteran’s preference issue).

MOTION by Martin Charlo to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Craig Pablo to the Tribal Gaming Commission for a three-year term. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

MOTION by Carole Lankford to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Robert Gauthier to the S&K Technologies Board of Directors for a four-year term. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

George Ducharme, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 4:22 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary