

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

Volume 22 Number 59
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 31, 2022
Approved: June 2, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anita Matt (Personal Time Off).

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 Bing Matt.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 26, 2022 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Ellie Bundy McLeod).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Chairman McDonald confirmed the travel arrangements for the trip to Bonners Ferry.

Chairman McDonald discussed the need to advertise the Court of Appeals Administrator vacancy as soon as possible. He would like to have it reviewed to see if it needs to be reclassified or updated.

Chairman McDonald informed council that they need to review the draft evaluation for an Admin position. The discussion/review was scheduled for the afternoon of June 27.

Len TwoTeeth followed up on the fieldtrip to view the property/residence in Pablo. Council should move forward if they are interested in purchasing the property. It will be discussed further during the Land Committee meeting this afternoon.

Council met in **executive session**. **Patricia Hibbeler**, Director of Tribal Member Services, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Velda Shelby and **Janet Camel**, Economic Development Office; **Vern Clairmont** and **Jeff Clairmont**, Raven Consulting, LLC; discussed the meat processing study and business plan. CSKT received a USDA Rural Development grant to fund a feasibility study and business plan for a mobile slaughter unit and meat processing plant for tribal member cattle, bison and wild game. Raven Consulting presented the study to the council last month, and the council agreed to go with scenario 3 to develop a fixed processing plant but not purchase a mobile slaughter unit. The business plan covered the marketing plan, inspection and processing requirements, meat processing requirements, meat processing plan, business formation, and financial plan. There was discussion about having a USDA-inspected slaughter plant/processing facility. The facility would employ seven workers. The facility would be about 3,000 square feet, including corrals, holding pens, water wells, waste disposal, and composting stations. There would be the ability to haul some of the waste product off the site. There would need to be a heavy-duty truck and small stock trailer purchased. The estimated cost to construct the facility is \$2.1 million and the startup costs would be about \$23,925.00. If the CSKT contributed \$400,000 that would get the initial phases underway and provide cashflow for the first year of operations. \$2,159,000 would be financed at 5% for a ten-year period with annual payments to be made. If the loan is secured with a Certificate of Deposit, CSKT may get a lower interest rate. It would allow the Tribes to go beyond the loan limit at the banks and the possibility of using Eagle Bank without limitations, because it would be a guaranteed loan. There may be some grant funding available to help offset costs. The New Market Tax Credit program is a possibility. The meat processing facility would qualify, but in most cases the program will not do a project under \$5 million due to the cost of developing the program. That may be an option, but because this project is less than \$5 million it may not be feasible. Revenue would be generated from services of processing game, sale of meat, and value-added products. The plant would have a full kitchen. The marketing plan would include advertising in local news prints, social media, cold calling, the manager establishing a customer base, and working with the Inter-Tribal Bison Council. The business would be established as a Section 17 corporation. A Board of Directors would be appointed. The Board of Directors would hire the General Manager for the plant, who would be

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2022

responsible for financial oversight, personnel management, quality control, processing operations, customer service, and regulatory compliance. Mile City Community College offers meat processing classes/certification.

MOTION by Jennifer Finley to approve the Meat Processing Feasibility Study and Meat Processing Business Plan and direct staff to continue working on a feasibility study and business plan for a cattle finishing business. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to have staff continue working, using additional funding for a feasibility study and business plan for a cattle finishing business to maintain our food sovereignty goal. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 opposed (Martin Charlo – is not in favor of having the processing plant located across from the Bison Range); 1 not voting (Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

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

Dan Decker, John Harrison, Brian Upton, Melissa Schlichting, and Katie Jones, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Chairman McDonald discussed a request from the Arlee Pow Wow Committee for a one-time increase of \$40,000 for the Arlee Pow Wow this year, due to not achieving their fundraising goals. The Financial Management Director identified funds available for the increase. The Standing Arrow Pow Wow Committee would receive the same increased amount.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve a one-time increase of \$40,000 for the Arlee Pow Wow Committee and the Standing Arrow Pow Wow Committee for the pow wows this year. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

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

Mark Couture, Holly Hitchcock and Tara Irvine, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to hold a Land Committee meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Jim Manley, Twentieth Judicial Drug Court, met with the council. The Tribal Council honored Judge Manley for making a difference in so many people's lives. Judge Manley established the Lake County Drug Court. There have been 47 participants and 36 of those are tribally affiliated. Dana Comes At Night is the Drug Court Coordinator. She told Judge Manley she appreciates the way he treats tribal members and all those who go through Drug Court. It has been an honor for her to work with him. Shay Ashley was grateful for the services provided by the Drug Court and he thanked Judge Manley. Shay is now the Outreach Specialist at the Never Alone Recovery Center and gives back to the community. JaBleau Arlee thanked Judge Manley for giving him a chance to turn his life around and he appreciates everything Judge Manley did for him. Pat Matt commented on systemic racism and the unfair treatment tribal members go through. The lack of representation causes tribal members to be at the mercy of the court and the courts are not always merciful. Judge Manley came along and became an advocate for tribal members. Pat saluted Judge Manley with a song. Council presented Judge Manley with a Distinguished Service Award and gifted him a pair of gloves for his outstanding dedication to the community. **Judge Manley** thanked the Tribal Council for the award. He started working here in 1979 and worked with Judge Donny Dupuis and Judge Louise Burke, so he thought it was appropriate that his last few hours of work be spent with the Tribes. The Drug Court is a family that works together. Jim thanked Carole Lankford for being a part of the Drug Court. 92% of the crimes Judge Manley sentenced people for were addiction related. Judge Manley knew the system was not working, so he came to the Tribes to ask for help to establish the Drug Court. It has been fulfilling to get to know everyone and they are the ones who have done the hard work. CSKT is the only organization that has a Men's Sober Living Center and a Women's Sober Living Center. People need to get passed their addiction, change their life, deal with multi-generational trauma, and obtain an education and job skills. Greg commented that Judge Manley dedicated his career to representing people who were wronged. It meant a lot to see Jim become a judge. Tom has worked with Judge Manley for many years. Jim has always been a caring individual. Tom was proud of Judge Manley for being a part of this accomplishment.

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

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested clarification on what the next steps are regarding the property in Pablo.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to show interest in purchasing the trust property located in Pablo. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Jennifer Finley out of the room).

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2022

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from two individuals for the Tribes to provide a letter of disinterest in Allotment No. 4215-C, containing 18.23 acres. Each individual owns one-half interest.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to show interest in purchasing the entire Allotment 4215-C, containing 18.23 acres. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 8 for; 1 opposed (Mike Dolson).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from the Charlo School District for a 0.26-acre irrigation canal right-of-way encroachment permit for a 25-year lease term with a 25-year renewal option, to run in conjunction with the business lease.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to grant the Charlo School District a 0.26-acre irrigation canal right-of-way encroachment permit for a 25-year lease term with a 25-year renewal option, at a cost of \$1.00, to run in conjunction with the business lease. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from Jeff and Mary Rolquin for reconsideration of their request to obtain an easement to access their fee property. The council previously took action to deny the request. **No action taken.**

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, recommended that Allotment No. 1914B be used as a food vendor court.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to take the recommendation to use T1914B as a food vendor court. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested approval to advertise the 2022 fireworks season for the five locations identified.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the advertisement of the 2022 fireworks season for the five designated lots. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Mark Couture and **Rachael Bigsam**, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to continue the Land Committee meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session.**

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2022

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to accept the 2022 Spring Bid single leases and competitive leases without improvements. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Lands Department to do a cooperative agreement with Two Eagle River School for the USDA EQIP advanced payment. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Council **adjourned** at 4:50 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary