

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

Volume 23 Number 38  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: March 28, 2023  
Approved: April 4, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy, Treasurer; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; and Terry Pitts.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Dolson (Compact Working Session – Washington, DC); Jim Malatare (Indian Gaming Association Conference – San Diego, CA); and James “Bing” Matt (Indian Gaming Association Conference – San Diego, CA).

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

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

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Wayne McCoy.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 23, 2023 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Ellie Bundy to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Terry Pitts to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Wayne McCoy** discussed the need to have a waste energy plan. The Kootenai Tribe was going to approve a waste energy plan and that would have been a good idea. 10 houses were going to be built and energy would be supplied to those houses. Wayne asked if we could get something like that here so we would have a waste energy plan and get housing for people. He suggested having 10 big bins in the communities/homesites and have people trained to haul them. **Chairman McDonald** commented the flat rate system they have is not fair and it would be

nice to reward people for conservation and recycling. The Tribes continue to work on a solution.

**Martin Charlo** gave an update on the vandalism that took place at the Beartracks Bridge. An interpretative sign was torn out and thrown down the stairs to the river. It was a social media post that alerted people to it. Commissioner Strohmaier reported it as a crime scene and a police investigation is underway. The mayor is also involved. The tribal chairman put out a statement yesterday and it was well received. There are discussions about how to pay for the signs. The sign will be replaced as soon as possible. There will be a dedication for the Grant Creek interpretative signs on the interstate in conjunction with the ones at Beartracks Bridge. It is to be determined. GoFundMe funds will assist with replacement of the signs.

**Council** met in **executive session**. **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office, was present for discussion.

**Council** met with representatives from the State Department, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Council** reviewed the 2023 Tribal Council Election Rules & Regulations, as amended. The Election Board will consist of the 5 Tribal Council members not up for election, two tribal member citizen eligible voters to observe/participate, and the Legal Department Managing Attorney to make sure the election follows the governing rules. **Dan Decker**, Legal Department, requested approval of the Election Rules.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve by resolution the 2023 Tribal Council Election Rules & Regulations, as amended March 28, 2023. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 7 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

## **RESOLUTION 23-077**

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2023 ELECTION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the Tribal Council to determine the rules and regulations governing all elections; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the attached 2023 Election Rules and Regulations are approved.

**Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legislative issues. **Katie Jones, Lynsey Gaudioso**, and **Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department; and **Gwen Lankford**, Consultant; were present for discussion.

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

**Carole Lankford** left on personal time off for the remainder of the day to go to an appointment.

**Dan Decker, John Harrison, Grace Judge, Zach Zipfel, Lynsey Gaudioso, Chelsea Colwyn, Katie Jones**, and **Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Trisha White** and **Allie Maestas**, Victim Assistance Program, were present for discussion.

**Jennifer Finley** left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

**Dan Decker, John Harrison, Grace Judge, Zach Zipfel, Lynsey Gaudioso, Chelsea Colwyn, Katie Jones**, and **Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department, continued to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

**Renee Dubay**, Salish Kootenai College Extension; **Bonnie White**, Arlee School Teacher; **Garrett O'Connor** and **Lena Tromp**, Arlee High School Students; gave a presentation on the Safeguarding Natural Heritage program. CSKT was 1 of 6 selected by the USDA to participate in the program. Garrett's project was on the increase and decrease of biodiversity in the Jocko Valley ecosystem. Lena's project was tracking water quality on the Jocko River.

**Ellie Bundy** out of the room participating in the Montana MIP/LINC meeting.

**Jim Cofield, Shelly Fyant** and **Mary Stranahan**, Friends of the Jocko, gave a status report on what has transpired since the last time they met with council regarding the proposed gravel pit and asphalt plant in Arlee. Their requests for the public comment period to be extended and an environmental impact statement were not granted, but a draft environmental assessment was released

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by the State. They requested a copy of the comments that were submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality by CSKT staff and for the Tribes to provide them with legal assistance if they go to litigation. **Council** had no objection to providing a copy of the comments and Chairman McDonald will follow up with MaryRose Morigeau. Council took the request regarding legal assistance under advisement. **Terry Pitts** suggested sending a letter to the State telling them to stop the process until they have a consultation with the Tribes.

**Ellie Bundy** returned to the meeting.

**Jim Cofield, Shelly Fyant** and **Mary Stranahan**, Friends of the Jocko, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to continue discussing their concerns. **Katie Jones, Michael Wheeler, Chelsea Colwyn,** and **Grace Judge**, Legal Department, were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 3:58 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary