

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

Volume 19 Number 66
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: July 5, 2019
Approved: July 18, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Shelly Fyant, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Myrna DuMontier; Carole Lankford; Fred Matt; Leonard TwoTeeth; Charmel Gillin; and Dennis Clairmont.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman (Sick).

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 9:02a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Stephen Smallsalmon.

The drum group sang a **flag song**.

Stephen Smallsalmon discussed being appointed as the war dance chief. He is almost 80 years old now. He used to drum every day with the kids at Nkwusm. Stephen showed a poster of a film called The Last Beyond that he will be appearing in. He thanked council for supporting him.

Len TwoTeeth joined the meeting.

Raven Rogers recognized the war chief for the work he has done with our children. She wore the shirt she has on today for a purpose. We are a people of vision and do not want to give up our past but want to look at our future and make sure our kids have good health, the best education that can be given, and a solid footing of their past in order to be strong in the future. She heard about a person who graduated from Yale in hydro something and came back here when he could have gone anywhere in the world to work. Dave Wall is his father and is a tribal member. Veterans will be honored at the pow wow today.

Delores Plumage is here for the pow wow. Delores is a Blaine County Commissioner. This is her third term and people wonder if she will run again. It is emotional for her to be here since many people she loves have died. She is the first woman in the county's history to take office. She has made a difference

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and also made some alliances while there. They are working on budget issues. She serves on the St. Mary's Working Group. There are two water compacts, one for Blackfeet and one for Ft. Belknap. Blackfeet just got done with theirs and they got less money than anticipated and won't get their funding until 2025. The irrigators along the highline just had a bill that went to congress. Right now they have to pay 70% theirs and 25% from the feds. The bill that Tester and Daines sponsored flipped it so the irrigators would pay 25% of the cost. Some irrigators threaten to go to dry land farming because they can't afford it. Ft. Belknap doesn't have a water compact into congress yet. Their attorney is attempting to meet with them again. Every time she asks about Flathead, she hears Flathead is in trouble. She reads the Char-Koosta News and sees no updates on our compact. She is concerned about the membership here. The DOI will represent the Tribes for water rights. This may happen. There are lots of other complex issues revolving Fort Belknap and the tribes are not in agreement with one another. It is a battle and everyone has a dog in the fight. Irrigators want more support. She is hearing that the CSKT is asking for too much money and it will affect other water compacts. Our tribe has had to prove their authority here. We took up that battle. Nobody gave us anything. We had to own it, and we still do. **Fred Matt** commented that the CSKT does not accept less, we want what we think we deserve, so we hold a hard line on that. That is why it takes us a while to make a deal on the compact.

Shelly Fyant asked what the Montana Association of Counties is doing. There's under the radar activity with Keystone XL Pipeline and the State and different agencies are gearing up and what that would do to the two tribes. Delores had a conference in Missoula last year; the main speaker was from North Dakota, where they did a lot of Standing Rock law enforcement intervention. She was invited to Montana. She had an emotional presentation. At the end of her talk she said she loved law enforcement and she didn't like what happened to law enforcement over there and she cried. There was a video made of what happened. Delores asked for a copy of the video but she couldn't get one. She is upset that Senator Tester voted for the original oil. She talked about EMAC, which is emergency something. The disaster committees have monthly meetings. They have tabletop exercises for anti-terrorist activities for the XL. If we get that funding, we can complain to them about what kind of exercises they are doing. Delores saw an article on the maintenance of the dam. She wants to know what is our profit. She gets asked that from taxpayers. **Carole Lankford** commented that one advantage we have over other tribes is we have our own in-house legal counsel. Delores said it would be important to the people and for her is when it's in the Char-Koosta News that it's announced that it has a bill number and is going into congress. When it has a hearing, it is public. Then we should be asking council for updates and notify the people. That is what's happening with other compacts.

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

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The floor was opened for council updates.

Carole Lankford thanked the drum for the song. She hopes everyone is safe. The last quarter has been tough for her. She continues to be part of the Drug Court, Boys and Girls Club, Bread Basket, and AMERIND.

Dennis Clairmont thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting. He thanked Stephen for the prayer and presentation this morning, and he thanked the drum. Dennis went to the IBMP meeting in Gardiner. June 18 the Custer Gallatin Forest held a scoping meeting and gave a presentation on the Forest Plan and changes that are coming forward. There is an opportunity for the Tribes to provide comments. The Bear Creek Council sponsored a fieldtrip and showed participants where the hunt places are and problems associated with it. The tribes and agencies try to improve the hunt. It is a cooperative effort between the participating Tribes, Park Service, Forest Service, the State, and the locals. He also went to the kickoff discussion for revitalization of the Council Grove interpretive signs in Missoula. If anyone wants to add input, it would be welcomed. The Forest Service kicks in \$5,000 to get this started. A lot of things can be done at the site, it's part of our heritage. He attended a meeting with the Department of Transportation about the Pablo overpass being a dangerous intersection. He hopes we can make that site safe. More discussions need to take place to come up with a suitable plan. He thanked the membership for letting him sit up here on council and represent our people.

Shelly Fyant is involved in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons group. We developed a working group on Flathead. The law enforcement knows the protocol if someone went missing. We established a non-law enforcement tip line for people who don't want to talk to law enforcement. Jami Pluff presented to the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council. Ellie Bundy-McLeod was nominated to serve on task force. Shelly and Charmel went to the Tribal Leaders Summit and discussed aquatic invasive species, DOT Highway 93 issue, and the Elk River Mining Project in Canada. She works on food sovereignty. They are getting ready to do a food assessment for the community. She serves on the Lake County Community Development Committee. There is a Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center where you can process food. They work with the SKC Extension Office for research work. She promised a family to read a letter into the record. It's dated July 2. We the family of the late Victor J. and Velma Matt requesting to acquire and managing the 2020 Arlee Pow Wow. They acknowledge this is a voluntary commitment and do not expect any monetary compensation. We appreciate your consideration for this request. Please contact the numbers with any questions. She thanked everyone for attending today.

Myrna DuMontier thanked the drum for the good songs this morning and consistency in which the family has operated for many years. She appreciates keeping our culture and songs alive and keeping us going. We have experienced

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cycles of newness here. She has been here about ten months now and has learned a lot. She wants the membership to know her heart is for her people; always has been; always will be; and she won't violate that trust. She hasn't gotten too involved because of election time and she doesn't know where she will be at. She doesn't want to waste tribal dollars. She has a lot to learn. She is learning the constitution and the code of conduct. She has done research and has been studying documents. She is grateful for the people who step forward with good things to say and have the past and future in mind. It is important to keep our past and build our future on that foundation. She continues to support the Washington State University Health Board. She testified on our language. She wants to do cultural training for tribal council, to understand those statements we define in our mission statement, goals, and objectives. There is little evidence that we act on those statements. She hopes to carry on this work well into the future. She thanked everyone here and the council for letting her be part of this, and the people for letting her occupy this seat for however long she does.

Fred Matt thanked the drum for the song and the membership for attending today. He thanked everyone for the comments this morning. Stephen's words this morning were heartfelt. He has been involved in ITC. We are a voting member in that organization. Our seat was up on that organization and we were voted back into that organization. They asked if we would take the 2023 National Inter-Tribal Timber Council Symposium. He attended the Dixon district meeting. There was a lot of dialogue. We had a fieldtrip to the project and we saw some alarming issues going on there. It is old and dilapidated, and it needs to be fixed. The pumping plant was a topic that is in terrible disrepair. He filled in for Charmel at the NCAI Environmental Protection and Land Use Committee.

Charmel Gillin attended the Governor's Summit. It is important to protect our sovereignty. It was a great experience, going through that organic process of standing up for things that needed to be said. The Governor is receptive to those discussions. We are good at holding and standing our ground. She is privileged to be part of that. We are learning and growing. In order to do what the oath of office says we will do is we are affirming we're going to support and defend the constitution of the US and carry out faithfully and impartially the office in the best interest of our tribe. This is a learning process. At the last district meeting she had she went through all sorts of items for updates. So much goes on here. We have a committee of department heads/directors planning the short- and long-term use of the KHJCC property. We talked about vacant positions coming open at the Tribes. We have top-level positions opening up at the Tribes. We need to protect values of the Tribes. It's hard to say bye to some people moving on. She gave an update on the Big Arm road easement. Legal is still working on that. It is important work happening behind the scenes right now. One of the most wonderful things that happened is we got notice that One Heart received their nonprofit status from the Internal Revenue Service. That was with the

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support of the Tribes. Stu Levit worked with them and help them. Len has been involved in their meetings. That is a victory. We need people who are brave and take a risk at doing something like that. She looks forward to what that produces. They working on a memorandum of understanding with the Tribal Health Department, and Tribal Health is helping them with matched funds for that program as well. So many people come through these chambers every week and she appreciates those who take the time to come to the meetings. She wishes we could allow employees to come to meetings on a regular basis. That would be a good way to bring in more of their participation to be encouraging our membership to be active in the government. People should be able to participate and get the information they want. She hopes everyone enjoys the holiday.

Anita Matt thanked the membership for taking time to share today with us; she thanked the prayers and drum. She wishes we could do that every day. This quarter she hadn't traveled and has mainly been on the phone trying to do it from that angle. Dixon didn't always meet and people didn't participate. She has been bringing people together. We had 17 people at the last meeting. June 28 was the cleanup and they fed 30 people at Dixon Agency. She thanked Lands for providing a dumpster. We are struggling to get a building. As soon as we get MDOT to agree hopefully we will get a building there to bring the community closer. They are looking forward to it and will do fundraising to do activities in Dixon. She is proud of them. She serves on different organizations. She has been involved in the Inter-Tribal Ag Council. It's a large organization. She is still working with the Farm Bill. At noon she has a conference call with the Rocky Mountain IAC. She is the president of that organization. August 29-30 is the regional meeting at KwaTaqNuk. The Farm Bill has 63 provisions that affect Tribes. There is an Indian Conservation Youth Conference July 7-15. The SKC has been involved in it. She and Shelly will welcome the youth. Anita went to the Tribal Leaders meeting at KwaTaqNuk.

Len TwoTeeth thanked everyone for taking the time to be with us this morning. It reminds him of who we work for. Council appreciates participation by the membership. He mentioned the court case with Big Arm roadway. It is something that we've been focusing on and it will have huge implications in Indian country on the outcome of this case. We will continue to keep the membership updated as things go along. We hired a law firm to help our legal department in this case. Shelly and Len met with the governor on the boat inspection sites. They watched the governor inspect a boat, so that was fun. Our staff found a boat with mussels on it. He encouraged the membership to honk and wave at the inspection site workers.

Chairman Trahan commented that the council is busy. He wakes up and finds our what our daily battle is every day. We battle every day to keep ourselves as a tribe and as a people. It is good that we are still here. He hasn't been traveling, other than going to DC for water rights in May. He met with Senator Daines to

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discuss the issue. We have good people working on this. We are getting things done. He thanked the drum and prayer. He requested that Delores offer the closing prayer at the end of today's meeting. All members of the drum group are veterans.

Council recognized Vern Clairmont for all the work he has done for the Tribes. Council gave Vern a Pendleton blanket as a retirement gift. **Vern Clairmont** thanked the drum. It is such a privilege to hear the drum. Vern thanked council and the Tribes for the opportunity over the last 45 years of employment. It has been a lot of fun, very educational, and we got a lot of things accomplished. He was privileged to watch this tribe to go from very few employees to almost over 1,400 employees. We covered a lot of issues. He appreciates everything the tribal councils in the past have done. He appreciates the hard work they do for our Tribes. Retirement was good. He introduced his new partner Jeff, who is his son. He put in 25 years with the Internal Revenue Service working with tribal governments. His other son, Jason, is a third partner in Raven Consulting, LLC. They just formed this business and will go around Indian country to do consulting work in administration and accounting. It will be fun to be business partners with his sons. He thanked council for the recognition. The drum group sang an **honor song**.

Jordan Thompson, Legal Department, gave an update on the water compact. The compact has been an issue for about two decades. The promise to us was broken through the 1904 Allotment Act. Jordan answered questions from the audience.

Jordan Thompson, Legal Department, gave an update on the Big Arm road issue. The Lake County Planning Board issued a permit to someone to build a road at Big Arm for the building of an RV Park. Janet Camel said the county did not have ownership to issue the permit, but the county issued the permit anyway. The Tribes built a fence to block it since we have ownership of the land. The dispute is ownership of the road. The Tribes filed a complaint in Federal District Court and a counterclaim was filed. Jordan answered questions from the audience.

Charmel Gillin discussed Ronan rezoning where we planned to build a wellness center. There is a Ronan City Council meeting on the 7th. She encouraged the membership to go to that meeting to support the Tribes' plan. Supportive housing was part of the plan. Carole Lankford and Len TwoTeeth attended the meeting and there was overwhelming support of the Tribes' plan.

Delores Plumage offered the closing prayer.

MOTION by Fred Matt to adjourn the meeting.

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Council **adjourned** at 11:54 a.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Shelly R. Fyant
Tribal Secretary