

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

Volume 18 Number 41
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: March 1, 2018
Approved: March 8, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Troy Felsman, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Shelly Fyant; Carole Lankford; Leonard TwoTeeth; Charmel Gillin; and James Steele, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman (Yellowstone Meeting); and Dennis Clairmont (Yellowstone Meeting).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; Tom Johnson, 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 James Steele, Jr.

The **agenda** was presented for approval. No conflicts of interest were identified.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

John Carter gave council some tobacco that is grown on his family farm in Kentucky.

Anita Matt gave a report on the Dixon district meeting that took place last night. 12 people attended. Topics discussed at the meeting were the Density Map, Public Law 280, the Probate Code, an update on the water system and well; HIP applications; and concerns of no law enforcement in the Dixon Agency. Brandon Burke had visited the Dixon School about potential youth activities. Jordan Thompson did an excellent job explaining the codes and who to contact. On the water system, the easement went through and within the next three weeks the lines should be connected. So hopefully they will be hooked up in the system within one month. **Charmel Gillin** reported that the membership at the meeting mentioned their concerns about the current management of judicial issues. Someone with child custody issues going on through Tribal Court spoke about an injustice that she as tribal member doesn't feel like she's been well represented in this issue. The takeaway from

that discussion was the need to improve advocacy for tribal members.

Anita Matt announced that the Flathead Irrigation Project is advertising vacant positions (six ditch riders, one maintenance position and one operator), but they are not advertised locally; applicants need to go through the website to apply. The website for people to apply for those jobs is usajobs.gov. **Troy Felsman** suggested having an advertisement in the Char-Koosta News so tribal members are aware of the vacancies.

Charmel Gillin informed council that Bret Burke, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, was named Region 8 Engineer of the Year. This award has not been acknowledged, and we should all participate in accomplishments such as this. She wants Bret's award properly acknowledged.

Len TwoTeeth requested an update on the project providing assistance up north. **Chairman Trahan** advised that Vern is following up and will provide an update.

Kelly Parker, Department of Human Resources Development, requested authorization to hire Karleigh Bolin and Tamberly Wagner to fill the CPS/Foster Care Social Worker Trainee positions on two-year contracts. The vacancies were advertised for two weeks and these are the applicants that were selected after the interviews.

MOTION by Shelly to hire authorize the hire of Karleigh Bolin on a two-year contract to fill the CPS/Foster Care Social Worker Trainee position. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Anita Matt to authorize the hire of Tamberly Wagner on a two-year contract to fill the CPS/Foster Care Social Worker Trainee position. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Charmel Gillin attended the department head meeting yesterday. One topic came up that she wants to follow up on is the discussion of the way they would carry out the initiative to create work plans based on the priorities devised from the work that council did under the consultation of Virginia Tribe. There was discussion on how and what should be done. Charmel wants to review the contract with Virginia Tribe, the scope of work for the consultation, and the deliverables. And then she wants to discuss what our outcomes were supposed to have been and provide better or additional direction to the department heads. There was other strategic planning work done in 2006 and Clayton Matt can share that with Charmel. She wants discussion scheduled at the chairman's meeting and communicate back to the department heads.

Sandra Boham and **Stacey Sherwin**, Salish Kootenai College, requested

approval of a resolution supporting the National Career Technical Program. The program has been on continuation funding for several years and then they were notified that it is now a competitive grant. **Charmel Gillin** suggested changes in the language in the resolution; Legal agreed with the changes.

MOTION by James Steele, Jr. to approve the resolution, with corrections, to support Salish Kootenai College's application funding for the National Career Technical Program. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 18-090

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE PROPOSAL FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR A NATIVE AMERICAN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROJECT (NACTEP), 2018-2021

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

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are committed to develop, protect, and advance the interests, resources, and education of its members; and

WHEREAS, the CSKT is a federally recognized tribe; and

WHEREAS, the CSKT formally established Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in 1977 as a tribally-controlled college; and

WHEREAS, SKC is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; and

WHEREAS, SKC is applying for federal funds under the U.S. Department of Education's Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP), which serves tribal educational entities and awards special consideration to accredited tribal college applicants; and

WHEREAS, SKC has based its NACTEP proposal in significant part on the economic and employment needs of the tribal membership as well as job availability and workforce development needs identified in the CSKT Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and other tribal planning documents as well as related socioeconomic and employment data; and

WHEREAS, there is an identified need for workforce development in career and technical fields on or near the Flathead Indian Reservation and in Indian

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Country in the areas of computer-related technology and allied health (including but not limited to information technology, dental assisting technology, nursing, medical assisting, medical coding/billing, digital media technology), and SKC's proposed NACTEP project will provide funds for instruction and student services in these disciplines and areas; and

WHEREAS, SKC has linked its proposed training program to tribal and community programs and services; and

WHEREAS, CSKT is the largest employer on the Flathead Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, Salish Kootenai College is committed to facilitating education, career services, and job placement of tribal members who successfully complete NACTEP training programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes support the NACTEP proposal submitted by Salish Kootenai College to the U.S. Department of Education.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, consistent with tribal personnel policies, directs the Tribal Personnel Department to (1) Review all applications submitted for available jobs by qualified CSKT tribal members; and (2) Accord hiring preference to qualified CSKT tribal members.

Dan Lozar and **Greg Wilson**, Natural Resources Department, requested that the Crow Dam Spillway Modification Project, Area 2 CSKT/SOD 18-01 be awarded to Karnath Contracting, Inc. The bid opening occurred and there were six responsive bidders. There were no Indian preference companies that bid within ten percent of the low bid. The Indian Preference Office concurs with the recommendation of the department.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to award the Crow Dam Spillway Modification Project, Area 2 CSKT/SOD 18-01 to Karnath Contracting, Inc., not to exceed the as-bid amount. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Daniel J. Decker, Legal Department, requested approval of modification 4 to the claims examination specialist contract with Tari Shaw to extend the term through September 30, 2018.

MOTION by James Steele, Jr. to approve by resolution modification 4 to the claims examination specialist contract with Tari Shaw to extend the term through September 30, 2018. Seconded by Troy Felsman.

Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 18-091

RESOLUTION TO AMEND CLAIMS EXAMINATION SPECIALIST CONTRACT WITH TARI SHAW

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

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation wish to extend the Claims Examination Specialist Contract term with Tari Shaw until September 30, 2018 to perform work and tasks assigned to her under the supervision and direction of the Managing Attorney of the Tribal Legal Department and Attorney Staff as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of all the contracting parties that Tari Shaw shall continue working under her approved contract with the Tribes according to the terms and conditions stated therein through September 30, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council approved said modification to agreement and authorizes its execution by the Chairman and the Secretary.

Martin Ashley, Tribal Member; and **Craig Couture**, Law & Order; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Vern Fisher**, Law & Order; and **Randy Ashley**, Tribal Member; were present for discussion.

Craig Couture, Law & Order, met with council in **executive session**.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Charmel Gillin left the meeting for the remainder of the day to attend a medical appointment with her husband.

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

Ann Miller, Mike Wheeler, George Madman, Beverly Swaney, Claire Charlo, Marcella Maseelah, Desirree Fox, Crystal Matt, and Rob Bixby, Tribal Defenders Office, requested tribal funding of the Flathead Reservation Reentry Program either annually in the amount of \$184,598 or for seven months in the amount of \$67,652 to keep the program going while the Defenders Office seeks

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other grants. Ann presented the funding request to the Budget Committee, and the committee did not make a recommendation other than to make the presentation to the tribal council. **Maylenn Smith**, University of Montana School of Law Indian Law Clinic, encouraged council to fund the program and commented on the importance of providing support services to tribal members. The staff gave an overview of the program and services provided to clients. In October 2015, the Tribal Defenders Office received a \$600,000 grant from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs to plan and implement the Reentry Program. The program will be out of funding April 1, 2018. In 2017, the Defenders Office applied for two grants but was not awarded either one. The program provides holistic defense and consults with the culture committees. **James Steele, Jr.** recommended checking with the Shakopee Tribe for possible grant funding. James indicated his support for the program. The Reentry Intake and Assessment Program provided assistance on 275 people. 76% of the clients are CSKT members; 81% are parents; 12% are part-time or seasonally employed; 68% live in unstable housing; 77% are unemployed; 87% have co-occurring disorders; 52% have clinically significant symptoms of PTSD; and 76% are at risk for reoffending. Alcohol and Meth remain as the two main substances of choice.

Kirsten Pabst, Missoula County Attorney, emphasized that Missoula County is a supporter of this program. She has been working with the legislature and this program is referred to; it is a cutting edge program to improve the criminal justice process. Kirsten has been working on a Pretrial Diversion Program and it will roll out in the near future. This program takes people off the criminal justice tracking if we intervene at the right time. **Harlan Trombley**, Montana Department of Corrections American Indian Liaison, strongly supports funding of this program. The Montana jails and prison system are running at full capacity. The Department of Corrections has taken a deeper look at factors regarding the design of the system. Having the Reentry Program come into the prison system has given tribal members a new sense of hope that they can return to their tribal homes and live their lives crime-free. Acceptance in the community is a big portion of their recovery and helps them to maintain sobriety.

Crystal Matt read a statement from Harold Mitchell, Jr., a client who received help from the Reentry Program when he was released from prison. The program provided transportation to Harold so he could apply for jobs. Harold is currently substance-free and employed. **Virginia Charlo**, a client, wished the program was here a long time ago; the program has changed her life. **Rob Bixby** discussed Incarcerated Anonymous, a support group that the Reentry Program started. It is a self-help support group and holds weekly meetings. People learn to take responsibility for our lives and our futures. **Justin Kalmbach**, Former Tribal Defender, worked as a civil attorney for the Tribal Defenders Office for the past five years. The recidivism numbers prove that the

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program works. The program builds connections. Depression and anxiety are major factors. People need to feel valuable to their community. Ann Miller is the main reason this program is so effective; her focus is on the clients. **Leonard Michel**, Tribal Member, asked questions about how successful the program has been for tribal members and commented on the short time period allowed for inmates to obtain employment within 10 days after being released from prison. **Ann Miller** met with the Board of Pardons about that issue and the board is talking about getting rid of that ten-day furlough. **Wilbert Michel**, Tribal Member, shared stories about family members attempting to visit inmates. Tribal members are required to provide an ID but the nontribal members were not required to provide one. This is how tribal members are treated. This program is an asset to our community. **Laurence Kenmille**, Tribal Member; **Mike Wheeler**, **George Madman** and **Claire Charlo**, Defenders Office, commented on their support for the Reentry Program. **Chairman Trahan** advised that council supports the program and will look for potential funding.

Rhonda Swaney and **John Harrison**, Legal Department, discussed a letter to Timothy Fox, Montana Attorney General, regarding the Culverts case.

MOTION by Troy Felsman to approve the letter to Timothy Fox, Montana Attorney General, regarding the Culverts case. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Anita Matt requested the status of the Flathead Extension MOU. **Jennifer Trahan** found nothing in the archive records and is still waiting to hear back from the Tribal Lands department head. **Council** wants to know who to contact about that position.

Carole Lankford requested the status of projects assigned to the policy analyst, such as the list of committees in the newspaper. **Chairman Trahan** said to give Jennifer the list of outstanding assignments and he will review it.

Anita Matt wants a meet and greet with the Sanders County Commissioners scheduled.

MOTION by Troy Felsman to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Council **adjourned** at 12:05 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Troy Felsman
Tribal Secretary