

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

Volume 20 Number 58  
Zoom Meeting

Held: May 21, 2020  
Approved: May 26, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; Anita Matt, Vice-Chairwoman; Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary; Martin Charlo, Treasurer; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; Fred Matt; Charmel Gillin; Mike Dolson; and Len TwoTeeth.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:02 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 19, 2020 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, gave an update on a revocable permit. The person bid \$2.00 per acre for the revocable permit. The permit will be sent to Legal for review and then sent for signature. The fencing around it is in decent shape. The lessee would be responsible for minimal upgrades, as needed. The new lessee from the fall bid will be responsible for all fencing upgrades after that. The 2.5-acre parcel with the house was not included. The permit is for the acreage located north of the house.

**Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department; and **Brenda Richey**, MSU Extension; requested a letter of support for two grants that MSU is applying for through the Native American Ag Fund (NAAF) for the youth aware of mental health and food sovereignty and youth programming. The name of it was changed to cultivating

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2020

resilience through food systems. Carole Lankford told her that the Boys and Girls Club is doing a community garden in Ronan and Martin Charlo is doing one in Pablo. Chairwoman Fyant did not believe this grant competed with our hemp feasibility study that the Tribes are applying for through this same fund. Brenda was not sure what category the Tribes applied through. Shelly asked Mark if we applied through Category 4 tribal governments. Mark responded that Velda Shelby is in charge of going ahead with that grant and he thought it was under tribal governments.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the letter of support. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Brenda Richey**, MSU, would like to apply for grant funding through category 5 grant under subcategory 8 for growing food sovereignty among Native American livestock producers. There is also a grant for funding to do a native youth ag camp for teens and provide viable opportunities. Brenda requested a letter of support from the Tribes.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the letter of support. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Ron Swaney**, Division of Fire, discussed the concerns regarding testing for COVID-19. It is important for his program to be tested. The Tribes need and want people tested and programs want it too. Ron expressed if his program gets sick or if there is an outbreak, it could affect a lot of the reservation because of the interaction they have with the outside and the ability to suppress fires. The National Fire Weather Service expects to have a lot of fires on the landscape this year. There will be a lack of resources and incident management teams nationally. There will be no camps this year and it will not be business as usual. The Division of Fire has resources that travel off the reservation, a helicopter, and the Type 2 IA crew. He met with Tammy Matt about the testing strategy so people don't bring back COVID-19 to their home and reservation. The CDC put out so many things on social distancing and that is a high priority for the program, but he sees them having to break the social distancing protocols in extreme fire danger. He wants the tribal council to be aware of that. The employees understand the risks, and they are struggling on how to do this. **Bob McCrea** thinks the tribal council needs to understand our fires will be bigger this year, and the possibility of less folks fighting fire on the reservation is pretty high unless we can bring people in from the outside. The concern is whether they can bring in folks from other areas. It goes back to testing, masks, and social distancing. As long as we can test folks, he wants to bring them from the outside. They should be tested before they go and when they get back. **Chairwoman Fyant** had a call with Governor Bullock, Jason Smith, Department of Public Health & Human Services, the National Guard, and the CSKT Unified Command Center. They discussed the testing that they would do and their plan

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2020

will be finalized Friday. The governor wants to administer 60,000 tests per month in Montana. Last week they tested 1,015 people at Fort Belknap and had two drive-through locations. Our team is looking at three locations (north, south and middle) and is working closely with DPHHSS to get that going. She asked about stockpiling tests for DOF, and they said the governor's goal is 60,000 tests per month, so it looks like they will be available. **Bob McCrea** commented that they need to know if they can bring in people from the outside during fire season. That is a tribal council decision. Otherwise, it will just be us, the local fire departments, and local contractors from the reservation. The helicopter would need to be sanitized each time and must sit for ten minutes, so that will cause a time delay. Council wants to receive regular updates from DOF. Carole Lankford asked if there would be action taken on each one specifically or if they would do an overall comprehensive action. In some cases, there were specifics here, and how would we handle those. Shelly sent an email lining out department by department and they need to be reviewed individually. The shelter in place order remains in effect until revoked and the council said they would revisit it by the end of May. On Wednesday and Friday the council will go through the reopening plans individually. How the National Guard helped other tribes was by bringing the tests over, and then brought them back to the state lab in Helena after they were administered. They can assist that way, along with setting up traffic control. It is either a two-or three-day turnaround time for the test results.

**Ron Swaney** discussed the medical response to firefighters being an area of discussion that needs to be finalized. They will be tested before and after the incident. They are working with Property & Supply for their needs. They will have a need for 90 Clorox bleach bottles and 90 individual hand sanitizers. He appreciates council allowing them to telework, but if we can't keep up with Property & Supply he wants approval to explore other avenues like Amazon to get a usable supply for their workers. He talked to Kermit to see what his stock supplies are. Ron is working with Rod Couture, UCC, too. He has access to hand sanitizer. He wants to make sure he has enough for the DOF so they are not drawing supplies from the Tribes. DOF applied for the Rural Fire Assistance grant and received funding to buy protective equipment. They also got some funding from the BIA for their cooperators and he wants to turn over those funds to the Lake County Fire Association. He requested approval of a memorandum of agreement to outline the expectations, roles, and responsibilities. It was reviewed by Contracts & Grants and the Legal Department.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the memorandum of agreement with the Lake County Fire Association. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

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

**Council** wore their face masks and stressed the importance of masking up when

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2020

the membership is out in public and to be sure to use gloves properly. Anita Matt commented on the importance of using gloves and wants everyone to be safe. Fred Matt suggested hand sanitizers to be kept on hand and inside vehicles.

**Casey Ryan**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of noncompetitive negotiations with Rehbein, Inc. for construction of four cast-in place water measurement structures. The structure provides highly accurate water levels. This is for phase two of the construction projects. Phase one was put out for bid and there was only 1 tribal preference bidder. The project was awarded to the sole bidder. The project was completed successfully. This will be a three-phase project. Local competition was inadequate for a project of this nature so he wants to proceed with noncompetitive negotiations which would help control costs. Casey wants to schedule a tribal council fieldtrip to view the completed structures once they are done.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve noncompetitive negotiations with Rehbein, Inc. for construction of four cast-in place water measurement structures. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department, presented a request for a collection permit from Mark Johnston, Flathead Lake Open Swimmers, LLC. He has received this permit for the past five years. E.coli will be tested in local areas. He has the necessary funding to pay for the tests. The test sites are Salish Point, Riverside Park, Boetcher, Finley Point, Big Arm, Yellow Bay, Elmo, Wolf Point, and Blue Bay. Mark has found no E.coli and our lake has been very clean. He provides the test results to the public by publishing it in the newspaper. Rich can have him share it electronically so we can get the information out on email and tribal Facebook pages. Shelly read the list of sites that were adopted and she gave them a shout-out for adopting these parks. Mark solicits funding on his own to do the testing. Charmel mentioned that Mark agreed to add the CSKT Wolf Point Park, Elmo Bay, and Blue Bay upon the council's request and those sponsors picked those up at our request. She appreciates their help. We have people who swim those locations.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to grant Flathead Lake Open Swimmers, Inc. a collection permit. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Dan Lozar**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to modify contract 16-128 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. to extend the term to June 1, 2021. All other terms remain the same. It will allow for projects to be completed prior to 6/1/21. They have a total of four projects to be finalized.

**MOTION** by Fred Matt to approve a no-cost one-year extension to

contract 26-128 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. to extend the term to June 1, 2021. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

**Len TwoTeeth** requested the status of the Big Arm walking path. **Dan Lozar** responded that he would need to follow up with Scott Johnson to see if there has been any movement on that project and report back. The project that has been worked on is the finalization of the Round Butte path. Len wanted to know what needed to take place to expedite the Big Arm path. Dan said it has been in the planning stages, but it has not advanced as a project to get funded. They have worked on it, but the next level for a grant application would take movement in the TIP to advance it to that point. The next major project is the Dixon Agency, which is the most aged project on the TIP. That is aged due to being a multiyear and multi-phased project with a big cost and significant utility, water and sewer work needed. Scott will bring the TIP in for council's approval to identify the priority projects. Len has seen increased use of that existing path and people are still walking along the highway from Big Arm to Elmo, so he will continue to fight for it to be a priority.

**Les Evarts**, Natural Resources Department, discussed Mack Days and any possibility of reopening that contest. It was initiated and they were a week in before these concerns came about and the shelter in place order was enacted, so it was cancelled. It is important to get the harvest out of the lake, and Mack Days is highly successful. Now we are at a point to decide whether to cancel it or reopen it somehow at some level. The Blue Bay launch and campground is where they usually do it. The launch does not really need to be reopened, since that would be complicated given the safety approach and not encouraging nontribal members on the tribal lands. Even though it is based out of Blue Bay, it is just for convenience, and they move around the lake to different launches. We are up against the end here because we do not want to run it into July. We have five weeks left to run this contest. The Fisheries program proposes we reopen. Council would need to decide whether to allow the usage of the Blue Bay launch and open it up to nonmembers for use, but he said that may be toxic since tribal lands are closed to nonmembers on the reservation. Les did not provide any detailed written options for council to consider. Reopen it and not do any processing and still use Blue Bay with only one staff is Les's recommendation. All the fish would go to the fertilizer and compost. The second option was a processing crew, about half the crew normally used. That would be safe and allow for social distancing. Les would rather not do that option until the government opens at some level and provides guidance on how to keep the staff safe. Les wants to reopen Mack Days and pick up the fish from anglers at different launches on the lake. The action he needs is to use Blue Bay and allow nonmembers to use Blue Bay. Very few out of staters participate and many participants come from off the reservation. About 80% come from Missoula and Kalispell. Legally, the out of staters could not come here anyway. He doubts they would want to since there is no camping. Shelly asked how does this affect

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2020

Native Fish Keepers, Inc. Les said they serviced all of their customers. This week they ran out of lake trout. The demand for that product has gone down. The Yellowstone concession park is where most of our fish go to, but it shut down. The MSU cafeteria gets fish, but that is closed down too. They have lake white fish carryover they will still sell to customers. NFK is the least of his concern right now. He does not want to lose the revenue to offset the costs, and he does not know how it will affect future sales if we cannot provide supplies to them. Unless we start fileting fish, we cannot do anything about that. There are dangers to doing that. The staff that does that, it unlike regular staff that we support with paychecks because they are not regular employees and they want to get back to work since they aren't getting paid. They are all willing to work, but he wants to be certain how to keep people safe. Shelly told him the reopening plans need to be submitted; council will be reviewing those soon. Carole Lankford thinks this is more of an opportunity to allow for it to happen because the people coming here are going out on the lake, and they won't be shopping and stuff since it's an outdoor opportunity. She wants to see Blue Bay open and the campground open to access to tribal members. She thinks they are taking all the precautions they can. Anita stated that she cannot support it. We would be giving mixed messages. We do not allow groups larger than ten but then we would allow this. It is not the right message to be sending. Martin Charlo said if we do not do this, do we take some of the fish file staff and reassign them to the road closure so they can be paid. Shelly commented that they can apply. Personnel has received over 70 applicants since the announcement was let. Since they were displaced, Martin suggested those employees get priority. Les said they always advertise when we start this up each year. If we started Mack Days, it brings people to town who might not otherwise come here. They would stay at hotels, get gas and food, and it would increase the traffic here. The graduations and pow wows were canceled, so Len cannot support this request. We are not allowing those events.

Charmel commented that this is an interesting question because this is a major management tool for invasive species. We toured Native Fish Keepers and saw how they operate and visited employees and it is a challenging job. They enjoy their jobs. She wants it revisited as soon as we can because of the species management issue as well as those individuals wanting to return to work. The governor opened up travel and we need to figure out which programs to reopen and what our priorities are. She hopes we can move to keep the NFK employees working if we can. She appreciates the good work they do. Les commented the big concern is getting the harvest out. Due to the loss of getting it out, it will take a while to climb out of that hole. Losing this harvest will have impacts to our efforts, which is an uphill climb anyway. He understands the conflict of appearance. He is helping to facilitate the conversation; he respects the outcome and agreed it is a council decision. Les wants them to understand he wrote a number of documents and feels they could protect our staff with the approach they have identified. They will pick up the fish at the launches so there's very

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2020

little contact or interactions with people. We are picking them up from the anglers. We would not be processing fish. Fred said this is the best tool utilized. If we miss a year, we will see a substantial impact. If they can do this safely, it would be prudent to proceed with Mack Days. Ellie Bundy McLeod thinks for the harvest purpose primarily, she would support it. It is evident that Les thought it out very well by not doing the filet but getting the catch out. People are on individual boats fishing and they would be picking up the fish at different locations, so she supports it. Charmel wants Les to bring back a more detailed plan. That gives us time to assess our position next week on how we will proceed into the month of June. It was the **consensus** of council to take Charmel's recommendation. Les will put it together with clear decision points. It will be clear on the safety aspect as much as possible. Shelly wants it included if you get the fish you should address the fileting aspect of it. It has provided lots of food to food banks and Native Fish Keepers customers. The fileting facility could be operational at a lesser level maybe. Those are things she wants addressed. Anita did not know if Les told us how many participants there usually are. She wanted to know those numbers. Shelly asked Les to give us the number of participants in the past years, which are from off the reservation, and what areas they are coming from. Les has some good data on that. He will get those stats to council. What we don't know is if we didn't have the Blue Bay campsites available what would it do to the harvest, and it was estimated that it would cut the harvest in half. Les said we need to either cancel the event or approve a modified version of it. If it had not been delayed due to COVID, it would have ended last weekend. We have to do some sort of payout since it was already started.

**Renee Joachim**, Personnel Department, discussed the Pay Scale subscription since 2014 to develop a new tribal pay plan. The current subscription is from December 2019 to December 2022. She gave the background on the project. The current classification system was implemented in 1987 and is a point-based system on the position description, the general description of work (what the job does), direction received (extent and nature of knowledge and making independent decisions, amount, type of supervision received); supervision exercised, working relationship, which description regular/occurring other persons inside and outside the tribal government, and working conditions (normal physical requirements). Since the classification system began in 1987, there are instances where it does not work for positions we have. PayScale provides market data based on the duties the job performs. It uses Missoula as the target area. We have two types we do: one is for a government operating with 2,000 employees and the other one is a hospital (due to THD). By reflecting the market value, jobs are based on the market instead of the point-based system. More than 800 position descriptions were scanned and submitted. We have 1,276 employees. The pay plan was developed on the current information in our account. There are 21 levels in the pay plan proposed. It has not been completed; some jobs have not been benchmarked or have a comparable job in the system.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2020

Since the tribal government has some unique positions, Renee needs to meet with PayScale on those. More meetings will be needed if we decide to go with this new pay plan. She asked if the council wants to have step increases built in, or merit increases, and how changes will be implemented due to a promotion, demotion or reassignment. The appointment rate upon hire needs addressed and potential impacts of any COLAs. Renee recommended that the tribal council, Personnel, and Financial Management schedule further meetings to discuss the proposed pay plan. The spreadsheet has three columns (entry rate, maximum rate, and redlined level) for each position as part of the plan. Personnel has completed about 75-80 percent of the position descriptions. There are some positions that are not yet classified on the pay plan. They're such unique positions that PayScale doesn't have anything to compare them to. The expected completion date to benchmark them all is within the next thirty days. Renee needs to have a meeting with PayScale to help her on the ones she is having difficulty with since they are so unique. Renee needs to know the target date it would be implemented by council. \$57,750 per year is the subscription cost. Personnel has been working on this for six years, so we already spent over \$345,000 on this. Renee had more time to devote to this with the shutdown. It has taken that long because she just never had time to get it done before the shutdown. PayScale has been willing to assist with this; she just did not have time to do it. Shelly told her that July 1 is when council wants it completed by. We need to work on meetings with Rick to continue talking about the benefits. She wants to continue those discussions too. Carole was worried about impacts to the employees. She has not been able to look at it, so she doesn't know where they land out. She asked if we are comparable, high, or low. Renee responded that the majority of the employees are at market or close to market. Some employees are above market. She did not intend to decrease anyone's pay when she started this with PayScale. Renee wants to ensure we are paying the employees according to the market so they are getting paid fair market value for the work they do. Carole asked if we should consider a grandfather clause and then when new positions get filled they would be set at the pay scale amount.

**Len TwoTeeth** was distraught about the rate of pay advertised for the road closure attendants. The position description used was from back in 2005 when we did road closures back then and we are paying people that same rate of pay fifteen years later. He wants to pay them a minimum of \$15 per hour. He wants that change made today. Renee explained that the rate was established by NRD since it is emergency hire and they can determine the rate. Sometimes it's based on their budget and what they can pay people. The cost is being paid for by Treasury funding. We put aside a percentage for public safety and deemed these monitors would be covered under that. Charmel Gillin commented that she will second the motion. She is looking at living and poverty wages in Montana. Carole said it is temporary in nature so that would bring it to a higher rate and the travel it takes, since we are not providing benefits to get them back and forth to work. She supports it. July 1 is the deadline for Renee to get it done.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to increase the rate of pay for the Road Closure Attendants to \$15.00 per hour. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, 8 for; 2 abstentions (Shelly Fyant; and Fred Matt – not present for full discussion.

**Renee Joachim** was directed to coordinate with Rob McDonald to get the updated advertisement in the papers with the new rate of pay.

**David Haire** requested a letter of support for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe of Massachusetts to retain their lands in trust status for their 300-acre reservation on Cape Cod. The letter goes to congressional delegates. Shelly wants the letter vetted through the Legal Department.

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

**Don Roberts, Derek Lozeau, Dana Comes at Night, and Douglas Pierre**, Drug Court/Never Alone Recovery Task Force, informed council that they are in the process of moving to the old fitness center building; they are just waiting for the contract to get legal review so they can get moved in. They started a Recovery Dynamics program, and anyone is welcome to attend those groups. They offer mutual support group meetings every night of the week. The Recovery House is full and there is a stack of applications from people needing a sober living home. The applicants are mostly prisoners needing safe and sober living for their parole plans. It is unknown when a bed will become available. Services offered include mutual support groups (AA and NA) offered; Saturday red road to sobriety meeting; Friday mornings cultural club meetings; and on Saturday they have sweat lodge group. Peer support group offered. Monday thru Friday. They will help people work out a recovery action plan and introduce them to the recovery community. **Derek Lozeau** is in charge of the cultural programs for the Recovery program. The program offers sweat lodges, beading, singing, dancing, and drumming. The name of that program is Return to Tradition. There is a need for it on this reservation. He hopes it helps people maintain a solid level of recovery, so they live a clean and sober life. Peer support and coaching by addicts is what kind of program they are; they do not provide clinic support. **Council** expressed their appreciation to this group for the work they do and their commitment to providing this service. This service/support is much needed for our membership which is culturally/holistic based. Martin hopes we look at historical trauma too, because that is something needed. He is putting together a community garden in Pablo, if they have idle hands. Shelly said on Tuesday WMMHC did a presentation on services they provide. We wanted to collaborate, and Don's name came up. She tried to include him in that conversation and sent him an email.

**Dana Comes At Night** gave an update on the Drug Court. The Drug Court is going well. There has been a lot of changes lately, and she took over in March.

They are using the recovery model for the participants. The COVID-19 and shelter in place order caused multiple relapses, so they decided to keep it going due to safety measures being needed to keep people on a routine in their recovery. Most participants of the Drug Court are Native American. Ellie Bundy McLeod commended Carole Lankford for her commitment and the work she has done with Drug Court. Chairwoman Fyant was glad they are working with the Tribal Health Department to get some funding moving forward.

**Velda Shelby, Janet Camel, Patricia Buffalo, Jody Perez, and Jami Pluff**, Homeless Committee; **Jennifer Thompson, Jamie Fullmer, and John Mooers**, Blue Stone; **Michael Potter and David Hartshorn**, Geeks Without Frontiers; and **Catherine Ures**, Nan McKay & Associates; gave an update. **Velda Shelby** informed council that the Homeless Committee has been meeting regularly. There are extenuating circumstances preventing our people from getting into tribal housing/shelters and some of that is self-inflicted. The task force explored some solid solutions and they developed an action plan with seven steps in it to activate different approaches to get something done. The COVID crisis could reoccur, and the task force discussed how prepared we are and how would we help our people. Velda gave an overview of the concept proposal. She would like next steps approved by the tribal council. Blue Stone submitted a proposal to provide assistance in this endeavor. **Jennifer Thompson** discussed funding sources and advised that the grant deadline is June 1. Permanent supportive housing could be submitted through the block grant. Jennifer would like to be part of the process. Phase one is the strategic planning phase. **Jamie Fullmer**, President of Blue Stone, informed council that he is currently helping a tribe with their hemp operation. He served as the chairman for his tribe for six years. Due to the term limits, he could no longer serve on the tribal council. Jamie has a mental health background and a master's degree in social work. He served as the Health & Human Services Director running their health/social programs for his tribe. There is a tribal advisory board with seven advisors to help and guide Blue Stone. Blue Stone is an approved vendor in the CSKT system. **John Mooers** understands the needs and funding constraints. Many tribes are struggling with homelessness and addiction. Tribes finally have resources through federal support. There is a timeline and restriction to that funding. We could make great progress in a short period of time. Blue Stone has extensive knowledge and expertise to assist the CSKT in this endeavor.

**Jennifer Thompson** gave an overview of the planning document and broke it down to three specific phases: strategic planning, program and project design, and program and the project implementation. The financial plan and the operational documents in the rehabilitation facility and what is needed for the supportive housing structure will be in phase two. The resource assessment would determine what is needed for support. Phase three would be implemented after the tribal council approves everything. Phase three is for the buildout and operation phase. Blue Stone understands that what works for one community

will not necessarily work for another community, so it can be innovative and unique for our community. The team would identify ways to close the gap for resources and how to provide wraparound services. Community input is very important. The tasks included in phase two are the approach and outcome. An Executive Director would need to be hired while the facility is being structured. The deliverables included in phase two would be the project and design plan and the operational documents. **John Mooers** discussed the reimbursement rates for counseling and treatment. This would help with homelessness and reduce addiction rates. This could be an economic opportunity. There are many funding opportunities CSKT could apply for.

**David Hartshorn** and **Michael Potter**, Geeks Without Frontiers, stated that Geeks Without Frontiers is a nonprofit organization focused on communication and data services, especially for remote communities. **Catherine Ures**, Nan McKay & Associates, provided information on the company's background and experience. The company works across the country on the COVID-related issues. There are hundreds of grants available. Leveraging those grants are the key. There are grants that have shorter terms of usage and work in concert well with certain type of funding. The COVID Relief funds must be spent by December. She gave an overview of some grants available and the timelines for those. **Michael Potter** commented that there is a tight timeline on available resources during the COVID-19 crisis. They are looking at a holistic approach and putting together the resources while those resources are still available. Telehealth is important. They have worked on best practices for telehealth. This provides separation between the patient and frontline workers. The company is interested in providing assistance to the CSKT with layering the COVID-19 and federal funds with everything they will be tasked with to develop plans before the December deadline.

**Chairwoman Fyant** stated that broadband and homelessness are the Tribes' top two priorities. She thanked Velda and the team for all the work they put into this. It is in our best interest to proceed with the project. **Anita Matt** was impressed with Blue Stone. She would like to move forward with the contract, especially with the deadlines facing us beginning in June. **Charmel Gillin** thanked the Task Force for the work they have done. This has been an issue for a long time. The Tribes have been seeking data, looking for answers, and trying to put a program together to address homelessness for quite some time. The stakeholders (tribal council) need to be available and do their part in this. **Carole Lankford** appreciated the hard work done by Blue Stone, but this is the first time she ever heard of Blue Stone. We have people with the expertise and who have worked with the Tribes for many years. We need to look at what other companies have to offer. It puts the Tribes at a disadvantage when we rush into these types of things and she wants us to do our due diligence. **Shelly Fyant** commented that the Task Force has been working on this for four months. **Jody Perez** stated that the Task Force was unaware that it was going to be presented

in this way. There was not a consensus among them to move forward with recommending Blue Stone.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to enter into a noncompetitive negotiation with Blue Stone to launch this concept proposal that was presented and make sure we utilize those urgent time frames outline in that proposal. Seconded by Anita Matt. **MOTION NOT CARRIED**, 4 for (Shelly Fyant, Ellie Bundy McLeod, Anita Matt, and Charmel Gillin); 5 opposed (Carole Lankford, Len TwoTeeth, Fred Matt, Mike Dolson, and Bing Matt); 1 abstention (Martin Charlo).

*Martin Charlo, for the record, "I did not have enough time to review the proposal, that's why I'm abstaining."*

**Anita Matt** would like to set a timeline to review this again. Based on the funding and timelines we have to spend the money put aside, we need to get going one way or another. Anita requested that some time be set aside to revisit this. If an RFP needs to be done, she wondered how long it would take to get it advertised and receive responses. **Martin Charlo** thought next Thursday would be enough time. Blue Stone's proposal looks great, but Martin is not going to make a decision when he did not know they were going to be making a decision today.

It was the **consensus** of council to bring it back next Thursday.

**Carole Lankford** would like Velda Shelby to get a consensus from the Task Force whether to do a contract or look elsewhere. **Velda Shelby** commented that whoever they have in mind, they can bring forward a presentation. She was tasked with how do we do it and what's the cost, so she went to the people with the expertise and capabilities. If they can pull it together next week, we can bring in another presentation. In the meantime, she hopes everyone can read and understand the proposal for the next steps. **Janet Camel** discussed the June 1 deadline to apply for the Indian Community Development Block Grant for Housing, and she asked if they had contacted the SKHA grant writer to see what information is needed so the application could be submitted by the deadline. **Jody Perez** advised that the grant writer is already booked. Jody was not sure whether SKHA was applying for the grant or if the Tribes were applying for it directly. If the council wanted SKHA to apply for the grant, Housing can since they are qualified to do that. The ceiling amount on that grant is \$1.5 million. **John Mooers** thanked the tribal council for opportunity and stated that he understood the need to be diligent. Blue Stone provided three references on tribes they have worked with before, and he suggested that Chairwoman Fyant speak to those tribes.

**Council** met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel issue.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 3:04 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Ellie Bundy McLeod  
Tribal Secretary