

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

Volume 20 Number 61
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 28, 2020
Approved: June 9, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Len Twoteeth (Attending a Funeral).

OTHERS PRESENT: James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager/Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Bing Matt.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 26, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy-McLeod to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 8 for and 1 abstention (Martin Charlo).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Carole Lankford stated she received a phone call from an individual who has worked for the tribe for a long time and is concerned about having to take the COVID 19 test. This individual was wondering what would happen if he refused to take the test. It is this individual’s opinion that COVID 19 has receded and he feels he should not have to be directed by the government to be tested. This same individual reached out to James “Bing” Matt and this individual states he believes this violates his constitutional rights. **Shelly Fyant** stated they asked Rhonda Swaney yesterday the legality of making testing mandatory, her reply was the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has ruled that

employers can require testing of employees before they return to the workforce due to the fact infected constitute a direct threat to others. **Shelly Fyant** stated she doesn't know what department this individual works for, but she feels she would feel better if the people she works around are safe to be around. **Fred Matt** stated that it takes time for these types of things to sink in, in his own experience anyway. He states the statistics in South Korea are around 300 COVID cases, they did the calculations and what that means in comparison to the United States percentages of cases and it is clearly due to the measures they took to protect their people. Maybe the person doesn't have it, but they don't know, but if they did they would infect their co-workers down the line. It's the safety of others. If we have the legal right as an employer to tell a person they either have to take the test or they don't go to work. I think that's our right to do and I think we ought to. **Shelly Fyant** stated she fully expected to run into this and she's sure this is probably just the first person to come up with the argument regarding their constitutional rights. Rhonda also said she would caution that testing provided by or sponsored by the employer would certainly stand up to scrutiny, but requiring employee to pay for their own tests if they are symptom free may not be as successful. We are requiring this, but we are not making people pay the \$450 per test, we're providing it free through the state resources. I guess we will have to get with legal and word it appropriately. **Carole Lankford** stated the individual's main question was what's going to happen to him? Is he going to lose his job, what is the outcome? The individual said it was okay to give his name out. **Martin Charlo** stated we're going to deal with this on a wider spread than this. **Shelly Fyant** stated I for one, again, will feel a lot safer if the people I work around or with and in close proximity around the office are good to be around. **Mike Dolson** asked How long do we consider the test is valid for? A week? Two weeks? Three weeks? And then have to do it again? **Carole Lankford** asked One day? **Shelly Fyant** replied I think it probably depends on who you expose yourself to. **Mike Dolson** asked Yeah, but if we're requiring this, how often are we requiring it? Because we know that people are going to be exposed so many different ways. **Anita Matt** stated you know the other individuals could be tested today and then take off over to Idaho tomorrow and be exposed again. We're going to have a hard time controlling what's going on outside of work. That's concerning to me. **Martin Charlo** stated I think this is something that we need to bring legal back in and have them really take a hard look at this, because we can set a policy, but if legal it's going to be an issue then we need to get input from them. **Carole Lankford** asked I think so too, and also I think you could do a fourteen

day quarantine for those individuals, but then do they take leave? There's all those questions too, so I think it's a good idea Martin.

Patricia Courchane, DHRD, requested permission to apply for a Headwaters grant totaling \$25,000. Headwaters Foundation is offering DHRD \$25,000. grant. There is no actual paperwork involved per say, because they do the grant themselves and all the recipient would have to do is give them a brief synopsis of what they would use it for. Patricia stated there is no cost share and no payback, it's just for \$25,000. **Shelly Fyant** asked what is the purpose of the grant? **Patricia Courchane** stated I want to use it for the vehicles in maintenance over at elderly program. The vehicles are shot and I would like to purchase two vehicles. They have Kermit looking at vehicles for them and I was going to donate my van, but I have a tagging issue with one of my vehicles, so until I can tag it, but after I tag it then I will donate my van as a third vehicle. But my intent is to get them two vehicles so they can be up and operational, because the vehicle they have now has been patched and patched and dies. **Shelly Fyant** asked so you're asking for permission to apply for the headwaters \$25,000 grant? **Patricia Courchane** replied Yes ma'am.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve permission to apply for the Headwaters \$25, 000. grant. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Clayton Matt and **Garry Pitts**, Tribal Health Department, requested a 3-year contract extension for non-member employee. Aimee Gustafson has worked for us for many year. She has an outstanding performance evaluation and patients are happy with her service.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve 3-year contract with Aimee Gustafson. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Charmel Gillin asked if the increases in compensation are in line with some kind range of benchmarking. **Garry Pitts** stated that's in the high range, the other thing that I often do is check with the partnership in Missoula. They are always stealing some of my staff, so we try and keep that aligned with that as well.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve 3-year contract extension for Aimee Gustafson. Seconded by Ellie Bundy-McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Renee Camel, Chuck Sanger, and Kenji Kobayashi, Information Technologies, requested approval to enter into a to contract with iT1 consulting to help move forward quickly with our Exchange 2010 in Outlook to 365 Outlook which will

allow us to remotely get to our email from any browser. The pricing would require \$15,985 which is what we have in our budget presently and we are looking for approval from council to go forward with that.

Shelly Fyant asked on page 9, it says exchange hosted and that \$54,000. **Renee Camel** stated the \$54,000. is what we have budgeted in FY20 so that money is already ready to go. The \$15,985 is what we are wanting to ask if we can use that money to do some consulting fees and expertise and we have that in our budget.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to enter into a contract with iT1 Consulting. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Renee Camel, Chuck Sanger, and Kenji Kobayashi, Information Technologies, requested approval for Enterprise Content Management Services this has been brought up this year in a couple meetings, we were in the process of trying to assess it. We found that Onbase would be the best that would suit our tribe. We are looking at using COVID funds to do this. We talked with the budget committee and they said that this would fall under that. To get this off the ground this year would be \$129,480 and we would like to know if we can go forward with doing this contract with Onbase to get this enterprise content management going this would allow anyone working from home or away from the office to easily access any of the documents they have and be able to store it and not have any issues getting it. This is going to be a private cloud. We were wanting to go with the private cloud option 2 (referring to page 31 in a packet of private cloud comparisons) the difference of going to another option would be about \$200,000 more.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the \$129,480 for Onbase enterprise content services. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Carole Lankford asked are all the tribal applications online and your department is working on that? Is there a time when that will be completed? **Kenji Kobayashi** We do have access available right now to a lot of our resources online, as many of you have seen we have zoom and we have access to internal documents on the computers. What we are doing is trying to expand that out and make access easier and more secure. A lot of these initiatives are trying to basically bring online access easier for people working from their homes. **Carole Lankford** asked if a person wanted to apply for tribal credit is that all available? I always have the problem of being able to complete the application once I get it on my computer it says I can't type on it. **Kenji Kobayashi** stated these are some of our steps to try and make that easier, not

just for our employees, but we're hoping that the long view we can also make this easier for the tribal membership to access services as well.

Greg Wilson, Safety of Dams, requested to modify contractor agreement 16-184 with DJ&A Engineering out of Missoula. This contract provides for safety dams and roads programs to utilize DJ&A for civil engineering consulting services within this contract there is wording to indicate that we have to work with DJ&A to prepare a specific project agreement. This project for PSA 9 revision 2 has been prepared by DJ&A and reviewed by safety of dams to include scope and responsibilities that are associated with monitoring the lateral and vertical movements on certain specific features at four earthen dams including McDonald, Pablo, Lower Dry Fork, and Jocko Dam for two times this year in 2020. This cost is \$25,000 this work has been performed by DJ&A for the last two years and we're just requesting council to approve their effort for this year.

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve modification #10 to contractor agreement 16-184. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Rusty Sydnor, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to proceed with a non-member business contract to perform weed control on fisheries mitigation properties currently the fisheries program has just under 7,000 acres that we're managing for the tribes for fisheries mitigation purposes every year we require the services of a weed management to provide herbicide application to control noxious weed populations. Earlier this spring we advertised for two weeks in the Char-Koosta News for this work and did not receive any bids from any tribal member businesses. Rusty is proposing to contract with a business called Western Weed Control, they have worked with them over the past several years and they have been satisfied with their work. The contract is for and not to exceed the amount of \$30,000.

Carole Lankford asked I know you said that Indian preference reached out to tribal members and I know of one that had a concern before and I was not sure if you've reached out to that individual or not. Is there a reason it was not advertised in the paper? **Rusty Sydnor** stated I did advertise it in the Char-Koosta News for two weeks, I did not ask Indian preference specifically who they reached out to, but they did indicate that they would be reaching out to some individual businesses. I did not follow up with them to see who they reached out to. I would be interested in finding out the name of the business that you are referring to. **Carole Lankford** stated I think you did your due diligence by advertising so I think I'm good, thank you.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the Western Weed Control contract as presented. Seconded by Anita Matt, Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Les Evarts, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to restart the Mack Days Contest. Discussed some ideas on how we might move ahead and it has become time sensitive if we are going to reopen Mack days. There are a lot of folks that would like to see us go ahead, but it comes down to those safety issues we talked about and you recommended we put together a proposal about how we would do it. If you recall when I laid this out last week there are ways we can phase this in as we know more, but the absolute easiest thing we can do is cover it under step one which is sending staff out to collect at boat launches and we would bring it back to blue bay and we would do with it whatever we would, whether we process it or turn it into fertilizer. We limit that to three people in the building which would give us a lot of space in the building and we can make that even safer by opening the building up to have good airflow. We wouldn't even have to receive fish at blue bay, although that would be efficient for us, that would take a second action by council to open blue bay so we would have access from anglers.

Fred Matt asked how much involvement would be coming from off-reservation like Missoula or Kalispell area to participate? The reason why I'm asking that is because we have taken specific measures like closing the woods and have taken some pretty aggressive steps to keep folks from coming out of our area. Postponing this for one year is a small price to pay, I know it's a whole trend for the Mack that we're trying to do good things in, but it would be a small price to pay if we just thought well there are a lot of people coming from Missoula and Kalispell. **Les Evers** stated we have crunched those numbers and it is kind of interesting. Mack Days is free, it doesn't cost anything to enter and we get a lot of entrants that don't result in actual people coming here it's just sort of their "just in case" so if it's spring Mack days this particular contest we have just over 500 entrants about 2 percent of that come from out of state that's 10 people signed up from out of state and those states are North Dakota, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. More specific to your question about 22 percent are actually reservation residents who are actually signed up and about 27 of the folks come from Kalispell and 27 from Missoula so that leaves about 32 percent coming from elsewhere. One thing I didn't mention last time which i think is important is that this time of year in particular almost all the fishing activity is off reservation on the north side of the lake, that's just where the bite is. What happens incidentally is what we're trying to avoid is the lake trout migrate up to where the river is flowing into the lake and there are a lot of juvenile native fish migrating into the lake at this time. Most of the activity

occurs off of the reservation right now but even though there's 27 percent coming from Kalispell they're likely not going to come onto the reservation and fish they're going to launch their boats elsewhere. Especially now that the lake has come up, most of these launches currently are functional. Earlier in the spring a lot of people do come to blue bay because we do have one of the better deep water boat launches so we do attract a lot of folks and they do use that facility. These folks are out there anyway, it's just that they don't tend to keep you, don't go out and catch 50-100 macks and take them home. It's actually against the law to waste them, so what we do is offer a place to receive them and get them out of the lake. That's what is important about Mack days is we are tapping into some of these best anglers that can catch that volume of fish and we can get them out of the lake if it wasn't for Mack days they would just catch and release because they just enjoy fishing. **Fred Matt** asked and that was part of my concern that even though they fish on the north side they still have to bring the fish to get them processed right? **Les Everts** stated that our proposal is that we go north to the launches and intercept those anglers when they come up off the water and we would conduct that activity in such a way that we have the social distancing with the anglers. We just have to count their fish for them. Really we can do this with nobody coming to blue bay.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod for approval to restart the Mack Days Contest as per the proposal. Seconded by James "Bing" Matt. Carried, 7 for and 2 opposed (Anita Matt and Fred Matt).

Anita Matt for the record, "We have been cancelling all other events and regardless of when you bring 3 to 500 people into an area it's completely defeating everything that we've been working toward since March 26th, so I am therefore against it."

Kyle Felsman, Preservation Office, gave an update on the Rogers Pass Project. Three years ago was when it was first proposed in the preservation office that the Forest Service specifically the Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest was proposing to put in a parking lot/pull out area up there on Roger's Pass going past Lincoln and going toward Great Falls in response to a lot of traffic related to the continental divide trail head. There currently wasn't an existing legal trail head but because of all the illegal use of the area they decided to propose a parking area to help confine the traffic in that area. Where we came in basically was the research and the field investigation regarding that area showed that there was cultural sites there and archeology along with some place name and story related cultural significance in that area. About two years

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2020

ago in 2018 about this time a couple former members of council took a trip out there which I think was really good on the tribe's behalf because I think it helped portray the significance that we as a tribe see within that area. As a result of all that and the consultation the Forest Service went ahead with their project plans but because of our consultation they downsized the original project from what it was originally going to be, so now the actual parking area itself is downsized along with the road that is going in there and also because of our concerns they decided to not plow out the entire area they are going to bring in some gravel fill to fill on top of the main parking area rather than bulldozing in the hillside they are going to have to obviously do some construction work up there because of the needs for the parking area but it's definitely not as bad as we initially thought. So where we are now is probably within a week or two after we go through the vetting process with legal and contracts and grants I attached the draft MOA. The MOA is going to basically mitigate for the adverse effects to the cultural sites there so since this projects been years in the making I know we have done a good job as a tribe stating our concerns. In addition to the council visit we also had the culture committees up there at one point which I think was good on our behalf. Today I just wanted to update everybody that I will be coming back in a week or two on the agenda to repurpose this MOA once we input any wording that we need to based on anybody's opinion especially our legal team and culture committees.

On page 60 is where one important aspect there in tab #6 provide such amount of dollars to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for a specific cultural preservation product. That basically is going to attach based on negotiations a dollar amount to some specific cultural mitigation measures that we as a tribe can see fit to utilize that funding. There initial proposal from the Forest Service they said would be willing to go up to \$10,000 as their initial proposal for us to utilize for any culture related preservation or perpetuation activities and some of the ideas I threw at them that we've done in the past was try to gear things toward any language related activities, cultural camps, we've done food sovereignty in the past, land acquisition, basically anything related to cultural perpetuation. It was important I think from the elders throughout different mitigation processes that we try not to stick a monetary value on cultural resources but if we do have to accept money for cultural damages that we utilize that money for cultural purposes. That is kind of where we are on refining this MOA I wanted to make sure to come back and update council on what's going on here.

One more important component to take into consideration is a lot of the language that we've incorporated in the past based on culture committee recommendations and legal team is that we can work into the MOA to state for the record that 'although we are accepting this amount of money in no way are we putting a monetary value on our cultural resources in any way. So I think that's going to be important to incorporate that into the language.

Shelly Fyant stated I was one of the members that went on this field trip and I was really amazed at the amount of artifacts that were there at that particular site and I think our input that day was really instrumental in changing the Forest Service's idea of what they wanted to do with that particular spot. Hearing some of the input from the Forest Service people was really interesting and educational for me and that trail had a lot of use by a lot of tribes. I think one of the ideas we talked about on the bus ride home was developing like Kyle mentioned a product like a book or a tape or signage or whatever that has to do with our use of that. **Kyle Felsman** stated he will come back in a couple weeks with a proposed MOA for signature, that is not final obviously as council if there is something in this next draft that you don't agree with and you don't want to sign that is fine we can go through it and re-negotiate.

Velda Shelby, Economic Development Office, requested approval to apply for the Native American Agricultural Fund Foundation. We previously met with the Native American Hemp consulting firm who offered to do the entire application for us and I believe we are going to try to go after \$150,000 just to do a feasibility analysis and to also look at how to develop the tribal program should the tribe decide to issue permits or get involved in any way enforcement, growing, or processing. It's an opportunity for us to explore that, but we're not really obligated to anything initially. The deadline for them is June 1, 2020, and it's an online application, but in order to submit it we need the chairperson's electronic signature, we need a letter of support, and then we've also drafted a resolution. I ran that by Dan Decker, Jr. a couple weeks ago and we included his changes. So you see we're not really obligated, but should we be awarded it then they can help us in pulling together the projects or whatever we want to do from here out. As it is, the state and USDA are issuing permits and they're regulating it on our reservation. So if everyone has read it and is comfortable with it if we can get the chairwoman's signature and pass the resolution to submit the application.

Carole Lankford asked during the process of applying when do we go to the elders committees to talk to them about this? **Velda Shelby** stated we have not even begun actually we are not even officially sanctioned as a hemp team.

The conversations I've had with Mark Couture and his staff and many others is that they'd feel comfortable. If council would sanction us somehow and I'm not sure how we would do that with a charter and I'm not sure about the formalities but that's something we need to bring back. After the last meeting with the Native American Hemp Corporation, this company who is applying for us we realized that I might need a little more support too because there are regulatory, there is policy, there are a lot of issues and I think Chairwoman Fyant had requested that Jami Pluff would get on the team as well. If that is possible I was hoping that we could discuss this in the Chairwoman's meeting if the council wants to formalize this. Then we can bring our action and our opportunities, what we need to do again is lay out a plan on how we intend to proceed. All of this has to go back to the community but ultimately if the tribal government wants us to proceed with this if you could give us the authority to do it we can start meeting with everybody and pulling that team together. **Fred Matt** stated Chairwoman and council; Carole brings up a really good point because I remember back years ago for the sake of economic development we had a lot of information and we had a lot of natural resources and geology department did a lot of tests surveying throughout the reservation to potentially go forward with mining but the culture was dead set against doing anything in that major. I guess the point is that I would have to agree with Carole is I don't know how much work you want to do without touching base with the elders cause we always say we always listen to our elders but I don't know if we get down the road a long ways and for some reason they might issues with it.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to proceed with the resolution to apply for the grant with the caveat that in the meantime we meet with the elders. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 8 for; and 1 opposed (Mike Dolson).

Resolution No. 20-108

RESOLUTION APPROVING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE 2020 NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND TRIBAL SALES ON THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is the duly recognized governing body of the Flathead Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are committed to the sound planning and management of Flathead Reservation resources; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have directed the Office of Economic Development to fill the important need of diversification of revenues and protection of resources as the Tribes strive for self-sufficiency and planned economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Agriculture Fund as part of the Keeps Eagle settlement is now accepting competitive grant applications to develop agricultural projects on Tribal lands and CSKT has partnered with Native American Hemp to prepare and submit an application to fully examine the potential of sustainable industrial hemp operations; and

WHEREAS, CSKT has requested \$150,000 to conduct a feasibility study to explore industrial hemp production for individual Tribal member production and/ or Tribal cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, grant funds will facilitate business planning, create a framework for policy and enforcement regulations, and address critical environmental and social issues with real data that provides a clear and realistic picture of industrial hemp production potential; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive assessment of Tribal resources will be included in a strategic plan to define an operational structure, and marketing program for an industrial hemp enterprise owned by the Tribe thereby, creating a sustainable green project; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will also include a scientific research component on the potential for hemp to improve soil conditions and/or remediate contaminated soils on the Flathead Reservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, CSKT is aware that the Native American Agricultural Fund requires a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for Tribes who are awarded grant funding. The waiver is limited to work performed pursuant to the grant; the waiver also is limited to the duration of the grant project; and is further limited to the amount of the grant award; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes approves the grant application to the Native American Agriculture Fund Office

for \$150,000 planning grant to develop a feasibility study for proposed industrial hemp production on the Flathead Reservation; and the Tribes retain the decision authority on whether or not to accept the grant if awarded.

Velda Shelby, Economic Development Office, introduced Geeks Without Frontiers as technical expertise they are given a 7 month deadline and the level of support they are willing to provide will augment what we have to do. We're working with an economic development plan and at the outset I asked the bureau for business and economic research, they are the gold standard of economic studies in the state to conduct an initial impact study on not just the repercussions of our economic slowdown, but also to help us do an assessment of what has happened with our individual entrepreneurs, a lot of our different industries, everything from timber and logging agriculture to hospitality. We know that we have had some significant job losses and that will continue. In order for me to say with more accuracy I am going to need some evidence-based surveys. They provided a proposal to us earlier this month and because everything has happened in order for us to assess this it has to be done in a coordinated manner. They offered the tribe two weeks to pull together the data they need then they will work on it in four weeks, they have the mechanisms that we don't have to do all the progression analysis, all the statistical analysis and then they will provide us a report. Initially I had hoped all the tribes would want to do this but we never got any more feedback when we put it out there with the Governor, so I asked them to scale it back just for us. That would be the starting point for us to understand what has happened, the level of the impact, who has all been impacted, and how we can build our economic plan to move forward. I've also looked at some other opportunities madam chair met with us with the National Center for the American Indian Economic Development Center. They wanted to join forces with us to also do an in depth analysis of our reservation, the areas that were impacted and what some of the opportunities are. I am getting a lot of inquiries from people who are interested in moving out into rural Montana partnering with the tribes in whatever way to bring in other high tech other types of development and business opportunities. I haven't really vetted anything yet because I don't know what we have in our plans but we know we have to develop a plan for our recovery and we would be assessing our resiliency and how to revitalize moving forward. That's a big component of some of the CARES funds and what I would like is to bring on technical expertise so we can do it in a strategic fashion and we can understand not only what has happened but move forward with some of the plans on how to dig ourselves out and how to assist our tribal member businesses. A lot of these other types of initiatives that we may have considered

priorities we can weave those in. In the meantime I have also been inundated with the broadband spectrum proposals once we file for the license there's a lot of people who have ideas on how to proceed. Since I don't have that technical expertise and we really haven't framed up our proposal on how we're going to proceed with this. I thought I could present some of these proposals for your consideration. Now granted we haven't entered into any specific contracts, this is something we would consider administratively and of course with all of your input. But I wanted you to hear some of these experts out today, David Heartshorn is with the Geeks Without Frontiers the associates with him are people who have helped him over the past twenty years; they've been called into areas where there are disasters, they do disaster relief. His specialization is he serves on the FCC's broadband advisory committee. These are really specialized expertise that I'm hoping we can bring them on board to start assisting and pulling together our plans in moving forward so that we can put things in place, I understand that we have 7 months to pull these plans together but at the same time they know all the federal sources and states sources where we could leverage some of these CARES funds and we may maximize our opportunities. I am asking the council for two things today: I would like the tribal council to please consider sole source contracts with Geeks Without Frontiers to assist us with our broadband initiative and also with developing our economic development plan. They are highly specialized and understand the "ins and outs" of federal procurement. **Consensus of council** to proceed with sole source expertise to garner funding and begin tribal broadband deployment plan.

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

Aric Cooksley, Boys & Girls Club, gave an update on summer opening plans. Our implementation plan and guidelines for running the Boys and Girls club under the phase 2 guidelines that the Governor has put out. We will be opening June 15th, here in Ronan and we still are working out a few details but we plan to be open at the same time in Polson at the Cherry Valley School. Everything with the pandemic there will be changes on how we will go about doing things. A lot of it has to do with social distancing and washing your hands, if you're sick staying home. Also a lot of pieces around communication protocols with parents and the staff and with the health department. We presented this to the health department. I got a letter back from Emily Colomeda, an approval letter of our plan from the county health department. Just laying out exactly how we're going to do things. We've had mandatory parent orientations in the past, we're going to continue having those with those

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2020

but those will also be an opportunity to inform parents not just of standard policies and procedures but also the expectations around our policies in relation to COVID-19. Things like everyday kids being screened for temperature, making sure that if there are concerns with any symptoms not only are those kids pulled into an area of isolation in a safe way. Parents will obviously notified, having those children go home and also notifying the health department and encouraging them to go and get tested. Making sure that all of the different pieces are followed. All of these things are precautionary, our ultimate hope is that we will never have to worry about going through any of these steps but just making sure that we have the steps and policies and procedures in place to keep everybody safe, keep everybody healthy, keep everything clean and sanitized and all of those things. In talking with Emily after she had gone through she was very pleased with the thoroughness of it, but also that she's happy to see that we're thinking ahead quite a ways and thinking about all the possible outcomes. We wanted to keep you guys informed on that and also in addition to that because we have been doing all of the meals that over the last couple of months we didn't want to just simply drop things and walk away from the community. One of the things that we're working on putting together would be starting in a similar time frame would be what we are calling "club in a van" and that would be depending on the community what we're able to do right now depending on the community we would be going out 2 to 3 times a week taking meals and also taking some activity kinds of things. Things that are outdoor and social distancing kinds of activities. We're on the board of SciNation and they are going to be providing us with take-home science kits that are fun and engaging that get kids exploring outside in the world around them as far as a natural standpoint. Working on providing opportunity for kids to still have some engagement still have that food security piece met and having more normalcy in their lives. The communities that we are planning to go to are Mission, Ravalli, Arlee, Dixon, Dixon Agency, and Hot Springs. Now the community that stands out that isn't part of what we're talking about is Elmo. What we're planning on doing is Brenda Richey through the extension agency is getting things out to the Elmo community, so we will be providing her with grab and go meals so that that community also continues to get food brought out to them on a regular basis. Those are the pieces that we're going through on our end to make sure one kids are fed two there is a summer club in place and that we're doing our best to meet the needs and fill in the gaps within families and needs around kids. I'm sure you guys get questions all the time about what's happening so I just wanted to make sure to let you know what our plans are and be able to answer

your questions and be able to dialogue back and forth and keep you as informed as possible. **Shelly Fyant** stated thank you Aric, we appreciate that. I know there was some concern last week about the halting of the meal provision and I think we have that answer now. We appreciate what you do with our kiddos across the reservation and I know the kids are probably itching to get back to their friends and the club and everything it provides. **Aric Cooksley** stated one thing I should be clear on as far as the food what we are doing meals through the end of next week. There's one week that we need to step back and clean the club and then do a lot of training around just all the pieces you would normally need to be training for prior to the club opening, but also a lot of things around COVID preparedness. The week of the 8th through the 12th but then we will pick meals back up on the 15th of June. **Shelly Fyant** asked how were you able to provide those meals, thousand meals a day to all the kiddos out there on the Reservation? Can you describe that collaboration? **Aric Cooksley** stated how we were able to make that work and you guys know that through the end of this week we will have served approximately 45,000 meals since we started. How we were able to make that work, we are working with the summer feeding program through the state and there was a waiver to make that possible so that we could be reimbursed for every meal served. That reimbursement when you end up shifting everything we kept everybody employed but everybody was doing meals and on top of that there were a bunch of local churches that helped provide with getting the meals out, tribal transportation corky and his group and the incident command helped with some of the outlying communities like getting stuff all the way out to Elmo and out to Dixon and down to Arlee some of those logistics were more than we could take care of ourselves so it was really nice to have all of those groups able to help in many different ways. I want to say we probably had somewhere in the range of over 100 volunteers making that happen. This is the most I have ever been involved with having different parts of the community come together to make something happen. So it was fantastic from that standpoint, from the financial standpoint we were able to get reimbursement per meal to cover a portion of the cost and we had donations that helped cover other parts of the cost. As we look forward to this summer we are trying to budget well and there's enough unforeseen things that we are trying to plan for and I think a pretty strong plan for that but we are working on putting all the pieces that then would from a staffing standpoint that will make the regular club piece work and getting folks out across the reservation to get those meals out and to get that engagement piece out. I can't tell you oh everything is perfect and we don't have any challenges, but there have definitely been a lot of generous

people both from a time and a human capacity standpoint and from a financial standpoint whether it's individuals or foundations that have helped make more of this possible. **Shelly Fyant** stated for council to know I let him know that Jami Pluff is the point guard for the community organization priority group and that she would be reaching out to Aric in what way we can assist the club in the future. **Aric Cooksley** stated Jami had a conference call yesterday it sounds like she may be presenting to you today. I will be sharing this with her as a follow up, I didn't get to yesterday. There may be some need just around being able to have as much pushed out into the outlying communities because one of the things we're recognizing is so much of what kids would typically be doing with different camps and different camps like tribal health and tribal education that are either really reduced or just not able to happen this year. Is wanting to make sure that we are trying to get stuff to those kids as much as possible. And I'll communicate with Jami on that so she is aware what potential need there is from our end. **Anita Matt** stated I just like to thank you guys that is just unbelievable with 45,000 meals being provided and probably a lot of the kids would not get those meals or not as nutritious under these circumstances. It's unbelievable the collaboration and coordination that it took. I drive by the Boys and Girls Club I always look off and it's always full of coolers and the one great big room there and I always envision you guys driving all over. I really appreciate it and I'm glad that you came forward today to bring your plan and hopefully everything will remain safe and give our kids something to do. **Charmel Gillin** stated hi Aric, first before I say anything I want to say that this COVID pandemic has opened our eyes to a lot of things and I think has revealed the value of Boys and Girls Club in our community. I want to thank you and your staff and your board for being available and going over and above and I know you guys strive to do that on a regular basis, so kudos to all of you for that. I was curious if the board has considered or if there is any adjustments to the fee schedule just considering the COVID pandemic and the rates of unemployment and just the extreme circumstances and if not I can understand, but I guess also it makes me just wonder if there can be another way for us to bolster the ability of our demographic to participate in the clubs that I'd like to be fully aware of that as we move forward. **Aric Cooksley** replied yeah, so to answer that question, one is that we have always had scholarships available. I can tell you that we have never turned anyone away because they couldn't pay. Do I anticipate the needs for scholarships being a lot greater this summer? Yeah, pretty sure that's going to happen. Typically what we've done in the past, one of the things we've done is giving families the opportunities to volunteer at the club or at events. This summer

because of everything else there aren't a lot of events happening. One of the things to consider and I'll communicate this with Jami as well. Some funds maybe going toward scholarships that are specific for membership or membership and descendants. I don't know how that fits within your guys' world as far as where you draw the line. But that is definitely a good point and definitely something that could be valuable to make sure we are able to do more than just partial scholarships, maybe we are able to do more full scholarships for those who have demonstrated needs. That's one of the reasons that we pushed to do the feeding program, because if we're able to help you spend less as a family on food and you're able to tuck that money away for uncertainty. Our view of that is let's try and take the 6 month or 1 year or 2 year view instead of the month and a half from now. So those are some of the things that that could definitely be a value piece in that. **Carole Lankford** asked would you mind giving me an update on our meeting yesterday? The final push for fundraising? **Aric Cooksley** stated if you guys haven't been in Polson lately, the next time you're up there I would invite you to drive by the new club. They are finishing up the exterior, the interior, and I think sheet rock starts in about a week. We are still on schedule to have that open sometime in September. That will obviously greatly raise our capacity to serve kids. We right now have raised all but about \$250,000 out of about 5.2 million. We are within \$250,000 from having it completely paid for and being debt free. We were going to do an in person sneak peek kind of event this summer but because of everything going on we're going to do something but we're going to make it a "celebrate in your homes with those close to you" and have a short virtual sort of event and doing some challenging of the west shore challenging the east shore to help wrap things up. **Shelly Fyant** stated if that is nothing more for Aric, we want to again thank you for your presentation and good luck with the summer programming.

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

Bing Matt left for the day.

Chairwoman Fyant left for TERS meeting.

Patrick Yawakie, April Charlo, Jamie Stevenson and **Stephen Hunt**, Arlee CDC, discussed and gave power point presentation on various infrastructure, logistics and labor needs in response to COVID-19. Participation on the mass testing in June or distributing food at events of that size. Rather than giving away food packages and we talked about giving gift cards from local business

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2020

such as gas cards, grocery or restaurants. It sounds like 3000 tests and if we had giveaway for the first 200 people would receive \$20 gift cards. This would be an incentive to get people to get tested. Martin Charlo stated for advertising The coronavirus team got some funding and that could help and tribal council page could help with advertising. Patrick Yawakie updated on Arlee Community Development Corporation: Food Sovereignty Program. Arlee CDC established March 29, 2020, serves both tribal and non-tribal community members. Food Distribution provides food for 7 days of food. Breakfast, lunch, dinner snack and dessert and offer 4 different varieties of breakfast and dinner items and 3 different lunch, snack and dessert items. Part of distribution we localized our foods by purchasing local beef and produce and donations of FRCA bison, beef and produce. We are establishing partnerships with local producers. Whites Meats are offering the lowest prices that I have found when purchasing beef. We are working with smaller producers as well but for all the hard work they are doing with are trying to figure out a partnership with them. We receive volunteers every week and our distribution consists of two people processing and making bags at a time and two people making bulk foods into smaller distributed sized foods for our participants and they work from Monday-Friday. We are also running a youth leadership development program too asking local high school students who are interested in putting in 2 hours of work and getting compensated with \$20 gift cards and teaching them the concept of food sovereignty and to care about your community. Also part of distribution is giving out items such as coffee, tea, cooking oil, jams, syrups, peanut butter, and parmesan, these are more on a needs basis. We also received donated non-food personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies and received donated and purchased cloth masks. To date the participants who have come to our program we have served 266 households, served 954 individuals and we average 29 households per week and average 106 individuals per week. Averaging \$.74 a meal. Our program follows the CDC guideline and in our advertisements it shows our friendliness and we are all wearing masks and gloves. Arlee CDC and Arlee in the future will be looking to establish a food bank but for now we are in immediate need for a venue for distribution, paid employees, food distribution coordinator position, food and supplies and our budget proposal. And we are requesting the Arlee Community Center on a weekly basis. We are also requesting employees who are getting paid but who are not at work could work for our program. We rely on donations but we would like to partner with Property and Supply and hope to source food at a lower price through our local food distributions and businesses and all the other non-food items as well. A program like this should be in all our towns in

the community. **Carole Lankford** asked if Arlee currently has a food pantry like the Bread Basket? **Pat Yawakie** stated Jocko Valley Lutheran Church was offering was offering a food pantry operations but recently have thrown their support to us and now we are the main food distribution program in Arlee.

Charmel Gillin requested a complete and formal request for council to consider through the proper channels to follow. We do have the effort that Jami Pluff is helping to lead which is to coordinate the grassroots organizations and potential requests might consider with the COVID CARES funding. **Carole Lankford** stated CSKT does donate \$500. the food banks on the reservation.

April Charlo wanted to mention is that Arlee CDC with the food pantry are providing weekly and there is not a minimum and we are realizing is that participants can only go once a month, which then that is a huge gap and that we are not overlapping but filling a need. **Patrick Yawakie** stated in Arlee we are not restricted to any federal guidelines but we have to follow our health and safety guidelines but in terms of foods that we give out, everything is made by the choice of our communities members and what they want and we go out and get it for them essentially and there is no restriction on how many times you can enter during the month but the only thing we are trying to ask is for your name, phone number, address, and your need.

Jody Perez, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, requested approval for resolution to authorize the Housing Authority to apply for the Indian Community Development Block Grant, CARES- Imminent Threat funding and this application opens on June 1st and it is first come first serve. We would be applying to supplement the budget for the homelessness initiative.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve resolution to authorize the Housing Authority to apply for the Indian Community application. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Resolution No. 20-109

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALISH AND KOOTENAI HOUSING AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK-CARES GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE TRIBES

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is the duly recognized governing body of the Flathead Nation with the

responsibility to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing for the tribal members within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have designated the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority as its Tribally-Designated Housing Entity, with the authority to administer and participate in housing programs for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and its members, pursuant to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101); and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes desire to have an application for the Indian Community Development Block-CARES Grant prepared and submitted on behalf of the Tribes in support of constructing new housing units for the homeless and hard to house Tribal Members in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes hereby delegates the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority the authority to prepare and submit on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes an Indian Community Development Block-CARES grant application for constructing new housing units for the homeless and hard to house Tribal Members in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes hereby delegates the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority the authority to administer and manage said Indian Community Development Block-CARES Grant.

Jody Perez and **Katie Miller**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, **Patricia Courchane**, DHRD; **Patricia Buffalo**, Tribal Health Department; **Janet Camel**, Economic Development; gave an update on the task force for homelessness.

Charmel Gillin, will give a quarterly report for Black Bear Ranch on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 3:38 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Secretary