

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

Volume 21 Number 1
Zoom Meeting

Held: October 2, 2020
Approved: October 6, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Len TwoTeeth (Personal Time Off).

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

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

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

The **Yamncut Drum Group** sang a flag song.

The floor was opened for comments from the elders.

Stephen Smallsalmon talked about the importance of staying safe, wearing a mask and washing your hands due to this virus. It is important to wear a mask; it’s our life. He thanked council for helping and supporting the Nkwusm School. He was grateful for saying the opening prayer this morning.

The floor was opened for updates from the council members.

Carole Lankford thanked Stephen for the prayer and the drum group for the song. We need to pray for our nation and everything that is going on. She asked prayers for the President and First Lady as they struggle with COVID-19. She gives thanks to the council for all they have done; she is part of that and they work hard to make a difference for our people and do what they can to make it easier for the people. She is proud of how they have stepped up and made big changes. The biggest change is customer service, coming to work on time, and answering the telephone. We work for the people, and to do those three simple things is huge. She appreciates the strength of the chairwoman to say that. We are doing whatever we can. Under the chair’s leadership we’re looking at ordinances and things that have needed to be changed for a long time, such as

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the lands ordinance and personnel ordinance. They hired a new Tribal Health director and encourages everyone to get behind Tribal Health. Council has worked hard on water rights. We need to make some hard decisions. With lands we have our regular meetings, have been working on budgets, and being involved in a lot of things. She feels honored to be part of this council and this great nation.

Martin Charlo thanked everyone for being here and especially the drum. His focus has been coronavirus. We are in the middle of a surge. He thanked everyone for going out to get the flu shot on Wednesday. We have added cases each day. We were doing great until July. We need to be diligent and wear a mask, wash our hands, social distancing, and not attending group gatherings. He has missed graduations, funerals, and family events. Mental health is important and is seriously affected by this virus. The census is important. We got a one-month extension. He encouraged everyone to fill out the census. It contributes \$20,000 for each tribal person counted so it's millions of dollars and we could gain another seat in congress. He asked everyone to register to vote. It is the most important election of our lives, our kids, and grandkids. It will shape the future of Indian country, especially the Supreme Court. They will continue to challenge our sovereignty and we need to be politically sound and strong. Martin reminded everyone to wash their hands, wear a mask, social distance, vote, register to vote, and fill out the census. Martin thanked his colleagues.

Bing Matt welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting, thanked the drum group for the song, and Stephen for the prayers. The last quarter of this year has gone by quickly. We are still dealing with COVID. Council has not been traveling. They have been staying home fighting this virus. We want to keep our people as safe as we can. More cases are reported every day. The virus is affecting our kids in school. There are cases now in the Arlee school. The school is closed today because of it. He thanked the UCC for continued updates to the council about the virus. Council gets updates from the tribal departments, the Legal Department about the water compact, and reports from the corporations. He thanked the Facebook audience for joining today's meeting. He offers prayers for everyone's families to remain safe.

Ellie Bundy McLeod thanked everyone for listening to today's meeting. She wished good luck to the hunters. She hopes everyone finds opportunities to be outdoors and active. Ellie gave a shoutout to Kidney Keepers for booking 2,501 walking and running miles. She congratulated the participants for the nice work. It inspires health and fitness. All employees returned to work this last quarter. She applauds everyone taking precautions and following protocols. We need to continue to hold strong and be vigilant to protect the most vulnerable. The house passed Savannah's Act to seek to address the MMIW crisis and require federal agencies to report numbers of MMIW every year and consultation

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with tribes to update the database to be relevant to Indian country and expanded protocols for law enforcement agencies when dealing with MMIW and allow tribes to submit their own guidelines regarding this. The Not Invisible Act has the federal agencies addressing MMIW and human trafficking. It is on the President's desk to sign into law. They had a listening session and she attended that in September. Written testimony will be submitted. CSKT was chosen as a pilot to develop the MMIW protocols for the Flathead community, which includes finalization for a guide to develop a community response plan. The People's Center was set on fire. She thanked the fire personnel, staff, and council members who assisted. She says prayers for the staff working tirelessly to restore those items that were saved. Ellie acknowledged families who have recently lost loved ones.

Anita Matt thanked the prayer and drum. It starts our hearts off in the right direction. She thanked the membership for participating in today's meeting. We've lost lots of people this year and prayers go to those families. 2020 was a difficult year. In January we were sworn into office with the greatest hopes and ideas with a new council. We set out to try to accomplish the to do list we had, but by February COVID was the priority of the tribal government and by March 26 the complex was shut down and we started a new process for operating the tribal government. We managed to get through with zoom and WebEx meetings. She thanked the front-line workers for meeting everyone's needs. The government continued to operate and a paycheck was mailed out every two weeks. Anita thanked all the tribal departments who worked during that time. Travel was suspended for all staff and council. Committee meetings were via phone or virtual. We participated to represent CSKT that way. She is on the homeless committee, budget committee, land committee, Inter-Tribal Ag Council, worked on conservation issues, grass fed beef, Indian Health Board, Economic Development, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, shareholder, department heads, ANA Workforce, water rights, National Bison Range, Title IV, and Aging. In July she helped facilitate a drive-through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program for producers. They are signing up for the second phase of the CPAP right now. Anita had two face to face meetings with the Dixon residents, but had contact with them via phone and Facebook. The Probate Code, Cultural Water Ways Ordinance, Lands Ordinance, and Personnel Ordinance are being worked on. She continues to work on the railroad, brown spill cleanup, and getting a building for Dixon. Anita thanked the membership for their patience and support, the chairwoman for her leadership, her colleagues for their dedication, and the staff for working. She thanked Vi Trahan for her dedicated work to the Tribes; she has done a great job.

Fred Matt thanked everyone who is participating today. He was reminded that the thing that needs to be repeated continuously moving forward is this virus is not over. It has been frustrating that folks may not get it. Some local businesses do not wear masks and that is frustrating. The governor was chewing on the

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state saying our numbers are going up, not down. The council talked about zooming the quarterly and he thanked council for doing that. He thanked Shelly for all she has done during this frustrating time we are going through since January. The Tribe is taking the high road in every aspect. He was thinking the President would not get it until he contracted the virus, and then he got the virus. Fred prays for the President and his wife and everyone who has tested positive. Denial is not going to make this virus go away. Fred applauds the council's hard work they put in and the staff that stepped up. He hopes the council continues to take the high road. We are the leaders of our tribe. It is refreshing to hear the drum and our elder starting us off with a prayer. We will get through this together. We need to be positive and do things that are necessary.

Charmel Gillin was happy to be in the chambers today. One of the motivators coming in here was being in the same room as the drum group. She was glad Stephen joined virtually. She feels strongly about the honoring that we're doing today and the recognition. Charmel appreciated the agenda for today's meeting. She echoed Anita's recognition of Vi Trahan and she wishes Vi the best in the future after her retirement. Charmel recognized Carole and Fred for their prayers for the President. It is the mark of a person's good heart when they can sincerely pray for someone they don't agree with; that's some of the hardest things to do is embrace someone who opposes you. She added prayers for the other tribes in in the northwest and Dakotas because as the virus surges on either side of us, she knows the Blackfeet and others are struggling right now. She prays they would just be covered with our prayers and their lives would be brought back to fullness and that they once again prosper. She said lifting up everyone's hunting safety as well as they are hunting and she prays for their success. As they hunt, she wanted them to remember their elders and remember they can help us to manage the chronic wasting diseases prevention and keep that in mind when they are out hunting. We are ultra-aware of the need to improve access to government and services to our people during this pandemic. It has been a challenge. People have been calling the council wanting them to improve those things, and we are. She recognized James Stele, Sr. for managing building protocols. He brought on staff to help do that. That is a big part of making sure everyone has access to services. We need to keep everyone safe as we can. It's not something we can control. We have to recognize to do our best. We had shields up in the chambers and a lot has been done to help us do our jobs. The council recently discussed some problems people are having in communities and Chief Craige Couture was asked to challenge the tribal government to increase his budget. That is something we know is a challenge because we have the balanced budget ordinance we need to maintain and all allocations for the fiscal year have been made. When we look at priorities and how they are funded, health and safety are top priorities. We need to do what we can to increase that funding. It will be an incredible challenge this next quarter for our budget managers to accomplish that. Charmel commended Rick

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Eneas, Zack Camel, and the staff for the feat they accomplished to put out the economic relief stimulus funding. It was tricky and many hours went into that. They are still working on it. 90% of the membership had applied. The staff had to sift out the non-tribals who applied for funding. They did a great job and she thanked them for the care in which they did that. Patricia Courchane and DHRD staff is in charge of child protection, elder programs, and food distribution. They continue to get people back in the offices and always struggled on space issues and the facilities have not been adequate to house staff, but they continue to work. Rich Janssen and the Natural Resources Department staff does a fantastic job. Dan McClure put together a roads crews and kept us informed on what is going on. The permit sales are record high this year. She hopes we can do the same to fund more officers for tribal recreation managers. Lots of people do not purchase recreation permits. There's misuse of those areas. Buffalo Bridge has lots of activity. There are people on our tribal lands all the time cruising around. It is a major issue for the tribal people, and we are doing what we can to protect tribal lands. Tony Incashola, Jr. and Ron Swaney are valued so much; they take care of our lands during fire season. There has been a tragedy all over, such as California and other areas in the country. She knows they are committed to helping people and have done a great job keeping us safe. Michelle Mitchell gives presentations, and she is proud of her work in the Tribal Education Department with developing a pilot program for education pods to see how we can change the way we educate our kids during this pandemic. It is a unique program. Charmel keeps reapportionment on the table in front of council. That is something the people asked to give opinions on and a straw vote on it. Not much progress has been made on that, but they talked differing viewpoints on geographical changes based on populations in districts or if some of them want an at-large voting type of thing. That would take more work on amending the constitution. We are hovering in that space right now and made no decision how to move forward on it, but she keeps asking about it. She continues to support the COVID youth community care and awareness campaign. She participates on the homeless task force. We will have a good report for everyone or see the plan come together soon. The committee did good work there. She thanked everyone for letting her represent them on the tribal council. She appreciates the comradery on the tribal council, and appreciates the people continuing to give us this time here.

Mike Dolson was glad to have the honor of sitting here and participating with these folks and the effort we put forward for the tribal community. He was glad to see the reaction of our people to this pandemic and the front-line workers keeping people safe and fed. He was thankful for the prayers and drum this morning. Mike is new on council and is still learning a lot. There are many issues they deal with. He thanked Information Technology. They have been essential in making sure we continue putting forth our efforts. They did an outstanding job and is looking to make it possible to do telehealth and tele-education. The Legal Department has been doing a tremendous job for us. The

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membership can call Mike anytime they need to. He reiterated Stephen's comment to wear a mask; it's your life. He was also glad to see Steve Lozar here today.

Chairwoman Fyant sends prayers for everyone today, including our brothers and sisters in Northern Cheyenne, Blackfeet, and Crow where they're having virus upswings and fires. Shelly prays for those who have recent family losses, those struggling with mental health, and those affected by the sickness. On August 10 we suspended our partial government shutdown and came back to work. On September 8 we opened our recreation lands for nonmembers with permits. We reassigned some of the road monitors to the tribal buildings so we could try to be safe within the buildings. With the CARES funding we set ten priorities. We are going to share a few of those today, as it relates to economic development, Tribal Education, and the stimulus payment that was sent out. Shelly thanked her colleagues. The council has done the best they can. They try hard and deliberate a lot of things every day. She thanked them for putting in that time and that work. They have an exciting meeting today to share with the membership and a big part of it is the youth campaign. We are targeting the young people. We have so much talent. Their message is mask up for the membership and stay home and wash your hands. If you think about the sacrifices our ancestors made, this is nothing compared to what they went through. We have running water and so many things available to us. She is thankful every day for the beautiful lands we live in. The Progress Act was recently sent to the president's desk to be signed into law. It amends Title IV of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act. The CSKT was one of the demonstration pilot tribes early on in the 1990s and were a big part of that. Rhonda Swaney was part of that rulemaking. With the revision, we request a seat at the table for negotiated rulemaking since we compacted most of our programs. The Native American Incubators Program was introduced by the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs by Tom Udall from New Mexico to establish and fund business incubators across Indian country to help start-up businesses. That is a need in Indian country. We encourage to buy tribal and local. Shelly appreciates everyone's attendance at today's virtual meeting.

Council showed a video by Artie Mendoza.

Dan Decker, Legal Department, recognized and honored Steve Lozar for 45 years of tribal government service. Steve retired from the Legal Department on September 30. Steve was given an Eighth Generation blanket. **Council** thanked Steve for his dedication to the Tribes. **Steve Lozar** was grateful for the honoring. He recognized Vi Trahan for her years of service to the tribal government.

The **Yamcut Drum Group** sang an honor song for Steve Lozar.

Council thanked Vi Trahan for her years of service to the Tribes.

Council showed the Protect Your People video by Shadow Devereaux.

The **Yamncut Drum Group** sang an honor song for Vi Trahan.

Velda Shelby, Economic Development Office, gave an overview of the small business stimulus grants that are available for tribal member owned businesses and livestock producers. The Tribes set aside \$1 million for this grant program. Eligible applicants that have impacted by COVID-19 can receive up to \$30,000 (\$20,000 for stabilization and \$10,00 for adaptation). This is not a loan and does not need to be paid back. The stabilization grant will provide working capitalization for 9.5 months. funds can be used for working capital, such as payroll, rent, accounts payable, utilities, and debt service. She emphasized this is great opportunity for businesses in default with lenders to resume their payments on their debt, and that will be a part of the agreement. They want to help them get stabilized again. Businesses can apply for up to \$10,000 toward adaptation equipment and supplies, such as PPE. they will be required to meet with Brian Crawford, Tribal Sanitarian, and he will receive CDC guidelines/protocols to safely operate their business. Eligibility for grants for tribal members who are enrolled and operate a business on the reservation or are an active livestock producer that was impacted by the pandemic. The businesses must be in good standing with the Tribes and be a Tribal Preference business. They need to have a brand if they are livestock producers. The business must be in good standing with the Secretary of State's Office and needs to be tribally owned. Applicants need to provide a copy of their 2019 tax returns. If they are a new business from January or February 2020, they need to provide income statements. The business needs to have 50 or fewer businesses. If a sole proprietor, they would qualify. They must show a sustained loss of revenue as of February 2020. Marijuana-based businesses do not qualify for the program. It is advertised on social media sites and the Char-Koosta News, along with mailouts and emails being sent out. They can apply for the grant online at csktbusinessrelief.com. EDO is working with Submittable to process applications to streamline the review process. Greg DuMontier, Tina Begay, Steve Clairmont, and James Bible were hired as technical advisors to help the applicants through the process to successfully apply for funding. November 15, 2020 is the deadline to apply or until the funding is exhausted. Any questions can be sent to info@skcbusinessrelief.com. People can call 544-1245 or 883-4317 for more information. It is about a three-week turnaround time to receive payment once the application process is completed. Recipients will be required to sign a memorandum of agreement.

Council showed the Strong Together video by Vinnie Bird Webster.

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Rick Eneas, Financial Management, recognized Vi Trahan for her 48 years of service to the tribal government. She is retiring and will be missed. The office had a celebration for Vi and gifted her with an Eighth Generation blanket.

Rick Eneas, Financial Management, gave an overview of the economic stimulus payment that was issued to tribal members. The deadline was extended to October 31, 2020 for those individuals who have not yet received the stimulus payment. Each tribal member received a \$1,875.00 stimulus payment. Tribal members had to be enrolled as of July 16, 2020 and living by August 14, 2020 to be eligible for a payment. They had to submit a request for support due to impacts from COVID-19. Rick clarified that this is not an additional payment; it is just an extension of time for those tribal members to apply for funding that did not receive the payment yet. As of September 30, 2020, almost \$14 million was paid out and 7,461 tribal members received a stimulus check. 553 tribal members have not applied for funding yet. The request for support is available online. An application needs to be submitted and it must include name, enrollment number, date of birth, and identify any minors or dependents being included in the request. There is a team available to assist tribal members who are unable to apply online. The email address is monitored by COVID Support Technicians. The phone number to call is 275-2726. The application is available on the Tribes' website and is a big green dollar sign on the home page.

Council showed the Be the Change video by the Pete Sisters.

Marie Torosian, The People's Center, gave an update on The People's Center since the fire occurred. The staff is going through the recovery process and the items are at Salish Kootenai College. Rick Eneas has been a tremendous help with the insurance claim. Various agencies and individuals have made donations to the center.

Council showed the video by the Chief Cliff Drum Group.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department, gave an overview of the education pods. Sisi Pete has an education pod in Arlee. Judy Gobert has an education pod in Polson. The children named the pod Mossy Rez School. Cristen TwoTeeth has an education pod in Ronan. Jazra Michel has an education pod in Ronan.

Council showed the Native Strong video by Artie Mendoza, Shadow Devereaux, Vinnie Bird Webster, the Pete Sisters, and Shayden Croft.

The floor was opened for closing comments.

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Martin Charlo reminded everyone to get their flu shot, social distance, wash their hands, wear face masks, do not attend group gatherings, and be sure to register and vote in the upcoming election.

The meeting was closed with a **prayer** by Chairwoman Fyant.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 12:26 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

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Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Secretary