

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

Volume 21 Number 76
Zoom Meeting

Held: July 15, 2021
Approved: July 20, 2021

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; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:05 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Charmel Gillin.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for July 13, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Len TwoTeeth informed council that he was contacted by Elmo community members concerning the use of our tribal lands by nonmembers. He had a brief discussion with August Lefthand and was told about a business in Big Arm that rents ATVs, and they make a substantial amount of money off this business by using our tribal lands. The council had wanted a plan from the Natural Resources Department with a proposed budget to increase the Game Warden staff and provide a proposed increased fee schedule. He wants a time frame placed on that to keep the ball rolling on this matter. Len wants to identify specific areas for nonmember use so our tribal members can utilize their accustomed places. He would like NRD to bring in the plan within the next two weeks. Jennifer Trahan will contact Dan McClure to find out when he is

scheduled to present the information to council. **August Lefthand** informed council that north of Elmo on the hill where the lookout is there was a guy grading the roads. August asked him what he was doing, and the guy said they have something to haul near the reservation line. Nonmembers are buying land in Elmo and then blocking it off and putting up no trespassing signs so tribal members cannot enter those lands. **Carole Lankford** received a similar call from Gale Eneas, Martin Salway, and another person that did not want to be named. Mr. Sisler lives in Big Arm. She googled ATV rentals and called the number. His business charges \$199 for a two-seater and \$299 for a four-seater. He told her that there are 100 miles of roads and trails to ride on throughout the reservation between Big Arm and Elmo and that there were no fire restrictions. Mr. Sisler has not approached the Tribes about his business. These people talked to Tom McDonald about their concerns too. It is concerning. This person needs a permit to operate this kind of business on the reservation and he does not have one. This needs to be addressed immediately and we need gate guards in place as soon as possible. Carole was also contacted by Marie Torosian regarding Twin Lakes. Nonmembers are doing whatever they want on our lands. Whatever we can do, it needs to be done immediately. **Chairwoman Fyant** will follow up with Fish & Game and Law & Order, if necessary.

Chairwoman Fyant informed council that appointments need to be made on the Intertribal Timber Council to replace Fred Matt, since today is his last day on the Tribal Council. Bing Matt volunteered to serve as delegate and Anita Matt and Len TwoTeeth volunteered to serve as alternates, along with Tony Incashola, Jr.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the resolution appointing delegates to the Intertribal Timber Council. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 21-093

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DELEGATES TO THE INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

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

WHEREAS, Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) was established in 1976 and is a non-profit nation-wide consortium of Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and individuals dedicated to improving the management of natural resources of importance to Native American Communities; and

WHEREAS, the ITC works cooperatively with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Private industry and academia to explore issues and identify practical strategies

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and initiatives to promote social, economic and ecological values while protecting and utilizes forests, soil, water, and wildlife. Over 60 tribes and Alaska Native corporations currently belong to the Inter-Tribal Timber Council; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead reservation promote sound, economic management of Indian Forests;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribes appoint James “Bing” Matt as delegate, and to appoint Anita Matt, Len TwoTeeth and Tony Incashola, Jr. as alternates.

Council reviewed a letter to the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority confirming the appointment of Carole Lankford to remain as the delegate and the appointment of an alternate due to Fred Matt resigning from the Tribal Council. **Ellie Bundy McLeod** volunteered to serve as the alternate.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the letter confirming the appointment of Carole Lankford to continue as delegate and to appoint Ellie Bundy McLeod as the alternate to the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority Board. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Ed Meece, City of Polson; and **Juan Escano**, Economic Development Director; introduced Mr. Escano as the new Economic Development Director. They are revitalizing the Economic Development Council, and its main role is to serve as an advisory group on various economic development issues. Local workforce difficulties are one issue they will be addressing. Mr. Meece requested that a CSKT representative be appointed to serve on the Economic Development Council. The council holds one-hour meetings on a monthly basis. Mr. Meece requested that a CSKT representative to be appointed to serve on the Marijuana Task Force. It will be a temporary ad hoc committee. The city is putting together this short-term task force to look at what the city could and should do regarding recreational marijuana and provide recommendations to the City Commission. He would like to invite Chelsea Kleinmeyer to serve on the task force, in addition to anyone else the council would like to appoint. Juan said they are looking at prefab houses. The contractors will mentor these resources to be available locally faster and at less cost. They have been in contact with Jody Perez about combining their dollars to address the core issues concerning housing issues and will undertake a survey to collect relevant data. **Chairwoman Fyant** advised that the Tribal Council passed a resolution for homelessness. They attended a webinar on three different models that covered tiny homes, the net zero net positive project, and dealing with homelessness directly by providing direct services. Unhoused relatives is the term they used instead of homelessness. This is a top priority of the Tribes. **Carole Lankford** asked who is involved on the Task Force, and if there are any tribal members or mental health folks. She wants a tribal perspective on impacts to our people.

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Jody Perez is working on homelessness issues at SKHA. **Mr. Meece** stated that they have a mental health representative on the task force, but he would also like to have a tribal member on there to provide the tribal perspective. The task force includes representatives from local businesses, law enforcement, industry representatives, and some folks from the treatment court. He is trying to get a broad perspective so there is no one particular bias. **Charmel Gillin** appreciates the initiative and volunteered to serve on the EDC. **Chairwoman Fyant** reported that the Tribal Council has been hearing from different stakeholders in the justice system and law enforcement, along with the Economic Development Office. We are in a holding pattern. Yesterday's breaking news with Chuck Schumer's proposed decriminalization of marijuana at the federal level was interesting since it affects our housing grant monies. Shelly agreed with the recommendation of having Chelsea serve on the Task Force, but she would also like to have a tribal member appointed. **Carole Lankford** suggested Ann Miller. **Council** took the request under advisement and will reach out to staff and get someone assigned to serve on the task force.

Carole Lankford informed council that she received a call from Toni Mitchell inquiring about a letter that was sent to the membership. Tony wanted to know why the letter went out to the membership, why it was sent out without being signed, and why did it suggest that if people do not need the stimulus money that they should send it back. Toni hopes that anything going out to the membership will be signed by someone in charge. It should have been signed by Rick Eneas. **Chairwoman Fyant** did not know the background information regarding that letter, and she was surprised to receive the letter. Carole mentioned that in the future, any correspondence that goes out to the membership should be reviewed and approved by the Tribal Council and make sure any corrections are fixed before being sent out. Carole received a ballot, and the cover letter was blurry. She appreciated receiving the ballot, but it needs to be clear.

Chairwoman Fyant reminded everyone of the Primary Election on July 31, 2021. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are available upon request.

Lynn-Wood Fields gave an update on the Perma Red TV series. The scripts have been written and are being presented to the network CEO for consideration. She hopes the network executives will green light the project so it can be picked up as a series. They received two grants and will be offering a film class in the state of Montana August 12-15, 2021. It is a two-day training and participants will receive a film production assistant certificate. A narrative and a documentary are the two films that they will be doing. **Misty Ellingburg** gave an overview of her film. It is a feature film that she is hoping to be able to film in Montana. All the lead roles are played by Native Americans. Aspects of the script are being translated into Salish. There are still 15 openings if the Tribes know of anyone

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who is interested in participating in the training. **Charmel Gillin** asked if there are any pre-qualifications for anyone interested. Lynn-Wood advised that she is only looking for people who really want to get hired. She is hoping to hire the people that go through the training. Applicants must be 18 years or older. They will be offering other trainings, including hair and makeup. This pilot program is to provide training on film production, and anyone would qualify. She will send the registration form and information to the Tribes.

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

Rhonda Swaney and **John Carter**, Legal Department; and **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Johnathan Owens and **Chelsea Kleinmeyer**, Tribal Health Department, met with council for a Health Committee meeting. **Mr. Owens** gave an update on the regional tribal inpatient/outpatient addiction collaboration. The first meeting was held in Billings and was successful. It was agreed to that a facility is needed. They are looking at Billings East but did acknowledge there is a need in this area. There may not be much support available for the Tribes' model. The meeting to discuss a regional/tribal inpatient facility is scheduled for September. **Chairwoman Fyant** suggested that the council could gain input from the membership through their district meetings. Johnathan stated that the biggest challenge for Tribal Health is staffing a facility. He gave an overview of the projects Tribal Health is working on. One of those projects is the cooling stations. It was combined with how to help folks with smoke inhalation from the fires. Chelsea reported that the Fitness Centers in Elmo, Mission, and Arlee are being used as cooling centers. The centers will be open daily from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. through the end of August. The hours may be extended if the temperatures continue into September. They are monitoring the smoke levels and Chelsea has been proactive by getting messages on Facebook about what the air quality is each day. The air quality is unhealthy today. If the smoke continues at these levels, people can go to these cooling stations to escape from the smoke. Transportation to the cooling stations is available. THD is also reaching out to check on the elders and vulnerable population to let them know the stations are available and arrange for transportation if needed. **Mike Dolson** asked about the variants. Mr. Owens advised that it is a concern and there have been ongoing discussions about the alpha and delta variants. The delta variant is more aggressive. As of July 7, 2021, there were 23 documented cases. Of those cases, 23.3% of the individuals were hospitalized. There have been 357 cases of the alpha variant in the state of Montana, and 8% of the individuals were hospitalized. The county was down to 1 active case and now it has increased to 8 active cases. **Bing Matt** commented that the centers are open but the kitchen

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is closed. He asked why people are not allowed to cook for wakes. There are signs posted that the kitchen is closed. Johnathan was not aware of what the policy change was, but he will find out and report back later today. **Charmel Gillin** would like more information about the variants to be communicated to the reservation public. She was told the hot spot in the nation is Clark County, Nevada, which is Las Vegas. That is something we should keep on our dashboard of what is happening. She does not want to have a surge of hospitalizations. **Mr. Owens** reported that there are 87 variants in Flathead County and more cases in Yellowstone. He is seeing weekly increases in the number of cases. We are not out of the woods yet, and people need to remain diligent by wearing a mask, washing their hands, and social distancing. The vaccines work for those individuals that are vaccinated. The vaccines keep us healthier. The unvaccinated population is seeing some horrible results from the variants, especially the delta variant. **Anita Matt** asked if there have been any problems with using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. She asked about children getting vaccinated; there has been an increase in children getting COVID. **Mr. Owens** was not sure if it had anything to do with the blood clotting issues, but we are no longer receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Tribal Health still has some in stock, but he is not seeing any new allocation for the vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is available for individuals aged 12 and older; it may go lower in age at some point. In the fall, they can begin vaccinating the youth aged 9 and older. They are looking at boosters in pill form. THD hopes to have more tools and once it becomes available in pill form, hopefully people will be more amenable to taking the vaccine. Tribal Health staff is going around the reservation and offering the vaccine. We are only 34% vaccinated. They are also offering all childhood vaccines in addition to the COVID vaccine. THD is trying to make it accessible to the community so everyone will get vaccinated. Johnathan gave an update on the Ronan Health Clinic. The foundation and building walls should be done by mid-October. The goal of the clinic is to have more of a walk-in approach to handle immediate needs. Dr. Pierre will set it up and provide services at that clinic. It will be a different approach on how it functioned in the past. The clinic will have more flexible and extended hours. The goal is to improve the best practices and be a viable option in terms of care and be a provider by choice in the community.

Bing Matt informed council that he was contacted by Darlene Neuman about how she can get a ramp for her home. She will be getting out of the hospital in a couple days. He told her to contact the Elders program. Bing would like to get someone in there to help her out. **Jennifer Trahan** will follow up.

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

Len TwoTeeth left the meeting on personal time off for the remainder of the day.

Stu Levit, Legal Department; **Rob Sisson**, International Joint Commission; **Rich Janssen** and **Willie Keenan**, Natural Resources Department; and **Erin Sexton**, Flathead Biological Station; discussed the Elk River Watershed. The goal is to continue to promote the CSKT's requests for an IJC Reference and other actions to promote water quality and ecological health in the Elk Watershed as it flows from Canada into the United States. **Mr. Sisson** gifted the Tribal Council with a photograph of land that was restored to the CSKT. He will provide a copy of the treaty that created the International Joint Commission. Rob shared the history of his ancestors. There are three Commissioners from Canada and three from the United States. The US Commissioners were appointed by President Trump, and they are waiting for President Biden to replace them. There are ten staff members. 120 people participated in the Traditional Ecological Knowledge meeting via zoom. It included discussions on how the IJC should work with tribes and First Nations in that regard. The IJC is responsible for managing the levels and flows of the water. The IJC works on selenium impacts to Elk River. They push both governments to find a working roadmap to address the situation. They have the authority to create international watershed boards, and there are currently four of those boards in existence. He would like to create international watershed boards everywhere. **Chairwoman Fyant** thanked Mr. Sisson for the meaningful gift. She is impressed with his connection to his ancestors and the legacy he is carrying forward with his relationships with indigenous people. It is important to protect the water, and she appreciates the work of the Commission. Canada's lack of protecting that water is unspeakable when you see the pictures and the proposed mining expansion. The traditional ecological knowledge is time tested. Our ancestors had a reciprocal relationship with all those elements (land, water, animals, plants). **Charmel Gillin** stated that Rob's work is enormous and important, and it takes a well-grounded person to recognize that importance. She thanked him for taking the charge. It is unthinkable how the priorities favor tech mining. Charmel's grandson caught a fish and there was much discussion on whether the fish was safe to eat due to selenium concerns. **Carole Lankford** thanked Mr. Sisson for being here today. It is important to protect Mother Earth, and she appreciates the work of the Commission.

Chairwoman Fyant mentioned that today is Fred Matt's last day on the Tribal Council. She thanked Fred for his service and wished him well in his next endeavor. Shelly appreciated Fred always providing the history of the Tribes. **Fred Matt** commented that his life has changed considerably in the last couple of years. When he was given the opportunity to return to the council it was a blessing, and he appreciates that. As he tries to raise his grandchildren, he needs to remain employed. Fred thanked the Tribal Council. **Charmel Gillin** thanked Fred for always being a gentleman and being very considerate. On Valentine's Day the ladies would find a rose on their desk. It was an honor and a pleasure to sit next to Fred. She wished him the best in his new job. **Anita Matt** thanked Fred. She appreciated the valentines and the things he talked to council about. Anita enjoyed working with Fred for many years. He was always

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telling jokes and has a witty humor. Anita shared a story about when Fred was getting ready for a meeting, and he used a paper cutter to cut off his tie. She will miss working with Fred and wished him well in the future. **Bing Matt** enjoyed working with Fred on council and he will miss him. Bing wished Fred good luck with his family and his new job. **Carole Lankford** appreciated working with Fred, and she will miss him. Carole is glad Fred is happy about where he is going. Fred is a good grandfather and she told Fred to let her know if he ever needs anything. **Mike Dolson** wished Fred good luck in all he does and told him to be safe and take care of those grandkids. **Martin Charlo** thanked Fred for all he did, and he enjoyed working with him.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 1:51 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary