

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

Volume 21 Number 77
Zoom Meeting

Held: July 20, 2021
Approved: July 27, 2021

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman (Speaking at the Reservation Economic Summit – Las Vegas, Nevada); and St. Ignatius District (Vacant).

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 9:03 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for July 15, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Martin Charlo introduced **Jace Sneeley**. Jace grew up in Idaho. Martin found out that Jace is a close relative of his. Jace informed council that he attends the George Mason University in Virginia to earn a master’s in fine arts in poetry writing. The university has an international writing center and every year they sponsor a student to travel for writing projects. Jace received the grant and he traveled here to find out who his family is. Jace was able to meet Victor Charlo. Martin thinks Jace’s story is not unique to many families on the reservation; it is incredible how our paths intermingle and cross. We need to encourage people to find out who they are. **Anita Matt** welcomed Jace. She commented that his

story is not unique, and she appreciated him coming in today. **Charmel Gillin** thanked Jace for taking time to be here today. This is an important thing for him to be doing personally, besides his passion for writing poetry. Charmel's mother was given up for adoption and was adopted by people in the Kootenai Tribe, and she was raised on the reservation. She knows how it is growing up unsure of your connections. Making those connections can be very rewarding. She welcomed Jace to his inheritance. If he spends time with the elders and makes connections, he will find that is a good place to be. Everyone takes care of family. Her mother's experience growing up was incredible. We enjoy that big family feeling in a lot of ways. Charmel hopes Jace finds that here, and he makes those connections and that his children find this as part of their inheritance as well. **Carole Lankford** sat in on a presentation last week about historical trauma. It is interesting as she walks down this path of understanding and knowledge of what happened to Indian people. She began reading a book about what people went through when they moved to California for the relocation program. A lot of it is similar to Jace's story about being taken out of his normal environment and having to figure it out. We have quite a few tribal members in a similar situation, and it is good to see he has made it to where he is today. She was impressed that Jace is attending George Mason University. Carole thanked Jace for coming in today and she appreciated the visit. Jace would like to have the opportunity to give back to the community and host a youth writing workshop or something in the future. His mother was raised by a good family and he was given so much, so he wants to give back to the community and support the CSKT in whatever capacity he can.

Joel Clairmont, Tribal Member, discussed a water delivery issue. He leases 100 acres of tribal land at Buffalo Bridge that is under the Project. Joel has been trying to get water since July 5 and he still does not have any to irrigate his crops. He understands there are some issues with the ditch, but someone above him has been irrigating continuously since May 17 and refused to shut off. Joel asked him if he would be at the quota by now, and according to the ditch rider the neighbor said he has the land and he needs to deliver water to him. Joel wanted council to be aware of that policy. Landowners have their own place, but they buy a marginal piece of property with irrigation on it and then they transfer the irrigation to their home place and run it continuously. That taxes the system. Joel cannot get any water because that person is running continuously. The neighbor cannot get water for his pivot either. The Tribes are the landowner of that tract of land Joel is leasing, and the Tribes are being denied water to their own land because of this policy. The Irrigation Project was put in to primarily benefit Indians, and now we are being denied water. Joel is still out of water, and it looks like he will not get any unless someone does something to get water to that property. Joel has seen it where people are irrigating lands above the ditch and moving water that was never under irrigation, and then the people downstream cannot get any water because they are taking it for other purposes. **Len TwoTeeth** thanked Joel for bringing this issue to the council's attention.

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They would have never known it was going on otherwise. Len wants it addressed immediately. Len wanted to get this information to the Superintendent today and bring in options later today on what we can do. We are in the middle of a heatwave and many of our lessees are not getting any water. We are getting an influx of nontribal members buying up property every day. We need to get it addressed this week with options to help out Joel. **Charmel Gillin** appreciated Joel bringing up this issue and she asked for more information on the policy he was referring to. Joel stated that it is project water through the delivery system from the Irrigation Project. He spoke to the ditch rider on how this came about. The ditch rider said they allow people to transfer water they have on one piece of property to another piece of property under the project. It doubles the quota if they transfer those irrigation rights on the other piece of land so they can run continuously. Joel has not seen the policy but believes there is a policy since it has been happening for the past ten years. It is not fair that Joel is the last one on the ditch and does not get any water. He pays the \$35 per acre fee and gets absolutely nothing out of it. **Carole Lankford** thought Joel could file a claim of damages for his crops if there is a policy like this in place that is injuring him. Carole received a phone call from a ditch rider that said a lot of crazy stuff is going on. Ryan went to a meeting at the Red Lion and talked to the Irrigation employees. She does not know what was talked about, and she wished the council had been invited to that meeting. The non-Indians are pulling the ditch riders aside and telling them they are either with us or with them. The ditch riders are afraid for their jobs and are pressured. It is probably more pressure on the ditch riders than a policy. The ditch riders get confronted by people all the time and it is a scary proposition he is in. She asked Joel if he has requested a copy of the policy he is referring to. It should be available to him from the Superintendent. Joel stated that he has not requested the policy. He has to be a good neighbor if he is going to get any water so he can irrigate his crop. Carole attended the Boys & Girls Club meeting last night. There is a potato farmer on the board, and he is not getting water even though all the reservoirs are full. He is a non-Indian. **Mike Dolson** asked about the landowner transferring his rights from one field to his home and he wanted to know if that individual is still irrigating on that field. Joel responded that the individual is not irrigating on the field, but he is at his place. **Len TwoTeeth** would like Rick and Ryan to work with Joel and report back to council this week. **Anita Matt** asked Rick to coordinate a meeting with Ryan and Shana and get a report back to council. People are misusing it. They have pivots set up above and people at the end of the line get no water. **Rick Eneas** advised that he and Ryan are aware of issues, and they are working through it. **Ryan Rusche** joined the discussion. He has never seen the policy but he will try to track it down. Ryan has heard from other irrigators that there was a pretty significant shortage of water. Ryan will meet with Joel to get more specifics from him. **Anita Matt** wants him to report back to council within a week. She has heard other complaints. We had an early runoff and have a drought going on. This problem has been here a lot of years. They cannot keep ditch riders; it is a hard job. It is unfair to landowners when

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they got the same crops and are unable to get water on them. Anita wants to visit with Shana, as well, if a meeting can be coordinated. **Ryan Rusche** will follow up and report back.

Joel Clairmont reminded council that he met with them about a year ago regarding an easement through the Fitzpatrick property and Joel being denied access through there to get to his lease. The council was looking at the options and one option was to build a road to get through that land to get to Joel's lease. It has been nearly a year and he wanted to know where we are at on that since he has not heard anything. **Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, reported that he is working on it with Holly Hitchcock and BIA. The council wanted the Lands Department to move forward with the road build, and that requires having NEPA done. Lands is working on the NEPA process with the Regional Office, and then it will come down to the BIA. It is a BIA road. We have no access going across fee land. We were looking at doing a new road build, but the BIA Road System needs to be put on the BIA inventory and get the NEPA work done. It needs to be done according to the BIA specs; it needs to fit a certain criterion. It also requires the cultural clearances. The Lands Department is waiting for the NEPA process to be done and approved through the Regional Office, and Mark will follow up with Holly to find out the status. **Len TwoTeeth** asked if the Tribes are still assessing fees to Joel for use of the lease since he has no water. **Mark Couture** said yes, because Joel is still using that lease. There is a working agreement with Diana. Lands had that agreement because of the tower up there. There was an issue with the gate being locked. They do not want access across their land. They allowed the tower people, the Tribal Lands staff, Natural Resources Department, and Joel to cross the land. Lands had hoped to get the road built so we would not have to worry about this situation anymore. Due to the NEPA and new NEPA Coordinator at the Regional Office, Lands is jumping through the hoops to get it approved. Joel wanted a timeline for that to be done. Mark could not provide a timeline. It goes through the Regional Office. Once it is approved by the BIA, it needs to get placed on the TIP, but the NEPA work must be done first. **Mike Dolson** stated that when we talked about it before Joel said the Fitzpatricks have a piece of land landlocked by the Tribes, and he wanted to know how they are accessing it. **Mark Couture** did not know how they are accessing it. The Tribes do not have it fenced off. There could be an easement or crossing permit in place, but he was not sure. They were trying to tag this onto the tower project. There is some red tape to work through the BIA. **Mark Couture** will follow up on the status and report back to council and Joel Clairmont.

Jean Matt, Mission Valley Power, requested approval of the fiscal year 2022 budget, as required by the 638 contract, to be submitted to the Regional Office. Jean was not able to have a board member present this morning, but he did provide a copy of the board minutes indicating that the board approved it.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the fiscal year 2022 budget for Mission Valley Power to be submitted to the Regional Office. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Carole Lankford mentioned OSHA. She told Jean she saw a Mission Valley Power truck pointing at her at nighttime; she started to back up but then she realized they were fixing the water pump. There were no lights indicating they were fixing the lines and the trailer did not have any brake lights. **Mr. Matt** stated that all Mission Valley Power vehicles have those, so he is interested in finding out why they were not turned on. It is brought up each week in safety meetings, and he will follow up. **Charmel Gillin** requested a side by side of fiscal year 2021 and fiscal year 2022. Jean will share that information with council. One item MVP looked at was moving to a PLX system to replace all the meters and get better reads from the meters. MVP could not get the material this fiscal year, so the funding was used for other improvements. The rate structure will be changed to a tier rather than on a block so that the customers that use more power will pay more and the customers that use less power will pay less.

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

Rhonda Swaney, Legal Department, discussed the general split of implementation of the water rights settlement. The Budget Committee took over the responsibility to approve the performance plan and worksheet. The Legal Department, in terms of goals and objectives, is mostly reactive. Legal responds to issues brought forward. With respect to the assignments, that will come back as a result of the council's strategic planning session and will be done in a support manner. It is a team effort, and the staff will provide input and expertise as needed. The Legal Department has not been part of the strategic planning and has not been informed of what they are doing. The reorganization took a lot off their table, and the Legal Department wants to be part of the organization and provide whatever assistance they can. By taking implementation of the water compact out of the Legal Department, Ryan handles that. There is one budget for the Legal Department and one budget for the water rights settlement. There are ongoing contracts that we need to pay for and public relations and lobbying costs that came out of the water rights support budget. Legal does not have a role in providing direct services, but the staff will provide as much assistance as possible. Rhonda gave a plea to not forget about the land and natural resources; we need to protect those resources for the membership. **Charmel Gillin** commented that thinking of the resolutions of priorities that were approved by the council, she hopes we have a solid and early onset of policy review and advice. The role of the Legal Department and the Policy Analyst will be very necessary in the early stages to make sure those teams are able to recognize the nuances and federal law that they may not be thinking of. That is one area she hopes we will be able to make sure the executive team is reaching out and providing us with that. The whole council needs to understand that.

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We will be breaking off and shepherding some of those groups. We can provide guidance the best we can, and we need to be teaming up closely. **Rhonda Swaney** commented that this is a wonderful opportunity to make improvements because the Tribes provide most of these services already. The Budget Committee will go over these goals and objectives and she requested consideration of both budgets she submitted. **Charmel Gillin** commented that Rhonda and some her staff have been there a long time and the transfer of knowledge is so important. She was curious if there can be some time scheduled to have Chairwoman Fyant, Rick Eneas, and Rhonda Swaney have some open dialogue about the services provided by the Legal Department and how we can better utilize those services. Things tend to change and shift depending on who is on the Tribal Council, and this reorganization is a time we need to talk about that a little bit more. Charmel wants to hear more and have an open dialogue about a better use of our Legal Department. **Rhonda Swaney** stated that she would be happy to participate in that discussion. **Rick Eneas** thought based on the general flavor that he received from the Tribal Council that there was some dialogue and discussion needed on how we fit together. When we start to move forward with the actions based on those resolutions, that discussion is going to be a good one to have to get everyone on the same page and understanding who does what.

Rhonda Swaney and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; and **Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department; were present for discussion.

Rick Eneas, Tribal Executive Officer; and **Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss departmental matters. **Clayton Matt**, Tribal Services; and **Lester Bigcrane**, Natural Resources Department; joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Greg Wilson, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to revise a project management plan via Agreement No. 16-141 between the CSKT and Reclamation Technical Service Center for the Upper Dry Fork Dam Feasibility Study PMP#14 Change Order No. 3 to extend the completion date from September 17, 2021 to April 15, 2022 to accommodate Reclamation's resource schedule related to additional seismic analyses of the dam's foundation. All other terms remain the same, and there would be no change to the budget.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the Upper Dry Fork Dam Feasibility Study PMP#14 Change Order No. 3 to extend the completion date from September 17, 2021 to April 15, 2022. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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

Bing Matt left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Vernon Finley, Kootenai Culture Committee; **Mike Kenmille**, **Danielle Lefthand**, **Laurence Kenmille**, **Levi Hewankorn**, **Diane Michel**, **August Lefthand**, **Jerry Nicolai**, **Lois Friedlander**, **Naida Lefthand**, **Francis Auld**, **Chrissy Ewing**, **Louis Caye**, and **Beverly Michel**, Elders Advisory Committee; met with council for an Elders meeting. **Anita Matt** asked if there were any issues or topics that the KCC wanted to give an update on. **Vernon Finley** reported that there have been a few meetings and the topics have centered around the protection of the lake, water, and natural resources. The main issues are the fees, the off-road use and dirt bikes, the amount of trash after group gatherings, and tribal land being used for nonmember businesses. There is a nontribal member business that has four-wheelers for rent and tells people to go on tribal land in the Irvine area. There is another business that offers horse riding on tribal land. Realtors advertise it that there are thousands of acres of wilderness access for a mediocre recreation permit fee. The huckleberry camp is scheduled for this coming weekend in the Yaak area. **Len TwoTeeth** reported that the Tribal Council has requested the Natural Resources Department to put together a plan for an increased fee schedule, identifying certain areas for nonmember use, and 10 additional Game Wardens on staff to patrol. There are many nonmembers on tribal land without a permit. There is a plan that will be coming in for council consideration and be implemented in the near future. **Anita Matt** thought that area was like the South Fork with limited access. **Laurence Kenmille** stated that they wanted to make it a true primitive area like the South Fork, but our own Tribal Forestry Department prevented that from happening. **Charmel Gillin** would like a report on the management area and make it more of a primitive area. Those areas need to be defined and what type of use areas they should be. **Mike Kenmille** would like to have a tribal member be a guide for the off-roading business.

Vernon Finley reported that the next issue was right of way accesses. On the north end they are seeing access across public land with county rights of way and other rights of way being closed off to us, and now we have to go on the hill above us in Elmo to have a decent road to get up there to Hog Heaven. The rights of way that were there have been closed off by nonmembers. The property owners closed those access points going to Irvine. It is a one-way street against us. That is another issue that Legal should be involved in. If it is alright for them to close off our rights of way, then we should close off theirs. One suggestion is for the Tribal Council to consider closing the tribal lands to all nonmember use. **Mike Kenmille** discussed people putting up fences and blocking off roads. We allow them to do it, and we need to stop giving in to them. We lost a lot of hunting areas because we let them in. We need to put our foot

down and stop giving them everything. Vernon wants the council to let him know what direction they are going or any actions they are taking, and he can distribute that information to the elders so they are all aware of how the council is addressing these issues. **Jerry Nicolai** commented that in terms of reservation use, he does not see any policies or procedures that are aggressive enough to address sovereignty issues. We need to be more aggressive in dealing with our properties and our rights, and he is not seeing that. This is our land, and we cannot be giving it away. **Laurence Kenmille** suggested that we trench the Black Lake Road and let the tribal members know it will not be in use for a while because they are not letting us use their property. **Levi Hewankorn** commented that Charmel Gillin wanted to know about specific areas that are known as cultural sites, but this whole reservation is. Relatives are buried all over the place. It sickens him to see all those guys going anyplace they want to. You do not know what a cultural way of life is unless you live it. **Junior Caye** mentioned the former Cathy Hamel allotment that was purchased a while back. It is very cultural to a lot of people, and he wants that land protected.

Vernon Finley informed council that the other thing that came up is planning community meetings for discussion on an expansion. The KCC offices are spread throughout three buildings. In the long range they want to have them all together in a space that meets the community, language preservation, and KCC needs. As these projects continue to grow, we will also respond to the need as we advance. We have a small group of apprentices learning the language. An RFP will be coming to the council to facilitate that planning process to meet the community needs. **Anita Matt** said the next topic was the resolution to fully integrate the cultural and traditional values and language in the individual lives consistent with the Tribes' mission and vision. **Rick Eneas** commented that the intent of the resolution was to make it true for more people and it was left open for people who are not part of the Tribe who are here that they recognize they do live on a reservation. **Vernon Finley** stated it is a continuation of the council reaching out for meetings for the elders to provide input in the tribal government and make sure the cultural values are respected in what is being done. **Laurence Kenmille** commented that every 5-7 years we get resolutions to integrate our culture and language, and nothing is ever followed up on. If it is going to be implemented and nothing is attached to it, nothing comes of it. We should get the solutions attached to the resolution, so we all know it is going to be implemented. It will cost money; we need a process to get the language more adapted into our working and social lives. Laurence would like to see all tribal employees being mandated to take one hour of Salish or Kootenai at least once a week. It should not be voluntary, and the nontribal members working for us need to be mandated to take those classes too. **Len TwoTeeth** thinks the elders need to help us implement this resolution. We need direction from the elders. The council had two strategic planning sessions and identified priorities. The council wanted to acknowledge to both Culture Committees that the culture and language will always be one of our top priorities as we move forward. We need

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to focus on who we are. He is glad we are doing these meetings once a month. He does see a difference how we are operating now that we started this plan, and he hopes we come up with a precise plan on how to move forward with implementing this. **Carole Lankford** agreed that in the past there were resolutions passed and they fell by the wayside, but that will not happen this time. There is a good plan moving forward, but we need people's input. We hear from the membership that we do not give them an opportunity, but they have the opportunity to know. There has been much council discussion on a broad number of issues, and there are ideas out there already. It must come from the membership. When we made these committees and put our thoughts on paper, we will get it out to the membership. No longer is money not available. There is money to do these things and bring them forward. Today we hear we figured it out on how to do it. Carole thinks we are in a prime time to move on a lot of these issues and get things done, and we need to have everybody's input.

Charmel Gillin stated that how we make the action become a reality is the challenge. We are taking another run at it. Fortunately, we have some funding now that can be allocated. We need everyone's input. It is imperative to recognize we need the elders to advise us. We need to rely on their advice regularly. She hopes there is time to go through the resolution more carefully. When she looks at the language in the resolution, the vision states traditional values would be imbedded in the many ways we do things. In the fourth whereas we are asking this to be integrated into daily consideration. We were trying to articulate that we want the whole of the tribal government, all of the operations, plans, and policies, to consider these traditional values and cultural values on a daily basis of the language and importance of all that. That is what the previous councils said, as well. How to get it in our daily thought processes is what they were looking at. This is our land, and we need to elevate that. We authorized and directed in the therefore be it be resolved sentence that in coordination with elders and available resources, so she hopes they see this as the keys. She wants to open this door together and figure out with their advice and the best advice we can with our personnel to bring everything up to another level that will serve us much greater in a better way. **Levi Hewankorn** stated that truth, honesty, and respect is where it needs to start from. That is the Indian way of life.

Francis Auld looked at the resolution. For the Ksanka, it feels like our tongue has been ripped from us and we do not have a voice. We can have a resolution but when an individual wants to make something make sense, they get put down or put back on the reservation. The resolution looks like it was cut and pasted from a lot of things. Everything he sees needs to be times two. We have two languages we have to deal with. When he looked at the organizational chart, he was disappointed to see that the Culture Committees were moved way down to the resource manager group. The Elder Advisory Group needs to go through Vernon, the Tribal Resource Director, and the Executive Director before it ever reaches the tribal governing body. Francis suggested that the Culture

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Committees be tied closer to the Executive Director component and moved up on the organizational chart. If the language, culture, and tradition are really important, it needs to be reconsidered. Vernon needs a good operating building for the KCC. We have airways here. We should look into a radio where we put the language out in the air. If people cannot get from Point A to Point B, they could turn on the radio and listen to the language. **Carole Lankford** told Francis that the new organizational chart does not change how things will go. Things will continue to happen the same as they were with the elders.

Anita Matt asked how the Culture Committee and Elders Advisory Group feel about the Secretary's boarding school initiative and how the CSKT should proceed. **Vernon Finley** responded that there is an Elders meeting tomorrow and that will be discussed. It would be a tremendous surprise to him if there is one Catholic boarding school that does not have any unmarked graves on their grounds. We need to keep our finger on the pulse of this and be fluid with our response going forward. SKC had ground sensing technology to locate graves. We were planning to use it because there are some unmarked graves in local cemeteries, and they wanted to use that to locate those spots before all this started to come out about the boarding schools. Vernon's understanding is that there are some unmarked graves that were located at the Long House and church.

Anita Matt stated another question the council had for the elders was incorporating traditional values and principles in the workplace and what should it look like. **Vernon Finley** advised that it was addressed in the previous discussion, as long as we make sure both languages and cultures are taken into consideration because it is not a one size fits all. What works for the Salish will not work for the Kootenai, and vice versa. The council needs to keep that in mind. Along those same lines, there are many students of the Salish language that are moving out there and teaching the language without fully understanding the language itself. Vernon sat with the Salish elders at the Language Conference and listened to the young speakers in the Salish language and he was impressed with it, but the elders said they could try to figure out what was being said. Even though it was impressive to the public, the understanding from a fluent speaker was different. The two languages are different. Something that sounds like a great idea was putting the Kootenai language in all the departments, but that task would detract us from where we need to be with the language, which is getting fluent speakers prepared today. Our focus needs to be progressing those speakers the best we can and not be detracted by being stormed by a bunch of requests about other things that may not have relevance. When a department requests something, rather than saying how they would say it from a KCC perspective, the request comes in a form of how you would say this in Kootenai. Sometimes the answer is we would not say that. The words being used are from an English language perspective, and that makes the translation difficult.

Lois Friedlander commented that we should not be translating our language to younger generations. The only way we live on is through our culture and tradition. The council hired the wrong person as the Director. He does not have the vision or forward thinking to realize we have language that can be put out on the computer in the least cost-effective way to where the youth can learn it sufficiently enough to reach in age-appropriate manners but also teach them to teach the language quickly. Council has the wrong people at the table and the wrong KCC Director. Lois disagreed with much of what Vernon said. They should have the community at the table. We can do this, and it will not take any expensive building. Although, she does want a more appropriate building constructed to store the artifacts in. The council should not listen to just a selective group of people. Her mother thinks the council is stepping in the right direction with the resolution to reenforce all previous resolutions. It would be easy to incorporate our traditional values and language. It does not need to be this complicated thing that is being portrayed to the council. **Charmel Gillin** stated that she was reacting to what Francis said earlier that their tongue has been ripped from them and Ksanka has no voice. She does not want that to be the last word. If that is how the Ksanka people feel things are going with regard to support or no support for a language program or other aspects of keeping the Ksanka culture where it needs to be and the people there, they have overcome so many obstacles and odds that she thinks it is doable. We need to figure out how we understand their needs, how we support it, and where we go from here. When Vernon talked about the Salish language conference, she thinks of the different dialects. There is also a language ordinance that was put out some time ago; if that is not serving the needs for the Ksanka Language Program, then hopefully the Advisory Council can help us do the right thing. **Anita Matt** liked the idea of doing the language every day for one hour. **Vernon Finley** informed council that the Language Apprentices do a word of the day, and it is posted on the Kootenai Culture Committee Facebook page. They are making progress with the language. Vernon is hopeful with this apprentice group; they are showing much promise. Regarding the boarding school issue, the elders have firsthand experience with that. He looks forward to tomorrow's discussion. **Francis Auld** suggested that the council look at Resolution 00-19 and see how that can be meshed together.

Mike Kenmille commented on the length of time it takes to get things done for elders. They got it all done, but in the meantime his coworker is a descendant and she called the Elders program. Mike was in the vehicle when she made the call. She called them a week or two later and the department head said she never spoke to that person. Mike was listening in on the phone call when she talked to them the first time. Ignoring them is elder abuse. Our department head said, no, she did not speak to her, but Mike listened in on both calls. He wants to see a checkoff list for departments and the Tribal Council when they get phone calls. They say they will do this or that, but he does not know if they

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are writing it down. They need a checkoff list. It is not good to have an elder be lied to by saying they never got a phone call. The employees need to be held accountable. **Rick Eneas** could not agree more with the frustration Mike talked about and Rick is working on a dashboard to get put in place. The council understands that managers throughout the organization can have more insight into how timely we are responding and what those interactions did or did not lead to. In the meantime, there is no harm in sharing those concerns with the council or Rick; the more we know, the better our fix can be. Mike commented that many elders do not know what is accessible to them. It goes back to when he was on the council and an elder from Camas Prairie was in ICU in Missoula. They were driving back and forth to Missoula. Mike told them to get their things packed, and there would be motel room waiting for them when they got back to Missoula. It comes out of the council funding that the membership can use. They had no clue about that resource being available for them to use. We need to be educating our membership about what resources they have to use. There are people using programs to get a motel room, and then they tear up the rooms and the people that really need these things are in jeopardy of all that.

Vernon Finley thanked the council for taking time and making these meetings happen, for addressing the concern about the organizational chart change, and for reaching out to the Kootenai Culture Committee program directly and having monthly meetings with the elders. This will be the first of many. It went smoother than he thought. Whenever you ask for input from voices that feel they have not been heard, you are liable to hear stomping and screaming before they get to some of the issues they have, and you must filter through that to get to what the main issue is. Vernon was glad the council provided the opportunity for the elders to bring concerns forward and he looks forward to the future relationship. As the communication improves, we will make some progress with this.

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

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department; and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to review the Tribal Lands Ordinance.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Len TwoTeeth discussed the St. Ignatius District Council Seat vacancy. It will be the St. Ignatius District seat until the next election cycle, and then it will convert to the At-Large seat. The action only declares the seat as vacant.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to declare the St. Ignatius District seat vacant. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Carole Lankford requested clarification on the rodeo. S&K Gaming put in an application for a donation. She asked if that meant that the council will not be considering any other contribution towards the rodeo. Carole spoke to Sheila Matt and found out that the donations raised to date is \$25,000. Carole was hoping we would encourage the Gaming Board to fund it properly if they are going to have the rodeo so it is done right. Carole heard what happened to The Shadow. If they are going to give it away, they need to give it away to a tribal member. The amount it sold for is not appropriate. They need to get that boat back and sell it properly. The membership has a right to know about this. **Anita Matt** requested that Jennifer Trahan notify the Gaming Board to provide a report to council. Carole is reaching out to Far West to find out if they are using the boat in Lakeside and what credentials are required for their captain. Last week, Carole attended a meeting on historical trauma. She encouraged council to have a presentation. The meeting impacted her. There was a vigil on the boarding school issue. The story needs to be told. There is so much intergenerational trauma.

Anita Matt also wants the Gaming Board to report on the number of contestants they are expecting for the rodeo and the total amount of donations received to date.

Ellie Bundy McLeod suggested having the trauma folks come here to make a presentation, and then we could open it up to the staff to listen to it and have it on Facebook. **Carole Lankford** stated that it is her niece that does the presentation, and she agreed that it would be a good idea to share it.

Martin Charlo commented on the boarding school issue. He did some research and found enough information to bring in a resolution. Martin will bring in a resolution to form a working committee to fully look into that cemetery specifically. It has continued to affect us all at some level. **Mike Dolson** stated that he knew of someone that did a video and that person got some help from a video producer, and they looked at all that happened to these people. Then the producer recognized the trauma he went through and had no idea of the connection back to the boarding schools.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 4:19 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary