

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

Volume 21 Number 90
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: September 9, 2021
Approved: September 14, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; 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: St. Ignatius District (Vacant).

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:01 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for September 7, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len Two Teeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Marie Torosian, Three Chief’s Culture Center, requested approval of a change of duty for those employees that work on Fridays to attend the memorial for The People’s Center scheduled for Friday, September 10, 2021.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the change of duty for employees that work on Friday to attend The People’s Center memorial on Friday, September 10, 2021. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Martin Charlo pointed out that our COVID numbers in Lake County have gone up by almost 100 cases since last Friday and there were 15 new cases today. He cautioned everybody to protect our elders and vulnerable population, wear a mask, and to take extra precautions if individuals are not vaccinated. 90% of the patients in intensive care or who are having serious complications are unvaccinated, so people need to do what is the best thing for themselves and everyone in the community.

Anita Matt gave a report on last night's meeting at the Dixon Agency in the new building. She gave a shoutout to Martin Charlo for assisting with setting it up with IT. It worked really well, and the meeting was well attended. Anita hoped that next month they could get those departments that we have issues with; otherwise, it went real well. She thanked the Legal, DHRD, and Natural Resources Departments that were in attendance, Jennifer Trahan and staff for setting up the meal, and the public who attended and masked up. **Martin Charlo** thanked Crystal and Elizabeth in IT. He appreciates them going down and setting it up on Tuesday. **Chairwoman Fyant** thought it looked like a great first event to initiate Dixon's new building at the Agency and she congratulated Anita on that. She thought it was a good turnout.

Chairwoman Fyant informed council that Jennifer will bring up the Lake County Public Health information for the council. She has been listening to the news that there have been quite a few COVID cases in schools. The Plains School shut down and some of the football games were postponed. It is up to the local school districts to make their mask mandates or not, so she just hopes we can keep our cases down.

Len TwoTeeth mentioned when the council had a discussion with the Governor regarding our mandates if the Tribal Council decides that we are going to require masks within the reservation boundaries, whether that would apply to all of the schools, since the Governor made the statement that everybody will respect the various jurisdictions' decisions on how we would move forward with our protocols. Len would like the council to consider doing that and sending that message out there that within the reservation boundaries that everyone would have a mask mandate. He wants to go one step further than the CDC protocols because of how the numbers are increasing on a daily basis now and at some point and time we are going to have to start looking at getting back to where we were in the pandemic. Len would like to see the Tribes be more aggressive than what the State is doing. **Chairwoman Fyant** stated that the council could get legal advice, but she was unsure how we would enforce it. **Ellie Bundy McLeod** would like to know which schools are not mandating protocols. **Chairwoman Fyant** spoke with Michelle Mitchell last Saturday and she said that no reservation schools are mandating masks, except for Nkwusm and Two Eagle River School. **Carole Lankford** commented if they are not mandating masks, they make students wear a mask when they get on the bus.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Rodney Bird and **Cindy O'Dell**, Two Eagle River School, requested approval to submit the American Rescue Plan American Indian Resilience in Education Grant in the amount of \$950,000 to be used to support the students and teachers that are coming back from distance-learning to in-class learning. **Carole Lankford** asked if TERS still has a daycare for the students with children. Rodney responded that the daycare is no longer available because it was not sustainable, but the school offers assistance with resources and tries to accommodate those students. Carole suggested collaborating with current programs and utilizing everybody's resources.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve by resolution submission of an application and acceptance of a grant from the American Rescue Plan American Indian Resilience in Education. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 21-121

RESOLUTION APPROVING TWO EAGLE RIVER SCHOOL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) – AMERICAN INDIAN RESILIENCE IN EDUCATION (AIRE) CFDA 84.299C

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

WHEREAS, there is a need to expand the educational, health, social, and cultural needs of Indian students and community on the Flathead Reservation; and

WHEREAS, American Rescue Plan (ARP) — American Indian Resilience (AIRE) funds are available to provide financial assistance for resources needed to promote the physical and mental health, academic achievement, and cultural competence among American Indian youth;

WHEREAS, the Two Eagle River School meets the eligibility criteria for a grant under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) American Indian Resilience in Education (AIRE);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes supports the request to award a grant to the Two Eagle River

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

School and authorizes the Tribal Chair and her designated representative to negotiate and sign all documents and execute the grant documents and any amendments thereto.

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a letter of support for the Fish, Wildlife & Parks U.S. Forest Service Legacy Program applications. The proposed project would be a conservation easement with the Green Diamond Resource Company to protect in perpetuity just over 48,000 acres of the Upper Thompson River drainage between Thompson Falls and the Thompson Chain of Lakes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks would complete the project in two phases, with phase one encompassing 23,176 acres. The Trust For Public Land is their partner on this project, and they have an option agreement in place with Green Diamond which locks in the entire 48,041-acre project for conservation as long as the partners continue to secure funding over the next couple of years.

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve the letter to Rick Northrup supporting phase one of the 48,041-acre Upper Thompson conservation easement that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Trust For Public Land are proposing. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Martin Charlo out of the room).

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of emergency regulations for the Safe Harbor Marsh to prohibit bird hunting and watercraft use on the site. The Safe Harbor Marsh is now owned by CSKT, and the Wildlife program would like to invoke closure to bird hunting and watercraft use until the new regulations come out, and the use of no watercraft during nesting season. **Len TwoTeeth** suggested that these types of projects be presented to both Culture Committees.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the placement of emergency regulations on the Safe Harbor Marsh to prohibit bird hunting and watercraft use on the site. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of the proposal for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to augment the bighorn sheep population on Wildhorse Island with other, healthy individuals to improve genetic condition; and approval of a letter of support. The herd has grown from a small population and has become a source herd for starting and augmenting bighorn sheep populations throughout the state. There is a concern about maintaining genetic diversity within the herd. MFWP would like to augment the Wildhorse Island bighorn herd with not more than 12 sheep from another Montana population for the purposes of improving genetic fitness of the

population on the island. **Len TwoTeeth** suggested that these types of projects be presented to both Culture Committees.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the proposal for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to augment the bighorn sheep population on Wildhorse Island with other, healthy individuals to improve genetic condition; and approval of a letter of support. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Whisper Camel-Means, Natural Resources Department, informed council that the program has their depredation hunt list out to try to enlist tribal member hunters on non-tribal property. The program has non-tribal landowners that call in, and the program connects the hunters to those individuals to help control the big game population while also providing food for our tribal member families. It would provide meat to Sylvia's Store and the Elders program if hunters are just wanting to hunt big game and donate the meat to those programs. Whisper was unsure whether there are any food sovereignty programs that the meat could be directed to, as well. **Chairwoman Fyant** will send Whisper information on the food sovereignty project that she is aware of. **Tom McDonald** mentioned that the Melita Island deer population is quite large, and one of our regulations prohibit nontribal members to assist tribal members taking animals, but because it is an island and some of our hunters do not have boats, the Boy Scout Troop leaders are willing to shuttle tribal members to and from the island to remove deer. It would technically be illegal for a tribal member to be assisted with the boat ride, but because it is so unique that might be a consideration that the council would think about. It would take council action to authorize it. **Bing Matt** asked if there was any consideration about trapping sheep and putting them in the Little Money and Big Draw area. Tom advised that the Wildhorse Island sheep have been used to supplement our reservation in the past. We could also pursue taking some sheep to be implemented at the Bison Range. We could pursue that this fall to ensure that the population is secure.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the use of the Boy Scout shuttle for tribal members to assist in the depredation hunt on Melita Island for the deer population. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt).

Jordan Thompson, Legal Department, met with council to discuss Council Roles. **Council** rescheduled the presentation until all council members can attend in person. It was rescheduled for September 20, 2021.

MOTION by Bing Matt to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 10:27 a.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary