

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

Volume 21 Number 92  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: September 16, 2021  
Approved: September 23, 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 (2021 Annual Self-Governance Virtual Conference); and 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 9:07 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Carole Lankford.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for September 14, 2021 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Carole Lankford).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management; **Jonathan Owens**, **Joe Durglo**, and **Rhonda Hendren**, Tribal Health Department, discussed the Paid Care Program. The Tribes took over the Paid Care Program in 2016. **Council** brought up the issue of unpaid medical bills and tribal members being turned over to collections. **Mr. Owens** wants to set up a program for credit repair and be more proactive to solve those problems.

**Johnathan Owens** and **Jessi Cahoon**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to purchase capital equipment consisting of a Parmata Wellspot

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Medication Kiosk for the Ronan Clinic, to be purchased from the same vendor that did the other community kiosks in Elmo and Arlee. THIP funds will be used for the purchase.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve a noncompetitive purchase of capital equipment consisting of a Parmata Wellspot Medication Kiosk for the Ronan Clinic, to be purchased from the same vendor that did the other community kiosks in Elmo and Arlee. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Johnathan Owens** and **Dr. Garry Pitts**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a modification to the contract with R&R Construction to reflect the increased price of materials for the HVAC project.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the modification to the contract with R&R Construction to reflect the increased price of materials for the HVAC project. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 6 for; 1 opposed (Mike Dolson); 1 not voting (Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Carole Lankford** asked why issues such as these contract modifications require council action; she thought they should be dealt with at the program level.

**Chelsea Kleinmeyer** gave a COVID update. Lake County has a total of 3,019 cases, with 267 active cases (61 are vaccinated individuals). The total of hospitalizations to date is 185 with 7 current hospitalizations (1 was vaccinated). There has been a total of 46 deaths and 8 of those deaths happened since the end of July. 57 % of the population in Lake County are fully vaccinated and 64% have had one dose. The age group that is still lacking the vaccine is the 12- to 17-year-olds; that age group is 64% that are unvaccinated so 36% have received at least one dose. The schools have had some COVID outbreaks, and the student cases are taking priority. Students are isolated as soon as they have been identified as being positive for COVID and contact tracing is done. It takes 3 days to be notified from the Community or Public Health Department of a positive individual. The Ronan, Arlee, and Polson School Boards met earlier this week and voted down a mask mandate, so those schools are not masking. THD is using their mobile unit to offer more testing. It was a successful event and they identified 10 cases last week. At-home test kits are available. **Martin Charlo** reported that one year ago today there were 251 confirmed cases, 31 active cases, 20 total hospitalizations with 3 currently hospitalized, and 1 death. The flippant attitude of individuals about COVID are putting our lives in danger. We are creating an environment where we are becoming prisoners of our own home because people will not wear a mask or get vaccinated. We may be faced with a nationwide shutdown and local governments fighting that. We need to truly be a community and help our front lines. There are people spewing this inaccurate garbage about COVID in the community. **Chelsea Kleinmeyer** discussed the

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booster shot. The people who are moderately or severely immune compromised are eligible for a third shot at the THD Pharmacy. **Len TwoTeeth** does not want to forget about our essential and front-line workers. We need to compensate them and show people their worth by coming to work and keeping the tribal government operating during a pandemic.

**Anita Matt** informed council that Arleen Adams wanted to remind council about the closing at 4:00 p.m. today to wish the students goodness and happiness with the closing prayer for the week.

**Bing Matt** informed council that he received a call from Kerry Doney requesting assistance with the burial expenses for his wife. He turned in his application and he was told it needed to go to the council. **Anita Matt** will have Jennifer Trahan follow up.

**Martin Charlo** talked about the COVID numbers. We need to focus on what's truly important and the health and wellness of our elders, children and immune compromised population.

**Carole Lankford** informed council that Virginia Griffin passed away and Carole wants a condolence letter sent to the family and flowers sent. Virginia was a tribal attorney for CSKT for 25-30 years. **Anita Matt** asked Jennifer Trahan to follow up.

**Len TwoTeeth** informed council that the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council was invited to meet with Secretary Deb Haaland on September 29 for consultation in Washington, DC. Len plans to bring up the Mission Valley Power issue and have the Legal Department prepare some talking points for him. **Carole Lankford** was unsure we are at that step yet and she suggested Len meet with Ryan Rusche to get updated on yesterday's meeting. Len thinks it would be a good opportunity to let Secretary Haaland know this has been a historic endeavor of the Tribes to acquire Mission Valley Power and began discussions so she is aware of it.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a contract with Dick Anderson Construction in the amount of \$1,352,131.00 to initiate the construction phase of work on the Jocko K Canal headworks and fish passage irrigation facility. The Procurement Policy was followed, and the contract was reviewed by the Legal Department.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve a contract with Dick Anderson Construction in the amount of \$1,352,131.00 to initiate the construction phase

of work on the Jocko K Canal headworks and fish passage irrigation facility. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Len TwoTeeth).

**Laurence Kenmille** and **Chasity Haynes**, Enrollment Office, requested approval of a resolution authorizing the December 1, 2021 per capita distribution. The language in the resolution was changed to include involuntary withholding for child support since the Tribal Child Support Enforcement Program takes per capita holds involuntarily.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution the December 1, 2021 per capita distribution. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

### **RESOLUTION 21-126**

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DECEMBER 1, 2021 PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTION**

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

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council established policy by Resolution 96-83 to make per-capita payments to tribal members three times annually during the months of December, April and August for each fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, said policy states that three equal per capita payments of \$400.00 will be made annually and that one-half (1/2) of each per capita distribution for each minor child enrolled in the Tribes is to be issued to said minor's parent or legal guardian and the other one-half (1/2) is to be placed in a trust account with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to accumulate and earn interest until said minor has reached legal age; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Northwest Regional Director is requested to authorize the \$400.00 per capita distribution to be made during the month of December 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Director of Financial Management is directed and authorized to request sufficient tribal monies on deposit in the United States Treasury to be advanced to local status to effect said distribution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent, Flathead Agency, and the Director of Financial Management are authorized to apply these funds to judgments held by Tribal Court, to assignments through Tribal Credit, and

voluntary/involuntary judgements, child support and to those accounts under the control of the Superintendent; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the December 1, 2021 per capita distribution will be made to those members enrolled in the Tribes as of November 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the deadline for claims to be withheld from individuals' December 1, 2021 per capita for judgments, assignments and IIM holds through the Superintendent and Director of Financial Management shall be no later than November 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**Laurence Kenmille**, Enrollment Office, informed council that he received a request from Manu Sporny, who is under contract and working with the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies in Canada to develop a digital ID that can be downloaded to a smart phone and be used for flying so people don't need to carry a paper ID. Mr. Sporny wants to work with tribes to fit into that system to fit the Homeland Security requirements for international border crossing and domestic airline travel. It would be funded from a grant with no cost to the Tribes. Manu would design and develop the card and the Enrollment staff would implement the features into the card. The card would be coded so it would not require a chip. **Martin Charlo** would like to have legal review. Laurence will ask Manu to meet with council next week; there was not enough notice for him to be here today. **Mike Dolson** asked if Laurence talked to IT about it. Laurence didn't talk to CSKT IT staff, and he was going to send the information to IT in Albuquerque since they are the IT services we use, and they developed the system we use. **Carole Lankford** suggested looking at other companies and options and have legal review. Laurence was wanting to use Manu because he is developing the system for Homeland Security. **Carole Lankford** asked Laurence if he followed the chain of command and if Rick Eneas approved Laurence to bring in this request to the council. Laurence advised that he would make sure Rick is agreeing to this. He is just asking if council wants the presentation made to council. **Martin Charlo** was not opposed to the presentation, but he wants Legal to vet this and verify things. Anita Matt requested legal review and have Laurence let Manu know that the Tribal Council wants a presentation.

**Ron Swaney**, Tribal Forestry, gave an update on local fires. The Boulder fire has minimal activity. The main focus of the group is removing the slash that was created by the team as they progressed north and south building a fuel break above the structures directly east of Highway 35. It is a slow process and will probably take another week to complete. The BIA Roads program is looking at repairing 8 plastic culverts that were burned on the 18000 Road. The BAER project was funded. Emergency stabilization of the 2700 Road is the priority and Shawn DeFrance is spearheading that effort and putting some contracts out for

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bid. It is progressing well and will wind down soon, and then they will start looking at rehab. The Crooks fire is now 56 days old and is heavily staffed. They burned out the south side of the fire roads and lines from White Horse Lake to the mouth of Belmore sleuth. The crew will drop ping pong balls on the north-facing slope today and are looking to bring that fire all the way down to the river. A significant amount of rain is forecasted for the next three to five days. Then they will proceed with slash removal and move it to a location for pile burning at a later date. They have received many inquiries about when they will be opening up pieces of the landscape that has been locked down due to the fire. The rain and work being done today will go a long way towards opening up the roads. **Martin Charlo** thanked the crew for their hard work and efforts to protect people. **Bing Matt** asked when Jocko Road would be reopened. He heard that people have been camping in Twin Lakes but the traffic was being stopped, so he does not know if the roads to Twin Lake is closed or open. **Ron Swaney** advised that the road is open on the St. Ignatius side but is closed on the Arlee side. They are looking at narrowing down the closures. There is a lot of equipment up there still and they will begin opening up the areas strategically. The Ronan and Arlee Fire Departments have been standing up to help close those areas.

**Laurence Kenmille**, Enrollment Office, returned to council to seek clarification on the child support withholding and asked if the council action approving the withholding of \$400 rescinded the previous resolution to only hold \$200 for child support. Council took action in March that beginning in August to hold \$400 now for child support. The standing resolution only allows for one-half of the per capita payment to be withheld. **Anita Matt** stated that the Legal Department reviewed the Tribal Child Support Enforcement Policy changes prior to council approving the change from \$200 to \$400, and she referred Laurence to the Legal Department.

**Martin Charlo** thanked everyone that went to his district meeting last night. He thanked Michelle Mitchell, Sandra Boham, and Tom McDonald for their presentations. Martin appreciated Anita Matt, Bing Matt, Carole Lankford, and Ellie Bundy McLeod for being there; Jennifer Trahan for getting the food; and the Malt Shop in Mission for the Indian tacos.

**Charmel Gillin** left the meeting.

**Council** met in **executive session** to conduct an interview for the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court vacancy.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to appoint Brad Pluff for the remainder of Judge Tanner's term, which is two years. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Charmel Gillin out of the room).

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to start the process of a reorganization of the Tribal Court and have our Legal Department come back in and provide recommendations to us for that process. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Charmel Gillin out of the room).

**Anita Matt** will have the Legal Department get in here about the reorganization, new position description, and the pay scale.

**Martin Charlo** gave an update. The council pushed forward an independent review of the allegations against Shelly Fyant and Charmel Gillin. Martin was tasked with identifying an independent reviewer to contract with. He has been gathering information and has leads of individuals that could possibly do the investigation. Martin will get those vetted and will have something ready by the next council meeting.

**Len TwoTeeth** informed council that he received an email about the passing of Stan Speaks. Mr. Speaks was a huge advocate of CSKT when he was the Regional Director. Len acknowledged the memory of Stan and wants the staff to send flowers. **Anita Matt** asked Jennifer Trahan to follow up.

\*\*\*\*\* **Lunch** \*\*\*\*\*

**Ellie Bundy McLeod** left the meeting for the remainder of the day to participate in the MMIP virtual symposium.

**Charmel Gillin** returned to the meeting.

**Vernon Finley**, Kootenai Culture Committee; **Francis Auld**, **Lloyd Irvine**, **Leonard Michel**, **Naida Lefthand**, **Louis Caye, Jr.**, and **Jerry Nicolai**, Kootenai Elder Advisory Committee; met with council for an elders meeting. **Leonard Michel** brought up the Cabinet Mountains and his request for the Tribes to join the lawsuit, if one is filed. **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, will find out whether a lawsuit was filed and report back to council with more information. There was discussion on the council action to allow a nonmember to hunt with a tribal member. **Naida Lefthand** expressed her concerns about the council allowing hunting by a nonmember and threatening our treaty rights. **Leonard Michel** requested that the action be rescinded. **Francis Auld** requested that the action be rescinded immediately. **Vernon Finley** commented that we allow nonmembers to hunt birds on the reservation and nonmembers can hunt buffalo in Yellowstone. He does not believe there is a threat to our treaty, but there is an issue with consistency.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to rescind the action of August 31, 2021, to allow Arlene Templer's son to assist her while hunting on the reservation.

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Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, 6 for; 1 opposed (Mike Dolson); 1 abstention (Charmel Gillin).

**Anita Matt** wants Tom McDonald to present some kind of a report to council and discuss the disabled hunter assistance form.

**Francis Auld** discussed a fieldtrip to the Kootenai National Forest regarding a proposed timber sale that ended up being a consultation. He thought that the Preservation staff should have been part of that discussion. The Kootenai National Forest sent a letter to CSKT and the staff did not track it, so the Kootenai National Forest thought we were on board. He thinks it was intentional to ignore the Kootenai's voice. Now that we have a different leader in that office, there appears to be some neglect. The Preservation Office should be placed under each Culture Committee, and Ordinance 95 could go under that. The ordinance has been operating illegally and some components have not been complied with. A letter came in from the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council talking about aboriginal territories and sacred sites and they are people that have never stepped foot on the Kootenai National Forest grounds. Francis discussed Resolution 21-085 regarding culture and language. The resolution directed the Executive Officer to do several things, including doing a report back to the council. Francis asked if the Executive Officer is an expert in the language components. He wanted to know how the Executive Officer is going to be involved in that and how much play does the Executive Officer have with that. Francis likes the idea of closures. We need to strengthen the ordinance and up the permits that are there. He has complained about the Chief Cliff area, and nothing happens. Council needs to do the work instead of sitting around arguing about other things. We killed the chiefs when we adopted the constitution and bylaws. Francis discussed marijuana. He supports it if it is a benefit for legitimate medical purposes.

**Vernon Finley** stated that the mission of the Kootenai Culture Committee is the preservation and restoration of the language. We are in a serious situation with that. The elders did not want their language used to speak English words. That requires knowledge and perfection of the language. If you do not do it at that level, we are changing it towards the English language. A challenge is when people ask how to translate words or phrases in the native language, but the truth is the elders would not say those words or phrases in the Ksanka language. Vernon stands by those elders and demands perfection in the language. **Leonard Michel** commented that there are words in the Kootenai dictionary that did not exist 100 years ago. His father did not want to do a Kootenai dictionary for many years but then he slowly changed his mind. It is difficult for us to be like our elders because we are in a different time zone and our community is widespread. This is what he misses from this council. Mike Dolson would rather type a comment in the chat than speak up, and he should speak up instead of typing it. If Mike wants to be a leader, he should act like a leader. It is important

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for the council to see things through the elders' eyes and interpret what is being told to them.

**Louis Caye, Jr.** talked about Elmo at the last meeting, what Elmo does not have, and what he wants for the people in Elmo. He will continue with that. The Tribes are getting \$900 million from the water compact over the next 10 years. Junior talked about offices for Elmo and work for the people in the Elmo community, and he wanted to know if anything was done about it. The Preservation Office needs an office in Elmo. The Preservation Office does not need to be under the Kootenai Culture Committee. Vernon Finley stated himself that he is a language man. Junior believes the Preservation Office should be under the Tribal Council. We have a NAGPRA Coordinator, and he asked if we are even involved in NAGPRA and is anyone answering to the bigshots in DC. The Kootenai Culture Committee deserves a new office. He wants the Economic Development Office directed to start working on an office complex in Elmo. Junior wants council to vote on it right now. **Carole Lankford** explained that the council cannot take action yet; they need to have discussions about who would set it up, do the planning, and the appropriations, and that all takes time. Nothing has happened since the last meeting. Until there is a discussion amongst the council and they agree with Junior, they cannot take action. Carole likes the concept and thinks it is deserving. One of her priorities was to put a new facility in Elmo for the children, have basketball courts, and have a recovery office so people would have a place to meet in the community. The council needs to discuss it and then have a discussion with the community on what their interests and needs are. The elders are critically important to this discussion. It is just not something we can do today. Junior stated that he has been asking for this for a long time and he wants the council to at least agree to discuss it.

**Martin Charlo** commented that what Junior is asking is not off the table. We would need to start with a feasibility study and funding. The problem right now with the water compact money is that we have our hands tied on how we spend it, and it must be put into the Irrigation Project. We are trying to get the funds appropriated sooner. We could look at the American Rescue Plan funding. Each community has its own special set of needs. We talked about having listening sessions in each community to see what their needs are. Offices are great, but we need to look at our children, elders, and housing. Our focus right now is the pandemic. We need to tackle that. During the last month we did nothing because council got hijacked by a few individuals over some allegations brought against a council member in an incorrect way that didn't follow policy, protocols, or the regular structure of our meetings. That is why we are at where we are at and have not done anything for a month, and we are still in the process of that. These disagreements happen. The Tribal Council is fractured right now, and we have a lot of work to do. The hunting thing is an example of that; we just hastily took action on something because we do not have discussions. The stuff that was

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brought in by council members and candidates basically stopped us for a month from looking at COVID, and there is one person that took some accountability in this and that's it. Martin appreciates their words. If he does something wrong he will own it; otherwise, it drags on and prevents us from doing any work. Our focus has been taken off what we need to be focusing on and he is sorry for that. The council members will do better. The first steps we would need to take are include looking at property and the infrastructure, etc. and it's a process. **Anita Matt** stated that Junior's comments are not going unheard. Anita was sorry that the council only had 90 minutes set aside for this meeting and there are some other issues that council needs to address today. She will look into how that happened, and she hopes more time can be set aside next time. Anita agreed that the Economic Development Office could help us. She lives in a place that has nothing, not even a gas station or a store, and it makes those residents feel like they are out of sight out of mind.

**Junior Caye** commented that everything Martin said is what Junior is doing for Elmo. He has nobody to do this for him. Junior stated that everyone knows we have two council representatives from Polson and no representative from Elmo. He would like the boundary line changed. Junior wants someone from Elmo to represent the Elmo community. Junior asked Len if he followed up on two land issues he had brought up. **Len TwoTeeth** responded that they had a discussion with the Wildland Recreation program about the limitations the community expressed regarding opening it up for public use. Junior's issue is that no follow up is done about his concerns. A couple of months ago there was talk about a conflict of interest for some council candidates being allowed in a council meeting, but then it is okay for Tom McDonald to be at all the district meetings. He asked for a response from the Election Committee. Junior thinks the elders meetings should be half-day meetings instead of 90 minutes. **Mike Dolson** responded that district meetings are open to anyone that wants to attend. Sometimes the host of the district meeting will invite staff members to explain certain projects and what work they are doing. Tom McDonald was requested to talk about the upcoming bison hunt regulations, and that is an appropriate purpose for him to be at a district meeting. If Tom wants to attend an open public meeting as an individual, that is his right to do so.

**Leonard Michel** talked about the election and candidates. Martin Charlo had mentioned candidates being in a council meeting. Martin is part of the problem; he should speak up when things are present instead of behind the scenes. There is a double standard if Leonard goes to council and speaks up as a candidate when he is speaking up as a tribal member elder and the council needs to respect his views and the elders' views. We need to educate tribal members on what is going on. There is a lot of stuff the council does not tell the membership or involve the membership in. There is a lot of things happening other than what council mentioned about a couple of council members, and Martin should spill it all out there instead of just a few. Half of the tribal members do not want to change the

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organization or what is happening on the reservation, and there is a silent majority that won't even vote. We do not need district meetings where the council brings in 20 presentations so the membership cannot talk. The council needs to set a whole day aside for the elders. Leonard has important issues he wants to bring up as an individual. **Anita Matt** will find why we only have 90 minutes set aside for this meeting. She thinks a whole afternoon per month with the elders would be better. **Martin Charlo** appreciated Leonard's criticism. That is part of the job. We may not always agree with each other. Martin was not sure what all the other things are that Leonard was referring to, so he will not say anything further and it is still an ongoing investigation. Tom McDonald oversees the bison hunt, and that is why Martin asked him to give a presentation at his district meeting. Tom was there as a department head. Martin did his best to advertise his district meeting, and it is up to everyone to show up. Everyone is welcome to attend, and all council candidates are welcome to attend his district meetings. If there is a specific question Martin is not speaking to, Leonard needs to let him know what it is instead of making vague accusations. Martin is an elected public official and criticism comes with the territory, but he will offer a response.

**Anita Matt** apologized for not getting through all the issues today. She will find out who is responsible for only setting aside 90 minutes and address it. **Francis Auld** commented that when we started this, Vernon let them know that they are meeting with the council and an elder reminded us that we do not want to turn this into a dog and pony show. We need to remember that so there is enough time for the elders to meet with the council. **Vernon Finley** clarified that he does not set the meeting request; he receives an email that tells him when the elders are meeting with the council and what time the meeting is. It is a council request; not his request. The items that have differing opinions need to have time set aside for a full discussion. Vernon appreciates the opportunity for the Elder Advisory Committee to meet with the Tribal Council to discuss real issues. **Junior Caye** stated that 9 issues were brought up and they got no answers today, so he wants the answers provided at the next meeting.

**Len TwoTeeth** commented that they all have distinct concerns we need to hear; we need a full day meeting. Len does not want to argue with anyone. He challenged the Elmo community to challenge and criticize him, because that is the only way Len will learn. They need to let Len know. There are many things we need to do for the Elmo community, and it has been brought up continuously. Len looked back at his tenure on the Tribal Council where Elmo was then and where it is now, and it is exactly the same. That is the reality of things. There have been a lot of ideas brought up to this council that were discussed but were never brought forward. Len has been advocating to purchase as much property in Elmo as we can. That is one place to start. It is a tough issue. He feels honored to be able to represent the Elmo community, especially listening to today's dialogue. At the end of discussion, we can be cordial and realize we need

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to get stuff off our chests. At the end of the day, we are all neighbors, cousins, and friends. Len hopes we can plan a full-day discussion with the elders.

**Lloyd Irvine** mentioned closures for off-roading. This issue was discussed at yesterday's elders meeting. Lloyd wants this issue placed on the council's docket. There are out-of-staters riding machines in the Big Draw and vehicles are parked there every day. It is a big issue, and people are disgusted by it. **Francis Auld** informed council of a proposed project on Highway 2 east of Columbia Falls at the Bad Rock Canyon. It has been an ongoing issue for several years and the late Pat Lefthand expressed his concerns and the significance of that area. This issue will be coming up and he hopes we can jump on top of it. Vernon will be setting up a consultation fieldtrip to do an onsite visit to that area. Francis hopes we can remedy it without taking severe legal action. **Jerry Nicolai** recommended putting up signs at all Tribal parks that this is not a national or state park, but a private park. We should post signs that the roads are private and to stay out.

**Ryan Rusche**, Chief of Staff, informed council that he was notified by the Department of Interior that the Secretary's execution of the compact is imminent and should be executed tomorrow morning. Ryan is working with Rob McDonald on a press release. Governor Gianforte suggested that his office and CSKT issue a joint proclamation proclaiming the compact and settlement as the unified authority and law of the land for water on the reservation and to mark the historic execution that will happen tomorrow. The press release will be issued after the Secretary signs the water compact.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to proceed with the Chairwoman's signature on the document. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rob McDonald**, Communications, emailed the council members the press release from CSKT to the general media. It covers more technical detail in how it affects water rights for those on the reservation. **Martin Charlo** wants to get the correct information out to the public on how the money can be spent; there is a lot of inaccurate information out there. **Ryan Rusche** will work on that. It was the **consensus** of council to approve the press release.

**Stephanie Gillin**, Natural Resources Department, gave an update on the Bison Range signs. The Ravalli Hill sign will be replaced. She is working with two different sign installers for the museum. The program is focusing on tribal member vendors for the gift shop. There has been a lot of interest in presentations. There were two classes in one week with the University of Montana. The capture will be a training for the staff so it will not be open to the public. The staff is planning the lake honoring event and wants input from council. It's tentatively set for September 27. There have been 85 students that

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confirmed. All the stations will be outside and there will be two staff members at each station. The groups will be split between Blue Bay and the Flathead Lake Biological Station. **Martin Charlo** wants masks required for all participants, even if it is an outside event. He would like to have a letter sent to the schools and have the schools acknowledge they will enforce masking by the students. Stephanie will continue to plan the event and return next week to get a decision from council. **Anita Matt** added this to NRD's time next Thursday.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Martin Charlo** reported that the COVID case numbers continue to increase. People need to protect themselves and others. He suggested that they look into the booster if they are in the vulnerable population. He wants people to think about it and do the research if they are not vaccinated. Not enough people are taking COVID seriously. **Len TwoTeeth** stated that due to the numbers increasing he wants council to take action to get the Unified Command Team back together again and he wants to discuss it on Monday. It is imperative we do that based on how quickly the numbers are increasing. **Martin Charlo** commented that in order to do that, we need a joint resolution with Lake County. The best course of action may be to have our own Unified Command Team and have our team fill those roles. Based on the latest numbers, we are up 66 cases with a total of 315 active cases; and a total of 190 hospitalizations with 11 current hospitalizations. Maybe we can look at mass testing again. **Anita Matt** requested that Jennifer Trahan add this to the chairwoman's agenda for next Monday.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 3:32 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Ellie Bundy McLeod  
Tribal Council Secretary