

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

Volume 14 Number 58  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: June 3, 2014  
Approved: June 10, 2014

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ron Trahan, Chairman; Carole Lankford, Vice-Chairman; James “Bing” Matt, Secretary; Leonard TwoTeeth, Treasurer; Lloyd Irvine; Shelly Fyant; Patty Stevens; Leonard Gray; and Terry Pitts.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Vernon Finley (Geogenetics Research Lab at Copenhagen University – Denmark).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sharon Silberman, Council Support; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:06 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Leonard Gray.

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

**Carole Lankford** joined the meeting.

**Angela McLean**, Lt. Governor; and **Jason Smith**, Governor’s Office; discussed the Main Street Montana Project. The project is an effort led by the Governor’s Office in conjunction with the private sector to strengthen opportunities for private partnerships across the state to create economic development opportunities for Montanans. Ms. McLean will be here again on June 18 to discuss this project. She invited council to a meeting at Salish Kootenai College to discuss CSKT priorities. **Chairman Trahan** asked to be kept apprised on the Medicaid issue.

**Joe Antiste**, Tribal Employee, discussed an employment issue. **Council** requested that Joe meet with the Tribal Defenders Office and will have Jami Hamel follow up.

**Stan Healy**, Tribal Member, expressed concern about Two Eagle River School dropping the Salish Language class. He would like the Tribes to find funding to keep that program funded. **Council** will follow up with Dr. Bundy.

**Violet Felsman**, Tribal Employee, discussed the Transportation program. She needs to depend on the transit system to transport her to and from work. Violet has attempted to resolve the issue with the Department of Human Resources Development, but the program does not go to Blue Bay. Since DHRD will not provide transportation she has to pay for a taxi to transport her to work. **Council** will follow up with DHRD. **Shelly Fyant** would like the transit policy reviewed. The program should accommodate tribal members trying to work.

**Patty Matt**, Tribal Member, informed council that she is disabled so she would like to have a personal home caregiver. Patty was receiving services through the VA but would like a tribal member caregiver due to problems she has had with the VA. The Elder Program age requirement is 55; although she is disabled she does not qualify for services since she is 54 years old. **Council** will review the policy regarding the medical disability requirement.

**Tara Bigcrane**, Tribal Member, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers Inc.; and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; gave an update on a motion that was filed by Verdell Jackson to intervene in the transfer of the Kerr license. EKI is assessing this matter and will provide further information as it becomes available.

**Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management; and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department; requested approval of a resolution enacting a fiscal year 2014 Water Rights Budget in the amount of \$600,000. The Tribal Council previously approved the transfer of funds from the Capital Fund for a contract with Mercury regarding water rights. **Shelly Fyant** reported on the budget committee meeting that took place on May 28.

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to approve by resolution the enactment of a fiscal year 2014 Water Rights Budget in the amount of \$600,000. Seconded by Leonard Gray. Carried, 7 for; 2 opposed (Leonard TwoTeeth and Terry Pitts); 0 not voting.

**Terry Pitts**, for the record, "I hear and I support what the council said and the decision they made. My opposition is based on Mr. Rehberg's past relationship and opposition with CSKT. We haven't forgotten and we are watching."

**Leonard TwoTeeth**, for the record, "I don't approve of us using tribal dollars to give to a company that is owned by Denny Rehberg and I strongly, strongly oppose this."

**RESOLUTION 14-157**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A FISCAL YEAR 2014 WATER RIGHTS BUDGET**

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

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to enact a budget for Water Rights and funds are available to appropriate for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget will be allocated as follows:

<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Budget Authority</b>	<b>Increase/ (Decrease)</b>	<b>Revised Budget Authority</b>
17-509-6141	Water Rights	0.00	600,000.00	600,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>600,000.00</b>	

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to appropriate funds and enact a FY 2014 Water Rights Budget as reflected above; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the total FY 2014 Water Rights Budget is \$600,000.00.

**Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management, informed council of a request that he received from S&K Technologies. SKT has a need for short term financing this summer for one of their contracts. The company would need \$17 million for a period up to 45 days. It would be a 60 day loan at 5% interest. The Tribes would be charging the same interest rate that the bank does but the company would not have to pay any loan origination fees. It would be a good deal for the Tribes and SKT. \$17 million at 5% for 45 days yields about \$104,795.00 compared to \$17 million left at the Treasury rate of .25% or \$5,240.00.

**MOTION** by Patty Stevens to enter into a 60-day promissory note in the amount of \$17 million with S&K Technologies for a short term financing at 5% interest rate. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management, discussed internal financing for the Kerr acquisition and startup. EKI needs financing for an amount up to \$30 million. Vern gave council three options to consider. The top two options are

the preferred options. Option 1 is the simplest and is a fixed rate. Option 2 is the same thing as option 1 but has an adjustable rate every five years.

**MOTION** by Patty Stevens to go with preferred option 1 at the 6 percent interest rate for a 20 year payback period. Seconded by Lloyd Irvine. **MOTION NOT CARRIED**, 2 for (Patty Stevens and Lloyd Irvine); 7 opposed (Leonard TwoTeeth, Shelly Fyant, Carole Lankford, Ron Trahan, Terry Pitts, Leonard Gray, and Bing Matt).

**Dr. Bundy**, Two Eagle River School, gave a report on test results of the students in reading and math. 14 students graduated last Saturday. The students participated in a community service day. They mowed lawns and repaired picnic tables. The eighth grade graduation and school picnic will take place tomorrow. Dr. Bundy shared information on the BIE consultation he attended. The BIE is undergoing a three-year reorganization. The BIE does not provide funding to TERS for any students with a blood quantum below .25. Dr. Bundy does not want to drop any language classes and believes there is funding available. Dr. Bundy discussed a document that explains the administrative costs generated by the school in the amount of \$171,000; and a proposal for the cultural program, 3 staff members and the school board. There are no funds to pay the school board members. The continued budget cuts are hindering the school. He would like the cultural program to be funded. **James Steele Sr.**, Two Eagle River School Board Member, encouraged council to review Mr. Bundy's proposal closely and approve his request. **Council** took the matter under advisement.

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

**Kevin Howlett** and **Anna Whiting-Sorrell**, Tribal Health & Human Services, requested approval to hire a nontribal to fill the Family Nurse Practitioner position; and authorization to hire a nontribal member dentist for the Polson Clinic. The vacancies were advertised and there were no tribal member applicants. The process was followed.

**MOTION** by Terry Pitts to authorize the hire of Robert Gneiting to fill the Family Nurse Practitioner position at Tribal Health & Human Services, due to no tribal member applicants. Seconded by Patty Stevens. Carried, 7 for; 1 opposed (Leonard TwoTeeth); 1 not voting (Carole Lankford out of the room assisting a tribal member).

**MOTION** by Patty Stevens to authorize the hire of Clay Campbell to fill the Dentist position at the Polson Clinic, due to no tribal member applicants. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Carole Lankford out of the room assisting a tribal member).

**Kevin Howlett** and **Anna Whiting-Sorrell**, Tribal Health & Human Services, discussed the Payne West Insurance. Kevin had submitted two requests for proposal from the individual with a deadline. Kevin does not consider it responsive. Kevin will issue a notice of what Tribal Health wants to buy and what they are willing to pay. What came back was vague and wanted to hold numerous meetings. This is about getting people enrolled in coverage. It is important to get people insured.

**Kevin Howlett** and **Anna Whiting-Sorrell**, Tribal Health & Human Services, discussed the noncompetitive contracts with the Arlee Ambulance and Polson Ambulance for the Arlee Pow Wow and Elmo Pow Wow. Since the bids came in at a cost less than \$5,000 it does not require council approval. Contracts & Grants told them that they need to advertise for bid but the procurement policy has been followed so Tribal Health wants to move forward with the contracts.  
**No action required.**

**Patty Stevens** informed Kevin Howlett that the tribal council took action to hire Gary Neumann as the facilitator for Community Strong and wants the cost to be paid by Tribal Health. Kevin will explore options on how to pay for this out of his budget.

**Shelly Fyant** reported that she spoke to Velda Shelby about the Payne West Insurance issue. The pilot project was originally going to deal with 100 people of the 441 identified high users and part of Velda's information was that the scope would be scaled back to 25 tribal members. **Kevin Howlett** explained that the reason he scaled back to 25 tribal members was because that is what he felt was manageable within the time frame.

**Kevin Howlett** discussed the recent senate hearing and commended Carole Lankford for the great job she did testifying.

**Bing Matt** informed Kevin Howlett that the tribal council has had people come in for help to get a sobriety conference going. He asked if Kevin was going to apply for a grant from Wisconsin that he previously told Kevin about. Kevin believes it is a great opportunity but had an understanding that there was a moratorium on those grants. He would like to reinstitute those sobriety camps. We have a movement going on, community strong, and he would like the Tribes to get focused instead of reaching out for different opportunities; we need to set short and long term goals and then allocate funds to accomplish those. He has been supportive of sobriety campouts. We need a strategic plan on how to approach substance abuse. It will take a lot of resources to get where we want to be. If the Shokapee grant is available he will apply. He will follow up with the Shokapee chairman to find out for sure if there is a moratorium or not. The grant money could help develop a strategic plan and support our efforts.

**Mike Kenmille**, Tribal Member, informed council that he had a meeting with James Birdham yesterday to discuss border crossing issues.

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

**Rob McDonald**, Communications; and **Sam Sandoval**, Char-Koosta News; discussed a contract to print the Char-Koosta that is mailed to the membership. The Daily Inter Lake has been the most cost effective vendor throughout the years. There are very few companies that can do this type of work. Rob requested approval to enter into a contract with the Bozeman Chronicle. It costs about \$1,600 per paper to print the Char-Koosta edition. Entering into this noncompetitive contract with the Bozeman Chronicle will save \$25,000 per year for a three-year contract. With the cost savings by this new contract it may possible to publish extra editions. Due to budget cuts the paper is only published 4 weeks per month.

**MOTION** by Terry Pitts to approve a three-year noncompetitive contract with the Bozeman Chronicle to print the Char-Koosta News. Seconded by Patty Stevens. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Rob McDonald**, Communications, handed out a draft press release regarding the water compact to be published in the paper. **Council** took the matter under advisement to allow time to review the document.

**Mike Durglo**, Natural Resources Department, requested permission to participate in the National River/Stream Assessment Survey and permission for USGS to conduct sampling on Bassoo Creek, located on tribal land. A staff member will accompany them during sampling.

**MOTION** by Leonard TwoTeeth to grant permission to participate in the National River/Stream Assessment Survey and permission for USGS to conduct sampling on Bassoo Creek. Seconded by Lloyd Irvine. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Bing Matt** commended Mike Durglo for an outstanding job on the climate change presentation he made at the Native American Fish & Wildlife Service Conference.

**Art Soukkala**, Natural Resources Department, requested permission to participate as a partner to protect the sensitive natural resources on the Fleming Mission Front Conservation Easement Project and approve a letter of support to Pelah Hoyt, Five Valleys Land Trust. The project will augment existing tribal efforts to protect grizzly bear habitat along the Mission Mounts Front and further efforts to reduce grizzly bear/human conflicts on the Flathead Reservation.

**MOTION** by Patty Stevens to participate as a partner to protect the sensitive natural resources on the Fleming Mission Front Conservation Easement Project, and send a letter of support to Pelah Hoyt, Five Valleys Land Trust. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Shelly Fyant** discussed the pow wow security budget and handed out information she retrieved from Chief Couture. It would cost \$45,000 for Law & Order to provide security at both pow wow celebrations. All tribal officers are required to work during the pow wows. **Terry Pitts** wants to formulate a committee or have further discussion after this year's celebrations and have something put in place so this is not an issue facing the tribal council each year. **Council** took the matter under advisement until Thursday so the appropriate personnel can be present for discussion.

**Patty Stevens** out of the room.

**Council** conducted interviews for the Sergeant at Arms position.

**Patty Stevens** returned to the meeting.

**MOTION** by Lloyd Irvine to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Blue Bourdon as the Sergeant at Arms. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 7 for; 2 abstentions (Patty Stevens and Ron Trahan).

**Melanie Piedalue** and **Lisa Brueggeman**, Personnel Department, requested approval to allow UNUM to offer supplemental products, which is similar to what the CSKT has for Colonial products. UNUM is the parent company of Colonial. UNUM provides life insurance and long term/short term disability programs for the Tribes and would like to offer supplemental products as well. There have been complaints from employees who use Colonial.

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to allow UNUM to offer supplemental products to tribal employees, for a period of two years. Seconded by Patty Stevens. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Council** brought in Cheryl Dupuis to thank her for having such great pride in the job she does for the Tribes. Council has received many compliments on the great job Cheryl does and they appreciate her good work.

**Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department; and **Seth Makepeace**, Natural Resources Department; discussed a rumor that the Superintendent was going to deliver non-quota water again. Rhonda spoke to Mr. Moran and he advised that the information is inaccurate.

**Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, requested approval of an amendment to the contract with HRA and approval of a contract with John Boyles. There are sufficient funds in the water rights budget. **Council** took the request under advisement until Thursday to allow time to review the resolutions.

**Rhonda Swaney** reported on the RSVPs that were sent to legislators for the upcoming event in Helena.

**Council** discussed the draft press release submitted by Rob McDonald regarding the water compact. Edits were made to the document.

**Carole Lankford** gave an update on the issue brought in this morning by Joe Antiste.

**MOTION** by Lloyd Irvine to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Leonard Gray. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Council **adjourned** at 3:34 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, June 5, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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James V. Matt  
Tribal Secretary