

Flathead Reservation Water Management Board Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2022

Salish Kootenai College, Late Louis Caye Sr. Memorial Building

- 2 pm – 2nd meeting of the board called to order by board member Clayton Matt, meeting chair of the 1/20/2022 meeting.
- Board members introduced themselves to document attendance:
 - Clayton Matt (in person)
 - Kenneth Pitt (in person)
 - Roger Noble (in person)
 - Teresa Wall-McDonald (in person)
 - Shana Radford (soon-to-be appointed *ex officio* member)(attended virtually on zoom)
 - Board member Noble pointed out that 17 were in attendance on zoom.
- Board member Matt opened discussion on the question of whether it is appropriate to have an **opening prayer/invocation** at the outset of the day's meeting and on the agenda for future meetings. There were no objections from other board members.
 - Kenneth Pitt moved to open the meeting with an invocation/opening prayer and to include this item on future agendas > seconded by board member Wall-McDonald > motion passed unanimously.
- Board member Teresa Wall-McDonald gave the opening prayer.
- Board member Clayton reminded the other members of the **alternating meeting chair arrangement** (i.e., taking turns in the role of meeting chair until board operating rules are approved giving the board a process for officially selected a chair) informally agreed to at the 1/20/2022 meeting.
 - Ken made a motion that Roger Noble be the meeting chair for the day's meeting > board member Wall-McDonald seconded > motion passed unanimously.
- **Adoption of draft 2/2/2022 agenda:**
 - Board member Noble invited a motion on adoption of a draft agenda for the day's meeting > board member Wall-McDonald made a motion to adopt the agenda > board member Matt seconded > motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of 1/20/2022 draft meeting minutes:**
 - Meeting chair Noble asked if there were any revisions to the draft minutes provided.
 - Hearing none, board member Matt made a motion to approve the draft minutes > board member Pitt seconded > motion passed unanimously.
- URL / Screen shot of Flathead Reservation Water Management Board webpage, a sub-page of the DNRC Compact Implementation site, was shared by DNRC staff to point out where agendas, meeting minutes, zoom links, and video recordings (of previous meetings) can be found.
- Announcement of tentative next meeting date / location/ time by board member Noble: February 9, 2022 at the Ronan Community Center from 1-4pm¹.
 - Board member Wall-McDonald proposed that the group have a discussion on meeting time (not date) that might work for everyone. In response to board member Noble's asking if there was a better time-frame for her, she suggested a 3pm start.
 - The group decided to discuss further after the 5th board member had been selected.
- **Public Comment:**
 - Nikos Pastos made a comment (via zoom) expressing interest in knowing the date and format of compact approval from tribal membership and also expressed a concern that this information doesn't

¹ This date is subject to change based on the availability of the 5th board member, once selected.

Approved by Flathead Reservation Water Management Board at 2/10/2022 meeting

seem to be easily accessible and transparent. DNRC staff shared a phone number with Nikos and invited him to call and discuss any questions he has about the timeline of compact approval.

- 2:24 pm – **Closing of public portion and opening of executive session** for interviews:
 - Before closing, meeting chair Noble cited the Montana Public Meetings Act (MCA 2-3-203(3)) as the law requiring the board to conduct its 5th member interviews in a closed session.
- 2:24 pm to 6:29 pm: private interviews and board member deliberations regarding the following candidates:
 - Larry Robertson
 - Rhonda Swaney
 - Dennis Devries
 - Georgia Smies
- 6:29 pm – Meeting chair Noble re-opened meeting to the public:
 - Meeting chair Noble announced that the board members had conferred and were ready to select a 5th member.
 - Board member Pitt made a motion that the board select Georgie Smies as the 5th and final voting member > board member Clayton seconded > motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote of all members.
- Board member Wall-McDonald suggested State and Tribal staff prepare a joint press release to announce Georgia Smies as the 5th member and also draft letters thanking the other three candidates for their interest and time. The other board members agreed.
- 6:32 pm -- Meeting chair Noble moved to adjourn the 2nd meeting of the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board > board member Matt seconded > motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned.