



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap: April 20, 2026

Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair N. Kathryn Brigham called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A quorum of nine was verified.

Old Business

Polled Motion: Oregon Department of Agriculture Talking Points (26-011): The BOT ratified a polled motion to provide talking points to Trustee Lisa Ganuelas for consultation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

New Business

Revised Passport/REAL Identification (26-023): The BOT revised the CTUIR's policy to reimburse tribal members for obtaining certain identification documents such as federal passports and passport cards as well as REAL ID Act-compliant driver's licenses and state ID cards. The revision was made to include reimbursing fees to obtain birth certificates.

Behavioral Health Center Project (26-024): The BOT passed a resolution approving the design and construction of the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center's (Yellowhawk) Behavior Health Center Project. The building when finished would include additional offices for mental health and chemical dependency counseling. The project is to be funded through a combination of settlement income received from the state via its Opioid Settlement Program, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Fund and an internal loan from Yellowhawk's Investment Funds.

2026 Legal Aid Contract with NAPOLS (26-025): The BOT approved a contract with the Pendleton Regional Office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Native American Program of Legal Aid Services of Oregon (NAPOLS) to provide civil legal services to individual tribal members throughout the state. The contract states NAPOLS would represent tribal members whose income is between 126% and 250% of the 2026 federal poverty levels. NAPOLS will continue to provide services to tribal members whose income is 125% or less of the 2026 federal poverty guidelines outside of the scope of the 2026 contract.

Our Sustainable Future Initiative Proclamation (26-026): The BOT approved a resolution committing the CTUIR to an assessment of tribal staff capacity and other funding and resource needs to develop food waste management systems to address community and commercial needs such as conserving water, harvesting First Foods and capturing nutrients within the CTUIR community. It also commits the CTUIR to invest in ways to reduce single-use plastics and cutlery by 2030 as well as achieve sustainable and resilient food systems and practices that support the First Foods, a health CTUIR community and future generations.

Other Board Action

Wildhorse Resort & Casino (WRC) 2025 Audition Motion: The BOT a motion to accept the 2025 audit of the WRC authorize the Gaming Commission to submit the gaming portion of the audit to the National Indian Gaming Commission before the April 30 deadline.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: 9 a.m., April 27, 2026

To view the calendar, visit <https://ctuir.org/our-government/board-of-trustees/bot-calendar/>

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Executive Director Information

The BOT approved pertinent staff to meet Acting Metro Council President Duncan Hwang for introductory consultation for the Future Vision Project via a Zoom meeting. The project is a 50-year outlook for the Portland metro required in Metro's Charter that was adopted in 1995. It seeks to create an updated version of the Future Vision.

The BOT approved Chair Brigham and Communications Director Kaeleen McGuire to attend the Portland Esteemed Sister Cities and International Rose Festival Delegations on June 4 in Portland.

The BOT approved Trustee Ganuelas to attend the Healing Waters on June 11-12 in Canyonville, Oregon. The event is hosted by the Cow Creeks Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to gather the Nine Tribes of Oregon to honor and pray for the waters that have sustained their peoples.

The BOT approved Trustee Sierra Quaempts to meet Gov. Tina Kotek to discuss funding the Oregon Tribal Student Grant on June 17 in Salem, Oregon.

The BOT approved Chair Brigham and Trustee Ganuelas to attend the Salem Plaza dedication specifically marking the installation of several new tribally related art installations at the Capitol on May 26 in Salem.

The BOT approved Executive Director JD Tovey III to speak at the 2026 Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International Cascade Chapter Spring Symposium on April 22 or 23 in Pendleton.

The BOT approved Trustee Ganuelas and pertinent staff to participate with approved talking points in the online Interagency Clean Energy Siting Council Table Forum on April 28.

(This meeting recap is an effort to get BOT news to the public in a timelier manner. It is not intended to be a replacement for the official minutes of BOT meetings or any Confederated Umatilla Journal coverage.)