



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap: October 5, 2026

Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair N. Kathryn Brigham called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. A quorum of five was present with Vice Chair Aaron Ashley, Trustee Lisa Ganuelas and Trustee Toby Patrick out on personal leave. General Council Chairman Lindsey X. Watchman was out on funeral leave.

New Business

Behavioral Health Facility Project (2026-061): The BOT approved a standard form of agreement between Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center and a designer/builder to build a behavioral health facility. The resolution included a limited waiver of sovereign immunity to enforce the agreement under its dispute resolutions provisions and the jurisdictions of CTUIR and federal courts. Opioid settlement funds will be used to build the facility.

Long-Term Water Sewer Infrastructure Savings Fund (2026-062): The BOT approved a Long-Term Water Sewer Infrastructure Savings Fund and its initial contribution to help assure future resources for safe and sanitary water and sewer systems on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Surface Grazing Lease Authorization (2026-063): The BOT approved the advertisement for grazing privileges on tribal allotments at a competitive public sale to the highest bidder for 10-year terms. The advertisement shall be published, at a minimum, in the Confederated Umatilla Journal and on the CTUIR website and social media platforms.

Grazing Permit Administration (2026-064): The BOT approved a resolution requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs Umatilla Agency to remove all trust lands from a grazing permit associated with Range Unit 9 until adequate rehabilitation has occurred and supports CTUIR natural resources and First Foods objectives. The lands were affected by the recent Old Emigrant wildfire that consumed most of the herbaceous vegetation within Range Unit 9.

Interim Data Center Policy (2026-065): The BOT approved the Interim Data Center Policy for use until a comprehensive data center policy can be adopted. As part of its priorities, the BOT in April adopted the development of a data center policy to address potential data center development within CTUIR's reserved and ceded lands, traditional use areas and near the usual and accustomed fishing sites throughout the Columbia River Basin. The interim policy focuses on tribal policy regarding data centers as to land use, environmental contamination and water resources.

Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Policy (2026-066): The BOT approved an Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Policy that directs CTUIR staff to begin its implementation during the next six months. According to the resolution, with Artificial Intelligence rapidly changing, an additional employee policy guidance is needed to protect confidential, sensitive and proprietary information and data. The Office of Information Technology wrote the policy, which was reviewed by the executive director, Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) and Water Commission prior to its BOT approval.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: 9 a.m., October 19, 2026

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

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Data Sovereignty Statement (2026-067): The BOT approved the “Defining Tribal Digital Sovereignty: Statement Regarding Data Sovereignty and Digital Jurisdiction,” which recognizes the need to protect the confidential or proprietary information and data of the CTUIR. With this statement, the BOT gives notice that the CTUIR has exclusive inherent sovereignty over CTUIR data, including but not limited to data created and used by or for tribal governance or tribal economic development; for the health, safety and welfare of tribal members; data is that is culturally sensitive or protected according to custom and tradition; and regardless of whether such data is basic or aggregate in nature, and whether it is stored within the Umatilla Indian Reservation or on a secure server beyond it. The resolution also calls for the statement to be made publicly available.

Nixyáawii Community School Three-Year Funding Commitment (2026-068): The BOT approved a three-year funding cycle for the Nixyáawii Community School, which will provide the school and CTUIR with greater budget predictability while allowing the parties to review the level of support before each succeeding three-year cycle. The cycle consists of fiscal years 2027, 2028 and 2029 with a review of the funding level no later than six months before the end of fiscal year 2029.

Executive Director Information

The BOT approved Tribal Attorney Annie Brown to attend the Multnomah Indian Child Welfare Act Court Celebration on Oct. 9 at the Juvenile Court in Portland with OLC providing written comments.

The BOT approved the CTUIR to host the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Oregon Tribal Summit in March or April and that OLC is involved in the planning of the summit’s program.

The BOT approved Vice Chair Ashley, Trustee Patrick and Cultural Resources Protection Program Manager Teara Farrow Ferman to attend the “Reach 250: Repatriation and Exchange for American Cultural Heritage A Semi quincentennial Event” on Nov. 17-19 in Washington, D.C.

(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.)