



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap: July 14, 2025

Board of Trustees (BOT) Vice Chairman Aaron Ashley called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Quorum of seven was verified with Chairman Gary I. Burke and Member at Large Steven on leave. Agenda was approved 6-0-0.

New Business

Inter-Tribal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Willamette Falls (25-056): The BOT unanimously approved a MOU with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Yakama Nation regarding the acquisition and management of Moore's Island and Willamette Falls near Oregon City. Under the Treaty of 1855, Willamette Falls is listed as a usual and accustomed fishing area of the CTUIR. In 2013, municipalities near Oregon City began the Willamette Falls Legacy Project to build a public river walk to the falls along the Blue Heron property. CTUIR staff participated to ensure the public access didn't conflict with CTUIR rights. After the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde bought the Blue Heron property in 2019 for development on the east side of the falls, the Legacy Project disbanded. However, it created the Willamette Falls Trust to pursue public funding for public access to the falls. The trust sought the help of the CTUIR, Warm Springs Tribes, Siletz Tribes, Grand Ronde Tribes and Yakama Nation. The Grand Ronde Tribes never joined the trust but the CTUIR did in 2020. This MOU formalizes the relationship of the CTUIR, Warm Springs Tribes, Siletz Tribes and Yakama Nation to memorialize their mutual understandings and commitment to the acquisition and post-acquisition care of the island and falls. It also establishes roles and responsibilities of the tribes, confirms the shared goals of the falls, provides a framework for seeking funding and partnerships and establishes a Tribal Leadership Committee to oversee the MOU's implementation and make decisions by consensus.

BOT Donation Fund Motion: The BOT unanimously approved a motion to move \$10,000 from its Contingency Fund to its Donation Fund.

Executive Director Information

The BOT unanimously approved Chairman Burke and Members at Large Toby Patrick and Hart to attend the Hanford Reach National Monement's 25th anniversary on Aug. 6 at the REACH Museum in Richland, Washington.

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