



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap: September 14, 2026

Board of Trustees (BOT) Vice Chair Aaron Ashley called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A quorum of eight was present with Chair N. Kathryn Brigham out on travel.

Old Business

Affiliated Tribal of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Tribal Membership Dues (26-054): The BOT ratified a polled resolution to pay annual ATNI membership dues and designate Chair Brigham as the primary delegate, Vice Chair Ashley as the primary alternate and remaining BOT members as additional ATNI Executive Committee alternates.

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Tribal Membership Dues (26-055): The BOT ratified a polled resolution to pay the annual NCAI membership dues and designate Chair Brigham as the primary delegate and remaining BOT members as alternates.

New Business

Authorization of Filing Amicus in Ellis Project Litigation (2026-056): The BOT authorized the Office of Legal Counsel to file an amicus brief in the Greater Hells Canyon Council v. United States Forest Service (USFS) case regarding the USFS decision to revise national policy and implement projects inconsistent with the memorandum of agreement and consultation relationship between the USFS and CTUIR. The CTUIR has raised objections and sought to protect tribal rights and resources against the USFS' decision on the Ellis Project, a 110,000-acre landscape-level project to be implemented over the next two years 7 miles west of Ukiah. In March, the Crag Law Center filed a lawsuit regarding the Ellis Project on behalf of Oregon Wild and the Greater Hells Canyon Council.

Tiichám Conservation District Nonprofit (Tiichám) Reorganization (2026-057): The BOT reorganized Tiichám as a tribally chartered nonprofit corporation wholly owned by the CTUIR. This was previously done in 2023 but due to issues needing resolved regarding the relationship between the Charter for the Tiichám Conservation District (a political subdivision of the CTUIR) and the Tiichám nonprofit, the 2023 articles of incorporation had not been filed and no nonprofit corporation had been formed. According to the resolution, the Charter establishing the Tiichám Conservation District as a political subdivision shall be dissolved Jan. 1, 2027.

Portland State University (PSU) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (2026-058): The BOT approved a MOU between the CTUIR and PSU supporting a working relationship among the CTUIR Education and Training Committee, Education Department and PSU. It also directs the committee and department to dedicate time, personnel and resources to working with PSU for initiatives needed to achieve MOU objectives such as establishing a Native American Advisory Board and collaborating on a curriculum focusing on Native American studies, education, recruitment and retention. The resolution also calls for the Communications Department to organize a public signing of the MOU.

Renewal 477 Program Plan (2026-059): The BOT approved a resolution renewing the 477 Program Plan that expires on Dec. 31. The plan promotes the integration of tribal employment, training, education and related services to enhance the employability of CTUIR members. The updated plan will have a three-year term from Jan. 1, 2027, to Dec. 31, 2029.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: 9 a.m., September 21, 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 staff from the Education, Natural Resources and Communications departments to meet with Thomas DeLuca, Oregon State University College of Forestry dean, to meet for the re-establishment of the Indigenous Natural Resource Office. The office will use the vision, expertise and goals of the tribal nations in Oregon to drive OSU research, stewardship and success.

The BOT approved pertinent staff to attend the Tribal Self-Governance Conference April 5-8, 2027, in Chandler, Arizona.

The BOT approved Secretary Monica Paradise and pertinent staff to attend the Geothermal Energy Collaboration process on Sept. 24 as part of Oregon's transition to clean energy.

The BOT approved available Department of Natural Resources staff to review and discuss with Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development amendments to the Territorial Sea Plan (TSP). The TSP is an area management plan for the Pacific Ocean that falls 3 nautical miles from the ocean shore.

The BOT approved available BOT members to attend Cairnspring Mills' grand opening of the Blue Mountain Mill from 3-8 p.m. on Oct. 15 at the Blue Mountain Mill in the Coyote Business Park South.

The BOT approved available BOT members and staff to attend the 12th annual Governor's Luncheon at Blue Mountain Community College on Sept. 18 after the Westward Ho! Parade.

The BOT approved Family Violence Services Manager Desiree Coyote and Umatilla Tribal Police Department Lead Investigator Tony Barnett as CTUIR's representatives to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Working Group.

The BOT approved Higher Education Manager Lynette Minthorn to attend the Washington State University Native American Advisory Board Meeting on Oct. 9 in Spokane, Washington.

(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.)