



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap: April 7, 2025

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairman Gary I. Burke. Invocation given by Treasurer Raymond Huesties. Quorum verified with full attendance. Agenda approved 8-0-0.

Old Business

Legislative Hearing in La Grande, Tribal Testimony on State Budgets (25-001): This resolution calls for Member at Large Toby Patrick and Executive Director J.D. Tovey to give testimony on Senate Bill 761 during the Oregon Legislative Ways and Means Road Show at 5 p.m. on April 11 in La Grande as part of testimony on the state budget House Bill 5006 as well as the submission of any needed written testimony. SB 761 would appropriate funds to the Water Resources Department to implement projects that benefit water demands in the Walla Walla Basin. HB 5006 would appropriate money from the General Fund to the Emergency Board for allocations during the biennium (2025-2027). The BOT voted 8-0-0.

Columbia Development Authority (CDA) Litigation Settlement Proposal (25-035): This resolution approves the terms of a confidential settlement proposal among Umatilla County and the Port of Morrow, Port of Umatilla and Morrow County. Umatilla County sued the CDA (except the CTUIR), the two ports and Morrow County in 2024 challenging the process for and the conveyance of 5,492 acres to the two ports. The parties to that lawsuit have developed terms to settle, and the BOT approves those terms. The BOT voted 8-0-0.

New Business

None

Other Board Actions

None

Executive Director Information

The BOT approved the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) to send a letter to the federal Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) regarding its planned participation in a Day-Ahead Market (Market) and conveying the CTUIR's concerns about negative impacts on the Columbia River Basin, the CTUIR's treaty-reserved resources and sovereign rights. It also requests full and meaningful consultation between the BPA and CTUIR and to assure that BPA's joining the Market will not negatively impact treaty-reserved resources and rights of the CTUIR or any other Columbia River Treaty tribe. BPA currently markets wholesale electrical power from 31 federal dams in the Northwest that are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation in the California-controlled "real-time" market. A Day-Ahead Market allows participants to buy and sell electric energy at financially binding day-ahead prices for the following day. The BOT approved the letter 8-0-0.

The BOT approved Member at Large Lisa Ganuelas to attend the 15th annual Tribal Leadership Summit at the University of Washington's Seattle campus on May 27. The BOT voted 8-0-0.

The BOT approved \$2,500 out of Reserve Funds for the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center's Empowering Our Youth Powwow set for May 7 and for any available BOT member to attend. The BOT voted 8-0-0.

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Executive Director Information continued

The BOT approved pertinent CTUIR staff to attend the Renewable Northwest/American Clean Power Renewable Energy in Seattle on April 14. The BOT voted 7-0-1 with Secretary Roberta Wilson abstaining.

The BOT approved Treasurer Huesties to attend Blue Mountain Community College's Equine Center Grand Opening on April 30. The Board voted 8-0-0.

The BOT deferred a request for \$500 from Reserve Funds for a matched donor contribution to the Northwest Indian College's "Raise the Paddle" event as it may be eligible for Wildhorse Foundation funds.

Member at Large Corinne Sams requested a meeting to discuss concerns around the current global economic instability, particularly dealing with 401Ks, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Sams also suggested a celebratory event for the CTUIR women's basketball team that won the inaugural Battle of the Nations in Spokane, Washington, during the previous weekend. The team beat out 32 other teams and Jude Schimmel was named MVP. The matter will be brought back to the BOT later.

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

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: 9 a.m., April 14, 2025

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