



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap: March 31, 2025

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Gary I. Burke. Invocation given by Member at Large Toby Patrick. Quorum of seven was verified with Vice Chairman Aaron Ashley on travel and Member at Large Lisa Ganuelas on personal leave. Agenda was approved 6-0-0 after Member at Large Corinne Sams withdrew her motion to defer Resolution 25-034: Oregon Tribal Grant Agreement for Opioid Settlement Funds.

New Business

Oregon Tribal Grant Agreement for Opioid Settlement Funds (25-034): This resolution calls for \$100,000 of \$3.4 million in opioid settlement funds to be used by the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center (Yellowhawk) for a feasibility study to plan, design and construct a behavioral health facility for clinical mental health and chemical dependency services. If built, the facility is to be located on Nixyáawii Subdivision Lot 4 on T2106 across the street from Yellowhawk. If the facility is determined to be infeasible, the remaining opioid settlement funds through the state of Oregon would be used to supplement Yellowhawk funds for behavioral health and chemical dependency programs and services as set forth in Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Tribal Opioid Program Budget.

With the CTUIR, state of Oregon, and thousands of other governments and entities having filed suit against opioid manufacturers, distributors and retailers to address the opioid abuse crisis, those lawsuits resulted in settlements that provide funding that can be used for treatment, prevention and education about opioid abuse and related drugs. In 2023, the Board of Trustees (BOT) tasked the executive director, working with the Yellowhawk CEO, to develop a plan for the use of settlement funds. Oregon is giving 30% of its opioid settlement funds to the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon for treatment, prevention and education about opioid abuse and related drugs. Yellowhawk will receive approximately \$3.4 million.

Commissions/Committees Update

The BOT approved Mary Halfmoon to the Cultural Resource Committee for a two-year term (6-0-0), Leo Stewart to the Economic Community Development Committee for a two-year term (6-0-0), Derek Quaempts to the Education & Training Committee for a two-year term (6-0-0), and Robin Bitrick to the Science & Technology Committee for a two-year term (6-0-0).

The BOT voted 6-0-0 to advertise commission and committee positions starting April 1 to replace three expiring terms on the Cultural Resource Committee and one expiring term on the Water Commission. All applications are due Monday, April 21 by 4 p.m. A BOT work session is scheduled for Friday, April 25 at 8:30 a.m. to review applications with appointments being made on Monday, April 28.

The BOT reappointed Kelly George and Jim Wallis to the Nixyáawii Community Financial Services for three-year terms. George received a unanimous 6-0-0 vote, while Wallis received a 5-0-1 vote with Secretary Roberta Wilson abstaining.

The BOT approved a motion to accept the 2024 Wildhorse Resort & Casino (WRC) Audit Report by Moss Adams LLP. The CTUIR Gaming Commission had previously approved the 2024 WRC report. The motion also authorizes the Gaming Commission to submit the gaming portion of the audit reports to

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: 9 a.m., April 7, 2025

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

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the National Indian Gaming Commission before the April 30, 2025, deadline. The BOT voted 6-0-0.

Executive Director Information

The BOT took no action on an invitation from the Hillsboro Hops minor league baseball team for its Indigenous Culture Night on April 17.

The BOT approved a \$1,200 sponsorship of the Yellowhawk Scholarship Golf Scramble to be held July 11 at the Golf Course at Birch Creek. The funding will come from the BOT Reserve Fund. The BOT voted 5-0-1 with Secretary Wilson abstaining.

The BOT approved any available BOT member to attend Armed Forces Day on May 17 in Hermiston. The event will include the history of the Umatilla Armory Depot. The BOT voted 6-0-0.

The BOT approved Forestry staff within the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources to attend the HJ Andrew's Inaugural Science & Stewardship Summit on April 8 in Springfield, Oregon. The BOT voted 6-0-0.

(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 BOT meetings or any Confederated Umatilla Journal coverage.)