



Native American Heritage Fund Board (NAHFB) Meeting

June 12, 2024

Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

A. Welcome new member: Tribal Council Vice Chair Robyn (Burlingham) Elkins

The members welcomed Robyn Elkins to the board.

Native American Heritage Fund Board Members present:

Dorie Rios, Vice Chair
Melissa Kiesewetter, Treasurer
Liz Kinnart, Secretary
Kimberly McClellan
Robyn Elkins

Others present:

Kelli Scott, Calhoun County Administrator/Controller
Susan Connolly, Calhoun County Executive Assistant
Kyle Zawacki, University of Michigan Consultant/Intern
Linda Cypret-Kilbourne, member of the public

2. Elect NAHFB Chairperson for remainder of 2024

Kimberly McClellan - **motioned** to elect Dorie Rios Chairperson for the remainder of 2024.
Liz Kinnart – **Seconded**

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 5. Motion Passed

Elect NAHFB Vice Chairperson for remainder of 2024

Kimberly McClellan - **motioned** to elect Melissa Kiesewetter Vice Chairperson for the remainder of 2024.
Robyn Elkins – **Seconded**

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 5. Motion Passed



Elect NAHFB Treasurer for remainder of 2024

Dorie Rios - **motioned** to elect Robyn Elkins Treasurer for the remainder of 2024.
Liz Kinnart – **Seconded**

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 5. Motion Passed

Dorie Rios, Chairperson
Melissa Kiesewetter, Vice Chair
Robyn Elkins, Treasurer
Liz Kinnart, Secretary

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Robyn Elkins - **motioned** to approve the meeting agenda for Wednesday, June 12, 2024.
Liz Kinnart – **Seconded**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved without objection.**

4. Approval of NAHFB Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2024

Dorie Rios - **motioned** to approve the NAHFB Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2024.
Robyn Elkins – **Seconded**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved without objection.**

5. Public Comment

Linda Cypret-Kilbourne spoke in support of Camden Frontier School District's 2024 grant application.

6. Old Business Items:

A. Meridian Township unspent 2023 grant funds.

Dorie Rios shared that she spoke to NHBP's Legal Counsel Bill Brooks and his opinion was that it would be appropriate for Meridian Township to return the unspent funds in the amount of \$4,281. After discussion the Board asked Kelli Scott to request that the funds be returned to be available to award for the 2024 grants.

7. Correspondence:

There was none.



8. New Business Items:

- A. Update from Kyle Zawacki regarding 2024 consulting engagement.

Kyle Zawacki shared his work on the creation of a Guidebook (rather than a Toolkit), noting that he is working with NHBP Communications Director, Amber LeClear to arrange for printing and a digital version to be available on the www.nahfund.com website.

Dorie Rios and Robyn Elkins confirmed the NHBP will have the budget to approve the costs, estimated at \$1,500, to print the Guidebook.

There was open discussion related to artwork for the Guidebook and outreach to local K-12 schools for dedication pages, including outreach to tribal councils for social media posting.

Melissa Kiesewetter mentioned that there might also be an opportunity to speak or present at an NCAI event.

Melissa Kiesewetter asked whether ongoing revisions and updates will be necessary for the Guidebook and how that would be maintained.

Kyle Zawacki replied that ongoing updates to the Guidebook should be minimal, consisting mainly of updates to cumulative NAHF grant award amounts to date.

It was verified the Communications Department for the NHBP updates and maintains the www.nahfund.com website.

NO VOTE – INFORMATIONAL ONLY

- B. Approval to Disburse Funds, Calhoun County, 2024 Administrative Services, \$15,000.00

Robyn Elkins **motioned** to approve to disburse funds, Calhoun County, 2024 Administrative Services, \$15,000.00.

Kimberly McClellan – **Seconded**

VOTE:

Kimberly McClellan – Yes

Robyn Elkins – Yes

Dorie Rios – Yes

Liz Kinnart – Yes

Melissa Kiesewetter – Yes

Motion Passed



C. Acceptance of May 31, 2024, Financial Report

Kelli Scott reviewed the financial report and noted the only activity through May was the annual payment from the state along with interest income. Ms. Scott noted that after the expected administrative expenses there would be approximately \$481,000, plus the return of excess funds from Meridian, for a new total of \$485,000 to be available for grant allocations.

D. Consideration of 2024 Grant Applications (13 received (last year 20), total request= \$1,645,277.69 (last year \$1,851,836.16):

Dorie Rios proposed the board focus on applications related to mascot rebranding and organizations that have not received previous grant awards.

1. Malachi Byrd, \$5,000.00

Dorie Rios noted this application is related to personal education.

This application was removed from consideration.

2. Albion College, \$200,000.00

Dorie Rios shared this application is related to archeology along the Kalamazoo River with an outlook to be broken down over a period of four years with a value the first year totaling \$35,000.

3. Camden Frontier School, \$247,653.00

Dorie Rios noted this application is related to mascot rebranding.

4. East Jordan Public Schools, \$25,140.00

Dorie Rios noted this application relates to educational materials and curriculum.

5. Gladstone Area Schools, \$37,150.00

Liz Kinnart shared her father is involved with this application on behalf of Gladstone. Ms. Kinnart noted the schools will work closely with the City related to restoration of statues.



6. Grand Ledge Public Schools, \$3,200.00

Dorie Rios noted the application is related to education curriculum.

7. Grand Valley State University, \$158,668.00

Dorie Rios highlighted the application is for program development and other educational initiatives.

8. Michigan State University, \$250,000.00

Dorie Rios shared the application is focused toward economic development rather than educational initiatives.

This application was removed from consideration.

9. Okemos Public Schools, \$16,000.00

Dorie Rios shared this application is related to post mascot curriculum development.

10. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, \$349,736.00

Dorie Rios noted this application is for mascot replacement.

11. Port Huron Area Schools, \$215,130.59

Dorie Rios noted this application is requesting additional funds following their award in 2023 related to mascot rebranding.

12. Suttons Bay Public Schools, \$65,000.00

Melissa Kiesewetter shared the application was mainly supporting staff positions rather than the creation of cultural curriculum.

The board noted the budget breakdown between staffing and language curriculum development.

13. Western Michigan University, \$72,600.00

This application was removed from consideration.



After discussion within the Board, there was unanimous consent not to award funds to the following applications:

Malachi Byrd
Michigan State University
Western Michigan University

For the remaining applications, the Board reached unanimous consent to award the following requests based on available funds:

Melissa Kiesewetter **motioned** to grant awards as follows:

Albion College, \$35,000 (18%)
Camden Frontier School, \$105,061.20 (42%)
East Jordan Public Schools, \$12,570 (50%)
Gladstone Area Schools, \$18,575.05 (50%)
Grand Ledge Public Schools, \$3,200.00 (100%)
Grand Valley State University, \$63,467.20 (40%)
Okemos Public Schools, \$8,000.00 (50%)
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, \$145,894.40 (42%)
Port Huron Area Schools, \$86,052.24 (40%)
Suttons Bay Public Schools, \$6,600 (10%)

Kimberly McClellan – **Seconded**

VOTE:

Dorie Rios-Yes
Liz Kinnart -Yes
Melissa Kiesewetter-Yes
Kimberly McClellan-Yes
Robyn Elkins-Yes

Motion Passed

Ms. Scott noted she would email the grant award spreadsheet to Amber LeClear for the press release and would also email each applicant to notify them of either the award, or the decision not to award their applications.

9. Open Discussion

Melissa Kiesewetter congratulated Ms. Rios and Ms. Elkins for their new NHBP council positions.



N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

10. Next Meeting

Friday, September 13, 2024, 11:00am

10. Adjournment of the Meeting

Meeting adjourned by Dorie Rios, NAHFB Chairperson, at 12:24 p.m.

MINUTES PREPARED BY _____
Susan Connolly, Executive Assistant/Legal Assistant