



## Native American Heritage Fund Board (NAHFB) Meeting

April 21, 2025

### 1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dorie Rios at 10:04 a.m.

#### Native American Heritage Fund Board Members present:

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

#### Others present:

Kelli Scott, Calhoun County Administrator/Controller  
Susan Connolly, Calhoun County Executive Assistant  
Frank Tecumseh, Chief Executive Officer at FireKeepers Casino Hotel  
Jaky Replogle, Tribal Government Communications Director  
Doug Ferrall, Assistant County Administrator – Community Services

### 2. Approval of Meeting Agenda for Monday, April 21, 2025

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

### 3. Approval of NAHFB Meeting Minutes; Closed Session Minutes; 9/13/2024

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

### 4. Public Comment

There was none.

### 5. Old Business Items:

There was none.



## 6. Correspondence:

- A. Second Wave Media story re: new State OTLL Office.
- B. MEDC 2025 payment confirmation.

Ms. Scott noted this was the notification from the State of the 2025 wire transfer in February.

## 7. New Business Items:

- A. Election of Officers for 2025

Robyn Elkins - **Motioned** to keep the same officers for 2025 as the previous year.  
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  
Kimberly McClellan

- B. Administrative Services Agreement with Calhoun County

Kelli Scott reported there were no changes to the language, with the exception of the dates of service. Ms. Scott informed that the Agreement will be presented to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for approval at the May 1 regular session.

Robyn Elkins - **Motioned** to approve the Calhoun County Administrative Services Agreement, as presented.  
Dorie Rios – **Seconded**

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

- C. Engagement of Financial Auditor for 2024 Fiscal Year

Ms. Scott recommended Gabridge & Co. to complete the 2024 audit as they were the same firm that performed the audit for the NAHF Board and the Firekeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board in previous years. Kelli Scott added that Gabridge proposed an audit of fee of \$4,500, with a due date scheduled for June 30, 2025.



Dorie Rios - **Motioned** to approve the engagement of Gabridge & Co. as the 2024 Financial Auditor of the Native American Heritage Fund Board.

Robyn Elkins – **Seconded**

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

D. 2025 Budget

Ms. Scott noted that the proposed 2025 budget is similar to previous years' budgets, with approximately \$481,000 available for grants after administrative expenses are accounted for which are the same as previous years.

Melissa Kiesewetter - **Motioned** to approve the 2025 Budget, as presented.

Liz Kinnart – **Seconded**

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

E. 2025 Meeting and Grant Award Schedule

Kelli Scott highlighted the timeframe for the media release to announce the 2025 grant application timeline. After discussion, it was decided that the 2025 meeting schedule would be as follows:

**Mon., April 21, 2025, 10:00 a.m.:** NAHFB Annual Organizational Meeting – election of officers, approval of Administrative Services Agreement, engagement of 2024 auditor, approval of 2025 budget, approval of 2025 Grant Application and timeline.

**Soon after April 21, 2025:** Media Release to announce 2025 grant application timeline.

**By April 30, 2025:** Send out 2025 Grant Application and media release.

**June 6, 2025:** Grant Applications due to County Administration by 5:00 p.m.

**June 20, 2025, 12:00p.m.:** NAHFB Meeting to consider 2025 submitted grant applications; accept 2024 audit; and approve disbursement of checks for Administrative Services Agreement and audit.

**September 19, 2025, 10:00a.m.:** NAHFB Meeting to approve disbursement of checks for 2025 Grant Awards; Check Presentation; Approve disbursement of remaining 2025 administrative expense checks; other business as necessary.

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Future meetings to be scheduled as necessary.

Meetings will be held in the Shkwede Board Room at the Firekeepers Casino-Hotel, 11177 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, MI. Meetings are open to the public.



Kim McClellan - **Motioned** to approve the 2025 meeting and grant award schedule as amended.

Robyn Elkins - **Seconded**

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

F. 2025 Grant Application Approval (following grant reporting document)

Kelli Scott noted that the 2025 Grant Application was presented for Board consideration and noted the County has a new Grant Coordinator and grant management software.

Ms. Scott shared the County has a new online grant portal which will ease the application process.

There was discussion related to additional verbiage necessary for the grant database and to modify the grant agreement.

Vote occurred following the discussion of the 2025 Grant Reporting Document.

Melissa Kiesewetter - **Motioned** to approve the 2025 Grant Application.

Robyn Elkins – **Seconded**

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

G. 2025 Grant Reporting Document

Melissa Kiesewetter suggested adding to the Grant Report document guidelines that include the grant period of Oct.1 through Sept.30, and information about submitting grant scope, budget or project timeline change requests.

There was also discussion about adding a section to the Grant Report to require the submission of photos and other materials that NAHF can use for outreach and marketing purposes, and the addition of a November meeting of the NAHF to review submitted grant reports from the previous grant year.

Ms. Scott request the documents and spreadsheets provided from Kyle Zawacki, University of Michigan Consultant/Intern.

Jaky Replogle indicated she would obtain the documents and communications from Kyle.

Melissa Kiesewetter - **Motioned** to approve the 2025 Grant Reporting Document, with the additions of: information about the grant period Oct.1-Sep.30, and a section to require photos and other testimonials and materials showing the project's completion and success.



Dorie Rios – **Seconded**

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

## 8. Open Discussion

Dorie Rios shared her correspondence following an email from students at the University of Illinois, including a letter of support in regard to their proposed mascot change.

Ms. Kiesewetter informed Illinois has no legislation related to mascots and no federally recognized tribes.

Kelli Scott inquired if there's been any update from Sandusky School District and their 2023 grant funds. Board members indicated they were not aware of any updates at this time.

## 9. Next Meeting

June 20, 2025, 12:00p.m. in the Shkwede Board Room at the Firekeepers Casino-Hotel, 11177 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, Michigan.

## 10. Adjournment of the Meeting

Meeting adjourned by Dorie Rios, NAHFB Chairperson, at 11:00am

MINUTES PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Connolly, Executive Assistant/Legal Assistant