



## Native American Heritage Fund Board (NAHFB) Meeting

June 20, 2025

### 1. Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call

Chairperson Dorie Rios called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

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

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

#### Others present:

Kelli Scott, Calhoun County Administrator/Controller  
Susan Connolly, Calhoun County Executive Assistant  
Amber Coco, Calhoun County Communications Director

### 2. Approval of Meeting Agenda for Friday, June 20, 2025

Kieseewetter - **Motioned** to approve the meeting agenda for Friday, June 20, 2025.  
Elkins – **Seconded**

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

### 3. Approval of NAHFB Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2025

Elkins - **Motioned** to approve the NAHFB Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2025.  
Rios – **Seconded**

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

### 4. Public Comment

There was none.

### 5. Old Business Items:

There was none.



## 6. Correspondence:

- A. Albion College email re: 2024 grant modifications.

Kelli Scott noted the email requested approval to adjust the grant budget between spending categories, and to adjust the project timeline slightly, with the overall scope and budget unchanged and the College indicating significant progress thus far Scott added that she responded with approval and indicated that she would share this communication with the NAHF Board at this meeting.

## 7. New Business Items:

- A. Acceptance of May 31, 2025, Financial Report

Kelli Scott reviewed the financial report and noted that after the expected administrative expenses there would be approximately \$479,000 to be available for grant allocations.

Kiesewetter - **Motioned** to accept the May 31, 2025, Financial Report.  
Kinnart – **Seconded**

On a Voice Vote, **Motion Passed** unanimously to accept the Financial Report for May 31, 2025, as presented.

- B. Approval of December 31, 2024, Audit

Ms. Scott highlighted the audit report received from Gabridge & Co. and shared the firm's opinion was unmodified or clean, meaning that the financial statements accurately presented the finances of the NAHF.

Kelli Scott noted that on page 18 there was a Summary Income Statement.

Elkins - **Motioned** to accept the 12/31/24 Financial Audit, as presented.  
Kiesewetter – **Seconded**

On a Voice Vote, **Motion Passed**

- C. Approval to Disburse Funds, Calhoun County, 2025 Administrative Services Agreement, approved April 21, 2025, \$15,000.00

Kiesewetter - **Motioned** to approve to disburse funds, Calhoun County, 2025 Administrative Services Agreement, \$15,000.00.  
Elkins – **Seconded**



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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

**VOTE:**

Dorie Rios – Yes  
Liz Kinnart – Yes  
Melissa Kieseewetter – Yes  
Kimberly McClellan – Yes  
Robyn Elkins - Yes

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

- D. Approval to Disburse Funds, Gabridge & Co., 2024 Audit, approved April 21, 2025, \$4,500.00.

Kieseewetter - **Motioned** to approve to disburse funds, Gabridge & Co., as presented.  
Elkins – **Seconded**

**VOTE:**

Liz Kinnart – YES  
Melissa Kieseewetter – YES  
Kimberly McClellan – YES  
Robyn Elkins – YES  
Dorie Rios – YES

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

- E. Approval to Disburse Funds, partial reimbursement to Calhoun County for 2025-26 Quickbooks Online Payment to be made Aug. 2025, (reimbursing \$500 of actual cost \$810.00, due to annual total Administrative Cost limit)

Elkins - **Motioned** to approve to disburse funds, partial reimbursement to Calhoun County, as presented.  
Rios – **Seconded**

**VOTE:**

Melissa Kieseewetter – YES  
Kimberly McClellan – YES  
Robyn Elkins – YES  
Dorie Rios – YES  
Liz Kinnart - YES



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### **Motion Passed Unanimously**

- F. Consideration of 2025 Grant Applications (17 received (last year 13), total request= \$1,882,332.48 (last year \$1,645,277.69):

Dorie Rios proposed that the board continue to focus on applications related to mascot rebranding.

Kelli Scott noted applicants which are not eligible entities and those that submitted their applications after the deadline. Discussion continued as follows:

1. Albion College, \$65,000.00

Dorie Rios shared the respectful relationship between Albion College and NHBP.

Kelli Scott informed this application is based on a five-year plan, starting in 2024 and expected to continue into the future.

2. Chippewa Hills School District, \$169,690.48

Kelli Scott noted the application is for rebranding, including updates to signage, uniforms, facilities and imagery, and added that the district received partial finding in 2022 and 2023 and are requesting a bond proposal.

3. City of Ishpeming, \$20,000.00

Dorie Rios shared the funds requested are for funding a local Powwow.

4. Dowagiac Union Schools, \$1,000,000.00

Kelli Scott shared the application is for the removal of their mascot, which is currently undetermined, and the funds are estimated costs.

5. East Jordan Public Schools, \$16,239.00

Melissa Kiesewetter noted the application is in collaboration with other Title VI programs from other districts for cultural programming and tribal programs.



6. East Lansing Public Schools, \$4,125.00

Melissa Kiesewetter noted that this application is for cultural history lessons for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and the group discussed the fact that Nokomis is not a federally recognized tribe and so there is no official tribal support.

7. Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, \$114,741.00

Kelli Scott highlighted this application is to support Title VI-Indian Education Program coordinators, develop a community of practice and professional learning centered around Anishinaabe youth.

8. Grand Ledge Public Schools, \$5,250.00

Dorie Rios shared this application is for cultural history lessons in collaboration with Nokomis partners.

9. Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, \$20,000.00 (received after deadline and ineligible entity)

Kelli Scott informed they are seeking funds for local or traveling speakers/teachers from local tribes and to cover costs of food and supplies for traditional teachings sessions.

Dorie Rios noted they will be informed to work with their local tribe.

10. Mattawan Consolidated School, \$10,000.00 (received after deadline)

Ms. Scott reported the application would be used to hire an artist to create a mural as a permanent public art installation.

11. North American Indian Association of Detroit, Inc., \$34,625.00

Kelli Scott shared the funds would be used to hold a Pow Wow at Sleepy Hollow Park.

12. Okemos Public Schools, \$6,750.00

Melissa Kiesewetter reiterated that like the other similar applications for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade curriculum, there is no official tribal support.

13. Portland Public Schools, \$2,750.00

Kelli Scott reported this application is similar to other requests for cultural lessons in collaboration with Nokomis partners



14. Public Schools of Petoskey, \$22,140.00

Melissa Kieseewetter informed the funding will be applied to new marching band coats to remove the prior mascot logo and the notoriety of the band to the public.

15. Traverse City Area Public Schools, \$200,000.00

Ms. Scott mentioned the request would be applied to curriculum materials and supplies.

16. University of Michigan - Dearborn, \$176,280.00

Kelli Scott stated the funds would be used to create an Indigenous Art and Gardens in an around the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) at UM-Dearborn.

17. Western Michigan University, \$14,742.00

Kelli Scott shared the funds would be used for programs and special events to promote engagement between Elders Councils and Committees of tribal nations in SW Michigan and the Native/Indigenous students at WMU.

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

- City of Ishpeming
- Dowagiac Union Schools
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- North American Indian Association of Detroit, Inc.
- Mattawan Consolidated School
- University of Michigan - Dearborn,

For the remaining applications, the Board reached unanimous consent to award the following requests based on available funds totaling \$479,319.61.



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Elkins - **Motioned** to grant awards as follows:

- Albion College, \$65,000.00 (100%)
- Chippewa Hills School District, \$127,267.86 (75%)
- East Jordan Public Schools, \$16,239.00 (100%)
- East Lansing Public Schools, \$4,125.00 (100%)
- Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, \$86,055.75 (75%)
- Grand Ledge Public Schools, \$5,250.00 (100%)
- Okemos Public Schools, \$6,750.00 (100%)
- Portland Public Schools, \$2,750.00 (100%)
- Public Schools of Petoskey, \$22,140.00 (100%)
- Traverse City Area Public Schools, \$129,000.00 (65%)
- Western Michigan University, \$14,742.00 (100%)

Kiesewetter – **Seconded**

**VOTE:**

Kimberly McClellan - YES

Robyn Elkins – YES

Dorie Rios – YES

Liz Kinnart – YES

Melissa Kiesewetter - YES

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

Ms. Scott noted she would email the grant award spreadsheet to Amber Coco for the press release and would email applicants to notify them of either the award or the decision not to award their applications.

**8. Open Discussion**

There was none.

**9. Next Meeting**

Friday, September 19, 2025, 10:00am with the check presentation ceremony to begin at 11:00am.



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## **10. Adjournment of the Meeting**

Meeting adjourned by Dorie Rios, NAHFB Chairperson, at 1:18 p.m.

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