



## Native American Heritage Fund Board (NAHFB) Meeting

April 23, 2026

### 1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ariel Boonstra at 10:04 a.m.

- a. Welcome new members:
  - i. Robert Larson, NHBP Tribe
  - ii. Ariel Boonstra, NHBP Tribe
  - iii. Melissa Isaac, Governor appointee
  - iv. Jodi Mallett, MDCR appointee

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

Ariel Boonstra  
Robert Larson  
Melissa Isaac  
Jodi Mallett  
[Kimberly McClellan – resigned via email on April 22, 2026]

#### Others present:

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

### 2. Approval of Amended Meeting Agenda for Thursday, April 23, 2026

**Mallett - Motioned** to approve the Amended Meeting Agenda, as presented.  
**Larson - Seconded.**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved.**

### 3. Approval of NAHFB Meeting Minutes September 19, 2025

**Boonstra - Motioned** to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2025, as presented.  
**Isaac - Seconded.**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved.**



#### **4. Public Comment**

Kelli Scott gave an overview of the authorizing documents creating the NAHF Board, including the State/NHBP Compact, the Interlocal Agreement and Bylaws. Scott explained that these documents defined a quorum for conducting ordinary business as 4 of the 5 representatives on the Board, while a quorum for any items related to determining methods or the actual distribution of funds, including adoption of the budget, is defined as a unanimous attendance and vote of all 5 representatives named within the Compact. Scott noted that for this meeting, the Board had the simple quorum but would not be able to take action on many of the items, including adoption of the budget, engagement of the auditor for 2025, or the items related to the grant award cycle for 2026.

#### **5. Old Business Items:**

There was none.

#### **6. Correspondence:**

##### **A. Email re: Melissa Kiesewetter and Kimberly McClellan resignations**

Kelli Scott noted the resignation last fall of Ms. Kiesewetter and the resignation late yesterday by Ms. McClellan. The position through the MDCR has been filled by Jodi Mallett and Ms. Scott will contact the State to request the second Governor Appointee be filled immediately.

##### **B. Email re: New NHBP Tribal appointees to NAHF Board**

Ms. Scott noted that she received notice from the NHBP Tribe naming Ariel Boonstra and Rob Larson as the NHBP's two board representatives.

##### **C. NHBP Resolution 02-02-2026**

Kelli Scott noted that she received a copy of the resolution, along with a message that this resolution should not impact NAHFB. Scott added that this action did mean that the 2026 annual payment did not come from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) by Feb.15 as called for in the Compact; instead, there was an equivalent payment received on Feb.27 directly from FireKeepers Casino Hotel.

##### **D. FireKeepers Casino Hotel 2026 payment confirmation**

Ms. Scott noted a copy of the payment confirmation from FireKeepers Casino Hotel on Feb. 27 was included for the record.



E. Traverse City Schools email re: 2025 Grant Extension Request

Kelli Scott stated that the School District is requesting an extension of their 2025 curriculum development grant to give them through 2028 to complete the project.

**7. New Business Items:**

A. Election of Officers for 2026 and designation of all officers as authorized bank signatories:

**Member Mallett - Motioned** to elect Ariel Boonstra as Chairperson for the 2026 Native American Heritage Fund Board.

**Isaac - Seconded.**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved.**

**Member Larson - Motioned** to elect Melissa Isaac as Vice Chairperson for the 2026 Native American Heritage Fund Board.

**Mallett - Seconded.**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved.**

**Member Boonstra - Motioned** to elect Rob Larson as Treasurer for the 2026 Native American Heritage Fund Board.

**Isaac - Seconded.**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved .**

**Member Boonstra - Motioned** to elect Jodi Mallett as Secretary for the 2026 Native American Heritage Fund Board.

**Larson - Seconded.**

On a **VOICE VOTE. Approved.**

B. Administrative Services Agreement with Calhoun County

Due to lack of required unanimous vote of all five representatives no action was taken.

C. Engagement of Financial Auditor for 2025 Fiscal Year

Due to lack of required unanimous vote of all five representatives, no action was taken.



D. 2026 Budget

Ms. Scott noted that the proposed 2026 budget is similar to previous years' budgets, with approximately \$480,000 available for grants after administrative expenses.

Due to lack of unanimous vote of all five representatives, no action was taken.

E. 2026 Meeting and Grant Award Schedule

Ms. Scott noted the importance of the Governor's Office appointing a representative to fill the open position vacated by Ms. McClellan in order to finalize the grant award schedule and process this year, noting that this appointment process will drive the NAHF Board's 2026 meeting schedule and grant timeline

Due to lack of unanimous vote of all five representatives, no action was taken.

F. 2026 Grant Application Approval

Kelli Scott noted that the County has a Grant Coordinator and grant management software which eases the application process.

Due to lack of unanimous vote of all five representatives, no action was taken.

G. 2026 Grant Reporting Document

Due to lack of unanimous vote of all five representatives, no action was taken.

## 8. Open Discussion

There was discussion of the possibilities for outreach and education to school districts and colleges to promote the fund and the grant opportunities. Members mentioned presentations and panel discussions at statewide conferences.

## 9. Next Meeting

To be determined.

## 10. Adjournment of the Meeting

Meeting adjourned by Ariel Boonstra, NAHFB Chairperson, at 10:56am

MINUTES PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Connolly, Executive Administrative & Legal Assistant