N.A.H.F.
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND
315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

Native American Heritage Fund Board (NAHFB) Meeting

August 19, 2026

1. Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call

Chairperson Ariel Boonstra called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Native American Heritage Fund Board Members present:
Chair - Ariel Boonstra
Vice Chair - Melissa Isaac
Treasurer - Rob Larson
Secretary - Jodi Mallett
Jordan Shananaquet

Others present:
Kelli Scott, Calhoun County Administrator/Controller
Susan Connolly, Calhoun County Executive Assistant
Amber Coco, Calhoun County Communications Director
Narcisco Tovar, Director of Communications & PR NHBP

2. Approval of Amended Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Larson - **Motioned** to approve the amended meeting agenda for August 19, 2026.
Shananaquet – **Seconded**

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

3. Approval of NAHFB Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2026

Mallett - **Motioned** to approve the NAHFB Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2026.
Larson - **Seconded**

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

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. Old Business Items:

There was none.

- Item 7.B. Presentation and Approval of December 31, 2025, Audit:

Alyssa Horner with Gabridge & Co. highlighted the 2025 financial audit completed by Gabridge & Co. Ms. Horner noted that the firm's opinion was unmodified or clean, meaning that the financial statements accurately presented the finances of the NAHF.

Kelli Scott added that the NAHFB has used Gabridge to perform the annual audits since the inception of the board, noting they have not increased their fees in recent years due to the limit on administrative costs.

Shananaquet - **Motioned** to accept the December 31, 2025, Financial Audit, as presented.
Mallett - **Seconded**.

On a Voice Vote, **Motion Passed.**

6. Correspondence:

A. Gladstone 2025 grant project photos.

Kelli Scott noted the photographs provided reflect the upgrades made with the grant proceeds.

B. Grand Valley State University 2025 Grant – no-cost extension request

Ms. Scott informed that a no cost extension is a common request by recipients which will be tracked through the portal software.

C. July 7, 2026, Press Release re Grant Applications Now Accepted

Kelli Scott shared this was for information only.

D. Contact us email re: Sandusky Schools mascot

Ms. Scott provided a history of the grant application and award, noting that no grant agreement was in place in 2023. Scott added that in 2024, Bill Brooks, legal council for the NHBP Tribe, became involved and potentially assisted former NAHF Board Chair Dorie Rios with issuing a letter to the district regarding the mascot and logos.

Member Larson asked whether this issue could affect future grant awards. Kelli Scott noted that grant agreements are now in place, providing legal recourse.

Ariel Boonstra will follow up with legal counsel to draft correspondence to be sent via certified mail to the superintendent of schools.

7. New Business Items:

A. Acceptance of July 31, 2026, Financial Report

Kelli Scott reviewed the financial report and noted that after the expected administrative expenses there would be approximately $480,000 to be available for grant allocations.

Isaac - **Motioned** to accept the July 31, 2026, Financial Report.
Shananaquet – **Seconded.**

On a Voice Vote, **Motion Passed** unanimously to accept the Financial Report for July 31, 2026, as presented.

C. Approval to Disburse Funds, Calhoun County, 2026 Administrative Services Agreement, approved June 18, 2026, $15,000.00

Mallett - **Motioned** to approve to disburse funds, Calhoun County, 2026 Administrative Services Agreement, $15,000.00.
Larson – **Seconded**

VOTE:

Ariel Boonstra - YES
Melissa Isaac - YES
Robert Larson - YES
Jodi Mallett - YES
Jordan Shananaquet - YES

Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Approval to Disburse Funds, Gabridge & Co., 2025 Audit, approved June 18, 2026, $4,500.00.

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

VOTE:

Ariel Boonstra - YES
Melissa Isaac - YES
Robert Larson - YES
Jodi Mallett - YES
Jordan Shananaquet - YES

Motion Passed Unanimously

E. Approval to Disburse Funds, partial reimbursement to Calhoun County for 2026-27 Quickbooks Online Payment to be made Aug. 2026, (reimbursing $500 of actual cost $810.00, due to annual total Administrative Cost limit)

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

VOTE:

Ariel Boonstra - YES
Melissa Isaac - YES
Robert Larson - YES
Jodi Mallett - YES
Jordan Shananaquet – YES

Motion Passed Unanimously

F. Consideration of 2026 Grant Applications (13 received (last year 17)), total request = $696,535.15 (last year $1,882,332.48):

Rob Larson recommended not approving indirect costs for higher education institutions.

Jordan Shananaquet raised questions regarding the practice of re-awarding funds to the same institutions. Ms. Scott replied that the Board had not either prioritized nor disallowed applicants that applied and either were or were not awarded funds in prior years. Scott noted that some projects have presented in a multi-year phased approach, and others are pilot programs, both examples of when the Board has awarded the same applicant in multiple years..

Board members expressed interest in having the future grant application require applicants to agree to submit photographs of offensive imagery to be replaced, and for applicants to describe any previous NAHF applications and awards.

The Board also requested that the 2026 end of project report require grant awardees to submit photos of imagery replaced, and copies of curriculum or other content created with grant funds.

There was open discussion about each of the 13 grant applicants for 2026:

1. Union City Society for Historic Preservation – Cornerstones Walking Tour
   Request: $25,000.00

2. Michigan History Foundation – Heart of the Great Turtle Island
   Request: $125,000.00 – Grant to the Township –

3. Grand Ledge Public Schools – Nokomis Partnership
   Request: $3,400.00

4. Chippewa Hills School District – Mascot Rebranding Completion
   Request: $177,339.00

5. Public Schools of Petoskey – AISES National Conference
   Request: $7,500.00

6. Oakland University – Cultural Immersion Summits
   Request: $35,600.00

7. Eastern UP ISD – Indigenous Education Inclusion
   Request: $120,443.25

8. Portland Public Schools – Grade 3 Curriculum Partnership
   Request: $5,100.00

9. Michigan State University – Elder-In-Residence
   Request: $42,385.52

10. LIFT Teen Center – Youth Cultural Leadership (GONA)
    Request: $33,810.00 (Suttons Bay School)

11. Dearborn & West Village Academies – Curriculum & Cultural Exchange
    Request: $105,000.00

12. Reeths-Puffer Schools – Indigenous Farm to Table Class
    Request: $1,649.38

13. Grand Valley State University – Medicine Wheel Approach to Student Support
    Request: $14,308.00

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

- Oakland University
- Michigan State University
- LIFT Teen Center
- Grand Valley State University

For the remaining applications, the Board reached unanimous consent to award the following requests based on available funds totaling $479,988.38.

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

- Union City Society for Historic Preservation, $25,000 (100%)
- Michigan History Foundation, $125,000 (100%)
- Grand Ledge Public Schools, $3,400 (100%)
- Chippewa Hills School District, $177,339 (100%)
- Public Schools of Petoskey, $7,500 (100%)
- Eastern UP ISD, $30,000 (25%)
- Portland Public Schools, $5,100 (100%)
- Dearborn & West Village Academies, $105,000 (100%)
- Reeths-Puffer Schools, $1,649.38 (100%)

Isaac – **Seconded**

VOTE:
Ariel Boonstra - YES
Melissa Isaac - YES
Robert Larson - YES
Jodi Mallett - YES
Jordan Shananaquet – YES

Motion Passed Unanimously

8. Open Discussion

Kelli Scott noted that the County's grant coordinator will provide notifications to both awardees and non-awardees and secure signed grant agreements with awardees.

Scott reiterated that the County will update the 2026 grant project report and the 2027 grant application to require the submission of photos images and copies of curriculum development created with grant funds.

Scott noted that during the 2027 organizational meeting, the Board will have a chance to discuss additional application revisions, including whether to prohibit indirect costs.

9. Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 11:00am with the check presentation ceremony to begin immediately after the meeting.

10. Adjournment of the Meeting

Meeting adjourned by Ariel Boonstra, NAHFB Chairperson, at 11:17 am

MINUTES PREPARED BY Susan M. Connolly.
Susan Connolly, Executive Administrative & Legal Assistant