

WETCC Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 7, 2026, 9:00 am. In-person and Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: Allen Derks, Tammy Bellanger, Kennedy Heisler, Dana Goodwin, Billie Annette, Beverly St. John, Paul Pemberton, Monica Hedstrom, Kristine Manning, Shaawano Uran, Renae LaChappelle, Ian Anderson

Call to order at 9:04 AM

I. Opening: Smudge and Prayer

Mission

White Earth Tribal and Community College is an institution of higher learning dedicated to academic excellence grounded in Anishinaabe culture, values, and traditions.

Vision

Gaa-miinigoowizid Anishinaabe gibimiwidoomin niigaanakeyaa "We all are carrying into the future the way the Anishinaabeg was gifted."

II. Approval/Amendments to Agenda

Additions added by Dana under Other: Updates on PayChex and Presidential search

Motion to approve agenda with additions by Billie, Kris 2nd. Motion approved.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve July 23, 2026, meeting minutes made by Billie, Kris 2nd. Minutes approved.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Informational Items

A. Financials

- i. Profit & Loss Summary: July 2026
 1. Noted that large capital expenses this year were on the Phase IV construction
- ii. Monthly Bank Transactions: July 2026
 1. Noted that Leech Lake Health and Safety Center is Customized Education course cost
 2. Noted that BuzzClan expenditure is for new website, data management, and IT services
 3. Kennedy will verify the City of Mahnomen expenditure and communicate to BOT
 4. Noted that \$13,000 to WETCC is for student tuition, fees, and books for Pathways Program



5. Kennedy will verify expenditure for Instructure (Canvas monthly fee) which is listed twice
- iii. Foundation Statement: N/A
- iv. Grant Approval Forms with no cost sharing:
 1. USDA Capacity Grant
 - a. Community Extension Dept. grant would provide money for staff and educational programming (i.e. camps and garden)
 - b. Due August 14, 2026
 2. US Department of Education MSEIP supplemental
 - a. 1-year supplemental competitive grant for STEM (stipend for A.S. students to attend summer bootcamp, to provide internships with Natural Resources, and prep in college level math and science.
 - b. Kennedy's signature needed before submission
- B. Cabinet Report- July 2026 highlights reviewed
 - i. Noted that Fall enrollment is now 151 which is higher than last fall; today is last day to register
 - ii. Review of submitted grants
 - iii. Cultural Updates not already listed: Change of the Seasons happened before summer break, Shaker Workshop finished today, Belt Making was yesterday, next week is Moccasin Games
 - iv. Noted that Extension is open to site tours; archery will start up when fall classes start
 - v. Noted remaining Facilities projects needing finishing
 - vi. Noted that the A.S. Natural Science Accreditation process through HLC (The Higher Learning Commission) is going slowly, but we have been recommended to be approved for A.S. accreditation for their March meeting
 - vii. Noted that WETCC is looking for future facility, on-site, to house construction classes in colder months

VI. Action Items

- A. Grant Approval Forms with cost sharing: None
- B. Large Expenditures: None
- C. Policies:
 - i. Tuition Waiver Policy
 1. Review of WETCC Waiver Impact data: summary of data shows that elder waivers had higher completion rates than non-waiver students
 2. Billie asked if a cap to waiver numbers should be considered to save on cost to WETCC; or other incentives to increase completion; or should number of semesters an individual can receive a waiver
 3. Allen withdrew the request to approve changes to Tuition Waiver and will put it back to WETCC to review other possible solutions with consideration of BOT discussion/ideas
 4. Dana would like to know what types of classes elders are taking; White Earth has funding to pay the cost of language classes for individuals
 5. Billie suggested looking at other funding for specific types of classes

VII. Other

- A. TCU futures project update: Monday August 17th at 2:00 PM Central is the first meeting with AICF (Governance Improvement Grant) for TCU Presidents and Board Chairs
- B. HR PayChex and President search: HR is consulting on search for college president
 - i. Dana suggested Randi (HR) ask PayChex to do the president search or recommend companies that can do the search; also, to check with Leech Lake on how they conducted their search. Board agreed.

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Calendar Updates

- A. Next BOT Meeting. September 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM tentative (Tami will send poll with option of Sept. 25)

X. Adjournment

- A. Billie motioned, Kris 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM.

