

WETCC Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 25, 2026, 9:00 am. In-person and Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: Kennedy Heisler, Allen Derks, Billie Annette, Monica Hedstrom, Laura Driscoll, Tami Johnson, Dana Goodwin, Shaawano Uran, Paul Pemberton, Randi Noggle, Lorraine Lufkins, Naabek Liberty, Bridget Guiza

I. Opening:

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 9:32 AM call to order

Motion to approve by Shaawano, 2nd by Billie, agenda approved

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Scheduled meeting for August 7, 2026

Motion by Billie to approve, 2nd by Shaawano. Minutes approved.

IV. Public Comments

Bridget Guiza reported that she attended MTERA and WETCC received the Training for Residential Energy Contractors to work with Tribal Housing on a high efficiency electric home rebate program. A one-page summary will be submitted by Bridget for BOT's information.

V. Action Items

- A. Grant Approval Forms with cost sharing:
- B. Large Expenditures: Change Order- BuzzClan technical support contract
 - i. Motion to approve contract from Billie, 2nd by Shaawano. Contract approved.
- C. Policies:
 - i. P-Card new policy
 - 1. Motion to approve from Shaawano, 2nd from Billie. Motion approved.
 - ii. Payroll-Advance policy 500.15.02
 - 1. Motion to approve from Billie, 2nd from Shawano. Motion approved.
- D. TCU Futures letter of commitment DUE Sept. 25
 - i. Allen was notified last fall, and BOT then initially notified; last spring documentation was requested from the Board on bylaws and position descriptions that was shared with TCU Futures Program; recently Dana and Allen attended an informational online session regarding the program requirements.
 - ii. Motion to approve by Billie, 2nd by Shaawano. Motion approved.
- E. NSF TCUP TEA Center: Center for Environmental Research and Innovation grant budget approval
 - i. Motion to approve budget from Billie, 2nd by Shaawano. Motion approved.
- F. New Position - Center Coordinator - Center for Environmental Research and Innovation



- i. Motion to approve position from Monica, 2nd from Shaawano. Motion approved.

VI. Executive Session

Start time: 10:35 am

End time: 10:45 am

VII. Informational Items

A. Financials

- i. Profit & Loss Summary: August 2026
 - 1. Tribal Council amount to college: WETCC is awaiting 3rd and 4th quarter payments, WETCC will invoice Tribal Council for amount due
 - 2. Tuition amount is from October to August 2026
 - 3. BOT requesting cost of attendance from Michelle Warren
 - 4. WETCC will send the list of supports available for students from WETCC
- ii. Monthly Bank Transactions: August 2026
 - 1. First Avenue Promo was recruitment event t-shirts through HSPP
 - 2. MN and White Earth Nation Child Support payments are deductions from designated employee paychecks
 - 3. SHI were for power apps, auto license, and some laptops
 - 4. G&R Controls (HVAC) were maintenance expenses
- iii. Foundation Statement: N/A
- iv. Grant Approval Forms with no cost sharing:
 - 1. MN Dept of Health: Rural Health Transformation Project (scrubs camp) grant
 - 2. Room to Read grant
 - 3. AIHEC CSFS- Breaking Barriers to STEM careers

B. Cabinet Report- August 2026

- i. Paul shared Facilities Dept. Updates; reminder of October 3 pow wow and Oct. 16 Phase IV Grand Opening
- ii. Tammy shared highlights from Extension
- iii. Allen shared department updates
 - 1. New hires and departures listed
 - 2. MN Humanities Grant mentor/mentee programs began
 - 3. Enrollment is at 139
 - 4. Grants received: NSFTCUP TEA-Center, USDA Facilities Equipment, AICF for art and culture classes (for spring or fall) plus art and language internships; AIHEC NASA for NASA trip and robot camp
 - 5. Student Services open houses, orientations, welcome week activities, community events, upcoming Career Fair November 4 and tabling at RBC
 - 6. Student Clubs are preparing for pow wow tabling and Community Feast October 8
 - 7. Cultural Activities led by Naabek currently; WETCC Fall Feast was yesterday
 - 8. Program Update: Natural Sciences A.S. degree received accreditation; piloted Trades classes this past summer and will offer a construction foundation certificate in the future; Northwest Community College (NCT) and WETCC partnering on Nursing pathways transfer program and satellite program at WETCC

C. HLC action letters

- i. WETCC Change Visit
 - 1. Received accreditation for A.S. degree in Natural Sciences which will start in January
- ii. WETCC Staff Action Recommendation

1. Due to our audit delays, WETCC will now have monitoring around audits from HLC

VIII. Other

IX. Calendar Updates

- A. Next BOT Meeting: Send out poll to determine October meeting date

X. Adjournment

Adjournment declared by Monica at 11:08 am

