

**White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board
Bristlecone Convention Center – White Pine Room
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2023, 4 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman McIntosh called to order the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board regular meeting at 4 pm. Member Carson led in the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present	Chairman McIntosh, Kurt Carson, Sandra Wright, Janet Van Camp, Marietta Henry (Zoom)
Board Members Absent:	None
Staff Present	Kyle Horvath
Legal Counsel	McKinzie Hilton
Public Present in Person	George Chachas, Wayne Cameron, Michael Couch, Kelly Ernest
Public Present Via Zoom	None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas commented on agenda item 4.C.5. He felt that needed to be denied. The grants being requested are asking for full funding and not just advertising and promotion as was allowed in years past. Some are not tourism related and that shouldn't even be considered. He has yet to see anything on the agenda regarding Broadbent Park and the retaining of the present grandstand. He has not seen anything regarding the Heritage Park.

4. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Agenda, Including Removal of Agenda Items – Chairman McIntosh

Motion: Member Carson moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

B. Approval of Minutes: February 28, 2023, 4pm

Motion: Member Van Camp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

C. New Business

1. Approval to Ratify Payment of Bills

Motion: Member Henry moved to pay check nos. 11377 through 11416 minus the bill to Bath Lumber in the amount of \$106,625.47.

Motion Seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

2. Approval to Ratify Payment of Bill to Bath Lumber

Chairman McIntosh disclosed she has an interest in Bath Lumber and will be abstaining from voting on this matter.

Motion: Member Henry moved to pay check no. 11394 in the amount of \$295.28 to Bath Lumber.

Motion Seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried with one abstention**

3. Preliminary Budget Review for Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget

Director Horvath said the highlighted areas are where there have been changes in the budget. The non-highlighted areas are basically a pass-through recommendation from our current approved budget.

Line-item Room Tax City and County. Mr. Horvath is recommending a proposed increase of six percent.

Line-item Historic Asset Maintenance. This was initially geared towards preserving historic assets. Mr. Horvath suggests changing this line item to Façade Improvement Incentive Program or FIIP and increase it by \$20,000. This change will benefit the whole redevelopment district better.

Line-item Consulting Services. It is recommended as a reduction from \$125,000 to \$100,000 to reflect eliminating consultants.

Line-item White Public Museum. It is recommended that an increase from \$22,000 to \$25,000 to help support the Ping Pong train that will be coming through.

Line-Item Outdoor Recreation Grants. This is an earmark through the City where .5 percent of the 13.5 percent needs to go to outdoor recreation grants. With the increase of six percent, then this needs to be increased as well. This comes out to \$65,000.

Line-item Capital Outlay. Quite a bit was budgeted this year because of convention center upgrades and renovations. Mr. Horvath has reduced this from \$155,000 to \$50,000.

Due to Other Governments. A six percent increase is reflected here also. These parity the increase in the revenues.

Finally, this proposed budget shows a \$12,480 surplus.

Chairman McIntosh wanted to discuss insurance saying that our insurance agent said it will be going up this year. Mr. Horvath said it goes up every year but neither of them knew what the increase was going to be so this item will expect to be augmented.

Member Van Camp asked if there was ever overtime for the employees. Mr. Horvath said the non-full time, non-salaried employees are eligible for overtime. He said usually only the employee in the Maintenance Department gets overtime and that is usually during the holiday season. Mr. Horvath said they budget rather correctly for any overtime.

Chairman McIntosh said she felt we had the flexibility on one employee that could have more responsibility with additional compensation. It may not be adding a person but changing the job description.

Mr. Horvath felt from looking at the goals of the Board that this preliminary budget reflects what the Board has indicated.

Member Van Camp disclosed that she is a member of the White Pine Public Museum and because of that she didn't feel like she should vote on this agenda item. Legal counsel Hilton felt that since it does not benefit Member Van Camp personally in any way and that she won't be receiving money, that she is able to vote on this item. Legal counsel Hilton said that Member Van Camp properly disclosed but the law

favors full disclosure and voting unless there is a reason to abstain so she felt Member Van Camp was fine to vote.

Chairman McIntosh said we will have the final budget hearing in May

Motion: Member Carson moved to approve the preliminary budget as presented for Fiscal Year 23/24.

Motion Seconded: Member Wright

Motion carried

4. Approval to modify and/or renew McKinzie Hilton's legal services contract to \$750/month for five hours per month, effective July 1, 2023

Chairman McIntosh turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Henry since McKinzie Hilton is her daughter-in-law and she will be abstaining.

Vice Chair Henry asked if everyone has had an opportunity to review the contract. They answered in the affirmative.

Motion: Member Wright moved to approve the renewal of McKinzie Hilton's legal services contract to \$750/month for five hours per month, effective July 1, 2023.

Motion Seconded: Member Van Camp

Motion carried with one abstention

Vice Chair Henry turned the meeting back over to Chairman McIntosh.

5. Approval for letter of support for SB186

Chairman McIntosh said SB186 is a 99-year lease for the East Ely depot museums to stay exactly where they are. It allows for actual fixing of the buildings. They have been thirty years without the repair that has been needed. The biggest critical issue for our history and culture is that the records have not been kept. This is a joint property of the City and the railroad foundation. The records would be digitized and preserved. This would relieve the State of a lot of liability and expense.

Member Van Camp said she felt the job of Tourism and Recreation is to promote both entities and she thinks it is doing a disservice to pick one over the other. She is not in favor of sending a letter for or against this bill.

Member Carson said the City of Ely supported this and he appreciates what the railroad is trying to do but he agrees that Tourism and Recreation should remain neutral on this since we work with both parties.

Member Wright also felt that Tourism and Recreation should remain neutral.

Vice Chair Henry said her main concern is securing the records. Mr. Horvath said it seems the main concern of the Board is the security of the records. He asked if it was something whereby Tourism and Recreation could partner to support preserving the records and just deal with that issue specifically. Perhaps there is money or grants where we could just address the problem.

Legal counsel Hilton put on the record that she advised Chairman McIntosh that she does not need to abstain from voting on this item as a member of the Railroad board because she does not benefit

personally in any way from the letter of support for SB186. Chairman McIntosh disclosed and took part in discussion based on this advice.

Chairman McIntosh said our question is the letter of support for SB186 and what we have been delving into is the records part of this. She suggested that perhaps we could table this and come up with some solutions that could be of help.

Motion: Member Carson made the motion to table this item.

Motion Seconded: Member Van Camp.

Motion carried

6. Discussion and/or approval of White Pine County and Recreation Board Personnel

Policies

Chairman McIntosh complimented Nicole for taking over the HR role. This is a complete personnel update. They are not yet complete. The main thing is that our employees have read and understand them. We will bring this back as far as approval. Nicole has kept Director Horvath up to date on any changes. These will be updated again in about a year because of the legislative session. This will be ongoing.

Motion: Member Van Camp made a motion to table this item.

Motion Seconded: Member Wright

Motion carried

7. Update on Great American Eclipse

Director Horvath said an eclipse is coming across America on October 14, 2023. The path of totality is coming right over White Pine County. We are marketing this to be the destination to come view. Our first meeting included land managers, the sheriff, fire, emergency personnel to figure out how to handle the influx of people. We want to showcase everything that we have to offer and not just on the day of the eclipse but the days leading up to and after. Out of the meeting came areas where the county and city are okay sending people. Those places are the White Pine fairgrounds, the Nevada Northern Railway complex, Baker, Great Basin National Park, rest stop at Schellbourne Pass, possibly the golf course and downtown Ely. We are working on a seven-day calendar of different events. Nevada Northern Railway have secured NASA and the San Francisco Exploratorium to come out and live stream the eclipse internationally. White Pine Main Street received a grant to do a logo and a poster. Those are open source for everybody. This gives the community the opportunity to showcase what they do.

8. Update on National Park Service Rivers and Trails Project

Director Horvath said two weeks ago a representative from the National Park Service River, Trails and Conservation grants program was here for an on-site visit. We received the grant for a complete and total asset mapping of all our recreation opportunities and how they play and interconnect with each other. Planning for growth and making sure we are utilizing recreation corridors, trails and alternative transportation like the railway to get people off the highways and still be able to access all of the recreation. There were eight items identified by the land managers as potential SNPLMA projects that would connect our communities.

9. Update on Destination Development Demonstration Grant

Director Horvath said the river, trails and conservation grant is one small but important piece to the larger destination development grant. Last week the consultants for that were in town and we did a full site visit of everywhere in the County. We brought everyone up to speed on our vision and how we are moving forward. What does White Pine County look like in 2033? What is our goal for what the impact of tourism is? We are geared toward looking at growth and how we can sustain it. The next step is to compile all the responses from the community.

10. Aid to Organization Grants

Director Horvath said the purpose of tourism is to use the money that visitors leave in our community and reinvest it into our community and quality of life assets. Normally in the past we have had a budget of about anywhere from \$70,000 to \$80,000 in our budget for the aid to organization grants. This is more specifically for putting on events with events being the driving catalyst in this community. This year we received almost \$200,000 in requests for what was recommended in the preliminary budget of \$80,000. Legal counsel Hilton went through all the requests and checked their status and eligibility. We did find some organizations that were not eligible. Those will get pulled. We do have a line item that is tour and recreation events which is there to support events that were not eligible or did not receive any money. Legal counsel Hilton said she will jump in anytime someone needs to make a disclosure to just remind you of that disclosure. She said no one will need to abstain since no monies are received and no one personally benefits.

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| | \$ |
| a. ATO 01-23 – Awarding Grant to Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition | 700 |
| Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$700 to Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition | |
| Motion seconded: Member Van Camp | Motion carried |
| b. ATO 02-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Little League | -0- |
| Motion: Member Van Camp moved to not award to White Pine Little League since they do not have a non-profit 501c3 status. | |
| Motion seconded: Member Henry | Motion carried |
| c. ATO 03-23 – Awarding Grant to Great Basin Pyrotechnics | 6,000 |
| Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$6,000 to Great Basin Pyrotechnics | |
| Motion seconded: Member Van Camp | Motion carried |
| d. ATO 04-23 – Awarding Grant to Bristlecone Bowman | -0- |
| Motion: Member Van Camp moved to not award to Bristlecone Bowman since they do not have a non-profit 501c3 status. | |
| Motion seconded: Member Wright | Motion carried |
| e. ATO 05-23 – Awarding Grant to Ely Lions Club | 4,000 |
| Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$4,000 to Ely Lions Club. | |
| Motion seconded: Member Carson | Motion carried |
| f. ATO 06-23 – Awarding Grant to Sagebrush Quilters | -0- |

Member Van Camp disclosed she is a member of the Sagebrush Quilters. She does not benefit personally in any way from either the awarding or denying of this grant; therefore it is legal counsel Hilton's recommendation that she can vote.

Motion: Member Carson moved to not award to Sagebrush Quilters since they do not have a non-profit 501c3 status.

Motion seconded: Member Wright

Motion carried

g. ATO 07-23 – Awarding Grant to Great Basin National Park Foundation -0-

Director Horvath is recommending not funding. This request is for on-line educational programs to teach school children about eclipses. The effort they are making is in the classrooms, and he doesn't feel this is tourism related. Chairman McIntosh felt their request did not meet grant criteria.

Motion: Member Carson moved to deny Great Basin National Park Foundation's grant request.

Motion seconded: Member Van Camp

Motion carried

h. ATO 08-23 – Awarding Grant to Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition -0-

Director Horvath said since Aid to Organization grants are event driven, he felt this request fell under a Capital Improvement grant as it is geared towards creating an exhibition garden in the park next to the Sculpture Park. For that reason, he is recommending denying as an Aid to Organization grant and having them resubmit as a Capital Improvement grant request.

Motion: Member Van Camp moved to deny Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition Aid to Organization grant request and recommend they apply for a Capital Improvement grant instead.

Motion seconded: Member Carson

Motion carried

i. ATO 09-23 – Awarding Grant to Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts 3,000

Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$3,000 to Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts.

Motion seconded: Member Van Camp

Motion carried

j. ATO 10-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Public Museum 5,000

Member Van Camp disclosed that she is secretary on the White Pine Public Museum board. Legal counsel Hilton said that Member Van Camp does not need to abstain because she does not personally benefit in any way from either the awarding or denying of this grant.

Motion: Member Henry moved to grant \$5,000 to White Pine Public Museum

Motion seconded: Member Wright

Motion carried

k. ATO 11-23 – Awarding Grant to Steptoe Valley Trap, Skeet and Target 3,000

Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$3,000 to Steptoe Valley Trap, Skeet and Target.

Motion seconded: Member Van Camp

Motion carried

Member McIntosh called for a five-minute recess at 5:08 pm. She called the meeting back to order at 5:11 pm.

l. ATO 12-23 – Awarding Grant to Great Basin Trails Alliance 5,000

Director Horvath is recommending a partial funding of \$5,000 contingent on them submitting all the non-profit 501c3 paperwork. We won't be able to distribute any grant reimbursement monies until the

paperwork is received. Legal counsel Hilton said the Board will need a reinstatement letter of their non-profit status.

Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$5,000 to Great Basin Trails Alliance contingent on reinstatement of non-profit status.

Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

m. **ATO 13-23 – Awarding Grant to Ely Ducks Unlimited** 500

Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$500 to Ely Ducks Unlimited.

Motion seconded: Member Wright **Motion carried**

n. **ATO 14-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine HS/JHS Rodeo Club** 3,000

Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$3,000 to White Pine HS/JHS Rodeo Club

Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

o. **ATO 15-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Horse Races** 20,000

Member Henry disclosed that she is chairman of the White Pine Horse Races. She does not benefit personally in any way from either the awarding or denying of this grant; therefore, it is legal counsel Hilton’s recommendation that she can vote.

Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$20,000 to White Pine Horse Races

Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

p. **ATO 16-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Ladies Golf Association** 1,000

Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$1,000 to White Pine Ladies Golf Association

Motion seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

q. **ATO 17-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Men’s Golf Association** 1,800

Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$1,800 to White Pine Men’s Golf Association

Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

r. **ATO 18-23 – Awarding Grant to Ely Shoshone Tribe** 3,000

Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$3,000 to Ely Shoshone Tribe

Motion seconded: Member Wright **Motion carried**

s. **ATO 19-23 – Awarding Grant to NUT LUG** -0-

Motion: Member Van Camp moved to not award to NUT LUG since they do not have a 501c3 status.

Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

t. **ATO 20-23 – Awarding Grant to Ely Renaissance Society** 2,000

Chairman McIntosh disclosed that her sister is on the Renaissance Society Board. She or her sister do not benefit personally or financially in any way from either the rewarding or denying of this grant; therefore, it is legal counsel Hilton’s recommendation that she can vote.

Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$2,000 to Ely Renaissance Society

Motion seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

Legal Counsel Hilton recommends that Chairman McIntosh make her disclosure all at once for the three upcoming items. Chairman McIntosh disclosed that for items u, v, and w she is a Board member of the White Pine Main Street Association. Because she does not benefit personally or financially in any way, legal counsel Hilton recommends that she vote on these items.

u. ATO 21-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Main Street Association 3,000
Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$3,000 to White Pine Main Street Association
Motion seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

v. ATO 22-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Main Street Association 2,000
Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$2,000 to White Pine Main Street Association
Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

w. ATO 23-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Main Street Association 1,500
Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$1,500 to White Pine Main Street Association
Motion seconded: Member Wright **Motion carried**

Earlier it was mentioned that Director Horvath is a member of the White Pine Main Street Association and jokingly of his need to disclose. Legal counsel Hilton said he is not required to disclose since he is not a voting member.

x. ATO 24-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Productions 9,000
Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$9,000 to White Pine Productions
Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

y. ATO 25-23 – Awarding Grant to Nevada Northern Railway Foundation 6,000
 Chairman McIntosh disclosed she is a member of the Foundation. She will not benefit personally or financially from this; therefore, it is legal counsel Hilton’s recommendation that she can vote.
Motion: Member Carson moved to grant \$6,000 to Nevada Northern Railway Foundation.
Motion seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

z. ATO 26-23 – Awarding Grant to Nevada Film Museum 2,500
Motion: Member Van Camp moved to grant \$2,500 to Nevada Film Museum
Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

zz. ATO 27-23 – Awarding Grant to White Pine Chamber of Commerce -0-
Motion: Member Van Camp moved to not fund because grant request does not meet grant criteria.
Motion seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried**

Chairman McIntosh called a five-minute break at 5:40 pm to tally grant requests.
 Chairman McIntosh called the meeting back to order.
 Director Horvath said the total of grant requests approved individually is \$82,000. He will have that amount reflected in the budget proposal for the next Board meeting.

5. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Marketing Director's Report
- B. Marketing Director's Report

Marketing/Events/Facilities

Director Horvath's report parities the reports given earlier, and the Marketing Director's report was submitted in the packet.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Henry said she truly appreciates the funding today for the White Pine Horse Races. George Chachas said he has a so-called inventory list that he can't make heads or tails of. It needs to be much more comprehensive. He has an on-going concern regarding the display across from Sports World. The snow must be removed. He put in a request for how many conventions. He is still waiting for that. He has put in a request for the money that was given to the choir for pigeon control. They are not a 501c. That money needs to come back. The parking lot still has no ADA compliance and you don't have handicap access on the corners. He put in a request for the railroad to be operating under the open meeting law or don't give them any money. He still hasn't received any information on Mr. Spear. He still hasn't received any information on why you are still paying Doris Lawler's PERS. Time called.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Judi Bourbeau

Minutes approved by:

Sandra D Wright 4/25/2023
Name Date