

**White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board
Bristlecone Convention Center – White Pine Room
Regular Meeting April 29, 2026 – 5:30pm**

I. Attendance

Board Members Present:

- Terrill Trask (Chair)
- George Chachas
- Pat Robison
- Elizabeth Woolsey

Board Members Absent:

- Jason Bath (Vice Chair)

Staff & Legal Present:

- Kyle Horvath (Executive Director)
- Mckinzie Hilton (Legal Counsel)

Members of the Public Present:

- Jess Trask (JT's Steakhouse)
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II. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Terrill Trask called the meeting to order, followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Comment (Beginning of Meeting)

- **George Chachas:** Spoke strictly as a private individual. He expressed ongoing concern regarding the Convention Center being transformed into an "event center," arguing that it was built to bring people into the community, not to compete against local private venues such as the Old Catholic Church, Saint Lawrence Hall, Mr. Gino's, the Postal Palace, the Community Choir building, and the Elks Hall. He stated he is a strong proponent of ADA compliance, but noted that the Convention Center parking lot is still not compliant. Specifically, he mentioned that the removal of the center walkway forces individuals in wheelchairs onto the roadway, which violates federal regulations and must be addressed.
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IV. Action Items & Approvals

1. Approval of Agenda (Item 4a)

- **Discussion:** The board reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
- **Motion:** George Chachas
- **Second:** Elizabeth Woolsey
- **Vote:** * **In Favor:** Terrill Trask, George Chachas, Pat Robison, Elizabeth Woolsey

- **Opposed:** None
- **Abstained:** None
- **Result:** Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes for March 25, 2026 (Item 4b)

- **Discussion:** George Chachas raised several concerns regarding inaccuracies in the previous meeting's minutes. He noted the omission of an attendance list, missing public comments from himself and Commissioner Noriega, the failure to list his name as an abstaining voter on a specific item, missing conflict of interest disclosures for members other than Jason Bath, and the omission of public comment during adjournment. Executive Director Kyle Horvath explained that since the resignation of their secretary, the board utilized an AI recorder for the first time, leading to transcription blind spots. Horvath agreed to correct the minutes. Legal Counsel Mckinzie Hilton advised that the board could either approve them with the stated corrections or table them.
- **Motion:** George Chachas (To table the approval of the minutes until the next meeting to allow for corrections).
- **Second:** Pat Robison
- **Vote:** * **In Favor:** Terrill Trask, George Chachas, Pat Robison, Elizabeth Woolsey
 - **Opposed:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
- **Result:** Motion passed unanimously; minutes tabled.

3. Ratify Payment of Bills (Item 4c 1 & 2)

- **Discussion:** The board opted to combine the bills for approval. George Chachas requested clarification on Check #12893 to Margarita's. Kyle Horvath explained it was to provide food for the annual public community meetings (arts, history, and outdoor recreation) hosted by the board to gather community feedback. Chachas also asked about a payment to Sierra Social. Horvath clarified that Sierra Social is contracted to shoot and produce monthly video reels for the board's social media accounts.
- **Motion:** George Chachas
- **Second:** Elizabeth Woolsey
- **Vote:** * **In Favor:** Terrill Trask, George Chachas, Pat Robison, Elizabeth Woolsey
 - **Opposed:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
- **Result:** Motion passed unanimously.

4. Update on Convention Center Remodel (Item 4c 3)

- **Discussion:** Kyle Horvath provided an update on the Convention Center remodel, emphasizing that the goal is to modernize capacity and technology, not

to compete with local venues. He highlighted that the facility is currently the largest meeting space in town (350+ capacity) and is losing larger events due to outdated facilities. Primary priorities include resolving severe ADA compliance and safety hazards in the rear bathrooms, and upgrading the outdated AV/speaker systems.

- Horvath noted the initial "champagne plan" estimate came back at \$3 million, which exceeds the board's original construction budget. He proposed a phased approach. Phase one would address the ADA bathrooms and main room technology. Phase two would correct traffic flow issues so attendees do not have to walk through active events to reach the restrooms.
- George Chachas reiterated his concerns about the \$3 million price tag, arguing that previous million-dollar upgrades promised to bring in business but yielded little results. He stated he would need to see itemized lists and concrete data justifying the return on investment. Horvath agreed to present the itemized list from the architects at the final budget meeting and stated he plans to request \$1 million for the first phase, which will leave a \$1.5 million safety net in the savings account. No formal action was taken on this item.

V. Executive Director & Marketing Report (Item 5)

Kyle Horvath presented the following updates:

- **Financials & Data:** The room tax saw a 2.5% increase over March of the previous year. The Placer.ai report reflected a correlating 2.8% increase in city activity and a slight increase in out-of-market visitors. Cave Lake activity rose 25%. Horvath noted the Placer.ai report failed to capture data for the Nevada Northern Railway, the Forest Service campground, and the Golf Course, which he is actively investigating.
- **Golf Course:** The golf course currently operates without a professional but is being successfully managed by Michael Johnson and county staff. For the first time, all rounds are being properly tracked via a check-in system, which will provide vital usage data moving forward.
- **Public Art:** The Mary Pavlakis mural, painted by Eric Burke, has been completed. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned with the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership and Mary's last remaining relative, Alice.
- **Community Initiatives:** Horvath will represent rural communities at the Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition mixer in Las Vegas on June 1. He is also recruiting locals to participate in the American Discovery Trail relay run, which passes through White Pine County in late July. George Chachas requested this be advertised on the local radio stations and newspapers.
- **Marketing Materials:** The newly updated Visitor's Guide and folded community maps have been finalized and sent to the printer. The *Gravel Adventure Field*

Guide, produced in partnership with Giant Bicycles, has been highly successful and was distributed across the region, spawning a new gravel race event scheduled for August.

- **Upcoming Events:** An America 250 "Pony Express Kickoff" event will be held at the city corrals to promote the trail's history. Other upcoming events include a full moon hike, library craft club, Mother's Day concert in Veterans Park, the Fast Cash Rodeo, Nevada Open Road Challenge, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation dinner.

VI. Public Comment (End of Meeting)

- **Jess Trask (JT's Steakhouse):** Spoke in support of the Convention Center upgrades. She mentioned that she has successfully booked three separate events for the Convention Center, including the "Basin to Range" event, the Judges Convention, and an upcoming motorcycle rally. She expressed her belief in the "build it and they will come" philosophy.
- **George Chachas:** Speaking as a private citizen, he requested to know what the Cornhole League paid for advertising eight events at the Convention Center. He also reported an unattended burn barrel incident near the annex next to a rubber tire trailer; Kyle Horvath confirmed the barrel was left over from a toy drive and that the safety hazard would be addressed immediately. Finally, Chachas formally requested copies of the rental agreement with the food bank, a list of unpaid Convention Center usages, historic and current inventory sheets, convention counts since Horvath's hiring, and monthly rental income data for 2025 and 2026.

VII. Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Elizabeth Woolsey
- **Second:** George Chachas
- **Vote:** * **In Favor:** Terrill Trask, George Chachas, Pat Robison, Elizabeth Woolsey
 - **Opposed:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
- **Result:** Meeting adjourned.

Summary of Actions

Item	Motion	Second	Result	Notes
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Summary of Actions

Item	Motion	Second	Result	Notes
Approval of Agenda	Chachas	Robinson	Passed (4-0)	
Approval of March 25, 2026 Minutes	Chachas (to table)	Woolsey	Passed (4-0)	Deferred corrections
Payment of Bills	Woolsey	Robinson	Passed (4-0)	Bath absent
Convention Center Remodel	—	—	Discussion only	Itemized costs to return

Respectfully Submitted,

Recorded by Board Staff and Prepared for Approval

White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board

x 

5/27/26

Name

Date