



WHITE PINE COUNTY TOURISM AND RECREATION BOARD

Bristlecone Convention Center – White Pine Room

Regular Meeting

May 27, 2026 – 5:30pm

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Board Members Present:

- Terrill Trask (Chair)
- Jason Bath
- Pat Robison (via Zoom)
- George Chachas

Board Members Absent:

- Elizabeth Woolsey

Staff & Advisors Present:

- Kyle (Executive Director)
- Errol Porter (Marketing Manager)
- Mckinzie Hilton (Legal Counsel) (via Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER & OPENING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terrill Trask, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was conducted, establishing a quorum.

2. INITIAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened for the first period of public comment. One comment was received:

George Chachas (Speaking as a private individual): Reminded the Board that the residential parking lot remains non-ADA compliant. Expressed concern over the ongoing funds spent on remodeling the Convention Center into an event center, noting a lack of visible activity downtown. Voiced strong opposition to the Convention Center competing against local businesses (such as The Space, the old Catholic Church, St. Lawrence Hall, Postal Palace, Community Choir Building, and the Elks Hall) for weddings and events. Advocated for the facility to remain strictly a convention center to bring external business to the community.

3. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the current meeting, including any removal of items.

Motion by: Jason Bath

Seconded by: George Chachas

Voted in Favor: Jason Bath, Pat Robison, George Chachas, Terrill Trask

Abstained/Opposed: None

B. Approval of Minutes (April 29, 2026)

Revisions were requested by George Chachas regarding the spelling of "Mary Pavlakis" and a clarification noting "rubber tire connected to a trailer."

Motion by: George Chachas

Seconded by: Jason Bath

Voted in Favor: Jason Bath, Pat Robison, George Chachas, Terrill Trask

Abstained/Opposed: None

C. Approval of Minutes (March 25, 2026)

Minor spelling corrections were acknowledged prior to the vote.

Motion by: George Chachas

Seconded by: Jason Bath

Voted in Favor: Jason Bath, Pat Robison, George Chachas, Terrill Trask

Abstained/Opposed: None

D. New Business - Ratify Payment of Bills

Questions were raised by George Chachas regarding a \$1,000 Comnet fiber internet fee and a \$35 charge at JT's Steakhouse. Executive Director Kyle clarified the internet fee was the most competitive bid available, and the JT's Steakhouse charge was for hosting Travel Nevada influencers. Because Terrill Trask is the owner of JT's Steakhouse, Mckinzie Hilton advised removing that specific item from the general approval so Terrill Trask could safely abstain. George Chachas however noted a quorum could still be had to move forward with a vote, as long as Member Trask could still abstain.

Item D1: General Bills (excluding Bath Lumber)

Motion by: George Chachas

Seconded by: Jason Bath

Voted in Favor: Jason Bath, Pat Robison, George Chachas

Abstained: Terrill Trask

Item D2: Bath Lumber Bill

Motion by: George Chachas

Seconded by: Pat Robison

Voted in Favor: Terrill Trask, Pat Robison, George Chachas

Abstained: Jason Bath

4. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Update on Convention Center Remodel

Executive Director Kyle presented a phased approach for the Convention Center remodel to maintain fiscal responsibility. The Phase 1 proposed budget is approximately \$1M, sourced from long-term facility savings. Priorities for Phase 1 include:

- Bringing rear bathrooms into full ADA compliance.
- Upgrading the main hall's AV equipment, including acoustic dampening, optimized ceiling/wall speakers, and color-changing LED infrastructure controllable via tablet.
- Removing the permanent stage in favor of portable risers to increase flexible floor space.

George Chachas requested assurances that staff will be adequately trained to operate the new AV systems to avoid past technical issues. Pat Robison expressed support, noting that completing the

infrastructure correctly the first time results in long-term savings. No action was required; final plans will be submitted for Board approval following review by the city building inspector.

B. Public Hearing: Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027

Mckinzie Hilton guided the opening of a formal public hearing for the FY 26/27 Budget. Kyle presented the details:

- City room tax is projected flat at \$1,950,000. County room tax revenue is projected to decrease by \$32,000 to \$300,000, heavily impacted by single-family Airbnbs operating outside current county tax ordinances.
- \$929,250 will be drawn from fund balance savings to finance Phase 1 of the Convention Center remodel.
- Adjustments include a \$10,000 reduction in community marketing and a \$15,000 reduction in consulting services.
- The total balanced budget stands at \$3,290,250, factoring in a 6% staff COLA with no overall line-item increase due to previous over-budgeting.

There was no public comment offered during the hearing portion.

Action: Approval of the FY 2026–2027 Budget

Motion by: Jason Bath

Seconded by: Pat Robison

Voted in Favor: Jason Bath, Pat Robison, George Chachas, Terrill Trask

Abstained/Opposed: None

5. INFORMATION & STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director's Report (Kyle)

March and April demonstrated positive visitation growth, with April showing a 15.2% increase in collected room tax over the previous year. Placer AI tracking indicated massive visitation spikes at Cave Lake (up 182% due to returning water levels) and the Nevada Northern Railway. Multiple familiarization (FAM) tours for media and influencers are actively occurring. Upcoming initiatives include an "America 250" mural project with the Nevada Arts Council. Finally, the downtown streetscape construction is heavily forecasted to be 100% complete by the end of June, with a formal ribbon-cutting scheduled for August.

B. Marketing Report (Errol Porter)

Social media engagement rose significantly in May. Top-performing content included the return of Lehman Cave Tours and the premiere of Alex Honnold's "Get a Little Out There" series, which successfully highlighted the local area. Website traffic saw the NRY Star Train page jump to number one following a feature in The New York Times. The Nevada Open Road Challenge in May was a massive success, logging a record 118 riders. It was also noted that Errol will be representing the Highway 50 corridor at a major Travel Nevada media mission in Denver this weekend, focusing on the newly launched "Out There Adventures" campaign.

6. FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened for a final period of public comment.

Errol Porter: Thanked Terrill for providing a hat.

No further comments were made by George Chachas or members of the public.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: George Chachas

Seconded by: Terrill Trask

Voted in Favor: Jason Bath, Pat Robison, George Chachas, Terrill Trask

Abstained/Opposed: None

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action Item	Motion	Second	Outcome
Approval of Agenda	Jason Bath	George Chachas	Passed Unanimously
Approval of Minutes (April 29, 2026)	George Chachas	Jason Bath	Passed Unanimously
Approval of Minutes (March 25, 2026)	George Chachas	Jason Bath	Passed Unanimously

Action Item	Motion	Second	Outcome
Ratify Payment of General Bills (excl. Bath Lumber)	George Chachas	Jason Bath	Passed (Terrill Trask abstained)
Ratify Payment of Bath Lumber Bill	George Chachas	Pat Robison	Passed (Jason Bath abstained)
Approval of FY 2026–2027 Budget	Jason Bath	Pat Robison	Passed Unanimously
Adjournment	George Chachas	Terrill Trask	Passed Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted, Recorded by Board Staff and Prepared for Approval

Alison Wood

 Name and Date