

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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WATER TEAM MEETING MINUTES Tribal Chambers ~ Nixon, NV October 15, 2025, WTM

Members Present:

Steven Wadsworth, Tribal Chairman
Loren Decker, Councilmember
Judith Davis, Councilmember
Nathan Dunn, Councilmember
Georgina Wadsworth, Councilmember

Edward Ely III, Vice Chairman
Nicholas Cortez, Councilmember
Della John, Councilmember
Ceira Sampson, Councilmember

Member Absent: John Guerrero, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wadsworth called the October 15, 2025, Water Team meeting of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Brenda A. Henry, Tribal Council Secretary, took roll call. Councilmember John arrived at 6:05 p.m. Councilmember Guerrero was absent. All other Councilmembers were present at roll call, and a quorum was established for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wadsworth presented the agenda with the no changes.

Councilmember Davis motioned to *approve the October 15, 2025, Water Team agenda*. Councilmember Cortez seconded the motion. Votes were seven (7) for and zero (0) opposed with zero (0) abstentions. **MOTION PASSED**

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were listed under the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Kemp Jones September 2025 Invoice
2. Approval of Stetson Engineers Inc Invoices:
 - a. Approval Stetson Engineers Inc August 2025 Invoice 1336-2508 and 1336-01-2508
 - b. August 2025 #2837-026 Induction Well Design Herman Ditch
 - c. September 2025 Invoice #2899-023 NFWF Water Rights/Management Project

- d. August 2025 Invoice #2958-001 Engineering Services Indian Ditch Fish Screen

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *approve the Consent Agenda*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were seven (7) for and zero (0) opposed with zero (0) abstentions. **MOTION PASSED**

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes:

- a. **September 17, 2025, WTM.** No changes and no further discussion.

Councilmember Cortez provided his corrections to the Tribal Secretary.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *approve the September 17, 2025, WTM minute with correction*. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. Votes were six (6) for and zero (0) opposed with one (1) abstention (unknown). **MOTION PASSED**

NATURAL RESOURCES. Donna Noel, Natural Resources (NR) Director

1. Request for Approval of Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT) Recommendations.

- a. **Film Request Lucid Electric Vehicles.** Patrick Ranahan

Councilmember John arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Ranahan explained that Lucid, a new electric car company from the Bay Area, is bringing out a new line of cars and needs a background to shoot the new car behind using both photography and motion film. They have a small crew of 12-15 people and will be filming on Monday and Tuesday, weather permitting. They will pay a fee of \$4,000 and will be submitting a business license application. There will be no road closures, but they can assist with paying the overtime for police if they need an escort.

Councilmember Cortez said he is asking for access to an access road off State Route 447 along the east side of the lake. Mr. Ranahan clarified this is an electric car that goes slow at this point, and they are not going to be going off road. They will not be leaving the pavement, only using the pullouts and the pavement roads, it's not an off-road vehicle.

Vice Chairman Ely motioned to *approve the film request for Lucid Electric Vehicles with the acceptance of \$4,000 film fee with stipulation to apply for a business license and to remain on the pavement while filming*. Councilmember Decker seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) for and zero (0) opposed with zero (0) abstentions. **MOTION PASSED.**

Councilmember Davis said it would be good to have a police officer with them to ensure their motion is followed and she would like to have the film brought back to the Council for review.

Mr. Ranahan said he would forward the footage from the previous film request for the international truck video for the Council's review along with this film footage.

b. Film Request Travel Nevada to include permission to use a drone. *Brenda Morris*

Ms. Morris explained they want to replenish their stock images for film and video. They will be focusing on outdoor recreation. Their team will be filming kayaking on the lake with beaches and campfire scenes. On the film request they did state exploring boulders, but the IDT denied that. They would also like to get drone footage, and she provided a map to show where they would be filming, which is mostly towards Anaho Island, but they don't know how close they can get, because of the migratory paths they wanted to make sure it was okay to film. They are requesting to have the film fees waived but will be purchasing day-use permits. They would also like to know if it would be okay to film the Stone Mother. They would like to use Tribal Fishing Guides while on the lake. If anyone from the Tribe would like to participate or shadow them around to learn about filmmaking or photography, they are welcome to join them. They would also be visiting the museum for interviews and filming inside.

Councilmember Cortez reminded the Council they just passed the regulations where drones are prohibited on the Reservation, and it would need Councils approval.

Vice Chairman Ely stated in the Tribe's regulation, it states a 1,000-distance boundary from the Pyramid and Stone Mother, with Anaho Island it is a protected site and the distance is the same. If approved, how will they know they are 1,000 feet from the Pyramid and Stone Mother. Ms. Morris said they would either edit the footage where they could add highlighted text or include a map, and the other would be to have a guide with them explaining the regulations as they are filming. Vice Chairman Ely said the whole east side of the lake is closed to the public, how would their kayakers get across? Ms. Morris said they would leave from the washout beach area where the distance is about two miles with a secondary boat carrying the crew to film. Chairman Wadsworth said when getting footage with the drone, subtitles should be added on the bottom stating drone usage is prohibited except by permission from the Tribal Council.

Ms. Morris said they have discussed having a page on their Travel Nevada website for PR references that mentions they work with state, local agencies, and tribal agencies, and they always make sure they acquire permits if required. Their proposed dates are the 1st and 2nd week in May 2026, just the first 2 days of the week. They would be filming early in the morning and into the evening on the first day and half a day for the second day where they will also visit the Museum.

Vice Chairman Ely asked how long is their program, 30 minutes? Ms. Morris explained they are not actually doing a specific program, they are capturing footage to cut in with their commercials that will run anywhere from six seconds to a few minutes. If it is specific to the lake, it would be a couple minutes long and would be something they would put on their website highlighting the lake or on their social media pages to be view on streaming services such as Hulu. The Tribe would get to preview before it is released to the public and they could even provide the footage for the Tribe's use, possibly at the museum.

Councilmember Cortez recommended reaching out to the high school for students who may want to shadow their crew if approved.

Councilmember Davis recommended the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) personnel because they are out on the lake and river all the time.

Ms. Morris said their video crew, which is local company, would like to get lot of interviews since they are promoting tourism, which also includes stewardship and education. Councilmember Cortez said this would be perfect for the AIS interviews, which could include the boat decontamination station for awareness to the public.

Vice Chairman Ely mentioned they stated in the application a fee of \$1,500 per vehicle. Ms. Morris said they would like to do both video and photography, \$1,000 for video and \$500 for photography. From her understanding it was \$1,500 per vehicle. Chairman Wadsworth stated the per vehicle fee is for day-use permits. For recommendations on boat charters and guides, the approved list is on the Tribe's website.

Councilmember Decker motioned to *approve the 2026 film request and drone usage for Travel Nevada with the stipulation the drone footage include a disclaimer which states, "drone usage is prohibited on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation without permission by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council," the film crew will pay the day-use fees per vehicle with the application film fees waived and both Travel Nevada and their film company will apply for a business license.* Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) for and zero (0) opposed with zero (0) abstentions. **MOTION PASSED.**

Councilmember John said if they filmed in the spring they would get video of the pelicans. Ms. Morris said in the future they would like to make a short video about the local wildlife and the best time to view them.

2. Request for Approval Submission of Bureau of Reclamations (BOR) Grant Sheet Pile Flood Wall with resolution. Donna Noel, NR Director

Ms. Noel explained this grant is for a sheet pile flood wall on the Numana Dam Fish Passage Project. If the Council remembers, they previously sent out RFPs and got back a \$12 million proposal and they only had \$6 million, so they rewrote the grant for the flood wall through this BOR grant and they are allowed to submit two proposals each for a million dollars. One is for the cement part of the flood wall, and the other is for the sheet pile wall which will alleviate that component of the other project.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *approve submission of the BOR Grant for the Sheet Pile Flood Wall with resolution.* Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) for and zero (0) opposed with zero (0) abstentions. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Request for Approval of P&F Distributors for the Nixon Ditch Contract 48-inch Pipe. Donna Noel, NR Director

Ms. Noel explained this is the diversion gate which is a part of the Numana Fish Passage and one of the major costs on the rough and ramp was the bypass in the river, so they can put all the rock in up to the dam. With

the diversion gate they needed to change the pipe to 48-inches because NRCS had a mistake in their engineering, and they had to replace all the 36-inch pipes to 48-inch pipes. They figure they could get the pipe, deliver it, fuse, it and when they do the rough and ramp, they can use that pipe to do the bypass and won't have to pay for it under the rough and ramp. After the rough and ramp is done, it can be put into the ditch and used for the diversion gate.

Vice Chairman Ely motioned to *approve the contract for the P&F Distributors for the Nixon Ditch Contract to purchase, deliver and fuse pipe for the Numana Dam Project*. Councilmember Wadsworth seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) for and zero (0) opposed with zero (0) abstentions. **MOTION PASSED.**

WATER TEAM

1. Kemp Jones. *Chris Mixson, Kemp Jones*

Mr. Mixson was not in attendance.

Councilmember Dunn motioned to *table Kemp Jones report*. Councilmember Cortez seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) for and zero (0) opposed with zero (0) abstentions. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Stetson Engineers Inc. *Allan Richards, Stetson Engineers Inc. (via zoom)*

Mr. Richards stated during the month of September, a large portion of their work was putting together the revised plans and specifications for the Numana Dam Fish Passage Project to put it back out to bid and obtaining quotes for the 48-inch pipe that Ms. Noel described. They're planning to put the Fish Passage Project back out to bid next week with several modifications to the original plan that should bring in more reasonable bids.

This was the end of the Mr. Richards report. Further details are in his submitted report.

Chairman Wadsworth asked how the weather report was looking due to the wet weather that occurred the last several days. Mr. Richards said in the next week the weather is going to be clearing up. He doesn't think anyone can predict with a high level of accuracy on what next month will bring but will see what happens.

ADJOURNMENT


With no further business before the Tribal Council, Councilmember Cortez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dunn. Votes taken were all in favor, **motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by,


Brenda A. Henry
Tribal Council Secretary

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing minutes were adopted by the Pyramid Lake Tribal Council, governing body of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, at a meeting duly held on the 12th day of **November 2025**, having **eight (8)** members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of **seven (7)** FOR and **zero (0)** OPPOSED, with **zero (0)** ABSTENTIONS.

Minutes attested and concurred by: 
Steven Wadsworth, Tribal Chairman
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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