



Wiyot Tribal Council Minutes
Monday, February 9, 2026 – 4:00 PM
Wiyot Tribal Community Center,
1000 Wiyot Drive, Loleta, CA 95551

1. Call to Order @ 4:01p

2. Roll Call

Council	P/A
Chair – Brian Mead	P
Vice Chair – Hazel James	P
Secretary – Vacant	
Treasurer – Vanessa Rios	A – Excused
Councilmember – Leo James	P
Councilmember – Melinda Ramirez	P
Councilmember – Vacant	

Staff	
Tribal Administrator – Michelle Vassel	P
Public Works/THPO - Ted Hernandez	P
HHS Director – Valerie Reed	P
Natural Resources Director – Adam Canter	P
Dishgamu Director – Vacant	
Cultural Dept Director – Ben Brown	P
Education Director – Elizabeth Howton	P

3. Moment of Silence

4. Consent Calendar

- 4.A Cultural Department Report
- 4.B Natural Resources Department Monthly Report
- 4.F HHS Monthly Report
- 4.G Public Works Department January 2026 Report
- 4.H Accept January 12, 2026 Tribal Council Minutes
- 4.I 2026 Parent Committee Schedule

4.J Tribal Child Care Association of California Voting Member Info

4.K Education Department Monthly Report

Motion To: Approve Consent Calendar	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Leo James
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

5. Va Rou'nirilh (Guest Speaker)

6. Rou Da'louy (Public Forum) 2-minute time limit

7. Action Items

7.A Request Approval of Bureau of Land Management Waluph Lighthouse Ranch Sign

Motion To: Approve the Waluph Lighthouse Ranch sign	
Motioned By Leo James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.B Request approval of a contract change order with the Ink People for the Stories of Wigi project and authorize the Tribal Administer to sign

Motion To: approve the Ink People Stories of Wigi contract change order and authorize the Tribal Administer to sign	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Leo James
HIH (Yes)	0
KIYOWL (No)	3
Abstain	0
Passed	
Failed	X

- 7.C Request Approval of a 1-year contract extension for Joana Jensen and Judith Fernandes under Grant 90NL0689 and authorize the Tribal Administrator to sign

Motion To: approve the Contract Change Order for Judith Fernandes and Joana Jansen and authorize the Tribal Administrator to sign	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

- 7.D Request travel approval to send one WNRD staff to the annual Salmonid Restoration Federation conference

Motion To: approve travel request for sending one WNRD staff to the annual Salmonid Restoration Federation conference	
Motioned By Leo James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

- 7.E Request approval to submit the Impacts of Climate Change on the Wiyot Tribe report to the California Office of Emergency Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for public release.

Motion To: Approve submission of the Impacts of Climate Change on the Wiyot Tribe report to the the Impacts of Climate Change on the Wiyot Tribe report to the California Office of Emergency Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for public release for public release.	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Leo James
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.F Request approval of the City of Eureka Grace Marton Memorial Park and Waterfront Trail Tribal Monitoring Contract.

Motion To: authorize the Tribal Administrator to execute the contract between the Wiyot Tribe and the City of Eureka, Grace Marton Memorial Park and Waterfront Trail Tribal Monitoring Contract FY:2026.	
Motioned By Melinda Ramirez	Seconded By Hazel James
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.G Request to review draft Financial Management policy update

Motion To: No Action. Discussion only	
Motioned By	Seconded By
HIH (Yes)	
KIYOWL (No)	
Abstain	
Passed	
Failed	

7.H Request to nominate Melinda Ramirez as Tribal Representative of the North Coast Region to the California Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team

Motion To: authorize letter nominating Melinda Ramirez as Tribal Representative to the North Coast Region of California's Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team.	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Leo James
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.I Request Review and Authorization of the MOU Regarding Samoa Peninsula Waterline Maintenance Project

Motion To: approve the MOU with the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, subject to Council edits, and authorize the Tribal Chairman to execute the final document.	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.J Request approval of the Tribal Monitor Contract for the Samoa Peninsula Waterline Maintenance Project

Motion To: authorize the Tribal Administrator to sign for the Samoa Peninsula Waterline Maintenance Project Tribal Monitoring Contract FY:2026.	
Motioned By Leo James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.K Request to review and approve consultant contract with Jade Tyner, M.A., P.P.S.

Motion To: approve the contract with Jade Tyner and authorize tribal administrator to sign.	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

8. Closed Session 5:01p-6:04p

8.A Personnel – Directive for 1 Council member to join weekly Directors Meeting on a rotating basis

9. Adjournment @ 6:06p

Motion To: Adjourn meeting	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	3
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	