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Tribes, Bannock County sign deal on economic development issues

By [Emily Jones](#) - Features Editor

FORT HALL - A memorandum of agreement between Bannock County and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will help both parties work together on economic development issues, officials said this week.

In an agreement signed Monday by Bannock County Commission Chairman Jim Guthrie and Fort Hall Business Council Chairwoman Nancy Murillo, the two governments agreed to work together, meeting at least twice a year.

They also agreed to treat each other with respect and inform one another of matters or actions that will affect the other. The document recognizes that consensus between the two parties won't always be achieved, but that all parties should be actively involved in decision-making.

"It's just an attempt to have that mutual respect. If you give respect, you can get respect," Guthrie said. "It doesn't go beyond common sense and what we should already be doing."

Guthrie said recent meetings with tribal leaders have been good and productive.

"I've just felt very welcome," he said.

Murillo said the agreement is an effort to work together on economic development issues. Both parties can benefit if they work together, she said.

Although they have agreed to meet at least twice a year, Murillo says the county and Tribes are free to meet more often.

"We're eager to get started," she said.

Per the agreement, the county and Tribes will work together to promote local partnerships and to consider revenue-sharing legislation. They also agreed they will explore different avenues of economic development together, and they will work to recruit new businesses.

Economic development is one of the biggest issues Murillo and Guthrie say the governments hope to work on together.

Guthrie said tribal governments have opportunities the county might not otherwise be able to access, like federal grants.

"Certainly, we can work together for economic development," Guthrie said. "It just fuels the economy."

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