

United Way of Whatcom County
Board of Directors Meeting
 January 22, 2026 – 3:00 PM
 Whatcom Center for Philanthropy

Agenda

Agenda Item	Type	In Packet	Presenter	Time	Mins
1. Welcome and Call to Order			Jason Sears	3:00	
2. Mission Moment – National ALICE Summit	Discussion	No	Kristi Birkeland	3:00	20
3. UWWC Staff Transition	Discussion	No	Kristi Birkeland	3:20	15
4. New Board Member Election – Tony Cotton	Proposal	Yes	Jason Sears	3:35	5
5. FY 2026 Campaign Update	Discussion	No	UWWC Staff	3:40	10
6. Fund Development Team Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Events – Golf, No Cornhole, No Pickleball 	Discussion	No	Patty Boyce	3:50	15
7. 2026 Grants and Year End Reports	Discussion	No	Patty Boyce	4:05	5
8. Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Motion to “Approve the January 2026 Consent Agenda as presented.” 	Proposal	Yes	Jason Sears	4:10	1
9. Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Board meeting will be virtual Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM 					

Attachments:

- Board Candidate Nomination – Tony Cotton
- Board Membership Questionnaire – Tony Cotton

Consent Agenda:

- September 2025 Meeting Minutes
- July 2025 Financial Report
- August 2025 Financial Report
- September 2025 Financial Report
- October 2025 Financial Report
- MEMO New Board Member Election
- MEMO FY2025 UWWC Audited Financial Statements
- MEMO Website Update Project 2026



UWWC BOARD CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

1. Your name: Kristi Birkeland

2. Recommended Candidate

Name Tony Cotton

Title Projects General Manager

Organization bp

Email tony.cotton@bp.com

Phone 219.786.9441

3. Why do you think this person would be a good fit for our board?

Tony was introduced to us by Doug Montgomery as he was rolling off our Board of Directors. Doug indicated that Tony is his replacement at bp Cherry Point and would make an excellent Board member as well. Tony has lived all over the world during his time with bp, including Muscat Oman, and comes to us with a broad perspective. Having grown up in Snohomish, he also has local ties to and love for the Pacific Northwest. Tony balances many projects and tasks at the refinery and, in his spare time, is an avid outdoor adventurer. He's no stranger to tackling big issues and challenges and is excited to learn more about United Way as he transitions into his new role here in Whatcom County.

4. Have you spoken with the candidate about serving on the UWWC Board?
If yes, what questions/considerations should we know about?

We met with Doug and Tony about Board service and this seems like a seamless and natural continuation of bp leadership representation on our Board.



United Way Board Membership Questionnaire

Why are you interested in joining our Board?

My family and I are returning to Whatcom County after 19 years away living in various locations in the US and abroad. I am excited for the opportunity to support an organization that gives back directly to the local community supporting and utilizing my role on the CHP leadership team to continue supporting the local fundraising for our community.

What inspires you about United Way's work?

I am really excited to work with an organization that invests locally to vetted local nonprofits, specifically supporting abuse prevention and programs supporting our youth for future success.

Do you have experience on other Boards, with events, and/or in fundraising?

I do not have much experience working on other boards or specific fundraising however I have supported organizing fund raising and team events for BP. My limited experience on a board was on a temporary board assignment supporting a private school in Muscat Oman.

Please add a brief professional bio (1 – 3 sentences).

I have worked in the Oil and Gas industry for bp delivering projects for bp for much of my career. This includes building and leading cross functional global teams to align to a common objective. I have worked in a wide array of business units in Washington, Alaska, Illinois, Indiana and overseas in Muscat Oman. In addition, I have had deployed teams in US, FR, UK, Turkey, South Africa, & Australia,

Anything else you'd like to share?

My wife of 22 years and I grew up in Snohomish Washington and have 2 daughters (20 & 19) and 14y/o son who is attending Vista Middle School in Ferndale. We enjoy the outdoors, hiking, camping, biking, fishing, etc. I've traveled to 26+ countries and the family, and I lived overseas for 5 years in the middle east in Muscat, Oman.