# THE NAVAJO NATION
# TOHATCHI COMMUNITY CHAPTER

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Harry "Sonny"Moore, Jr. Chapter President | W.Mike Halona Chapter Vice-President | Jean Crawford Chapter Secretary/Treasurer | Gerald Moore Grazing Official | Pernell Halona Council Delegate


## TOHATCHI CHAPTER COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Regular Monthly Meeting Agenda-DRAFT**

**June 3, 2022**

Call in Number: 17207409789, password 4254032
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I. **CALL TO ORDER: 9:18am**

II. **ROLL CALL: Byron Bitsoie, Deon Ben, Fern Spencer, Gerald Moore ABSENT: Nathan Notah**

III. **INVOCATION: Sonny Moore**

IV. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Sonny Moore, Maria Allison King, Ty Tsinnijinnie, Doris Benallie, Jean Crawford, Laris Manuelito, Tyson Tsinnijinnie, Bryce Jones, Mike Begay, Geneva Begay**

V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA: M:Gerald Moore 2ND: Fern Spencer Vote: 2-0-1**

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: M:Gerald Moore 2nd: Fern Spencer Vote: 2-0-1**

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Chapter President Moore's Updates: President Moore reviewed the Road safety audit report with NDOT and Wilson Engineers contractors. President Moore has been voicing the road needs in Tohatchi. This includes four crossovers for Tohatchi residences, which President Moore mentioned will have to go through another process because it wasn't in the scope of work for the report. The report includes highway lighting starting from MM22.75from Tohatchi Transfer Station to Tohatchi High School but President Moore spoke with Audrey Diagos from Wilson Engineers to move the lighting further for future development along the highway. Lighting will cost over 1 Million dollars. President Moore also voiced his concern about a hill that is obstructing the view at the junction of Chooshgai School, it will cost $173,000 to remove the hill. There will also be larger signs on the highway for the schools and update signs that are incorrect. There was also a two day assessment of traffic speed and 85% of the traffic is speeding through the school zone. President Moore would like to talk with CLUPC on brainstorming a way to direct the traffic to Tohatchi for business revenue. President Moore hasn't received feedback on the abandon Navajo Oil & Gas Station. This needs to be taken over to increase economic development. The San Juan lateral will also bring in water to the community. President Moore has been having trouble getting folks involved in bettering our local education systems. President Moore also

wants to have conversations with educational leaders on bring NTU to Tohatchi. Also, on June 22 President Moore wants to attend the Rural Addressing session to get leads for Tohatchi.

Jean Crawford: Asked President Moore for clarification on the lighting system, President Moore responded that the lighting is the same specifically for Tohatchi only not the entire strength from Naschitti to Tolakai. Is Coyote Canyon going to be building veteran homes for Coyote Canyon Veterans? Doris Benally, did confirm that build is being processed. Senator Pinto was at the last chapter meeting, and she informed that chapter that now is the time to get build and infrastructure needs in now to the state level and with ARPA.

Fern Spencer: Light for the buses turning on the north entrance of the high school needs to be expanded for safety reasons. The chapter needs to look into hosting driving safety classes for the community members. Career Pathway with Mckinely County School, this program influenced two students and Fern sees this as an opportunity to explore further.

Doris Benally: Two years before the pandemic a safety training was done for the community but at a $40.00 cost and folks left with only one person staying for the driving training. When Chipeti was in office he presented to the chapter to have UNM at the middle school for the community, and move the middle school students up to the high school due to low enrollment. This was approved at the chapter but nothing happened. Doris also did mention that there are a lot of blind spots on 491 with the hills blocking the views to entire on the highway.

Jean Crawford: Is there funding for the lighting project along the highway. President Moore mentioned there is no funding for the lighting, and NDOT said the chapters have to go out and look for funding. President Moore suggested the three chapters to get together and get this done together with the support of Robert Kycers with Council of Governance.

Laris Manuelito: Five years ago there was a global lighting process done in which Naschitti and others got their lighting. This next round of funding with Ms Tallman when she was working with NDOT to get the Tohatchi lighting. This process was lost with the pandemic. There is bipartisan Tribal Infrastructure bill that just passed which provides funding for something like this.

M: Keeping President Moore's updated on the CLUPC agenda M: Deon Ben 2nd: Gerald Moore VOTE: 3-0-1

B. Rural Addressing-Meeting Updates, Forms for LRAC Volunteers: Mr. Baldwin informed Byron that only one form needed to be filled out for Tohatchi chapter, and community members for LRAC training. Byron is waiting for Mr. Baldwin's response to schedule the initial meeting.

Sonny: We would like the chapter to attend the Navajo Voters Coalition Planning work session at Twin Arrows, Fern Spencer will attend event on behave of the chapter on June 17, 2022.

Laris Manuelito: Rural addressing is a topic that is being discussed across the Navajo Nation because of the voter suppression that is happening in Arizona.

M: Approve the update on rural addressing and keeping the rural addressing as an agenda item

M: Fern Spencer 2nd: Gerald Moore VOTE: 3-0-1

C. Commercial Development Land Withdrawals:

Byron: The discussion is on the land between the new post office and gas station. Is there an issue with Shirley Barney's and another's homesite near the commercial development land designation?

Deon Ben: This needs to be figured out and inform the homesite lease holder to let them know they are near the commercial development land withdraw.

Byron Bitsoie: We need to invite the homesite lease holders to the next CLUPC meeting so they are aware of the commercial land withdraw near their homesite.

M: Keep this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

M: Fern Spencer 2nd: Gerald Moore VOTE: 3-0-1

D. Cemetery Expansion-Arch Clearance Update

Maria: Julia Chavez on May18, 20222 completed the arch clearance and sent application to HHPDO, the chapter is now awaiting report from HHPDO to send with package to general land department. Once package is completed we have church volunteers ready to help with fencing.

Deon Ben: Do we have to get a biological clearance don't as well? Byron: that was done two months ago. The next clearance would be an environmental clearance.

M: Keep this item on the CLUPC agenda for updates.

M:Fern Spencer 2nd: Gerald Moore VOTE: 3-0-1

E. Veterans Letter: Byron did draft two letters for consideration for land exchange.

Jean Crawford: Has anyone reached out to the Veterans to see if they want to relinquish that land back to the chapter?

Byron: The veterans have been approach and a meeting has been rescheduled and postponed. This meeting will determine the land transfer moving forward.

M: CLUPC attend the upcoming veterans organization meeting to see if this land exchange is of there interest.

M: Deon Ben 2nd: Fern Spencer VOTE: 3-0-1

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ty Tsinnijinnie-Tohatchi/Mexican Springs Connection Project-CLUPC Update:

Ty: Souder Miller & Associates are contracted with the Navajo Nation to work on the connection lines between Tohatchi and Mexican Springs from the Navajo/Gallup waterline project which started in 2016. For Ty's full updated on pass progress from 2016 refer to the recording link below. Ty would like to get community members insights on the pipeline route within the Tohatchi community. Ty spoke with Herman Morris, the Nakai families, and the Bitsie Family to get an idea of existing pipes, homesite leases, and burials. Navajo council and president's office allocated funds for this project, so it is fully funded.

Laris Manuelito: Having transparency is important to the land users within the pipeline route. This way everyone is in the know.

Doris Benally: Their family concern is the water health, referencing the gold mine spill in the Animas River.

Deon Ben: Ty what do you need from the Chapter and CLUPC to help you get pipeline route moving at a faster pace?

Ty: Request a public in-person meeting to educate folks on the route of the BOR, NTUA, NNDof Water Resources to attend the meeting.

M: Recommend a public form so the Tohatchi community and permittees are informed on the latest proceedings and route. As well, move this to old business and continue as CLUPC agenda for updates.

M: Gerald Moore 2nd: Fern Spencer VOTE: 3-0-1

B. Farm Board Updates:

Geneva Begay: Water tank is full (25,000gal) but the water isn't being pumped yet because the connection hasn't been made. Todd Antono with NN Water Resources is working on changing out the connection with NTUA. There is two farmers right now, and on June 7th the water will be turned on for the farmers plots. The funding for the three phase electric line has been paid out by NN capital outlay and is complete. The pump house will also have a security fence. The next project will be focusing on the Chuska Lake, rehabilitation and invasive species extraction. Department Cor of Engineers are coming out to look at the plan and design for the Lake Rehab Project. A watershed study was proposed with Senator Pinto which wasn't passed but a watershed study is being done at Black Creek on the westside of the Chuska Mountain. Geneva asked for the HS cross country trail that way it can be included in the plan and design. Geneva also mentioned there was trash by the old corral. Geneva asked to have SWCD involved in this project, with funding funneling into the project.

Jean Crawford: The chapter has the unhealthy food tax money, which could be included in the cross country trail clean up.

Laris Manuelito: Is there a designation that could be done to stop people for dumping trash? The NM state farm bill will be coming up so there could be funding coming from that source.

Gerald Moore: There are grazing permittees in the Chuska Lake area, so maybe a withdraw needs to be entertained with a conversation with permittees.

M: To accept the farm board update

M: Gerald Moore 2nd: Fern Spencer Vote: 2-0-1

C. SWCD-Mike Begay: The SWCD is reforming with no membership from Mexican Springs, and Coyote Canyon. So the SWCD is restructuring with membership and reestablishing the by-laws and strategic planning for SWCD. SWCD does play a large role in invasive species so SWCD will need to be engaged in the Chuska Lake.

M: To accept SWCD report

M: Fern Spencer 2nd: Gerald Moore Vote: 2-0-1

Recording:
https://www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/recorded_audio?audioRecordingUrl=https%3A%2F%2Frs0000.freeconferencecall.com%2Fstorage%2FsgetFCC2%2FRtzST%2FrA7El

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**: Planning Meeting June 6, 2022 @10am

X. **NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME: July 8, 2022 @ 10am**

XI. **ADJOURNMENT/TIME: 12:49pm** M: Fern Spencer 2nd:Gerald Moore VOTE: 2-0-1