



January 4, 2024 10:00 A.M.

## PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

TELECONFERENCE: 1-219-803-8769 PIN# 160 108 500#

Video call link: [meet.google.com/ahs-epsf-aep](https://meet.google.com/ahs-epsf-aep)

JAN 9 AM 9:00

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:40 AM
- II. ROLL CALL: President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford – online; Grazing Officer Gerald Moore
- III. INVOCATION: Elvis Bitsilly  
Motion: Mike Halona 2nd: Gerald Moore Vote: 15-0-1  
Delphine Bitsilly as the Pro-Temp Secretary/Treasurer with compensation.
- IV. REVIEW-OF THE AGENDA
- V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:
  1. WIC Nutrition Program—Henry Haskie – not in attendance
  2. BeWell New Mexico – Ms. Theresa Warner – not in attendance
  3. **OEH – Geraldine Thompson** – what is the status of the Senior Center, the inspection and survey conducted, have the repairs been fixed?; **Jarett Johnson** – Senior Supervisor since 2021, April 20 is the closure of the Senior Center, fire extinguishers need to be update, the fire alarm is working, electrical outlets is fixed, first aid kit is maintained, need certificate to be updated, havoc need to be updated, exit lights, minor maintenances – alarm system works, women’s restroom need toilet paper, need drainage under the water heater; **Kevin Mitchell** – when will there be an re-inspection?; **Jarett Johnson** – waiting on Avac system and code compliance; **Maria Allison** – 4 fire extinguishers were updated, maintenance worker here at chapter can fix the minor repairs, a few college cleaned the senior center and have OEH return for inspection, 9 months is too long for the seniors, a pest cleaning done and soon have the maintenance worker clean around the senior center; **Jarett Johnson** – when is the next inspection, currently looking for employees; **Geraldine Thompson** – waiting on Jarett to complete the work and show proof.
  4. **Leann Yazzie, April James, Alfredo Bitsoi, Myia Bitsoi, Franchesa Noble, Charleston Noble, Christian Miller (phone), Gina Dennison mother of Sarah Dennison, Haley Dennison, Brianna Begay, Jacob Willetto – Students** – requesting financial assistance for Scholarship funding to help pay for books, etc.: **Mike Halona** – we commend you with your education endeavors, we’ll do what we can to assist with your education and advocate for more money.
  5. **Joshua Yazzie – Homesite Lease** – would like to build a home here, would like to represent my Grandpa Peterson Yazzie – follow your dreams, to help the community with businesses in the future: **Mike Halona** – go to NLD.org website, it will give you the application and guidelines, talk to Grazing Officer Gerald Moore.
  6. **Kevin Mitchell – GMCS** – proud of students who continue their education, update on Tohatchi projects – football, baseball and softball fields are completed, football bleachers will start in June 2024, incentives were given to our schools in the district based on their growth and improvement, Tohatchi Middle School (TOM) placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, TOM staff each received a \$1,000.00, Chee Dodge Elementary (CDE) place 1<sup>st</sup> and CDE staff each received \$3,000.00, TOM lead the growth for all schools in the district and good job to Principal Lucinda Bitsoi, groundbreaking will be this month, January 19 or 20 for Tohatchi HS.
  7. **Ms. Elaine Crosby – NM Secretary of State, Bureau of Elections Department** – Presentation at next Chapter Meeting regarding upcoming 2024 Elections.



## VI. REPORTS:

### \*Community Service Coordinator/Officials' Report/CLUPC:

1. Meeting to be schedule with DCD on \$80,000 and NTUA-East Flats and Water Line Extensions and Septic and Leach Field Replacements—Julie Chavez not responding from NTUA—need to involve Staff, LDA, CD: - **Maria Allison** – we have to spend the \$80,000.00, meet with Mr. Waseta and no schedule meeting yet, depending on the material cost, I may need to cut down to 4-5 families.
2. Cemetery Expansion – Update on the processing of documents and the fencing—see email to LD: no documents pertaining the old cemetery, Land Department (LD), Byron Bitsoi - his office will do GPS, a resolution was submitted back in November, no one from LD hasn't come out to do the GPS, extension of 1.5 is on hold until we get the resolution.
3. Audit Status (meet with ASC), Inventory posted to Financial, Records Management- According to Echohawk meeting in January-Finding 1 needs to be resolve- see email- Janice has done a good job with the filing system, need meeting with Derek Echohawk from ASC office for the Funding 1 – the money issue that is missing, housing discretionary funds, Mr. Echohawk to schedule meeting this month January to see what his findings are with the housing discretionary, our INYP is being monitored every month.
4. 5-year Land Withdrawal for Professional Housing and Commercial Development—CLUPC-Land Designation Application
5. Bike Trail Documents to DOJ-Staff find out Status; - submitted to DOJ on December 7, 2023, Bike Trail reviewed by attorney Freeman on December 8, 2023, no comments or responses.
6. Status of Senior Center Discrepancies-Staff follow-up – chapter assisted with the minor repairs, Jarrett Johnson is given weekly updates and the only one running the senior center, hot meals are delivered to Tohatchi area from Twin Lakes.
7. Time to Check on Projects (ICIP) and Reauthorization of Funds—Warehouse, \$80,000, \$19,000 Powerline – need meeting with Denise Copley, schedule a teleconference for updates.
8. Status of Winterization of Equipment and Vehicle—how are we prepared for the winter and emergencies—working with CHR? – chapter vehicle was winterized, request for tires and will submit a resolution for a transfer for additional money in repair and maintenance for truck, insurance cards received for another year, chapter drivers took their training with NNDOT and they have their cards, Mr. Jim, the heavy equipment operator requesting new tires and will requests for funds for new tires.
9. Status of asphalt millings—email to NNDOT needs follow-up to haul millings for Chapter
10. Status of Illegal Dumping sign on Roanhorse Road, re-paint Tohatchi sign, Damage Culverts on 9653,
11. Status of ARPA and field assessments with LAM Corporation – 45 community home visits need to take place, create two groups to do onsite visits on the homes on January 22 and 25, 2024 to do assessments on the homes, Sonny Moore will do one group and Maria Allison will do second group.
12. Status of Emergency Funds Spending-email sent to Staff on purchases using Fund 17 (wood, cots, flashlights, replacing emergency lights etc.) – working on a price quote for flashlights, bed cots for emergency housing, there is no wood – wood was purchased July to December, worked with the CHR to see who needed wood, assisted 45 community elders, assisted 12 community families with pellets, will be requesting more funds and previous request wasn't enough for helping the community.
13. Status Elwood Yazzie no water & minor work inside home – inside home is completed, why is there no water going inside the home, need a plumber to find out what the problem is.
14. Phone Evaluation-possible purchase a new system – complaints from community members no one answers the phone, need new telephone system for better communication with the community, one vendor from Albuquerque responded to our request, requested 5 phones with one conference phone – quoted



\$1500.00 for our office phones with all the features, upgrade our phone system; **Mike Halona** – what do we have here – who is the carrier, go with fiber - voice over internet, what system will work for us here at Tohatchi Chapter, what system will be compatible with the Chapter carrier: **Kevin Mitchell** – phone system update is important: **Sonny Moore** – a company from California is willing to come out here, do an assessment and didn't meet with the company, Navajo Nation has a telecommunication utility department you can talk to about what vendors they recommend, talk to GMCS.

15. Website Maintenance-assistance from Ms. Fern Spencer – Janice Begay met with Fern Spencer before her last day of work, Sylvia Jordan sent webinar to Maria Allison and to watch webinar since there's no training, sent webinar to Fern Spencer, uploading documents we have received from the different committees.
16. HEO training – Heavy Equipment Operator to be trained with the grader, we want roads to be built back up, diversions need to be fixed, Mr. Sandoval is willing to train our Heavy Equipment Operation for one day, \$350.00 to train, community members do not stop the HEO while he is on worktime, come to the Chapter to request for road services, \$15,000.00 was spent on heavy equipment between October 2022 to September 2023.
17. Septic Tank Cleaning – 18 community members paid for the services of \$100.00, next cleaning is in May 2024 to request to be on the listing.
18. College Students – winter break, 4 students working – two here at Tohatchi Chapter, two at Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial office, January 12 is their last day.
19. PEP workers were rehired to complete 6 home projects: after projects are completed the PEP workers will be laid off and return in the spring – PEP workers completed 4 home projects, one individual project wasn't completed due to cold weather, no respond from Lucinda Barney, PEP workers will be laid off until spring.
20. Therea Bryant – NTUA will wire the house if Chapter completes the inside of the home, a letter is requested.
21. Solid Waste – open Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, closes early because has to turn in money and submit to ASC and the bid is full.

**\*CLUPC – Elvis Bitsilly:** – 5 year Land Withdrawal resolution and review the Community Land Use for the community, update and amend the Community Land Use Planning so in the future the Chapter will be LGA certified, add new projects with renewal and approval documents with the chapter and outside of the chapter, homesite – where are you going to put your home, we need to know where are these designated sites so it won't conflict with current land withdrawals for business, commercial development, there is overlap of family homesites in business land withdrawals, our community is located along Highway 491 which has commercial development for businesses, work session January 9 and regular meeting January 16, 2024 starting at 9:00 am both days, you are welcome to attend, encourage college students to continue education and seek scholarships for education.

**\*Council Delegate Report: LDA Ansley Curley**

1. Update on Legislation without Tohatchi Safety Complex not included – Legislation 278-23 goes in front of the Law & Order Committee, meeting this coming Monday with Eugenia Charles-Newton to access special revenue funds to allocate money to this project and other projects.
2. Discussion on recent email by Parsons and Options to Hire an Architect – Parsons through Tohatchi Chapter leadership, received one contender for design services who put their bid in to the Department of Corrections – Indigenous Design/Studio, going out for additional correspondents and could be at lower cost and/or design; **Sonny Moore** – can Parsons work with us without any funding?, Maria, can we look for an architect on our own and let's keep it moving forward.
3. Recent Reports on the “Broken” Judicial System – Delegate Crotty brought up at NABI; issues with



Judicial System should have been brought before Law & Order Committee, have a work session, discuss recommendations with an action plan with a timeline.

4. Time to Update Resolutions for ICIP—Highway Lighting Cost-State Legislatures in Session – this Friday NM Caucus will be meeting at UNM Gallup, 10:00 am and you're welcome to attend, State of NM gives money to Navajo Nation for various projects, the money is only spent on construction, state will only give Navajo Nation a certain amount of time; **Mike Halona** – Highway Lightning is still the responsibility of the State of NM, who would we need to talk to about the Highway Lighting – it's included in the Highway Construction as part of the highway design, let the State know what our position is on the Highway Lighting; **Sonny Moore** – talk to the New Mexico Secretary of State for Transportation: \$15,000.00 per pole for solar lighting.
5. East Flats Project—Need to push through 164 Process –begin drilling this Spring – Dwayne Waseta – DCD – project manager has been assigned; **Sonny Moore** – let's get it moving forward.
6. Resolution 024-02-2023 Request for Purchase of Flatbed \$20,000 – **Sonny Moore** – Legislation - all chapters bought heavy equipment and there was a deadline, December 31, 2021 or 2022 - Tohatchi was left out to buy a flatbed, a resolution was created stating Tohatchi Chapter was left out.
7. Scholarship funds – work with Minerals and Justice Departments, Tucson Electric – a 25 year lease renewal, chapter request \$50,000.00 for scholarships and it's currently being negotiated for the funds to stay in the district, depending on your major and money is spread out across the Navajo Nation; **Sonny Moore** – a student's education level (Junior-Senior) should be provided more money (\$800-\$1,000.00).
8. Emergency Funds – no discussion about allocating Funds 17 for emergency right now.
9. Veterans – Naschitti is hosting the Ft. Defiance Veterans Agency meeting tomorrow, January 5, 2024, at 9:00 am.
10. Navajo Nation Winter Council Session – January 22 – 26, 2024 – **Kevin Mitchell** – there should be more representation at the NM Legislation and legislation bills should be reviewed and understand the bills.

#### **\*Red Willow Farm's Report –**

1. **Updates: Elvis Bitsilly** – 6 miles from Tohatchi Chapter, there is a sign off Highway 491, there is a secure gate to keep livestock out and trash dumpers – there are 5 different ear tags on cows within the farm, fence has been cut and they been fixed, roads have been graded, installing chain link fence for our pump house, 2.5 acres, requires top rail to secure the fence, we've had volunteers to help with the fencing, water tank holds 25,000 gallons, project cost \$600.00 for the water well, projects were funded by State of New Mexico, BIA, Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and worked on it for the past 3 years, follow up on the projects verbally and physically, a classroom portable building donated from GMCS which is here from the local school and will move portable building to Red Willow, 6 miles to move – Red Willow requested for one last year, we would like the portable building to be moved soon and hoping we get help from BIA or NNDOT, portable is in good condition, need money to move the portable building and due to the weather conditions I wasn't able to meet with the mover, hopefully this will take place in February, moving forward with our projects – diversion dam channel canal, eradicate the weeds at Chuska Lake, need to spend the Navajo Nation money on the projects, Incentive programs for Farming – \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 for incentives – you can have a home garden or a small plot, come to our meetings, farming is work and learn the aspects of farming, water well isn't pumping out enough water, it is limited but it will work for us, we have our own farm tractor, a small fee is required to use per hour, found historic diversion dam back in 1949 and people were farming back then, Conservation Plan and working with First Nations Institutes and they will come in February for a work session with Chapter, we're having a training with them in March 11-15, 2024 for 25 farmers, ranchers and must attend every day, meeting with them next Monday, and they are covering the fees, open to District 14,



one conservation plan for all farmers, Incentive of \$100.00 when you complete training: **Geneva Begay** – there's good soil at Red Willow Farm, snow starts to melt and the water runoff will be in March, there is snow fencing in Colorado, seeds from this area will grow better than seeds from other areas, January 10, 2024 a meeting and request 2 acres, Incentive to help with fencing, seeds or any area of farming, USDA loan expires January 30 or 31, 2024.

**\*Grazing Officer Moore's Report -**

1. San Juan Lateral Permittee Consents—water quality issues—letter from Bureau of Reclamation – **Gerald Moore** - Red Willow report – the farming application is open to anyone, ranching you must have a grazing permit, Growing schedule for spring planting, District grazing committee meeting yesterday at Twin Lakes – had 2 transfers within a family, probate you take to the court which is a longer process, illegal dumping of livestock-sheep on the roadside mile post 30, Ag Expose is January 10, 2024, homesite meet with Joshua, Naschitti dispute – a individual had a piece of land on rangeland and individual changed his mind, we'll try and notify the owners if we find who the cows belong to and let me know; **Betty Dennison** – cow patties on my homesite, not sure who the cows belong to and will keep in my yard until Officer Moore comes.

**VII. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution to Approve a New Line Items in Sales Tax 23 (Diesel Fuel, Repair and Maintenance, Rental)
2. Resolution to Update the Cost of the 491 Highway Lighting
3. Resolution for Land Designation for Professional Housing
4. Resolution to Approve the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter revenue
5. Resolution to Request Financial Assistance for 12 college students
6. Resolution to Request 2 Computers for Office Specialist and Receptionist
7. Resolution to Request to pay off the deficit of \$4000.00 for PEP funds
8. Resolution to Add 3 line items to Fund 23
9. Resolution to Request a Budget Transfer for Fund 25

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Buu Nygren, NN State Report January 9, 2024 9:00 am**

**CLUPC Work Session January 9, 2024 9:00 am**

**CLUPC Regular Meeting January 16, 2024 9:00 am**

**Ft. Defiance Agency Council Meeting January 6, 2024 9:00 am Houck,  
AZ**

**Red Willow Farm Board January 9, 2024 1:00 pm**

**IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: January 24, 2024 10:00 am**

**X. ADJOURNMENT: 2:07 pm**

Submitted by: Delphine Bitsilly

Pro-temp Secretary/Treasurer



cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Ms. Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC

Mr. Nathan Notah, Council Delegate