



August 05, 2024 10:00 A.M.

## PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

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

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ahs-epsf-aeq>

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:15am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Office Gerald Moore.
- III. **INVOCATION:** Gerald Moore
- IV. **REVIEW OF THE AGENDA/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. **APPROVAL OF June 19, 2024 CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**
- VI. **COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**
  1. **Announcement: No funds available until the new 2025 fiscal year.**
  2. **Lillian Barney** – requesting about her windows that the chapter purchased but it was the incorrect size so I'm wondering if the windows have been exchanged for the correct size.  
Also, she is requesting to have a cell tower put up near El Paso.  
Vice President Halona – The reason why they won't put a cell tower up is because it's going to cost them around \$6-700,000 and there are not enough people living out there to make their money back on a monthly basis. That is why they ignore some areas and that's the beef I have with these carriers out here. They get grants, money given to them to build out but they don't use the funds to build out. They will only build where they can make money. An example is when AT&T received a grant called 1<sup>st</sup> Net, they came to Navajo and they said we are going to build out in the rural areas and we'll have it completed in 6 months. Well, 10 years later they are still trying to figure out what they are going to do. So, instead of building out in the dead zones, what they did was put antennas on existing tower so they can say they put 1<sup>st</sup> Net out on Navajo. They didn't build new towers so now, if you have AT&T service, you have coverage just about everywhere on Navajo. It's even better than Cell One but they just co-locate on the towers so they don't have to build a tower. At some point you might get connective but just not right now, but we can look at alternatives.
  3. **Lee Rodgers** – number 7 of the resolutions regarding road 9508, which is listed as Badonie Road. It should actually be called "Antelope Flat Pass." I would like to see it written as Antelope Flat Pass on the minutes, on the resolution and also with NNDOT.  
**President Moore** – We have it written as Antelope Pass on all our documents, but since we have a infrastructure project going on with the Badonie family currently, we've been referring to it as Badonie Road. NNDOT states they will assist with 3 miles of grading of roads and the Chapter came up with a list which includes the Bitsilly Road, 9653 road near El Paso, Halona Canyon, Hot Springs, and 9508 road (Antelope Pass) which equals to 15 miles.  
I also like to mention our community CHR, Renee Martinez will be assisting me with the justifications for road repair. I am also looking for culverts and I believe I may have located a couple at Twin Lakes Chapter. I will be providing resolutions and the GPS data and I hope to have these documents ready for the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.  
**Shaquille Yazzie** – I'm a Senior Planner and I work with the Ft. Defiance Agency with the Navajo Nation. I did meet with President Moore back in June and I started my position in May so I am fairly new to this position. Tohatchi Chapter is one of my 1<sup>st</sup> communities I am working and assisting with your transportation priorities. One of the main things we covered at the beginning was the 15 miles blading services that NNDOT provides to each Chapter. In previous years, you had a total of 1-8 routes that covered the 15 miles that were serviced. Last year on October 10<sup>th</sup> it was passed that 5 routes would be added at 3 miles each, but these routes have to be in our inventory. So, the roads you select have to be in our inventory with NNDOT, it's an official



document in our inventory that is sent to the Federal Government and these are the roads we are taking responsibility for. So based on that, the last Tohatchi Chapter resolution we have has 2 routes that are not in our inventory. They are not seen as roads within the Federal Government and the Navajo Nation does not take responsibility for. The one route which is the 9508 Antelope Pass Road, we are in the process of conducting a road assessment with our roads department to see if we are able to blade. I drove up about 3.5 miles and the road is very rough. For these routes which are on your regional routes, the blading services have to have a minimal of 3 homes to be considered a public access road and addition to that it has to be a bus route. Those are some of the things we have to ensure to be able to use Federal funds to blade and provide this service 4 times a year. So with that, one of the routes which is being proposed to be on this resolution is the ole county route 11. President Moore will be working with Mexican Springs because it is under their Chapter boundaries. This road is no longer a McKinley County Road, it was given back in the nineties, so it's a no man's road, basically. Addition to that, there is 2.5 miles by 9653 that they are wanting to add onto the inventory (Eastflat Road). It's the last 2.5 miles before you get to the Barney's residence. Currently, the 2.5 miles is not in our inventory so we are not able to grade it. President Moore would like to add these two routes into our inventory by resolution. The Tribal Transportation Program is what we have underneath the Federal Highway Administration, with that we have to have 8 requirements that have to be completed for us to add a road in. There are some things that NNDOT can take care of and the other the Chapter can take care of. So, the 1<sup>st</sup> one is they would have to be in our long-range transportation plan. This is a NNDOT responsibility and the Chapter would be responsible for is a resolution or an official authorization which would include how long the GPS coordinate. A strip map is something we can do within our organization which is to map out the road and another one is the average daily traffic count documentation which is something NNDOT won't be able to provide. Photos are also required and NNDOT can take care of that. Incidental cost verification is something we can work with the Chapter to see how much it would cost to add into the inventory. The last one is a Public Authority of Responsibility. So, if it is a route that the Chapter wants NNDOT to take over we can place that before the Division Director and he would make the determination if it's something NNDOT would cover and that would be for rights-of-way and any of the maintenance moving forward. The last one would be collecting all the required documents and uploading them and it will go before RDC (Resource Development Committee). That way they can approve it and we can add it into our inventory which will be for the old county road 11 and route 9653 for the last 2.5 miles. So, this is an update as to what we Mr. Moore and I have been working on. The recommendation to the Chapter was for the resolutions that were passed on October 10<sup>th</sup> to be re-amended to includes roads that are in our inventory. That way, you are getting the most out of the blading services provided by NNDOT. This is a summary of the work from the last 2 months.

And just to reassure Ms. Rodgers, when a proposal is made to NNDOT we don't use the name the community uses, NNDOT will use route numbers.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – So, do you see the Chapter having any problems with having these routes added to the inventory?

**Shaquilla Yazzie** – I don't see any problems right now, the only one we may have issues with is 9508 because of the terrain. We don't blade below the top surface because we only have clearances to blade so much. All new routes have to have clearances like biological, ecological, and environmental and that's the one that takes the longest and there is a short time frame because each one of them have a valid period.

**Lee Rodgers** – the road 9508 has been neglected for so long that it would require a bulldozer to repair the road. Does NNDOT have this equipment?

**Shaquilla Yazzie** – We can work with the Chapter and no, we do not have a bulldozer, however; our roads department would have to make that determination. We will have to determine if this road is also considered a bus route as well.

**Lee Rodgers** – I know they would bring the students down the mountain in a car, but the car broke down so the children had to attend the boarding schools.

**Delphine Bitsilly** – does NNDOT take into consideration elderlies who live down these roads who may need emergency service for example and ambulance?

**Shaquilla Yazzie** – that could be a possibility, but I've only been working with this Chapter for the past 2 months and I'll get some information on this. From my understanding there is a way to get justification to



blade the road especially during increment weather.

**President Moore** – BIA also has their own roads which they are responsible for, for example; Maria cannot have the Chapter grader work on the 9653 road without an MOU in place. I have the documents ready for a MOU with BIA.

**Shaquilla Yazzie** – I also want to mention, we want to provide the community with more education and in prior years there were only 2 planners for the entire Navajo Nation. Now we have 5 to cover each district on Navajo. We want to provide education on road improvement and maintenance. The improvement projects are put on the Tribal Transportation Improvement Program which goes on a 5-year plan with NNDOT. We receive around \$56 million annually to cover the whole Navajo Nation. BIA mainly services the paved roads and they depend heavily on NNDOT to do the earth (dirt) roads here on Navajo.

I passed out NNDOT's quarterly report which is provided to Ft. Defiance Agency meetings. Tohatchi will have the bridge which connects the old Post Office and the Clinic replaced. It is currently under planning, design, and construction estimate and 95% completed. Once completed, NNDOT will be looking applying for right-of-way and fundings as well.

**Vice President Halona** – Do you have all the maps of our service area showing which roads NNDOT, BIA, or County are responsible to maintain? Which roads do you use Petro monies on? This would distinguish easily what the Chapter can work with and they could do a lot of road work. That way we know which areas you can utilize the tribal access authorization which I believe, but I'm not sure if the Federal Highways have accepted the Navajo Nation Tribal Access Authorization because we don't do rights-of-way anymore.

**Shaquilla Yazzie** – I'm not sure, but I can get the information. With NNDOT, we are able to provide maps when requested. The form is located on our website.

**President Moore** – The pile of dirt across from the high school along the road to the lake is "free" to someone who wants some dirt.

**Eulanda Thompson** – I'm concerned about my neighbor, Mary Ben's Road to their home. The turn-off has been washed out for so long. How can the Chapter assist her?

**Shaquilla Yazzie** – You can submit a request to the Chapter or with NNDOT as an "improvement" of residence's road.

**Vice President Halona** – I think we need to get McKinley County involved with our road issues. They don't do anything for our Chapter or for the Navajo Nation on the McKinley County side. We pay so much in taxes to McKinley County and use our numbers to get a lot Federal dollars. I know it's the commissioners who make these decisions and we've been neglected long enough. When you look at other counties like Apache County, look at what they do for Navajo on the Arizona side. Look at the roads and materials and they've open up another gravel pit. There is something wrong here and I think we need to bring it to the forefront. We talk about equality, just a level playing field as everyone else. I want this noted and at some point, we need to have a discussion with them. What do they plan to do for the Navajo Nation and the people of McKinley County and our Chapter?

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **\*Council Delegate's Report:**

1. **LDA Ansley Curley** – Our Council Delegate has been on travel on behalf of the Navajo Nation. Two weeks ago he was in Washington D.C. to attend the Coalition of Large Tribes Meeting which was a week long. The important thing that came from that meeting was they (CD Notah and CD Newton) were able to have the White House commit to an increase in funding up to \$95.7 million to be used for public safety and justice services. Both direct services as well as funding for infrastructure and constructing buildings. With TIBCM, they were able to advocate for \$377 million. Council Delegate Notah was the person who represented the Navajo Nation at TIBCM (Tribal Interior Budget Council Meeting) It is a large meeting that occurs with the Federal Government, a lot of the entities that receive Federal funding and services provided to Nation are representatives that includes: BIA, Department of Interior, IHS and several other large departments in the Federal Government. There he was able to advocate for \$377 million. So, on behalf of Council Delegate Notah, he has been working on precuring funding for the Nation as a whole, not only for the 5 communities within the district but also for the Nation entirely. This money is absolutely required, currently there are about 261 police officers on the Navajo Nation. That amounts to 1 police officer per 9000 people, or thereabouts. Obviously, there are not enough police officers. In the rest of the country,



there are about 2.8 officers per every 100 people. Them advocating on our behalf is absolutely crucial to get more funding to build up our police services here on the Nation as well as those EMS and firefighter services that we desperately require.

Regarding the revenue replacement reserve legislation CMY-28-24, currently there is approximately \$521 million which has not been allocated. Now, this is partially due to the legislative branch being the council as well as the executive branch by President Nygren not agreeing on what should be funded. However, there is currently a big push on the part of council to request that more money be given to the chapters, specifically for their regional projects. The list of projects that was discussed earlier by Maria, CSC those are the projects I am referring to. Delegate Notah has heard a number of constituents approach him to say, we are not getting the services that we requested. Primarily, housing renovations, water and other infrastructure needs that exist in the district. So, within council the big push is to get more of that money allocated for the Delegate Region projects. Talking about project moneys and those projects being on hold currently. In talking with FRF (Fiscal Recovery Fund) office who are handling a lot of the monies allocated for the Delegate Regions. They are currently working with the office of the controller and the office of management and budget to move those allocated monies from where they are currently are with their set account numbers to this Triple R Fund which was referred to earlier as the General Fund. What that accomplishes is it eliminates all the time line previously associated and required by the Federal Government to spend those monies. Both to encumber and to completely expend or spend. That process of migrating those account numbers to the triple R fund is going to take at least 2 months is what I'm told. So, it could be at the end of this month or the end of September.

DCD who is the administrative oversight for these projects has not issued any new work orders to the indefinite design, indefinite quantity contractors, in this case LAM Corporation who is working with all 4 chapters excluding Naschitti. They cannot issue any new work orders to proceed with any new renovations, any new assessments, any new type of work on these local projects until new accounts are established. That may not happen until the end of September. We understand that October is coming, the construction window is closing here soon with the coming fall weather. However, we have been continuing to ask those questions as to when those K accounts will be established so that the Chapters can move forward with their projects. To date, we have not received a good time line.

Concerning the procedures that were discussed by Maria, CSC as well, I want to put to bed any fears that the monies that were allocated specifically for those projects will stay with those projects. It will not become a free for all for any of the other 109 Chapters to request for that money. The money will stay with Tohatchi as well as the other 4 Chapters in the district. There has been some inaccurate information that those monies that are currently going into Triple R Fund or the General Fund could be access by those other Chapters, this is not true. This money will stay with the Chapters. The only issue is accessing what these processes look like and that currently is in the hands DCD, Department of Justice, the Fiscal Recovery Fund Office, the Office of the Controller, and the Office of Management and Budget. We have continued to ask what these processes will look like and what the procedures may be, however; we have not been given any clarity as far as these procedures. Going forward, if any of these changes that are desired by the Chapter to move money from one project to another project, and this applies to the other 3 Chapters excluding Naschitti because they are LGA certified it is an administrative function. Previously, this is an issue that occurred with some of the Chapters within the district, those initial work orders that were given to LAM Corporation to conduct these assessments on these projects whether it's replacing a roof, installing power, running water, etc., that personally went into someone home. An example would be, let say Mr. Curley applied for assistance and Mr. Moore was the contractor, and he came in to look at the home. He finds that all the people in this room, were all requesting home renovations, Mr. Moore finds that the amount requested by the Chapter for that specific project, housing renovation may not be enough. He is short by \$50,000. In order to satisfy that deficit, he has to make a request to Delegate Notah to amend the enabling legislation, the legislation that initial allocated the money to this Chapter. This is not the case anymore. It will be somewhat time consuming I foresee because in order to change those amounts, we will need to get approval from the Department of Justice, the FRF Office, and DCD and nobody knows what that process looks like, still. So, the way the amounts are set currently, is what I hope we will be going with for the other 4 Chapters. So, that one big change we have encountered and learned about through this new legislation.



Going forward, it looks like October maybe time to start seeing some of those work orders come out regarding these local projects.

Per Mr. Bitsilly's question from previous meeting, we did ask if the junk food tax account could be used to pay for power for RWF. We did not get a response back to our question. We'll re-address that with the Department of Justice to request for something in writing to let us know if that's an allowable expense.

**President Moore** – Introduced Shaquila Yazzie from NNDOT who is assisting the chapter with reviewing the road repairs in our community at Twin Lakes Chapter.

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

1. Announce and advertise the vacant CLUPC position –  
**Maria, CSC** - There is still an opening for CLUPC currently. We are looking to filled this position. If you are interested, please provide a letter of interest to our office and we can forward to President Moore.
2. Update on the distribution on Emergency Funds –  
**Maria, CSC** – We still money in our account which we have not used as of yet. We have not received a “Declaration of Emergency” from W/R, but we will be purchasing items which will be needed in case of an emergency. For Example: cots, blankets, and flashlights. We will also be purchasing wood for the upcoming winter months. We will be working with NTUA to see if we can get some outstanding utility bills paid for our community members. The Chapter does still have funds available for minor home repair, some of the funds were used toward building safety ramps for our elders. We had funds for 10 wheelchair ramps to be build and so far, we've built 4 ramps for elders who provided a doctor's statement. Even if you need an upgrade to your wheelchair ramp, let us know and we can go out to do the assessment of your ramp. The PEP workers have done an awesome job with the building of the ramps. They do excellent work.
3. Update on East Flats Water Drilling –  
**Maria, CSC** – We had a meeting with Colin Daly on the progress of the eastflat drilling. We have 9 names of residence who were eligible for the water drilling project. This family will be having a pump installed this week. The water sample was sent out for testing and they are waiting on the results of the test. Well #1 which is Matilda Toch will have a new pump install and the pumping in her home is completed and ready to go. Well #2 is Lucinda Barney, there pump is being ordered today, and the water samples will be sent on Wednesday to Albuquerque. Souder & Miller states there is a 20 gallons per minute of pumping from 2 pumps. That should work for both Lucinda and her neighbor, Charlene Tom. Well # 3 is Laverne Waco and her pump will be ordered today as well. Water was tested and samples were sent to Albuquerque and now waiting on the results. Well #4 is the late Caroline Manuelito, they will start the testing today, but the drilling is done. The water pump will be ordered after the test results come back. Well #5 is Theresa Bryant, they started the drilling portion but she doesn't have electricity hooked up in her home so this is an issue. We do have a meeting with her this afternoon. Well #6 is Leonard Notah, Pamela Dennison, Charlene Manuelito, and Vicent Natonabah. With Charlene, Pamela, and Vincent, I need to meet with them regarding their homesites. There applications were submitted to land administration but they will need to follow-up on their applications. Other than that, the water drilling has been going very well for the families.
4. ARPA-Status of Assessments –  
**Maria, CSC** – ARPA funds are at a still currently, and funds have been put into a pot called “General Funds” Since there is no longer a deadline with the Federal Government to use this ARPA money. The ARPA office is supposed to come up with a policy on how the money will be spent. So, our bathroom addition, our electricity hookup, and our water extension projects are all on hold until we hear from W/R.
5. Cemetery Expansion –  
**Maria, CSC** – We had our 1.5 acres approved and I've also requested to have the construction crew from the new high school project to haul dirt over to the eastside of the cemetery where there is an arroyo. I asked them to backfill this area so we can run the new fence across there. I have the supplies for the new fence and I will be sending the PEP workers and the operator over there to start the fencing project. Since the ARPA monies are on hold currently, we will be putting up a temporary fence until we can purchase a new fence using APRA funds.
6. Bike Trail documents to DOJ –  
**Maria, CSC** – I'm working with Patricia Begay, ASC who stated we will need to have 3 vendors bid on this project per procurement policy. I only received the one bid and the other stated they do not do bike trails so



this will be my justification to DOJ for the Bike Trail stating I tried getting bids for this project but there were no other vendors available. The paperwork will go to Patricia Begay, ASC who will be doing the walk through of the 164 process. Patricia states the process will probably take from 2-3 weeks to get the documents signed. So, hopefully we will have our bike trail constructed soon.

7. Update on status of Senior Center –

**Maria, CSC** – We are hoping to open the center back up by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2024. The supervisor, Jerred has been working on getting all the discrepancies which was issued by OEH taken care of. The majority of the corrections have been made. The last thing on the list is the HVAC which needs to be serviced. It is working but we want to make sure it's safety for our elders. President Moore brought in an electrician to replace the water heater. These individuals, for example; the plumbers and electricians did the work either for free or charged us a low price which we really appreciated. We have a walk-through scheduled for tomorrow morning and if everything is good, we will be asking Doris Laredo with environmental health to do another inspection. If she gives us the green light for a go, we will be planning an open house for the Center's re-opening. I'm trying to put a song and dance together for the opening.

8. Update to purchase new router (wireless) and phone system –

**Maria, CSC** – The chapter is working with Lowery IT services from Gallup to upgrade our router. Right now, one of our phones is down which is the one the receptionist is using. If you call the chapter and it rings twice sometimes our phones go off because the main one is out. And when we do answer the phone within 2-3 minutes, the whole system shuts off. So, don't think we are hanging up on you, it's because the main phone the receptionist is using is completely out. The guy from SMB came out to start installing our phones but he is waiting on a couple of phones to come in which my phone and Jeannie's the AMS. He is also testing the wires on the current routers and the internet.

**Update on the housing projects** – the PEP workers completed 6 of the housing projects and have 3 more left which include flooring installation, roofing repair, and to add an addition to a home. I also have the cemetery which the PEP workers will be working on which makes it 4 projects all together.

PEP workers also completed 4 wheelchair ramps for Herman and Pat Morris, Herbert Dennison, Wilfred Kee Muskett, and Cecelia Hardy.

The heavy equipment operator is pretty much busy with repairing roads and assisting community members who had dirt delivered to their homes from the new high school project. His schedule is from Monday through Thursday and he is off on Friday's. I know we have community members who are waiting to get assistance from the operator but please give us some time and we will get back with you as soon as we can. He has been here from 8am to 5pm daily to work on these projects with the grader and the backhoe.

The Solid Waste station is open from Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-3pm. As far as how much revenue the Solid Waste station brings in, our AMS has been out of the office but I will have the report which will have 2 years of revenue which was brought in by the Solid Waste station ready for you at our next meeting.

9. Update on the Safety Complex

**President Moore** – We hired an architect and a construction manager at risk and they have built similar types of buildings. We were invited to go down to Sacaton, AZ to see one of the facilities that was constructed by these individuals. I myself will be traveling to Sacaton to see the facility on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Currently, LAM Corporation is designing the new Safety Complex and they state they will have the plan and design ready by November 2024. We will need funding for construction in the amount of \$15 million for the new facility and our Council Delegate has been advocating on our behalf to secure some funding.

Just to share, I saw a letter from the state which stated all the funding for projects which were due to expire in June 2024 has been reverted back to the State. I'm not sure why the State pulled this money back. In the meantime, the warehouse received 2 fundings, one for \$900,000 and I believe there is an MOU already in place with the State for the \$900,000. So, I don't understand why the 2<sup>nd</sup> amount was reverted back to the State because we need both amounts to construct the new warehouse. We will ask our Council Delegate and LDA to look into this matter.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – I believe this amount got red lined because we did not use the money in a timely manner. The governor herself got audited and she was told that there was way too much money out there on Navajo which were not being used in a timely manner. So, this goes back to what I've been saying, we receive funding from the State and the chapter is ready for the project, but we can never get a project



manager assigned to us from W/R and we end up losing the funding.

**President Moore** – The project which were due to expire at the end June 30<sup>th</sup> were red lined. On the other hand the Navajo Nation according to this document they did not see the warehouse as a priority because it adds on to their O&M cost is the way I understood the letter. The money is not actually in W/R, it's still at the State. We just say that, but what actually happens is an agreement from Navajo Nation requesting for those funds. The State will agree and the Navajo Nation will spend the money upfront and then the Navajo Nation can request for reimbursement. This is called an IGA (Intertribal Governmental Agreement). The other amount of \$19,000 for powerline extension was also reverted back to State.

**Announcement:** The Navajo Nation has provided **free WIFI services** to all 110 chapters on Navajo using ARPA funds, which means our community members can take advantage of the free WIFI services here at Chapter. The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase will include providing chapters with computers for our community use, but we will need to have a policy in place before we open this service up to our community.

**\*CLUPC REPORT:**

**Elvis Bitsilly:** CLUPC President – Right now we are reviewing our old Community Land Use Plan which we've had here at the Chapter since 2018. So, these plans should be reviewed every 5 years. I want to thank all the committee members for assisting with this process. We have a work session scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> and our regular CLUPC committee meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. We also have our first CLUPC community hearing on these plans which will be scheduled soon. Our Plan of Operation was approved by the community. I received an email from President Moore which stated the community Chapters need a Plan of Operation as well. Attached to the email was a template from DOJ, but our Chapter does have one in place and it doesn't need any changes right now. We also have a vacancy for our CLUPC committee. We are looking for someone to fill this position. If you are interested, please write a letter of interest to Chapter President. We did get a letter of interest from one individual and we will let our committee members know. Right now, we already have this approval process for land withdrawal for housing. We always had a problem with housing. Why aren't we not dealing with housing, I would think this would be a priority. We've submitted our ideas and recommendations to the Chapter. We also had on our meeting agenda the 4 models for the Chapters that were introduced by the Navajo Nation. There are 4 different ideas that the DOJ has brought to our attention of our Navajo Nation government. Which model will our Chapter approve? Another question is do we want us to become a certified Chapter and what does being certified mean? Certified Chapters have to find their own funding. The majority of your funding resource will be coming from outside resources. If you can't find funding, it becomes difficult for the Chapter because they cannot depend on W/R for funding anymore, but the Navajo Nation does depend on the Federal Government for funding. As usual, you are invited to our CLUPC meetings.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – We, meaning the officials here have been referring NHA to our CLUPC to possibly get housing for our community. You just mentioned, Chapter is not doing anything about housing which is not true. We've been referring from the Chapter and we've had presentations from NHA and they have said, we have the funding and we are looking for land to build on. We have the land, but it sounds like CLUPC is not moving on this.

**Elvis Bitsilly** – Valerie Wilson from NHA office here in Tohatchi presented at our CLUPC meeting back in March. She gave a very good presentation on their funding source, budget, and what NHA is looking for. She stated they are looking for land to be withdrawn for the possibility of providing NHA homes to our community. They have millions of dollars they want to spend which we need to access for housing. We will continue to work with Ms. Wilson and Indian Health Center. I also want to mention we need to continue working with the State to get our projects moving. Red Willow lost \$170,000 when the governor reverted the funds back to the State. There is \$45,000 flooding around out there that is suppose to be used by our Chapter, but we don't know where it's at and Community Development doesn't know either and this makes it difficult to work with them. The communication between W/R and the State of NM is very bad. Our state legislators need to understand and work with us at the local level.

**Red Willow Farm Report:**

**Elvis Bitsilly (Chair)** – With RWF, we are at a standstill. We've had 3-4 farmers plant this season, but I believe the majority of us have become dependent on Walmart and Albertson. We want to buy something that's quick to make and eat. We are trying to continue with what was built before us, the foundation for our



well system, our powerline and all the infrastructure that was put in place. Now in 2025, we will be moving forward and start using our water well system. The difficult thing about that is what was installed before was not adequate so we will be doing some re-configuration on some infrastructure work. RWF would like to consider submitting another project request to the State using ICIP. We also talked about getting to power the Farm and there are Federal funds out there that we can tap into. Next year we hope to partner with the local schools to do some collaboration on farming. I also want to mention to our community and surrounding Chapters in District 14 to please stop dumping trash at the entrance of RWF.

**Priscilla Duncan** – Can you update us on the removal of all the trees and scrubs at the lake. A while back you had a lady come in to talk to us about a survey, she wanted the community to complete regarding the cleanup of the surrounding trees and scrubs at the lake.

**Elvis Bitsilly** – That survey was completed by a contractor with the BIA. My understanding is this project was completed and closed out until next year when they have more funding. It was BIA who got the funding for us and it's in their hands now. Hopefully, next year we will get some funding for the eradication of the tamarack trees and salt cedar.

**Lee Rodgers** – I'm wondering who has keys to access RWF gate? I would like to tour the farm area and I'm thinking about farming there. My grandmother's siblings (Dennison) all farmed there and now it's all abandoned.

**Elvis Bitsilly** – Tomorrow is our Red Willow meeting at 1pm, maybe you can come in. The main entrance has a secured lock, it's a key lock. The farm board officials are the only ones who have a key because we have millions of dollars' worth of farm equipment there.

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

**Grazing Officer Moore** – On going tally counts and on going homesite visits and our population is growing. To put it in perspective we have in our district 14-2, 126,300 acres grazing boundaries and 133 permittees, so if you convert that down to each permittee, they would be allow 1.5 square mile of grazing. But as of today, we only have 35-40 permittees that are active and in compliance. We are trying to increase the number of people to do their tally counts because BIA is coming out to do a verification program this year so by the end of the year, we'll see how many people actually come out either to meet with us or the BIA. You can say my grazing permit is still active and I'm still interest in grazing livestock, but I have to livestock currently. So, they will put you on a resting stage or (deferred grazing permit).

Wednesday, District 14 grazing committee meeting here at Tohatchi Chapter at 9am. Also on August 27<sup>th</sup> AIF Farm and Garden workshop, more of a show and tell. I would like to invite Lee Rodgers to come to the workshop to talk about how she got started growing her crops. Other topics are climate change and why, where are all the emissions coming from and is it human caused. I've asked someone from NMSU to come out and speak on the climate change. We will be giving our door prizes and the grand prize which is a rototill. There is also an equine rewards program going on right now where on Mondays in the month of August you can bring in feral horses to W/R fairgrounds. They will take your name, count how many horses, and put them into categories for example; for stallions, colts, donkeys, and mules and they will pay you a certain amount from the categories. It will take about 6 months to receive your payment so bring in your Driver's License, ID, and Social Security card. If a horse has a brand, it will require proof of ownership from the owner.

**Priscilla Duncan** – The hay which was suppose to be given out under emergency plan from the chapter, what happen with that?

**Grazing Officer Moore** – That is still being discussed if it can be distributed under the emergency plan.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – The individuals who have grazing permits but do not get tally counts or refused to, what is the Navajo Nation doing about that?

**Grazing Officer Moore** – Navajo Nation is not doing too much because BIA is like the oversight. Grazing permits come from them. So, as grazing officials we try to encourage tally counts or even update their information. Even if they don't have livestock, they can still get it updated to remain active.

**Vincent Muskett** – Yes, BIA is doing a verification on all permits to see who are active and in compliance or maybe in probate. Some people are carrying their parents or grandparents permits but not in compliance by getting tally counts done annually. We as grazing officials are working with BIA on the verification project by assisting families and educating them with their permit.

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS:**



1. Resolution to approve adding Antelope Pass Road Route 9508 of three (3) miles to the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation (NNDOT) road inventory to be included to the fifteen miles (15) Road grading designation.
2. Resolution to approve adding route 9653 Road of three (3) miles (from Calvin Smith's resident to the Barney's camp) to the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation (NNDOT) Road inventory to be included to the fifteen-mile (15) road grading designation.
3. Resolution to approve adding the former county route 11 (Bitsilly and Silage) three (3) miles to the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation (NNDOT) road inventory to be included to the fifteen-mile (15) road grading designation.
4. Resolution to approve a Budget Transfer in Fund 03 for Gas/Propane in the amount of \$200 coming out of Electric.
5. Resolution to close out General Fund 02 and transfer the amount of \$5,877.56 to fund 15 PEP Laborer
6. Resolution to approve General Wages in amount of \$5,048.00 into PEP Fund 15 for all PEP workers to cover them to the end of the fiscal year 2024.
7. Resolution to accept the Summer Youth Employment money in the amount of \$33,526.00.
8. Resolution to approve Lowery IT Services to come to the Chapter to upgrade the Internet and Router equipment in the amount of \$4,181.86.
9. Resolution to approve Ms. Billie J. Eastridge to do another 2-day sewing class in the amount of \$500.00
10. Resolution to approve and support the updated FY 2025 Budget for the Tohatchi Veteran's Organization.

**IX. ANOUNCEMENTS:**

Grazing committee meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9am in Tohatchi Chapter, Animal & Plant Summit at Twin Arrows on August 6-7<sup>th</sup> hosted by NN Fish & Wildlife,

**X. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: August 21, 2024 @ 10am**

**XI. AJOURNMENT: 1:43pm**

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – August 18, 2024

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC

Mr. Nathan Notah, Council Delegate