



October 07, 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

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. INVOCATION
- IV. REVIEW-OF THE AGENDA
- V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:
- VI. REPORTS:

*Council Delegate Report:

*Community Service Coordinator/Officials' /CLUPC Report:

1. Status of Audit –
2. Status of Reconciliation for September
3. Status of the SYEP Allocation of Funds—Chapter carrying negative balance
4. Status of Tabled Resolution to increase Fees – Staff completed spreadsheet—Old Business Item
5. Update on East Flats Water Drillings -
6. ARPA—Status of Assessments with LAM.
7. Update on Cemetery Expansion – need to perform erosion control
8. Bike Trail Documents to DOJ -
9. Update on status of Senior Center discrepancies -
10. CLUPC on Land Use Recertification Update -
11. Plans to work with Chooshgai Community School on Vacant Housing –search for housing developers-status of land designation for housing development
12. Plans to Designate Land for Commercial Development along Highway 491 –
13. Plans to replace the Bridge on Route 108 and purchase of Culverts. –
14. Status of Safety Complex –
15. Status of the Budget preparation for FY 2025 – Continuing Resolution Navajo Nation
16. Status of East Flats Water Drilling—drillers move to Lake Valley—will return
17. Advertisement for Poll Workers
18. Preparation for Winter—haul wood, coal, propane, etc.
19. Advertise for Vacant CLUPC position

*Red Willow Farm's Report –

- 1.

*Grazing Officer Moore's Report -

- 1.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution to approve the “hub resilience” plan for Laris Manuelito’s store.
2. Resolution to Approve the Teleconferencing and /or Hybrid Meetings
3. Resolution to Approve the Partial Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: 10-23-2024 (Chapter Meeting)

X. ADJOURNMENT:



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PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

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

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- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:20am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, and Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford
- III. **INVOCATION:** Sonny Moore
- IV. **REVIEW OF THE AGENDA/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**
- VI. **COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**
 1. **Announcement: No funds available until the new 2025 fiscal year.**
 2. **Virginia Harvey** – I'm here on behalf of my sister, Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne who has requested to be on the agenda for the next Chapter meeting on October 23rd.
 3. **Tammy Bitsilly** – I'm here on behalf on the Tohatchi High School MESA Program. MESA stands for Mathematics, Engineering, Science and Technology Achievement. My son is an active member on the committee and they won a science award last semester. My son was the grand champion for the program and he will become an engineer when he is done with his education. Gallup Mckinley County School also has the STEM Program. STEM stands for Science Technology and Mathematics which is good because a lot of our students participate in this program over at the high school, but unfortunately, we don't get a lot active parents in the program. I don't know if you hear on the news last winter when the governor had a STEM expo at the State Fair grounds and our students won the grand championship there. There project had to do with water cleansing or water distillation using corn products. This year they plan to enter the governor's challenge again and that is why they would like to be on the agenda for the next Chapter meeting to conduct a survey for the community. The governor has a list of objectives that the kids can pick from. So, the high school would like to start a radio station locally and they want to cater to district 14.
I would like to request to have these students on the agenda so they can do a presentation and survey regarding the new radio station. I'm even thinking about having the students go out into the community with their surveys to get feedback. I think it's a good idea to empower our students and not only that we'll get them to the competition, and we'll support them in their efforts.
President Moore – It's always good to hear about all the new opportunities and pathways for our children. We invite the Superintendent regularly; he and his staff will give us a report on our schools here. We, officials are always pushing for the success of our students. I've heard about the STEM programs; it's been around for some time now.
Tammy Bitsilly - I know Gallup Mckinley County School had a very low rating of an "F" at the beginning of last year when my son was a sophomore. At the end of the semester, with the help of the teachers and the SATs, and all the other standard curriculum testing, we have and "A" rating at the end of this semester which is a huge increase, so it's working and we need to support them.
 4. **Hazel James Tohe** – I work for Dine Center Research & Evaluation and San Juan Collaborative for Health Equity. I cover the 4 corners area and I'm here to cover the flyer which has come out. We are trying to get the district 14 Farmers and Ranchers together to talk about just transition regarding clean energy, water project planning and survey, climate change and emergency response. We hope to have a meeting this Thursday on October 10th. What surrounds all of this is we would like to work with Tohatchi Chapter and the Red Willow Farm committee so we can expand on getting more water projects here for the ranchers and farmers. Because of climate change, there will be harsh climates coming our way, we have to be ready for disastrous issues that

may arise. We don't want to think that way, but we are at the stage in this world and in our society. The earth is not going to improve as long as we have mining and fracking. People do not like hearing about this, but climate change will make go back to horse and wagon. So, we are making that circle back to horse and wagon. That's the issue that we have and we want to make sure we are taking about it and hear from everybody. So, this program is called "Tribal Economy Development Capacity Grant Making. We are currently gathering resources and surveys from communities. It's an MOU under the Navajo Nation where Jonathan Nez signed on December 23, 2022 right before the new president came on board. It moved forward and we are gathered as community grassroots as departments. This all happen last year and this year we are finally in the communities talking about it. Previously, we are learning more about what the MOU entailed and how we can plan with it. I invited Mr. Elvis Bitsilly to a meeting last week in Farmington and we got to meet with the lady who is running this process, this program. Her name is Fidda Faron Peel, a Cherokee from West Virginia and she provided information on what we should be doing as a community to be a part of this process. The only reason why (DCRE) Dine Centered stepped in is because we attended all the meetings last year, we were given homework, we gave maps, and some data and whatever we had to this effort. Only five non-profits were selected to that process and that was DCRE, NTU, Shonto (for tourism), Dine Introspective for farming up in Shiprock. My plan, DCRE's plan was just to service 491 from Gallup to Farmington and Chapters along the way. We talked about the need for water because we live in the desert. But it expanded because DCRE, we have Chief Justice Yazzie from Forest Lake as one of our members, we have Raymond Yellowman from western agency from Cameron, Gap and Tuba City as well as a member. We have Dr. David Tsosie from Sanders as a member, we have a young lady from Torreon who is also a member. We have Chili Yazzie from Shiprock as a member too. So, we have a lot of good people with DCRE and they are asking me if I can stretch my services to include these people as well in our service area. We see the Red Willow sign everyday when we drive by and we want to see the productive for that particular farm for this area. So, we want to go ahead to see what we can do to help Tohatchi and I think Mr. Bitsilly has a good handle on his planning process working with the community. Therefore I think it will be a good plan to get Tohatchi involved. As we move forward, all we are doing now is gathering resources, data, and surveys. Eventually, we will submit a planning proposal which will give hopefully \$250,000 to Red Willow to do their planning. We are also talking about the feral animals who need water as well. We need to have a lagoon of water so if anything were to happen in the mountain, we will have the lagoon of water. This will be the plan for Tohatchi and possibly for Mexican Springs and we can work together. The meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, I would like to see everybody there. I would like to come back for the Chapter meeting to do the survey and I'll have PowerPoints as well.

Elvis Bitsilly – Our biggest challenges is always funding threw the Navajo Nation. I and Hazel just happen to connect through her program and it's only about a month since she made us aware of her program. The presentation she is going to provide on Thursday will cover everything, like the project, and process, funding, and potential funds for Tohatchi and it's not just for Red Willow, it could be for roads. The other topics I've heard is fire disaster, how would we deal with fire disaster? The roads need to be repaired where you can drive on it without damaging your vehicle. The other part to this is if we can get certified as a Chapter will have direct funding coming to us instead going through the 164 process. The Chapter is eligible for some of the funding and all they need to do is apply for the fundings.

Vice President Halona – Just to add some suggestion to Mrs. Tohe's presentation. I'm not sure what your working relationship is with anyone at Division of Natural Resource Departments. They have funding, we gave them funding, they'll be getting more funding and we just all need to coordinate. We are all trying to get to the same place but we are all doing it 10 different ways. If we could all organize, communicate, coordinate we'll all be success in what we want to do. If you need assistance in getting the people from the Division of Natural Resources to coordinate with you, let me know.

Herman Yazzie – I've been going to the Land Department in W/R for the past 6 months trying to get my homesite lease. This is my 3rd attempt to obtain my homesite lease. I know our Vice President; Mr. Halona wrote a statement for me to take to the Land Office to get this situation resolve but they have their own rules and regulations. The Land Office is requesting for a legal survey of the existing homesite and Maria, CSC has the documents with her. I am requesting for the Housing Discretionary assistance to pay for a surveyor to conduct the survey so I can provide that information to the Land Office.

Priscilla Duncan – Land Department states NTUA requires a legal survey to be completed of the homesite.
Vice President Halona – the home is on an “existing homesite” which means all you’ll need is coordinates off google earth (GPS) which Land Department can assist with. It does not require a legal survey of the area. This is an amendment to the regulations which was put in place to make it easier for families who have a home already on the homesite to obtain their homesite lease. NTUA will do their own survey, they are not worried about what’s on the inside, just the outside.

Priscilla Duncan – We took your note to the Land Office to show them, but they are still requesting for legal survey.

Vice President Halona – Take this note over to Mr. Byron Bitsoie who is the manager at Land Department.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – once you talk with Bryon about your existing homesite. Land Department will accept your documents and approve your homesite lease. So, you will not need to be on the Chapter agenda.

Byron Bitsoie – how can I help? I’m hearing issues with Land Department.

Vice President Halona – I have a gentleman here who has been to the Land Department several times, its an existing home on his homesite. He went to the office again, and was told he needs a legal survey. I explained to him he would fall under Appendix A for existing residents. So, I asked him to come see you so you can take them over to straighten everybody out regarding existing residents.

Byron Bitsoie - Yes, I can do that. We have Mr. Ordell Yazzie who can do the GPS coordinates with the applicant. Give me a call and let me know when you are coming in.

Lucinda Barney – I would like an update on the eastflat water drilling. They did change out the pipe, then we asked them when the powerline was going to get hooked up to it. We want to know who covers the cost of the power? Is it stated in the contract? If not, are we responsible to pay for the power? We spoke with Shirley but she did not know the answer to the question. I would like to request to have another meeting with the individuals who have had their water drilled. From this point moving forward, how much longer is it going to take to get the water into the homes?

President Moore – I have not heard that the customer will have to pay for any part of the hookup. I’m been trying to reach Mr. Colin Daly. I have not gotten a response from him. As far as the project, the last drilling that they did was for Mr. Leonard Notah. Then the crew moved to Lake Valley and I’m not sure when they will be returning to our projects. They are some delays as far as powerline extension for some of the customers. Maria wrote email to Louelle Chee who is with NTUA and we are planning to meet with these customers. My understanding is everything should be part of the contract to hook everything up into the home. The only part I’m aware of is the possibility of you upgrading your plumbing inside the home.

Lucinda Barney – we also asked if it’s possible to hookup a hose from the well so we can put it into the water tank. It is possible they said, but you’ll need power to it. Using a hose from the well would be very help and I know the plumbing portion of this will take a lot longer to put in place.

President Moore – They’re suppose to install an outside water hydrate for all the customers who are having water drilled at their homes. I don’t know if that will require electricity. I will continue to reach out to Mr. Daly.

Marietta Bowman – I had some dirt delivered to my home from the school. The dirt was piled in my front yard next to a fire hydrate. I wanted the dirt piled in my backyard but the truck did not have access to the backyard. I need some help moving the dirt around to my backyard. I was wondering if the Chapter had a small tractor or something to move the dirt for me?

President Moore – You can see Maria, CSC to if the Chapter can be of assistance. We do have a backhoe and grader, but not a dump truck.

Pernell Halona – I’m requesting for a backhoe or grader to grade the Halona Road. It has not been grader for about a year and we have had washouts. You will need to come in to fill out a workorder with Maria, CSC. BIA is responsible for keeping up the road quarterly.

REPORTS:

***Council Delegate’s Report:**

1. **Council Delegate Notah not in attendance.**

***Community Service Coordinator/Officials’ Report: Maria, CSC is at a training today**

1. **Status of Audit** – We reached out to Helen Brown, auditor who is currently behind on chapter audits and

- reviews. They just hired 2 more auditors who are currently in training right now. We will be scheduling in the 1st quarter a 6-month review in 2025 with the auditor.
2. Status of Reconciliation for September 2024 – Jeannie Muskett, the AMS has budgeted for September. All checks and money are accounted for.
 3. Status of the SYEP allocation of Funds (Chapter carrying negative balance) – Currently has not reached our bank account. All documents have been submitted to OOC office in W/R but they are behind in payments. ASC office is helping our chapter by calling their office every day for payment.
 4. Status of Tabled Resolution to increase fees (spreadsheet attached) – Attached is the monthly deposits and payments being made out. There is a chart also attached if community wants to see the daily deposits that are made. I could not print for everyone because I have no legal-size paper right now.
 5. Update on Eastflats Water Drilling (drillers moved to Lake Valley, but will be returning) -
 6. ARPA – (status of assessment with LAM) – I have attached a memo from Arbin Mitchell dated June 25, 2024 that we are not using the Contract workers (LAM) at this time. We will be working with FRF Office from now on.
 7. Update on cemetery expansion (need to perform erosion control) – The chapter needs to focus on repairing the erosion area and level out the ground a bit. And we would like to work with Rollie Mortuary on laying people to rest. They will come to our chapter meet with staff and help with organizing caskets and urns. Also, show us how to keep documentation on who is there. Better organize our cemetery.
 8. Bike Trail Documents to DOJ – OOC Office has finished their review and now will be taken to DOJ office. Almost there, we need DOJ, auditor, and NN President's signatures.
 9. Update on status of Senior Center discrepancies – Jerred Johnson has resigned as supervisor of the Senior Center two weeks ago. DELTCS has not moved forward on the HVAC due to the 2024 close out. Everett Jole – I will be overseeing your Senior Center. I'm currently overseeing 6 Senior Centers which includes Tohatchi. I was just over at the Senior Center and it looks like just some minor things that need to be done before it can be reopened. I don't know if the HVAC works, if it works than all it needs is to be maintenance. So what I'll do is talk to OEH and find out what needs to be done. Then I'll call LAROC and get a quote for the maintenance of the HVAC system. We also need staff as well, like driver and cook for the Senior Center. If you know of someone, please send them to Twin Lakes to apply. The center just needs minor repairs, staff, and the maintenance of the HVAC system before it can be re-opened.
 10. CLUPC on Land Use Recertification update -
 11. Plans to work with Chooshgai Community School on vacant housing (search for housing developers; status of land designation for housing development) –
 12. Plans to designate Land for Commercial Development along Highway 491 – Tohatchi Chapter is currently looking for developers for housing in our area. We haven't really started or talked with anyone as of yet. We have 45 areas set aside for housing and we need to start talking to the housing developers other than NHA.
 13. Plans to replace the Bridge on Route 108 and purchase culverts – I keep missing the virtual meeting with BIA. The last meeting I attended was the plan and design which they are working on. This bridge called the centennial bridge will be replaced soon. They are finalizing the plans and looking for construction funds per NNDOT.
 14. Status of Safety Complex – We are looking to construct a Safety Complex on 5 acres of land (15 thousand square feet) behind the old chevron station which will house the fire and police department along with EMS. We've hired an architect (LAM Corporation) and CMAR (construction management at risk) and they are all on board and we have a project manager named Parsons. They are working closely with Dr. Greyeyes with the Safety Division. I've looked at some of the complexes that Blackrock Plus Core has built in Phoenix to get an idea of the type of work they can do.
Priscilla Duncan – I would recommend that the Chapter hire someone who can do both the design and to build the complex. It would be much quicker to do it that way.
 15. Status of the Budget preparation for FY 2025 (Continuing Resolution) – All the Chapter is getting for now to cover us for 6 months is **\$159,000** 2025 budget.
 16. Advertisement for Poll Workers – Training is on October 16th from 2pm to 5pm here at Tohatchi chapter. We've reached out to Kyle Dennison, Shirley Dennison, Jamie Silver, Virginia Badonie, and Gloria James.
 17. Preparation for Winter (haul wood, coal, and propane) – The Chapter will be buying wood beginning on

October 14th through October 25th. You will need to be a registered voter with Tohatchi Chapter (Vendor). The wood would need to be split to fit stoves and we will be accepting mix wood. Pellets will also be purchased again for community members who use pellets and as far as propane is concerned, this is still debatable due to the Chapter's allocation for 2025.

Coal tickets will be given out October 28th to community members. Please do not lose these tickets, last year a lot of members lost tickets or did not use them at all. We are only given 100 tickets this year because last year 150 was given and only 69 members used them.

I would like to ask to have staff around who can sign off for checks. The wood needs to be split to fit stoves and we will be accepting mix wood.

18. Advertise for Vacant CLUPC position – vacancy will be announced on the radio station and newspapers (Gallup and Navajo Nation). If you are interested, write me a letter of interest.

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.

***CLUPC REPORT:**

Elvis Bitsilly: CLUPC President – “Nature & People First” will be on the CLUPC agenda. We are still waiting on Byron to give us information on the land designation. We are looking at the old Tohatchi Boarding School for professional housing. The application process has been submitted by the chapter and we are open to talking with developers. The Navajo Nation President has agriculture as number 1 on his agenda. We need people to get involved in farming. The recertification of the CLUPC is still on going in pending status. I'll be recommendation a work session for our members sometime in November. Again, we do have an opening for another member. Our Vice Chair stepped down after his term ended and we also welcomed aboard Mr. Pernell Halon as a new member as well.

Red Willow Farm – With the farmers at Red Willow, the water was flowing inconsistently. It would flow then it would shut off. So, we are still trying to figure out where our utility is going. They say its being mailed to Chapter at box 287, but I don't know who all has access to the mail here at the Chapter. I'm wondering if the NTUA bill was pickup by someone. We have been encouraging our community to start farming or start a home garden. We did provide seeds to people who were interesting in planting and growing crops. We also entered our squash at the Navajo Nation Fair and got 1st place for our squash and 2nd place for our round squash. We are also collaborating with the School of Business at the high school and we also put together a float with the help of their art class to enter at this year's homecoming parade. We've been giving presentation at the high school to encourage our student to get involve in farming. They seem to be receptive to the idea and want to learn more about agriculture and traditional plants. For example; what is Navajo tea and where is it found? or where does corn pollen come from?

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

Grazing Officer Moore absent but he did state to pickup a flyer which advertises the Farm & Ranch workshop which will be Part 4 on Tuesday, October 29th from 9am-3pm here at the Chapter. The topics are: Grazing permits verification program, Dine Native plants, Navajo Nation fish & wildlife 2016 population survey, and Beef Quality Assurance Program.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to approve FY 2024 Chapter's activities General Fund account Revenue Budget (Fund 01) in the amount of **\$5,962.18**, for the 4th quarter July, August, and September 2024.
2. Resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 carry-over budget for General Activities, Land Claims Trust, Summer Youth Employment, Housing Discretionary, Local Governance Grant, Chapter Stipend, Scholarship Claims, Public Employment Projects (PEP), Emergency, Navajo Nation Sales Tax, Supplemental CIP, Senior Center Fund, Navajo Nation CIP, Red Willow Farm Fund, and the Unhealthy Food Tax in the total amount of **\$397,012.29**.
3. Resolution to request the Navajo Nation Land Department to consider granting a tribal authorization access to Navajo Division of Transportation for Navajo Route 108, Red Willow Wash bridge project construction located within the Tohatchi Chapter boundaries.

4. Resolution to approve and adopt the fiscal year 2025 continuing budget **CS-39-24**, Navajo Nation General Fund, Capital Outlay Match Funds, Lapse Funds for Chapter Utilities, Permanent Funds Chapter Scholarship, 8705-Clearing House and Veteran's Awards, budget in the amount of **\$163,558.00**.
5. Resolution recommending and approving the Housing Discretionary Assistance Fund 09 for the following community member, Mr. Herman Yazzie.

IX. ANOUNCEMENTS:

Grazing committee meeting on November 6th @ 9am. Red Willow Farm committee meeting Tuesday, October 8th at 1pm. Maria, CSC and Jeannie Muskett, AMS will be attending a Finance Conference in Albuquerque, NM which is held by the State of NM. Topics will be ICIP, Housing, Finances, and etc. EMS will be holding a community event on October 25th from 3pm-8pm here at Tohatchi Chapter. The Chapter will have a Trunk or Treat for the kids as well. CLUPC meeting October 8 @ 9am and also on Thursday, October 10th with Hazel Tohe and her PowerPoint. Agency Council meeting October 12th at Twin Lakes. Veterans Meeting on Friday, October 11th. Water Project meeting on Thursday, October 10th @ 9am-1pm.

Vice President Halona – We started a program called Native plants and I'm encouraging the Botany that worked for Navajo to catalog all of our endangered herbs and medicine, our traditional cultural ones. We have over 8,000 in seed bank and if you go to the fairgrounds over in the west corner. There is construction going on right now where the greenhouse and seed bank will be. There is one component that nobody has brought up yet and I'm hoping Tohatchi will start it. We need our own beehives here because they are the ones that make the difference. Bees are the pollinators which plants need and we could use some bee farmers.

November Election update: What we know as of today is the people who were disqualified because they did not submit their campaign expense report by the deadline will not be on the ballot for the November election. This includes Mr. Edwin Begay who was running for Chapter President. We are not sure how this will be handled.

X. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: October 23, 2024 @ 10am

XI. AJOURNMENT: 12:41pm

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – October 22, 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