



January 06, 2025 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:

1. Laris Manuelito -

VI. REPORTS:

***Council Delegate Report:**

***Community Service Coordinator/Officials' Reports:**

1. Status of Audit – Negative Balances
2. Report on Safety Complex – Management team, Parsons—See Senator Pinto/Dr. Greyeyes Email
3. Update on status of Senior Center discrepancies -
4. Update on cemetery expansion – need to develop erosion control.
5. Bike Trail Documents to DOJ -
6. CLUPC on Land Use Recertification update –
7. Plans to Designate Land for Commercial Development along Highway 491 – Meetings with Economic Development –
8. Status of East Flats Water Drilling –
9. Preparing for ICIP 2025 –
10. Asphalt Milling – NM State and NNDOT Letter
11. Update on Roads 15 Mile Designation—MOA with BIA Roads

***Red Willow Farm's Report –**

- 1.

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

- 1.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution to approve newly elected Chapter Officials to be added to Wells Fargo Signature
2. Resolution to approve PEP extension for the Solid Waste worker and the Office Specialist.
3. Resolution to approve revenue in the amount of \$4,551.72 to be added to General Fund 01.
4. Resolution to approve Spring 2025 College Financial Assistance.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: 01-22-2025 (Chapter Meeting)

X. ADJOURNMENT:



January 06, 2025 10:00 A.M.

PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

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

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

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:40am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and CLUPC & RWFB Chair Elvis Bitsilly
- III. **INVOCATION:** Olin Kieyoomia
- IV. **REVIEW OF THE AGENDA/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. **APPROVAL OF December 18, 2024 CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**
- VI. **COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**
 1. **Olin Kieyoomia** – I would like to request more money for the Summer Youth Employment Fund which need to be address to our Council Delegate. I believe a legislation should be drafted now, rather than later during the Spring Session. When we do get the funds needed during the Summer Session, the students are already going back to school and we want to be head of this so I would like to sponsor a resolution for Student Employment for this coming year, fiscal year 2025.

President Moore – What is our balance in the SYEP fund? That’s a good recommendation, but I believe we have enough. We have over \$26,000 which includes the money we received recently and I believe this will be enough to cover the students for the summer.

Olin Kieyoomia – This will cover all the students, high school and college students and at what rate, \$9-\$10 an hour? And the reason why I’m bringing this up is because the “comprehensive budget” has yet to be passed. I believe the Chapter should be asking for more funds for our students so that maybe they can work longer than the 2 weeks which is assigned to them. Just remember the comprehensive budget will be addressed in March 2025.

Lee Rodgers – On average how many students apply for employment? I would like to know the breakdown between high school and college students and is there enough funds to pay all the students, or does the Chapter run short? Also, do the students’ paycheck get deductions as far as federal deductions? Can someone provide us with numbers at one of our meetings so we can have a better understand of how we can approach this?

President Moore – I believe we can do a forecast; we know how much the wages are and we can play with the numbers and we how many we can hire for \$26,000 and for how long (weeks). Just to update you on the operations of the Chapter, we worked on the files and put them I into order and it will be up to the new elected officials on how they want to organized the files, but it’s mainly by pending projects.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I’m wondering if all the students who apply for employment get selected to work or does Maria only work with a certain number of students per session?

Olin Kieyoomia – They are students who don’t get selected, because they might have work prior or they worked numerous times. The policy does state that with a family, only one of the family members can work and I’m certain \$26,000 is not enough to cover the FICA and Social Security. All of these kids do get tax deductions. I believe we need around \$50-\$60 thousand to carry us through this year and the Chapter should be sponsoring a resolution to ask for additional dollars. How about the scholarship amount, how much does the Chapter have in this account?

President Moore – The Chapter has \$10,692.00 and \$3,453.00 which around \$14 thousand for student scholarships.

Olin Kieyoomia – Has the Chapter awarded student scholarships for this spring? The reason why I’m

asking is UNM has proposed a 3% rate increase in tuition fees and so has Arizona schools

Elvis Bitsilly – Scholarship monies and student youth employment, the Chapter receives that annual allocation and it seems to me it's been a set amount. I have not seen it change at all. The Council Delegates are the ones who should be asking for an increase in the allocations for scholarships so Chapters can get an increase. We do need a legislation to request for more money for scholarships. The continuing resolution is still in place until March and based on that come spring, we don't know what kind of money we will be getting this summer or for the rest of the year. Things are still pending and we are in this pause state right now with the council and President's office. I agree with Mr. Kieyoomia, our Council Delegate needs to look into this and find ways to get more funding for our students. I've always said we need to increase our voter registration as well. We need more people registering with the Chapter so we can get more money allocated to our Chapter.

President Moore – Maria, a question was brought up about the Student Employment. We have \$26,000 in scholarship funds. Can we increase the number of weeks for the students that will be hired in the future? Is it possible to have them work more than 2 weeks? What has been your criteria?

Maria, CSC – for example, this past summer I had 18 high school students and 6 college students. That whole group of students run me \$26,000 for 2 weeks. Depending on how many students put in applications is how I budget for their weekly pay. It is not very much and high school student only do 64 hours for 2 weeks and their pay is at \$10.50 hourly. For college students it's 80 hours for 2 weeks and paid \$11.00 per hour. Last summer I spent \$26,000 on 25 students for 2 weeks of work.

Lee Rodgers – So you didn't have to turn away a student?

Maria, CSC – The requirements are high school students, mid school students, age of 14 on up. Right now, it's only 1 child per household but if we have enough funding then I'll take a sibling who wants to work.

President Moore – there was a recommendation made to have the officials request for more funds and to do it during the summer or even during the spring session so we can get more money for our student employment.

President Moore – I will have all the pending projects updated in writing which I will be sharing with you, Lee. I consider it an orientation just for your information.

2. **Laris Manuelito** – As you all know I've been working on a grocery store initiative south of here, right passed the Tohatchi sign. I brought with me a supporting resolution that the community passed a while back, but at the time the store did not have a name. The grocery store will be called "li'ni MarketPlace." I would like to request for a supporting resolution again. I have gone as far as I can go with the MarketPlace, I've had the land withdrawn and the business site lease is ready to go. They didn't know why a feasibility study was required and we recently found out that feasibility study is more for the 5-year plan which the store is still on. The SBDCI is the Small Business Development Credit Initiative, the US Treasury had sent down some funding to the Navajo Nation Economic Development and it was split into 3 increments and the first funding amounts are splits 3 ways to Change Labs, Economic Development, and Dine Chambers of Commerce. I was working with Change Labs for quite some time. Change Labs was created to help Native entrepreneurs strengthen and grow their work. I went through their whole incubator and some of their financial programs and one of the requires is I have to apply with Change Labs and I'm ineligible because I'm asking for more than \$1 million, I'm requesting for \$5 million. I also went through FRF but it's really interesting because you leave the decision up to person and I didn't have enough "codes," something that would help in instances like COVID Relief, but it's food sustainability and food sovereignty so I didn't see why it didn't have enough codes for US Treasury. I'm thinking of asking another Council Delegate since I cannot get a hold of our Council Delegate, Mr. Notah to draft a legislation to ask for more funding. I'm requesting for \$5 million because of the land withdrawal, business site lease, marketing, surveys, and NTUA for solar installation. President had asked me to go to NTUA to see if they have funding for the solar installation. NTUA would have to come out to the business site and say they cannot do the solar installation. But that's all I need to increase my chances of getting Federal funding. I do have a grant writer on board who will be assistance me with all the paperwork that is being requested of me. I will need to show I have community support, then these funding sources are more apt to giving funding to a new business and look at the project more seriously. This is the reason I'm coming to the Chapter to ask for a support resolution for more funding for li'ni

MarketPlace. I will be meeting with the approving committee in two weeks, and after I passed that it will be determine where the signing of the business site lease will be. I do want to have it here in Tohatchi but they say it's up to the President where he wants to sign the lease.

I also like to add is, I was looking at some legislation and I saw a legislation on the economic corridor. They had a different name for it in the legislation but it refers to the 750,000 square feet. They are trying to change and eliminate the corridors so if we already have our corridors established and we need to re-assure that and it's not going to change with the new legislation.

President Moore – This corridor was established back in 1951 and we do have a resolution that speaks to that. I did not know they are trying to do away with that 750,000 sq feet corridor.

Vice President Halona – A question was posed, if we are actively involving our community. Anytime there is an opportunity for Tohatchi, we (myself & Mr. Kieyoomia) have been advocating for our community. Tohatchi has all the basic infrastructure; we have schools, highway 491 runs through Tohatchi, and the clinic so we are able to leverage that. When we get the Safety Complex completed that will be another leverage we'll have. This is very important, because in Laris' feasibility study, someone will ask "how close is the fire department, are there fire hydrants and if there isn't she is going to have to look at putting in another water tank up just for fire suppression. These are new regulation that are being put in as far as building codes which is good but it can be bad because on Navajo, we don't have the infrastructure. So those are challenges that Navajo Nation deals with every day. As far as the housing needs for our community, we have 40 acres available for development. Now W/R sees the potential for housing development in Tohatchi but the question is who is going to develop it? We've had discussion to see who we want to see develop this area; will it be NHA? The community would rather see an outside firm develop and plan out this whole area. This will hopefully bring in people who want to live in Tohatchi and this will bring better economic development for us to expand and grow our community. If we put 200 new homes here, will we have enough water and waste water system? I believe we have enough water to cover the new homes we hope to have developed. We also have the railway which is suppose to come down from Farmington but we have people saying no, no, no. We want everything to stay the same, but we don't want the same. We want improvement, we want development, we want our children and grandchildren to have a better quality of life. So the railway that is coming down will save our roads, 2nd is the commence that is going to happen coming in and going out. If these Chapters are not thinking about distribution centers, we should be. If we develop these centers, we are halfway point because I-40 is right there. So, it's going to take a different thinking for us to move forward, but you'll still have people who will disagree. If we really don't want change, then we need to just stop planning and say, this is how we want to live, we don't want things to get better. So, those are the kind of decisions we have to make. But we do have a "big" opportunity and we can do so much to improve our community and the other communities in District 14. I see in the future that the NN government will be operating out of District 14 when the Navajo Nation decides to de-centralized the government. As far as the water line that will be built to go to Mexican Springs, Tohatchi, and Coyote Canyon have been fully funded. Millions of dollars have been allocated to complete this project. I'll continue to advocate on behalf of our community.

Laris Manuelito – Speaking of distribution centers, one of the barriers I came across was the cost of the construction like the mortar. So, I've been looking for alternative building materials and I found a better product and less expensive than mortar in Phoenix but the cost to bring it here is expensive. I would like to talk to CLUPC about the possibility of building a warehouse to make our own mortar or any kind of construction materials needed. This is another initiative I plan to work on as well.

President Moore – Just recently, the Navajo Nation negotiated some water rights. There will be a lot of water on Navajo in Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. What kind of plans do we have in place? In 2028 when the water comes down from the San Juan River, we have a 10-inch lateral that will be coming here and the project is already funded.

Renee Martinez – NNCHR: I've been working as a CHR for 11 years and my office is located at Tohatchi Health Center. For the CHR program, we are told we can only give updates 3 times a year, but I come to the Chapter to give information to the CSC about patients who are in need of wheelchair ramps or home maintenance. For the month of January, I will be updating Maria on the high-risk patients living in our community. I also check on patients who are bedbound, homebound, and wheelchair bound and even the

elderly who lives alone and receives no family support. These elderly are all considered high-risk. The work I do is confidential between myself and the elderly and I do have other resources which I utilize. For example; the Chapter is a resource, they distribute items the client might need through a referral from their doctor. I also pickup patients' medication after the patient has ordered their meds. I will deliver the medication to them at their home and explain how the medication should be taken. The patient will then sign off on a form to prove they received their medication. Last time I was here I explain I took a supervisor job with the CHR program and that left Tohatchi without a CHR for 3 months. I have since returned to Tohatchi Health Center as a CHR and there is currently a position open with the NN CHR program for a supervisor.

I also would like to share some information that just came out from the Department of Health. They state stomach virus is high among people including COVID virus which is still around. Stay protected by wearing your mask, washing your hands, and get your vaccination.

VII. REPORTS:

***Council Delegate's Report:** Not in attendance.

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

1. Status of Audit: We were suppose to meet with the Audit General in the 1st quarter of this year, but she has not reached out to us. We probably need to call her again to schedule a time for a meeting. As far as the policies, I did resubmit them back to DOJ and we were assigned a new attorney again. It's no longer Helen Freeman. I'm now working with Dory Goldberg and she wants to setup a teleconference to go over the policies we submitted.
The agenda states negative balance, but I believe the negative balance was on the Student Youth Employment Program.
2. Report on Safety Complex – Management team, Parsons -
3. Update on the status of Senior Center discrepancies –
Maria, CSC – Everything inside the building has been cleaned, minor repairs have been made, and I'm working with Orlynda Dennison who is the supervisor of the Naschitti Senior Center. I'm waiting on her letter in regards to the HVAC system. She did request from the Chapter that we pay for the maintenance of the system in the amount of \$371.00. Once the system is serviced, we will call OEH again to do another walk through and hopefully we will get approval to open back up in February.
4. Update on Cemetery expansion, need to develop erosion control -
Maria, CSC – the PEP workers will be starting on developing a canal to prevent and control the erosion that is occurring. We will not be opening up the new side of the cemetery until the work to control the erosion is complete.
5. Bike Trail documents to DOJ -
Maria, CSC – I met with Cynthia Freeman with DOJ and she says I've been going about this the wrong way. Cynthia states all we needed was an MOU with the company. Now I have to contact the people who will be building the bike trail and request for a memo of agreement between IMBA and Gallup Mckinley County School. Once I get the agreement, I'll send it over to Ms. Freeman and she be doing the MOU for us. Once the MOU is done, she will come to the Chapter to go over the MOU with us. Once it's finalized it will be submitted back to DOJ.
6. CLUPC on Land Use Recertification update –
7. Plans to Designate Land for Commercial Development along Highway 491, Meeting with Economy Development
8. Status of East Water Drilling –
President Moore – The drillers had moved to Lake Valley, and I've resubmitted my request to Land Department to say the recipients of these water wells, Pam Dennison, Charlene Manuelito, and Vince Natonabah need their homesite lease application processed as soon as possible. They really don't need a homesite to drill or for bathroom additions, however; they will be asked by the contractor who will be install the septic and leach fields. The Chapter has a resolution that states if monies become available from ARAP projects it should go to the eastflat projects for repair and maintenance in the future.
9. Preparing for ICIP 2025 – We submitted all of our ICP projects for the upcoming 2025 legislation and our top 3 projects are 1. Safety Complex, 2. Highway Lightening, 3. Warehouse. The projects had to be submitted through a portal and we've met the deadlines. As far as the Safety Complex, the contracts are out there and

it's going through the 164 process to hire an architect and general contractor which we have funding for. We will be asking for construction funds during the 2025 legislation. We also can't forget in February we have the opportunity to request for tribal infrastructure funds (TIF). The window to apply is I believe 30 days. We did apply for it last year, but we didn't get any funding but this year I believe we have a better chance of obtaining funds for construction for the Safety Complex. Dr. Greyeyes has been helping us with this project and has said she can assist with the application process for the TIF funding.

Olin Kieyoomia – The 9 or 10 people who sit on the TIF board will be coming up with new guidelines. The reason why is the last time the Indian Affairs Department came out here to look at the Capital projects and they stated there are over a million dollars sitting at Community Development in W/R. This funding has not been spent. The warehouse project, I remember working on it and the funds are still sitting there. The legislators, State Representatives, and Senators will be asking if we have expended any of these funds. The threshold they are looking at is 50% of the funds being expended as long as the funds are being drawn down. I believe the warehouse you are referring to has been re-issued 2 times now and it was almost recouped at the last legislation session but our State Representative was able to save the funds for this project. We can ask for money, but remember we only have 1 vote on the TIF Board. What they will be looking at on Navajo is if we are spending the money but where is the drawdown amount when we say we are spending this money. It is different for smaller tribes; the way they spend money is more like the state because of how they are structured. With the Navajo Nation, it is difficult. What we are hearing is the State is not looking to award Navajo, because we have not expended the funds we already received. What I would recommend is to have the officials of the Chapter meet with CPMA (Community Development). You need to sit down with Mr. Waseta and ask what the project status of the 3 projects that was mentioned; Safety Complex, Highway Lightening, and Warehouse. Are there documents which says we have drawn down x amount of dollars which we can provide to our senator and state representative as a promissory note to request for more funding.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – working with the tribe for the past 4 years, I realize how challenging it is when there is no communication between the Chapter and W/R. We have to rely on W/R to work with us but everything moves at a turtle's pace. We try to reach out to them to ask for a project manager which is required of a non-certified chapter. Every project requires a project manager and we can't even get one. When we finally get one assigned to us, the next thing we hear is that person has left and it's a huge problem. When our State Representative Wonda Johnson stops by, we try to make her aware of the challenges we are facing with Window Rock, but realistically it is not her problem. President Moore and CLUPC President, Mr. Bitsilly have gone to W/R to meet with them, but they never have time for us. As soon as you show up, they are ready to exit the door. These are issues which needs to be looked into and to find a solution. I believe the process would go much smoother if staff from W/R would come to the Chapters to ask what they can do to assist us. I don't know if our Council Delegate can be of assistance to get this resolved so we can spend our money which is given to us from the state in a timely manner. It's really unfortunate and frustrating that we have to rely on W/R for our monies. And we do understand why the Governor has decided to only focus on shovel ready projects.

President Moore – On two of these projects we submitted an IGA to the State for \$900,000 so we are short \$500,000 that is why it's on the project list. Whenever that IGA is awarded, we'll be drawing down \$90,000 so that's like a shovel ready project. The plan and design have been completed. Next is the Safety Complex, the monies that were allocated to us from Senator Pinto we used for the demolition of the old Detention Center and hiring of the contractors. I think they will see that we trying to spend down the monies. Hopefully, by February/March 2025 there will be a design of the new Safety Complex if these contractors in W/R are ever approved then they'll be hired. I was on the selection committee for the hiring of the general contractor and the architect. On the highway lightening, we do have estimates and we are considering it a shovel ready project because it's in the right-of-way of the State and we are asking for 2.3 million. Of course, there are other things that need to be done along the highway which is not included.

Laris Manuelito – It doesn't cost money to meet with a contractor to get an estimate. You can get a concept of the building which really sells the project.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I'm wondering if the idea of using a cookie cutter type plan is still being considered?

President Moore – We may be part of the cookie cutter design for larger Safety Complexes. Then they are going to have smaller ones at 8,000 square feet.

Lee Rodgers – I remember the last update on the Safety Complex, the next step was to incorporate into the design was the availability of water. We were going to ask NTUA to give us data on how much water the new Safety Complex will be using? Do we have enough water to accommodate the building?

President Moore – NTUA did get involved during the plan and design phase and they provided documentation on each utility which was performed during the feasibility study. But it was noted earlier, if we don't have enough water for the fire expression we may have to build a separate storage tank for the Complex. This was in discussion and we should follow up with the architect, Mr. Loren Miller and the general contractor is Core Plus.

Vice President Halona – Ms. Manuelito mentioned the 750 corridor and there is a Delegate on the Resource Committee that has dropped legislation to resend the corridor that's in the code book which is in Title 24. The zone which was put in place back in 1950 by our previous leaders and envision the Nation growing. All this time we had this document and now we understand it and we are ready to implement it. A lot of the Chapters have used the 750 corridors in their community planning. I think the best way to address that is by resolution from the Chapter supporting that it remains and it's for our use, and for community development moving forward. The zone should remain.

10. Asphalt Milling – NM State and NNDOT letter –

President Moore – The state informed us when we made our request that they are working on some projects which will require the use of the asphalt milling. When they are done with their projects, they will contact us to give us the ok to take some of the milling. In the meantime, we have received an ok from NNDOT to help with the hauling of the milling to the Chapter when we hear from the State.

Let me tell of my experience with NNDOT, they will give you only 5 minutes to talk and then they'll say we have meetings to attend and push you out the door. But when you go to the quarterly meeting or agency meetings, you'll hear the directors saying "give us your requests, we are here to help you" but that's not the case. I like to see some of the asphalt milling dump on these dirt roads like Antelope Pass Road.

11. Update on Roads 15 Mile Designation: MOA with BIA Roads –

President Moore – It is difficult to get someone to grade the Antelope Pass Road because nobody wants the responsibility of grading this road. I have yet to meet with them again, but they did approve some of the roads like the Bitsilly Road and the Eastflat Road. They approved the section from Calvin Smith's residence going east. The one they are questioning is the road going to Pam Dennison's residence.

Lucinda Barney – the road 9653, is BIA going to fix the washouts because nobody has come down since their last visit and I did ask NNDOT to grade the road from Calvin Smith's residence to our house, but again nobody has come down. I'm wondering if the Chapter can do the work? Also, I have not heard from the people who are doing the water drilling down eastflats. At the last meeting we had with the drillers they stated they would be back in December, but they didn't. So, now I'm thinking maybe during the spring, but again no communication from them. IHS did stop by a couple of months ago but I wasn't home at the time so I'm not sure what they were wanting. I did call Vernon Tom but of course he never called me back.

President Moore – 9653 road needs some work. I was hoping to take Ray out there to take a look at the road and the work that needs to be done. Maria, the request is if the Chapter can work on the major areas where the road needs to be built back up and smooth out the road using the backhoe. The request is not to grade the whole road just that areas that have erosion caused by the recent rain. I did make a commitment to take Ray out there to look at the area but I'll leave it up to you, the CSC to see how you want to handle this. I wanted to take Ray, the operator down there to see if that's something the Chapter grader can fix. We now have an MOA with BIA roads, and if we need to work the roads ourselves, we can do that now. Also, as far as the water drilling projects are concern, I will contact Colin Daly to get some answers for you.

Lee Rodgers – I can see why nobody wants to fix the Antelope Pass Road, because the road is very rough. It's going to require more than a bull dozer to fix the road. In the meantime, let's look at what they can do to help us. If BIA and NNDOT can only do the flat land roads, they should be grading the flat land roads. Also can the heavy equipment operator service and maintenance the machines? I thought he did a really good job when he came to my brother's house to work on the water line. My brother's place is very tight and he was able to maneuver the heavy equipment around to the water line. I was very impress with him but it's sad

to hear he can't service and maintain the heavy equipment. I'm wondering if he can be trained? I've had community members come to me saying there have experience as an equipment operator and I'm a registered voter with Tohatchi Chapter. Why won't the Chapter consider me for employment?

Maria, CSC – No, I have to bring someone in to do the oil changes and replace parts and I had already put him through training twice.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – With the amount of pay that the operator receives, I don't believe we can find someone who will work as an operator and be required to service and maintain the heavy equipment. It will be a challenge.

Lucinda Barney – if you send him down 9653 road, I can meet him and show him the areas that need immediate attention. I've done this before where I had him park the heavy equipment and I showed him the areas I wanted him to work on.

Maria, CSC – maybe on Friday, I can send him over to see you. I have him working at the cemetery for the next 3 days.

Lee Rodgers – how much is the operator being paid per hour?

Maria, CSC – he is paid \$17 per hour.

President Moore – I've been requesting from NNDOT a maintenance sheet for a grader and a backhoe, but I never received the document. It seems like the service and maintenance required on these machine goes unnoticed until the heavy equipment breaks down. Just to let you know, it is very expensive to have a mechanic come in to service and maintenance the heavy equipment.

Olin Kieyoomia – 4 Corners can provide training if you request for it. It always 50 to 100 hours or every 3 weeks out of the month. Sheila from NNDOT provided me with a maintenance sheet and you need to email her or I can get one for you.

Laris Manuelito – My father transferred his RMU (Range Management Unit) to me and the road goes right through the RMU. Conservation plan comes into play and I'm working with USDA on the personal side to receive funding for fencing and surveys. If they pave this road, it becomes a highway for people and you see all the trash people leave behind alongside the road. I'm considering putting in a cattle guard in or just fencing it off.

Lee Rodgers – We have the same problem going up the mountain, people are dumping trash and now there is a big trash dump up there now and it is really obvious who is doing the dumping. The question is how do we enforce it? I don't want to kill anybody, I have means to do it, but I don't want to do that. It's not in my nature. No matter how many signs you put up or how many signs the NN puts up they just disregard it. I have the same concerns like Laris, but I've been dragging my feet with the road. You need jeeps and 4X4 to be able to get up to our home. My grandmothers are all buried up there holding the land for us. Chief Manuelito's mother, her sister, my grand grandmother, my own grandmother are all up there holding the land. Every year we have to haul everything back down and people go and destroy our homes and steal from us so now we have to move everything back down. We've put up field cameras and all we see is the shepherders, cows, a lot of deer, and turkeys. We have yet to catch anyone and we do replace the batteries periodically. So, you have to go through that measure just to keep an eye on your homeland. So these people who are illegal dumping trash are sacrificing their babies and family members because I was taught mother earth will ask for payment. I'm sorry, I understand what you are experiencing because that what my family is experiencing as well. So now, we need to get into the future and start planning for economic development and moving on. So when you have your store, what kind of road will we be expecting to drive on?

Laris Manuelito – I'm working with NM Department of Transportation, and I'm going to ask them if they can reinforce that part of the highway to support the incoming semis. So, NMDOT will be doing a road and traffic survey when the time comes after signing the business site lease. Lighting is another thing I'm looking at. I saw these solar powered lights at Nambe Pueblo which I really like.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I would like to ask about the bathroom additions which should have been started in our community. I would like an update on the progress because I know other chapters have already started their bathroom additions.

Elvis Bitsilly – I'm wondering about the rural addressing. Did we get a resolution signed and sent out to Taylor Frasier with Rural Addressing?

Laris Manuelito – Once the committee is formed, I would like to be on the committee.

Olin Kieyoomia – I would like to request a resolution to be drafted to support the continuation of the 2025 Budget. There is \$750,000 still sitting on the table that Chapters can't use. The Chapters are only operating on 50% of the funds and we need to ask our Delegate why and how they plan to handle the budget. NN employees will be laid off soon and even with our VA program we are looking at laying off employees because we don't have the funding. Some will be furlough for the month of February and maybe March 2025. We need to pass the budget because the Chapters have \$750,000. You need to really press our Delegate to ask about information on the continued resolution. If it's an ongoing thing, make sure the Chapter is not panelized for it.

***CLUPC Report and Red Willow Report:**

Elvis Bitsilly – CLUPC we have a new member who is Priscilla Duncan and I want to welcome her to our committee. We have 5 members; we are a team now. We will be meeting on January 21st at 9am. We will also have Flora Nez with Economic Development back to the Chapter along with Leonard. We are trying to push all these projects along and re-initiated all the plans that have been on hold for some time. One of our priorities is the re-certification of our Land Use Plan. Yes, there is a lack of communication between entities and departments but the best way I learned is to go to their office and see the people you need to contact. We need representation to go to W/R, to Santa Fe, or the Council and one example is our Land Designation which has been going on for months. We have to have the Land Designation so we can move forward for housing projects. Our club deals with the land issues and things that pertain to the community land. If a community Chapter want projects done, they have to a community plan in place. I also found out the CPMA Department has a Senior Planner and we've been inviting her over, but she has only been here once. Follow up has not happen so we are going to invite her back to continue with the community planning process. The 3 priority projects for ICIP and TIF has to be moved along so we need to advocate here and in Santa Fe. We have to have proper documentation to take to Santa Fe when we are asking for funding. Legislators will not take you seriously unless you have a plan in place along with documentation.

Red Willow Farm – Great news, we finally got our portable moved down to Red Willow Farm. A mover from Gallup was able to assist with moving the portable building. I want to thank the Chapter for your donation and the other donor's donation is still pending. Hopefully we get the funds soon. The building will be cleaned out and will be available for staff, farmers, and community to use. We will assign 3 people to have a key to the building for security reasons. I'm not sure how the farmers will do this spring without the spring runoff from all the snow which they need for their gardens. We were scheduled to have a meeting tomorrow but grazing committee will be having their meeting here so we are looking at meeting on Thursday.

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

Grazing Officer Moore – We met last Thursday and it was a short meeting where we dealt with some in house transfers. These in house is the easiest way to transfer permit verse a probate which can take much longer. We had one situation where an individual had to do a lot of things before getting their name on a permit. It came to a point where their sister who lives in Oklahoma has no plans to return to the Nation. She had to write a letter and get it notarized stating she has no interest in the permit and is also not registered with the Navajo Nation, now it has to be probated, and then it has to go through court, and probated again. Now, how many years do you think this process will take? It could take 10 years; just know it's a long process. I also had 3 homesite visits for homesite locations and there are a lot of requests being made for homesites from our young adults who are moving home. We also talked about livestock inspectors, and we have 2 here locally; Wayne Franklin and Vincent Muskett from Mexican Springs. We also talked about dog attacks on livestock and even humans. An there is a law on the Navajo Nation, 7906 is the code which is called "criminal nuisance law" and this includes any person who owns a dog that attacks another animal or human can be cited and put in jail under this law. I also dealt with some disputes and a couple went to mediation and some can be land disputes. And just as a reminder, Grazing Officials can no longer remove livestock off the highway due to liability issues. You can call NMDOT; they have the equipment and the personnel to handle these situations.

I do see more feral horses around and I will see if we can get another horse gathering setup in our area.

Lucinda Barney – just to comment, during your Grazing Committee meetings, can you add on the agenda to have a gripe session the 1st 30 minutes of the meeting? Some people come just to ask simple questions but

are not allowed to ask their question.

Grazing Officer Moore– I'm not sure we can do that. If you have a compliant, you need to complete a form to submit to the grazing officer.

Lee Rodgers – what about the people with a limited English vocabulary or writing skills. Do you have someone at your meetings to interpret for them or help them complete the forms? I think you should bring this topic up at the beginning of each meeting. It takes time for people to catch on.

Grazing Officer Moore – Yes, they can go to their Grazing Officer for assistance with the forms. It is an educational process, where the individual will have their paperwork ready and they know how to present their case.

Lee Rodgers – I've done a lot of public hearings and our Navajo people are not keen about writing their comments so some of the companies were able to provide for interpreters. Their comments were written down and they sign the document and it is entered into the record. Our people just want to be heard. We need to use our technology to our benefit.

Grazing Officer Moore – An incident happened at Theresa Bryant's residence. Her sheep was attacked and killed when she was not home. She assumed it was someone who came to her home and opened the gate to let the dogs in. I went down there and did some investigating and took some pictures. I completed an incident report for her and I told her I would give her a copy along with the photos. Then the report and pictures will be given to the Rangers and they might be able to compensate you. I'm not sure. She was happy with that.

I had the staff make some copies of this flyer. It says there is protein tubs available at the Agricultural Department in W/R. The price is \$40 per tub and the requirements depending on the tally counts on sheep and I believe it's available for cows. I'm assuming you have to be up to date on your tally count and it is for all livestock producers.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to approve the new elected chapter officials to be on the check signing list with Well Fargo Bank. We put the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer on the check signing list.
2. Resolution to approve the extension of the PEP workers; the Office Specialist, Trash Attendant up the end of September 2025 and the funds are available. The PEP laborers will be working up to the end of January 2025 because the Chapter does not have the funding to extend them. As far as the heavy equipment operator, I also don't have funding to extend him as well. I have received a lot of feedback on the operator so I decided it would be best to advertise for a new operator starting in February 2025. I need an operator who can operate the equipment and also to maintain the equipment like all the maintenance the equipment requires and who is not afraid to do burials and can be on standby during the weekends.
3. Resolution to approve the 1st quarter revenues for hay purchasing, rental of building and heavy equipment, solid waste station, xerox and fax revenues and the shower revenues total for 1st quarter is \$4,551.72. This is the 1st time the revenue has been this low. We usually get between \$7-\$8 thousand every month and this fund will be going back into Fund 01.
4. Resolution to approve to approve the Spring 2025 College Financial Assistance Program. I have 7 applicants that came in to apply. I have 1 freshman, 4 sophomores, 1 junior, and 1 senior. We have \$10,692.00 that came from our 2025 budget and scholarship from Fund 14, we have \$3,453.00 this is the fund I don't want to touch because we only receive \$800-\$1000 annually. I want to rebuild this fund account. So, the total for scholarships for our students is \$2,900.00. This amount is broken down for each recipient. Freshmen will receive \$350, Sophomores \$400, Juniors \$450, and Seniors \$500.

President Moore – there was a question that was brought up earlier which is how many students actually apply for scholarships?

Maria, CSC – I would say 10 is probably the highest I've received in scholarship requests. It ranges from 5-10 students per semester.

5. Resolution to support the li'ni MarketPlace in securing \$5 million to continue with construction and

development of the store.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chapter still has 90 bales of hay available for sale at \$10 a bale. Chapter has wood for sale. I gave out 2 rounds of wood to our elders who are in need based off the list the CHR provided to us. We also have bags of coal for people who burn coal can come by the Chapter to pick up a bag or two. The coal is free. We have wood for sale at \$47.70 a cord and pellets at \$5 a bag. We have coal tickets in the office and we received feedback from the coal mine that only 67 people out of 120 who received tickets purchased their coal. We started with receiving 200 coal tickets from the coal mine, but each year the number of people requesting for coal tickets has dropped. This year we only received 150 tickets, and next year it will probably drop to 75 tickets. Some people are picking up tickets but not using it, so I have an idea as to who is not using their tickets because we have them sign out for the tickets and the coal mine will let us know if that person purchased their coal.

We took a drive-up Halona Canyon and we did find more trash that was dumped and found some mail with the trash. We took the information off the mail and reported them to EPA so it's been reported. We also put up another sign to say "No illegal dumping." We will also be putting a sign up near the centennial bridge to discourage buses and trucks with heavy load to stay off the bridge. The bridge cannot handle the extra load.

Laris Manuelito – Next VA meeting January 10th and I was appointed the new Vice Commander.

RWFB meeting January 9th at 1pm

Maria, CSC – I will on leave this week and looking to turn to the office on Friday. Jeannie, AMS will be in charge during my absent.

Vice President Halona – I just want to say it's been an interesting 4 years to be able to serve the community and the highlight was working with these individuals sitting next to me and also the administrative staff. I just want to make sure the new officials will continue the collaboration. It is absolutely imperative that happens, if not this Chapter will fall apart. Because I've seen it happen at Chapters that have those challenges. The Chapter staff and the officials not working together, not communicating and not understanding your boundaries will cause confusion and division. It's very delicate to step over boundaries and through the leadership of President Moore, we were able to build a relationship working directly with Chapter staff in a working relationship to where it's not the officials telling the staff what to do. It was more less the staff telling us what to do, how to do it, what the challenges are, and where they need help. This is what I mean by maintaining the collaboration between both the officials and the staff must continue. We as constituents need to ensure that it happens and that it will be a smooth transition. I expected it to continue in this manner moving forward. You've seen the list of pending projects and the challenges and frustration that comes with it. It's not a system we designed; BIA built it and gave it to us and we are still trying to make it work. We know what are expectation are but the system is not setup to meet those expectations. Even the Council Delegates are making decisions without asking about their constituents about their thoughts on the topic. He could go to Community Development to let them know, my Chapter wants this, how soon can we get it? If we can all work together, we can accomplish a lot more.

Lee Rodgers – To add to your comment, I read Title 26 and I'm not going to be the one causing disruption in the administration, that's not my intention. As a previous Chapter Manager, the Chapter officials respected my work and I plan to do the same with the Chapter staff. It's not my job to remove anyone from office. Although people have said that to me saying get in there and clean house. I have a lot of people saying that to me. I know it's not the duty and responsibility of an official to fire a Chapter staff. That not what our community needs, our community needs positive direction, forward thinking, positive collaboration and communication. That's what I believe in and that's how I plan to work. I'll take your

words of wisdom with me, Mr. Halona.

Olin Kieyoomia – Just to let you know, we have people from District 14 who hold high position in W/R especially from Tohatchi. We have the DNR Director, Byron Bitsioe with Land Department, Sherilynn Yazzie with Division of Health, NHA Board member, Ms. Yazzie from Naschitti, Lavon Henry also from Naschitti, Effie Edsitty with Tax Office, myself as the Executive Deputy Director for Veteran Administration. We can be your resource and we can be of assistance. All you need to do is ask us.

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: January 22, 2025 @ 10am

X. ADJOURNMENT: 2:04pm

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – January 17, 2025

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC

Mr. Nathan Notah, Council Delegate