



January 22, 2025 @ 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING AGENDA

AUDIO TELECONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: (575) 567-3331 PIN: 290 206 733#

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: <https://meet.google.com/vsc-zdtr-mbz?authuser=0&hs=122>

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. INVOCATION

IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

V. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

VI. PRESENTATION:

1. **Crystal Lee-Bekis:** Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **December 2024 Financial Report**

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **019-01-2025:** Resolution to approve to extend the employment of the Public Employment Program (PEP) workers through September 26, 2025

2. **020-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the FY 2025 Chapter's Activities General Fund account revenue budget (Fund 01) in the amount of \$4,551.72 for the 1st quarter, October, November, and December 2024.

3. **021-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the newly elected Chapter Officials to be added to Wells Fargo Signature.

4. **022-01-2025:** Resolution to approve 7 registered college students to receive spring 2025 financial assistance from the chapter Fund 13.

5. **023-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 carryover budget for Navajo Nation General Fund in the amount of \$160.69 in accordance to the Chapter (09) General Fund distribution policies and allocation.

6. **024-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the Fiscal year 2024 carryover Navajo Nation Gaming Tax budget in the amount of \$1,437.16 in accordance to the Chapter Gaming Fund distribution policies and allocation.

7. **026-01-2025:** Resolution to support the **li'ni MarketPlace** to secure \$5 million for continued development of the design and infrastructure of the store.

8. **027-01-2025:** Resolution to support and approve **NTEC's** efforts to create the NavEnergy Hub which will employ clean coal power generation via carbon capture, solar and gas plants and new transmission to extend the life of Navajo mine and 4 Corners Power Plant in San Juan County on the Navajo Nation.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: February 03, 2025 (Planning Meeting).

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:



January 22, 2025 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:15 AM**
- II. **ROLL CALL: Vice President Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer Gerald Moore**
- III. **INVOCATION: Pastor Martin Eastridge**
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Kevin Mitchell Vote: 23-0-5
- V. **APPROVAL OF December 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES:**
Motion to include to read on your own:
Motion: 1ST Kevin Mitchell 2nd Annalisa Holyan Vote: 23-1-3
- VI. **PRESENTERS:**
 1. **Leonard Palmer Sr. – NTEC (Navajo Technical Energy Company):** Per pamphlet, the Navajo Nation is blessed with rich natural resources that have powered the Nation’s economy for several decades. The ever-increasing demand for electricity in the Southwest will require more sources of clean energy generation and transmission in the future. The NavEnergy Hub is uniquely positioned to meet this demand while improving the lives of Navajo citizens. The site of the NavEnergy Hub is already developed to provide power today and can be easily evolved for tomorrow’s power needs. Built on reclaimed land around the Four Corners Power Plant, the Navajo Nation is poised to be a leader in these technologies. Instead of simply providing electricity to benefit outside communities, the NavEnergy Hub will enhance and maintain Navajo sovereignty over its own resources for the benefit of the people with clean, renewable energy produced with respect for and environmental stewardship of Navajo lands.
What powers the NavEnergy Hub? It is transmission, carbon capture, gas, and solar. Transmission is leveraging and enhancing existing transmission infrastructure to connect to areas of major and increasing demand. Carbon Capture is clean energy generation through the removal of CO₂ emissions at the Four Corners Power Plant. Gas is clean and efficient energy generation partnered with solar power for 24/7 generating capacity. Solar is renewable power on reclaimed former mine lands, using existing infrastructure to serve peak period daytime demand with no additional land disturbance. The NavEnergy Hub will provide continued dollars to the Navajo Nation General Fund and to individual Chapters to provide: Public Works & Infrastructure, Social Welfare, Education, Buildings & Facilities, Elder Services, Utilities, STEM Programs, and Healthcare. If we get approval from Navajo Nation, NavEnergy will expand economic development for the Navajo Nation. Provide clean opportunity in balance with Navajo people and lands. Create jobs with new energy enterprises, and will have more opportunities for Navajo vendors. NavEnergy will have the ability to become an economic powerhouse by serving the region’s energy markets.
APS wants out because they were instructed by the government’s EPA to clean up all the CO₂ from the coal plants. In 2019 there was 8.3 million tons of CO₂ was made in the power plants. They were quoted \$5 billion to clean and upgrade the system. They made money off the Navajos and now they refuse to clean up the mess they made so we have decided to take over and we plan to install a “Carbon Capture” which is like

a storage system which will remove 95% of CO2 emission. It will decrease to 8000 tons per year and not the 8.3 million tons per year. We are also looking to installing 2 X 3 miles of solar panels to generate electricity during the day and at night 'gas power plant' which are like turbines and we plan to install 17 of them. The fuel will be coming from a gas line pipe that was installed by El Paso Natural Gas line. This will burn blue for clean burning without CO2 and it is going to produce 210 megawatts. We see all the electricity which run across Navajo that go to Las Vegas, California, and Phoenix. Why can't we tap into these electrical lines to reduce our utility cost? The possibility is there to have NavEnergy provide the electricity and sell it to NTUA reduce our cost for utility. The Navajo Nation's General Fund account back in 2023 was \$148 million and NTEC and Four Corners Power Plant generated \$72 million of the \$148 million. So, just think what the Nation is going to do without the funds from NTEC and Four Corners Power Plant? Our organization donated \$4.2 million to communities across Navajo and in 2023 9,524 people from all across Navajo came to the mine to haul coal for themselves. For the people who lived to far out or did not have a truck to haul coal with, we provided the big truck to haul coal to the outline areas on Navajo. All in all we haul 2,740 loads of coal which equal 13,000 tons of coal for free, no cost to the families. We currently have 528 employees; total employees are 605 and we want to keep them employed.

Doris Benallie – You are talking about solar panels from what I've learned from the State of Arizona is these solar panels only last about 10 years and then they have to be replaced. The same with the batteries being used, they have to be replaced often. Has the Navajo Nation located an area where the panels and batteries will be disposed of? Also, the San Juan Lateral coming down to Gallup, the residents of Gallup are already paying an increase of 5% on their water bill and they haven't even turned the water on. NTUA was here with San Juan Lateral a while back and at the time, NTUA did say there will be an increase on the water bill once it is completed. The San Juan Power Plant that was shutdown, the only reason Navajo Nation wants to keep it is because of the San Juan Lateral property which they do not want to give back to the Tribe. They want to continue to make money off this plan somehow just like Page in Arizona.

Leonard Palmer Sr. – The solar panels are supposed to last around 20 years and when they are no longer functioning, I don't know how they would dispose of the panels, to be honest. As far as NTUA is concerned, we provide the power and what NTUA does is, they sell the power. I don't know what is happening off the reservation, but the Four Corners Power Plant and the Navajo Mine is on the reservation and we still have our permits to do what we need to do to ensure we provide renewable energy.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I'm wondering if you have presented this presentation at the agency meetings. I started this presentation back in July of 2024 and I've covered the majority of the Navajo Nation. Two months ago, at the Eastern Agency meeting, they passed this resolution with a vote of 31-0-2 so they support it. Northern Agency also passed this resolution with a vote of 27-0-4 in favor of the resolution.

Yolanda Thompson – So, who owns this Navajo Transitional Energy Company?

Leonard Palmer Sr. – The Navajo Nation

Elvis Bitsilly – I'm wondering why we are buying out APS at the tail end. As a Nation it seems like we are always wanting to buy businesses or buildings at the tail end just like NGS in Page. Aren't you taking a risk and how is the new US President's decision to cut Federal Funding on a majority of programs going to affect the Power Plant? I believe using solar as an energy source is a good idea but we need more information on your project. I also would like to know how our Navajo Nation President feels about this project, do they support the project?

Leonard Palmer Sr. – About 13 years ago, we acquired Navajo Mine and the people on Navajo were saying why haven't we heard about you acquiring Navajo Mine. You just started to let people know when the deal was done. What I'm talking about is going to happen 6 years from now and is it going to happen? I don't

know. There is a feed study that is happening called 'frontend engineering design.' In Washington, the Department of Energy gave NTEC \$6.5 million to conduct a feed study. They may come back and tell us it is not feasible and we would have to shut down. On the other hand, they may tell us it's feasible and we will continue with our project. And you are correct, that the Navajo Nation Council will have a say in this as well. They may tell us no and we will shut down.

Larry Rodgers – We've heard about you and the name transitional which means taking coal energy to alternative energy. We would be moving away from fossil fuel to alternative energy, but the part of continued use of coal which you call 'carbon capture' and another word is sequester. Coal will continue to be used for many more years because you go through a sequestering process. Like you were saying, you are dropping the CO2 emission by 95%. So, is coal actually turned into liquid gas somehow?

Leonard Palmer Sr. – Coal came from swamps when dinosaurs were around and there were a variety of plants and trees which got covered by sand and compressed which eventually turned into coal. So, CO2 comes from plants and trees and when we burn the coal the CO2 is released. How do we handle the CO2, we can drill a hole into the ground and we can store the CO2 in there or there is a pipeline in Cortez which goes all the way to Texas. The CO2 is pumped through this pipeline to Texas and they use it for fracking the land for oil. NTEC could tap into this pipeline and make some money off the CO2 to the oil companies.

Council Delegate Notah – I've heard about what NTEC is doing off the reservation doing a lot of prospecting and you have extended companies in Wyoming and Montana which I'm aware of. I did hear. NTEC was going to Chapters asking for support, but it's the 1st time I'm hearing from NTEC directly. I can say the Navajo Nation is very short on funding and it's been this way since the pandemic. Back in 2010-2012 they closed down the coal mines, the oil reserves that we were using, and to some degree the natural gas as well. These companies were giving the Navajo Nation a lot of royalties and now that they have been shutdown there was no discussion or plan as to how these royalties would be replaced. Right now, the Navajo Nation relays on the dividends from the trust funds in is around several billion dollars. We also receive revenues from enterprises like NAPI, NTEC, Dine Development Corporation, and Casinos, but it is still not enough money to sustain the Navajo Nation moving forward. The funding from Cares Act and ARPA has all been utilized. Since this is the 1st of heard of NTEC doing some work on the Nation, I need to education myself on the pros and cons of their work. The Navajo Nation is still in need of more funding to supply our finances. This is a possibility and we need to do our research. My mind is open to this. I would like to know who the shareholders for NTEC from the Navajo Nation? Another thing I want to mention is that NTEC is going to telling us all the positive things about their project. This will come before the RDC (Resource & Development Committee), Budget & Finance, HEHSC, and Naa'bik'iyati' and on to the Navajo Council. This is not something that's going to happen overnight, it will take a while. We want and need revenue to come into the Nation but not at the expense of our health and lives.

Treva Roanhorse – You mention the CO2 is at 95% but if you take over it will come down. Do you have data on the impact it has had on the people who live in the surrounding areas? Because look what it did to the people who worked the mines and their families; they got cancer. Also, how is this in line with climate change?

Leonard Palmer Sr. – We as human beings have CO2 in our bodies and we produce about 2-3 pounds of CO2 every day. Like I mention earlier, we have CO2 in our bodies now and we should not be afraid of it. We can use it to our advantage which NTEC would like to do.

Grazing Officer Moore – I just want to remind you that as a community we are faced with all kinds of support resolutions for instance, the Nature and People First organization who wants to build a hydro-power system which will come off the mountain down to the community. The same concept but a little

different. We also have the railroad tracks coming down from San Juan from north to south with a lot of changes and it seems like we are being squeezed for our votes but we have to take our health into account. The population is also increasing so please beware.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I want to say it looks like we are putting the cart before the horse because this is new to us. We had not heard about NTEC and their project and I don't know how the community would feel about actually providing a vote of support today.

VP Rodgers – this sound nice and enticing because we need money, we need economy development but there is always a consequence to having money. The part that concerns me is when they are doing the sequestering process and thinking about selling this CO2 to a company in Texas to do some fracking which sounds like a vicious cycle and never ending. All the bad air they are producing in Texas while fracking is going to come back here. By the way Four Corners has the highest rate of methane in possibly the whole planet. I learned this from a public hearing I attended.

Geneva Begay – I would like to let NTEC know there is a process when presenting at the Chapter. The organization or committee needs to present their resolution at the Planning Meeting and then have the community vote on the resolution at the regular Chapter Meeting. I want to make sure this process is being followed.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

December 2024 Financial Report –

| DECEMBER BALANCE FUND | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Chapter Activities Gen Fund | \$13,894.98 |
| 3 | Land Claims Trust | \$27,613.44 |
| 8 | Supplement Youth Fund | 26,402.45 |
| 9 | Housing Discretionary Fund | \$4,738.55 |
| 10 | LGA Grant Fund | \$67,884.66 |
| 12 | Chapter Stipends | \$25,582.39 |
| 13 | Scholarship General Fund | \$10,692.00 |
| 14 | Scholarship Claims Fund | \$3,453.48 |
| 15 | PEP Fund | \$33,931.78 |
| 16 | Veterans Fund | \$6,370.79 |
| 17 | Emergency Fund | \$26,445.27 |
| 23 | NN Sales Tax | \$90,205.56 |
| 25 | NN CIP - \$180,000 | \$15,085.76 |
| 26 | Red Willow Farm | \$1,040.37 |
| 27 | NN CIP - \$200,000 | \$15,085.76 |
| 40 | Unhealthy Food Tax | \$101,299.56 |
| 61 | Senior Citizen Fund | \$2,162.99 |
| 51 | NAPI | \$2,299.66 |
| 80 | General Fixed Assets | \$880,726.90 |
| 34 | Agriculture & Infrastructure | \$3.68 |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | | |
| | Total Fund Balance | \$462,985.15 |

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – The financial reports were reviewed by Maria, CSC and Secretary /Treasurer. For the month of December 2024, our books are in balance and everything has been reconciled back to Wells Fargo’s books. We also added in the Chapters’ assets in the total amount of **\$880,726.90** which is added to the financial statements. The Chapter will also provide a Budget to Actual report on request.

Charles Arviso – On the financial report you don’t show the account 16 and I know we had some expenditures in December to T&R Market. Also we have \$6370 plus \$5000, where did the additional \$1370 come from?

Maria, CSC – the additional money came from the 2025 budget and the Veterans were given an extra \$2500. You got a copy of the financial statement during the Veterans meeting. What we did was divided the \$2500 in half, \$1250 in the food budget and \$1250 into awards.

Larry Rodgers – Question on the balance sheet, I noticed account 40 the Unhealthy Food Tax has increase dramatically. When I served on the CLUPC committee we had plans to enter into a contract in the amount of \$8000 to have a bike trail study done. This was 3 years ago we did all the work and I’m wondering why it’s not completed it. Is the \$7000 plus already encumbered or is it still included in the current Unhealthy Food Tax balance?

Maria, CSC – Yesterday I attended the CLUPC meeting and I updated them on the project for the bike trail. At the beginning, when we started to requesting the Chapter to pay the \$7000, I was told by W/R I had to go through the 164 process which took about 2 years. Then the attorney Cynthia Freeman said I didn’t need to go through the 164 processes because it’s not a \$60,000 purchase. She said there should be an MOU in place with IMBA trail and Gallup Mckinley County School. She is requesting for an MOU, once received she will be doing another MOU between Tohatchi Chapter and IMBA. When all the documents are completed, she wants to have a meeting with the IMBA, Tohatchi Chapter, and McKinley County School to sign the MOU. Then the Chapter can process the payment and it shouldn’t take more than a month, but the money is still in Fund 40 and has not been paid out.

Kevin Mitchell – I think the easiest way is to have an MOU between IMBA and Tohatchi Chapter. To put 3 entities into an MOU will cause more problems.

Maria, CSC – they want to know how Gallup McKinley County School fits into this?

Mike Hyatt (Superintendent of Gallup McKinley County Schools) – So you need something to say what our relationship is? Yes, I’ll need contact information because I don’t know right off hand if we have an MOA with IMBA. Maybe a letter of support from the school would be helpful.

Larry Rodgers – I believe the school has nothing to do with this, it’s between the Navajo Nation and IMBA. Who land is being used; the public schools don’t own the land. It will just be to their benefit when the project is completed. The bike trail will be open to everyone, not just kids who go to school here. The bike trail will be a good thing, the kids will have competitions and it will encourage kids to participate. This is a good project for the Chapter and bike trails and biking has pickup across Navajo. I think we are getting bad advice from W/R, we need to bring the person who is responsible for assisting Chapters with these MOU or contracts. It should be a simple contract and it’s under \$10,000 which does not require the 164 process. I would suggest inviting someone from DOJ and Community Development to our Planning meetings. Remember, this is just a conceptional study, the construction will come later.

Treva Roanhorse - I would like to ask the motioning party to make sure this discussion is documented to prevent further action on this topic.

Motion to Accept the December 31, 2024 Financial Report:

Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Kevin Mitchell Vote: 28-0-3

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **019-01-2025:** Resolution to approve to extend the employment of the Public Employment Program (PEP) workers through September 26, 2025.

Motion: 1st Larry Rodgers 2nd Treva Roanhorse Vote: 27-1-2

2. **020-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the FY 2025 Chapter Activities General Fund account revenue budget (Fund 01) in the amount of \$4,551.72 for the 1st quarter, October, November, and December 2024.

Motion: Annalisa Holyan 2nd Laris Manuelito Vote: 28-0-2

3. **021-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the newly elected Chapter Officials to be added to the Wells Fargo Bank account.

Motion: 1st Treva Roanhorse 2nd Rosie Deschiney Vote: 29-0-2

4. **022-01-2025:** Resolution to approve 7 registered college students to receive Spring 2025 financial assistance from the Chapter Fund 13.

Motion: 1st Rosie Deschiney 2nd Yolanda Thompson Vote: 30-0-2

5. **023-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 carryover budget for Navajo Nation General Fund in the amount \$160.69 in accordance to the Chapter (02) General Fund distribution policies and allocation.

Motion: 1st Kevin Mitchell 2nd Delphine Bitsilly Vote: 30-0-2

6. **024-01-2025:** Resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 carryover Navajo Nation Gaming Tax budget in the amount of \$1,437.16 in accordance to the Chapter Gaming Fund distribution policies and allocation.

Motion: Priscilla Duncan 2nd Laris Manuelito Vote: 30-0-1

With the amendment (change) to the resolution which will have a number 5 added to say payment will go to NTUA.

7. **025-01-2025:** Resolution to support the li'ni MarketPlace to secure \$5 million for the continued development of the design and infrastructure of the store.

Laris Manuelito – I'm asking for support from the community and I believe in transparency and that is why I have kept the community inform from day one of the of the upcoming li'ni MarketPlace Store. It's going to be a 55,000 square feet grocery store which part of the building will be 2 story. I'm incorporating a whole full-service grocery store, full-service meaning deli, bakery, butchery, a cultural department, and just recently incorporating indigenous food from all over besides Navajo cuisine will be offered. We will also have a place where you can eat, community members, students, IHS employees, bistro, coffee shop and possibly a visitors' center but it will also serve as a resilience hub. This whole idea came from COVID and that is what this store is meant to do is to have something within our borders to have accessibility and sustainability is there. The MarketPlace can be turned into a place to go in case of emergency. I started my project in 2019 and I've had the land withdrawn and studies are completed and I'm on the cusp of getting my business side lease within the month which will be a big achievement. I just learned I'm still on the five-year plan as number 2 or 3 for additional funding. The entire funding with an 8% contingency is up to \$32 million. If I add on 2 more stores, it will go up to \$52 million. I am also looking into alternative technology which is a lot more suitable to our area. I'm always looking at making it more economical and sustainably for our people. The latest venture I'm doing is fund raising, talking to CFO (Chief Financial Officers), Native American Bank and several other entities. I've already applied for \$5 million and I'm looking at plan and design right now and to pay off the contractors who helped me

before I received any funding. It helps to have a support resolution from your community to help fund the li'ni MarketPlace. That is how important this resolution is and the next thing I will be working on is public surveys from District 14 Chapters.

Motion: Treva Roanhorse 2nd Yolanda Thompson Vote: 24-0-4

8. **026-01-2025:** Resolution to support and approve NTEC's efforts to create the NavEnergy Hub which will employ clean coal power generation via carbon capture, solar, and gas plants and new transmission to extend the life of Navajo mine and 4 Corners Power Plant in San Juan County on the Navajo Nation. **Laris Manuelito** Motioned to table this resolution and have NTEC properly present at the Planning Meeting.

Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Julia Thompson Tabled: 26-0-7

- X. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Veteran's Meeting on February 7th @ 10am, Grazing Meeting on February 5th @ 9am in Naschitti, CLUPC Meeting on February 18 @ 9am
- XI. **NEXT MEETING DATE: February 03, Planning Meeting @ 10am.**
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT: 12:52 pm**
Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Delphine Bitsilly

Submitted by,



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **January 31, 2025**

cc: Vacant, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC