



APR 10 AM 10:23

March 28, 2025 10:00am

## TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:10am
- II. ROLL CALL: Vice President Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer Gerald Moore, Elvis Bitsilly CLUPC President
- III. INVOCATION: Elvis Bitsilly
- IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Mitchell 2<sup>nd</sup> Priscilla Duncan Vote: 21-0-1

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2025 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to read on your own:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Orlinda Nez 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Thompson Vote: 23-0-1

### PRESENTERS:

- 1. Howard Leonard Jr. with Navajo Nation Department of Fish & Wildlife Climate Change Program  
Kyle Yazzie, Wildlife technician working with restoration:

Climate Change refers to the long-term shifts in temperature & weather, primarily caused by human activities like fossil fuel burning since the 1800s. The warmer temperatures and heatwaves increase health risks, strain energy, & harm crops and ecosystems. Storms and Hurricanes cause warmer oceans to fuel stronger storms, increasing damage. Flash Floods is caused by heavy rain overwhelming drainage systems, causing floods. Wildfires are fuel by high heat and drought depletes water, damages crop and causes economic losses. Droughts also harms air quality and infrastructure which impacts Navajo ranchers. Climate change adaptation involves adjusting behaviors, systems, lifestyles to cope with climate change impacts, protecting families, economies, and the environment to build climate resilience. Here is how we can adapt by educating ourselves to learn innovative ways to reduce climate effects, water conservation by using water more efficiently, energy efficiency by improving energy use in buildings or homes, and lastly recycle and waste reduction by using the 3 "Rs" reuse, reduce, and recycle materials. We have to allow land in stress to rest. Livestock deferment and isolating stressed area with fencing will promote the land restore itself. Time and patience are key for land restoration to occur successfully.

It started with the Spanish period during the 1500, then came the Spanish and Mexican period, then came the White People who built factories and all the carbon dioxide that came from these factories which blanketed the sky with smoke. Then came the industrial revolution with engines and all the combustion and oil which was increasing. It was just recently that they realized and recognized the danger from all the carbon dioxide and methane gas accumulating in the air which caused the weather to be different meaning we do not get enough rain or snow called the greenhouse effect. All the countries who recognized the difference in the weather pattern and the effect it is causing the earth got together for a meeting in France. They reported the icebergs in Antarctica were being to melt which is changing the current of the ocean called El Nino. El Nino is a natural climate pattern that causes temporary global climate changes by warming the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. El Nina is a cool phase of the El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) that brings cooler-than-average ocean temperatures to the equatorial Pacific. For example; in our area we have nothing but wind for about 4-5 months out of the year which is



really drying up the land where we are in a drought situation. The research has identified the two plants near Shiprock are a contributing factor in causing all the methane gases and carbon dioxide in our area here on Navajo Nation. There was also a plant in Page, AZ, but it has since been shut down. The effects of climate change are happening global and research tells us that it is better to go "green." There are things we can do at home to save energy like fixing leaky faucets, taking sponge baths, and not letting the sink water run while brushing our teeth. Other ways to save energy is by turning off the lights in rooms that are empty, using rain water for your gardens. (drip irrigation) and educating our children about climate change and how we can save energy and water.

**Doris Benallie** – We had an individual who gave a presentation about the plants in Shiprock and he stated our bodies need the CO2.

**Howard Leonard** – We need very little of the CO2. When you inhale you inhale O2 and when you exhale you exhale CO2 which is a natural function.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**February 2025 Financial Report –**

<b>FEBRUARY BALANCE FUND</b>		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$15,133.07
3	Land Claims Trust	\$24,350.60
8	Supplement Youth Fund	\$18,847.03
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$3,201.24
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$63,397.48
12	Chapter Stipends	\$20,352.44
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$7,092.00
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$3,453.48
15	PEP Fund	\$14,541.30
16	Veterans Fund	\$6,100.13
17	Emergency Fund	\$26,144.91
23	NN Sales Tax	\$80,870.63
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$15,085.76
26	Red Willow Farm	\$1,040.37
27	NN CIP - \$200,000	\$3,877.78
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$100,251.60
61	Senior Citizen Fund	\$2,162.99
51	NAPI	\$2,299.66
80	General Fixed Assets	
34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
	<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$408,206.15</b>

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – The financial reports were reviewed by Maria, CSC and Secretary



/Treasurer. For the month of February 2025, our books are in balance and everything has been reconciled back to Wells Fargo's books. We also have the Chapters total assets amount which is **\$880,726.90**. The Chapter can provide a Budget to Actual report on request.

**Motion to accept the February 2025 Financial Report**

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Sonny Moore 2<sup>nd</sup> Priscilla Duncan Vote: 21-0-1**

**VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **036-03-2025:** Resolution requesting approval and support for the improvement of NM State Highway 491, specifically the stretch from twin lakes to Naschitti. this proposal is in part the district 14 initiative which is being address to the State of NM Transportation Department, the District 6 State Transportation Department, and the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation which aims to give attention to several critical issues that have been affecting our community.

**Laris Manuelito** – I'm requesting the NM State Transportation, District 6 State Transportation Department, and the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation to repairs the highway between Twin Lakes and Naschitti, NM. We also have families who did not get crossovers built at their turnoffs which can be dangerous when these families have to make their own road across the highway to turn off to their residence. We are requesting the height and thickness of the asphalt is what is required by the State to accommodate semi-trucks.

**Doris Benallie** – there is a tort claim application you can submit to Santa Fe if you have a blowout due to the rough patches on Highway 491. This can include wheel alignment or anything relating to your tires. I can get copies of these tort claim applications to give out at next meeting.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – Amendments to the resolutions were brought up: the word "turnout" should say "crossover." In the title of the resolution, it was agreed that this resolution should be addressed to not only the State of NM Transportation but the District 6 State Transportation and the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation. Also the thickness of the asphalt should be what is required by the State to accommodate semi-trucks and trailers.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Herman Dennison 2<sup>nd</sup> Priscilla Duncan Vote: 23-0-1**

2. **037-03-2025:** Resolution authorizing and supporting the Tohatchi chapter and the Tohatchi grazing committee member to implement an indefinite feral horse, stray, and unclaimed livestock removal program in efforts to improve the ecological health and productivity of the Navajo rangelands for present and future generations of the Navajo people.

**Grazing Officer Moore** – this resolution is an updated resolution to cover year 2025 for feral horse gathering. This also includes animals found roaming in the housing areas too. In the last Navajo Nation feral horse gathering, there were 99 animals picked up from Mexican Springs to Naschitti.

**Laris Manuelito** – I'm concern about how these feral horses are being handled. I hope they are being humanely handled through the removal process.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Geneva Begay 2<sup>nd</sup> Cecelia Yazzie Vote: 21-1-2**

3. **038-03-2025:** Resolution requesting the Resource and Development Committee (RDC), the Division of Community Development (DCD), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Navajo Nation Council to approve in the appendix "M" Budget instructions for fiscal year 2025, a line item for "septic tank cleaning" using sales tax funds, (fund 23).

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – Amendment to change date in the title of the resolution from "fiscal year 2025" to "fiscal year 2026."

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Geneva Begay 2<sup>nd</sup> Priscilla Duncan Vote: 20-0-1**

- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** **Maria, CSC** – I would like to mention the possibility of revising the policy for rental of the Chapter House. We had an incident where a family asked to rent the Chapter House for a funeral reception and left the Chapter a mess. The floors, kitchen and tables were not cleaned and found 2



broken chairs. I had to have the office staff and the PEP workers come in to clean up the mess they left behind. When someone ask to rent the Chapter, we do not charge them a deposit if they are a registered voter with our Chapter. We also review the rental policy with them so they are aware of what is expected of them as far as keeping the Chapter clean. But this family took advantage of our hospitality and ignored our policy. We may have to ask for a \$75 deposit up front to avoid this kind of a situation. I want the community to know this is their Chapter House to use but they also have to understand they need to be respectful by keeping it clean so other families in our community can use it as well. Please let your family and friends know why we have to ask for a deposit now.

**Cecelia Yazzie** – I have a concern; I noticed that there is a gate that was installed on the eastside of the cemetery. I see people who are now starting to park on that side of the cemetery and they are tearing up the vegetation in the area. My sister and I agreed to the Chapter's request for an additional 2.5 acres but there was no mention of a gate being installed or having people parked on that side of the cemetery. I am disappointed that I was not informed about the new gate or the new parking area. We did not agree to this. Next Grazing meeting on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9am and District 14 Farm & Ranch Workshop, April 24. Red Willow Farm meeting on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm. Earth Day Clean-up Week, April 21<sup>st</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Maria, CSC** – We will have bins setup during Earth Day Clean-up Week. Please no appliances and tires. We will have trash bags available. We also will be coordinating with the businesses in our community like the schools, the health center, NHA, churches, and store. The Chapter had placed a trash bin at the cemetery during Memorial Day weekend, but no trash was found in the bin.

Recommendations were made to ask the churches to help with the cleanup in the cemetery. The churches get summer students from across the country who come out to be of assistance to our community.

**IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 07, Planning Meeting @ 10am.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT: 1:21 pm**

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Laris Manuelito 2<sup>nd</sup> Anita Silver**

Submitted by,



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **April 08, 2025**

cc: Vacant, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC