



APR 21 AM 11:33

April 07, 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: 10:57am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, Grazing Officer Gerald Moore, and CLUPC & RWFB Chair Elvis Bitsilly
- III. **INVOCATION: Priscilla Duncan**
- IV. **REVIEW OF THE AGENDA**
- V. **COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**
  - Treva Roanhorse** – I have a safety concern regarding the intersection at the Post Office. When you are driving down from Chooshgai hill, your vision is partially blocked by the hill as you approach the intersection. The traffic is moving very fast going north and it's dangerous trying to get on highway 491, especially for school buses trying to get across the intersection. We also have semi-trucks speeding through the intersection and not paying attention to the speed limit signs. I'm wondering if the Chapter can do something about this dangerous intersection? We could have the hill shave down on each side to give a better view with oncoming traffic. Or, we could ask for a flashing light to be installed to help slow down traffic. The Chooshgai School Board has not met as of yet, we are waiting for the other individuals to be sworn in and hopefully have a meeting on Friday. I would also like to request to have our school board meeting here at the Chapter and I'm wondering if we have to pay for the Chapter?
  - Maria, CSC** – Benson Badonie is requesting for archeological clearance for his pending homesite lease. He is on the eastflats drilling project.
  - Doris Benallie** – I'm giving out tort claim samples for highway 491 and which have to be filed within 90 days. If you hit a pothole on highway 491 and get a blowout you can file a tort claim. The application is self-explanatory, just follow the directions when filling out the application. Down below of the application, you send the claim form to Risk Management with receipts and photos attached. The more people we can get to submit tort claims; it will tell Santa Fe we need this road repaired as soon as possible.
  - Vice President Rodgers** – I would recommend the Chapter come up with a policy of some sort or just a way of keeping track of these claims by opening up a folder. This would help when we are requesting for funds from the State or assistance from the County. The people who are traveling through have to realize they are entering a community and having signs put up would help with slowing down the traffic.
  - Elvis Bitsilly** – We will be entertaining this discussion, the intersection, highway 491, and highway signs. We will be working with the State DOT, County DOT, and the Nation DOT. The intersection by the Post Office which was mention has had a study done by the NNDOT. I have the document and the area has been surveyed.
  - Laris Manuelito** – When you do presentations, if all the stakeholders could be notified because the numbers make it stronger as to why as were asking for repairs. Right now, they are only looking at just the one person representing the community. I would like to also make a requesting for housing, not just for veterans but housing in general for community members. I don't like to hear there is no funding because there is funding and we just need to go after it.
  - Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – I'm wondering what happen with the proposal that NHA made at one of our meetings. They stated they had money but needed land to build on. What happen with NHA, did they come in to talk with the CLUPC?
  - Elvis Bitsilly** – we brought them to the table for a discussion and it's still open, but we have to realize this is federal funds and there are a lot of restrictions to the funds.



**Geneva Begay** – I believe NHA was asking for updated waiting list of families who needed homes in our community. Chooshgai School has started a waiting list for families requesting for homes. NHA states they can do subdivisions for people who are in one area but there is no one coming forward with an updated list of families.

**Laris Manuelito** – So, the list can be compiled or we can send out an advertisement asking who in the Tohatchi Community needs homes. I see young people wanting to come back but there is no housing available. Should not just be looking at NHA, but also bringing in private housing. The Chapter has talked about professional housing and who is going to build those? I know developers and construction companies now. We need to start looking outside the box.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – talking about homes for community members, the CHID program was here to update us on the homes which were coming to several community members. We were told; they all will be getting \$300,000 3-bedroom homes. This is across the board, but we have an individual who just wants a one-bedroom home. We asked if we could get a one-bedroom home for this person and the money saved could go to another family. We were told no which did not make a whole lot of sense. These CHID homes will be all electric which means the families electricity bill will be increasing as well.

**Vice President Rodgers** – CHID's rationale behind their design is that these homes are being manufactured in Le Chee, AZ and the home has to be brought to NM for the families. The 2<sup>nd</sup> factor is the design of these homes were made during the pandemic and their thought was about preventing bacteria, germs, and viruses which is why they said no to wood burning stove or chimneys. They went with all electric because the communities do not have immediate hookups to gas lines. Another issue is these people who qualified for homes did not list all family members who live in the home. So there are a lot of factors involved with these CHID homes. I also remember we once had a "housing committee" here in our community. I think we need to back that committee back so discuss housing issues.

**Doris Benallie** – In May, Indian housing with HUD will be having a big meeting in Phoenix, AZ. NHA is scheduled to be there and this is in reference to housing projects that will be happening. With the Department of Transportation, I filed 3 tort claims and the most I received was \$500.00 because the struts on my caravan gave out and they had to replace both. McKinley County is not the only one doing tort claims, people around NM have been filing tort claims because of the condition of the roads in NM. The legislators want to do a new house bill to increase the number of days you have to submit a tort claim from 90 days to 180 days which won't be brought to the table until next year.

**Vice President Rodgers** - I believe the Chapter can do a support resolution to increase the days in the near future.

**Howard Leonard Jr.** – With Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife: I'll be presenting on climate change and I've been visiting the Chapters in District 14 and the schools as well. Phase One is educating the public on the cause and effect of climate change. Phase two is the fire on the mountain which burned many acres of land and we are currently working on a restoration plan. The Tohatchi Chapter may have some restoration projects which are of low impact. When I say low impact, I mean projects that will not require any heavy equipment. I'm looking at projects like clearing away debris or slowing the flow of water down in the channel ways. These are some of the best management practices and I have some copies of the BMP (Best Management Practices) here. As we are moving forward with Phase Two in our program, we are asking if the Chapter can do a resolution for some of these low impact projects. An example is when people start driving off the main roads causing rain to flow where the tire tracks are left, like the grooves it makes. We don't want that. We could work with the PEP staff and show them how to make simple (low impact) corrects. We also observe and identify these places in the community. We also have an architect on board and we work with HPD (Historical Preservation Department). They have mapping that can identify TCP (Traditional Cultural Properties). Once an object is identified, these department will be notified and they have a 200 foot buffer. I'm hoping to collaborate with the Chapter to work on some of these low impact projects. I'm not sure if you know, but Fish & Wildlife is very involved with biological reviews which is on-line. We are also doing homesite leases too. Years ago, you could go to Land Department and start your homesite lease process, now because of Federal laws we have to consider the endangered species who live among us. We have to be cognizant of their space as well and the NN Heritage Program who oversee this program.



**Gerald Moore** – you are talking about small projects like the water shed project, librarian sediments which is a collection or repository of sediments samples, possibly archived for research or analysis. These sediments flow out into the eastflats. I don't know if you are working with Red Lake Project, Roland Tso from Many Farms Water Development. They are having issues with the run off from the mountain and if you look at Red Lake, it looks pretty big but its small about 2 feet deep before it hits the dam. All that is sediments coming off the mountain and they are looking at ways to slow down the erosion that's happening on top of the mountain. They are looking at replanting vegetation and trees as restoration.

**Doris Benallie** – Every year we get a flow from Chooshgai mountain out toward Mexican Springs coming down to 491. We have a massive flood that comes in every year. I would like to know what your plans are Grazing Official Moore to correct this? We will get another flood this year and how will you prevent these massive floods coming down the mountain? The reason why the flooding starting was when the State was constructing the road, they got sand from that area to build up the road so the flood would not be going over the highway. Now the water just flows right through, nothing to stop it.

**Grazing Officer Moore** – We have to somehow put up some dams and diversions on the mountain. Also in the area west of the highway between Mexican Springs turn off and the junction where the flooding usually occurs, there is no vegetation. If it had shrubs or grass, that could hold the water. The area has been overgrazed causing erosion.

**Geneva Begay** – I remember Byron Bitsoie had submitted a resolution on the broken earth dam. The resolution is in place but Water Resource doesn't have the manpower to repair the earth dam. Navajo Nation is short on staff and they do not have heavy equipment operators currently.

**Vice President Rodgers** – There is also two earth dams that are busted going up Antelope Pass Road. I can already identify 5 sites.

**Mr. Leonard Jr** – This would be considered a major project of a larger scale because you will need heavy equipment to make the repairs to the road. I'm talking about simple things we can do to help repair flooding or land that's been overgrazed.

**Laris Manuelito** – When I worked for Congresswoman Leger Fernandez, me and Senator Lujan attended a water conference in Shiprock. Senator said give us the amounts for the bigger projects for the earth and dams and we'll get the funding needed. So, up at the Congressional level, they are aware of the water issues and down here at our level, we just need to get the studies done for the earth and dams. I'm very vested in this conversation because I'm working a conservation plan for my area. Before COVID happen, CLUPC and District 14 were working on a water & soil conservation plan. Now that it went away, can we do a water & soil conservation plan here in the Tohatchi area or has one been done?

## VI. REPORTS:

**\*Council Delegate's Report given by LDA Moore** – The Council Delegate Notah has been on sick leave. He is on the Law & Order committee. They have been traveling across Navajo with Chief Justice Jayne's confirmation. The last meeting will be held on Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> and they will meet back in W/R at the Council Chambers. With Mr. Leonard Jr.'s topic about conservation, this overlaps with the other 4 Chapters in district 14 who are concerned about windmill repairs and dam rehabilitations. Tohatchi Chapter did submit some resolutions to address this concern. I think we are talking about a major conservation type effect and these resolutions should be followed up on. And just to mention, there will be a Veterans meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Window Rock. I've working on getting Mr. Arthur Hardie who has been newly assigned to assist the Veterans. Also, I've noticed we are not on the district 6 Transportation Department meetings. I will be contacting them to allow us to start attending their meetings. The San Juan Lateral Project is also having meetings on a larger scale and we need to be in on those meetings as well.

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

#### **1. Update on status of Senior Center –**

**Maria, CSC** – We are making minor adjustments to the center and I have the PEP staff painting inside of the building, outside we will be painting the handrails and the parking lot. They will also be repairing the driveway and the sidewalk where NTUA broken off an area. There are also some broken vents in the back of the building which will be repaired. We met with the supervisor from Naschitti who is temporarily overseeing the center and she stated a cook and a driver has been hired. The cook is from the community of Naschitti and the driver is from Twin Lakes. The cook is being trained at Naschitti Senior Center. Naschitti



is currently serving 7 families in our community and we would like to sign up more senior who are ages 55 and older. There was a supervisor hired as well, but she has since declined the position. We are hoping to open the center back up in May and we have plans to have a celebration with activities for that day. The supervisor will set a date to have OEH come back in to do another inspection and when we get the approval, we will set a date for the opening of the Senior Center.

**2. Report on Safety Complex –**

**Maria, CSC** – We had a meeting in Twin Arrows with the District 14 Chapters, but only Tohatchi and Mexican Springs showed up for the meeting with Parsons. We toured the Safety Building again and discussed what the building has that the new Safety Complex in Tohatchi would need too or on the other hand what Tohatchi Safety Complex may not need. With this discussion, it was apparent that we would need to involve the individuals who will be utilizing the facility like the Police Department, EMS Department, and the Fire Department which is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> here at Tohatchi Chapter. We will be meeting with Loren Miller the architect (LAM) who is designing the facility.

**3. Bike Trail documents update –**

**Maria, CSC** - We had another meeting with Cynthia Freeman with DOJ along with Mr. Rodgerick Begay who oversees the Chapters and the other officials for our Chapter. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Chapter will be doing a micro-purchase. Mr. Begay recommended that the Chapter write a letter explaining the history of the bike trail conception and why we have only one vendor that we will be working with. This is to protect us from getting audited again for not follow procurement process.

**4. Update on Chapter Audit –**

**Maria, CSC** – I have not heard from the Auditor's office as of yet. I am waiting to hear when they want to come back in to do another audit after we have corrected all the Audit Findings, but in the meantime, I'm working with the auditor, Mr. Rodriquez Morris and we've completed the housing, SYEP, PEP, and the tools policies. He states he will be writing a memo to his supervisor to say we have completed and passed our corrections regarding our policies. As far as our fuel policy, Mr. Morris states no other chapter has a fuel policy in place and we would be the first to have one. I will be working with the Auditor General on this policy. Mr. Morris has asked to meet with myself and the officials on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm to explain how the fuel policy should work and also to go over the other policies I mentioned. The Auditor General will be a part of this meeting as well.

**5. Status on the re-authorization of State Funds –**

**Maria, CSC** – We are still waiting to hear from Santa Fe on our application for funds. I did call Denise Copeland and she has not heard from them as well.

**6. Update on the New Mexico Capital Appropriations for 2025 –**

**Maria, CSC** – The portal is open and request for the Senior Center deadline is May 14<sup>th</sup>. For tribal request the deadline is July 11<sup>th</sup>. So, if the community has a project they would like to recommend, now is the time to make suggestions. I will be attending the May 14<sup>th</sup> training on the ICIP portal in Silver City. They will be covering the new updates that were added to the portal and what documents should be added to our project request. They will also be updating their capital planning and policy.

**Laris Manuelito** – With this fund, the Unhealthy Food Tax would we be able to start plans for a Wellness Center? Also a new Senior Center for our community. Governor Grisham and Senator Pinto would be huge advocates for this project. Even with the ICIP funds, maybe using some of the funds for repairs to highway 491.

**Maria, CSC** – Yes, we can start putting money aside for this project.

**Howard Leonard Jr.** – I have a co-worker name Shanndiin who graduated from New Mexico State and can give a presentation on for starters maybe the different kinds of seeds or what plants do well here in our area. Providing that the community will take the initiative seriously and follow through.

**Treva Roanhorse** – I would like to suggest a walking trail along with the bike trail. Some of us cannot ride a bicycle anymore and we have lots of elderly who want to get out a walk a safe trail. The other thing I want to mention is I would like to see a sign or bulletin board outside the Chapter that has the dates of the Chapter and Planning Meetings. You can also put something about Earth Week and the cleanup that's happening in our community. Just like the sign at the turnoff to Chooshgai School right at the intersection.

**Vice President Rodgers** – We do have a bulletin board which probably needs to be re-painted or re-



positioned so everyone can see the board. And also your suggestion for a community walking trail can be added to our project list as well.

7. Update on the purchase of Culverts –

**Maria, CSC** – LDA Moore is helping me with a letter to NNDOT to ask if they can haul some culverts back from Albuquerque. We need a long trailer to haul these culverts and I worked on a price quote for the four 24-inch diameter culverts which will run around \$6,300.

**\*CLUPC Report**

**\*Red Willow Farm Report –**

**Geneva Begay** – There was a public announcement today for a vegetarian inventory project. Cedar Creek Associates for Hidden Water will be conducting vegetation field work in Red Willow Wash, Chooshgai Wash, and Chooshgai Lake New Mexico to complete cultural assessments for WIA, Ft. Defiance Agency, Natural Resources, Ft. Defiance Arizona. The purpose of the field work is to get information that will be used to complete a harvest document with either Navajo Nation Forestry Department or BIA Forestry. BIA is purposed to removed Tamarack, Russian Olive at Red Willow Wash, Chooshgai Wash, and Chooshgai Lake starting April 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, you can call BIA, Natural Resource 505-863-8236 or 863-8235. BIA has been working with Red Willow Farm Board for the Russian Olive, Tamarack removal which was funded \$200,000 back in 2024, I believe. Those dollars have already been expended by 2025. For next year there was another proposal for \$200,000 so it's continuing moving forward yearly. They want to use a different measure like mechanical or some type of treatment on the tamarack and Russian olive. There was a survey done back in April of 2023 to ask community what kind of method we wanted to use, was it the Manuel treatment, the follow up herbicide treatment, or prescribed pile burning? We are currently working with Carol Palmer who is with NTU in Crownpoint. She will be here on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to present on gold potatoes which has a lot less starch. Carol does several workshops and the next one scheduled is at NTU for herb and garden salad on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. NTU will provide you a meal ticket and you can go to get lunch on campus.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – I like to ask where our community can apply to pick up food boxes? You had mentioned before there is a state program where elders can pick up vegetables/fruit boxes.

**Geneva Begay** – The State of NM is accepting application at the Health Office/Vital Records in Gallup on College Drive. When you apply, they'll give you an elder WIC card and you can spend it at any of the Farmers Markets in Ramah, Shiprock, Farmington, and Gallup. Program will start in July and will end in November. You can also purchase food where you see their logo are vendors. You can also be a vendor if you have crops and accept the WIC cards.

**LDA Moore** – There has been a lot of discussion on the drought insurance funds and I'm wondering if you are involved in getting some of these funds for Red Willow Farm?

**Geneva Begay** – The President of the AIF program has funding in the amount of \$50,000 and to give to farmers but it can only go to a certified chapter. They would write a proposal and have the budget would go to the certified chapter or government to government. The only certified chapter in district 14 is Naschitti and they would have to take hold of these dollars and we can ask for funds for Red Willow Farm, but your projects would have to be shovel ready. Mr. Jessie Jim is the person who is working with the new AIF insurance company. I'm not sure if ranchers have any funds this year.

**Grazing Officer Moore** – For small farmers there is a \$500 incentive and for ranchers you'll need a valid grazing permit, be in compliance, and I'm not sure if the conservation plan is required. You can apply and receive up to \$1,500 for feed and equipment. You can apply with Kimberly Johnson at Window Rock Fair grounds. Nothing about windmills and earth dams in the AIF funding that I am aware of. Remember, when CKP was running the AIF program, they developed a portal and all your information is stored there. They would not share the portal information with the new insurance company that was selected because they said they own the portal.

**Geneva Begay** – With the garden incentive is \$500 toward any garden and if you have an ALUP you can double your incentive to \$1000 and this will go into effect in 2026. When Fernand was with the AIF program, there were many project proposals submitted, but these documents have been destroyed so there is no way to find out which projects were funded and now committees have to re-submit their projects to be entered into the AIF program.



**Elvis Bitsilly** – We do have \$467,000 which has been earmarked and allocated to the Chooshgai channel way and it's with Water Resources. The money should be there because we have a business unit number for it so there should not be a problem with that. The \$50,000 we are still working on for field improvement for RWF and we mention Naschitti because they are a certified chapter and we are hoping they will be willing to handle the funds for us. RWF still has a small balance from the power line project which also needs to be expended. RDC who are the oversight committee for the Department of Agricultural is discussing where the unspent funds will go.

**Geneva Begay** – RWF does have several projects going on and we are working with the kids from the high school who created the logo for RWF. We will also be working with Mr. Howard Leonard and Shanndiin to do a project with the runoff as a training.

**Laris Manuelito** – I will not go to an RWF meeting until I know I have a permit. Again, I was grandfather and my son was also grandfather plots there but not according to your new policy on the 2-acre plots only. About 6 years ago I applied with Nathaniel Sam and I'm wondering if he is still the person to contact?

**Geneva Begay** – The cancellation of RWF permits was done by the late Dorothy Bitsilly and this was brought up back in 2014 and all the names were canceled with Jack Manuelito. These cancellations were brought to us as the new farm board committee and BIA is working on BRCF to get our permits moving forward. You would need to talk with Nathaniel Sam with BIA and he is located at the Federal Building. He will be coming out tomorrow to do a survey at our Red Willow meeting. Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

**Laris Manuelito** – So, 5 years later we find out our permits have been canceled? We applied going on 6 years ago and this was before talks of only 2-acre plots only. I like to know where are the minutes or resolution to address these cancellations. You have a map with all the names of families who had plots at RWF. My grandmother and grandfather names were on the map which proves they had plots at Red Willow Farm. When we applied, I handed the applications over to Nathaniel Sam and I've been following up on the applications and each time I'm told it's in the process. Then you want me to do work over there when I don't have a permit. I have plans for the 8 acres and I plan to talk with Nathaniel Sam tomorrow to ask him what happen to my application. But if I can prove the 8 acres belong to me then Red Willow has to abide by that, correct?

**Geneva Begay** – Nathaniel Sam is the person you need to talk to about your application and RWFB just oversees the farm. Nathaniel is working on the BRCF for the whole 938 acre of farmland at Red Willow.

**Laris Manuelito** – But from what you've said, my application is not even there.

**Doris Benallie** – I've been coming to the RWF meetings since my aunt Dorothy was on the farm board. The BIA has been making changes and it is for a purpose and looking back on history, how many of these families are actually farming on land? According to their inventory, there is nobody farming the land anymore except for maybe 3 families. I said the same thing; we have 12 acres at RWF when my father and mother were still living. In 2003 my father and I farmed down there and it was the last time we farmed. My siblings would say; oh we have land, we have land at RWF, but I'll ask them are you taking care of your land? Today the policies are changing and I understand the BIA is changing on us. All of this talk about "I had and I want." All the land we are on is still under the Bureau of Reclamation and the hands of the federal government. We have a new water pump installed at RWF but we don't see very many people wanting to farm. I applied for 1 acre plot with my late aunt Dorothy about 6 years ago, but I have since decided to withdraw my application so I can move closer to the water pump station.

**Laris Manuelito** – I reason I want the 8 acres is because it's our legacy and lineage. I will continue to fight for it until I get it and if that means not working with Red Willow, I won't.

**Vice President Rodgers** – All my grandmother's brother and sisters were listed on the map you talked about, but we have farm land on the mountain too. So, I chose to farm at the mountain to avoid the heat during the summer months at Red Willow. My nieces and nephews are now coming to me as Vice President Chapter to ask me to reclaim my grandmothers plot at Red Willow, but my advice to them is to go to the Red Willow Farm meetings and bring it up there. So, my suggestion is to start attending the RWF meetings and start working with them so you can farm again. One of these days we are all going to be struggling to find food, it's coming and it's said they only people who will survive is the farmers. So, we should be investing in RWF and we are being offered \$500 to plant some vegetables in our backyard. We should be taking advantage of that so please let's work together.



**\* Veterans Report given by Laris Manuelito** – I attended a Ft. Defiance Veteran Agency meeting in White Cone, Az. One of the concerns of veterans is housing and President Buu Nygren administration had a home built for a veteran in Teec Nos Pos, Az. It was nice, it is efficient but it served its purpose, but there was another veteran who had a similar house built in Tohajiilee that was too small. That is why I brought up the idea of multi-generational homes. We want one foot in the past and one foot in the future so how do we come to a compromise. I talked with Dr. Andy Nez and Arthur Hardy and I asked Mr. Hardy because of the contracts that are in place now, the square footage is set, they can re-negotiate the scope of work, but they can't change the footage. Sometimes we need to think and work outside of the box to progress forward. In terms of housing, if we could entertain a resolution that point toward bigger and better square footage and detailed more to what the family needs as opposed to what they think the family needs. Thinking forward as the government is moving forward the way it is, we have to be 2 or 3 steps ahead of them for us to survive. The veteran housing is one resolution that I would like to entertain but also a general housing initiative to have our delegate start that conversation. Another thing is Arizona passed a bill HB147 to support the "Stone Valor" which refers to the Stolen Valor Act which is a federal law that makes it illegal to falsely claim military decorations or medals. The State of NM does not have a similar bill, but some veterans who are not veterans have received homes and funding. How do you proof a veteran is a veteran. They have to write to DOD and sign a form and it gets certified. Some people will change information on a DD214 and that's really easy to do. I'm going to propose at the veterans meeting that we get an updated listing of how many veterans need homes here. Hopefully, the other Chapters can do the same. Also, the veterans funding is going away slowly so how do we address that perhaps another resolution to ask that they put all veteran funding back.

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

**Grazing Officer Moore** – I have an announcement; the District Farm & Ranch workshop will be on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm. I hope to have some door prizes for this event. Also, they are asking for all permittees to submit a livestock inventory along with a tally count. You will be required to submit individual ID of each animal either by ear tags, ear marks, and a description. This is coming from the Department of Agriculture, Jessie Jim. It states to please be advised due to the persistence drought conditions, over grazing of feral animals, and the increase in livestock thefts being reported. This is effective immediately and will be discussed on April 25<sup>th</sup> with BIA and the Department of Agriculture. I'm still doing tally counts, homesites, and abandon homesites as well. Maybe we should just start issuing out these abandon homesite leases to give them a wakeup call.

**Treva Roanhorse** – How is the new AIF insurance group coming along. Has the grazing official met with them and what kind of changes are they making? I'm also wondering about the abandon homesites, are the individuals who own the abandon homesite not responding to your request?

**Grazing Officer Moore** – We submitted a letter to Land Department to say some of these abandon homesites have no structure on the homesite, but a lot of these homesites were processed with the BIA realty way back when and its difficult. They have to report to BIA that these homesite are abandon and they in turn are suppose to contact these individuals who have abandon their homesites. They will send them a certified at least 3 times and even post it in the newspaper and from there they have 30 days to respond. This has been going on since 2021 or 2022. I would like to assign some of these homesites to the community members.

I don't know what is going on with the new insurance carrier, I do know when they took over, people only had a couple of days to sign up with them. I understand CPK was falsify information on the number of acres being claimed. AIF program still has million of dollars from the previous years so I don't know how they will be disturbing those funds.

**LDA Moore** – The insurance carrier is called "Native Land" and they have recently been giving reports to RDC. I hear that \$510,000 is still outstanding and not sure who is suppose to pay that amount. As far as the wool buy back will happen for 3 days in July 2025 at the Window Rock Fairground.

**Priscilla Duncan** – CPK made Chapter visits to help permittees complete their AIF application on-line. Will Native Land be doing the same thing? It makes it much easier for us.

**Grazing Officer Moore** – I'm sorry but you will have to go to Window Rock to apply.

**Lucinda Barney** – I did go to W/R to apply with Cordell Smith who took my application and they asked for



grazing permit, tally count, and letter from BIA.

**Doris Benallie** – Years ago there was a policy that was enforced here in Tohatchi, when you are given a homesite lease they do not want a mobile home on the homesite. NECA and IHS are losing money when the mobile home is moved out. Another question, as homeowners of NHA homes we were told to go to W/R to get our homesite lease. We were told we can get 1 acre plots, but some of us only have room for ½ acre when we were authorized 1 acre. They give us the homesite lease and told you are not to bring in a mobile to put adjacent to your house and I'm curious if you are familiar with that?

**Grazing Officer Moore** – No, I don't know NHA's policy. So, I need some clarification on what you are saying.

Another announcement, BIA is no longer accepting RMU (Range Management Units) for that RMU you will be required to have 200 sheep units to honor their RMU.

**LDA Moore** – That issue came up at the Naschitti meeting and there is a difference between NHA public rental and the homeowners and Naschitti is looking into this. The question that came up is the individual now responsible for the street light payment?

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Resolution to approve the comprehends budget in the amount of \$324,906.00
2. Resolution to approve the FY 2025 Chapter activities General Fund Account Revenue Budget (Fund 01) in the amount of \$5,829.38 for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, January February, and March 2025.
3. Resolution to approve budget transfer within fund 23, NN Sales Tax funds, in the amount of \$2000 to replenish operating supplies.
4. Resolution to approve the Unhealthy Food Tax in the amount \$118,197.00.
5. Resolution recommending and approving the Housing Discretionary Assistance, Fund 09 for Benson Badonie.
6. Resolution to add Elvis Bitsilly to the Wells Fargo Bank as a signatory for Tohatchi Chapter.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Maria CSC** – If you request to use the Chapter for your committee meeting, you should schedule this with Janice or the receptionist. Currently, the Chapter is book for all the weekends in May, June, and July for birthday parties and graduation receptions. So, what we have available is from Monday through Friday open. There is no facility rental payment but there is a \$75.00 cash deposit for cleaning. You will get the deposit of \$75 if you leave the Chapter the way you found it, meaning you have to make sure the Chapter is cleaned, table and chairs are put away and the kitchen is spotless.

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Eastflats update meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am, Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Rodriquez Morris at 2pm. We also have Earth Week starting April 20-24<sup>th</sup> and we will provide a trash bin here behind the Chapter. We take all trash expect for appliances, tires, and batteries. Please let your friends and neighbors know and get them involved in the cleanup week. We do have trash bags here at the Chapter.

Doris Benallie – When we do cleanup on the last day of Earth Week, the Chapter usually provides lunch for the people who participated in picking up trash. The Chapter committees were designated certain areas in our community to clean. I'm wondering if the Chapter is planning this again this year?

Maria, CSC – We did that last year during Earth Week and the Chapter spent around \$200 on food and nobody shown up, but we can do the lunch again this year and let the community know Chapter will be providing lunch for them.

There will be an Economic Summitt at Twin Arrows on April 22-23<sup>rd</sup> which I will be attending. There is also a CLUPC orientation on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am at UNM Calvin Hall.

**VIII. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: April 23, 2025 @ 10am**

**X. ADJOURNMENT: 1:11pm**

Submitted by;



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jean Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jean" and last name "Crawford" clearly legible.

Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – April 18, 2025

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC

Mr. Nathan Notah, Council Delegate