



May 05, 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.

VI. REPORTS:

***Council Delegate Report/LDA:**

- 1. Update on President Trump's executive orders –

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

- 1. Update on status of Senior Center -
- 2. Report on Safety Complex (LAM & Parsons) –
- 3. Bike Trail Documents Update -
- 4. Update on Chapter Audit -
- 5. Status on the re-authorization of State Funds -
- 6. Update on the NM State Capital Appropriations for 2025 -
- 7. Update on the Culverts -

***Red Willow Farm's Report –**

1.

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

1.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolution to approve revised policies for Housing Discretionary, SYEP, PEP, Equipment and Tool checkout per DOJ's recommendation.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: 05-21-2025 (Chapter Meeting)

X. ADJOURNMENT:



MAY 20 PM 2:56

May 05, 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: 10:06 am**
- II. ROLL CALL:** President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, Grazing Officer Gerald Moore, and CLUPC members: Priscilla Duncan and Fern Spencer.
- III. INVOCATION: Harry Plummer Jr.**
- IV. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA**
- V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**
 - Maria, CSC** – Darlene Mike came into the Chapter with a Housing application requesting for a walk-in shower and a wheelchair ramp.
 - Marie Allison** – Doctor's referral for a wheelchair ramp.
 - Harry Plummer Jr.** – for housing renovation for his home.
 - I also received referrals from the CHR, Renee but not applications have been submitted from:
 - Laura Lowe** - for walk-in shower.
 - Wilfred Muskett** and husband – for a walk-in shower, roofing repair, and ceiling replacement in their kitchen. The Chapter did assist Wilfred Muskett last year from the housing discretionary fund which included a wheelchair ramp and other renovations in the amount of \$2000. They were suppose to come up with their share of the cost but they never did. They are requesting for additional assistance from the Chapter. I plan to submit the Muskett's, Darlene Mike, and Laura Lowe to NECA. We received an email from Council Delegate Notah regarding walk-in showers and bathroom additions. Council Delegate Notah provided applications for bathroom renovations for our community and ask to start a list of 10 community members who needs a bathroom addition. Currently, I have six community members on the list and need 4 more to complete my list. I will let these individuals know they are being added to Council Delegate Notah's list for bathroom renovation.
 - Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – Navajo Nation President Nygren was on the radio and he stated there were 2-bathroom additions completed in the community of Tohatchi. Do you know who received the bathroom additions?
 - Maria, CSC** – No, I don't know and it's because the Navajo Nation is not sharing that information with the Chapter. I also heard someone in our community received a home and I have no idea who received this house.
 - Doris Benallie** – Buu Nygren was here on Tuesday at Cecelia Yazzie's place or on that side. I guess Nancy Allison's daughter is his assistant and they were going around.
 - Maria, CSC** – We need to get the names of the families who are working directly with Buu Nygren because we have Cecelia and Benson Yazzie on our list for ARPA bathroom additions. If they are getting assistance already, we can provide service to another family.
 - Harry Plummer Jr.** – I am requesting for Housing Discretionary assistance from the Chapter. After my wife passed, my daughter and her family who lived in Washington State decided to move back home. They moved in with me and my grandson. My daughter and her husband and their five children. So, we are crowded in my small two-bedroom house. I had no choice but to invest in a small portable shed, but it needs to be insulated and drywalled along with flooring which I cannot afford. When my wife was here, she put in a request for a walk-in shower and it was still going through the process when she passed. I've

submitted my application and all required documents. I will appreciate any help I can get from the Chapter. **Elvis Bitsilly** – We do have a Housing Discretionary policy which determines what kind of assistance you will be eligible for. I would like to mention that the policy states community members who are requesting for assistance needs to come to the Chapter to make their request in person at the planning meeting.

Geneva Begay – Students will be planting at Red Willow Farm on May 9th. Tomorrow, we will have presentations from Representative Johnson and Sheep Springs here. At the farm, one of the buildings do not have a porch or stairs to do some cleaning. I am asking the Chapter to assist with writing a proposal to the AIF program for dollars for farmers. A few months back, we had a special meeting where we had Hazel James in attendance and she had mention she has matching funds for the \$50,000. So, we would like to put together a proposal which I would like assistance with. I need to get these dollars to our farmers and our community.

VI. REPORTS:

***Council Delegate's Report given by LDA Moore –**

1. Update on President Trump's executive orders –

LDA Casey Begay – In retrospect, there has been a lot of executive orders issued haphazardly, but again I believe this has opened our eyes and the majority of the orders we don't agree with, but I think some of the orders is to try to get people back to work. All the programs and benefits the Navajo Nation was receiving is being cut by the President. They are also looking to cut Medicaid, Medicare, and health insurance in general including our 401. We need to look at not how we are going to react, how can we be proactive. I believe it will force us back to basics, farming, and ranching. We need to start working together and with our chapter. So, how is the Navajo Nation going to be proactive in terms of our Council's action. I understand they closed SIPI and Haskell and they are even considering closing the Tohatchi Health Center and several other clinics on Navajo. So, we need to be able to take care of ourselves and our wellbeing. In terms of our federal funding, the Department of Agricultural is being affected (USDA). We have several projects being funded by USDA; like Ramah Detention Center and Alamo BIE softball field. Trump is also laying off people by conducting buy-outs. Labor forces have been reduced, both at the branch of Natural Resources and at the regional level with BIA. So, these executive orders have hit Navajo and how we do business. How is the Navajo Nation going to react to what's coming down from Washington. There is discussion about going 638 on Navajo. I was listening to a conversation that Law & Order was having and they state the Navajo Nation should have 500 or more police officers, but currently we only have 300 plus officers. Also since diabetes is so prevalent on Navajo, more money has been appropriated from the Unhealthy Food Tax and the casino money; council is saying "don't just give casino money to the Chapters. Have them present with a scope of work when requesting for these fundings and will be part of the appropriation. The Budget and Finance Committee signed off on the appropriation and looking to activate the work force. We are just not looking to provide skills to the work force but we also like to hire skilled labor. Budget and Finance appropriated more money to the SYEP and for bathroom additions to offset what Trump is doing using our own funds.

There was a meeting held in Utah a couple of weeks ago regarding the blue mountain Dine that the tribe bought land for in them in that area and told they were on their own. Then there is a spillover to Utah with all the fuel coming from the fossil fuels. The community also stated they do not receive any of the funds from the casinos, but we help the Navajo Nation by giving them fuel, oil, and we have pipelines so all the money we generate should stay in Utah. If this were to occur, what other royalties would the Navajo Nation rely on? Right now, Buu Nygren and Trump are interested in coal mining which would re-active the strip mining on Navajo, but all these things are being discussed. The main thing in terms of tariff and executive orders is how are we going to address them by being proactive? The Budget and Finance Committee along with the Resource Committee and Law and Order are exchanging ideas and are trying to implement the best resolution. They think the basic mentality is to get our people back to work. Just a bit of history, Mexican Springs was a BIA headquarters and there were several ram pastures in the area so why can't we reinstitute these pastures? This includes the farms and Coyote Canyon at one time had a huge farm land years ago, bigger than Red Willow Farm, why can't we re-active that so we can have local food source. Recently, Navajo Nation met with the Secretary of Interior along with other tribes who are very upset over Trump's executive orders. While our Dine people were in Washington, there were told you

don't need to wear your traditional clothing which I believe relates to DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). DEI involves recognizing and valuing individual differences, ensuring fair access to opportunities, and actively creating a sense of belonging for everyone. So, how is Washington going to honor our treaty rights? The tribes across the country are strategizing with Larry Echo Hawk, an attorney from Utah who also assisted the Navajo Nation with the water right negotiations. But according to Trump there is not such thing as water rights for Native Americans. How are we going to fight this? The number one thing is to have the tribes unite and not to divide. This topic on all the executive orders from Trump is the main discussion right now.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – My concern is what is the Navajo Nation doing with the other indigenous tribe across the country? Because we the Navajo Nation have to stand up to Trump as well. If we are going to isolate ourselves that doesn't give the NN any power, we should be uniting with the other tribes. We are also hearing the shelves in our grocery stores will be empty soon because of the tariffs and there are no ships coming into our ports. So, we should be stocking up on food that will last several months like beans, lentils and can goods. When I listen to what Trump, he is a white supremacist and wants to get rid off all the blacks and brown skin people. Now, is the time to be aware and start planning as to how we will be dealing with this crisis. Also, why are we letting Trump close down our hospitals and clinics. These are much needed facilities to help our people with the continuity of care which is a necessity.

Casey Begay (LDA) – The Congress of Native American Indians which our Council Delegate is very active with this committee. As far as Trump closing our hospitals and clinics, I believe we were blindsided.

Laris Manuelito – We were not blindsided; this was coming already during his 1st administration and now he wants to finish what he started along with "Project 2025." Our President Nygren is not going to back us because he is right along with him so we are kind of waiting for them to get out of office. The work national is to get as many democrats in office during the midterms so we can fight Trump from the ground up. Like I mentioned, our NN President will not back us and the Vice President has been silenced unfortunately. So, now it's up to the agencies and chapters and I believe Echo Hawk did say we do have the right to sue Trump as well. Thinking ahead we can say we don't want our facilities closed and to invest more in the farms up north so NN can start growing the food the NN will need in the coming months.

Point of Order Called by Doris Benallie – recommending to stay on topic of agenda.

Casey Begay (LDA) – Two others things that is nationwide including Tohatchi are being contemplated is the land use family burial plots. While doing feral animal gatherings, there were a lot of burial sites discovered. The Navajo Nation Council has given us a directive to locate all burial sites on Navajo by all the Grazing Officers. There are processes in place with a check off list and family members can work with the Chapter to get the process moving. The other thing I want to mention is I met with Mr. Moore and Council Delegate Notah to address water development. There are funds to do some repair work on the earthen dams, Hot Springs, Bowmans's watering hole, and Plummer's Pond. There are funds for irrigation and mitigation and things like weed eradication. We need to identify all our watering holes because we are in a drought. Also, Personnel Management Department has been discussing the topic to increase the salary for the PEP workers as well as the SYEP programs. The other is the Tucson Electric and I know Tohatchi Chapter has already passed a resolution regarding TEC. BIA came out to say, they can pay the permittees, but they are also saying we should not be using the grazing concept because of the lack of grass/foliage due to overgrazing and drought. If we use the grazing concept, we will not receive as much in compensation because there is no grass.

Monday morning is when Council Delegate has his committee meetings so it's best to schedule meetings after Monday. He has also been selected to be on the TIF (Tribal Infrastructure Fund) Board. Also, Council Delegate Notah has scheduled a meeting on May 9th with all 5 chapters in District 14 on Friday here at Tohatchi Chapter. We will be providing information on the bathroom additions and water line extensions.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – The funding you mention for repairing windmills, dams and so forth, is funding coming out of the ARPA funding?

Casey Begay (LDA) – Yes in the amount of around \$10 million is my understanding for NN wide water projects. So, we want to make sure we have our data collected and submitted to the NN.

Laris Manuelito – There is a windmill which is near our area which needs to be looked at, because I'll be

fencing in my ranch management unit (RMU) soon. I also would like to know who can assist with fencing materials.

Sonny Moore (LDA) – Can you give us some history on the San Juan Lateral from Shiprock to Gallup.

Casey Begay (LDA) – The San Juan Lateral is not the only water line coming from Shiprock. There is another one coming Cutter Lake to Nageezi and to Ojo and Torreon.

The waterline coming from Shiprock to Gallup is not the only waterline being proposed. There are plans starting back as far as 2017 about extending waterlines throughout Navajo. It started with chapters Counselor, Whitehorse, Torreon, Ojo, and Pueblo Pintado who had rights-of-way, corridors, and waterline route surveyed. People who lived along the waterline got ready to receive water by building their bathroom additions. This was the 1st waterline extension, 2nd is the San Juan Lateral and 3rd would be the waterline extension from Mexican Water through Round Rock to Rock Point, Many Farms, Chinle, down to Cornfield with a funding of \$8 million signed off by the late Ben Shelly. The 4th waterline will be from Page to Copper Mine, LeChee, down to Luepp, Arizona. The lateral which is coming from San Juan will be tapped into near Buffalo Springs to Standing Rock and Crownpoint then it will go north to Becenti and into Lake Valley. Right now, they are extending the water tank waterline through Churchrock, Wingate, and on to Thoreau and Casamero Lake. When is waterline is coming through, it will be connected to storage tanks. NTUA will be responsible for the water coming from the storage tanks to residents. We were informed this waterline is not for agricultural or farming.

Geneva Begay – Talking about windmills, it also says dam rehabilitations. So, there is no resolution required to have the Grazing Officer scheduled to do field work assessment to obtain information and to give the location and GPS recommended. This including something as simple as an abatement dam, a series of dam patrol or runoff from the mountains list by priority order and submit memorandum to Mr. Mike Halona and Water Resource Department and 'cc' Chapter President and the CSC. When we talk about rehabilitating the dam, we are talking about the runoff from the mountain into Chooshgai Lake. The safety of dams is not on the list for Tohatchi and Chooshgai Lake dam which needs to be worked on. The gate is not working anymore because of parts are missing. Few years back we had about 3 inches of rainfall and it pushed the water from off the mountain and flooded the community and the water kept running and went out toward the eastflats because there was nothing in place to slow down the water. There is a dam near the farm which had a gate, but the gate is missing. If we can get the gate replaced it will stop the water from running out to the eastflats. We have pictures of these areas which need to be work and are shovel ready projects. The farmers were using ditch irrigation but we want to be ready when ARPA assistance are approved for our projects.

Casey Begay (LDA) – Grazing Officer Moore and I have been meeting with Mike Halona and we are making sure these projects are completed. Mr. Halona states a resolution is not required because it's already been approved. He is requesting for a scope of work and the inventory of the areas. He did also caution us that any earthen pit dams not to go deeper than 13 feet because then you'll need a mining permit.

Monique Badonie – I am wondering what the status of the community housing program? My grandfather, Tommy Badonie is living in a rough home. I believe he has been on the list for so many years.

Sam Notanabah - What will the PSI of the water be when it starts to come down to Gallup?

Casey Begay (LDA) – With a 36-inch pipe and I believe there are 13 pumps and it has to meet a certain PSI.

Laris Manuelito – I am requesting for a supporting resolution from Tohatchi requesting for \$10 million from the ARPA funds for the plan & design and development of the store.

Sonny Moore (LDA) – Just to let the officials know there is still funds from ARPA funds available like the RRR funds. The Chapter can consider requesting to have the Chapter truck replace or renovations of Chapter.

Casey Begay (LDA) – Mr. Moore & I will be providing you a list of all the appropriations that have been funded across Navajo including New Mexico.

Doris Benallie – I'm wondering if we can get the area next to Speedway store level out so people can sell their goods there. Some like a mini flea market.

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

1. Update on status of Senior Center –

Maria, CSC— We received an email from the Supervisor, Orlynda, Naschitti Senior Center who sent the CAP to OEH for review back in April 2025. OEH accepted the CAP so the next step would be to schedule a walk through. I would like to ask for suggestions on entertainers and guest speakers for the huge party we want to put up when the Senior Center is opened back up. So, this may happen sometime this month.

2. Report on Safety Complex –

Maria, CSC— We did have a meeting on May 1st with LAM Corporation and all the people who are involved with this project which included the sergeants of both EMS and the Police department. The discussion covered what the needs are from both departments and how LAM can accommodate them. The next meeting schedule is on May 12th in Window Rock.

3. Bike Trail documents update –

Maria, CSC— We did a letter to DOJ regarding the bike trail with the Secretary/Treasurer's assistance. The letter was sent to Mr. Rodgerick Begay and Ms. Cynthia Freeman. They reviewed the letter and I received a response from DOJ. The response states on April 21st, Ms. Freeman reviewed our documents pertaining to the bike trail, as of that date it was a close out. The RFS has been completed, revised the Chapter's letter in accordance to the Navajo Nation procurement guide lines and returned to the Chapter. The only thing the Chapter needs to do now is input the final amount that the Chapter will be contributing to the bike trail project and it's good to go. Chapter should resubmit the letter to CU to keep on file and continue onto your next step.

4. Update on Chapter Audit –

Maria, CSC – The Chapter audit was reviewed by Rodriguez Morris from the auditor's office. He reviewed the 4 policies which was also reviewed by the officials and it was then finalized. The next step will be to present these policies in a resolution form to the Chapter during the next Chapter meeting. The policies consist of PEP, SYEP, Housing Discretionary, and the Tool Equipment. Once the policies are approved, it will be sent back to DOJ with a resolution. The last policy we are still struggle with is the Fuel policy because it has to be more detailed which will require me to do some researching. Tohatchi Chapter will be the 1st Chapter to have a Fuel policy. Once we submit these policies back to the Attorney General who states she will be reviewing all our policies and submit them to Alfreda, auditor. After she reviews the policy, she will be contacting us for our next 6-month audit review.

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

Maria, CSC – We had 3 projects we wanted to re-authorize, we had \$180,000 for leach fields and \$50,000 for Nakai Park. We requested to the State to ask if it can be re-authorized to the Safety Complex and the Warehouse projects. But our requests for re-authorizing was denied. So, we need to use these funds before the end of June 2025. I reached out to CPMD office again to ask who is currently overseeing this department? Nobody from the CPMD Department has gotten back with me. We need a project manager from Window Rock to work with us to get these funds expended. I wrote a letter to the ASC, Patricia Begay and "cc" her boss, Mr. Jared Charley to make him aware of our situation, but no response from him either. So, my next step is to reach out to Candice Yazzie who is oversight. CPMD does not like it when I go to the top of the chain, but nobody wants to answer my request.

6. Update on the NM State Capital Appropriations for 2025 –

Maria, CSC— I don't have any information on this topic. I did not submit anything for new projects.

President Bitsilly – I did mention \$750,000 has been appropriated for the Safety Complex and \$100,000 for the warehouse. We also submitted for the highway lighting but we were not funded. These were the 3 Capital Outlay projects that were submitted previously.

Maria, CSC – I would usually get a letter from our Representative Johnson or Senator Pinto if we were going to receiving funding from the State.

7. Update on the Culverts –

Maria, CSC – We are working on a letter to NNDOT to transport the culverts. I did get hold of the company in Albuquerque and they were suppose to send me a finalized quote. I'll have to see if we have the funds to cover the amount.

Earlier, I mentioned the bathroom additions and the bathroom renovations. I still need 4 more names of family in our community who need additions or renovations, maybe 5 more families because I was told Cecelia Yazzie already received assistance. Remember, the addition or renovation has to be on your primary

home not your secondary home. As far as bathroom renovations, the bathroom has to be in existent for more than 15 years per Navajo Nation. Once I get the names, I'll go over to the home to do an assessment and go from there. All the applications, documents, and pictures will be turned over to Community Development and I'll make copies for our Council Delegate Notah. I also have 2 referrals from the doctors.

Doris Benallie – Keep Cecelia's name on the list, please. The information I provided earlier is just hearsay.

Maria, CSC – Just to let you know, I had to close the trash station today because I had to let my PEP staff go this past Friday. We have not received our 2nd half of our budget as of yet which is making providing services difficult. I only have Carol, Rebecca, Jeannie, and myself here at the office. The trash station is closed on Sundays and I have the ladies rotating Monday through Thursday from 10am-2pm. I do have Ray on call for burials only so we had to put all the request for grader work on hold. I am currently in the negative in our PEP funds so please bear with us. The cemetery is currently full to capacity and is now closed. The Chapter will not be doing any burials at the cemetery and I've contacted Rollie's to let them know. I am working on the new policy for the cemetery and Rollie's will be providing training on how to keep record of burials of the newly added 1.5 acre of cemetery land. There will be an area set aside for cremation as well. The leadership from Tohatchi was at the cemetery and had concerns of the runoffs from the mountain which has created ditches around the cemetery and the parking needs work. I hope to have the policy completed soon.

As far as CHID program, I did meet with the CHID office and the officials. There was 3 people who were selected for the CHID homes, but we cannot give out the names of the families at this time. All I can say is as of March 21st there were 5 phases each applicant had to go through. CHID has completed the 1st and 2nd phase and currently working on the 3rd phase. By the 3rd phase the families selected should be getting letters in the mail. This process of phase will go all the way into December of 2025. Just an fyi, the modular homes will cost \$324,000 for one 2-bedroom home which is a huge amount and the Chapter can only fund 2 families. We asked our Delegate if we could go with providing mobile homes instead which will cost around \$184,000. He said he would meet with President Nygren regarding our request. That way we can assist more families with homes. We are waiting to hear from Council Delegate Notah on our request.

Laris Manuelito – Is the Safety Complex fully funded. I would suggest asking for ARPA funds.

Maria, CSC – No, we have money to cover the design but not the construction. We are looking at \$15-18 million to construct.

Sonny Moore (LDA) – If we can get the design portion of the Safety Complex in a timely manner, we might be able to get on the list (Law & Order Committee) to borrow money from the bank. There will be 5 Safety Complexes built across Navajo.

President Bitsilly -There has been a lot of changes as far as procedures and restrictions for the ARPA funding within the past 6 months to a year. There is funding available and I would recommend the LDA and our Council Delegate to look into the funding.

Laris Manuelito – I would recommend to have a resolution in place because that is the 1st thing they will ask for.

Doris Benallie – As a community concern, I would like to request an audit on the staff who work here verses the number of projects the Chapter has completed. Are we paying more for employees' salaries and giving less to community projects.

Maria, CSC – Yes, Chapter can provide information on that. Another topic is if you have seniors this year, I will be at the high school on May 7th at 11:30 for a registration drive. Seniors who have turned 18 years of age or older can register with the Chapter so they can be eligible for assistance. I will be registering anyone who wants to register with our Chapter.

The Chapter will be opened this Friday on May 9th, but closed on May 26th for Memorial Day.

President Bitsilly – Just to announce, the Veterans will be posting colors here at the Chapter on Memorial Day. They ask that the Chapter be opened at 6:30am and will be posting colors at 7am.

Vice President Rodgers – According to Title 26, as Vice President I am assigned projects for our Chapters and for the past 2 years all I've been hearing is how W/R is not working with the Chapter. I was asked by President Bitsilly to go to Window Rock to talk to individuals about our projects, but I picked the wrong day. Everyone was out of office on a WIND training, so I called back on Monday and spoke with a McKenzie Moore. She did not know who the project managers were, but she did say that the staff will tell you, your

emergency is not our emergency. You should have been working on this project long before the expiration date. I called again and I was told our Chapter would be working with Erma Julian will be working with bathroom additions. Her is 928-871-6168. Henry Yazzie works with housing wiring and his number is 928-871-6736, anything to do with water or leach fields and septic is downstairs with Water Management. Powerline extension is being handled by Judith Willoughby, number 928-871-6939. I will keep on these departments so they can provide the services that our community needs.

Doris Benallie – I would like to make a request to buy flags for the veterans and to the families who have lost family members during wartime.

Maria, CSC – I will need a letter from the Commander to make the request.

Vice President Rodgers – Have we followed up on the bike race event that's is coming up in a couple of weeks. There was a verbal made to provide water and fruits.

Maria, CSC – Waiting on a letter from them as well to make a written request.

Sonny Moore LDA – Just to talk a little more on the \$100,000 and the \$80,000. These projects can be covered under the ARPA funding and we would like to move this money to our Safety Complex project. I know we were denied, but I can't believe there is no flexibility because we have been working on this with Director Waseta for quite some time now. Maybe I can work on this with President Bitsilly also the land withdrawal, highway lighting, and abandon homesites.

President Bitsilly – I know Mexican Springs just recently received funds for highway lighting. It's all about how we do our proposals, our scope of work, and our needs. Our legislators can help us by lobbying and advocating for our request.

Laris Manuelito – We just had a meeting on Friday, and the CPO from Ft. Defiance wanted us to move our funds into hardship and a little bit into transportation to depleted because Dr. Andy Nez and another delegate are working on increasing our percentage. For them to consider this legislation we (meaning across Navajo) have to deplete our funds. So we have almost depleted all our funds.

Doris Benallie – To LDA Moore, did you do electrical connection for Manuel Shirleson. He has requested for a bathroom addition as well under ARPA funds.

***CLUPC Report**

***Red Willow Farm Report –**

Geneva Begay – We are encouraging our community to come out to farm at RWF, but if you can't we encourage you to do a backyard garden. We had a guest, Ms. Touchin who will be coming out on May 7th to sign up for drip farming. She can come out to your home to show you how to do drip farming. The high school students will be at RWF on May 9th to plant some sweet corn so they can make popcorn after they harvest their sweet corn. We did reach out to Native Seeds and were able to get some native seeds which is at no cost (free). We also received \$50,000 from AIF program and some matching funds to work on the eradication of shrubs. I'm asking for assistance in writing a proposal to apply for funding to rehabilitate the dam at Chooshgai Lake. We want to bring the lake back to the community but the farmers at RWF are being blame for using up all the water from Chooshgai Lake which is not true. It is all the various types of shrubs like the tamarack and Russian olive which are water suckers. Fish & Wildlife is also active with RWF, they are helping us plant, they are also doing classes on climate change and hoping to start teaching about the climate change at the schools here in Tohatchi. We don't have a reservoir and we live near a mountain also I want to stress the importance of a conservation plan. There is information on line which you can read up on.

Sam Notanabah – Requesting for pipes to run to RWF and possibility a "T" for connection. We are doing some control burn along the fences of RWF. We would also like to request for a "box cart" to be able to store equipment for RWF.

Laris Manuelito – I'm technically relinquishing my RWF permit, even though it was ancestral since RW does not seem to want to work with me. Just for the record, I'm no longer interested in working RWF.

Doris Benallie – Sheepsprings is coming here tomorrow at 1pm to do a slideshow on how to plant.

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

Grazing Officer Moore – Just want to report on our successful farm & ranch workshop we had on April 24th. We had 45-50 people in attendance and 2 days later we had an equine services event at Moore's arena. The group called Equine Rescue Services with Glenna Davis and they vaccinated 70-75 horses and 15 horses

castrated, 15 had dentistry, and maybe 10 horses who had hoof trimmed. We also received a memo from the Department of Agricultural Livestock information. If you know of any livestock owners who are wanting to sell their stock, sheep, cattle, and horses. Our local deputy livestock inspectors were told to bring their books back in. We lost 2 inspectors here in Tohatchi, Wayne Franklin and Vincent Muskett. Effective immediately, Navajo Nation Department of Agricultural, District Grazing Official, Land Board will be the only authorized Navajo Nation Deputy Livestock Inspectors. There was a training provided who grazing officers who wanted to be a livestock inspector, but I did not take the training. I'll post this on the board here at the Chapter. If you plan to have another family member to transport the livestock for you, they will have to fill out another form and have it notarized including other permits.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to recommending and approving the Housing Discretionary Assistance Fund (09) for the following community member: Harry Plummer Jr.
2. Resolution to approve the Public Employment Personnel (PEP) policy and procedures for Tohatchi Chapter
3. Resolution to approve the Student Youth Employment Program (SYEP) policy and procedures for Tohatchi Chapter.
4. Resolution supporting and approving the new Housing Discretionary policy for Tohatchi Chapter.
5. Resolution to approve an Equipment and Tool Usage policy in accordance to the correction action plan (CAP) in which the Tohatchi Chapter is currently working on with the Auditor General's office.
6. Resolution recommending and approving the Housing Discretionary Assistance, Fund 09 for Benson Badonie.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: District 14 Grazing Committee Meeting May 7th @ Mexican Springs at 9am. Veterans Memorial Day, will be here at Chapter @ 6:30am. **Laris Manuelito** – I will be having food sales like fry bread and Navajo burgers next to Speedway Wednesday and Thursday. I got accepted to a very prestigious program with the Harvard Business School and is sponsored by the Native American Indian Congress. RWFB meeting tomorrow at 1pm.

VIII. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: June 09, 2025 @ 10am

X. ADJOURNMENT: 1:00 pm

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – May 15, 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