



September 02, 2025 9:00 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: 9:30am

II. ROLL CALL: President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, Grazing Officer Gerald Moore, and CLUPC member: Priscilla Duncan, Chooshgai School Board: Treva Roanhorse, and Lisa Hubbard, and GMCS Board member Kevin Mitchell.

III. INVOCATION: Elvis Bitsilly

IV. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

Maria, CSC - I have 2 community requests for housing discretionary, one for Roger Begay in the amount of \$716.86 for minor repair. He home is in need of some roof repair and some new windows. We did an assessment of his house and Mr. Begay did submit his application and the 3 price quotes. The other individual is Yvonne Begay in the amount of \$1001.64. She needs her flooring repaired and her kitchen painted. Currently, we have in our housing discretionary fund, \$1307.86 which means we are only able to assist one individual, so I recommend we use funding from the emergency fund for Mr. Roger Begay's repairs.

- 1. Chooshgai Community School** – Treva Roanhorse, School Board member and Lisa Hubbard, School Board Assistant. We are requesting for a support resolution for the reauthorization of Chooshgai Community School. The last time we received a reauthorization was last year June 2024, even though we normally receive reauthorization for 3 years. We were given one year reauthorization. We were elected to the school board back in January, but it was just myself and Willis Nez and we did not get a quorum until recently. We started meeting in May, June, July, and August 2025. The reason we did not get a full 3-year reauthorization was because there were some questions regarding the financial audit. The business office was not balancing the checks with the bank and this finding occurred back in year 23-24 & year 24-25. This is why we were told we can only be reauthorized for one more year. We are up for reauthorization again for this year and next year. The Department of Education said we need to start gathering resolutions from the different chapters which includes Tohatchi, Naschitti was put with Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs added Churchrock and Sheepsprings and Twin Lakes is a stand-alone; this is how they put it on the ballot. So, these are the chapters we will be asking for support resolutions from for reauthorization. We will be submitting a whole new packet in March of 2026 again. We are requesting for a support resolution from the Tohatchi chapter for reauthorization. Currently, we have 57 students from Tohatchi but overall we have 183 students from the other chapter. We are still in the process of enrolling and recruiting students. Last year, we had 198 students and we also have 57 boys and girls combined at the residential.

Lisa Hubbard – I'm employed at Chooshgai Community School as a School Board Assistant and I have worked on these reauthorization for the past 11 years. The reauthorization is a process we go through every 2-4 years, but now it's every 1-3 years. The reauthorization process is to continue to get our funding 100% directly to our school. It does not go to the Navajo Nation, Window Rock; it comes directly to our school. The funding is for residential, transportation, food services, academics, special education and all the programs that are here at the school. We would like to see 100% of the money from the BIE continue to fund our school. This is why we are here to ask for Tohatchi community's support and I would like to mention that Tohatchi was one of the original communities that supported us back in 1995 to get reauthorization.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Just to clarify, you are asking for a support resolution today to get reauthorization up to March of 2026?

Lisa Hubbard - The support resolutions and packet is due in March of 2026. So, we have one year to have all of the required support resolutions gather by then. We need to get a new audit completed, get support resolutions from our chapters, including our agency council so we are visiting all of our agency councils as well. The packet is due on the 3rd Monday of March 2026. The current reauthorization is going to expire on June 30, 2026.

Treva Roanhorse – We are moving forward and have hired a new business manager who is working on the finances for the school. She is working on updating and reconciling so everything is in balance with the bank. She is working hard with her staff to correct all the findings from the audit and we are hoping for a 3-year reauthorization.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – When was the audit conducted?

Lisa Hubbard – Our audit that happen for the last school year that was submitted back in November of 2023. At that time, when the auditors completed the audit there was one finding that our bank reconciliation were not done. This just so happen to be the 3rd year that our bank reconciliation was not completed. Our former Business Office Manager, for the past 3 year always had the same finding in our finances. This is one of the 1st things that the Department of Dine Education will look at in our reauthorization is our financial audit. We have to have an unmodified, no material weakness audit submitted in order to get 3 years. It is disheartening, because our kids scored very well on their academic performance. They showed great improvement in their test scores and this is the 2nd thing they will look at in our audit. The auditors saw our material weakness and our audit finding and based off of that we were reauthorized for just one year. Now, we are pushing to be reauthorized for the 3 years.

Kevin Mitchell - I believe we should get a full report from the school of the budget, the actual test scores, and maybe to hear from someone from DODE before the community supports this resolution. We want to know why they are only allowing the authorization to span one year and not the 3 years. I would think it would be a major finding to refuse full reauthorization of the 3 years. We, meaning the community need to know that our students at Chooshgai School is getting the quality education they deserve. I have never seen a report from Chooshgai School regarding their programs including the educational aspect. With the amount of funding this school receives, the students should be getting top education.

Treva Roanhorse – We can have that report for you at the next chapter meeting on September 17th.

Doris Benallie – I'm familiar with grant proposals and funding. I know the government will suspend you to a year of reauthorization because if they find financial reporting insufficient to perform in education give our Navajo children is not up there by at least by 75%. If it is 50% and lower, they will start and audit. Facility Management back in 1995, we gave \$500,000 to Chooshgai as a grant school to renovate all the houses under the Chooshgai compound because of all the asbestos found. But as a BIA, we could not tell the grant school how to spend their funding. So, the renovations were never completed. It is good that you will be bringing reports to us like Mr. Mitchell requested earlier.

JoAnn Jayne – What is the current status of the audit findings?

Treva Roanhorse – Like I mentioned before, we will be bringing our reports to the next chapter meeting. As far as the houses at Chooshgai, some of them are occupied. What happen there is the BIA facilities management really does not look over the facilities anymore because they do not have the expertise nor the architect. Dine Grant School Association is planning to have a one-to-2-day meeting with Facility Management to start addressing the issues. Regarding the currently status of the finding, we hired a new Business Office Manager who is working with her staff to correct this finding. This is the 3rd year this finding has not been corrected and we are hoping this will eventually be cleared up before we submit all packet to the Department of Dine Education in March 2026.

2. **Phyllis Dawson – Mckinley County Bureau of Election Office:** Local election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. The voting centers which include Mexican Springs Chapter house, Tohatchi Elementary School, Twin Lakes Elementary School, and Coyote Canyon Chapter house. These sites will be opened from 7am to 7pm on election day. Same day registration starts on October 7, 2025 in the County Rotunda only. Starting October 18, 2025 all early voting sites will have “Same Day Registration.” Registration will end November 1, 2025. On election day, all locations will have “Same Day Registration.” Absentee Voting: Mckinley County Bureau of Election Office, 207 West Hill Ave., Gallup NM begins at 8am – 5pm Tuesday October 7, 2025 through Tuesday October 21, 2025.

To request an absentee ballot or check your Voter Registration status online go to: nmvote.org
sos.nm.gov/absentee.

There is a city election for Mayor, Councilor district 2, Councilor district 4, Municipal Judge, and McKinley County School Board. General Obligation Bond, positions 2, 4, and 5. UNM Advisory Board, Zuni School Board, Soil and Water District, Cuba Soil & Water District position 3 & 4, Water & Sanitation Board, Yatahey Water & Sanitation District position 3 and Ramah Water & Sanitation Board positions 1 & 2.

3. **Laris Manuelito – Ii'ni MarketPlace:** This is the 1st of District 14 series of community surveys for Ii'ni MarketPlace. This is very important and I've been looking forward to doing these surveys for 2 years because it is important to get the community's input on the grocery store. I brought a couple of people to assist me with the surveys and they will explain how this survey will work. The questions are posted on wall in the back, please answer the questions using the sticky note pads. This will give you the opportunity to give input into the process that Laris has developed for her community. She is working on her marketing trying to find out what customers are needing within the community. There is another survey which the community can complete as well. Some of the questions are as follows:

1. What transportation option do you use to shop for groceries?
2. What types of products or services do you use in our community?
3. How often do you currently travel outside the area for groceries? Is the location convenient for you?
4. What grocery items or brands are most important to you?

I just had a meeting with Navajo Nation Tourism and I wrote a proposal to them to incorporate a visitors' center, small museum, and a RV park at the MarketPlace. I hope to bring in more funding from the Navajo Nation and that is how partnership work. You can take these survey questions to your family to answer, the more answers we receive the better we will be able to facilitate and get what we want in the store. We plan to attend and provide the survey questions to all the chapters in District 14. I am also looking at something called "mobile market" where someone can put in an order and we can take the order to them. Or having a small van with amenities to park near Naschitti to cut down on travel for elderly and they can shop for what they need.

JoAnn Jayne – What is the status of the business site lease? Who is the approving committee? So, have you met with CLUPC and the planning meeting met on this and produced a resolution?

Laris Manuelito – It has gone through the whole process, the land withdrawal has been done, it's gone through the approving committee, Economic Development, and now it's waiting for the President to sign. The approving committee is a selected committee with Economic Development and the CFO, the Senior Project Manager, and RBDO.

CLUPC met on this about 4 years ago and I believe I have 3 supporting resolutions from the chapter.

JoAnn Jayne – I would like to know if the community members were given the opportunity to object to the site of the store? We were asked to give comments today to a survey. There was not a statement of the purpose about the surveys or your request. I think the community needs to have notice, notice like a statement by the presenter that they utilizing this information so you can apply for funds. We as community members need to beware of that type of solicitation of these comments. I think that's fine as long as we are told what the purpose of it is; for example funding or any other purpose.

Laris Manuelito – I have a statement on top of the survey form asking for your input on what you want to see as a product at the store. Basically, to get an idea of what you want in your store. This is not a Navajo Nation store; it's an independently own store which give me the autonomy to be able to tailor the store in what the community needs.

JoAnn Jayne – Where can we view the business plan because we are looking at the utility, water, sewer, and environment. This will impact the traffic and the local landowners there. I feel it is not too late to voice opinions about this and to let community members know it as well.

Laris Manuelito – I selected the location based on how quickly I can obtain a land withdrawal. I first introduce this as an idea after what we went through during COVID. The store will be a private independently own store, the intellectually property of the business plans and of the surveys belong to Ii'ni MarketPlace. The location of the store sits on my father's grazing area, which he signed off on, but now I have the grazing permit and our RMU, 1280 acres surrounds the location for the new store. It sits around the 750 feet corridor which is set aside for economic development.

Doris Benallie – Was your RMU and land withdrawal signed by the authorizing office at the Regional Federal Building and when did they sign it?

Laris Manuelito – They don't sign the land withdrawal, just the Navajo Nation will sign the withdrawal and the Navajo Nation Business Site Lease, they have their own BIA office that they work with and they are the ones that sign it.

Doris Benallie – Is this a public hearing or a comment period? In the past, you were instructed by the officials when you get this going you need to have a public hearing with all the chapters in district 14.

Kellie Burbank – I commend you for taking on this large undertaking of a MarketPlace, especially for a community that is so close to Gallup. So, I think when you focus on what you will bring to the community as far as needs and how you will be obtaining these options and offer it at a decent price. This is how they will choose you over having to drive another 25 miles into Gallup. I am here to support you and also ask how you are going to get information on local farmers in communities. I know there are a lot of health organization that focus on healthy food options especially for the Navajo Nation. I don't know if you know who those organizations are? Giving back to the community would consist of having farmers local providing produce and hiring local people to work at the store.

Laris Manuelito – to answer Doris B. question, there has been no objection brought to me or at community meetings.

Vice President Rodgers – I just want to say thank you Laris for asking us as a community as to what we want to see in our store. I feel valued.

4. **Sandra Freeland – Six Directions Indigenous School:** I am the community coordinator with Six Directions. I'm here asking for a support resolution from Tohatchi Chapter. We are an indigenous charter program and we are now occupying land and a facility that is being rented. The support resolutions will be presented to the governor and Indian Affairs for the purchasing of the land and facility, so that we can have expansion because without that we do not qualify for capital outlay of any other infrastructure support like a business would in the Gallup municipality. The reason we are doing this now is because the school has become recognized as a State Charter. We are not under Mckinley County. We get funds directly from the State of New Mexico for the building. A lot of the other funds are non-profit and helps the curriculum and the program really implement our native cultural way of knowing. This makes us separate from public schools and it totally makes us separate from private and charter schools. We offer classes like butchering of sheep and biology together and Zuni sash belt and pottery making from the real artisans from Laguna and Zuni in a regular school day. This school struggle for 5 years with different board. In the past 3 years coming out of COVID, we went from a 6% proficiency to a 56% jump in proficiency. We are a small school like Chooshgai, we have 57 students enrolled currently from 6th to 12 grades. This resolution is to ask for support and we do have 3 families who transport their student to Gallup to attend our school. We currently don't offer transportation because we don't have capital outlay. We can't own or do any to expand the building to make it more indigenous friendly because we don't own the building. The land owner is willing to work with us, but if we get this, we are also establishing approval to becoming a community school. For the State of New Mexico a charter community means, the resources that are in the community also can be within the school and in turn we provide resources out. So, this is a different way at looking at education which is self-determine which is something that can't really happen on the reservation yet, but in a border town, we would be competitive and we would be a business recognized entity like any other institution which would require Gallup to support an indigenous school. So, we can have a cultural run school that does not prioritize testing only in English and still succeed. If we can do that with our 57 small population, we hope to grow to least 100 within the next academic school year which the school can officially house and become more of a viable that's run by natives for natives, with native culture and language included.

Treva Roanhorse – If you get approve, how much of an expansion would increase school enrollment?

Sandra Freedland – Our goal is if we get the purchase of the land which is 5 acres and the building facility can hold up to 300 students, but with the type of hands-on computer participatory events we hope to have a youth center on site as well as resources, so the expansion is possible. The 5 acres would include the highway going to Zuni and on eastside of the highway is the old Western New Mexico College, behind this building is the Veteran's Clinic and on next Amigo Chevrolet. This whole land including behind the 505

Burger would be the Six Directions School property. Then there would be a capacity to expand a small community garden, amphitheater for local participatory events and expand the school to house more than 100 students. So, the vision for the next 5 years is to have expansion within capacity because there is no other school like us. We are the only border town, urban which gives us a really good opportunity to expand to own the land.

LDA Moore - How do you see the Martinez/Yazzie lawsuit helpful with your plans for expansion?

Sandra Freeland – New Mexico is very driven by a political system especially when it comes to education. In October of 2023, the school was going to be shut down. In December going into January of 2024 we were saved. Then the very public education commission who we answer to begun an audit and it was a very stringent audit. From January to May we surpassed all the findings the previous administration had left and in May the charter school was recognized as an exemplary example of what an indigenous self-determine school should look like and give us a passing to reauthorizing our application for charter community school status. We are now the model school of what Yazzie/Martinez could look like using Federal and State funds if the State Public Education department actually changed academic processes. But a lot of what we do at the charter is non-profit funded. The problem was the Federal government had a lot of compliance to meet deficit population reports. So, if we got all special ed students above proficiency we would lose special ed money. If everyone did not belong to a multicultural community and have multi language influence and we were all 100% English speakers, we would lose the funding for that. So, we are destabilization that by showing you can get academic progress because we have surpassed McKinley by 27% growth beyond what they have already did with their students. With on-line options we had a 6% to 57% and then we also shown 100% career pathways in college for our graduates. We only graduated 9, but they all graduated in the 80% percentile for admission to the college they wanted to attend. If we really teach our way of life and leave open our language and have career pathways for our young ones, they will grow and perform. Now, because of that push the Yazzie/Martinez contractors who are re-evaluate the lawsuit, I question why they did not have a Gallup form, so we had that last Wednesday. We are still under current making waves to truly impact how public education does business and I think with our tribes we want to advocate for partnership because none of that process included tribal communities within an indigenous context of government-to-government collaboration. That is what we brought up, they used the same consultant, the same process and my question is “what are you going to get that is different?” Nothing. Now, you have a different voice and we are presenting that and we said, “if we are a model school, we want to not just ask for a resolution but be partners to really advocate for this type of change.”

VI. REPORTS:

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

1. Navajo Nation 2026 Comprehensive Budget –
2. District 14 Chapters ARPA Projects Status –
3. Highway Lighting Shortfalls District 14 (3 Chapters) - \$8,250,000
4. San Juan Lateral Water Project Shortfalls District 14 (2 Chapters) - \$3,915,300
5. First Responders Substation – Budget Project Cost \$15,949,000

LDA Moore – I travel between the chapters in District 14 and some of the chapters are struggling to plan for the community. So, I want to encourage each chapter to plan with their community as well as staff. Also, I can see that the Six Directions School are here at the right time because there is a lot of discussion on the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit. Our schools here have development the career pathway for our students which is great. Back in 1974, the Impact Aide was taken away from us and I believe the initiative of Six Directions is moving in the right direction because that's what the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit is about. I don't think they know how to approach language and cultural retention which will be a huge challenge but I think more schools can take advantage of that.

For the officials, I see 4 projects for you and I'm working with Mexican Springs who has a multipurpose building project including their highway lighting. For Tohatchi, we have the warehouse and we've met with Leonard Hardy and we now know what the shortfall is so I would like to see a resolution for the \$800,000 shortfall. We also need an update on the estimated cost of the highway lighting. There are 4 counter measures on highway 491. There is signing, speeding, lighting, and the hill at Chooshgai junction which all have a cost to it. What the chapter needs to do is come up with resolutions for highway lighting and we are

trying to separate the plan and design which we will have a cost estimate for and one for construction. There is also a meeting at Coyote Canyon for the San Juan Lateral and there is going to be a shortfall in the amount of \$3-4 million on the lateral that is going to be running from Coyote Canyon to Mexican Springs to here. I would like to see a resolution from this chapter addressing the shortfall of the lateral. So, let's be proactive and have a resolution in place and they might be making distribution on this.

The First Responders Substation's plan & design should be completed by December and that's when we should know exact cost of the Substation. There is an existing resolution which was drafted for \$15 million. You can update/amend that resolution.

The comprehensive budget for 2026 should be available soon. That session will be happening this week so be aware of the meetings council will be having. Council is also dealing with an audit and I believe they are in special session for that.

Also the legislation 0168-25 is going to really change the organization of veterans. The legislation states they will be making the veterans part of the Navajo Nation under the executive branch. The plan is to setup work sessions so the veteran will understand what the changes will be. They are also asking for more money for the veterans, right now they are requesting for \$8 million and each veteran who qualifies will receive \$1,600. They will take a certain percentage of the trust fund which is currently, 5-8% and they plan to increase this amount to 12% withdrawal.

ARPA are being used at chapters for certified chapters and I'm not sure when they will be getting to the non-certified chapters. There will be a meeting here at chapter on Friday regarding the ARPA funds.

On the highway lighting, \$3.2 million was our last estimate for all 4 counter measures. So the chapter needs to update this information.

I do my best to share what I feel the chapter should be aware of and I send out emails to all 5 chapters. Just a reminder: the chapter is asking to have a review of their audit. I want the officials to be prepared and to work with staff. We should have the year end asset amount which should show the amount that was depreciated. I'm wondering if the budget for 2026 has been discussed. Maria would put all this information onto an excel spreadsheet to give to the officials. As officials, you should be included in the budget preparation. Have the allocations been completed? I've looked at the financial report and I don't think we are in balance from the balance sheet to the budget to actual. We can get together to go over the financial report.

I also would recommend the chapter work with Herbie Larson on the 9653 issues. There is also a meeting with NNDOT on September 30, 2025 at 9am which is their quarterly meeting. There is Sonya Nez who can provide information on board band development for our area (District 14) as well. She can be another resource the Chapter can tap into.

Doris Benallie – Winter council session \$150,000 was approved for Tohatchi Senior Center, what happen that money? Our residential organization here in Tohatchi asked for an audit with NNDOT because our homes here there work with NHA and they get HUD funding on roads in residential areas.

LDA Moore – the \$150,000 was allocated mainly to replace the HVAC system at the Senior Center. As far as know the funds are still in W/R. We were working with Lesita Desiderio who was overseeing the Senior Centers. The officials can follow up on the funds. Chapter would need to follow up with Lesita Desiderio.

President Bitsilly – I receive information last week the funds are over at the Department of Community Development and our CSC; Maria is aware of it as well. There was even more money added to this in the amount of \$143 million for all Senior Center across Navajo. So, the \$150,000 for our Senior Center is coming from the amount mentioned. The \$150,000 is earmarked for the replacement of the HVAC at the Senior Center. Also because we are at fiscal year end, the Center will not have a budget for food until the new year which means we will not be opening any time soon.

LDA Moore – What I hear is the Senior Centers that are currently open will be closing soon because the Controller office has not release funds to purchase food for the Centers.

Treva Roanhorse - Will there be an increase in the Chapter budget for the new 2026 fiscal year?

LDA Moore – I have not heard from Widow Rock that they plan to give more money to the chapters. Window Rock will let Maria know how much money our chapter will be working with for the new 2026 fiscal year and this is how the budget is set up for our chapter. That is why I'm asking the chapter officials to be a part of the budget process.

Kelly Burbank – Will the audit report be available to the community and is there a system in place that allows for the budget transparency we can view or is it something you can only learn about if you requested for it or if you go to the meetings? Secondly, how does the community have the ability to view this budget if the whole community is not here?

LDA Moore – The audit report was shared with the community and the officials and chapter staff had corrected all the findings and submitted the correction back to DOJ. DOJ has approved the corrections and the chapter staff is waiting on their six months review. You can come to the chapter to ask for a copy. All the budget that is going to be passed has to been done on a resolution and you can also request for a copy as well.

Kelly Burbank – I also would like to know where and how the money was spent? Not just the totals from month to month.

LDA Moore – There is a report call “budget to actual” that will tell you how the funds have been spent from fiscal year to today. It will list all the expenditures. The chapter can provide this report to you.

Kelly Burbank – I’m a veteran and I would like to know how I can register as a veteran with this chapter?

LDA Moore – Tohatchi Veteran’s meeting will be this Friday at 4:00pm, but I would like to encourage you to attend the “Stand Down” meeting being held at Twin Lakes on September 12th. This meeting will be about all the changes that will be made within the Veteran’s Organization.

Laris Manuelito – I’m the Vice Commander for the Tohatchi Veterans Organization. We’ve been talking about using social media to get information out. When you come to the meeting, you’ll see that the majority of our committee members are older generation veterans and they don’t do social media, but we are trying to work through that.

LDA Moore – We work under a centralize government, Grazing Officer Moore is under title 3, the Officials are under title 26, and myself and Council Delegate Notah are under title 2. The council delegate does not have to do anything for chapter if does want to, but that’s how we as a chapter have been using the council delegate all these years. These officials here have authority and they can take care of a lot of the issues coming up in their community. We can’t always depend on the council delegate and he does have his own committee meetings through the month as well. So, I would recommend using the officials to your advantage. I will write a memo for the council delegate like you have requested and he can present it to the Auditor General. Now, what can we do about the bike trail? Maybe Elvis and I can go to W/R to see where our paperwork is at. We can even draft a letter for him to present to the president’s office regarding the bike trail. Because we are a centralize government, that’s how we are structured every thing is super slow. I know there is talk about government reform going around the nation, I would encourage you to attend those meetings. It is time to change the structure of the government because we should have more say so on how we can spend our money.

JoAnn Jayne – I believe the council delegate still has the judiciary duty because they took an oath, so they are not excluded. If you look at their oath, they can’t absolve themselves from their duty.

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

1. Senior Center Opening Update – Center has no food budget as of yet. Also, the \$150,000 is set aside for the new HVAC and currently going through the 164 process. The actual cost of a new HVAC system is \$149,893.00.
2. Bike Trail Project Status – We may have to drop this project. IMBA not willing to continue with their offer after 3 years of trying to get an approval from Window Rock.
3. First Responders Substation –
4. Highway 491 Lighting –
5. Warehouse Status Update – There is a shortfall on this project. Will need a resolution to request for more funding to complete the project.
6. Bridge Project Status –
7. Chapter Audit Update & Progress – I spoke with the Auditor General and she is looking at 4th quarter to schedule the chapter’s review. Her recommendation was to have us continue to follow our policies and our processes. We have our filing system in order, the community applications and documents submitted have been filed, we did close out with housing discretionary, we are going over our financial reports with the officials and it’s signed and completed. I believe we are ready for the auditor to do a

review our records and policies again.

8. CHID and Home Renovation Projects for Community – We have a meeting with DCD and CHID on September 5th at which time I will get an update on the status of the CHID homes. All the information I was receiving was only about the different phases, no real information as to who was selected and when the homes will be delivered.
9. 2025 Chapter Budget Closeout/2026 Chapter Budget Status – The last day to process checks and do pay out is on September 26th. This will also be the last day our PEP workers will be employed after that the next 2 weeks the chapter will be closing out the chapter finances and getting ready for the new 2026 fiscal year. I will be using the template for 2025 budget to create the 2026 budget. Remember, 65% of our budget goes to Chapter administrative cost. The type of community services the chapter provides is housing discretionary, college financial assistance, summer youth employment, and PEP (Public Employment Project). All this information on how the budget works go on-line to the Navajo Nation Controller. That is where you will find the BIM instructions. The other fund called the “emergency assistance fund” is only used when the President of the Navajo Nation issues a declaration of emergency. Fund 03 covers chapter administration, fund 10 covers administration and CLUPC, fund 13&14 covers the college financial assistance, fund 15 covers the PEP program, fund 17 is the emergency funds, fund 16 covers the veterans, fund 23 covers Navajo Nation Sales Tax, and fund 40 is the unhealthy food tax. As far as the 2025 fiscal year end carry over, I should have total amount by the end of this month (September) and a resolution should be passed in October 2025. We currently have around \$340,000 budget which is good. But please remember all of the services the chapter provides has policies. Back in 2024 the chapter received \$317,825.00 for \$2025 we received \$324,906.00 so the budget for 2026 I believe will be less than prior years because our membership or enrollment of the Tohatchi Chapter has dropped due to losing many of our elderly population. Janice and I have been doing voter registration drives at the high school and at UNM Branch.

Also with the previous administration, Mr. Halona was able to get us some funding for a flatbed from the Shihasin funds. With the funds we purchased a backhoe and had some money leftover and we decided to purchase a flatbed to haul the backhoe on. We had \$27,000 left over still in the Shihasin pot for our flatbed. The paperwork has been submitted so we should be getting our new flatbed soon.

Laris Manuelito – I would like to say, the sales tax that the new MarketPlace will be generating will come directly to the Chapter to use, not to Window Rock.

JoAnn Jayne – for this fiscal year 2025 how much as Tohatchi spent of the \$324,906? What are we leaving on the table?

Maria, CSC – When we received our budget in October of 2025, we received \$170,000, we spent half of this amount and when we finally got our budget in May 2025 and we had barely any money left. We had spent the \$170,000 but with the 2nd disbursement of our budget we were back up to \$170,000 so now we are currently at \$300,000 again. This should be our carry over for the next fiscal year.

***Red Willow Farm Report:**

Geneva Begay – We are currently working on our NRCS watershed program planning assistance and the community did voice that flooding is occurring in the Red Willow housing area like the high school and the Post Office. If you look at the land, you can see a slope from the Halona Canyon to highway 491 where we had flooding on June 5th. With the NRCS program we have 2 people assisting us to find resources for the watershed program which will help with the diversion dam which we already have \$467,000. We are looking for a contractor to hire to build the dam. We were told the channel way will not be worked on because of the lack of funding, so the NRCS program will be assisting with the channel way. We also have \$200,000 with the BIA for the eradication of all the shrubs and trees found at the Chooshgai Lake. In September, they will be coming out to look at the Chooshgai Lake dike. They will be doing assessments and try to rebuild the dike itself. We are still actively encouraging the Tohatchi community to start farming at Red Willow Farm which is our vision.

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

Grazing Officer Moore – August 6th we had the district 14 grazing meeting at Coyote Canyon. We do probates, transfers, and any assistance with grazing questions. Our next meeting is tomorrow at Twin Lakes Chapter at 9:00am. On August 26th we had our Farm/Ranch Workshop and we had BIA come in

to talk about verification and the possibility of permit cancellation and the reasons why. Navajo Nation Agriculture gave an update on the Infrastructure Program funds. They also gave information on reward program when you bring in feral horses and feral bulls. These are no brand bulls you can bring in for cash. We also had Tom Chee, community advocate who talked on farm and ranch and ke which is all connected. The audience enjoyed his speech and were very impress with his knowledge on the topic. We have very little forage on the land in district 14 and we have to learn how to take care of what we have. We also had Carol Palmer talk about food hydration with fruits and meat. We also had door prizes using the vegetable from the small garden outside the chapter.

* **CLUPC Report:** No report given

* **Veterans update:** Meeting on Friday at 4pm.

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to support for Six Directions Indigenous School to secure land and facility purchase and pursue state capital outlay for expansion.
2. Support resolution requested by Chooshgai Community School for re-authorization.
3. Per Maria, CSC they will be submitting 4 in house resolutions for transfer of funds.

Maria, CSC – I was just informed that every month we have to attach a resolution to our financial reports. I was not aware of this new process. The financial reports have to be approved by resolution.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Zumba and aerobics every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30pm. We will be working with the coal mine in Farmington. I will be attending the workshop in Gallup on September 9th and I will be providing coal tickets to our community who still use coal as a source of heating during the winter months. Standing Rock Chapter is giving out a load of wood, you'll need to call the Standing Rock Chapter to get on their list as to when you can pick up your load of wood. I understand the wood is already chopped. Rock Springs Chapter is also giving out wood but they are not chopped. As far as our chapter, I don't have the funding yet, but I am building back up the fund 01 so I can start purchasing wood and pellet for our chapter.

Doris Benallie – a recommendation, maybe we could go back to what the chapter was doing years ago. They would give us vouchers in the amount of \$75 to T&R to get our wood. Is that something the chapter would consider?

Maria, CSC – That would be good, but do you know how much wood you can get for \$75 at T&R, you'll only get 20 logs. The cost is very expensive for wood.

Fern Spencer – When will we be getting certified as a chapter? I thought we just needed to do a couple of more things.

Maria, CSC – Years ago, the chapter received \$35,000 for housing discretionary to assist families who needed new homes. So, when the audit was done, we were cited with 12 findings which included the misuse of the housing discretionary fund, the lack of PEP documentation for employment, filing system needed to be updated, the other was the chapter did not have documents for community members when it was requested, and inventory and policies.

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: September 17, 2025 @ 9:00am

X. ADJOURNMENT: 2:20pm

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – September 12, 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