



DEC 15 AM 11:30

December 01, 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: 10:28am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, Grazing Officer Gerald Moore, and CLUPC member: Fern Spencer and Red Willow: Geneva Begay
- III. **INVOCATION: Geneva Begay**
- IV. **REVIEW OF THE AGENDA**
- V. **COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**
 1. **Maria, CSC** – Housing Discretionary assistance for Roger Begay who is requesting for windows to be replaced and Yvonne Begay for wall and flooring work. These would fall under the minor repair in the housing discretionary fund policy.
 2. **Franklin Sandoval** – is requesting for PEP labor only. He will be providing the materials himself.
- VI. **REPORTS:**
 - ***Council Delegate's Report given by LDA Moore:** LDA Moore was not available to give report.
 1. Tohatchi First Responders TIF Fund –
 2. NGWSP – Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Status –

President Bitsilly: A legislation was approved by NABI for the San Juan Lateral Water Project. TIF funds can be applied for by request for funding for the water project. There was a shortfall of \$3.9 million of construction money and this legislation list the \$3.9 million for the project. There was a savings of funds in the amount of \$31 million for all the IHS water projects from the Shihasin funds. Council Delegate Danny Simpson presented this legislation to approve \$31.7 million of the pending IHS funds. Apparently, there was Federal funding called “the infrastructure investment job act” which will cover the \$31.7 million out of a separate fund. The funding is at Water Resources and they plan to turn over the funds to the San Juan Lateral Water Project which includes the eastern water projects as well. This should cover the shortfall of the water project which Ty Tsinnijinnie will be working on.

JoAnn Jayne – This \$ 3.9 million is coming from Shihasin funds, how long into the future do we have to use up this funding? Is there a deadline?

Franklin Sandoval: How much is the estimated cost of the water project for Tohatchi and Mexican Springs? And have all the clearances been obtain to get it into project ready status?

President Bitsilly: I believe it's \$12-15 million. Yes, clearances have been obtained.
 - ***Community Service Coordinator/Officials' Report:**
 1. NM Infrastructure Finance Conference staff report –

Maria, CSC: Jeannie Muskett, myself, and Secretary Treasurer attended the 28th Annual NM Infrastructure conference in Albuquerque on November 3-7. There were a variety of sessions throughout the week and we focus on NM IAD Tribal Infrastructure Fund-Planning and Project Management, Capital Outlay, Executive and Legislative Perspectives, and Role of Dams in Stormwater/Flood Mitigation and Rehabilitation needs. They also had field trip to Santa Ana to tour their wastewater treatment facility. We attended mainly the sessions that had to do with Tribal infrastructures. There will be another conference relating to these topics in Phoenix, AZ and Michele Peterson of CPMD recommended NM Chapters attend.
 2. NTEC Grant Fund –

Maria, CSC: Secretary/Treasurer Crawford applied for a grant with NTEC back in October 2025. She submitted the application requesting for funding to upgrade our Chapter kitchen appliances. We want to replace the existing stove to a larger stove, replace the refrigerator and freezer along with a steel island.

The application was submitted and we got a call last week from NTEC that we were selected for an award. Jean and I plan to attend the award ceremony in Farmington to receive our award. President Bitsilly did mention he heard from RDC meeting where Mr. Rodgerick Begay with DOJ was presenting that non-certified chapter should not be applying for 'grant funding.' So, he cautious us to look into this grant funding before accepting the award for our chapter. Secretary/Treasurer emailed Mr. Begay with DOJ and he states we can accept the award but we would have to work with OMB. I believe the money will not stay here at the chapter but will be going to W/R for processing. We estimated the total cost of replacing all the appliances in the kitchen is \$29,000.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – This is a grant fund that we applied for through NTEC and on their application, NTEC was inviting non-certified chapters to apply. I did receive a response from Mr. Begay and in his email, he states non-certified chapters should not be applying for grants, however; Dr. Andy Nez, Council Delegate dropped legislation a couple of months ago stating non-certified chapters can now apply for grants and they should be able to take advantage of grant opportunities when they come along.

3. Chapter's 2026 Budget Allocation –

Maria, CSC: Our 2026 NN budget was received on November 21st in the amount of \$231,099.00. The other \$100,000.00 was withheld at the Personnel Office in W/R for the CSC and AMS payroll. We have the PEP laborers back not full-time as of yet. The laborers are assisting with loading free bags of coal for community members. We also have wood and this was purchased using our fund 01 revenue and will be need to be re-sold to our community at a price of \$47.70 in money order form. The guys will be able to load the wood for you. We have elders in our community who are in need of wood but can't purchase them, so we try to work out something with them so they can get wood to burn for their homes. Unfortunately, we can't use fund 17, the emergency fund because an emergency has to be declared by the NN President in order to use this fund. I've reached out to our Council Delegate, Mr. Notah to see what he can do as far as the emergency fund is concerned. We currently have \$17,000.00 in fund 17 which we need to use so we can get more emergency funding when NN decides to allocate more money. We purchased pellets out of our 01 revenue and the cost to re-sell each bag will be \$6.36, but you can only purchase 5 bags of pellets per week. We also have coal tickets to pick up a load of coal. The NN is giving out boxes of food to 77 chapters and Tohatchi chapter is included receive the boxes, but I don't know when they plan to do the delivery. When it is delivered, we will have it announced on the radio.

4. Bike Trail Project Status –

Maria, CSC: We had a teleconference meeting with the ASC Patricia Begay, myself, Mr. Mike Halona, Director of Natural Resources, Sonny Moore, LDA for District 14, Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer. As you all know, this project has been ongoing for the past 3 years with no real conclusion as to when we can get this project off the ground. We asked for Patricia Begay and Mr. Halona's assistance to get the signatures required. Mr. Halona stated that he would talk with Mr. Byron Bitsuie, Manager of NN Land Department to see if he can write us a letter to say we do not need a survey for the bike trail. The money to be paid to IMBA is not in W/R, it is here at the chapter.

Elvis Bitsilly: What is the amount being paid to IMBA as a cost share? Has that changed? Also, we talked about doing 3 installments as far as payment to IMBA.

Maria, CSC: No, it's still \$7,915.00, we are not changing the amount. The 3 installments will not work because we are currently under an audit. Patricia did not agree with the 3 installments and she recommended working with Land Department to get a letter.

Priscilla Duncan: When sole source was approved, the chapter needs to make sure they have documentation to that effect.

Vice President Rodgers: I agree, I don't think we should try to do something clever without clarification since we are under an audit.

5. Highway 491 Lighting Update –

Maria, CSC: The highway is on our list for priority ICIP projects.

President Bitsilly: We will be requesting for funding from ICIP for the highway lighting project. I'll be requesting for over \$2 million.

6. N108 Bridge Status –

President Bitsilly: The BIA, NMDOT, and Wilson Company are involved with this bridge project. An update was given last week to say the documents for the right-of-way is still pending with NNDOT. I thought we had funding for this bridge project, but apparently there is no funding available currently.

7. NM Capital Outlay Deadline –

Maria, CSC: The deadline for the portal to close is December 12th. We will need our projects entered into the portal by then. We have 3 projects which are listed in priority order, 1st The First Responders Station, 2nd The Warehouse, 3rd The Highway 491 Lighting. The chapter is looking to find funding in the amount of \$16 million for the construction of the First Responders Station. The San Juan Lateral Water Project is fully funded per President Bitsilly so it was taken off the priority list.

President Bitsilly: A legislation was dropped last year by Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie requesting for \$5 million for 3 projects. I'm not sure where this legislation went as of today. Tohatchi Chapter's project was on the list for an allocation of \$1million.

JoAnn Jayne: I have some information regarding this, so based on the statute that's listed in there the Chief Justice and the Public Safety Director are the ones that submit a recommendation to the Law-and-Order committee in order to have the listing that we had talked about. As you can see, this is an old list and myself, Mr. Dalmar, and the last Public Safety Director. This is just for your information as to how this evolved is that we had submitted a listing every year or every 2 years and it would just sit there so it's been sitting there for the last 3-4 years now. So, there is money in this fund, there is an expenditure plan that is already done and as far as I know Tohatchi was never on the list. This is completely different list than how we normally submitted. Tohatchi is way down at the bottom, so in order for Tohatchi to even make a dent the pressure and the request have to come from the Chapter because we are competing against everyone else who is on the list. As I recall, there is not much funding in there, I believe it's around \$5.8 million. So when resolutions come in, they will just sit there and that's based on history unless someone keeps coming over to Law-and-Order committee and having them push it for Tohatchi. I would recommend Tohatchi Chapter submit a request for this funding.

President Bitsilly: Dr. Delores Greyeyes submitted for these funds for 3 projects which includes Tohatchi's 1st Responder Station. Tohatchi asked for \$1 million and we need to get our Council Delegate's assistance to follow-up.

Vice President Rodgers: The plan and design are nearly completed and I did ask for a meeting again with Dr. Greyeyes and Mr. Miller, the architect to close out the design part of the project. We are ready for pre-construction.

Grazing Officer Moore: How can we lobby in Santa Fe to keep their interest in our Safety Complex building?

Vice President Rodgers: Navajo Nation is sitting on \$166 million from the State of New Mexico which the State was considering pulling back to pay the SNAP recipients of the State of NM so they could purchase food.

8. Rural Addressing Community Meeting –

Maria, CSC: A meeting was held on November 17th at Tohatchi Chapter with community involvement to have them review the map provided by the rural addressing team (Ms. Cunningham/Sharon). Next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, December 2nd. Radio announcement will be made at the local radio station to encourage community members to come to the chapter to review the map and name their street or road.

9. Community Winter Coat Drive –

Elvis Bitsilly, President: We decided to do a coat drive this year for Christmas and the chapter is asking for donations of a new coat for our community who need a coat for the winter months. There will be a large box here at the chapter for all coats being dropped off.

Maria on the Chapter Audit: The Chapter has a new auditor assigned to us name Leldon Randell who is an associate auditor. He is currently reviewing the past 6 months of our audit. Mr. Randel has requested for documentation for October and November and when he is done, he will contact Maria and Officials He will then schedule a six-month review with us. Patricia Begay will be coming Tuesday to go over our chapter files and how we applying our policies and documentation.

***Red Willow Farm Report:**

1. Red Willow Farm Projects Update –

Geneva Begay: We'll have a weather station down at the farm and will be bringing weather updates in real time. Fish & Wildlife will be doing a presentation tomorrow. They have a farming plot at Red Willow where they planted squash and did some wildlife observation with their camera and will be showing us what they saw. The BIA permits are held up with the BRCF and Steve Powers is the person we need to bring to our Red Willow meetings. On December 17th, Mr. Powers will be at a meeting in Twin Arrows and we plan to meet with him to approve the BRCF for Red Willow Farm. We are also working on the burn permit and the eradication project at Chooshgai Lake. BIA did a \$200,000.00 request for funding which is provided annually and we hope to get awarded from this request. There is also a watershed project with Treva Henio which is on going and we would like an update from her to see if the project was funded. Chooshgai Dykes with safety of dams is also coming out to Tohatchi to do some assessment of the dyke and possibly do some renovating. The diverse dam project is fully funded and has been bided out. The dam will be restored and operable. We also have \$50,000.00 to fund farmers and we need to get 3 price quotes to submit to the Navajo Nation soon.

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

1. Equine Horse Virus EVH-1 outbreak -

Grazing Officer Moore: In the horse industry, there is a lot of talk about this equine virus outbreak. This virus is only found in horses and it originated from the horse itself. The virus is already in the horse, like blackleg in cattle. There are spores in the soil and when conditions are ripe, those spores will come up and the cattle will eat it and ingested it and it's in their system. It's the same way with this horse virus; when they are young, either their mother transfers the virus into the foal. Normally, conditions are ripe usually in younger horses, 2–3-year-olds, when they are under stress from being transported long distance or overworked and exercising, this particular virus will breakout. On November 5-9, some horses were in the world finials in Waco, Tx. There was also a barrel racing event in Guthrie, OK on November 17-18th from these two states is where the outbreak came about. There were horses from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, Colorado, and Texas who participated in the events and who may have come in contact with sick horses. The virus is considered highly contagious, it can be airborne from a sick horse's cough, sneeze, and it can be transferred by touching the horse's saddle, ropes, bridle, or anything in contact of a sick horse. So, it was decided to stop all movement of horses and to get them quarantine to control the outbreak of the virus. They are having the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas as well as another roping in event in Southpark that they will be monitoring. They are reporting that they have it under control but we won't know until it happens again. The way the Navajo Nation is controlling this outbreak is when you are moving horses into Arizona or into another state, you will need to get a health certificate on the horse which is only good for 7 days. The certificate use to be good for 30 days but they have moved that back to 7 days. You'll need to work with your veterinary to get information on how each state is handling this outbreak and what they required. So I recommend you stay home with your horse to avoid this virus.

Laris Manuelito: This virus outbreak is highly contiguous yet they are still having rodeos at the expense of our animals. Is the virus transferred from humans?

Grazing Officer Moore: Yes, we can transfer the virus off our hands to a horse. So, a lot of the equipment have to be sanitized and disinfected. This virus affects the central nervous system of the horse. So make sure you get your horses vaccinated and isolate them from other horses. Remember, this virus is only transmitted from horse to horse.

***CLUPC Report:**

1. Rural Address Mapping –

Priscilla Duncan: CLUPC is currently reviewing the 'land use plan' from previous years. We are editing and updating the document. We are also working on the rural address project with the community. The rural addressing is for emergencies (911) so that the 1st responders or police can find you quickly. This project will make it possible for home deliveries as well, for example; FedEx, Amazon, or UPS. We will be having a meeting here at the chapter tomorrow on rural addressing. We would like to see the community come in to name their roads in their respective areas.

TAOS has agreed to an EV (electric charging station) at the Post Office and you should see those in

place soon, Also, the Navajo Nation Petroleum Gas station will be opening back up soon. They have been cleaning up around the station getting it ready for move in.

Our Chapter President met with Father Dale of the catholic church to discuss the possibility of reclaiming 30 acres of land back to the Navajo Nation and Tohatchi Chapter. The land of 40 acres was originally allocated to the church many years ago and Father Dale has agreed to giving back 30 acres. President Bitsilly has also requested to open back up the boys & girls club at the catholic church for the community. The club gave the children a place to go to do their homework, play, and socialize in a safe environment which was monitored by an adult.

*** Veteran's Report:**

Laris Manuelito: We are having a luncheon on Saturday. It was initially for the code talkers that were from Tohatchi and for Veteran's Day, but secretary Rosie D. is having an issue for getting quotes for 5 plaques we wanted to present. We are still compiling their information, finding out who there are and getting their correct enlistment dates. We will be moving this luncheon to another day so Saturday's luncheon will be to celebrate Veteran's Day and thanksgiving at 1pm. We will need to reschedule the veteran's meeting which was schedule for Thursday. Since we are under Tohatchi Chapter now, we have to bring our policies and plan of operation up to date.

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to approve housing discretionary assistance for Roger Begay and Yvonne Begay to assist for with flooring and walls under the Minor Repair category.
2. Resolution to approve college students' financial assistance funds.
3. Resolution to accept the November 2025 financial reports.
4. Franklin Sandoval requested for PEP labor to assist with home project which does not require a resolution.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: JoAnn Jayne: I think for sometime in the near future we need to get a resolution for the \$3.9 with the water project and the TIF funding.

Laris Manuelito: the initial request for the resolution for Navajo Nation Council still stands at \$20 million. I would like to have that reinstated for the Chapter and I can update the chapter now or at the meeting. We found a company who is willing to do the solar project for the store. So, we have all of our players in place and we are basically shovel ready. I'm working with Change Lab and requesting for funding in the amount of \$1.5 million. The Navajo Nation's request for \$20 million will be for the second series. Series B will be for the actual construction cost. The solar company we found have this solar project already financed. I will be moving forward with Navajo Nation Council to get that amount allocated so at least it's on their radar.

President Bitsilly: Your resolution was tabled back during the summer. You would need to un-table this resolution so we can vote on it. It should be done during the regular chapter in January 2026.

Christmas luncheon on December 17th along with chapter meeting. District 14 Grazing meeting on Wednesday, December 3rd.

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2025 @ 10:00am

X. ADJOURNMENT: 1:35 pm

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – December 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