



THE NAVAJO NATION

TOHATCHI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Post Office Box 287 Tohatchi, New Mexico 87325 Tel: (505) 733-2845/2846

Elvis Bitsilly
President

Pernell Halona
Vice-President

Delphine Bitsilly
Recorder

Fern Spencer
Member

Priscilla Duncan
Member

TOHATCHI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES APRIL 21, 2026

- I. Call to Order: Time: 9:18 am Roll Call: 5 Invocation: Rachelle Morris
- II. Approval & Reading of Agenda:
 - Motion: Priscilla Duncan 2nd: Fern Spencer Vote: 4-0-1
 - Add Sam Woods to New Business A. agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes: Monday, March 16, 2026
 - Motion to waive and read on your own.
 - Motion: Pernell Halona 2nd: Priscilla Duncan Vote: 4-0-1
- IV. Old Business:

A. Community Land Use Plan Review, Latasha James, DCD Planner

*Elvis Bitsilly – introduction of each person who is in attendance, it’s our main agenda item and get this Land Use Plan finalized, we invited Latasha James, Division Community Development Senior Planner, here to update our manual we have in place, recommendations for us and start the process; *Latasha James – I gave you guys a checklist with yesterday’s date do you guys have it; *Delphine Bitsilly – yes we each have it; *Latasha James – thank you for allowing me to be here and be a part of your Land Use Planning Committee, we will review the Land Use Plan together, I gave you guys this check sheet here, this is what I give the chapters who are updating their Land Use Plan, I will review the check sheet before we talk about your actual Land Use Plan document, the check sheet I went down the list, what I see is already in the document, what sections are already updated and what sections need a little bit more information, projects, a little more support in some of the sections, if you look at the requirement check sheet, your plan of operation is already in your Land Use Plan with your chapter resolution, that’s what I look for, Community Assessment – Community Demographics/Census (2020), Goals/Projects Priorities, Values, Vision and Mission Statement, already checked off; Inventory and Assessment is completed, I added notes Biological Resource Land Use Map, Endangered Species, Geology, soils information, Water Shed, Aquifer, Hydraulic, these are some of the additional supporting information that you guys have put in the Land Use Plan, all of that is part of your inventory and your land carrying capacity, all those sections are included, community infrastructure and projects, some of those chapter projects in this section too; Land Use Plan – I have a check mark under cemetery, agricultural, I see some of those projects in your Land Use Plan, it’s not all require but you can add additional projects if your chapter has those projects existing or future projects, I’m looking at the left hand side it has chapter projects listings, ICIP listing, I don’t see current chapter project listing for this year yet, I hope we can pull back the chapter projects listing from the WIN system today so you guys can include that in your Land Use Plan; Open Space Place – this section not required for an update, you already have that section in your Land Use Plan, extra points for you guys, the Significant Traditional/Cultural Property, recreational open space like parks and trails; Thoroughfare Plan – I only saw the road project under the infrastructure plan, not sure if you guys will build in creating a Thoroughfare Plan, another name is Transportation Plan, it’s not required but it will be nice to see some type of road project plan in your Land Use Plan; Community Facilities Plan – this is required and it’s a listing of all your public buildings, I didn’t see

a list of your public buildings unless I messed it, it should be one or two pages long, get it started today; Infrastructure Plan - I didn't see a lot of projects in the infrastructure plan, it's only recommended, not required, a few sections to worry about, need to organize the sections, pages are right, there's a table of contents, Appendix - which I saw two pages, you can put your supporting documents, you can include the chapter resolutions for these projects, how far in the future do you want to complete this, summer, fall, winter, it's April, May, June, July, have a first draft, first public hearing, another public hearing then the 60 comment period; ***Fern Spencer** - how often do we have to do this booklet, every 5 years, I'd like to get it done in June; ***Latasha James** - have a first draft in June; ***Fern Spencer** - have public hearing in July since school ends; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - finalize in May, have a May meeting, have final draft in May, request first public hearing in July; ***Latasha James** - April, today we are reviewing, on your requirement you have to work on your current projects the ICIP listing (any funded projects) which is Land Use Plan, we need to insert your current projects, community facilities you need to finish; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - we do have a ICIP listing of chapter community projects, we have an official listing with the resolution; ***Latasha James** - make copy, insert it and that will take care of the Land Use Plan section, Community Infrastructure and not sure if you guys will focus on Community Infrastructure, it's optional, it depends on if you guys want to focus on that section, same with Thoroughfare Plan, if you have chapter projects in this section then you update the section, if you don't have chapter projects don't worry about it, not sure if you guys have road projects; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - this is new planning infrastructure, they are in place and ongoing, the bridge project; ***Latasha James** - the bridge can go under Thoroughfare Plan - roads, in your meeting notes I saw from last month I saw Transit Bus schedule, school bus routes, if you are aiming for June you will have a draft of the Land Use Plan (LUP); ***Fern Spencer** - Mr. Moore, is the train a possibility going through here and we could add to that; ***Sonny Moore** - there's nothing on that, I talked to Al Henderson two weeks ago, it's still on the plans, it's a matter of where it will run, through our area here or 371; ***Fern Spencer** - she talked about facilities, the NTUA area by Shirley Bitsilly's place, we add that since it's a substation; ***Sonny Moore** - a large upgrade only from the powerline coming in from Shiprock, the 100 KB, it will benefit District 14; ***Fern Spencer** - the waterline as well, did we add the waterline; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - it is listed; ***Priscilla Duncan** - what about the Tucson powerline, was that renewed, remember they were going around to all the chapters; ***Sonny Moore** - it doesn't benefit us; ***Fern Spencer** - we don't have to mention it in our booklet; ***Priscilla Duncan** - contract was expiring and a 50 year renewal; ***Sonny Moore** - Tohatchi chapter request was scholarships, laptops; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - it's already in plan, not a chapter project; ***Priscilla Duncan** - the powerline they are bringing to this substation to improve; ***Latasha James** - it's infrastructure powerline project; ***Priscilla Duncan** - yes, NTUA is currently working on it; ***Latasha James** - the current Land Use Plan you guys are working on, you don't have a infrastructure section yet, what year was the previous booklet updated, 2018, I'm not sure if the booklet from 2018 has a Infrastructure section, if it does some of these existing projects are completed might be in this booklet already, if it's not you can include this in the Land Use Plan; ***Fern Spencer** - 2015; ***Lastasha James** - certified by RDC in 2018, did the previous booklet 2018 have an Infrastructure section or a Thoroughfare section, if not then you would have to create these two sections before June, I would do April, May/June, July, August/September; ***Sonny Moore** - I was part of CLUPC during that time and I'm sure we talked about infrastructure, after the Land Use Plan was recertified we developed a strategic plan, we put timelines on some of the infrastructure, if you look in your strategic plan booklet, they are listed in there, it needs to be transferred over if it's not listed in the current Land Use Plan, the Thoroughfare Plan I don't remember if we addressed that using the Thoroughfare plan and I'm not sure; ***Latasha James** - you can take a look at those chapter projects, see if those projects are still ongoing or completed, transfer those project listings to your current Land Use Plan; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - we do have it, 2015-2018, and add to manual; ***Sonny Moore** - I want to say something encouraging to CLUPC, working with other CLUPC, this is the most active group, they have work sessions and don't get paid, their mind is on the business and get it done, help us in the development and the final booklet, they will finish it by October and go before RDC, LOC, Law and Order Committee meeting here in Tohatchi next Monday 9:00 am, they want to see how far we have come on the Safety Complex, First Responder Substation, maybe they will move us up further on the list, so we can get funding for it, \$12 million dollars; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - this is what we took out of the original plan, the

information you are asking for could be in those documents; ***Latasha James** – who has the electronic document to the previous, you can copy and insert; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – the planner who originated this plan has the master template, we are having a hard time to add, delete, that's why we put together what we could, we took it out of the original manual and put it together, ***Latasha James** – a lot of the projects are in here, one thing that might complicate the process is not having access to the actual Micro Soft word document; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – this is what I've done since I've worked on the manual, the thick manual, the sections we were to keep, I had to get Adobe Reader, I first copied those files from Micro Soft Word and converted them to Adobe Reader, what you see now in the current manual is in Adobe Reader, it can be done, it's just the time; ***Latasha James** – in Adobe Reader, were you able to edit and make changes in the existing documents; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – yes, the Safety Complex I wasn't able to convert Safety Complex to First Responder Station, I put it in parentheses in our listing in section 6, it will take time to download and add other documents we didn't include, I'm waiting to the end to add the pages; ***Latasha James** – the process of putting booklet together, organizing the structure is going to take time, if you look at your timeline, your typist will need time to organize the document a little bit more, the timeline you guys are focus on is around July, would you be able to gather all the documents and start organizing it, have the first draft ready by July, you may need some time because some of the sections are hard to convert from PDF to a Word document, some of the maps as well, that will be another challenge for this CLUPC committee, how are you going to work around that or are you going to retype the sections, some chapters have done that, I believe Rock Springs retyped their whole booklet, now they are working on the sections, they didn't have a draft of their Land Use Plan from 2012; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – some pages I retyped in Word and convert to Adobe to match with the manual, school is out in June and after that I have every day of the week, I can work on it and July it can be done, we can have a draft in July; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – can we shoot for that timeline and see where we are by then, we'll have a meeting in May and June as a committee, if we have to have an extra meeting we can do that, we can target on what we are talking about and get it all together, it looks like it will be next year to go through the process that is listed; ***Latasha James** – April, we are reviewing the Chapter Projects, President said you guys already have the listing, make sure the projects reflect your Land Use Plan, starting in May/June focus on Community Facilities – Thoroughfare Plan and Infrastructure, I don't know if you guys want to include these, it's up to you guys and it will be time consuming but it's worth including for future projects, July you will have a draft, how many public hearing have your guys had, zero, you will have public hearing number one sometime in July, it will kick off your 60 day comment period on the day of, count 60 days out including weekends, August/September or late August your 60 day comment period will end, then you will have public hearing number two, this one is optional, you don't have to have a second public hearing unless you want to, according to Title 26 just one, chapter resolution approving the community Land Use Plan, sometime in August, September, October you will have your chapter resolution approved for your Land Use Plan, sometime in September October towards fall, have your legislation sponsorship, remember this timeline might push you guys towards October November, it depends on how soon you put the booklet together, then RDC renewal of the Land Use Plan, you're looking at fall to complete the manual, let's focus on Community Facilities – you guys might as accidental left out the community facilities and it might be in the previous manual 2018, can you guys look at the manual that was given to you and look for community facilities section, I didn't see it in this manual unless I skipped it, listing of all your public buildings, post office, head start, churches; ***Priscilla Duncan** – it's all on the internet, Tohatchi; ***Latasha James** – these are your public spaces, I know it's in your Land Use Plan, it's an requirement and RDC wouldn't have certify you without this section, these are your public spaces or public buildings; ***Fern Spencer** – I thought it was six; ***Latasha James** – those are your site development projects, what's within your chapter track, chapter house; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – I think the old document mentioned the old buildings, schools, chapter, IHS, post office, Speedway, it mentioned those facilities that exist now, there's no section for the listing, they may have been separated, business sites were mentioned, 3 – 4 business sites, we will follow up on that; ***Latasha James** – business site is Speedway and include your abandon ones too, trading post, Oil and Gas, ; ***Fern Spencer** – old post office, Navajo Housing Authority, Christian Reform and St. Mary's Catholic Churches, Boys & Girls Club, Baptist Church, Veterans Park, Nakai Park; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – Nakai Park and

Baseball field are in section 6 Site Development; ***Latasha James** – is it listed in Community Facilities; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – no; ***Latasha James** – you are giving a list of the existing and abandon structures, public spaces or buildings; ***Fern Spencer** – we go across; ***Rachelle Morris** - Tohatchi Health Center; ***Fern Spencer** - LDS Church, Pentecostal Church; ***Latasha James** – do you guys have a courthouse here, no; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – everything we are talking about are in this infrastructure map, project site map, Hot Springs, Old Francisco site, Hamburger Hill, Old Airport site, this from the original one 2018; ***Latasha James** – those projects need to go back into your booklet somewhere; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – we put it to the side; ***Latasha James** – he has the project development sites, we are looking at the community facilities which is just the listing; ***Rachelle Morris** – what about the old WIC office; ***Latasha James** – is it vacant, what does WIC stand for Women Infant Children Program; ***Fern Spencer** – old EMS office vacant, the new post office; ***Latasha James** – business sites, Speedway, Oil and Gas (vacant) and old Trading Post, Schools – Headstart, Tohatchi Elementary, Middle School, High School, Ch’ooshgai Community School (BIE), Ch’ooshgai Hill, Lakeside, Mesa View (vacant), College – UNM – Gallup, Albuquerque, NTU, San Juan College, Rehoboth, Navajo Prep, Wingate, Twin Lakes Elementary, St. Michaels, Bus Barn, Teacher Housing, Residential Housing, Water Development building (abandoned), Solid Waste/Transfer Station, Navajo Workforce development, you can use from 2018, should Rural Addressing be an Infrastructure Project or Roads section, if you guys have the signages then it would be roads, that is not in the 2018 plan, it’s a big update, it’s existing now, do it one section at a time, it doesn’t have to be in this order as long as you complete the check sheet, I’m worried about the required sections in the Land Use Plan; ***Gerald Moore** – what percentage of the manual is completed; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – 75 – 80%; ***Vincent Muskett** – I’m the Chairperson of Mexican Springs CLUPC, am here to listen and get ideas, we do have our club manual that was done several years back, update the data that is in there; ***Latasha James** – I’m the Senior Planner from Division of Community Development, I help with putting, organizing, technical assistance to Land Use Planning; ***Fern Spencer** – when this is finish, who looks at it, RDC; ***Latasha James** – you guys, chapter resolution approving Land Use Plan, it’s done inhouse at the chapter, attach the chapter resolution to the Land Use Plan, contact your council delegate for Legislation sponsorship, RDC will certify the manual and done at meetings, they’ve been coming to the chapters like Pinedale, they recently had theirs certified, another one completed is Alamo Navajo, they are waiting for the chapter resolution approving Land Use Plan; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – I have Pinedale’s Land Use Plan which is certified, can we use as a guideline; ***Latasha James** – yes you can use their manual as a guide; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – it’s over 200 pages; ***Latasha James** – a lot of it is supporting documents, Pinedale didn’t have a chapter resolution approving their committee members, only had their plan of operation with their chapter resolution, Titus worked on Church Rock’s Land Use Plan; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – what you have on the board are things that are missing from manual; ***Latasha James** – that’s what I see missing based off of what you have here; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – we just need to add what is missing, add to the manual, revised it; ***Latasha James** – that what I mean during your work session, pull all that put it in here, taking the documents and converting them, organizing it and put it into the booklet; ***Fern Spencer** – do you think you can come back in May; ***Latasha James** - yes I can back, it will be in a work session format, focus on a section or area; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – it would be a work session, our regular CLUPC is May 12th; ***Fern Spencer** – CLUPC meeting/work session; ***Latasha James** - May 15th 9:00 am, what are we focusing on, those projects to put in this project; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – get reorganized; ***Latasha James** – Community Facilities draft it up have it ready, put together this timeline and put it on a word document so we can see the timeline, continuation of community facilities, at next meeting we will focus on these projects here, print ICIP projects, we’ll look at the current projects we have, chapter resolution and funded projects for May 15, 2026; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – can I call you or visit you in between these dates if I have any questions; ***Latasha James** – of course, this is my direct line, my email, lower case l, if you have lots of questions you can call me; ***Latasha James** – handed us a timeline sheet, fill it out according to the months; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – does anyone have questions; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – the timeline of the history you were talking about it goes up to 2017, you want us to make it current, there’s about a 10 year gap; ***Latasha James** – we might have to review that together; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – we took out from 1800’s to 2017; ***Latasha James** – that’s part of the history of the chapter, community; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – as I working these sections, I may have erased it,

I believe it's in the thicker book, I have to go back and convert it; ***Latasha James** – reconvert it, would you be able to convert those by next work session; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – in May, I will get it done, I use Micro Soft Word then convert to PDF; ***Latasha James** – there's projects in here already, development sites and proposed projects, I'll be comparing with the ICIP chapter projects to see if they reflect anything in this Land Use Plan or if completed or not, this will be for next work session in May, if we get this done in May at work session then in June we'll look at the draft of the Land Use Plan; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – do those matter if the chapter is certified or non-certified, at the meeting there were certain things depending on your chapter and some things don't have to be added because you're not certified; ***Latasha James** – remember those chapters that are LGA certified and take it one step further, they would have to work on the zoning ordinance but it's never too late to start thinking about it, part of the next future planning like 3 to 5 years from now, in May we will focus on zoning and ordinance, this can be a proposed project; ***Fern Spencer** – what does zoning and ordinance entail; ***Latasha James** – identify land parcels like grazing area, commercial development, business economic development along 491 corridor, the little fence around your chapter house except the parking lot, that is a government area and that should be zone as a governmental area, if you had an industrial park, a gravel pit area near the mesa, that area would be industrial, if you create ordinances law don't build your house next to the industrial area and could be hazardous with the dust; ***Fern Spencer** – who do you go see regarding ordinances; ***Latasha James** – your chapter government; ***Fern Spencer** – who to enforce the housing ordinances, if we have in our booklet; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – housing, we can establish a housing ordinance in this area where I live; ***Latasha James** – in your Land Use Plan a lot of these concerns and recommendation need to be put in writing under the Implementation Plan – policy development – illegal dumping, livestock nuisance, wild dogs, food vendors, next/steps recommendations, add the resources listing to where these organizations can enforce these policies, for example illegal dumping would be Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Services, they can write tickets, wild dogs part of Division of Natural Resources, an ordinance law of having four dogs, livestock nuisance and I'm sure there's a policy on that same for food vendors, it's worth exploring and including in the Land Use Plan; ***Rachelle Morris** - it would be good to have it posted and people to see that there are laws in place, we don't see that; ***Latasha James** – in order for these policies to be developed or adopted at your chapter, it's going to take the planning, the chapter meeting by resolution to be approved before it is enacted, it would be good if the community supports the resolution then there will be a real reason as to why the Land Use Plan exists if for that reason, too, remember the next point for next meeting; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – thank you Latasha for helping us; ***Vincent Muskett** – people who are running for government need to be aware of these projects, similar to Mexican Springs manual, gave me a lot of ideas, thank you.

V. New Business:

A. **Sam Woods – Red Streak, LLC**

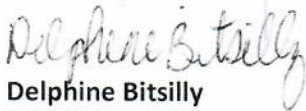
***Elvis Bitsilly** – we have Sam Edwards; ***Sam Woods** – thank you for allowing me to be part of the meeting today and put on the agenda, Tohatchi Community Land Use Planning Committee, at my introduction I stated why I'm here, let me tell you what project I'm working on within this community for the past eight years, I've been here and there over the past eight years working with CLUPC and Tohatchi Chapter on a project down at the Hot Springs, I was introduced to the project in 2017, 2018, I brought in Colorado School of Mines to do a resistivity studies or feasibility study, it progress into getting a resolution to look at a depth analysis or assessment of the Hot Springs, it turned into getting a small business New Mexico administration grant to look at the Hot Springs, it turned into study one and study two, that turned into a resolution approved by the chapter to look at a land designation for the project, the land designation was approved in 2020, 2023 Benny Shendo was here and the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department group gave a \$2 million grant to the Navajo Nation to look at a community solar project, we shared that with the chapter and community, at that meeting there were a couple of folks who said they didn't want solar and they wanted other things like gravel roads and other things that were more important than solar energy, I went back to Division of Community Development and there were some criteria to use the \$2 million dollar fund for the community solar project, at that time it was Jonathan Nez was President and his administration, it was difficult in working with Jonathan Nez with DCD and the Grants Management office, it turned to be meetings

after meetings then Nez administration ended, the Nygren administration was elected and again getting the \$2 million dollars with Buu Nygren, again meetings after meetings, eventually the \$2 million dollars expired, September of 2025 the land withdrawal designation expired, two months before the expiration date I worked with Land Department to see if we can get that land withdrawal designation, the designation is very important when you do community development projects, a month later the Land Department extended the designation for another 5 years, I'm here today to give the update on what has transpired over the years working on Hot Springs project, the purpose I'm here is I recently finished a project with the Navajo Nation Minerals Department who are under Division of Natural Resources, Minerals Department applied for a Division of Energy Minerals Development Grant in 2025 to do a policy development project which is called The Establishment of the Navajo Nation Energy Office, I was hired under this grant in July 2025, I put my team together and started to work with the Minerals Department, Natural Resources, Resources Development Committee how to put together a Navajo Nation Energy Office and provide three different options for the nation, first option – office to function as an entity, not only to facilitate projects but to develop projects, more like the former Dine Power Authority back in 2000's when it was operating; second option – establish the Energy Office as a facilitator and supporter of projects and structured under the Division of Natural Resources as a standalone entity; last option – a fully developed Energy Office like a LAC, like Navajo Transitional Energy Company or Navajo Nation Oil Company, a authority energy company, we finished our work at end of October last year, the Resources Development Committee decided to go with option two which is to establish the Navajo Nation Energy Office under the Division of Natural Resources as a standalone entity, Resources Development Committee is working with Office of Legislative Council, Department of Justice to finalize the plan of operation and enabling legislation to setup this energy office, the Resources Development Committee is looking to drop this legislation in the next couple of weeks and get this on the council's agenda for summer session 2026, what happens next is an Energy Director will be hired with staff, the office now is budgeted for over \$1.5 million, the purpose function of the office is being a clearinghouse for all energy projects that come into the Navajo Nation, all those projects will be vetted and put into a process pipeline to see if it works or if it doesn't work for the Nation, if it does work which entity would be partnering to develop that project, for example: NTUA or Oil Gas company, NTEC, or another program or division under the Navajo Nation, when we finish this project and hand it over to Legislative Council and DOJ, there's a Department of Energy, the Office of Indian Energy Programs issued out a notice of funding opportunity for about \$50 million dollars, the grant is broken down into three topic areas for projects are eligible for \$50 million dollars, first – projects that are shovel ready and ready to be deployed into the community to be developed out with matching funds; topic two – complete all predevelopment activity such as feasibility study, planning the assessments, gathering of information and putting together a feasibility study; topic three – put your project into the development stages working with engineers, contractors and look at the development of this project; why I got involved is Mr. Halona with Division of Natural Resources, I visited a couple of communities Tohatchi, Burnham Chapter, Sheep Springs, Shiprock and Little Water, these are all the chapters that have geothermal wells like the Hot Springs, these communities have hot water, Mr. Halona wants to do this is because there's a big push for geothermal energy by the Department of Energy, also by the State of New Mexico, the State of New Mexico under the Energy Resources and Minerals Division is finalizing its geothermal regulations, also taxing credits for the development of geothermal energy, there's a big push by New Mexico to get this done, the Department of Energy is also pushing this because under the inflation reduction act 2022, it was a big bill to push renewal energy in the US to develop more solar energy, electric vehicles, provide more taxing credits, more incentives for renewal energy, Trump slash the inflation reduction act with his one big beautiful bill act, he phased out the renewal energy which means no more renewal energy, no more electric vehicles, no more tax incentives, he wants oil and gas, coal, critical minerals, Artificial Intelligence and those are things he is pushing, they are looking for data centers looking for land, water and high voltage transmission infrastructures, Trump wants to win the Artificial Intelligence race with China, Trump is pushing geothermal energy because it is about drilling, oil and gas to drill for geothermal energy, Department of Energy grant of \$50 million dollars, push money to tribal communities because Trump does not know what tribal

communities have in terms of natural resources and Trump is looking all over the world for critical minerals, critical minerals are things like silver, gold, stuff in your laptops, components in your iPhones – cell phones, these are mined and the process critical minerals are put in to these components, the US doesn't have any of that stuff because 95% of those resources come from China, the US companies have to buy those, Trump is saying no more to that and we should develop our own critical minerals and resources, my opinion is a good thing when you have money available but we are in a time with different wars, if there's money out there to do feasibility studies and let's take advantage of the money and do the feasibility study, the communities will see what they have and how to utilize those resources or how to put those resources to work for the communities, grant is due July 24 and requires a chapter resolution, talking to the communities about this grant and get their support with a chapter resolution, see if the CLUP and community would like to see a feasibility study done in this community, there were resolutions passed in 2021, a lot of tribes in the US are facing data center developments, some communities don't want this and some communities want this, when people don't speak up in what's being developed in their community, someone from Window Rock or the State will say yes we're going to do it and it will happen, they don't have to be in the community to figure out those resources, a lot of data out there and drones to capture that data without the community ever knowing, people will do it like nongovernmental organizations or educational institutions, the data belongs to somebody else, be involve in the project to know what is happening, I know of a couple of organizations filing, sending in proposals for this Department of Energy Grant, State of New Mexico putting in two applications, Minerals Department putting in an application, and a couple of Tribal Enterprises; ***Gerald Moore** – will you be drilling; ***Sam Woods** – no drilling involved, doing the feasibility study and maybe a drone study; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – this project has been ongoing, presented with past council delegate, it's a sensitive area due to grazing, it was a concern then and it's probably a concern now, it phased out, there's money now and you will ask the chapter for approval on the feasibility study, steps before the planning and then to the chapter in May, a CLUPC member is not in agreement, no official positions, RDC Legislation – 027319, an outside firm came here and request for a hydro water project and it didn't go through, I favor these kinds of project but the community tends to say no, land area is the issue, project not favorably from the past, we need economic development here, we won't benefit from this project since we are not a certify chapter, we are working towards getting certified so we can benefit from projects like this; ***Fern Spencer** – I was on the CLUPC when this was presented back then, knowing what the chapter feels, students don't want to be here, students bussed into Gallup, students are living elsewhere for jobs, I listen to elders, my people and we are not going to the next level, the way things are in the tribal and national governments, learning from the chapter level, do it in a respectful way, the Hot Springs has changed and you guys fixed it up, who do we talk to, it's a good thought Sam and I appreciate you coming here today, get on the chapter agenda, we'll see how it goes; ***Rachelle Morris** – in order to move forward with this project is to do a townhall meeting with chapter community members especially with those who live in that area, there are a lot of families who live down there, I'm one of them and my aunt who is from that area, there might be some push back from some who may resist, they may not fully understand what it entails, doing surveys, no drilling is involved but as the project moves forward we don't know what comes into play, how do all these critical mineral resources are going to be analyze and collected, how that will affect us living down there, we have the future generations to look at their future as well, take into consideration, present all of this and bring community members from those areas to the table and get their input as well; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – the plan of operation, has that been done for the Energy Office, is that where you will be working now, under that office, are you still with Red Streak who is contracted to work with this process, RDC only approved the phase two, option two; ***Sam Woods** – I talked about three different things, 1 - Navajo Nation Energy Office, 2 – Tohatchi Hot Springs, 3 – Department of Energy Grant, the 2013 Energy policy had to be amended and changed so the Department of Energy will be a standalone entity, the plan of operations for all three options are done, RDC through work sessions decided on option two, then the plan of operations went to the next step which is to draft and enable legislation for the Office, that is where DOJ and Office of Legislative Council are working on that piece now, they are finishing up that piece by the end of this week, we have another final meeting next week on the 26th, the Resources Development Committee

will make its final comments and reviews on the enabling legislation, RDC said they will put it on the summer agenda; ***Gerald Moore** – do presentation, give us an example of what the project is about, input, outcome and how will it be for the future, the permittees, how will it benefit the community; ***Sam Woods** – in 2024 the \$2 million dollars, the permit holders said no and I stopped in respect to those permit holders, I tried to meet with DCD and Grants Management office to extend that for another 2-3 years and use the money for something else, I worked with President Ben Shelley, I worked with the Energy projects, Ben Shelley fired me 3 times and returned 3 times, I resigned and told him the projects are finished, we created NTEC and it's the biggest enterprise of Navajo and it brings in over a billion dollars to the Navajo Nation, pays Navajo about \$120 million a year in payment and taxes, in 2013 council asked me to management the company and I did, the biggest project is still yet to come and it's the Hot Springs, Energy Office is another big project, who manages that office will be, I agree with you Fern, there's no jobs and kids out there, the kids need to find places back home and fit, kids today are very smart, they are doing things, no matter where I go with permit holders, a lot of education needs to take place and it's from me, teaching each other things, growing with the people and community, I do my best to make the community understand, projects take time, students who have graduates degrees and PhD's, leadership fully supported this project are no longer here and continue the project who fully supported the project who are no longer here. Thank you.

- VI. **Resolutions:**
- VII. **Announcements:**
- VIII. **Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 @9am-12n**
- IX. **Adjournment: 12:20 pm**



Delphine Bitsilly
CLUPC Recorder