



# 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 PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES March 16, 2026

I. Call to Order: Time: 9:28 am Roll Call: 3 Invocation: Pernell Halona

II. Approval & Reading of Agenda:

Motion: Pernell Halona 2<sup>nd</sup>: Priscilla Duncan Vote: 3-0-1

MAR 17 PM 3:20

III. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday February 17, 2026

Motion to waive and read on your own.

Motion: Delphine Bitsilly 2<sup>nd</sup>: Priscilla Duncan Vote: 3-0-1

IV. Old Business:

A. Community Land Use Plan Review, Check List, Updates

\***Elvis Bitsilly** – thank you to those who attended the training at San Juan College, overview meeting for CLUPC members on Tuesday with Latasha James from DCD, she is the Planner, she was here for our CLUPC meeting about a year ago to help us with the Land Use Plan, she did a presentation to the Fort Defiance ASC staff, coordinators chapter staff, AMS, chapter officials and majority were CLUPC members from Fort Defiance Agency, discussed the overall plan and gave us this handout with a few updated items, information is on the DCD website, review of the presentation we heard, CLUPC requirements on page 3 (page 6) and it is a checklist, we already did get a copy of the checklist, Latasha will be here on April 21 to cover the checklist and look at our manual of what we have, Delphine has a draft copy of the manual, Community Land Use Plan for Tohatchi, we will cover the document next month and go through it step by step according to the checklist, she will go through the manual and review it, anyone have any questions on the manual, this is a template and a guideline, they want to see on our revised community plan, it's a template for all of Navajo, that is what DOJ will review and see, are we in compliance and do we meet the requirements; \***Lee Rodgers** – the document we have and from what I've read, working with you guys for almost a year and looking at this checklist, it appears to me that this is something totally different from the manual we have, this outline here how does it affect this outline we have, the information is all there but is not in order of what is written right here, what do you guys think, do we retweet or continue with the document we are working on, whoever is going to look at it and I don't know if they will go through our document and check it off as they go through their checklist, or throw it back to us and tell us it's not in the order we want it; \***Elvis Bitsilly** – we didn't have our CLUPC plan of operation and supporting chapter resolution, CLUPC membership names, we need to input that into our document manual, this is what we want Latasha to cover with us at the next meeting, complete by May and that's why we invited her in April so we can tweet our original document, we haven't invited her back and see where we are at with this, are we following in the guidelines as mentioned by the VP, when she was here she didn't give a lot of information until now, I think we followed a lot of it whether it is in the right order, we can change and make edits, I recommend we don't make too many changes, not all chapters are the same, as long as we follow the checklist they gave us, it was recommended by Fern to invite the other CLUPC members from District 14 chapters to attend our meeting in April, our intent is for her to cover Tohatchi, we will cover our CLUPC over plan on that day, Mexican Springs, Twin Lakes, Coyote Canyon, Naschitti, after our review of our plan with Latasha, others can

ask questions; **\*Lee Rodgers** – it is a courtesy, make it known at the beginning of the meeting we will focus on Tohatchi LUP and with others who come in late, make it known to them as well; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – it's our regular CLUPC meeting and we'll have her as a presenter, we'll give her our draft version of what we have, look at it and cover it, have her look at our plan; **\*Pernell Halona** – they make not have their plan, Coyote Canyon and Mexican Springs doesn't have anything, Twin Lakes has a draft; **\*Lee Rodgers** – how long is the meeting going to be, a regular meeting; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – a regular CLUPC meeting; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – I haven't do an invite to the other chapters; **\*Pernell Halona** - 5-6 years ago I worked on their plan, they have a book – Naschitti, I worked on theirs 2019; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – I wanted her to come today but she had other scheduled things, a chapter that had several public hearings, according to this document we only need two, **\*Lee Rodgers** – maybe they has protests or discrepancies; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** - stipend pay was talked about, can we have two meetings, we volunteer for our work sessions, it's according to budget, checklist has first public hearing, 60 day community comment period, after the first public hearing, where does that 60 day comment go, who does it; **\*Pernell Halona** – to the chapter; **\*Lee Rodgers** – where do they submit it and who do they submit their comments to; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – who is the public; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – where do they make their comments at, a second public hearing (looking at CLUPC checklist), additional public hearing if needed, chapter resolution adopting and approving the community based land use plan, council delegate for legislation, review then a five day comment period, go before RDC committee resolution granting certification/recertification approval, timeframe a few months; **\*Lee Rodgers** – looking at the end of the year November, ready by winter session; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – goes only to RDC, will we as members still be here, when is our terms; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – this is my second year, started 2025 to January 2027; **\*Pernell Halona** – I have one year left; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – I think I have one year left, too, I think Fern is at her two year limit as well as Delphine; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – when did we change the Plan of Operation for us to a two year term; **\*Pernell Halona** – it's always been that way; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – no, it always was a one year, I came on when it was every year, just last year 2026 we changed it, we did the plan of operation and changed to two year, me, you and Fern are grandfathered in to the two year term, Priscilla I think you go to 2028, us three maybe to the end of this year or early part of 27; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – the plan of operation is June 2025 to September 2026, as a committee we agreed to two year terms; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – we don't have the plan of operation or resolution recognizing members, this manual only has 7 sections even though Lastasha said you don't have to have 8 sections, I feel like we should go back to 8 sections because the vision statement and guiding principles, community education participation plan is not a section, I might go back and add it as a section, we don't have a section for a Thoroughfare plan which is rural addressing and we have that as a site development in section 6 and it might change, we don't have short and long term goals and priorities, work with chapters and what do we want to achieve, align with chapter's goals and objectives, we have to look at the chapter's goals and objectives, data and community assessment – I don't have charts only language, Latasha did mention she can help with graphs, when she comes she can help me with the graphs, everything you see in community assessment and data collection there are no graphs in the plan, Land Use Plan and Land Suitability is okay, Community Facilities Plan says list all public buildings, schools, libraries, community cemetery, post office, senior center, chapter, etc., and I don't think we have that in our plan, Thoroughfare plan includes all the bridges, sidewalks, I don't think we have that, includes rural addressing, road maps with road numbers and we do have this in the plan, Navajo Transit Bus, question asked was do we include the GMCS bus route, a question we can ask Latasha when she comes here, this is where you have to include all the roads, streets, bridges, low water crossings, sidewalks, streetlights, pedestrian traffic, this is important to have in your LUP; **\*Lee Rodgers** – do they have a bus route map, they may not even have it; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – that was the Gallup McKinley County Schools bus route, do we need that information in our plan, just the Navajo Transit Bus will be enough; **\*Pernell Halona** – I'm sure they have one; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – community infrastructure plan, include cell towers and I don't see it in our plan, solid waste; **\*Pernell Halona** – where would the cell towers go; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – infrastructure plan, she gave us her email address and phone number, the ones that are missing I read and concentrate on, once it's all done I'll do the pages, then table of contents, we agreed not to have an appendix but I believe we do need an appendix for the transit bus schedule; **\*Lee Rodgers** – demographics census needs to be included in there; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – in the references I added all our names and put it there for now, in the manual we had it

at the front with the names and pictures of previous CLUPC members, the language that came with the pictures it's now in the reference section, list those names at the beginning in section 1 with the mission and vision statement along with the plan of operation to go at the front; **\*Lee Rodgers** – the community demographics and census is as good as it is, we don't need graphics just because they had graphics before, it will take another expertise level to get it done, the information is there, we need to do a write up on projects, goals and priorities that coincide with the chapter's, the vision and mission statement just reinsert it back in there, what you said about the names of the old people they belong in the old book, you guys belong in the new book; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** - this is the draft I took, 50% or 80% of it will look like that; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – Vice President just mentioned the prior manual had their names and that's old, will always be in the old book, updated names is current; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – I can tweet it, she can look at it and say, yes yes or no no, maybe maybe or change this on that day; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – maybe you should give her an advance copy so she can review it instead of her reviewing it at the meeting; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – when can you have that updated version, this week, next week; **\*Delphine Bitsilly** – I probably can have a version of it by next Friday if I can get a copy of the Plan of Operation and resolution before I leave, I can add to it and I can have it ready by next Friday, March 27 and you take it to her, need resolution with all our names on it and they are individual resolutions; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – get a copy of the resolution for each member.

#### B. **NM Boys & Girls Club Status**

**\*Elvis Bitsilly** – we met with the Boys & Girls Club CEO, March 5 at Catholic Church, met with Marisa and one board member, they checked the internal building, they asked questions on it, checked the different rooms – kitchen, bathroom, meeting room, it looked good to them, a few things need to be changed in the room areas like the wall, small infrastructure fixes, security lights and cameras, they have to follow state compliance with a building where the kids will be, state law, compliance and policy, made recommendations with us and Father Dale, Father Dale answered questions about the history of the building, he arrived when they were closing out, he was supportive of the whole project, the board is going to make a decision on whether to have a Boys & Girls club here, Marisa said it looks real good, they were 90% happy with what they saw and they will work with us to do the project, answer on the spot questions, a possibility to expand the building, more space, we may have a lot of kids to use the facility, they asked how are we going to transport students, purchased a bus or van, do we pick up students, what is the parent's part, what is needed to get the student to and from the facility, Father Dale had the questions, there were some discrepancies that can be fixed, a few touch up things inside the building, a lot of things have to be in compliance with students under 18, working with youth, separation within the age group 5 to 18, there are three age groups between 5 and 18, staff and how will that be coordinated, who will be the supervisor, what it takes to hire someone with credentials, main thing was the background check, who will be responsible to hire, budget and how are we going to deal with that, MOA and MOU contract, a lot of technical stuff, liability and insurance to have a program like that, we may have to do a background check unless we are with staff to participate in activities inside the building, not anyone can go there and show up and expect to socialized with the kids, they are protected by the program, a lot of responsibility, I will follow up with them and contact Marisa, she asked about outdoor recreational facilities, Nakai park, baseball park, bike and walk trail, we already have trails, we do have a trail behind the Catholic Church, we continue to cleanup Nakai park, it's here locally, important for kids to go out to do activities, work with the schools, indoor facilities, many things are possible, everything was good; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – it's good to have a boys and girls restrooms; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – yes there's a male and female restrooms, the kitchen was fine, dining eating area was fine, middle section is open for activities, storage for materials, office space for receptionist, storage for books and supplies, where is the sanitation supplies and have in a locked area, office space was nice, fence around the northwest side for the building, a good idea to have a fence; **\*Pernell Halona** – a safety issue; **\*Lee Rodgers** – did they indicate who will be financial responsible to insure the security lights are up and security cameras up; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – Father Dale will provide that; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – light fixture; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – light fixture inside need to be changed out and upgraded, security lighting is there and suggested it will need to be more secure and safe; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – make sure they can see all the kids in one room, lower the wall and will be an opening to other rooms, Fern would be a good person to do the interview for staff, they felt she is experienced; **\*Lee Rodgers** – they have to be part of the hiring; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – money from a grant, grants are good, students attending Boys & Girls can apply for the scholarships.

V. **New Business:**

A. **District 14 Emergency Management Plan- Follow up meeting pending, revisions, updates.**

**\*Elvis Bitsilly** – District 14 Emergency Operation Plan in existence since 2018 or 19, we have one as a chapter, District 14 chapters are doing a revision on the overall District 14 plan they have and I'm part of that small group, Rhonda Herbert from Naschitti, they will cover this plan for District 14 plan, about 25-26 pages, it gives an overview of what a plan should be, doesn't say much about chapters doing this, lists all the hazards, disasters that can happen, weather, accidents, who are the contacts, etc., 4 were selected, me and another person from Coyote Canyon; **\*Lee Rodgers** – when is your meeting; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – this Thursday or Friday here in the chapter, just let Rhonda know and she'll show up, I'd like to review it with the chapter officials or other chapters, it won't happen in one or two meetings, in one month or two months, it's a big plan covering all of District 14; **\*Pernell Halona** – District 14 we were working on it, COVID came and it stopped the meetings in 2019 to 2020, I got all CLUPC chapters here for a meeting, Twin Lakes and Coyote Canyon, it lasted for two years, restarted the meetings then my term was up, I bought two maps for each chapter that showed water lines, gas lines, electrical lines, another map that showed housing, business sites and roads, there should be a map here for all of Tohatchi stuff, Deion Ben was CLUPC President at that time; **\*Lee Rodgers** – all chapters have their own emergency management plan and what is the difference at the district level; **\*Pernell Halona** – at the district level this is a combined; **\*Lee Rodgers** – it's just the language in there, I didn't see anything in there that distinguishes what is different from, we have all these little chapters but they have their own plans, what is the difference with all District 14, what is the difference and I didn't see any difference in there, it's another red tape document, if I was doing a document like that I would say, the reason why we need a District 14 Emergency Management Plan, we need a command center for District 14, I wanted to see that in there in case of an emergency, this is where everybody will go, this who they will call, this is our emergency communication tree, it starts with this one person, that person calls two people and so forth, what is the point of that plan and what is the intent from the beginning; **\*Pernell Halona** – the only thing it tells you is who will be in charge, who is in control when a disaster happens, it says chapter manager and chapter president; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – did you keep a copy of the map; **\*Pernell Halona** – no; **\*Elvis Bitsilly** – Emergency Plan on the screen, this is what District 14 has, remove the names from the chapters, basic plan outline, there's a chapter plan and district plan, how do they intertwine with each other, disasters and emergencies happen at individual chapters, are other District 14 chapters going to come in and help with a disaster at a chapter, like when the school bus accident, is District 14 all going to come in and help, we will also have a emergency plan for each chapter that has their contact people and we'll have a whole bunch of people there, we only need Navajo Nation police, Navajo Nation EMTs, Medic and Fire, that will be a general call and we have all these chapters trying to do one thing, are they capable of doing one thing as District 14 Emergency Respond, Tohatchi already has a emergency respond plan we approved, we have to implement and use it including county, state, and others we are working with; **\*Geneva Begay** – the last plan was 12, 15 years ago and that's how long it has expired, part of the plan was Headstart staff, Senior Center staff, chapter staff here, they were all part of the emergency plan, come together had meetings, have their plan together, if something happened they were here as the respond team, they did come together when Julie Badonie was President, at one of the chapter meetings I was stressing to have CPR class here at chapter, so everyone will have their first responder at home, first responder was Chuska and Troy is the first one of the first responder who is alerted with the traffic accidents and onsite with his fire truck, he is certified in that area, they have a certified respond team at Chuska, Laberta wanted to get involved; **\*Priscilla Duncan** – where would your command center be, is it Tohatchi, Naschitti, Twin Lakes, Mexican Springs; **\*Lee Rodgers** – if it's each individual chapter having their own command center, what's the point of having a District 14 plan of operation; **\*Geneva Begay** – if there's an emergency happening there you can go to another chapter; **\*Pernell Halona** – it depends on the emergency; **\*Lee Rodgers** – what is the point of this District 14 plan, what is it going to do, why have it if we are going to be in our own individual chapter, why disburse items from one central place, where is that one place going to be, ask these questions when you get together with your group, where is command center and who will be the one person on the communication tree to start the call, COVID we did our own individual chapters, who is mandating this District 14 plan, where is it coming from - the Agency, Buu Nygren, DOJ, Emergency

Management; \***Elvis Bitsilly** – 2019 they didn't have an emergency respond plan, they didn't have one and they drafted one like this, a template and chapters you can use this, Navajo Nation has an Emergency Respond Department with two people, they gave it to you to take care of at the chapter level; \***Pernell Halona** – District 14 who is asking; \***Elvis Bitsilly** – at our last District 14 Counsel meeting back in January, Rhonda said we need to update our District 14 Emergency Respond Plan, they are doing the plan of operation which they finished in a couple of days, this one will take a long time, I asked what is the purpose of this, how are we going to work when the First Responder building opens, who will be in the oversight, Navajo Nation they have their emergency plan and Tohatchi has their emergency plan, District 14 has their emergency plan, which plan are we going with when something happens, showed pictures of the GMCS bus accident, fire truck came from Newcomb; \***Lee Rodgers** – this accident was handled appropriately, we have to put in our policy what time of day; \***Elvis Bitsilly** – who is to call officials, we have to deal with the clinic here and IHS hospital, where to take the individuals, somebody called the police, NMDOT came in to setup the barricade, who did that, the police, the school and contacted the ambulance, how do we deal with that when it happens, who do we call, we will deal with it when complex opens, District 14 meeting April 6, 2026, Tohatchi Chapter 5:30 pm.

\***Delphine Bitsilly** – CLUPC meeting changed from May 19<sup>th</sup> to May 12, 2026, 9:00 am.

- VI. **Resolutions:**
- VII. **Announcements: DCD Planner-Latasha James- Follow up & Review Plan Meeting, April 21, 2026**
- VIII. **Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 @9am-12n**
- IX. **Adjournment: 11:45 am**

*Delphine Bitsilly*  
*CLUPC Recorder*