



TEMPORARY AUTHORIZE QUORUM REDUCTION MEETING

March 1, 2021 10:00 A.M.

PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

Teleconference Number: (314) 474-2238 PIN: 138 227 614#

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

10:07 AM

II. ROLL CALL:

III. Harry Sonny Moore – President, Mike Halona – Vice President, Jean Crawford – Secretary/Treasurer, Gerald Moore – Grazing Official, Elvis Bitsilly – LDA/Farm Board President, Maria Allison-King – CSC

IV. INVOCATION:

Julie Badonie

V. REVIEW-OF THE AGENDA:

Sonny Moore

VI. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTATORS:

Maria, CSC – There were no community request for assistances for month of February 2021. There were a couple of people who were wanting to get on the agenda for March. Mr. Herman Plummer and Jeannie Benally.

Mr. Herman Plummer Jr. – TAOS is requesting a support resolution for Navajo Nation grant to purchase 8 vehicles to serve their 49 clients, the youngest being 3 years of age.

Jeannie Benally – Was not on the call, but she did provide a letter to grazing official and President requesting follow up on her homesite application/or abandon homesite within our community.

Vincent Arthur – Was not on the call. Per President Moore, he would like to ask Mr. Arthur to be more specific on his resolution.

Council Delegate's Report:

LDA Elvis Bitsilly – Delegate Halona is currently in a Title 2 meeting. Cares Act, Budget and Finance Committee will be meeting tomorrow to give update by Pearl Yellowman on the Cares Act. Scholarship funds has been past through council already. Legislation 0017-21 is looked as though it would be allocated, 1.6 million, but was voted down and did not pass. Sales Taxes are usually received in January. Per Sonny, we put in \$10-12,000 yearly into our transfer station. We will be running short again soon if money is not allocated soon. Casey Begay states a new legislation will be introduced for emergency funds. Eastern Agency is looking to re-introduce another legislation to the USD for much needed assistance as well.

Margie Begay from NDOT is requesting a virtual meeting with all the chapters.

TIF Portal will be closing on March 8th.

Julie – Chapter can still request money under TIF even though we already have a request in with Capital Out Lay.

Community Service Coordinator Report:

Maria – update on the distribution. On February 23rd Tohatchi Chapter received 2 semitruck loads of supplies. Mainly PEP supplies, military ration style food, pampers, soap and toothbrush. We received enough supplies for 300-350 community members. Announcement was made on the radio station. We served 150 registered community members. On Friday, chapter gave out another 80 boxes. Chapter did not get the bottle water which was requested. What we have left of the boxes will go to elders who don't have a ride to the chapter. **All meetings should be held via teleconference.**

Vice President Halona – states that all chapters should have a listing of all our community members. Per CSC, we work really well with the CHR and the Senior Citizen office.

Eastern Agency meeting with chapters were also stating problems with people complaining about the military

style rations that were being distributed along with PEP supplies. We also picked up 30 more buckets from Standing Rock which will be distributed.

Duplicate Checks with Home depot – Home depot deposited Chapter check twice, 1st time in November and again in January 2021 for same amount. Home depot employee processed check incorrectly and they are waiting on corporate office to cancel the check for November 2020. Will call Paula with Home depot to get update on the November 2020 check.

Water line extensions - Dennis Murphy (Field engineer with OEH) requested a support letter, will work with Pernell Halona. Dennis Becenti and Victoria Badonie were assisted through the Cares Act.

Additional Requests for Assistance:

Bathroom Additions:

Terry Begay / Herman Bitsie
Valencia Frank
Monica Lee
Manuel Shirleson - Hogan
Charlene Roanhorse - Hogan
Ted Etsitty
Caroline Francisco

Water Line Hookup:

Tilda Smiddy
Willie Sandoval

Water line /Septic Service

Alton Begay

Official's Report:

Warehouse - We met with Representative Johnson, state representative, we were asked to talk about our top priority project. We said our Warehouse is our #1 and cost is approximately \$750,000 to construct and Chapter hopes to have the design completed by end of March 2021. In addition to talking with Representative Johnson, we also drafted a letter to persuade her to help us with money to complete the warehouse project.

Public Safety Complex - We also met with Mary West, project manager to go over the design of the Public Safety Complex. We need to look into hiring an architect as soon as possible to get this project moving.

San Juan Lateral – we are requesting a lateral off the waterline coming from San Juan Plant to Gallup, NM. It will come here to Tohatchi and back seed into Mexican Springs. This is a combine effort with Mexican Springs Chapter and the cost is estimated at \$10 million. We do have some money from TIF. We currently need \$3.37 million just for the plans and design. When we combined our monies with Mexican Springs, we are short \$1.9 million. More meetings and discussion need to take place to obtain

East flatwater drilling of individual homes – There is funding from Shinsan in amount of \$866,000 to complete this project and it is moving along. This will go out for bid soon. I will need to get update.

Audit – It's on going and we submitted our corrective actions and waiting on their response. There were 12 findings. Audit is concerned with the internal controls which is lacking currently. We need to work on updating all our policies and strengthening our internal controls. We are hoping our next step after the audit will be the possibility of getting certified as a chapter.

Illegal Trash Dumping – This project given to CLUPC.

Customer Service – We need to strengthen our customer service at the chapter level including all the committees within the Tohatchi Chapter. People with personal Facebook accounts need to be careful what they post on their accounts relating to their work with chapter and community members.

McKinley County Schools and Chooshgai School – How can we improve the education of our students here in our community. We could send a letter to the superintendent of McKinley County Schools to let him know what we as a community expect for our students as far as academics, college bound programs, Navajo cultural and language preservation to name but a few.

CLUPC Report:

Veteran's President Manuel Shirleson will be relinquishing to the Chapter 6 acres south of the Navajo Oil and Gas station. Chapter will assist and be looking for a new place for the Veterans to meet and call their own.

Cemetery Expansion – Sent out letters to invite Bertha Desteia and Cecilia Yazzie to CLUPC meeting on Friday to get written approval from both individuals.

Rural Addressing – CLUPC is working on this project and looking for maps. Rural addressing will cover

emergency 911 calls, postal service with fedex and UPS.

Chooshgai Lake Rehabilitation – Byron has reached out to some individuals who can assist with project. Partnering with Tohatchi Health Center – Sonny has suggested that Byron invite Fawn Damon, HSA to CLUPC meeting on Friday to talk about a partnership.

Red Willow Farm Board Report:

Red Willow Farm Board met with 3 entities, Capital management, Water Resource, and NTUA to get an update(status) on the powerline to Red Willow. It is now at the President Nez's Office and then on to the controller's office. Construction for powerline should be starting here in March or April. We do have a proposal in place with the department of Agriculture called "The Chooshgai Lake Water Delivery Improvement" the proposal is for \$467,000. There is also a proposal for water diversion dam work which is estimated at \$1.6 million. Department of Agriculture has funding for dam restoration.

Grazing Official's Report:

Dog and Cats Spay/Neuter Program - I don't see the Navajo Nation doing the Mobile Unit this summer due to the pandemic. The cost of spay/neuter is about \$150 per animal. I can reach out to my resources to get update on this program.

Burial Issues – The guidance from the Department of Agriculture through the Grazing program states when a family makes a request to bury a family member in a community cemetery, the request should be honored. The funeral homes have their forms which has a section for grazing official to sign off on, but it is not recommended by Department of Agriculture and Grazing programs. We actually don't have the authority to sign off. The families should be going to the Chapters to request for assistance. For family burial plot, if it a new family plot, grazing official will deny per policy and guidance, but if it's an existing plot, they can ask for assistance for burial.

Webinars - Education information: I have 3 webinars for our community and the majority are free. 1) Ranchers, March 2nd & 10th. @ 6-8pm. 2) Ranch Livestock Workshop March 9,10,11 @ 6pm. 3) East Quality Workshop, March 18th @ 6pm. If you miss a segment, you can download and go back later to these webinars.

Feral Horses – I sent an email to the department of Agriculture to do a feral horse survey to identify some hot spots. I need to call EdMiles to setup entrapment equipment. He has the manpower and all equipment required for entrapment of these feral horses.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolutions to Approve

- a. **Vincent Arthur, NTUA** – Supporting the Issuance of a Tribal Access Authorization Agreement from the Navajo Nation to the Tribal Utility Authority to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Transmission line with Fiber Optics cable installation within the Tohatchi Chapter for Expanding Electricity, Redundancy, and Enhancing Communication Services.

This resolution will need to be revised and put on the agenda for the Chapter Meeting on March 17th.

- b. **Budget Transfer within Fund 15 (PEP) to Replenish the Depleting Funds for Labors**

Motion: Jean Crawford

2nd Gerald Moore

Vote: 3-0-1

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tohatchi Chapter meeting on March 17th @ 10am, CLUPC meeting on March 5th @ 9am, Red Willow Farm Board meeting on March 2nd @ 10am.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 5, 2021

X. ADJOURNMENT: 1:17pm

Motion: Jean Crawford

2nd Gerald Moore

Vote: 4-0-1

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford
Secretary / Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter
February 23, 2021

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President
Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President
Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer
Mr. Maria Allison King, CSC
Mr. Pernall Halona, Council Delegate
Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, LDA
Mr. Byron Bitsoie, Sr., CLUPC President
Ms. Geneva Begay, Red Willow Farm Board