

Sonny Moore, President
Mike Halona, Vice-President
Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer



Maria Allison-King, CSC
PERNELL HALONA, Council Delegate
Gerald Moore, Land/Livestock
Management Officer

Tohatchi Community Chapter

Post Office Box 238, Tohatchi, N.M. 87325

TOHATCHI CHAPTER COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting

Dial-in Number (720) 740-9789

Access Code: 4254032#

Meeting ID: bbitsoie

Regular Monthly Meeting Agenda

April 2, 2021

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:20am

ROLL CALL: Byron Bitsoie, Sr. President, Mike Halona Vice President, Gerald Moore Grazing Official, Nathan Notah

INVOCATION: Mike Begay

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Bertha Desteaa, Cecelia Yazzie, Manuel Shirleson- Commander of Veterans Org, Alice Francisco, Howard Martinez-General Land Department

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MOTION

1ST NATHAN NOTAH 2ND GERALD MOORE VOTE: 3-0-1

PRESIDENT MOORE – FROM NEW BUSINESS, REQUESTING TO TAKE CARE OF CEMETERY EXPANSION AND THE RECLASSIFICATION OF THE VETERAN'S SITE 1ST AS NOT TO HOLD COMMUNITY MEMBERS LONGER THAN NEEDED.

MOTION: 1ST NATHAN NOTAH 2ND GERALD MOORE VOTE: 3-0-1

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Read aloud by Byron Bitsoie, Sr.

MOTION: 1ST Mike Begay 2nd Nathan Notah VOTE: 4-0-1

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cemetery expansion – There were several people who witness the signing of the document. President Moore and President Bitsoie of CLUPC took the time to thank the two community members for their agreement to the expansion of the cemetery and Mr. Martinez for coming out to take the signatures back to General Land Department. The two community members want to make sure the old trail on the backside of cemetery was left for people and livestock to use. CLUPC agreed to the 2 acres and Ms. Desteaa and Mrs. Yazzie told the chapter that Twin Lakes and Coyote Canyon chapters need to establish their own cemetery.
The General Land Department will process the land withdrawal using the coordinates of the new map.
2. Business development – resurveying and preparation of business sites – Still waiting to do the walk through with President Moore.

MOTION TO DEFER TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: 1ST Nathan Notah 2nd Mike Begay Vote: 3-0-2

Laris Manuelito – Talked about her new project called the Market Place. I was approved for my preliminary 5 year land withdrawal for 6 acres at “where the coyote sits.” The Market Place is an open-air concept, meaning It’s not a strip mall, Bashas nor is it going to look like the one you see at Sanders. It’s going to be very unique and design to cater to the community members and not just Tohatchi, but surrounding communities and to the tourist. There will a parking area for truckers and tourist to rest. There will also be 2-3 more buildings, one is going to be a laundry mat and others will be available for entrepreneur. The open-air concept is for artisan, if they want to sell their goods there and I want it to be ego-friendly, be as green as possible. Infrastructure is there already and available and I’m now finalizing the Market Place. This will be considered a private business and I can’t rely on the chapter for money. If we can get LGA certified a certain percentage of revenue would go to the Chapter and not to W/R. I’m looking forward to giving back to Tohatchi.

3. Rural Addressing – See New Business Below.

4. Chooshgai Lake Rehabilitation – diversion dam, lake reservoir, canals rehabilitated to the lake. – Last March I reached out to Rudy K who is with branch of engineering with BIA, Paul Long Jr., NN safety of dams for BIA, Richard Montoya who is the district conservationist for USDA, NRCS but I haven’t gotten a hold of Mark Neeman, who is the Albuquerque region 7 coordinator for the corps of engineers. We need to look at a water study all the way up to where the water comes down into the lake. Since then, I’ve learned we would not be looking at the irrigation for Red Willow Farms. We still need to do the water shed study and clearing out and controlling all the shrubs and trees. They may need to put in a liner along the dam to stabilize it. NRCS referred me to Ivan Joe (St. Michael’s) and he has assured me they can help with the design and assessment of the lake. We also need to know who owns and has authority of the dam and I’m assuming its Tohatchi Chapter and who needs to be involved. For instance; community, chapter, permit holders and since there was fish in the lake at one time, fish and wildlife has to be involved as well. NRCS, BIA, and the people I’ve talked to are saying they need more details as far as farming level, the scope, and the use and purpose of the lake. All these entities are familiar with Chooshgai Lake and Red Willow Farm because they have provided some type of work in the past(10-20yrs), so there should be some reports on file at the chapter regarding the work that was provided by these entities. I would like to ask the chapter if they can assist by locating any information relating to Chooshgai Lake or dam projects. I was also referred to Ganado Farm Board President, Evangeline Curley Thomas and Theresa S. is also a valuable asset to this project. My major concern is funding for this project to make sure it gets completed and done properly. We want to keep the environment in tack and consider all the livestock who use the lake for watering. NRCS had done some work in Tohatchi in the past but due to the pandemic it was halted. They were concerned about all the development that was happening around the canal; for example, housing.

As far as funding, NN has a huge appropriation of drought funding and department of Agriculture, Leo Watchman and Ferdinand Notah will be the people to speak with to request for funding and the NN Council. We can also ask the BIA and Corps of Engineers. I

believe I got commitments from USDA, NRCS with assessment and design. I will continue to do some of the leg work along with Byron. I ask Paul Long and Ivan Joe if we could meet at the chapter.

Dennis Becenti – I want to mention on April 13th, the Soil Water Conservation District will be meeting at Twin Lakes Chapter.

Deon Ben – Navajo Nation received funding for dam rehabilitation for pandemic relieve, those allocations are still with NN and now deciding on how to distribute the allocations. I have publications on the invasive species like the Russia Olives and other species. These publications should be useful to Mr. Notah. They have information that can be used for reports and preparing presentations. I will forward the publications to Nathan.

MOTION TO DEFER TO NEXT MEETING FOR MORE UPDATES/INFORMATION

MOTION: 1ST Nathan Notah 2nd Mike Begay Vote: 4-0-1

5. Partnership with Tohatchi Health Center – stated EMS boundary is within the old tract that longer exist – Fawn Damon states I'm looking for official map from Navajo Area. I did sign off on government building westside of clinic. I've seen the map from Navajo Area that shows EMS is part of our property. Road along side of the canal is not part of government property. I'll continue to look for map to share.

Nathan Notah – I would like to thank Fawn for letting her staff know to slow down while driving from PO to clinic. Traffic has slowed down considerably.

MOTION TO DEFER TO NEXT MEETING FOR UPDATES:

MOTION: 1ST Mike Begay 2nd Dennis Becenti Vote: 4-0-1

6. Professional Housing – Old Tohatchi boarding school area and Multi-purpose building/veterans/Well center: Per President Moore, we are looking at building professional houses for doctors, nurses and teachers. He talked about Chester Carl's housing program/project. We should be partnering with all the entities here in Tohatchi. This will be added on agenda as new project for CLUPC.

MOTION TO DEFER TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: 1ST Dennis Becenti 2nd Mike Begay Vote: 3-0-1

7. Broadband for Tohatchi Project: This project is at a standstill currently, but staying in touch with Christopher Becenti. Christopher did say he would be happy to attend CLUPC meeting.

MOTION TO DEFER TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: 1ST Nathan Notah 2nd Mike Begay Vote: 4-0-1

8. Tosidoh, LL – No updates from Tosidoh.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cemetery Expansion - meet with Permittee's again for final approval and signature/Survey. Bertha Destea and Cecilia Yazzie are here at meeting to sign off on the cemetery expansion with the assistance of Howard Martinez from General Land Department(W/R). The

signatures of the two community members including the grazing official were taken by Mr. Martinez

Motion to move forward with the Cemetery Expansion and Land Withdrawal:

MOTION: 1ST Nathan Notah 2nd Dennis Becenti Vote: 4-0-1

2. Commander Shirleson – Discuss the reclassification of the Veteran’s Site

President Moore asked Commander Shirleson to relinquish back to the Chapter the Veterans Land Tract of 6 acres south of Navajo Gas Station. Money was awarded to the Veterans but has since been taken back. The 6 acres is no-commercial land and chapter can reclassify as commercial development. Looking down the road, what can the chapter offer the Veterans for the relinquishment of this land tract? The chapter is building a warehouse in back of chapter which we are waiting on the allocation of \$750,000. Part of the planning is a waterline, sewer line and utilities and hoping to make this into a multi-purpose building. The veterans can have an office space here and they can be under the wings of the chapter. You don’t have to worry about expenses, for example; utilities. Tohatchi Chapter staff can assist the veterans with application for monies that are available.

Commander Shirleson – We have been working with the state and did receive money for development, but Window Rock retained the money stating Tohatchi Chapter is **not** a certified chapter. We have been meeting every other month at different locations since the pandemic. We would really like a place to call our own. We traveled quite a bit across the land and we are very much appreciated as an organization. Veterans are the ones who made it possible for people to enjoy their freedom.

Alice Francisco – Secretary of Veterans Organization: Mr. Mike Begay attended our meeting to discuss the land relinquishment. We want to see the map of the actually land tract of the 6 acres. The Veterans Organization is also requesting in writing from the chapter exactly what the chapter is offering. We are wondering if we have to pay for the office space in the warehouse and where is the money going to come from? Do we start paperwork again to request for money from the state? These are the concerns of the Veterans.

Byron Bitsoie – President Moore and myself will be drafting up a letter to address the Veterans Organization on the relinquishment of the 6 acres of land. We will then meet with the Veterans on April 14th at the Catholic Church. Questions presented by Mrs. Francisco will be answered at the next Planning Meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer – Does CLUPC have the map Mrs. Francisco is requesting for?

Byron B. – I’ll look for it here at Navajo Land Department for the tract.

Secretary/Treasurer – Is it correct that the Veterans lost their money from state because Tohatchi Chapter is not certified?

President Moore – The new Veterans building would not have had money to pay for their monthly expenses. Just like the chapter in Smith Lake and several others, they had to shut down because they didn’t have the money for expenses incurred monthly. They wanted the chapter to take care of their monthly expenses, but the chapter does not budget for Veterans Organization. They are like a non-profit organization, when you classify a land for non-profit you cannot generate revenue.

- a. They don't have money to pay for their monthly expenses, No funding.
- b. They want to generate revenue which they were told they can't.

They also did not get enough money to start with, to build the facility

MOTION: TO FIND PLAGUE AND DRAFT LETTER TO VETERANS AND REQUEST TO RELINGUISH 6 ACRES BACK TO CHAPTER.

MOTION 1ST Dennis Becenti 2nd Nathan Notah Vote: 4-0-1

- 3. EPA: Thomas Bitsoie II – Illegal Trash Dumping – **Not Present**

MOTION TO DEFER TO NEXT MEETING.

MOTION: 1ST Dennis Becenti 2nd Nathan Notah Vote: 4-0-1

- 4. Rural Addressing – Update Tohatchi Boarding school Site – Mike Begay states the LRAC committee agreed to hold off on proceeding until the pandemic has lifted.

Secretary/Treasurer Jean – Were you able to find any maps?

Mike Begay – We have not located the large map which shows all the existing roads. There is a large collection of maps here at chapter which we still need to go through. According to MC Baldwin, he says we need to use strip maps.

Secretary/Treasurer – Are we able to get some help locating those maps?

President Moore – No maps were found and I plan to get involved along with staff to locate these maps to see how far we've gotten on rural addressing. Some community members have gotten their rural address and I would like to know how they are getting this done.

How is the chapter involved in this process? I have brought this to Byron's attention to look into this situation.

Deon Ben – Suggested when maps are located, we should be titling each map individually.

MOTION TO DEFER TO NEXT MEETING AND CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR MAPS.

MOTION: 1ST Dennis Becenti 2nd Mike Begay Vote: 4-0-1

- 5. Group Home by Chooshgai School – Per President Moore, we will schedule a walk-through next week. I understand the building has no lock and can be entered. I will contact Mr. Herman Plummer, Jr. to ask him about this building.

Nathan Notah – I believe this building is still on the TAOS inventory Record Book and you can speak to TAOS Executive Director, Jan Halona. I will email you the number.

- 6. Requesting Broadband tower in Tohatchi for community- CLUPC will draft a letter to the chapter regarding Broadband.

- 7. **MOTION TO ADD DENNIS BECENTI (SWCP PROGRAMS) TO THE AGENDA AS #7 UNDER NEW BUSINESS.**

MOTION: 1ST Mike Begay 2nd Nathan Notah Vote: 3-0-2

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 2

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reopened CFAP 2 applications for all eligible producers on April 5, 2021. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will begin providing additional financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and producers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A deadline for signup will be announced

at a later date. For more information please visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap>

USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program

Through the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is partnering with national, regional and local suppliers whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, to purchase up to \$6 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products. Distributors will package family-sized boxes with a combination of fresh fruits and vegetables, a variety of dairy products, and meat products, then transport them to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits for Americans in need. USDA will purchase up to \$1.5 billion worth of food during the fifth round of the program, which is scheduled through the end of April. For more information please visit: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box>.

USDA Rural Development's Business and Industry CARES Act Program

The USDA Rural Development's Business and Industry (B&I) CARES Act Program is designed to offer loan guarantees to lenders who work with rural businesses and agricultural producers to supplement their working capital to prevent, prepare for and respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19. For more information please visit: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-and-industry-cares-act-program>

USDA's Farm Service Agency Microloans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the microloan program to assist beginning, unique, and small to mid-sized family farm operations with their financial needs. These microloans are beneficial for farmers that often face limited financing options. FSA offers two types of microloans: direct farm ownership and direct farm operating microloans. Eligible applicants may apply for both microloans. For more information please visit: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/microloans/index>.

Farm Loan Flexibilities

USDA's Farm Service Agency is providing additional flexibilities to provide producers with credit options in response to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information, please visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>

Crop Insurance Flexibilities

USDA's Risk Management Agency is working with those insurance providers to provide additional flexibilities in response to COVID-19. Producers can continue to work with their Approved Insurance Providers, or AIPs, on policies, claims, and agreements. Farmers with

crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conduction business by telephone or email. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chapter Planning Meeting on April 2, 2021

District 14 Grazing Meeting on April 7, 2021 at Tohatchi chapter parking lot.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

MOTION: 1ST Nathan Notah 2nd Mike Begay Vote: 4-0-1

NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME: May 7, 2021

ADJOURNMENT/TIME: 12:35pm

Other projects:

Safety Complex and demolition of detention center

Powerline

Waterline

Warehouse

San Juan Laterals

Capital projects – update on backhoe, gooseneck flatbed trailer, forklift, surveillance cameras, tractor and trailer for red willow

Highway 491 lighting -

Halona Canyon Road -