



February 5, 2024 10:00 A.M.

PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

TELECONFERENCE: 1-219-803-8769 PIN# 160 108 500#

Video call link: meet.google.com/ahs-epsf-aep

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. INVOCATION
- IV. REVIEW-OF THE AGENDA
- V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:
 - 1. NTUA Information on PRV's--NTUA
- VI. REPORTS:

***Council Delegate Report:**

- 1. NM State Legislation Update
- 2. Safety Complex-meeting with Parsons and Delores Greyeyes (DCD)
- 3. IGA Language Amendment with State of NM
- 4. Virtual Teleconference Legislation—Tohatchi already has a resolution to Approve Teleconference—it may be amended—look at the instructions from DOJ
- 5. Emergency Funds Approval for Chapters--\$35,000
- 6. Report on Winter Session

***Community Service Coordinator/Officials' Report:**

- 1. Meeting Update with Dwayne Waseta-DCD on the \$180,000 State Funds, \$78,000 power line
- 2. Meeting Update with NTUA –Water, Power, House Wiring, Septic Tank and Leach Field, Solar Power
- 3. East Flats Water Drilling Pre-Construction Meeting and Status of the East Flats Participants-follow-up on returned homesites—Set up meeting with NTUA (Rex Kontz Team) on East Flats
- 4. ARPA—Status of Assessments with LAM and 6-30-2024 Encumbrance Deadline
- 5. Water Break in Chapter Compound
- 6. Cemetery Expansion – Update on the processing of documents to Land Department-
- 7. Audit Status (meet with ASC), Inventory, Records Management,
- 8. 5-year Land Withdrawal for Professional Housing and Commercial Development
- 9. Bike Trail Documents to DOJ
- 10. Status of Senior Center discrepancies
- 11. Emergency Fund 17—status of expenditures and recent approval for \$35,000
- 12. Highway Lighting-Updated Resolution with Updated Cost Figures
- 13. Phone Evaluation- purchase a new system -
- 14. Website Maintenance-assistance from Ms. Fern Spencer -
- 15. HEO training –
- 16. CLUPC meeting with Division of Economic Development—Leonard Francisco, Jr.
- 17. CLUPC on Land Use Recertification
- 18. Zoom Meetings—will require an annual fee-need a justification memo.

***Red Willow Farm's Report –**

- 1. Status of \$170,000 Reauthorization NM State Funds
- 2. Three Day Work Shop-in March –Need Participants

***Grazing Officer Moore's Report -**

1. Updates:

VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution to Approve Emergency 17 Budget for \$35,000
2. Resolution to Approve the Purchase of Chapter Phones

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE:

X. ADJOURNMENT:



FEB 12 PM 1:20

February 05, 2024 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: 10:21am

II. ROLL CALL: President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer, Gerald Moore.

III. INVOCATION: President Moore

IV. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

Leonard Francisco Jr. – I'm the Economic Development Specialist. I'm currently delegated as a Project Manager for Ft. Defiance regional. We just hired a new Senior Economic Development Specialist who is Flora Nez. I've been working alone for over a month and half which made it very hard for me to attend meetings because I had Chapters who needed my assistance. I was here in Tohatchi 4 years ago with plans in place which were never moved forward. I plan to assign Flora to Tohatchi to assist with CLUPC plans. Tohatchi is a very good location for economic development and we need to start advertising. I recommended the possibility of establishing an Olive Garden here in Tohatchi since Gallup can't seem to get one establish. We need to be looking at business that Gallup does not have and bring it to Tohatchi. Currently, we are not doing anything economically, we need to start moving. I do remember Tohatchi had two big areas right across the schools. I know we will need operators and we will need to train CLUPC. We can do it; we just need to walk the talk. I also know what the issues are because I've heard it from every administration that I've worked with. We will need the Trak land document we worked on previously which will make getting land designations much easier. I will be hiring a good staff to really get these projects moving. I would like to focus on Tohatchi for development and create jobs for our community. Our department does have funds but I didn't see any of Tohatchi's project listing on our 5-year plan. The plan can be re-done to include Tohatchi's projects as well. If funds become available, I can have it moved over to Tohatchi Chapter when we can get you back on the 5-year plan. I do plan to be at the CLUPC meeting on February 11th.

1. **Lucinda Barney** – 1st I would like the status of the water drilling for eastflats 2nd Have the culverts been purchased for the eastflat road (9653)? 3rd I would like the Chapter to request for an arch clearance for the road 9653? I believe the last one was done 20 years ago by NNDOT and it should be completed every 10 years. They will not grade the side of the roads or elevated because of the lack of an arch clearance. Funding was received from the State of NM in the amount of \$150,000 years ago and I believe the funds were reverted back to the State. 4th I requested for septic system replacement with ARPA funds. IHS has made their rounds out there and they did an arch clearance and said they will upgrade the fresh water tank and pump system. Is IHS using ARPA funds for this project or are they using their own funding. If it is their own, can we make changes because I need an electrical upgrade on my home instead. 5th It has been over a year now since we were approved for livestock funds. I received an email from Kim but said funds are not available. Why is it so hard for NN to release funds when USDA can get their funds out to the people much quicker? 6th The last meeting which was held in Naschitti regarding the fencing of grazing boundaries. I understand there will be another meeting held and I would like to know when this will be scheduled? My family has moved up to Asaayi annually for as long as I can remember, but what I'm hearing now is we have been trespassing on this grazing area.

President Moore – They are getting ready to start drilling those wells. We will be setting a pre-construction meeting with the people from the eastflats, possibility within the next couple of weeks, but we will need to meet with NTUA first. They requested to be updated on the drilling of the wells.

The culverts, Clarence Tsosie says he will be getting back to 9653 road when the winter storms are over. I will call him to get an update of his schedule and remind him we are still waiting to have 9653 road repaired.

Vice President Halona – If there was an arch clearance done, you should be able to get the report from the Historic Preservation Office in W/R. There are the keepers of all reports including surveys. They will issue a Cultural Resource Compliance form based off of the report. You can check with them regarding the arch clearance. They are probably requesting for an arch clearance because they want BIA to do some maintenance work on the road. If NNDOT, Historic Preservation, BIA don't have it, the document may not exist, maybe it didn't happen. Then, someone needs to hire an archologist to do the clearance. The road is already impacted, it exists and it was issued a number. So, BIA obviously put the road in to begin with.

President Moore – Maria, is there a folder here at the Chapter with information on the road 9653? And update us on the purchase of the culverts? I believe the 32 inch is the recommended size for roads.

Maria, CSC – We have to have our own vendors, right now NNDOT and NM do not have any available. And as far as BIA, Mr. Clarence Tsosie has not gotten back with me.

President Moore – I know the Chapter has a line item established, what are our chances of finding a vendor?

Maria, CSC – the vendors that were shared with me are from Albuquerque and Phoenix. We only have \$2,400 in this line item and we will need to add more money to this fund. The cost depends on the size of the culvert itself. I have 7 families requesting for culverts.

President Moore – For septic tanks and leach fields for eastflats, our former Council Delegate, Mr. Pernell Halona submitted documents to request for these projects for the families in the eastflats under the "Cares Act." We went to a meeting last week in W/R inquiring about this funding for our community; but unfortunately, they did not have an answer for us. We had a meeting with NTUA, and it sounds like they do have a program where you can apply with them to get your septic and leach field replaced. We want the families living out in the eastflats to get infrastructure which they need first with ARPA funds. As far as IHS is concern, they have their own funding as well. We can follow up with Denise Murphy about the projects listing for our community. I'm just not sure about interchanging funds/money and this question can be posed to Souder & Miller.

Lucinda Barney – When we were asked to apply for ARPA funds, it specifically stated we could only apply for 1 project/service. So, that's what we did. I applied for septic and leach field replacement.

Janice Begay – Lucinda Barney is on the list for the house wiring upgrade for her home.

Grazing Officer Moore – As far as the AIF (Agricultural Infrastructure Funds) is concern, I'm hearing the funds are being held up at the controller's office.

Vice President Halona - the challenge with the AIF is year 1, year 2, year 3 and it appears in year 2 they under estimated the many applications received. So, the funds ran short and by than year 3 kicked in and they had not done a budget as of yet. The budget was not turned in until November 22nd which was for year 3 and should have been used up by December 31st. So, what we did was to get the budgets through OMB and as of last week they finally got their business unit numbers. We fell behind and now, they can start processing checks for the people who are still waiting for farm incentives and livestock producing incentives. Those will all be paid out and right now they are in the cycle to start applications again which will end in March. So, we are trying to catchup. It's not just the AIF checks that are held up it's the Veteran checks as well. Everybody's checks are held up because OOC only has 2 people that print checks and there are 1000 daily that need to be printed for the whole NN. We need to do a better job budgeting and anticipating the number of farmers and ranchers who apply for the AIF program.

Grazing Officer Moore – The question on the grazing boundaries in reference to Mexican Springs grazing area. A lot of questions were asked at the District 14 Grazing Committee meeting in Naschitti along with the BIA's Ashley Curley. She clarified that the Chooshgai mountains belongs to Mexican Springs as their grazing area. If you take your livestock up there during the summer months, you will be trespassing on their grazing area. The meeting did occur between Naschitti community and BIA and I didn't receive the minutes from that particular meeting. But there is more to come, and a meeting with RDC, BIA, NNDA, and grazing officials is in the works. The mountain was supposed to be just for homesteading and no livestock.

Elvis Bitsilly – just to add a little more to the AIF incentive program, I have a schedule here and it is posted on the board here at the Chapter. They will be taking applications for the AIF incentive program.

The oversight committee, RDC gave a director to Department of Agriculture to do this outreach. If you have any questions, the representatives/staff will be here at the Chapter on February 15th and if you would like to register for the incentive program, you can do so at this time.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – just want to clarify that livestock producers can apply for both the USDA program and the AIF program with the NN.

2. **Joan Thompson** – (GMCS) I work as a school liaison for Tohatchi Elementary. I have background knowledge of our community and our students. My colleague and I would like to be added to the agenda for the February Chapter meeting on February 21st. We are representatives of the local public schools and providing information on the important of school attendance. We consider it as a community outreach. Also, the principal for the elementary school, Robin Holder, would like to provide information on last year's task scores for our school.

I also would like to make a request on my daughter's behalf. My daughter who is a veteran and looking to have a home built for her and her family. The house they were living in is dilapidated and was built in 1972 for Sarah and Phillip Thompson and over the years this structure suffered some fire damage. She did apply with the Veterans program for housing. Currently, her family is displaced and renting a house in Newcomb, NM. Now, for my request. I live next door in a hogan to the house I just described. I get my electrical and water from this dilapidated house. So, if they were to take this house down, I would not have electricity or water. I'm requesting for a direct line of water and electricity to my hogan.

President Moore – Please leave your information with Maria.

3. **Lavina Benally** – (GMCS) I work at the Middle School and I will be assisting and providing information as well. I have not been in the school system very long; this is actually my second year. We want to encourage parents to communicate with the schools to keep up with their child's successes.
 4. **Lillian Barney** – I like to make a couple of requests as well, house wiring for my house down below in Asaayi which I've been trying to do myself but I was told I need a certified electrician. I tried applying with NTUA, but they told me they do not wire inside homes. I would also like a bathroom addition along with septic and leach field. I did get an estimate of over \$5000. I need to get the electrical wiring done 1st and then I can apply with NTUA again. I also need my road to the house repaired because the culvert that was once there has washed away with recent rain and snow. I also believe our community can use a new Chapter house.
 5. **Nancy & Frankie Allison** – I would like to request for a supporting resolution for the VA Housing Assistance Program.
 6. **Mae Fern Dennison** – I had people come out to do an assessment on my septic and leach field. Unfortunately, I was not home at the time but I did request NTUA to come out to locate the leach field for me, but nobody seems to know where it's located. I was able to speak with one of the individuals who actually came out to my house who is with LAM Corporation. (Loren A Miller) If they are able to find the location of septic tank, I would like it to be relocated. The lady also said we may not be able to do this project because of the time restraint.
- President Moore** – LAM, is going around our community doing assessment for septic and leach field replacement. They should be able to install a brand-new septic and leach field for you. There are a couple of options that you can pursue, one is applying with NTUA because they also have funding and the second is applying with IHS. We will also reach out to Dennis Murphy to see if you are on the list with IHS.

VI. REPORTS:

***Council Delegate's Report:**

1. **NM State Legislation Update** – no information
2. **Safety Complex meeting with Parsons and Delores Greeyes:**

President Moore – Safety Complex, we met with Parsons by virtual meeting and they said we will not be able to help by pro-bono basis. They want to get paid for their services, so, we have a couple of other options and one is to have the Chapter go through the procurement process. Second, is the possibility of changing the language within the IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with the State of NM. Council Delegate Notah may have better news after the State legislative sessions.
3. **IGA Language Amendment with State of NM.** – no update.
4. **Virtual Teleconference Legislation** - Tohatchi already has a resolution to approve teleconference, it may

need to be amended – look at the instruction from DOJ. I don't know if this resolution is good enough for W/R where they can tell us we are ok with the current resolution and all we need now is a policy.

President Moore – I'll ask the Secretary/Treasurer to take a closer look at the email that came out from Roderick Begay with DOJ. I don't know if we can use the same resolution that we drafted approving teleconference at our Chapter. It sounds like if you change Title 26, you have to have a majority of the Chapters across Navajo (56 Chapters) approving this legislation.

5. Emergency Funds approval for Chapters - \$35,000

President Moore – The chapters were approved again for emergency funding in the amount of \$35,000 for each chapter.

6. Report on winter session

***Community Service Coordinator/Officials' Report:**

1. Meeting update with Dwayne Waseta DCD on the \$180,000 State Funds, \$78,000 power line.

President Moore – we are assigned Sony Franklin as project manager to spend the \$180,000. The Chapter does have \$180,000 for septic tank and leach field replacement. I want to use these funds for the people who are going to have water drilled for them down the eastflats. They have to have this infrastructure in place to use the well. We also have \$78,000 for power line extension and the construction for these projects will begin this spring into summer. We need to setup meeting with NTUA as soon as possible.

2. Meeting update with NTUA-Water, Power, House wiring, Septic Tank and Leach Field, and Solar Power

3. East Flats Water Drilling Pre-Construction Meeting and Status of the East Flats participants follow-up on returned homesites – Setup meeting with NTUA (Rex Kontz Team) on East Flats.

4. ARPA – Status of Assessments with LAM and 6-30-2024 encumbrance deadline.

President Moore – the Chapter learned the actual encumbrance date for ARPA funds is on **06-30-2024** and this date is just around the corner. All these projects have to be fully completed by; I'm guessing **12-31-2026**.

5. Water Break in Chapter Compound.

President Moore – We had a water break in the Chapter Compound and its coming from the asphalt. We had NTUA here to look to see where this water is coming from. We still don't know where it's coming from. We think it might be an abandon line or it may be coming from where the water is tapped off across the road. When the construction of the Warehouse starts, they will have to run a sewer line from the warehouse, through the driveway and tie it into the sewer line across the road. So, they will eventually have to dig the asphalt up, anyway.

6. Cemetery Expansion – Update on the processing of documents to Land Department.

Maria, CSC – We reached out to Byron with Land Department to schedule a GPS for the Cemetery. I don't know if they will require another resolution for the new GPS that will be done. As far as the fencing, we requested ARPA funds to pay for the fencing but we do not have enough ARPA funds right now, even for the bathroom addition for 10 families here in our community. We may not have enough funding for these projects. When the quotes were made for bathroom additions, the estimated cost was \$25,000 now its at ~~\$70,000~~ because of inflation.

7. Audit Status (meet with ASC) Inventory, Records Management.

Maria, CSC – I spoke with Patricia, ASC at Ft. Defiance Agency, who stated she will get Mr. Echohawk to meet with us and officials to resolve Finding I of our audit. As far as the Work Force office is concerned, it is only open on Tuesday and Thursday. They are still looking for a manager to oversee this office from Crownpoint and the office is under Crownpoint Agency. The Administrative Officer is Melissa Begay and her office hours are from 8am-5pm and closed for lunch. She states they are recruiting a lot of people for employment from ages 16-65. The application is on-line and the website www.ndwd.org

8. 5-year Land Withdrawal for Professional Housing and Commercial Development

9. Bike Trail documents to DOJ.

Maria, CSC – our documents are still in the attorney's office. As of January 24th the documents are sitting on Roderick Begay's desk.

10. Status of Senior Center discrepancies.

Maria, CSC – We had someone here from W/R office to inspect the Hazmat, but I did not receive the report from him. It was probably given to Jared. We also had people come in from Gallup to inspect the fire extinguishers. Jared is currently working from Naschitti office now until our Center is re-opened.

11. Emergency Fund 17 – status of expenditures and recent approval for \$35,000.
Maria, CSC - \$35,000 was given to the Chapter and I submitted the budget and waiting on the resolution. What I added so far and we can certainly make changes. I put money into diesel fuel because of the road grading that will be needed after the snow and rain. Pellets was also added in for our community members who have pellet stoves. Please give me your names if you used pellets for heating purposes. Food and wood were also added in as well. A new item added in was minor repairs to homes from snow and rain damages which is not to exceed \$500.00. The Chapter will be used as a home away from home for people who cannot make it back to their homes because of muddy roads. We will provide cots, blankets, and flashlights. The Chapter will be purchasing small electric heaters which cost not more than \$50 for families who do not have a heating source in their homes. We will also be purchasing propane from Navajo, NM and have it delivered here to disburse into 20lbs – 100lbs tanks for our community members. There will be funds set side for the repair of heavy equipment and the Chapter truck. We also put in for professional services which are people who are hired as day labors when the Chapter needs assistance. The Chapter did purchase a lot of wood but we still ran short. I work with the CHR from the clinic to determine the patients in our community who are considered high risk, they are priority.
 As far as coal is concern, I ordered another diesel load to be brought to the Chapter but they are also very busy and informed us that the earliest they can deliver is at the end of February. We still have 65 coal tickets leftover. The Chapter truck was taken into Rico to get it weatherized and they recommended we get new tires for the truck. The tires on the backhoe are also in need of new tires.
 The status on the culverts, Mr. Long from NMDOT states the largest culvert they have is 30X20 and the cost is \$575.00. Currently, we only have \$2,400 in that line item, so we will need to increase this amount.
12. Highway Lighting – updated resolution with updated cost figures.
President Moore – We made a request to the State for more funds for the highway lighting and the Safety Complex, but according to the paper the majority of the funds will be going to the construction of the Safety Complex in Shiprock.
13. Phone Evaluation – purchase a new system.
Maria, CSC – I'm working with Smith Bagley from Show Low. They came out and did the assessment for the phones which includes 5 phones, this includes installation and the tech support and the monthly cost would be \$211.40. The other vendor is Rockstar from Rio Rancho, NM and their cost is \$1,466.00 per month. The 3rd vendor was with a company from Farmington, but they never submitted their information.
14. Website Maintenance – assistance from Ms. Fern Spencer.
Maria, CSC – We were able to schedule Fern on February 8th in W/R for training at the Navajo Administration Building 2. I'm not sure if Janice will be able to attend as well.
 We should be getting our Unhealthy Food Tax and Sales Tax hopefully sometimes this month. We did submit our General Fund and resolution so we are waiting on this money to come in and we also submitted for gaming funds which will be for our utility bills. This fund stays in W/R.
15. Heavy Equipment Operator training –
16. CLUPC meeting with Division of Economic Development – Leonard Franciso Jr.
17. CLUPC on Land Use Recertification
18. Zoom Meetings – will require an annual fee-need a justification memo.
Community response – google meets is free and not limited on time, zoom is also free, but they have a limit on the time span of meeting.
President Moore – We have an election for new officers coming up this year and our biggest priority is our audit. We want to get through this audit before our terms ends which will require resolving all 12 of our findings. We have the majority resolved as far as updating policies, but the big one is finding I which cannot be resolve here at the Chapter. It requires the assistance of the ASO, Mr. Derek Echohawk who can reconcile the missing Home Depot gift cards. We also need someone to come in to do an evaluation on the Records Management and adding on the inventory listing (assets for the Chapter) to our financial statements. Then, we will be asking if the community wants to move toward certification? It should be approved by resolution. We also want to make sure we hire an architect to design the Safety Complex. Tohatchi Chapter will be in the construction phase within the next few months. For example; eastflats, ARPA projects, and warehouse.
Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I spoke with Mr. Seth Damon about the IGA contracts with the State.

How are Safety Complex plan and design has halted because of the language in the IGA where it states "Professional Fees" will not be covered by the State. I explained to Mr. Damon that we are looking to have the IGA amended as far as the language is concerned. He stated he is well aware of this and it is on his priority list to work on.

Fern Spencer – My concern is when new officials come in, will they be made aware of all the projects you have started and want to complete? I'm just afraid nothing is going to happen that everything will go downhill and these projects will not get completed. This includes the certification of this Chapter; will they be willing to get the Chapter certified? If not, there goes all the work you put into it and it's not fair to the community. So, how far are you on the certification before you leave? Is the Chapter going to become certified?

When the State give us funds, it goes to W/R and eventually to the Chapter and W/R tells us we have funds to spend, but do we get to spend it? In the meantime the people are waiting for the money like the veterans and people who need their roads repaired. Then the issue with the grazing boundaries, which I heard about a long time ago between Tohatchi, Naschitti, and Mexican Springs. I thought this issue was taken care of. If we do get certified, will the funds come to our Chapter and we can disperse it the way we want on these projects that our community members are waiting for?

President Moore – If and when we get certified, the funds will come to the Chapter, not W/R.

Fern Spencer – The education of my former students, a lot of these kids don't want to come back to the Nation when they are in college or have graduated. I have 4 of my students tell me they applied with the Navajo Nation, but was told they are over qualified for the position. The other students have graduated from college and want to go for their master's program which is fine, but I encourage them to get their feet wet by getting a job first in the field they have studied. They prefer to stay off the reservation to work and this is how the majority of our children feel about work on the Nation. The ones who do work for the Nation are not moving up the ladder. Our kids are our future, and we need to let them know we are here for them as well as the parents.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Yes, 4 years is not enough, especially working with the Navajo Nation. Everything moves at a turtle's pace, for example; the 164 process. Why haven't they stream lined this process as of yet? My understanding of the 164 process is it gives the individual 7 days to sign off on the document and if they don't review it within 7 days, it moves on to the next individual. The other process is the IGA (Intergovernmental Agreements) with the State. When the funds become available at the State level it is sent to W/R and they sit on the funds or the funds somehow disappears and nobody knows what happen to the money, but then again, it magically reappears. I've always said, there is a huge disconnect between the Chapters and W/R.

Vice President Halona – We need 3 people to step up and say they will keep this train moving forward. But if they don't and they have their own agenda, we will start all over again. That's the challenge that we have as Navajo Nation local government. Every 4 years, it starts all over again. Here we are 750 years later we just barely moved forward. And everything that we are dealing with we created and that's the challenge. You heard President Nygren's campaign speech stating, we are going to make changes and hit the ground running. I didn't want to hear that, because I know the system. The Navajo Nation system is not setup to go quick and fast. He did not work within the Navajo government before becoming President. He brought his ideas, concepts, and strategies from off Navajo (outside). When things start to move and people are not contributing and he'll say, you produce, you got goals to set, I want them accomplished, if not I need someone else to come in to do the job. This is what President Nygren expects and I think everyone in this room would agree. I had the opportunity to do some research in the local government system. If you want the local government to change, it has to come from you. Right now, there are 5 different models. Back in 1927 when Chapters were first established, the regulations and legislations changed and they left some gray areas. We now have gotten to the point where we are now spinning our wheels. We have to change this system. We say we are a local government; we are not a local government because we just got through talking about the challenges. We can't even spend our own money; we have to depend on someone to give us our money whenever they feel like it. The one 164 process was put in place because everyone wanted a hand in the process. When we were trying to re-do rights-of-way, there were 5 legal reviews, where 5 attorneys would look at the same documents. It took 10 years to change this process. The previous council (24th NN Council) at the 11th hour they passed what we call the "one stop shop." We took out the President's office and all the unnecessary stops and left it

to only one review. And then we put time lines on each step. Once the documents are received and submitted electronically, you have 10 days to review the documents. When the 10 days have passed it moves on with or without your review. It is deemed approved and moves on. This process unfortunately caused an up roar from the people because it was changed and they could not grasp the change that was made. It is a lot of personality that fits into the system, everyone wants to know what changes were made, but half the time will not agree to the change. But when election time rolls around, we run around saying we want change. And when change is made, we are yelling no, no, no. Everyone should change but not me is the usual mentality of our people. So, these challenges are not impossible and at the Chapter level they could automatically make Chapters certified. But the system has to be changed, even for certified Chapters, because there are certified Chapters that want to be uncertified. These certified Chapters have to take care of their own staffs' premiums for instance; an employee could give their whole life to the Chapter and never receive retirement benefits. So, what can this system look like, I keep saying District 14 should have only one Chapter. Funds should be able to come to Chapter directly. We should be able to put a budget together and send to W/R to compete for all General Funds based upon our performance and priorities for the people. That's what needs to be done and this would be the big change. Then we'll need a good manager, accountant, and grant writer. This is how our local government should be setup. And this is why our children can't see themselves working in the current system. If we are going to get our Chapter certified by this summer, we are going to have to go to work and roll up our sleeves. CLUPC will have to re-do the Land Use Plan which has to be a part of the Chapter certification. Complete our audit by resolving all the findings and making sure the corrective actions have been met. When we have all this in place we can ask for certification. We need to have people who will continue with the progress we have started to become a successful Chapter. We need the consistency.

The District grazing boundary is different from the Chapter service boundary. They changed the Chapter boundary area but the grazing area has never changed.

The hiring process, President Nygren did an executive order, if an individual has a degree they can come in and they will be hired. No more, do you have 4 years of experience? The individual just got out of school. If we keep denying them a job, how are they suppose to get experience? The one phrase I don't understand is telling an applicant "You are over qualified." I wish I had nothing but "over qualified people" working for me. So, things are changing where we are making the departments handle their own hiring now. Listen out for some job fairs that are coming up this month and we will give them the opportunity to work for the Nation. I met with the President, Chief of Staff, and Executive Director from the Department of Economic Development, and the Executive Administrative Assistance, Mr. Art Trujillo to discuss where can we start building some of these communities. We have a 1000 homes initiative and I suggested Tohatchi because we have about 40 acres ready to go. Our community has schools, a clinic, and soon a Public Safety Complex. We are sitting along side of highway 491 and there will be a railway coming, the water will be released soon from San Juan which makes our community a prime location for development. We need to all get involve and see it and want to participate. CLUPC has their work cut out for them, they have all the plans but getting consent from the community is sometimes a challenge. If you look into the future, we have opportunities for renewable energy that could bring our college students back to the Navajo Nation to work. I believe Tohatchi will be the hub for District 14.

Lastly, I would like to give update on the homesite lease process for ARPA. RDC had an emergency meeting last Thursday where they finally past legislation. The legislation states, if there is a residence, a house constructed and people living in the home, but don't have a homesite lease. We can get them a homesite lease now. No consent is required, because the house is already existing and the impacts have already been made. No biological clearances needed, because it's a KATIC. No archeology clearance needed. The legal survey is not needed because we will be doing the GPS. It took four years to make these changes, that's how slow things move in W/R. Please let people in our community who need homesite leases know about this new legislation.

***Red Will Farm's Report/CLUPC**

Updates - Elvis Bitsilly President

1. Status of \$170,000 reauthorization of NM State Funds.
2. Three Day Week Work Shop – in March and need participants.

I believe this new homesite lease legislation will only be good until the end of year 2026. Also, 1st Nation will be here at the Chapter to give a 3-day training March 11-13th on how to develop your conservation plan. We

will need 20 participants for this training. Our Secretary/Treasurer spoke about IGA's that come from the State and we need to make sure we have these contracts here at the Chapter, because we had funds in the amount of \$170,000 from the State since 2016 that we were not aware of. We need to be notified and keep abreast of all our funding from the State. What we need is 2-3 people assigned to work specifically with Capital lay projects in the Department of Community Development. We are currently working on the 5-year land designation application. We have completed about 90% of the application and just need a couple more documents. This land designation is very important if we want to be able to have business development or housing construction to occur in our community.

As far as the Bike Trail and the processing of the documents to get this project started, we need to follow up on this and get it completed. We have Chooshgai School who is also interested in doing a bike trail as well. CLUPC has requested from our Grazing Office, a letter of approval for the land withdrawals that CLUPC is working on.

We are working with BIA and NNDOT to have the portable building moved to Red Willow at not cost and the eradication of the trees and shrubs at the lake will begin this spring. We also were able to obtain maps which will indicate all the potential business sites for our community.

Geneva Begay – I was able to schedule Patrick Tsosie for the Food Handlers training on February 7th. If you would like the pink card which is the vendor card, the cost is \$5 for 6 months, and \$10 for a year. With the blue card, you can handle the food, but you are not to sell the food. This blue card is free of charge. If you want to sell at the Flea Market you will need a state vendor card. The class would have to be taken on-line for this card.

On February 15, the AIF Program representatives will be here at the Chapter to take your application. You can apply for the \$500 incentive for growing your own fruits and vegetables at home or you can apply for the ALUP which would require you to farm at a location like Red Willow and the incentive is \$1000. There is also a \$100 incentive for attending the 1st Nation's conservation plan training in March. Keep in mind, your conservation plan will be changing annually. It's best to take pictures as you go along.

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

1. **Updates** – The grazing official oversees Natural Resources and Livestock Management along with tally counts and homesite leases, permits, probates, and disputes. I do have some announcements:
District Grazing Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7th at 9am. Free equine health clinic scheduled for February 8th at Tse Bonito, NM and you'll have to make appointment (505)803-3770 for castration, or if you want your mares to get a vaccine for birth control. It is requiring a 2-step process. Horses have to be halter broke. There is also an upcoming drive for dogs and cats on February 13th 9am-3pm at Tse Bonito. The cost is donation of can goods, and nonperishable food.
Conservation Plan training on March 11th-13th and Geneva covered the AIF meeting on February 15th.
I am also getting ready to start my spring educational trainings. We'll be hitting this hard this year starting with Tohatchi Chapter workshop and training in farm and ranch for District 14 on March 25th 10am-3pm. Livestock recordkeeping will be covered, livestock quality assurance program and conservation planning updates. Hopefully, schedule BIA to talk about probate and transfers and how to handle permits with 3 or more names on the permit/trustees. I am considering doing a training on Spring Gardening 101 and possibly 102 as well. How to setup/prepare for gardening. We will have presenters to cover all the topics mentioned above.

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to Approve Emergency 17 Budget for \$35,000
2. Resolution to Approve the Purchase of Chapter phones
3. Resolution to Approve a budget transfer from Fund 01(Chapter Activities) in the amount of \$1000 to replenish the Professional Fees line item
4. Resolution to Approve a Budget transfer from Fund 23 (Sales Tax) in the amount of \$1000 to replenish the line item for office equipment.
5. Resolution to support Nancy Allison for Veterans Housing Program.

**VIII. ANOUNCEMENTS: Food Handlers training at Chapter on February 8th at 10am, limit 25 people.
Arts n Craft Sale at Chapter on February 9th, sign-up with Janice Begay. Red Willow Farm Board**

Meeting February 7th at 1pm. District 14 Council Meeting on February 07th at 6pm. CLUPC meeting February 20th.

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: February 21, 2024 @ 10am

AJOURNMENT: 1:50pm

Submitted by;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Crawford".

Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter -

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC

Mr. Nathan Notah, Council Delegate