

**TSAILE – WHEATFIELDS – BLACKROCK CHAPTER**

**Special Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday – February 14, 2018 @ 10:00 AM**

(tentative agenda – subject to change)

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. Meeting Called to Order:** 10:06 AM
- B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Vice President Begay
- C. Invocation:** Led by Delegate BeGaye
- D. Review/Accept Agenda:**

**Motion) Lorraine Sorrell                      Second) Shane Johnson                      Vote: 18-0-8**

**E. Announcements:**

- 02/15-16/18 @ Navajo Nation Special Session – UUFB @ Council Chambers
- 02/19/18 Holiday – Presidents Day – Office Closed
- 02/20/18 @ 10 am, CLUPc Meeting @ TWB Chapter
- 02/20/18 @ 9 am, Farm Board Meeting @ TWB Chapter
- 02/20/18 @ 3 pm, Grazing Permittee Meeting @ TWB Chapter
- 02/21/18 @ 10 am, Regular Chapter Meeting @ TWB Chapter
- 02/26/18 Siihasin Project Updates @ Council Chambers
- 02/26/18 @ 10 am, NN Election Voter Training @ TWB Chapter

**II. BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. Action Items:**

- 1. Accepting and Approving Resolution Requesting the Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter Accept the Tsaile/Wheatfields Community Land Use Planning Committee Recommendation to Relinquish Land Previously Withdrawn for Diné College and Establishment of New Diné College Boundaries, Based on Concerns of Impacted Grazing Permittees and Community Members Residing in the Area.**

**Motion) Lorraine Sorrell                      Second) Marjorie Johnson                      Vote:**

*President James:* Providing the historical and current background of the proposed 25 Year Lease between Diné College and the Chapter.

General leasing Act – where educational institutions are provided a provision in the GLA.

In the summer of 2017, I spoke with Mr. Dean Gamble in regard to have a lease approved with the signature of the chapter president. I encouraged for all stakeholders to be involved in the Lease Process. Since the initiation, we continue to follow a process that adheres to complete disclosure, through community involvement, and we are engaged in a comprehensive discourse for all stakeholders.

Historic Preservation Department was greatly involved in the process of burial sites, sacred sites, and old farmland sites.

We continually strive to meet an equitable agreement between Diné College and the chapter community to reach a mutually beneficial arrangement.  
We open the floor to Diné College to initiate the conversation.

*Dr. Geraldine Garrity, Provost:* Describing the map poster of the proposed 25 Year Lease. (on easel).

Plans for a building a Diné immersion program and facility to maintain every facet of Diné culture and language. We involved the Tsaile Public School to collaborate our efforts to build sustainable homes.

Our plans are contingent on receiving the 25 Year Lease, where many of our plans for facility building

Reading the Federal Trust Land status of the Navajo Nation.

*VP Glennita Haskey:* The Yellow Outline of the map has already been marked with official supporting documents. We are not reaching to increase for further lands to be added to the original land withdrawn.

*Lucinda Davis:* We are in receipt of the currently proposed map, and we additionally received a map that encompassed a larger area. CLUPc made efforts to contact all stakeholders involved in the 25 Year Land Lease.

We provided many opportunities for community involvement and awareness to lead to comprehensive understanding for all stakeholders.

*Marjorie Johnson:* Correction to GLA 2013, BIA in 1978, Navajo land regulations provided where withdrawn land can be relinquished to the chapter if no development happened.

For myself, my father was prevented from consenting, all was taken by eminent domain. Reading from Title 26 for compensation on land through Eminent Domain.

We are encouraging for negotiations on the 25 Year Land Lease.

*Frank Kedelty:* We need further information that is comprehensive on the 25 Year Land Lease to be presented for the community for a more informed decision.

*VP Glennita Haskey:* Funding sources – Federal, state, and Navajo Nation, are in pending status to ensure that the land withdrawal is complete before funds are committed.

*Charles Chee:* June 21, 2017, please send a copy of the map provided by Diné College at today's meeting. There are many discrepancies of between the information from DC and CLUPc.

Continuously encouraging an agreement for mutual benefits.

Why are the current facilities at the College not being maintained at the expense of new facilities being considered for construction?

*Dean Gamble:* Historical explanation of the College land withdrawal: 1000+ acres in 1969, 1972 resolution increased the College area., 1255 acres total through the joint resolutions.

Immersion Camp facilities proposed on site is awaiting for surveys and other clearances to begin construction.

*Allan Begay:* My umbilical cord and the umbilical cords of my siblings are located on the proposed DC 25 Year Land Lease.

Speaking to the historical families and clans of the area considered for the 25 Year Lease.

At the start of 1972, there were many conflicting views to start a College at the now existing campus.

I was told that the people did complain about the land withdrawal that was being considered for the College.

I was involved in retrieving \$100K to create a fence line, and I worked on the fence line. The board of regents then, were composed of delegates.

There is no consent to support the DC Land Withdrawal.

Leases must be fixed, not only for the College, plus the other institutions in the chapter area.

*Ray Redhouse, Sr.:* Recommending for medicine men to help solve the proposed site for the immersion camp. We need to come together to resolve for our mutual benefit as a community with many resources.

There are issues of the law, being mutually applicable to leases and grazing permittees.

There is a great need for a plan and focus on the processes for the plan to be initiated.

*President James:* There is land withdrawn for the elderly home site, where the intention was to maintain Navajo language and culture.

Recommending continuous meetings to efficiently streamline an entire mutually, beneficially agreement between the College and chapter community.

*Lorraine Johnson-Sorrell:* Referencing the creation of fencing around the current circle.

Additionally, the rights of our future generations must be duly considered throughout the entire process. We need to seek all potential avenues of addressing land-lease.

*Charles Chee:* Addressing the need for trash clean-up in the woodland areas southwest of the campus lands.

*Marjorie Johnson:* Reviewing and recapping on former statements presented at the current meeting.

*Victoria Notah:* Introduction. Three years to-date, I made my residence near the Tsaile-Wheatfields area.

What was accomplished in 50 years? Will the next 50 years be similar to the previous 50 years? There are many sacred sites near the proposed Immersion Camp facilities; and there needs to be continued reverence for all sacred sites.

There are many unanswered questions that are not being considered for all stakeholders affected by the 25 Year Land Lease.

*Reederson Descheeny:* Introduction. Many stakeholders arrived today on the issue of the 25 Year Land Lease.

I believe the issue at hand is the withdrawal process. Where the BIA provided a seal for the previous land withdrawals, but the proposed drawn area is new.

If the situation is not amicably settled, the prospects of escalation can lead to higher levels of law enforcement that will equally affect all stakeholders

I believe the current issue is focused on the land tract, because the resolution is not increasing the land tract. If the land tract is meant to be enlarged, it will involve the permittee holders to be in compliance to be a valid permit holder.

Diné College is pursuing an educational lease agreement, where the boundaries are re-affirmed

*Valarie Tom:* Upon research, the Navajo Nation Council – Archives and Records, only the NN council resolution was used to create the college.

*President James:* If the attempt is to obtain a lease for funding purposes, and the College does not have a lease, there is no re-certification. So, it will be an attempt to find a lease agreement according to the General Leasing Act.

The entire 25 Year Land Lease is allowing our chapter to explore new policies and procedures to advance all our stakeholders, communities, and the greater Navajo Nation.

*Charles R. Chee:* (Referencing the map from prior morning presentation)

*Benny Litson:* When Diné College was brought to Tsaile, there were many Diné Medicine people and our ancestors who supported the preservation of Diné culture and language in support of the establishment of a higher education institution – Diné College.

There is knowledge made apparent for all our stakeholders that the \$100k fence boundary was established, and remnants of the boundaries survived to mark the boundaries. The current GPS markers are conflicting with the process and not mindfully accurate and should defer to the \$100k fence boundaries.

In the view of Reederson Descheeny's guidance, that the 25 Year Land Lease can be settled today is a viable option versus the prolonging of negotiations. Granted, after 50 years, there is much progress, and much more progress to look forward to for the College. The current facilities for all communities, and future facilities, are beneficial for our community.

Affirming the current land withdrawals for all current and future facilities in our chapter community's benefit. Let us commit to the future of our community and move forward in unison for a beneficial future – a Navajo future.

*President James:* Recognizing substitute motion on resolution to affirm the \$100k fencing as the acknowledged and accepted boundaries in the proposed Diné College 25 Year Land Lease being considered by the chapter community at the current Special Chapter Meeting – February 14, 2018.

*Benita Litson:* Calls for clarification – original boundary or the \$100k fenced boundary, being considered for the 25 Year Land Lease.

*Marjorie Johnson:* Which stakeholders are allowed to vote on the resolution being considered for the 25 Year Land Lease?

*President James:* Voters allowed will be based on the chapter's registered voters.

*Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani:* Calls for a count of only chapter register voters.

**\*\*Chapter Officials verify chapter registered voters for the vote; 32 voters confirmed\*\***

**Substitute Motion by Benny Litson on Resolution Supersede Original Resolution Second by Nelson James**

**The Tsaile-Wheatfields-Blackrock Chapter and Community acknowledge and accept the Diné College 25 Year Land Lease boundaries as the boundaries fenced by the \$100k from State Funds as told by Allan Begay to be reaffirmed as the Diné College boundaries, and the chapter recommends Diné College pursue an educational lease on affirmed boundaries.**

**Vote: 18-9-5**

*Shane Johnson:* The current acceptance of the College's \$100k boundary, will greatly minimize my future land utilization that cannot support any growth. Presenting on Dr. Wilson Aronilth's Diné College land-base lecture. I recall my memories of my grandparents and livestock on the land that is now part of the 25 Year Land Lease.

The current vote allows no land for my family's growth and use; the remaining land is not suitable to support growth.

**III. REPORTS:**

**IV. NEXT MEETING: February 21, 2018, 10 am**

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to Adjourn) Allan Begay      Second) Orlando Charley      Vote: All Vote Yes.  
Adjournment at 2:13 pm**