

Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter Meeting
March 15, 2016
MEETING MINUTES

I. Order of Business

- a. Call meeting to order @ 1:46 pm
- b. Pledge of Allegiance – David Kedelty
- c. Invocation – Zane James
- d. Review/Accept Agenda
 - i. *Motion by David Tsosie 2nd by Kathy Johns and VOTE: 23, 0, 7*
- e. Review/Accept Minutes
 - i. *Motion by Kathy Johns and 2nd by Lorena Eldridge to defer to the next chapter meeting VOTE 19, 0, 9*
- f. Announcements
 - i. March 19, 2016 – 7:00 am TW Dineh WUA Annual Meeting
 - ii. April 12, 2016 – 5:00 pm Veterans

II. Business Items

- a.
 - i. Ratification: *Motion by Max Benally 2nd by David Tsosie and VOTE: 16, 0, 14*
 - ii. \$50.00 Monetary Donation for Kerrill Spencer, Iwo Jima Flag Raising
 - iii. \$100.00 Burial Assistance – Leanna Thompson, AMS
 - iv. \$100.00 Burial Assistance – Ramona Begay, Wheatfields, AZ
- b. Resolutions
 - i. Requesting to purchase plaque for the Grand Opening of the Chinle PD on August 19, 2016. *Motion by Kathy Johns 2nd by Thomas Litson and VOTE: 16, 0, 14*
 1. Questions
 - ii. Approving to attend the Chapter Technology Conference @ San Juan College on March 21 – 24, 2016 estimate for 4 people (\$2,112.00) *Motion by Kathy Johns 2nd by Orlando Charley and VOTE: 17, 0, 12*
 1. Thomas Litson, Lucinda Davis and Marjorie Johnson would like to attend. They want to attend for the Rural Addressing portion.
 - iii. Approving to attend the DNR Summit @ Twin Arrows on March 28 – 31, 2016 estimate for 4 people (\$3,089.76) *Motion by Devon Begay 2nd by Lorena Eldridge and VOTE: 15, 0, 15*
 1. Paula Begay – Division of Natural Resources to address new initiative. Right now we have Thomas Litson to attend for now. There is an agenda attached and various different topics to be discussed.
 2. Kathy Johns – Marjorie Johnson would like to go as well. I too would like to go but can't do
 - iv. Supporting the designation of the land tract, approximately 10.71 acres located adjacent south of the existing Dine' College Trailer Court as the site for the expansion of staff housing development for the I.H.S., Tsaile Health Center. *Motion by Kathy Johns 2nd by David Tsosie and VOTE: 16, 2, 7*
 1. Vida Benally – met with Glen Tsiniginnie from the area office would like to address the housing need for nurses and doctors. I am not sure how many homes to build again. Asking for support from Lukachukai, Round Rock and Rough Rock chapters. The I.H.S. need additional land for homes for the area.

2. Dwayne Thompson – From the Black Rock area and I work for the Tsai Health Center as a facility manager, been there for a year. Requesting for 30 unit housing for our workers. We run into an issue due to housing and we have met on this issue several times.
 3. C Lane – Since you are requesting for more housing, does that mean you will get more housing? Or is it just for the current staff?
 - a. Vida Benally -
 4. Nelson Begaye – This is really for nurses and doctors at the Tsai Clinic. With this development it would draw more housing. The overall plan is for 100 homes and this initial one is for 30 units. There was initial land for the site. It is near the Dine' College Trailer park area, where people pick pinons. We are working with Lukachukai, Round Rock and Rock Point areas. Previously there was an approval during the late Wesley Begays administration.
 5. Zane James – My question is that has this gone before the CLUPC members?
 - a. Kathy and Lucinda indicated that this has not gone before the committee.
 6. Kathy Johns – I would like to recommend that in the future that the CLUPC members are informed.
 7. Lucinda Davis – If it is within the withdrawn area of the college, then it shouldn't be a problem.
 8. Nelson Begay – Like I said this was approved during the Wesley Begay administration through a resolution from the chapter. Be advised that there is also no lease for the college at the site as well.
 - a. Kathy Johns – it is nice that it is viewed that way. We also have a strong need for student housing. I would like to support development for student housing as well. I have students that approach me for house to rent as well.
 9. Charles Chee – This begin in 2009 with a meeting at that time. The chapter approved in 1968 a resolution for the development of the college. The land withdrawn was large and to date has not be utilized. In the plan there was also a rodeo ground area, there was a plan for a high school.
 - a. Nelson Begay – NTU this morning at a BNF meeting is requesting money for housing at their site as well. This plan is not something that didn't just come up, elderly had medicine men that developed a plan utilizing their knowledge. Let this be a true college and not just a junior college. Our college, Dine' College, we are not really planning well, we want to get back to adequate planning. The forefathers that planned this college has great dreams with traditional knowledge.
 10. Zane James – Is there currently funding available for this development? If so, where is the funding coming from and how much?
 - a. Dwayne – The way our CEO broke it down for us is through design phase. Phase 1 – Design \$1.6 million
 11. Nelson Begay – This is not the first time this meeting has happened?
 - a. Kathy Johns – if there is this many meetings then it is unfortunate that we have not been involved and would just like to be more involved moving forward.
- v. Approving Spring 2016 Scholarships Assistance *Motion by Lucinda Davis 2nd by Kuhyonre Nata'ani and VOTE: 24, 0, 8*
1. Jayvion S. Chee – Mother represented

- 2. Devon Begay – representing herself
 - 3. Maukenzi Moore – Lorinda Moore (Mother)
 - 4. Cannon Curley – Kuhyonre Nata’ani’
 - vi. Requesting permission to use vacant lot for 2016 Opening Intermountain Reunion Celebration Activities on July 15 – 17, 2016. *Motion by Max Benally 2nd by David Tsosie and VOTE: 23, 0, 7*
 - 1. Questions
- III. **Others** / *Motion Thomas Litson 2nd by Marie White and VOTE: 13, 0, 18*
 - a. \$5,612.77 expenses for the Veterans Iwo Jima Flag Raising and parade.
 - i. David Tsosie – I am Commander for the Tsail/Wheatfields Chapter. We went to the flag raising ceremony in Sacaton, AZ. Our veteran Sophie Yazzie, was honored as the oldest WWII veteran, also George James our code talker was also honored. On Saturday, February 20th we took part in a parade along with many veterans from Montana and even Hawaii. During the parade we had a fly over as an expression of honor. Gila River tribe is very grateful for the turn out. Ira Hamilton Hayes was the only Native American on the Mount Sirabachi, very indepth battle on the island. There was a dire need to gain control of this island for refueling and they did secure the island and developed an air field and that was a refueling station on bombing of Japan.
 - 1. Devon Begay – During the planning meeting there was a request for all the individuals that went to present, Why was that request made.
 - 2. Thomas Litson – Sophie Yazzie is from Black Rock and she was also just honored
 - b. Gravel Pit Development presentation – Mr. Ray Russell, Navajo DOT.
- IV. **Reports** / *Motion by 2nd by VOTE: 16, 0, 9*
 - a. Timothy Begay Jr., Apache County District II
 - i. We work with 12 chapters and we provide chapter briefing in all those chapters. We have a documented power point presentation on hand for review.
 - b. Senior Center Supervisor
 - c. Indian Education Policy Representative
 - d. CHR
 - e. CLUPC
 - i. Lucinda Davis – update on what we are doing. We are working on mapping on rural addressing, a meeting with MC Baldwin in April. We are also working on cemetery and working on plan of operation and materials for the 3 bids for fencing around the site as well. We need maps from Apache County on maps of roads as well. From the chapter we need the master plan for Tsail and for the chapter and other areas. We also need information on plans for the lake as well. DNR summit as well and I work for natural resources at Twin Arrows and a lot of the information there pertains to us. All of that vital information will be part of that summit as well. Even water and EPA issues will be discussed there as well.
 - f. Farm Board
 - i. Lorena Eldridge – There is a flyer on the door for this Saturday. Please come and visit, vital for those that have permits. Traditional presentations will be available there, we have done many western presentations from U of A or NMSU and at those we usually had only 2 or 3 people there, therefore we are looking at traditional presentations. James Peshlakai will be presenting, also Junk Food tax dollars we are working on as well. We are working on trails as well and our next meeting will be until next month. In 2 days we are having a joint farm board meeting in Kayenta, AZ. My brothers wife also was here for scholarship, his daughter is very involved in rodeo as well.

g. Council Delegate

- i. Nelson Begay – It is tough here, if you fall ill to illness. My mom several weeks ago went into the hospital and she was released, she left with her granddaughter back to Albuquerque. Not many days later we received word that our little sister passed due to her illness as well. She went into the hospital on Saturday evening and was air lifted to Phoenix and landed already unconscious. She passed as a result of pneumonia and influenza, the reason I tell you this because there are many issues here. On the weekends the mortuaries are not open, we Navajos would like to bury immediately or within the 4 days allotted. In Window Rock, 638 hospitals we were told that they would not pay for the transport of the body. Additionally, the doctor that worked on her, he took leave and unfortunately the body cannot be released until a death certificate is signed. These are the things we are facing as a people. Hospitals just air lift our families to metro cities, if things like this happen, who pays for the return of the body. I presented this to the health and education committee and they agreed that this is a issue. Some bodies are not returned immediately. The other issues are safe ride, some of our people are transported to off reservation areas. There are 96 safe rides across the reservations. Most of them are from the valley, and most are from over sees. Some of our local people are complaining that they started these businesses. They are regulated from the state and not the Navajo nation. We asked the safe ride businesses to draft up a document. Many of our elders only speak Navajo, and this is a major issue. Additionally, many of our hospitals, in my opinion we only send our people off reservation. My wife had a stoke at the hospital in Tsaile, and fortunately it was within the clinic and she was then transported to chinle and air lifted to Flagstaff, that cost us \$58,000 for the transportation to flagstaff. Do we really not have enough doctors and nurses, the other issue is that some of our people utilize oxygen. They can only get this oxygen from off reservation areas. These are some of the things that I presented to the Health Education Committee and why are we not getting help from HEHSC and now we are working with Department of Health. Many of these safe rides speed through our nation. Also our people, one of our community residents have appointments off reservations, like in Tucson. He indicated that the safe ride picked me up at 2:00 am and dropped off at hospital for an hour and came right back. We are subjecting our elders to this type of situations. The older American act is drafted from Washington, they also drafted that elderly would eat morning, lunch and dinner and 7 days a week. Right now they only eat once a day. We are working with President Begay on this. In Round Rock, our senior center was closed and we had allocated funds for this. However, Jackie Burbank now is saying there is no money. Yesterday I also put this before Health Ed and we called in DOH, Ramona Anotone Nez, Lucinda Martin and was advised that what Mr. Burbank was incorrect. Ms. Martin and Ms Antone were not aware of this, it was uncovered that Mr. Burbank was deliberately trying to establish a position for him to get working as well. Round Rock vehicle was also moved down to Whipporwill without letting people at Round Rock know. The other issue that Tim Begay is talking about is BionicSoil and there was study done on the development of how this is used. We don't need gravel and only need fly ash. It only utilizes the dirt that is available and they only research the existing dirt and it develops the chemical component that is needed. In white clay, it has been tested. The road is currently holding up and there is currently 11 miles of this used. Vida and I are working on developing a proposal for each agency. You don't even need to grade it, this is a new technology, this is also used to build adobe houses. Edison Bitsue joined up with a company to develop this. Right now we are restricted with gravel and the cost of it. Also at San Francisco peak, there is a ski resort and the native americans from various

areas and they put together legislation. Somehow, the Hopi agreed and gave permission to the city of Flagstaff to use reclaimed water on the peak. Also Fort Wingate there is a army depot and military withdrew land and now it has been about 10 years since they have moved. The land was divided between the Zuni tribe and Navajo Nation and Steve Pearce now has legislation in Washington allowing for this. School reapportionment is also said to leave it as is. RDC is also proposing to regionalization of chapter, we asked who is behind this and we found out it is Leonard Tsosie. There are now public hearings being conducted. You asked us work on this, we asked Mr. Halona to come to our chapter and provide a report.

1. Zane James – You as legislators and oversight have the authority to impact with the establishment of the Department of Health. Why are you not doing anything about this?
 2. Mildred Silversmith – We have many issues, I'm glad you realized this. The senior center that sits and is not being utilized to its full extent. We were allocated a vehicle and that is not being utilized.
 3. Lorena Eldridge – Bionic Soil is something that is being discussed and we would like to utilize that if possible. Lower Wheatfields is very bad due to mud, we keep talking about this and now we just stopped due to no movement. We also talked about solar power, there was a movement from NTUA at some point. Also Tsaille/Wheatfields chapter farm board worked very hard on undergroup piping with Chee Northstar and the next level is sprinkler or other options, we want to move forward with the proposal. We submitted this and what happened to this proposal. Safe ride is manipulating our people.
 - a. Nelson Begay – the proposal is in Window Rock. The proposal from Wheatfields is one of top two along with one from Leupp. Kee Allen Begay saw my proposal and ran with it and got publicity. We at Wheatfields have a success story. Our advisor from Shihasiin that use to be our advisor. The meeting you mention from Kayenta we will try to make it as well.
 4. Marie White – This is not the first time we talked about this, we have been talking about this over and over again. Safe ride is a major issue on the reservation and I'm glad my son talked about it.
 5. Norma Benally – We were picked up in Safe Ride and taken to Flagstaff and didn't even eat. Also, we have unqualified doctors that are working on our people. We call for an ambulance and it comes but it just gets stuck in the mud. Last week the grader came to homes but no one came to my house.
- h. Chapter Officials
- i. David Kedelty – March 2 and 3 there was a meeting that took place. The construction will happen and when there is construction of the bridge there will be a detour from 8080 and that information will be forthcoming. This road coming up from our original entrance into the chapter will come from 8079. The ROW we will work on within the ROW. At the point past the chapter house where Apache County road meets N-12 the realignment of the county road still needs to be addressed by the county. The chapter had passed a resolution requesting the realignment. There will be another detour at the construction of the tsaille bridge area as well. At the intersection of Navajo 12 and Navajo 64, the study is still being conducted. The round about is still being discussed at the area.
- i. CSC
- i. Paula Begay – I just want to say thank you for my sister Leanna. Many of you assisted from our community and down into Lukachukai. You assisted the family with money and

words of condolences. I have to finish some of the things she started and I have to finish them. The MIP portion is something that I am trying to get familiar with it. We got the sales tax allocation and input all that. The next chapter meeting we will do all the report as well. Her position I have to do a termination notice through personnel and DCD has to do the vacancy announcement as well.

- ii. Leonard Chee – Something that I will forward to the office. Division Directors are encouraged to attend the chapter meetings and hear the concerns as well. The chapter can call a town hall from the Office of the President/Vice President as well.

V. Date and Time of Next Meeting: April 4, 2016 at

VI. Adjournment

Minutes taken by Zane James, Chapter President