

Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Minutes

I. Order of Business

- a. Call meeting to order @ 1:45 pm, by Zane James
- b. Pledge of Allegiance by David Kedelty
- c. Invocation by Devon Begay
- d. Review/Accept Agenda
 - i. Motion by Willis Becenti and 2nd Annette Blackhorse
 - ii. VOTE: 27 in favor, 0 against and 9 abstained
- e. Review/Accept Minutes from June Planning Meeting
 - i. Motion by Vote 26 in favor, 0 against, and 8 abstained
- f. Announcements
 - i. Phillip James, BIA Forestry – Prescribe Burning
 1. Thank you for giving me the time here and allowing me 5 minutes. Fife Benally is my name and I work for BIA forestry, fire and aviation is my area. Some of our children and relatives work here, we have a helicopter for fire and aviation. That is what we are working on.
 2. We are working on
 - a. Russian Olive and other projects. They have very deep roots and corrode other plans. Hazardous skills reduction is also some area. Black creek from Window Rock into Navajo is an area we will be working on for a long time.
 3. Project real close to here is Fish Pond prescribed burned, 600 – 700 acres and doing notification for smoke, being proactive and ensure that you are all aware of it. You will see a lot of smoke, we will burn in August once we get some moisture. At that time we will be back and we will report through KTNN and other areas. On 7600 road and no more than a half a mile, there is one home in that area but more on top of the ridge area, where there is pine, cedar and juniper. We don't just burn any wood. We collect live stems, we check those over at Washington Pass and verify with chuska plateau and defiance plateau. We cook all these in microwave type instrument and we put them in ice chest to give a water weight to determine the recovery. We take the dead fuel off the ground, although they may not seem to have water in them but they do as well. We take the water weight of everything and that determines the moisture in them. We also determine the air weight and the smoke, to ensure the smoke is over the communities. In the evening, the smoke will settle into the valley area.
 - a. Ray Redhouse
 - i. Two individuals came into chapter years ago and they were denied burning for health reasons. Most of the western forestry, they use the chipper, they blow it up in the air past the trees. Why don't you all do that. Many people in our area have respiratory problems. That was

the case this morning, there is a fire nearby. This is a health reason.

- b. Fife Bennay – Forestry is something from the Navajo Nation. We are with BIA forestry. Our main intent is to prevent future fires. If we do not do this, fire will spread rather quickly. ADQ is Arizona Department of Air Quality, we are overseen by them and we have to apply for a permit through them. We are trying to notify the community ahead of time for purpose of preparing families. If we don't do this, there is a huge risk for fires.
- c. Ray Redhouse
 - i. On Navajo land there are never really any fires, if you really think about this, which is more beneficially, using a chipper. I know more by western forestry.
- d. Fife Benally
 - i. That is very costly, take a lot of man power.
- e. Ray Redhouse
 - i. What you are proposing is something I oppose.
- f. Ernie Yazzie
 - i. What you cut, can you use for fire wood.
- g. Fife Benally,
 - i. We do that, the Russian olive is very durable. We cut them into several feet. There was a lot but some people do not like it, whatever is left we burn them during the winter months. You would check with tribal forestry for permit.
- h. Kathy Johns
 - i. Why can't you do that, why can't you help the elderly?
- i. Fife Benally
 - i. We don't sell them back to the elderly. We have to work within our scope, we deal with what our scope is.
- j. Annette Blackhorse
 - i. Some of us don't know what Russian Olive is, could you please elaborate. Do you also reseed?
- k. Fife Benally
 - i. Some refer to them as monkey egg trees. It is not native to our area, was mainly used for shade and it take over the land and has many tap roots. It is hard to eliminate them, the roots will regrow if not done right. There is a tar that is administered.
- l. Nelson James
 - i. If you have Russian Olive in your land, is there some regulation to eliminating it from your end?
- m. Fife Benally
 - i. Not from our end, there is over head spray being applied but not much success to it as believed.

ii. IRMP – No report by Forestry and why

II. Business Items

a. Ratification

1. Monetary Donation: \$50.00 for Venassa James traveling to El Reno, Oklahoma for basketball tournament. MOTION by Lorena Eldridge and 2nd by Sarah James / VOTE: 32 in favor, 0 against and 12 abstained

b. Resolutions

- i. Office of Environmental Health requesting four (4) participant's bathroom addition by medical referrals for Project #NA-15-F10.
 1. Motion by Devon Begay and 2nd by Janie Henderson / VOTE: 38 in favor, 0 against and 5 abstained.
 2. Paula Begay – Thank you all for being here, this is south of Tsaile Lake, there was a feasibility study done to run a water line south of Rita Jishie residence. Once that is done, they do a map, I.H.S. utilizes their own funds. They then do a contract with NECA and if determined it is feasible, then the chapter is tasked with a bathroom addition if there is no bathroom. If there is Hogan or log home and there is no bathroom, if an addition is needed, then the chapter is responsible for that. The set up of the leache field and other areas are determined. There is also concern for no commote and sinks that is the responsibility of I.H.S.
 3. Kathy Johns
 - a. Should we make a correction on the names for the record then?
 - i. Paula Begay – we are only talking about the bathroom addition.
 4. Marie White
 - a. I want to ask a question in reference to that. Down in Ram Pasture, my children are in need of water line extension as well.
 - b. Paula Begay – that one is already drawn out too, from Nelson Curley residence down into Roselyn Johnny is already drawn out. That proposal was given to our council delegate and it is included in the Sii Haasiin funds. If this is approved then it will pave the way for Black Rock as well.
 5. James Becenti
 - a. In your plumbing do you include water heater propane.
 6. Annette Blackhorse
 - a. 3 years ago the chapter did a shell and I barely got the completion. At that time I asked my son to come in and check it.
 - b. Paula Begay – the one that was done by Many Farms and they do things a little different then fort Defiance.
 7. David Kedelty
 - a. I am asking for people, I was supposed to get water 2 years ago. From the home to the sewer stub out to the home is your responsibility I was told.
- ii. Requesting \$5,000.00 to develop prepare and finalize a Fund Management Plan for T/W Farm Board and DWU association by Byrceson Pinto, Consultant. MOTION by Kathy Johns and 2nd by Devon Begay / VOTE : 39 in Favor, 0 against, 2 abstained.
 1. Dorthea Litson – I am from the local area, lower Wheatfields and Tsaile area. I sit on the farm board as well. We are requesting \$5,000 for assistance to the WUA. Several years ago our elderly set up a nonprofit, we recently were approved \$5 million. We are preparing to receive

- those funds, this is in preparation for that. We are requesting his assistance through sole sources. Fund Management Plan is something that we are being asked for and something that we need quickly by July 15th. I know we have been asked for 3 quotes but the law does allow for sole source procurement.
2. Ray Redhouse – I don't understand, here it says to put a plan in place, I think that is what it says. This \$5,000 is what will be used for that right? If we get a feedback on it, this plan is complete.
 3. Della Begay – so this is a consultant to give you the documents on how to generate funds?
 - a. Dorthea Litson – It will document how the funds will be utilized and the reporting process
 4. Kathy Johns – I too would like to support this request, if the money goes into Department of Agriculture. We will not see the money so we are fortunate that the money comes here.
 5. Lorena Eldridge – Thank you for giving me the opportunity, when you ask for funds, it is very difficult. We recently asked for \$5 million and we were awarded. This funding that is coming down, it is the first time the funds are coming down from the Permanent Trust Fund, we spoke of 3 things previously.
 - a. First thing was the Fiscal Agent?
 - i. Navajo Department of Agriculture, would they oversee the funding?
 - ii. 2017 - \$3 million / 2020 - \$2 million
 - b. Contract
 - i. Construction contractor
 1. At completion of work then they are paid.
 - c. Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter through a Grant
 - i. Fund Management Plan
 6. Ms. Becenti – Since you are asking the money through us, we are asking for transparency. Tell us how the money will be utilized.
 7. Nelson Begaye – We are currently in session in Window Rock through the committees. We did not just receive this funding out of the blue, we worked hard on this. This funding we received the was proposed until the year 2020, however through negotiations, we were able to get the \$3 million next year. In Window Rock, they are already planning on funds that are not being used, such as Department of Agriculture, departments will look at funding that they do not use. What Department of Agriculture will do is hire personnel that is why we are asking for this funding through a fund management plan. We are very proactive here, they farm board is very strong in that area. So please my relatives, please approve this request so that before the next committee meeting of the Navajo Nation council we will have a plan for the Tsaile/Wheatfields community.
 8. Kuhyonre Nata'ni – this is something that I agree with but there is no advertisement. I asked for this at the planning meeting but we have to get three quotes. If there is three quote in place? At Dine' College there are people that oversee grants, they are trying to input an accounting

- system. The college is already set to go, the money will stay here. There is a grants accountant there, there is account receivable and maybe potentially we do a MOU with the college.
9. Ray Redhouse – in other chapters, are there Fund Management Plans in place?
 - a. Zane James – this is something that has never been done, so no.
 10. Bennie Litson – Thank you elected leaders, this is something that I support and you advocate for our community. I’m sure we will not conquer all issues in our community. The Farm Board did a great job in the lower Wheatfields irrigation project. We will utilize the funds in a good way, we need this type of planning for our young kids. This is something that our elderly, us elderly grandparents pray for on a daily basis. We do not want that \$5 million to go elsewhere.
 11. Ray Redhouse – thank you again for those of us that are still here. Things like this that is happening for the first time, it is good to hear and ask questions.
 12. Zane James – Lets keep in mind that the Tsaile/Wheatfields chapter is one that is always breaking new ground for the Navajo Nation. We advocated strongly for \$20 million for Navajo Route 12.
 13. Nelson Begaye – Today I was at the Budget and Finance Committee and Leonard Tsose spoke heavily against the chapters. He strongly criticizes chapters indicating that they cannot manage funds.
- iii. Endorsement of Ann Kirkpatrick for US Senate for the State of Arizona. MOTION by Willis Becenti and 2nd by Devon Begay / VOTE: 31 in favor, 0 against and 9 abstained.
 - iv. Endorsement of Tom O’Halleran to serve as Arizona’s Congressional District One in the US House of Representative. MOTION by and 2nd by / VOTE: in Favor, 0 against and abstained.

III. New Business Action Item:

- a. Approving and accepting FY 2016 Supplemental Appropriation of Summer Youth Employment funds in the amount of \$19,567.49 and advertise to hire summer students. Motion by Bennie Litson and 2nd by Lorena Eldridge – VOTE: 36 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstained.
 - i. Paula Begay – All the documents are in place for this and the FICA and other documents are in place. The directive from the council was to release the funds immediately. This morning I went to Division of Community Development, I received the check and deposited the check. The advertisements were already posted and they are due on Friday.
 - ii. Marjorie Johnson – The age limit on the flyer says to 18 but college students are older.
 - iii. Lorena Eldridge – Where will the students be working? What if they choose a jobsite?
 - iv. Paula Begay – Dine’ College usually asks for students and Tsaile Public School also requests for students. Some will do filing and assist the cafeteria. The senior center is also asking for employees as well. WIC is also asking for workers as well. The workers will be placed in their respective communities if possible. When they start we do an orientation with their parents.

- v. Zane James – it would be good to give these students some professional people to come in and talk to the people.
- vi. Paula Begay – When chapter officials propose things of this type, you need to come through and assist as well.
- vii. Nelson Begaye – this afternoon we talked to the President and informed them that they shouldn't wait until the last minute and earmark these funds just for the summer. Some students have breaks throughout the year and some communities don't spend their funds. Like Crownpoint, they have not spent over \$70,000 of their Youth Employment funds.
- b. Supporting Mr. Ernest R. Yazzie to the Department of the Navajo Veterans for a Veteran Housing Assistance. Motion by Willis Becenti and 2nd by Lorena Eldridge – VOTE 34 in favor, 0 against and 6 abstained.
 - i. My name is Ernie Yazzie and I live locally. I would like to build a home and went to Navajo Veterans office and they informed that I needed a chapter supporting resolution. That is why I am here.

IV. Reports

- a. Senior Center Supervisors
- b. Indian Education Policy Representative
 - i. Janie Henderson – Thank you for allowing me to come up and I really don't have a report. School is open and library is open from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm with Chinle Unified School. They are really supporting reading and in support of that they are opening their doors to the community. Also this month, at the end of the month, my term is up and my kids are all in the High school and my position will be open so you will be asked to appoint a new person. As of June 30th my term will be up. So the chapter will have to reappoint someone. We use to meet every month but due to budget constraints, we drop to every 3 months. JOM is now Title VI. Thank you for supporting me and listening to me during our meetings. It was really nice to represent our children and realize it is hard to do. Everything was voluntary, I donated a lot of my time.
- c. CHR
- d. CLUPC
 - i. Marjorie Johnson – every month we meet, we have a lot of projects and they are not moving forward. I don't know if my members report, we have talked about the cemetery and we approved it and brought to the chapter, it has not gone anywhere. Five years ago we approved a manual and is supposed to revise every 5 years, what is holding us up is the audit. We want to be certified but we are waiting for an audit. We are still waiting for the audit, everything a full comprehensive audit and then we can get a full 5 management plan. Fire station is something we are talking about, we are asking for a post office as well. E911 is something we are working on, people are coming to your house too, we are working on that too. This summer we said we will do a project. We will go around to everyone home one last time this summer.
- e. Farm Board
 - i. Lorena Eldridge – In two days, we have a regular farm board meeting at 5:00. We also have a monthly permit meeting. I left flyers and for those of you that have land use permits, water rights and 25 CFR is why you have permits. BIA has plans for us, EPA is being enforced heavily as well. Thank you for approving our request and will need the help of our delegate as well. We are

also working on the junk food sales tax. We are doing a survey and based on that we will be advocating for funds again. With that we will hand to our delegate.

f. Council Delegate

- i. We will be working on various projects. That is probably what CLUPC is asking for. \$173 million is what B and F is earmarking. Yesterday we met with NAAA, they are informing us that they have been asked to give a 10 – 15% cuts. We invited Seth Damon and we informed him there are no cuts. Senior Citizen center and youth is what we are strongly advocating for. We informed the President not to just round up funds. The President just walked out on us and only met with the Vice President. Yesterday in our meeting with NAAA, there are a lot of issues. Ramona Antone Nez indicated that the Presidents office informed her of the 10 – 15% cut and that is what she passed down to DSS. Tomorrow we will be meeting with the Veterans throughout the Navajo Nation.

1. Marjorie Johnson – He said the budget will be \$170

g. Chapter Officials

h. CSC

- i. Paula Begay – there is a gathering here at 6:00, Bennie Chee’s son passed on. Also Alta, I wanted to tell on her. She was directing traffic over Navajo Route 13. Marjorie Johnson mentioned that her 5 year plan and cemetery turned over to the chapter, I don’t see how an audit hinders your project. Then our grazing rep went to the site, he indicated that the site was in a wrong area. Plan of Operation for the cemetery, was given to the CLUPC for revision. They meeting constantly, they have not submitted any resolutions and that is something that Dorthea Litson brings up and we have not received anything form them. The audit is also something that is being asked of us, I don’t have a report because it is still being done. On June 10 they were here all day, Devon you were here on that day. They went through all the documents and financial documents were given. They are asking for plan of operations for every committee and are they following all the guidelines. We are going through the process and Jeremy and Robert are going through our papers. We also have Just Move It and those of you that donated, thank you for that. Our turn out was the most of all the neighboring chapters. Our delegate also donated 4 cases of water, and Dine’ College also assisted. I will be taking leave tomorrow to Friday, my son is receiving the staff.

V. Date and Time of Next Meeting: July 5, 2016 at 3:00 pm

VI. Adjournment at 4:34 pm