

# Chinle Chapter Government

THE NAVAJO NATION

**Myron McLaughlin**  
PRESIDENT

**David Yazzie, Jr.**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Cynthia Hunter**  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Eugene Tso**  
COUNCIL DELEGATE

**Oscar Bia**  
GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER

REGULAR PLANNING MEETING  
Monday, July 06, 2020 – 5:30 PM

## AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call
- II. Invocation
- III. Review and Approval of Agenda
- IV. Announcements:
  - a. Executive Order No. 006-20: Fifth Executive Order Related to Extending the Declaration of the State of Emergency Due to the Covid-19 Virus on the Navajo Nation; Further Extending the Closure of Navajo Nation Government offices and Related Entities to July 26, 2020.
  - b. Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-016: Public Health Emergency Order Locking Down the Navajo Nation for 57-Hours (for the Next Three Weekends) Due to the Alarming Increase in Positive Cases in Areas Surrounding the Navajo Nation.
  - c. Chinle Chapter's next Monthly (teleconference) Regular Chapter Meeting is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.
- V. Community Concerns:
  - a. Americorps and PEP travel and working late hours
- VI. Reports:
  - a. Walton Yazzie, Chapter Manager
  - b. Eugene Tso, Council Delegate
  - c. Oscar Bia, Grazing Official
  - d. Myron McLaughlin, Chapter President
  - e. David Yazzie, Chapter Vice-President
  - f. Cynthia Hunter, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
- VII. Old Business – None
- VIII. New Business:
  - a. Approving and Supporting the Proposal for Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund to NTEC
  - b.
- IX. Adjournment

**CHINLE CHAPTER PLANNING MEETING (TELECONFERENCE)**

**July 06, 2020 – 5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** by Chapter President, Myron McLaughlin at 5:33 PM

| <b>ROLL CALL:</b>                           | <b>PRESENT</b> | <b>ABSENT</b> |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Eugene Tso, Council Delegate                | XX             |               |
| Myron McLaughlin, Chapter President         | XX             |               |
| David Yazzie, Chapter Vice President        | XX             |               |
| Cynthia Hunter, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer | XX             |               |
| Oscar Bia, Grazing Official                 | XX             |               |
| Walton Yazzie, Chapter Manager              | XX             |               |
| Tyrone Begay, Planner                       | XX             |               |
| Tamra Brown, AA                             | XX             |               |
| Joann Dedman, LDA                           | XX             |               |
| Michael Dohi, Chapter Planner               | XX             |               |

**II. INVOCATION** by David Yazzie, Chapter Vice-President

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion to Accept Agenda by David Yazzie, Second by Oscar Bia**

**David Yazzie**, I would like to request for a resolution for Choice Wireless to build a celltower, funding for broadband is an emergency AT&T funding

**Myron McLaughlin**, can you include Ram Pasture and Del Muerto, Arlando Teller says there's funding available to get towers built at Spider Rock and these areas

**David Yazzie**, the area would be the gravel area, it is available and power is about ½ mile away. I am not sure if the other sites have land available

**JoAnn Dedman**, I was asked the same for Del Muerto also there is a support resolution that Delegate Tso requested but I have not heard back from Dr. Yellowman. Please add the resolution in the event that Dr. Yellowman approves.

**Myron McLaughlin**, add and request Dr. Yellowman to approve as suggested and forward Draft resolution to Cynthia

**JoAnn Dedman**, the resolution is supporting St. Michaels Chapter Legislation 145-002, Family Dollar Liquor License Application.

**Cynthia Hunter**, It would be easier to submit resolutions to Dr. Yellowman at the same time, I would need all resolutions before the Chapter Meeting, preferably not last minute

**Myron McLaughlin**, send draft resolutions at one time, we need a deadline so that Pearl Yellowman can approve as is.

**Walton Yazzie**, my understanding is, we need separate resolutions for each one. Resolution is to pertain to only oneline item, you're asking for cell tower and different funding.

**Myron McLaughlin**, line items for approval are the ones submitted prior to planning meeting. Is that correct?

**Walton Yazzie**, I will work with Tyrone to create the budget, the \$20M we submitted is not approved it has been line item vetoed for chapters, now we have to reapply for funding again. Ms. Yellowman states to breakdown budget to see what we need, we will get timeline and resolution in this week or two weeks from now.

**Myron McLaughlin**, we might lose time to spend funds for projects, there are waterline projects and perhaps contract these out to contractors to be completed by December, 2020. David's resolution, has funding available from Choice Wireless?

**David Yazzie**, AT&T Broadband project, we can ask Choice if they can get funding

**JoAnn Dedman**, last month the delegate requested to add a resolution to the agenda, is there any feedback for Delegate Tso? Support Resolution in reference to Committee of One

**Walton Yazzie**, I turned that in last week and there is no feedback at this time.

**Cynthia Hunter**, I have a question on the meeting quorum which was reduced for 90 days, I am sure the deadline is coming up and what if we need a full quorum. Does anyone know if the lessened quorum is extended?

**JoAnn Dedman**, the meeting quorum of three is up to July 17, 2020, delegate from Ft. Defiance is sponsoring a legislation pertaining to all meetings for chapters including government meetings and he will introduce this legislation by tomorrow.

**Walton Yazzie**, we can do the chapter meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> by next Friday

**Myron McLaughlin**, I don't think it is time for chapter meetings just yet, I hope the Honorable Delegate will push for virtual meetings for awhile. Can you provide an update for timeline for new legislation JoAnn?

**JoAnn Dedman**, I noticed the wording at the very end states that it would be indefinite – I will forward it to you

**Eugene Tso**, regarding the veto of general election, I trying to figure if I should request to postpone the appointment of chapter officials for one year back on, we might put that one on resolution too.

**JoAnn Dedman**, At Office of Legislative Counsel we have a delegate who plans to override the Presidents veto, if that happens this will go before the council again. When a legislation is tabled, after 60 days the legislation dies. Perhaps do a resolution to follow Eastern Agency to support a one year extension.

**Eugene Tso**, line item veto in reference to burn-outs, there were seven amendments. On the \$100M, one vetoed the other was not vetoed so I want to push the burn-out again. We can put broadband and water in there too, I have two teleconference meetings tomorrow.

**Myron McLaughlin**, we are still on review and approval of agenda, let's move forward, David Yazzie's request for a resolution to add Spider Rock broadband, an attempt should be made, also the family dollar liquor license. The draft resolutions need to be submitted in bulk to Pearl Yellowman, and resolutions should be partial to Covid-19. Do we send individually to Pearl or do we send in bulk?

**Walton Yazzie**, \$20M for special duty pay for frontline -\$10M PPE \$10M cleaning Navajo Nation bldg., one expired on August 31, 2020, \$10M for care packages, \$3.5M for bathroom additions or upgrades, \$2.9M financial assistance, make sure resolution is one, the other expense has to be separate. Due dates are different, one is to be spent by August 31st and other by December 31st.

**Votes to Approve Agenda: 4 in Favor and 0 Opposed, 1 Abstention**

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Executive Order No. 006-20: Fifth Executive Order Related to Extending the Declaration of the State of Emergency Due to the Covid-19 Virus on the Navajo Nation; Further Extending the Closure of Navajo Nation Government Offices and Related Entities to July 26, 2020.
- b. Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-016: Public Health Emergency Order Locking Down the Navajo Nation for 57-Hours (for the Next Three Weekends) Due to the Alarming Increase in Positive Cases in Areas Surrounding the Navajo Nation.
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## V. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

### a. Americorps and PEP Travel and Working Late Hours

Cynthia Hunter, an unknown person called me at my place of employment. She stated that Chinle Chapter has employees that work very late into the evenings and these are ridiculous hours, she doesn't know if they get paid overtime or double for holidays and they travel off reservation so when they return it is not known if they should pick up the virus and bring it home that the family is afraid if this employee should bring the virus into their home. I mentioned to her that all employees are under the Chapter Administration, as Chapter Officials we work under Title 26 that our job is to plan and push projects. Employees are directly under the Chapter Administration and Chapter Manager so I cannot interfere and that she should write to the Manager and let him know of her complaint. I also mentioned that the employees are all adults and have had trainings pertaining to what they are doing right now. She then stated that this person loves what he does and she did not write anything because she will jeopardize his employment as well as get him upset. I then told her that I have seen their pay, they get their hours and some hazard pay and their checks are not small. I do not know what your take is on this matter.

**Myron McLaughlin**, we are not involved in day to day operations, Americorps members get stipend pay and maybe their hourly rate does not match with the hours they put in. I don't want to get too involved in this, they are doing a great job and are heavily involved in the operations. We should focus on PEP working more hours, there would be concerns and I understand there is hazard pay in hours, we have to follow guidelines on the Americorps grant that was submitted. Maybe there is a clause in there for pandemics but maybe as administration, cut back on AmeriCorps. There has been a lot of questions here, we try to work with certain people either salary or hourly they feel unfairness.

**Walton Yazzie**, Saturday at 8:30 PM a person brought up almost the same issues, I text everyone to see if they had issues with spouse or parents – there are certain ones that work late and hourly are working more than Americorps. Letecia is inside the building, field workers are hourly – Kyren, Kyle, Michael, Tishawna and myself are the ones that work 128+ hours per pay period. Americorps make 80 hours, Liana is online if you want to ask her – we trade people out and have some take Tuesday and Thursday off. We were all trying to find out about the call, Americorp get time and half for working more hours when they work. I do keep the ones that want to work, this lady said the same thing that this person loves what he is doing. Liana watches Americorps here.

**Liana Shorty**, when were out in the field I do watch over other members, we are given the option to go home if tired. We are here for our community and our families, we do want to help with the pandemic. Pretty much everything is like that, we do get paid stipend and half and we do ask if members are ok to work, some chose to clock out and daily safety meetings are done.

## VI. REPORTS

### a. Walton Yazzie, Chapter Manager

Navajo-Hopi Relief: we get \$45,000 weekly, 200 food boxes for Wednesday and Fridays, 400 boxes given out one week in Chinle, 2<sup>nd</sup> week is Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood and Many Farms.

We will continue working with Navajo-Hopi Relief, they are helping out with more funding than what Navajo Nation is giving us. Shipment will now come in to airport with water, next shipment is cleaning supplies and this will be weekly. These are extra and food boxes will continue.

We are working with schools, I am the Point of Contact for Chinle Agency, we have another zoom call at 3 pm today. We will be getting shipment from Rainbow which is food and care boxes for students – Pinon, Nazlini, Chinle and Many Farms are served and within Chinle agency schools. Schools will pick up these packages, shipments are on Fridays and Mondays for the next six weeks to help out schools. Requests are made to the Navajo Nation, DCD, OPVP, Speakers Office but we have not received anything. PEP funding has \$4,000 left and we are out of funds but still going and doing as much as we can. Other chapters are still closed, on July 03 we had 6 workers and the water line was ongoing all day. I'm not sure if we can do a resolution to provide more service with the public for surrounding chapters. If CARES Act money is not going to come to us then we cannot continue providing services to other Chapters.

Delivery is for Round Rock tomorrow 10-12 to distribute food boxes, we do haul water for Spider Rock and Del Muerto for families that don't have transportation or running water, we do this at least once a week. Oscar says we need to go further out and we did but we been trying to haul water, we did give food boxes to them. We are trying to slow down but we don't know what comes on a daily basis. For the whole time we been working with Navajo-Hopi \$281,117.13 was used to purchase for Chinle Chapter, 4,684 food boxes have been delivered, 15,280 families have been assisted. This is all we have been doing.

The Administrative Assistant position has not been filled – we received one applicant, we re-advertised the position for five more days

- b. **Eugene Tso, Council Delegate** – I will complete my report at the next chapter meeting. I have a meeting tomorrow that is on my mind which includes broadband and bathroom additions. NABI & B&F Meetings are also scheduled

**JoAnn Dedman**, Delegate Tso is requesting for support resolutions for Family Dollar Liquor License, Apache County Board of Supervisors on June 28, 2020, other entities that would help are Human Rights Commission, Navajo Government Development and others. Navajo Nation Council summer session begins July 20, 2020. Delegate Tso is in the process to amend the law regarding curfew and weekend lockdowns, currently there is no law to cite them. Cases will be dismissed or charges will be criminal mischief, Ron Haven will speak with Delegate Tso on this issue tomorrow.

8:00 AM – teleconference with Speaker Damon, Barbrough, Delegate Amber Crotty & Eugene Tso

One issue, shall Delegate Tso reintroduce 2020 elections? Are you willing to add to your agenda for support?

Delegate Tso has told Roselyn Tso that one loss is one too many, we loss Virgil Attson of Chinle Elections Office and it doesn't make sense but we continue to push mass gatherings.

CARES Act, CJN-47-20 amendment to fund burn-outs at \$7M was vetoed, other one is bathroom addition and this did not get vetoed. President vetoed \$55M that would go to chapters, chapters need to work with Executive Offices, Division of Community Development for comprehensive plan. It doesn't make sense if chapters are all closed down to be requesting for this. Do we call back all staff for comprehensive plans to move forward, chapter officials are not allowed to get involved in these issues.

Primary election August 04, 2020, we need a place for people to vote. Numerous emails were sent to Jill Jim in reference to what the President had recorded for decommissioning, this is frustrating that Executive Branch is not giving any feed back. Perhaps identify a polling place, relocate the voting place for the primary election on August 04, 2020.

**Walton Yazzie**, In reference to the elections – we are thinking about the Catholic Hall – we have not received an answer yet. 2<sup>nd</sup> option is to do it here at the chapter but afterwards we have to re-clean and sanitize

**Eugene Tso**, one thing not mentioned is the Apache County waterwell. I will need to write to Mike Halona and Joe Shirley to see what the hold up is on the Apache County Well.

- c. **Oscar Bia, Grazing Official**: We have fallen behind on our duties, we are informed not to brand or visit families because of the virus. When I go out I do practice social distancing and wearing a mask, I had started branding – 2 brandings were completed and was stopped by Department of Ag. Teleconference is scheduled for District 10 tomorrow, July 07, 2020 to see if we will continue branding and tallying. Community members express their thank you for the hay and feed that was given to help their livestock, they are hopeful that this will continue. This was due to covid-19 that supplies were offered, there were several individuals that caught the virus and the families received help from the chapter, they are also thankful. Wildland Fire is in Woodsprings north to Sawmill, Irvin Shirley and myself went to check on families the next day after the fire began. We warned them of the fires, some left right away while others waited til the last minute. I helped some women haul their cattle back out and it was reported that their home was scorched by the fire.

Drought also is affecting feral horses, I have been visiting windmills and have seen dead horses, died from thirst, dehydration. Department of Ag, talked about rounding up and picking up horses but Navajo Nation was closed again. These are concerns because horses are sacred and have their own songs, covid has really changed a lot for us. Trump states we can overcome but us on Navajo Nation do not go outside, the families that work off

reservation – some travel home perhaps bring the covid to their reservation families. The way I see it, the families bring back sick relatives, perhaps it is best for the people to stay away and not come back to the reservation. How do we do this? These days, everyone talks only about covid-19, our ceremonies and prayers are not strong enough to handle this. We hear a lot of things, Chinle does get a lot of tourist for Canyon DeChelly, we don't want them coming in to bring the virus to wipe us all out. Perhaps allow tourism until next year, council delegate was informed of this issue and I am afraid the tour operators will be affected.

Water is an issue for all of us, windmills are used up and are now dry, and water is being hauled constantly so people are hauling a lot of water from Chinle chapter. It was good when Manuelito Well was in operation, I never thought of this before until now, our elderly had mentioned that we will experience hardship along our way – now how do we get out of this rut we are in. Some of us don't take this seriously so there is much concern.

d. **Myron McLaughlin, Chapter President** – I would like to ask a couple of questions:

1. PEP and staff – are working long hours, I am very grateful that our chapter is open to provide to the community. Is there a possibility to purchase vitamin c or vitamins for staff to take on a daily basis?
2. Resolution for proposal for \$55M, why would president be requesting proposals? Please send me proposals so we can work on this, I think it is positive thing for Walton and Tyrone to work on. We should get proposals in and get funds for our chapter. Last thing is that I am very grateful that Navajo-Hopi is assisting surrounding chapters. I am thinking about an appreciation plaque for Navajo-Hopi thanking them for helping our community.
3. Central Agency Council, did that take place?

Social distancing is not being honored everywhere

The resolution for the \$55M for Chapters, General Election, I am skeptical for having it at the Chapter. Voting will be crazy.

**Walton Yazzie**, PEP working long hours? yes

OPVP wants a Proposal, we can write something up by 3:00 PM, then call back in by 5:00 PM to look over the proposal

We can put funding aside to purchase appreciation gifts for – 6 ladies at Navajo-Hopi that work constantly, that would be a great idea.

No, Chinle Agency Council Meeting has not happened

I received a call from the Navajo Nation President stating Sales Tax was signed in to law, President did sign it. We will need to get something for Martin Ashley, Sharon Yazzie, Martha King and OPVP who all helped push this.

**JoAnn Dedman**, commented that at HEHSC meeting last week, they received a report from doctors pushing a machine that provides vitamin c like a tanning bed – 5 min everyday for 2 weeks.

As for the Chinle Agency Council, I talked with Zane James who lost his dad and aunt to Covid-19 and has been under the weather for his loss, he says he would email the officers.

e. **David Yazzie, Chapter Vice-President**, thanks chapter for honoring Michael Lee during the procession; officials take care, get plenty of vitamin c, wear masks, gloves. Off reservation has over 36,000 positive cases

f. **Cynthia Hunter, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer**

As far as N27, NECA has had obstacles where NTUA reroutes were stalling the project, there was a sewerline broken which was fixed and the round-about dome will now be completed. The paving should begin at lease mid August.

I have concerns that we are not helping the administration staff, just now I heard that Walton and Tyrone will work on the proposals, what about us? We have not met face to face, teleconference is frustrating and we should at least get together for these planning meetings. I don't know what you think about this and I am not sure when the next chapter meeting will be scheduled.

**Myron McLaughlin**, we can scheduled a meeting tomorrow or Wednesday at 5:00 PM to talk about the proposal and other things we need to submit to OPVP. I will email and I believe proposals have already been written out. We need to get funds exhausted before funds are taken back. Arlando Teller called me about the \$33M

allocated for bridges and two of Chinle's are included, one is the green river crossing and one is further down. Legislation was passed by Kee Allen Begay and Rick Nez at the council office, he did give me legislation number 144-20 which has three projects on there.

**Eugene Tso**, in regards to the 144-20 there are some amendments, that one is broadband and others. Sacred Wind, NTUA, AT&T, Frontier, Cell-One are the broadband carriers, that will be discussed tomorrow morning. Regards to proposal to OPVP, I would like to see one of that paper, within that proposal we need to bring out burn-outs, bathroom addition, etc. added that way we can get funds right away. We do have 90 days to expend funds after December 2020.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approving and Supporting the Proposal for Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund to NTEC
- b. Supporting Choice Wireless to set up tower at Spider Rock
- c. Family Dollar Liquor Sales License in St. Michaels
- d. Address the \$55M for Chapters

All of these will need to be sent to Pearl Yellowman, deadline to submit is Friday, July 10, 2020

**Walton Yazzie**, after we meet Wednesday we can come up with the date for the Chapter Meeting, I recommend to get meeting date until Wednesday.

**Myron McLaughlin**, we will keep the date open until after the discussion – possibly meet on Thursday at 4:00 PM.

**Eugene Tso**, if we need to go thru with Council then I can bring this up

**Myron McLaughlin**, thank you to donors, please make recommendations for gifts

**VOTES: 4 in Favor, 0 Opposed 1 Abstention for four Resolutions to be moved to the Chapter Meeting which is to be announced**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT at 7:35 PM**

Adjournment Motioned by David Yazzie, Second by Oscar Bia

**VOTES: 4 in Favor, 0 Opposed and 1 Abstention**

Chinle Chapter Planning Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 06, 2020 is completed and submitted by Cynthia Hunter, Chinle Chapter Secretary/Treasurer on Thursday, July 09, 2020



*Chinle Chapter Government*  
Sign-in Sheet

Date: 07/06/2020    ☒ Planning Meeting    ☐ Regular Meeting    ☐ Special Meeting

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. President: <u>Myself</u>                 | 21. |
| 2. Vice President: <u>David Young</u>       | 22. |
| 3. Secretary/Treasurer: <u>Robert Young</u> | 23. |
| 4. Grazing Official:                        | 24. |
| 5. Council Delegate:                        | 25. |
| 6. <u>Jama Brown</u>                        | 26. |
| 7. <u>[Signature]</u>                       | 27. |
| 8. <u>[Signature]</u>                       | 28. |
| 9. <u>[Signature]</u>                       | 29. |
| 10.   | 30. |
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