

CHINLE CHAPTER PLANNING MEETING (TELECONFERENCE)

November 02, 2020 – 5:30 PM

MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER by Chapter President, Myron McLaughlin at 5:34 PM

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
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	
Tishawna Spencer, Asst Project Coordinator	XX	
Joann Dedman, LDA	XX	
Ileen Thomas, Office Assistant	XX	

II. INVOCATION by Eugene Tso, Council Delegate

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Accept Agenda by Cynthia Hunter, Second by David Yazzie

Eugene Tso, I would like to request to be excused from this call due to Navajo Nation Council Special Session, I am interested in Division of Economic Development Director, JT Willie's report. I would like my LDA, Joann Dedman to complete the report for Council Delegate

Roann Burbank, am I on the Agenda for today's meeting?

Myron McLaughlin, Roann you will be given the floor after Melissa Winney in Community concerns.

Votes to Approve Agenda: 3 in Favor and 0 Opposed and Chair Not Voting

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chinle Chapter's next Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2020 at 1:00 PM.
- Housing Discretionary Applications are being accepted, deadline is Friday, November 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM at the Chinle Chapter Administration.
- November 03, 2020 is Election Day, polls will be open for Chapter Election beginning at 6:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM. Please take precautionary measures, be safe and vote.
Walton Yazzie, we will be open for workers to come in but closed for sales
- Hardship Assistance portal will be open beginning Monday, November 02, 2020 through Monday, November 30, 2020. *Apply online at navajo-nsn.gov or nnooc.org*
- Chinle Chapter will be closed all day November 26 & 27, 2020, in observance of Thanksgiving Day and Family Day Holidays.

V. Community Concerns:

- Melissa Winney**, New Administrative Assistant for Chinle Chapter – *was not on the call*
- Roann Burbank**, unopposed Candidate for Chinle Chapter Secretary/Treasurer: I am starting from the bottom and working my way up, I do have a degree that will help me do what I want which is to help people. I won't mind any suggestions from the people and others, I began as a follower now I want to be a leader.

Myron McLaughlin, we need people that are motivated in these positions and you are unopposed so congratulations that you are in.

Shawna Claw, you as current officials – do you have a transition team? Will you have Cynthia show her the process so Ms. Burbank can begin her job.

Myron McLaughlin, yes but the transition will not happen until after November 03, 2020, we will begin planning that with the Chapter Manager and staff.

VI. REPORTS

a. Walton Yazzie, Chapter Manager:

Intake for Hardship Assistance for elders and disabled, turnout was good. We had to turn some people away due to social distancing issues and people not wearing their masks. Portal information was entered, right now we have to submit to OOC to get reimbursed, just need more clarification. We need to see which is more feasible to get things done, recommendation was to use our own money and get reimbursed which will be a faster process. We are trying to get things organized and each day there are different situations coming up, but still assisting as much as we can. Tyrone worked on a letter for justification for backhoe, that is ready. Forklift is not going to be utilized so they will not allow us to purchase this.

Myron McLaughlin, on backhoe can you look into attachments (forks) to use as forklift?

Walton Yazzie, there's already attachments on this backhoe

David Yazzie, we had our meeting last Tuesday with the Chapters concerning CARES Act. Controller's representative said backhoe was allowable as long as this was used for unloading and procurement procedures would not have to be used. People brought up graders, loaders and there would not be a procurement process that only a justification is needed, I am still waiting for an email on this. Special Projects have to be completed and uploaded on the portal but did not have to be completed by November 30, 2020, as long as it was in the portal it could be used.

Walton Yazzie, we will do another justification letter, we still will submit what we have from here but we will still keep applying for what we need.

Myron McLaughlin, Chinle Chapter is the central hub for a lot of things and people do come here, they get services here in Chinle.

Shawna Claw, you mentioned negative comments on facebook but I only received positive comments referring to Chinle Chapter. Other chapter members were asking me if Chinle can assist them, are we helping elders abroad or is this only for Chinle Chapter community?

Walton Yazzie, we open our doors for every single person, we helped people from Hardrock, Pinon and Many Farms and other areas, about 25% were from other chapters, most were elders, we did not limit this to just registered voters.

Shawna Claw, is it closed now because the portal is open?

Walton Yazzie, for elders ones we assist them with paperwork and network, and others that have no internet or phone. If elder does not know how to use the system then we can help, we helped 28 elders today.

Myron McLaughlin, we can't please everybody but I did see and hear positive comments, keep up the good work and don't worry about the negative comments

Walton Yazzie, we did get a shout out from President Nez

b. Eugene Tso, Council Delegate:

JoAnn Dedman, Navajo Nation Council special session is still in session, Delegate Tso requested DED for JTWillie to provide a report to the council, some businesses were denied hardship assistance and complaining they lost business. There were companies such as Dennys in St. Michaels and Chinle, Towing Companies and others that were denied.

Reopening Casinos – was in debate most of the day, at 4:00 council passed 0262-20 to re-open casinos with 15 in favor and 8 opposed. Delegate Tso opposed due to the spike in Covid-19. The reopening is dependent on Covid-19 Code to reopen based on the number of covid cases.

Chinle Nursing Home requesting assistance – 63 clients are to apply for hardship assistance to get those into the portal. I have not received training, I am not sure if Chapter is willing to help

Fall Session – Delegate Tso has been pushing three legislations and unfortunately 2 were voted down:

1. Curfew citations – there are too many people out and others doing family events right now.
2. Delegate Tso does not want any sitting official to endorse any candidate; President Nez endorsed Democrats while Vice-President endorsed Republicans.
3. Approving Victor Clyde as District Court Judge passed unanimously, Carl Slater sponsored the legislation.

Welcome Ms. Burbank for her new role as Secretary/Treasurer

- c. **Oscar Bia, Grazing Official:** October 18, 2020 Chapter Meeting, November 02, 2020 meetings were attended but I did not have a report. I still work on:

- Disputes, there was one on fencing by relatives that were reported.
- Consent forms for burial plots, I have been conveying information as to the policies and procedures for the plots
- 18th, land withdrawal – existing plots are really up to the families, needs survey and description to allow for fencing. New plots are no longer allowed but has not yet been enforced. I signed for four places.
- Tally Counts – sheep and goats were counted Monday through Friday. Many individuals work and are only home on weekends, some complain that they cannot get a hold of me.
- Windmill – there are issues where people are not allowing others to get water. Another where a windmill was fixed someone shot through the tank and water is wasted. I did a temporary fix where I used wood to block the hole.
- Home Site Lease – two signed
- Two days I helped Walton here to direct individuals and to help keep the social distancing
- Canyon De Chelly – I traveled to Spider Rock inside the canyon, I received reports that someone shot at horses and cattle. I will look into this Thursday
- Feral Horses – try to get the horses out and get the round up organized before the tour season. Round up was completed on the North side of Chinle, these are no brands
- District 10 Grazing Committee, five members met on transfers of grazing and livestock permits. We decided to wait on these until Covid-19 numbers have subsided. Land use permits and homesite lease disputes also will wait until investigations are completed.
- Some consent forms were approved and families received the approval needed to get infrastructures.

- d. **Myron McLaughlin, Chapter President:** Thank you to chapter staff helping with CARES Act Hardship assistance, the handling of assistance to elders and disabled.

Wood Permits – are they not sold at the Chapter anymore? I was referring individuals to Chinle to buy their wood hauling permits but they returned saying that it was not so, that the Chapter did not sell them a permit.

Walton Yazzie, no more selling wood permits because we are selling too many and they wanted to know who was selling and the only one allowed to sell was Michael Dohi. A 17 year old was denied so Forestry will handle the permits.

Shawna Claw, Forestry use to come out – are they able to come out because it is a burden on people to have to travel to get their wood hauling permits. Can we make a request from the Chapter?

Walton Yazzie, we did write an email to the Director, Friday an official just showed up and wanted to pick up the books, we showed the class we took and the resolution but they have not responded yet.

David Yazzie, This is not the first time this happened, that is good you put in that complaint, we will get it back.

Myron McLaughlin, do people have to get trained to sell the permit?

Walton Yazzie, resolution said for Michael and myself to sell, although there was a lockdown there were a lot of people still driving around and we sold so much that the Forestry Officials were questioning that.

JoAnn Dedman, I would like to comment on the wood permit issue. For Forestry to come in one day to just remove the book is wrong, a lot of people come to Chinle to get necessities. There should be a due process instead of just coming in and taking the book.

Myron McLaughlin, I want to write a formal letter and address this, it is a concern for our constituents and if there are no permits then it is a hardship for families because winter is setting in and people need to keep warm. I also know that there was a report that people are cutting down wet wood.

David Yazzie, I would like to request a resolution because this is covid related and it is creating hardship for our constituents.

Myron McLaughlin, we can entertain a resolution to continue selling wood permits

- e. **David Yazzie, Chapter Vice-President:** I encourage everyone to continue following CDC guidelines. Other chapters want to know the point of contact with Verizon so students can log in and complete their homework. Del Muerto site is being looked at and feasibility study completed for a tower site. Spider Rock, tower site under CellOne is still in the process of going forward using CARES Act to complete the towers. CARES Act – complaints all the way to the Navajo Nation President on hardship assistance. Thank you to Chapter Staff for helping constituents and other chapters, helping with applications especially your patience and understanding of people and their needs.
- f. **Cynthia Hunter, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer:** Paving N27 is being completed and we are working weekends to get this completed by November 20, 2020. Scrapers were at the round-about and are staying ahead of the paving crew.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **CHIN-OCT-20-036: Supporting Mr. Jonathan Francisco for a Land Withdrawal Designation of 1.00± acres for an existing Family Burial Plot for Immediate Family Members of Biih Bitoodnii Family Located 5 Miles North of Chinle Bashas, MP 453.3, ½ Mile West of Hwy 191, Chinle, Arizona 86503.** *Sponsor, Jonathan Francisco*
Myron McLaughlin, Jonathan has hired Red Valley Survey to complete the survey, if all goes well we may have the legal survey and description by chapter meeting date. If you do get the survey completed then we can enter this onto the resolution, this will change the wording. If not, this will still remain old business until the December Chapter Meeting.

Jonathan Francisco, I hired Henry Thomas of Red Valley Surveyor he requested the gps readings from the Grazing Officials, my dad will be at the site and meet with Henry Thomas on Friday.

Myron McLaughlin, Oscar are you available on November 06?

Oscar Bia, yes I will be available

David Yazzie, *Motions to move this to the next regular Chapter meeting, Second by Cynthia Hunter*

David Yazzie, keep in touch and once he gets the survey we can insert it onto the resolution

VOTES: 3 in Favor, 0 Opposed and Chair Not Voting

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Resolution to Forestry Department for Chinle Chapter to continue selling Wood Hauling Permits**
Myron McLaughlin, I will request by Letter to Rudy Shebala, I was going to write to the Department Director, Mr. Becenti
David Yazzie, if a resolution is made then it becomes a legal document
Myron McLaughlin, David Yazzie will be the sponsor of this resolution, you need to draft the resolution and submit it to Cynthia by the Thursday before the Chapter Meeting.
Cynthia Hunter, resolution is needed by November 19, 2020
Shawna Claw, reminder to David to ask if there could be more than one person to sell the permits, perhaps suggest 4 people on the resolution
Motion by Cynthia Hunter to move Old Business and New Business Items to the next Regular Chapter Meeting on November 22, 2020, Second by David Yazzie
VOTES: 3 Favor, 0 Opposed and Chair Not Voting

Melissa Winney, I am currently working with Rough Rock Chapter House, worked there over one year, I shadowed Walton on Monday. I am up for the challenge as AA and will begin next Monday, November 09, 2020 and my plans are to stay long term due to being closer to home.

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 7:10 PM

Adjournment Motioned by David Yazzie, Second by Oscar Bia

VOTES: 4 in Favor, 0 Opposed

Chinle Chapter Planning Meeting Minutes completed and submitted by Cynthia Hunter, Chinle Chapter Secretary/Treasurer on Monday, November 09, 2020

Cynthia Hunter
11/09/2020