

Black Mesa Chapter
Chapter Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2017

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Marvin Yellowhair.
 - A. Invocation provided by Caroline Bemore.
 - B. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2017 – Dorothy R Yazzie motion to approved and seconded by Nona Yazzie. VOTE: 20-00-02
 - C. Adoption of Agenda – Elouise Yellowhair motioned to approved with Add-ons under Resolution and seconded by Nona Yazzie. VOTE: 21-00-01
Dorothy R Yazzie motioned to suspend the rules (Resolutions before Announcements) and seconded by Larry Biltah. VOTE: 21-00-01

- II. Resolutions:
 - A. BMC-17-03-062: Reauthorize and Update Feral Horse and Donkey Roundup Activities
Motioned by: Larry Biltah Seconded by: Roger Honie VOTE: 18-00-04

Dorothy R Yazzie motioned to approved Resolutions #B-0 and seconded by Elouise Yellowhair.
VOTE: 21-00-02
 - B. BMC-17-03-063: Supporting the NN Veterans Funds for Veterans Housing to be amended to include using such funds to construct veteran facilities.
Comments by Andrew Benallie: NHA has funds available to assist the Navajo veterans with home improvement including renovations to existing homes. All public housing units should be renovated.
 - C. BMC-17-03-064: Approve Travel Authorization for CSC and Chapter Officials to attend NN Homesite Lease Policy of 2016 Training at Flagstaff, AZ on April 26-28, 2017.
 - D. BMC-17-03-065: Approve Chapter Medical Assistance for Carlos Begay Jr.
 - E. BMC-17-03-066: Accept and Authorize Supplemental Funds of \$6449.00 for chapter stipend
 - F. BMC-17-03-067: Oppose chapter regionalization initiatives
 - G. BMC-17-03-068: Request to recruit more Voter's Registrars at BM Chapter
 - H. BMC-17-03-069: Request to BIA Roads Dept and NDOT to Repair Crossing @ BM Chapter on N8066.
 - I. BMC-17-03-070: Request NTUA to expedite BM Chapter North Valley Power Line Extension Project.
 - J. BMC-17-03-071: Request to Accept CIP Proposal to fund North Valley Power Line Extension Project.
 - K. BMC-17-03-072: Request for Traffic Count for BM Chapter Parking Lot
 - L. BMC-17-03-073: Retroactive Approval for Travel Authorization for CLUPC, CSC and Chapter Officers to attend Work Session with Navajo County in Holbrook AZ on March 21, 2017.

- M. BMC-17-03-074: Appose 10 Sheep Units Recommendation for NPL by NN Dept. of Agriculture
- N. BMC-17-03-075: Request for Veterans Fund for Home Improvement Assistance to Annie Remiro
- O. BMC-17-03-076: Demanding The NN do all Things Proper and Appropriate by Claiming the Western Navajo Communities' Water Rights of Colorado River, N-Aquifer of Black Mesa, and Protect the Health of the Affected Communities

Dorothy R Yazzie motioned to amend the Agenda and seconded by Elouise Yellowhair. VOTE: 21-00-00

- P. BMC-17-03-077: Approving Chapter Veteran Facility at Black Mesa Chapter
Elouise Yellowhair motioned to approve and seconded by Roger Honie. VOTE: 19-00-02

Ella Tallis and Andre Benallie briefly talked about the planned Navajo Veteran Museum which is long overdue. The BM Veteran Organization are discussing the development of local veteran museum and conducting fund raising activities to fund the museum. Navajo Code Talkers from Black Mesa need to be recognized and honor.

III. Announcements:

- A. 4/5/17 – District 4 Grazing Officials Meeting @ BM Chapter, 9am
- B. 4/13/17 – Navajo Transit will begin running from Pinon to Chinle to Tsaile.
- C. 4/20/17 – CLUPC Public Hearing @ BM Chapter, 10am
- D.

IV. Report:

- A. Council Delegate, Dwight Witherspoon
 1. He distributed his monthly March reports to everyone in attendance of the meeting.
 2. Budget & Finance Committee - Legislation 0042-17 Ramah Chapter settlement funds of \$158 Million; and Legislation 0293-16 Grand Canyon Escalade Project.
 3. Naa'bik'iyati Committee: Legislation 0347-16 Develop of the capital improvement priority list in full compliance with NN Capital Improvement Process and report to Naa'bik'iyati Committee no later than January 12, 2017 (a five-year plan on capital improvement projects). CIP Office needs to assist the chapters to bring proposals that are shovel-ready.
 4. NN Council Special Session on February 16th: Legislation 0038-17 requesting US Congress to retain the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act; and Legislation 0063-17 Appointing Pearline Kirk as N Controller.
 5. Law & Order Committee: Legislation 0346-17 on the establishment of Dzilyijiin Police District on tabled because the Chief of Police still need to bring the plan.
 6. Legislation 0031-17: approving the termination o business site lease of Hoosh Doh Dii T'o Inc. of Whippoorwill, AZ
 7. Legislation 0062-17: Amendment to NN Personnel Policies – equivalency clause is strike out.
 8. When asked about any availability of funds for chapter projects to become shovel-ready, he said each chapter received capital improvement funds which can be used for their projects.
 9. He briefly talked about NGS and LCR Negotiation Team meeting with the Hopi Tribe. When NGS closed, the chapters will have a big cut on the funding and will eventually hurt the chapters. A discussion was held with NGS to extend the lease up to 2024 but pending.

Comments:

1. Annie Remiro – Senior Citizen Center should be included in NHA plans. Wild horses are depleting the grazing land and Council Delegates need to make plans on horse roundups.
2. Dorothy R Yazzie – Disagreed with the recommendation of NN dept. of Agriculture on 10 sheep units per grazing permits. The community is opposing 10 sheep units and makes recommendation to increase up to 40 sheep units. The livestock is a livelihood of the people. If all 46 chapters of NPL opposed it, NN might change the sheep units.

Responses by D. Witherspoons:

1. Navajo Hopi Land Commission met on this issue. According to survey on carry-capacity for Precinct II in 2015, livestock needs to be decrease at least to half.

B. Grazing Committee Member, Francis Honie – Absent

C. CSC, Albert Lee

1. There are still 114 bales of hay available at \$11.75 per bale.
2. The Chapter received Sales Tax Fund of \$6578 and Unhealthy Food Tax Fund of \$18,322.
3. Septic Tank Services – Regular cost is \$550.00; discount if three or more clients request for services. They only take cash payment.
4. Red Dog Gravel meeting on March 30th at Pinon.
5. The Chapter is need of heavy equipment operator. Chris Todechine might apply since he return to community recently.
6. He informed the community members not to dump ashes or tires in the chapter's dumpster.
7. He is assisting CLUPC with rural addressing with revising the road names with numbers.
8. He is trying very hard working with Lee Bedonie on crossing and road to his home. Currently, NDOT, BIA and Apache County will not work on the crossing because of water puddles and spongy dirt. He has been told of this concern but not listening.

D. Chapter President, Marvin Yellowhair

1. He went to Navajo Water Resource and request on two windmill repairs at Yale Point Valley and junction of N8066 and N8088.
2. He talked about assisting the BM Veterans Organization with proposal for facility.
3. He attended a meeting on N8066 Road Construction at BM School. It is scheduled in 2021 for construction. Access road to the chapter house will be on the East side.

E. Chapter Vice President, Caroline Bemore

1. She attended NN Governance Conference at Albuquerque NM
 - Different Navajo depts. made presentations on their services.
 - Legislation process – Delegate Witherspoon sponsored 97 legislations which includes scholarships, personnel policies and others.
2. She attended N8066 Road Construction Meeting with Delegate Pete and Sharon Yazzie , LDA
3. She briefly talked about the proposal for North Valley Power Line Extension Project.
4. CLUPC Meetings and Activities - Dorothy R Yazzie has stayed on the top of updating the manual.

F. Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Marlene Biltah

1. She also attended NN Governance Conference at Albuquerque NM – attended chapter personnel topics, audit for LGA certification and that chapter is responsible for financial audit costs, and investigation under Ethics.
2. She attended N8066 Road Construction Meeting with the other chapter officers.
3. She attended Chapter Insurance and Benefits work sessions in Flagstaff AZ. The topics are Workmen Compensation coverage for chapter officers and CLUP Committee members, and benefits for chapter employees. Each chapter needs to develop in-house TA form for insurance purposes.

G. CLUPC, Larry Biltah

1. The Committee worked on updating the CLUP manual with assistance from Navajo County and will present it to the public, then to be approved by the chapter membership. It will be submitted to RDC for approval of the manual.
2. The CLUP manual is renewed every 5 years.
3. A meeting on Rural Addressing took place in Window Rock. They were told to use NDOT road numbers in place of road names. He explained about given road names that have 3 or more homes on the roads. The rural addressing will be included with CLUP manual when presenting to the public on April 20th. The cost estimates for purchasing road signs is \$20,000. The purpose for the development of rural addressing for emergency calls using 911. Currently, calling 911 takes longer and the calls go outside of NN and then transfer back to the NN Police Dept.
4. All planned or proposed chapter projects are to be listed in chapter's CLUP Manual. This way the chapter administration and officials can seek funds for the chapter projects.

H. CHR, Lynn Dean – Absent.

I. BM Veterans Organization, Richard Claw

1. Held a moment of silence for all veterans.
2. He talked briefly about the proposed Plan of Operations (uniform) for all 110 chapters.
 - BM Veteran Organization submitted approved resolution on their recommendations on the financial assistance procedures and to include General Discharged.
3. The Organization supports the Veterans Museum.
4. He informed the community members Richard Sage resigned as Liaison Officer and need a replacement.
5. Dzilyijiin Judicial District Justice Day at Pinon on April 4, 2017.

Comments:

1. Marlene Biltah asked if veteran funeral assistance is allowable under Chapter Veterans Funds, including Chinle Veterans Trust Fund.
2. Louise Yellowhair suggested holding a recognition day for all BM veterans and developing newsletter on veterans. Some of community members do not know whose all members of the BM Veteran Organization.

Response by Richard Claw:

1. The BM Veteran Organization did discuss the funeral assistances. Chinle Veteran Trust Fund is only for direct services. He still needs to check with Chapter Administration if it is allowable.

J. BM Review Board, Andrew Benallie

1. Manymules Waterline Extension Project – Phase I is completed and Phase II is next which will cost \$7.1 Million. Continuation will include Oak Ridge community in Phase II since the main water tower will be install which will deliver the water down the valleys within Peabody Mine area. This is good and would benefit the people of Oak Ridge.
2. Route N41- End of pavement in Forest Lake to Peabody road improvement is being discussed.
3. A brief information on the NGS
 - 1960 – AZ need of water in Southern Arizona within Phoenix and Tucson areas.
 - 1922 – Carl Hayden projected Phoenix was going to grow and will need water.
 - Large water pump (NGS) was developed to deliver water to Phoenix area.
 - BIA Interior recommended that Black Mesa has a rich coal that can be used at NGS to deliver water to Southern AZ.
 - SRP is closing NGS because coal is becoming expensive.

Dorothy R Yazzie asked if BM Review Board is talking about land reclamation. Gravel pit should stay open and be operated by the Navajo Nation.

Responses by Andrew Benallie:

1. Peabody Coal Company has bonds for land reclamation process.
2. When so much water is being used, it will make impact on the land such as sink holes and depletions of springs.

K. LCRWCA – Inactive.

L. BMCS School Board Member, Larry Biltah

1. He expressed his appreciation to the community for electing him as School Board for BMCS. He and Marvin Yellowhair represent Black Mesa Chapter, 1 from Forest Lake Chapter and 1 from Pinon Chapter.
2. A few meetings took place with School Administration for updating the new board members on student data (test results) progress reports on each student. They also gave information on all school programs and funds.
3. One teacher teaches a multi-grade in one classroom such as 6-8th.
4. There is also a school wellness program which provides diabetes prevention and conducts physical activities to the students.
5. Buddy Reading Program - each staff member reads with their assigned students for 30 minutes every day.
6. First Things First Program – Two parent educators work with parents of infant to 3 years old children.
7. Navajo Accountability Plan (Education Act of 2005)
 - An initiative by Navajo DODE to take over BIE Schools, then Contract/Grant Schools.
 - DODE has scheduled meetings and conferences to educate the school boards.
8. They had training on Navajo Preference Employment Act.

M. RRCS School Board Members – None.

N. Others – None.

- V. Updates on Chapter On-going Projects:
- A. N8066 Road Construction Phase III & Permanent Bridges
 - 1. 80% completion on the project.
 - 2. With assistance of Delegate Pete and Sharon Yazzie, a meeting will be scheduled with NDOT and BIA Regional Office of Transportation for updates of the project on April 14th.
 - 3. Both proposed bridges still need to be survey and feasibility studies to be conducted by NDOT or BIA.
 - 4. The chapter will submit resolution for traffic count for parking lot.
 - B. N8065 Low Water Crossing Project
 - 1. It is supposed to be included in proposed NN Transportation Stimulus Plan.
 - 2. The Council Delegates are trying to put the plan on referendum vote.
 - C. North Valley Power Line Extension Project
 - 1. The chapter will submit current cost estimates with grant proposal to CIP.
 - D. Black Mesa Head Start Building
 - 1. Update meeting on March 28, 2017 at 11 am.
 - E. Frontier Telecommunications

VI. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm. Motioned by Larry Biltah and seconded by Tyson Clark.
VOTE: 21-00-00

Next Planning Meeting: Sunday, April 09, 2017 @ 9:00 am

Next Chapter Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2017 @ 4:00 pm



Marlene Biltah, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer