

Black Mesa Chapter
Chapter Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2014

I. Meeting Called to Order by Larry Biltah @ 1:22 pm.

A. Invocation provided by Amos Johnson.

B. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes of 10/10/14 with corrections.

Motioned by: Jane Baloo

Seconded by: Lynn Dean

VOTE: 29-00-05

C. Adoption of Agenda

Motioned by: Amos Johnson

Seconded by: Jane Baloo

VOTE: 38-00-12

Motioned to Add-on Item #L-#O under Resolutions by: Nona Yazzie

Seconded by: Sandra Todecheenie

VOTE: 33-00-13

D. Announcements:

1. 11/13-14/14 – NNC Special Session @ Window Rock
2. 11/14/14 – Sheep/Goad Management & Vaccination Workshop at NTU, Crownpoint NM
3. 11/14/14 – Veterans Parade and Guard Dance @ Low Mountain Chapter/School
4. 11/15/14 – BM Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 1pm
5. 11/17/15 – Turkey Trot @ BM Community School, 1pm
6. 12/3/14 – Precinct II/District 4 GCM Meeting at Whippoorwill Spring Chapter, 9am
7. 12/5/14 – BMC Cancelled Grazing Permit Interview at BMC

II. Brief Reports/Introduction of Resolutions:

A. Council Delegate, Dwight Witherspoon

1. Brief statement on \$554 Million Settlement Funds which has been received.
2. Dzilyijiin Regional Community Development Corporation met on October 23, 2014.
 - Election of Officers - Evelyn Meadows as President, Melvin Harrison as Vice President and Nicole Horseherder as Secretary/Treasurer.
 - There are seven chapter representatives and Wilson Gilmore represent Black Mesa Chapter.
 - Their next meeting on December 3, 2014 at PUSD, special building.
3. Concerns on families living in HPL
 - Three families are involved and over 300 heads were impounded.
 - The families received notices in August 2014 to enforce limited sheep units.
 - 30 Hopi officers showed up at 5:30 am to these homes and harassed the families. They only talked to permit holders and if interrupted by others, they are detained. These families felt discriminated. The officers' actions were considered like military operations and uncalled for.
 - He wrote to Land Dept, Public Safety, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Hopi Land Commission and Navajo Human Rights Commission regarding the actions of Hopi Officers.

- There were 75 people went to Window Rock and met with Navajo Hopi Land Commission last month.
 - A meeting has been scheduled on November 26, 2014.
 - A request has been made for congressional hearing and investigation by Federal mitigation in December 2014.
 - Families do want to sell their livestock but Hopi Tribe is very slow on inspections. It takes days before they come to do inspections.
 - Federal funds are being received by Hopi Tribe to assist Navajo resident of HPL for water, power and sewer and still remains to be seen.
 - 2800 sheep units are allowed on HPL and currently only 1900 are owned by Navajo people.
4. He sponsored two Legislations and only one passed at Special Council Session which is Division of Health Dept. Legislation for changes in Navajo Employment Act was not addressed due to lack of quorum. There might be another special session in November 2014 to address the rest of the legislations.
 5. Overriding the vetoed legislation by NN President on language change on eligibility of NN President Candidate. He did not vote due to unfairness because of the retroactive. It should be for future elections.

Concerns expressed by Amos Johnson of BIA NPL:

- It's been 40 years now since cancelled of grazing permits and no attempt on redistribution.
- NRIA developed by Navajo Dept of Agricultural and no action or support by Navajo Hopi Land Commission and Resource Development Committee and is becoming frustrated.
- BIA NPL will assist Grazing Committee Members since there is no support or funds from NN Council Delegates for their travel which is needed when attending meetings on NPL issues/concerns.
- Told Mr. Witherspoon to inform the people how funds are being paid for fines incurred by residents of HPL.

Responses by Mr. Witherspoon:

- Time is needed for review the redistribution of grazing permits guidelines because current guidelines are not included. The transfer of permit to heir is needed in the guidelines.
- Always try to be fair for all people.
- A disharmony among the relatives will be created if the living permit holders get their permits first.
- RDS like current proposed NRIA but he will sponsor one only for NPL area.

Other Concerns by Community Members:

- The residents of Yale Point Valley in Apache County expressed they are being left out of any road projects like red dog gravel project.
- A request to have water turn on which is being neglected after the completion (3 years ago) of the waterline extension.
- Joe Shirley Jr, Apache County Supervisor, said to have BM Chapter request for gravel and they will improve the roads with it.
- A request to contact Mr. Shirley on road improvement down the mountain to Rough Rock.

Explanation by Marlene Biltah on Red Dog Gravel Project:

- Navajo County Supervisor, Jonathan Nez, and his staff collaborated with 10 chapters of Navajo County, BIA Roads Dept, NDOT and Peabody Western Coal Company in 2013 to start the road improvement project on dirt roads.
- The project began in 2013 and still on-going with team work efforts by Navajo County, 10 chapters, schools, BIA Roads Dept, NDOT and BIA Force Account and Peabody Western Coal Company .
- Each chapter contributed \$10,000 towards the project.
- The gravel is mainly for main public dirt roads and not for private residential roads.

B. Grazing Committee Member, Francis Honie

1. NRIA status – no action or discussion on the regulation.
2. He is disappointed on current actions conducted by Hopi Police against Navajo residents of HPL. The impoundments of livestock at 5:00 am were out of order. A meeting with Hopi Tribe has been rescheduled to December 2, 2014.
3. Request by resolution submitted to BIA for travel funds for Grazing Committee members.
4. Horse roundup activities are on hold and pending for approval.
5. No action or discussion on redistribution of grazing permits; maybe until in January 2015.

C. CSC, Albert Lee – No report due to preparing and serving meals (Thanksgiving Dinner) to people.

D. CLUPC – Absent.

E. CHR – Vacant

F. BM Veterans Organization, Richard Claw

1. Conducted a moment of silence to honor fallen veterans of all military forces.
2. Held a meeting and dinner on November 9, 2014.
3. The Organization is planning a mini parade for local veterans next year during Veteran's Day.
4. A brief statement on being thankful and appreciated all veterans for their services and defending our freedom.
5. The Organization approved resolution on land withdrawal for veteran center construction.
6. The BM chapter funds of \$7,262.46 for Veteran Organization for FY 2014-2015.
7. BM Chapter membership needs to approve Chinle Veterans Trust Funds of \$19,721.00 for Veteran Organization.

G. BM Review Board, Jones Begay – Absent.

H. Chapter Officers – No reports due to adjournment of the meeting.

I. Others:

1. Jonathan Nez, Navajo County Supervisor
 - a. He thanked and appreciated all veterans for their services to the US and NN.
 - b. Red Dog Gravel Project going on to 3rd year.
 - Currently gravels are being crushed and stockpile for hauling to chapters.
 - Gravels are being place on public dirt roads within chapter areas in Navajo County.

- Funds: \$100,000 contributed by 10 Chapter, \$250,000 by Navajo County and \$200,000 by NDOT for the project.
- BIA Force Account workforce will soon start hauling.
- c. 5-Year TTP Plan (infrastructure) approved last month.
 - Majority of new elected council delegates might change the plan when they take office.
 - The Chapter needs to reaffirm the resolution for N8066 Road Construction Project.
 - He considered N8066 as a main artery for this community; there is no other main road to the chapter in case of unforeseen emergency.
 - He would like recommend the project as priority for \$554 Million Settlement Funds.
- d. Informed the community members he has been nominated and accepted as a running mate of Russell Begay whom is declared eligible by Navajo Supreme Court for NN President Candidate.
 - He knows there are a lot of concerns, disappointments, and protests on decision made by the Tribal Court regarding Chris Deschine.
 - A special election is scheduled on December 23, 2014.
 - He will work on uniting all Navajo people to best of his abilities.
 - He will work with the people.
 - A judicial reform needs to take place.

Concerns and Comments by Community Members:

- There are some that already voted and not being counted is very disappointment.
- Some expressed they might not voted again in December 2014.
- Our teaching of education has been destroyed; some parents told their children to get educated and return to NN to help the Navajo people.
- Herb Yazzie of NN Supreme Court should step down due to violations of voter's right, Navajo Fundamental Law and civil rights of the Navajo people.
- Recommendation for Chief Justice to be elected position.
- What is the status on ethical violations charges against Russell Begay?
- There are no supports from Council Delegates for their constituents.
- Have civil and liberal rights been violated and how will the Council Delegates correct the wrong?

2. Amos Johnson, BIA NPL Office

- a. A \$100,000 funds allocated for NPL Office which includes windmill repairs and weed studies/controls.
- b. Request to BIA for funds of \$20,000 to \$50,000 for travel expenses for Grazing Committee Members to attend meeting on NPL issues, including grazing permits.
- c. NPL is responsible for fencing on Route N4 to junction of Hwy 191.
- d. Meeting with Hopi Tribe on December 2, 2014 at Tolani Lake

Motioned to Suspend the Rule, have Resolutions before Updates of On-going Projects by: Amos Johnson

Seconded by: Alice Rose

VOTE: 41-00-05

III. Resolutions:

- A. BMC-15-11-015: Request to increase the sheep units for HPL Navajo Residents up to 2800 according to Accommodation Agreement and (*add-on*) no more military-style operations to be conducted.

Motioned by: Gloria D Sells

Seconded by: Rose Lee

Motioned to Amend Resolution (add-on) by: Amos Johnson

Seconded by: Louise N Begay

VOTE: 33-00-04

- B. BMC-15-11-016: Approve Housing Discretionary Assistance for Ronald Kaye, Susie Yazzie, Ruby Todechine, Ned Todechine, Jane Baloo, Ernestine Yazzie, Roselala Lee, Anthony Lee, Delany Montoya, Matthew Lee, Darnell Tsosie, Brenda Benally, Emerson Teller, Rose T Begay, Ella T Begay, Marietta Dick, Otis Nalwood, Josephine Watchman, Rose G Chee, Katie Watchman, and Terrill Yazzie.

Motioned by: Rose Lee

Seconded by: Annie Remiro

VOTE: 37-00-09

- C. BMC-15-11-017: Approve Chapter Scholarship Assistance for Augustine Sells Jr, Arlyssia Sells, and Leslie Joe. Absent: Shawna Mitchell and Howard Keyonni

Motioned by: Enos Lee

Seconded by: Amos Johnson

VOTE: 38-00-08

- D. BMC-15-11-018: Request NN Council to Amend NN Sales Tax Revenue Fund Plan of Operation related to Allowable and Disallowable Expenditures – move Purchasing of agricultural products, Training and instructional expenses, and Purchasing of motor vehicles and heavy equipment from disallowable to allowable expenditures.

Motioned by: Frankie Begay

Seconded by: Gloria D Sells

VOTE: 30-00-09

- E. BMC-15-11-019: Approve Travel Authorization for Accounts Maintenance Specialist to attend MIP Fund Accounting Workshop at Farmington NM on 11/17-20/14.

Motioned by: Sandra Todecheenie

Seconded by: Annie Remiro

VOTE: 32-00-07

- F. BMC-15-11-020: Emergency Medical Assistance for Debbie Teller, Louise N Begay and Sarah Begay.

Motioned by: Brenda Benally

Seconded by: Jane Baloo

VOTE: 29-00-12

- G. BMC-15-11-021: Request and Approve the Initiation of providing potable water to residents of ~~Upper Wepe Wash area~~ Black Mesa Chapter Community.

Motioned by: Annie Remiro

Seconded by: Rose Lee

VOTE: 34-00-09

- H. BMC-15-11-022: Requesting a Study and Assessment of Damages to Timberlands located in ~~Upper Wepe Wash Valley~~ Black Mesa Chapter Community, Peak and Plateaus by Northern AZ University Forestry Dept. ~~or other similar Institution~~, Division of Natural Resource, Game & Fish Wildlife, Navajo Forestry, and Dept. of Agricultural.

Motioned by: Annie Remiro

Seconded by: Rose Lee

VOTE: 34-00-09

Motioned to Amend the Resolution #G and #H by: Annie Remiro

Seconded by: Rose Lee

VOTE: 29-00-13

- I. BMC-15-11-023: Approve Road Ordinances on Routes N8066 and N8034 for Red Dog Gravel Project.

Motioned by: Gloria D Sells

Seconded by: Jane Baloo

VOTE: 28-00-06

- J. BMC-15-11-024: Approve \$500.00 for Black Mesa Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 15, 2014

Motioned by: Rose Lee

Seconded by: Ruby Todechine

VOTE: 32-00-04

- K. BMC-15-11-025: Approve \$500.00 for Black Mesa Community Christmas Dinner on December 13,

Motioned by: Rose Lee

Seconded by: Ruby Todechine

VOTE: 32-00-04

- L. BMC-15-11-026: Approve to purchase small copier machine for BM Grazing Committee

Motioned by: Jane Baloo

Seconded by: Sandra Todecheenie

VOTE: 30-00-03

- M. BMC-15-11-027: Requesting NN Council, Judiciary Committee and Dept. of Justice to immediately remove Chief Justice Herb Yazzie due to violations of Navajo Fundamental Law, Navajo Common Law, Navajo Bills of Rights and Civil Rights of the Navajo People.

Motioned by: Sandra Todecheenie

Seconded by: Gloria D Sells

VOTE: 32-00-01

- N. BMC-15-11-028: Accept and Approve Veterans Trust Fund and Budget for Chinle Agency Veterans Organization/Black Mesa Veterans Organization

Motioned by: Ruby Todechine

Seconded by: Amos Johnson

VOTE: 33-00-00

O. BMC-15-11-029: Reaffirmed Route N8066 Road as Priority Road Construction

Motioned by: Ruby Todechine

Seconded by: Jane Baloo

VOTE: 27-00-05

IV. Updates on Chapter On-going Projects: No updates due to adjournment of the Meeting.

A. N8066 Road Construction, Phase III & Permanent Bridge

B. N8065 Low Water Crossing Project

C. North Valley Power Line Extension Project

D. East Valley (Yale Point) Waterline Extension Project

E. Black Mesa Head Start Building

F. BM Solar Energy, Phase II

G. Telecommunications:

1. Frontier

V. Requisitions:

A. \$500.00 for BM Chapter Community Thanksgiving Dinner on 11/15/14

B. \$500.00 for BM Chapter Community Christmas Dinner on 12/13/14

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Motioned by: Frankie Begay

Seconded by: Ruby Todechine

VOTE: 25-00-08

Next Planning Meeting: Sunday, December 07, 2014 @ 8:00 am

Next Chapter Meeting: Saturday, December 13, 2014 @ 1:00 pm



Marlene Biltah, Secretary/Treasurer