

Black Mesa Chapter
Planning Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023

I. Meeting Called to Order by Larry Biltah

Participants: Marlene Biltah, Albert Lee, Larry Biltah, Francis Honie, Lynn Dean, Alta White, Marlinda Bede, Daisy Kiyaani, Gloria Johns, Evelyn Walker, Dorothy R Yazzie, Roger Bahe, and Jimmy Yellowhair.

A. Invocation provided by Marlene Biltah.

B. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 05, 2022:

Motion: Albert Lee 2nd: Francis Honie VOTE: 04-00-00

C. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Albert Lee 2nd: Francis Honie VOTE: 04-00-00

D. Announcements:

1. COVID-19 vaccinations continue at I.H.S. Clinics
2. 1/10/2023 – NN Inauguration @ 10 am, Ft. Defiance Event Center
3. 1/16/2023 – Martin Luther King Day Holiday
4. 2/3/2023 – BM CLUPC Meeting @ Pinon NDOT, 9am

II. Introductions of Resolutions and Brief Reports:

A. Council Delegate, Jimmy Yellowhair

1. He talked with Comptroller Begay on N8065 Low Water Crossing Project and was told the project will start soon.
2. He did mention that Legislation for N8066/N8065 Road Construction was not supported by several Council Delegates and did not pass. He encouraged the new elected-council delegate to start advocating for more additional funding.
3. He briefly talked about \$8.8 Million ARPA Funds and Projects for the chapters he represented.
4. He did mention that RDC has approved 50 Sheep Unit Legislation and currently, need BIA to do the same.
5. During the a 4-year term as being council delegate, he has supported several legislations that were approved. He believes he has produced a productive leadership for the chapters he served.

Gloria Johns, LDA

1. She told everyone that today was her last of being LDA and expressed her appreciation for working with all chapter officials and administration, and CLUPC.
2. She will continue to inform all chapter officials on ARPA funds and projects.
3. She also is planning to schedule a meeting with elected Delegate Simonson to update her on all chapter projects and its status.

B. Grazing Official, Francis Honie

1. Grazing officials had their District 4 and Agency meetings last week. NPL Joint meeting is this coming Thursday (teleconference).

2. He submitted a request to BIA for fence repairs within N8066 Right-of-Way. Horses and cattle find their way into the right-of-way through these broken fences.
3. Issues with Redistributions of Grazing Permits - Grazing officials were given a new revised heirship applications which includes notary public. Navajo Dept. of Agriculture told Grazing Officials to redistributed to previous applicants and redo the applications again. There are two living permittees within Black Mesa Chapter community. A timeline is being scheduled for Phase I. He did expressed his opposition and concern on why redoing the applications is redundant.
4. He has requested for earthen dam developments for livestock owners.
5. Currently, all Navajo Nation offices are closed until after inauguration which is scheduled tomorrow in Window Rock.
6. He talked about the safety protocols since COVID-19 is still fluctuating on weekly basis.

Dorothy R Yazzie heard the grazing officials approved the new revised application.

Roger Bahe is deeply concerned on wild horses and a plan should be developed for horse roundup.

C. CSC, Albert Lee

1. Current AMS has completed her 90-days probationary and became a regular employee. Robert jumbo of Chinle ASC still assisting the Chapter with financial services. AMS will need to attend MIP finance training before given a password to start working on financial duties.
2. 2022 W2s are ready for distribution.
3. He did submitted the BM Chapter's \$1.7 million ARPA Fund proposal and Shayla of DCD has it.
4. He makes weekly deposits for revenues from selling hay and water hauling.
5. Chapter house water pipes issue – He has been searching for a small part which is unavailable in local border towns, so had to order through Amazon. The part did came in and will be replace soon.
6. The chapter administration distributed Christmas goodies last week to people that came to the chapter house.
7. Employee of Navajo Nation Workforce has resigned due to seeking other jobs elsewhere.
8. He has contacted some hay vendors to purchase more hay but to no avail. Price quotes are so high per bale or poor quality. He will continue to seek good quality of hay with reasonable price.

D. Call to the Public

1. Dorothy R Yazzie

- Questioned why parts for water heater is taking so long.
- CSC taking leaves during the week when he is needed to assist the community (inclement weather).
- Since he is contact person for ARPA Funds Proposal, he needs to do daily check up on the status of the project. Maybe Sheila of DCD to do a letter on the status of the project.

2. Roger Bahe

- He explained a recent report (rumor) on him to operate heavy equipment.
- He has assisted with repairs of outside water pipes last year and offering his help again with the current issues with inside of the chapter house.
- He is requesting to have his solar panels _____

E. BM Veteran's Organization, Richard Claw – Absent.

F. CLUPC, Dorothy R Yazzie

1.

G. Chapter Officers

1. Participated in discussions of reports and introduction of resolutions.

2. Marlene Biltah explained how the gravel and culvert installation on N8066 will affect N8066/N8065 Road Construction. Spot graveling is okay with BIA and NDOT. She also explained that currently all Navajo Division Directors went through interviews last month with new Tribal Administration and some might be replaced.

H. Other: Evelyn Walker, NDOT/Highway Safety – She likes to be on chapter meeting agenda to do presentation on driving tips during the winter.

III. Updates on Chapter Ongoing Chapter Projects: Information only.

A. N8066 Road Construction Phase III & Permanent Bridges – Dibble Engineering is working on 100% plans and documents, including coordination with NTUA on waterline relocation design for the five waterline crossings and will need NTUA's review and approval to finalize the 100% plans. Additional archaeology field work was completed, and cultural resources report is also completed. NDOT has completed their review and a letter to FHWA to review, sign, and submit along with the revised report to Navajo HHPD for their review and compliance. NDOT will complete a separate EA report for new bridge and addendum to original EA report. NDOT will submit EA report to BIA Regional Office once an addendum to CRCF (cultural report) is completed. Dibble Engineering draft ROW documents and needs completed EA and FONSI before submitting ROW package to BIA and Navajo Nation for approval.

Dept. of Project Management of NDOT conducted a cultural resources survey for 28 temporary construction easements, five staging areas, chapter area, chapter access road and N8065 bridge. Cultural Resources Narrative Report was submitted to Navajo HHPD in March 2022 and waiting to receive compliance by May 2022.

The N8065 road and bridge, chapter house turnout, and parking lot will need additional funding of \$7.75 million. Two bridges and chapter access road might become stand-alone projects if no additional funds are secured.

B. Black Mesa East Valley-Yale Point Waterline Extension – The Chapter did submitted a proposal for ARPA funds and still no actions by CDC. The proposal is requesting for construction of bathroom additions. Bathroom additions need to be completed before IHS/EPA Office seek funds for waterline extension.

C. Black Mesa North Valley Waterline Extension – Same Information from Item B.

D. N8065 Low Water Crossing – Full funding of approximately \$1,793,515.00 has been approved and secured. Contractor has been awarded and construction is scheduled to start soon.

- E. Black Mesa Veterans Building – Allocations of \$144,000 from Sihasin Funds is available for Planning/ Predesigning, groundwork, and Architecture/Engineering and \$480,000 is, also, available for construction, additional \$1,400,000 for construction still needed.
- F. N8065 Crossing (S-Curve) –NDOT has discussed with Navajo County on the possibility of the County funding both drainage study, including obtaining 401/404 permits and the purchase of recommended culverts. A partnership meeting between NDOT, Navajo County, BIA and the Black Mesa Chapter is pending to discuss the project.

IV. Resolutions:

- A. BMC-23-01-022: Reaffirm and urgently requesting to Navajo Dept. of Agriculture to plan, organize, and conduct feral horses and donkeys within Black Mesa Chapter Community.
- B. BMC-23-01-023: Respectfully and requesting Navajo Dept. of Agriculture to pick up horses and cattle from the inside of the paved N8066 Right-of-Way.
- c. BMC-23-10-025: Authorize and approve chapter scholarship assistance for Zachary Duran.
- D. BMC-23-01-026: Authorize and approve chapter housing discretionary assistance for Harry Bega.
- E. BMC-23-01-027: Requesting for reinstatement of MOU on Red Dog Gravel Projects for N8065, N8035 and N8066.
- F. BMC-23-01-028: Respectfully requesting RDC, NNC and Office of Navajo President/Vice President to gravel all BIA system routes within Black Mesa Chapter community.
- G. BMC-23-01-029: Respectfully requesting NDOT, BIA Roads Dept. and Navajo County to immediately rehabilitate N8065 S-Curve Crossing.
- H. BMC-23-01-030: Requesting NDOT and BIA Roads Dept. to immediately survey to determine culvert replacements and dirt backfill on N8034.
- I. BMC-23-01-031: Supporting and recommending approval for permit and right-of-way for NTUA to place, operate and maintain telecommunications structures and associated telecommunications and utility facilities and required easement within the vicinity of Black Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at latitude: 36° 25'04.34" N., longitude: 110° 14'24.35" W., in order to applied and obtained support under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Grant to provide broadband access to the community.

Motioned to Forward All Resolutions to Regular Chapter Meeting: Lynn Dean

Seconded by: Marlene Biltah

VOTE: 04-00-00

V. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Motioned: Albert Lee

2nd: Marlene Biltah

VOTE: 04-00-00

TENTATIVE: Next Chapter Meeting: Monday, January 19, 2023 @ 3:00 pm

Next Planning Meeting: Monday, February 06 2023 @ 3:00 pm

Black Mesa Chapter
Chapter Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 3:58 pm by Larry Biltah
Participants: Marlene Biltah, Albert Lee, Francis Honie, Larry Biltah, Agatha Todechine, Nadine Narindrakura, Kathy Terry, Harry Chase, Dorothy R Yazzie, Marlinda Bede, Jolynn Yellowhorses, Jocelyn Yellowhair, Glenna Chee, Nathaniel Yellowhorse, Shinaya T Muzzie, Thomas Chee, Samantha T Ranger, and Ruby Todechine.
- A. Invocation provided by Dorothy R Yazzie.
- B. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2022: Dorothy R Yazzie motioned to defer to next meeting, seconded by Glenna Chee. VOTE: 13-00-04
- C. Adoption of Agenda with add-ons to Resolution and to suspend the rules by having Resolutions before Reports: Motioned: Glenna Chee 2nd: Marlene Biltah VOTE: 12-00-05
- D. Announcements:
1. COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations continue at I.H.S. Clinics
 2. 1/21/2023 – Chinle Agency Council Meeting @ Many Farms Chapter, 9am
 3. 1/23-27/23 – Council Winter Sessions @ Window Rock
 4. 2/3/2023 – BM CLUPC Meeting @ Pinon NDOT, 9am
- II. Resolutions:
- ~~A~~ BMC-23-01-022: Reaffirm and urgently requesting to Navajo Dept. of Agriculture to plan, organize, and conduct roundup of feral horses and donkeys within Black Mesa Chapter Community.
Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02
- ~~B~~ BMC-23-01-023: Respectfully and requesting Navajo Dept. of Agriculture to capture horses and cattle from the inside of the paved N8066 Right-of-Way.
Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02
- ~~C~~ BMC-23-10-024: Authorize and approve chapter scholarship assistance for Zachary Duran.
Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02
- ~~D~~ BMC-23-01-025: Authorize and approve chapter housing discretionary assistance for Harry Begay.
Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02
- ~~X~~ BMC-23-01-026: Requesting for reinstatement of MOU on Red Dog Gravel Projects for N8065, N8035 and N8066.
Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02
- ~~X~~ BMC-23-01-027: Respectfully requesting RDC, NNC and Office of Navajo President/Vice President to gravel all BIA system routes within Black Mesa Chapter community.
Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

~~G.~~ BMC-23-01-028: Respectfully requesting NDOT, BIA Roads Dept. and Navajo County to immediately rehabilitate N8065 S-Curve Crossing.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

~~H.~~ BMC-23-01-029: Requesting NDOT and BIA Roads Dept. to immediately survey to determine culvert replacements and dirt backfill for BIA System Route N8034.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

~~I.~~ BMC-23-01-030: Supporting and recommending approval for permit and right-of-way for NTUA to place, operate and maintain telecommunications structures and associated telecommunications and utility facilities and required easement within the vicinity of Black Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at latitude: 36° 25'04.34" N., longitude: 110° 14'24.35" W., in order to applied and obtained support under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Grant to provide broadband access to the community.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

Add-ons:

J. BMC-23-01-031: Reaffirming the appointment of Larry Biltah to Black Mesa Review Board to represent the Black Mesa Chapter.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

~~K.~~ BMC-23-01-032: Requesting to CDC and RDC to begin the planning and designing of Black Mesa Veteran's Building Construction using an allocated funds.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

~~L.~~ BMC-23-01-033: Reaffirming and Respectfully requesting Resource & Development Committee, the Budget & Finance Committee, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation to maintain 3" asphalt pavement for N8066(3)/N8065(1) Project.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

~~M.~~ BMC-23-01-034: Declaring State of Emergency of Black Mesa Chapter Community and request the NN President and Vice President, through executive order and NN Commission of Emergency Management to likewise issue similar declaration to support the effort of the Black Mesa Chapter Government.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Glenna Chee VOTE: 15-00-02

III. Reports:

A. Council Delegate, Germaine Simonson

1. We are all experiencing snow right now, then mud later.
2. She attending meeting regarding the emergency declaration with NDOT and Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff of Office of President/Vice President. Emergency Management did not respond to the meeting. Delegates also met with Navajo Vice President on our reports of local emergency issues.
3. Since Tuesday, delegates have received cell phones and laptops. A legislative training to schedule soon for all delegates.
4. She met with NDOT on road projects status:
 - N8066/N8065 Road Project – lack of environmental resource reports, also some clearances.
 - N8031 – also lack of environmental resource reports.

- She is planning to request for outside consultant to complete the reports.
 - She will request to Mike Halona, new NDOT director, to meet on this projects.
5. Currently, all divisions are lacking personnel; only one person in the office. Speaker to be elected on Monday. She is planning to tour Black Mesa Chapter community soon.
 6. Mask mandate policy will lifted by Navajo Nation President by executive order; the purpose is to allow all Navajo Nation employees to return back to their offices and serve the people.
 7. She will be attending Chinle Agency Council Meeting on Saturday at Many Farms Chapter.
 8. On Sunday, she is planning to attend a meeting on boarding schools' issues at Many Farms High School hosted by BIE, and Secretary Deb Halland will be presented to listen to testimonies of former students of boarding schools.

Nadine Narindrankura. LDA

1. Delegate Simonson attended a meeting on emergency declaration today. Emergency Management are preparing the processing of paperwork of declaring emergency for the Navajo Nation. BM Chapter submitted their request forms with supporting documents. CDC is meeting to allow the chapter to use their emergency funds. Delegates to meet with NDOT representatives on making intergovernmental agreements with AZ State and counties to assist with emergency situations.
2. She just started being LDA on Monday and received cell phone but waiting on laptop.
3. Council Winter Sessions start next week, January 23-27th.
4. Contact Information: Germaine Simonson – 505-422-9427, email: germaine.simonson@navajo-nsn.gov; Nadine Narindrankura – 928-530-6365, email: n.narindrankura@navajo-nsn.gov; President Nygren – 928-871-7000, email: president.buunygren@navajo-nsn.gov; Patrick Sandoval – email: pj.sandoval@navajo-nsn.gov

Dorothy R Yazzie requested that to continue with distributions of update of meetings to all chapter officials and CLUPC.

B. Grazing Official, Francis Honie

1. NPL Joint Meeting by teleconference. District 4 Grazing Officials set a deadline for Phase I Living Permittee to submit their applications. There are two from Black Mesa Chapter. As grazing official, he can only make recommendations for applicants. No actions by Dept. of Agriculture on Phase II Heirship.
2. Range management plan is required according to the CFR regulations.

Dorothy R Yazzie indicated that a new application form is not approved yet. She's been asking for this information but to no avail.

C. CSC, Albert Lee

1. Finally received a response on ARPA Chapter Project from Lenora Henderson and started working with her on corrections the proposal.
2. Both backhoe and road grader are being used for snow removal.
3. He is working with CHR of Hardrock Chapter on local community members' medications; she will be delivering them to patients.
4. He filled out and submitted multi-purpose with pictures to Emergency Management.
5. He has been trying to price quotes on hay from vendors but unsuccessful. One vendor told him hay farm are low or finally doing the 3rd cut.

Comments and Concerns:

1. Kathy Terry asked when N8034 will be bladed. People needs to go up to take of their livestock. Michelle Redmond also indicated that there should be a solutions to an emergencies.
2. Larry Biltah said he has called and emailed to BIA Roads, NDOT and counties regarding on snow removal to local routes within Black Mesa Chapter community. Apache County did respond and told him they will continue to Yale Point from Blue Gap.
3. Glenna Chee expressed her concern about her brother and other high-risk people needing their medical supplies; roads to residents need to be bladed so people can tend to their medical appointments, get their medications, groceries, and other needs.
4. Dorothy R Yazzie recommended to start blading from Peabody up to Oak Ridge area, then coming down the hill (eastward). She is disappointed when Navajo Nation Government employees are not answering calls during emergency. Communication is very poor. She requested to clear all roads so people can go out and in to their homes.
5. Agatha Todechine also request to blade toward their residents. She and her daughters have missed three days of work this week due to snow storm.

D. BM Veteran's Organization, Richard Claw – Absent.

E. CLUPC, Dorothy R Yazzie

1. Announced CLUPC meeting at NDOT Office in Pinon on Feb. 2, 2023. Both Chapter President and CSC are invited to attend.
2. Public Hearing schedule in March 2023 for updated CLUP manual. Still collecting surveys.
3. According to recent collected surveys, family burial site is being recommended by community. The sites are to approved and certified by Land Dept. Locations are to be also verified. Once approved and certified, burial sites are open to public.
4. Another recommended on surveys is convenient store and recreation center.
5. Rural Addressing: \$94,000 ARPA proposal was submitted and vetted by DOJ but funds are given to Navajo Public Safety. Public Safety has other plans for ARPA funds, including \$94,000. The Chapter approved and submitted opposing the actions but to no avail. Another meeting will be scheduled with MC Baldwin on price quotations on road signs. She encouraged to check on Chapter's website for map.

F. Chapter Officers

G. Other: Evelyn Walker, NDOT/Dept. of Highway Safety – No Show.

IV. Updates on Chapter Ongoing Chapter Projects: Information only.

- A. N8066 Road Construction Phase III & Permanent Bridges – Need NTUA to review waterline relocations for 5 crossings and approve to finalize the 100% plans. Additional archaeology field work was completed, and cultural resources report is also completed. NDOT has completed their review and a letter to FHWA to review, sign, and submit along with the revised report to Navajo HHPD for their review and compliance. NDOT will complete a separate EA report for new bridge and addendum to original EA report. NDOT will submit EA report to BIA Regional Office once an addendum to CRCF (cultural report) is

completed. Dibble Engineering draft ROW documents and needs completed EA and FONSI before submitting ROW package to BIA and Navajo Nation for approval.

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 - F. N8065 Crossing (S-Curve) –NDOT has discussed with Navajo County on the possibility of the County funding both drainage study, including obtaining 401/404 permits and the purchase of recommended culverts. Navajo County will only take care of planning and designing with an estimate of \$100,000. BM Chapter with coordinating with NDOT will have to pursue getting 401/404 permits.
- V. Motioned to adjourned by Albert Lee, seconded by Michelle Redmond. VOTE: 15-00-00

TENTATIVE: Next Planning Meeting: Monday, February 06 2023 @ 3:00 pm

Next Chapter Meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023 @ 3:00 pm



Marlene Biltah, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer