

Black Mesa Chapter
Chapter Meeting Agenda
April 17, 2023

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Larry Biltah at 3:57 pm.
 - A. Invocation provided by Emma Dixon.
 - B. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2023:
Motioned: Daisy Kiyaani 2nd: Rose T Lee VOTE: 13-00-10
 - C. Adoption of Agenda with Add-on and Suspension of the Rules, Resolutions before Reports:
Motioned: Albert Lee 2nd: Daisy Kiyaani VOTE: 14-00-09
 - D. Announcements:
 - 1. COVID-19 vaccinations continue at I.H.S. Clinics
- II. Reports:
 - A. Council Delegate, Germaine Simonson – Absent.
 - B. Grazing Official, Francis Honie – No Reports; got excused since he received a call from local livestock for animal inspection.
 - C. CSC, Albert Lee
 - 1. Home Site Lease Applications submitted by Juanita Small, Sanya Rose and Tanya Rose.
 - 2. ARPA Housing – needs estimates for modular housing.
 - 3. Earth Day is on April 24th and encourages community to help with trash pickup; Navajo County provided some plastic Bags.
 - 4. Hay - 400 bales
 - 5. AMS will be attending MIP training on April 24-27, 2023.
 - D. BM Veteran’s Organization, Richard Claw – Absent.
 - E. CLUPC, Dorothy R Yazzie
 - F. Chapter Officers participated in discussions on resolutions and reports.
 - G. Others:
 - 1. Fern Benally, Navajo County Supervisor
 - 2. Alta Warner, Apache County Roads Dept. – Left before giving reports.
 - 3. Elsa Johnson, US EPA, Abandoned Uranium Mines and 2 Colleagues
 - a. Black Mesa is in the Central Abandoned Uranium Mine Region and includes four chapters: Black Mesa, Blue Gap, Cottonwood, and Chine.
 - b. Uranium was mined in northeastern Arizona from 1950 to 1960s. Most mine were surface mines, but two also had underground.

- c. Settlement Trusts Cleanup Work – Funds are available to assess, conduct water quality study and cleanup work.
- d. Community Liaison will provide technical assistance services to community and to help communities better understand the Superfund cleanup process and EPA actions. Liaisons will share information about abandoned uranium mine field work and cleanup efforts at planning and chapter meetings. They gather comments and concerns from the community and relay them US EPA and other agencies.

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

- A. N8066 Road Construction Phase III & Permanent Bridges – Archaeology field work and cultural resources reports are completed and submitted to Navajo HHPD for their review and compliance. After completion of a separate EA report for new bridge and addendum, 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 Cultural Resources Narrative Report and submitted to Navajo HHPD in March 2022 and still waiting to receive compliance.

With a very thoughtful discussion on annual cost increasing, BM Chapter approved by resolution to separate the project into three projects: (1) \$20 million is available for N8066 road and arch bridge but will need additional funds of \$3.77 million. (2) N8065 road and bridge and (3) chapter house turnout and parking lot will be stand-alone projects.

- B. Black Mesa East Valley-Yale Point Waterline Extension – The Chapter needs to work on bathroom additions for some homes as priority.
- C. Black Mesa North Valley Waterline Extension – Same Information from Item B.
- D. N8065 Low Water Crossing – Currently being worked on; changed to box culvert instead of low water crossing. The cement is being used to create 6’x4’ box culvert. The cost of project is \$1.4 million.
- E. Black Mesa Veterans Building – Approved allocations of \$144,000 from Sihasin Funds for Planning/ Predesigning, groundwork, and Architecture/Engineering and \$480,000 for construction. Still need additional \$1,400,000 for construction.
- F. N8065 Crossing (S-Curve) – Navajo County to do drainage analysis, designing and obtaining 401 and 404 permits. The cost estimate is \$155,000. Will need additional funds for construction.

IV. Resolutions:

- A. BMC-23-04-051: Reaffirm the opposition to new Hiership Application for Redistribution of Grazing Permit in NPL Area.

Motioned: Roger Bahe

2nd: Daisy Kiyaani

VOTE: 18-00-06

- ~~B.~~ BMC-23-04-052: Approve Chapter Scholarship Assistance for Sarrah Wagner and Jamal Yellowhair.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie

2nd: Rose T Lee

VOTE: 15-00-09

- ~~X~~ BMC-23-04-053: Approved Chapter Housing Discretionary Assistance for Louise Yellowhair. Add-ons are Marlinda Elthie, Daisy Kiyaani, Susie Yazzie, Lorraine Yazzie, Alice K Bahe, Dorothy R Yazzie (homesite lease), and Desiree Yazzie (homesite lease).

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Rose T Lee

VOTE: 17-00-08

- D. BMC-23-04-054: Approving the BM Chapter Road Project Priority Listing

Motioned deferred to next meeting: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Emma Dixon

VOTE: 15-00-10

- E. BMC-23-04-055: Requesting BM Chapter Administration to allow chapter heavy equipment operator to redirect the water flow in Sliding Area alongside of paved N8066.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Albert Lee

VOTE: 21-00-03

MBiltah explained that the flooding is happening outside the Right-of-Way and BIA or NDOT will not act to correct it. It might fall back on BM Chapter to assume the cost. Alta Warner of Apache County suggested to work with NN Dept. of Emergency Management if the work can be considered for emergency work.

Recommendation to consult with NN EPA, BIA Road and NDOT to re-evaluate the water flow and drainage study to redirect the water flow in Sliding Rock area.

- ~~X~~ BMC-23-04-056: Approve \$200.00 to purchase food for BM Chapter CLUPC meeting on April 13, 2023, with Navajo County, Apache County, NTUA, BIA NPL, Navajo HPD, Navajo Fish/Wildlife and chapter officials.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Daisy Kiyaani

VOTE: 14-00-07

- ~~X~~ BMC-23-04-057: N8066/N8065 Road Construction, \$3,770,000

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Albert Lee

VOTE: 17-00-06

- ~~X~~ BMC-22-04-058: Support the opposition of the proposal, funding, and development of North, East and South Black Mesa pumped storage projects and requesting NN President and NN Council to oppose the preliminary permit applications of the storage pumped project filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Motioned: Daisy Kiyaani

2nd: Helena Nelson

VOTE: 22-00-01

Percy Deal gave brief information on what is being proposed by outside company. The communities recognize that decades of coal mining have damaged the health and productivity of Black Mesa's land, groundwater, and springs that people have depend on. These storage pumps were to be built, a major earth work will take place for new reservoirs, pipelines, powerlines, and other energy infrastructure on top of the Black Mesa Mountain. It required 450,000-acre feet of water to begin operations and additional water to continue for 100 years; it built, it would destroy land and displace traditional land use, inconsistent with the health of people, animals, and wildlife. The proposed project would, like a coal mine, use Black Mesa's land and water to create and export electricity and profits to far away cities.

Motioned to Add on: Albert Lee 2nd: Jane Baloo VOTE: 18-0005

- I. BMC-23-04-059: Request to NN Dept. of Emergency Management to collaborate with Navajo County on survey of the water flow within Sliding Rock area and determine the resolution of the flooding within the residents alongside paved Route N8066.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Daisy Kiyaani VOTE: 15-00-03

- J. BMC-23-04-060: Request to BIA Dept. of Transportation of Navajo Regional Office to direct Chinle Central BIA Roads Dept. to re-evaluate, assess, and repair the paved Route N8066.

Motioned: Dorothy R Yazzie 2nd: Daisy Kiyaani VOTE: 17-00-03

- K. BMC-23-04-061: Request to add Dorothy R Yazzie, Desiree Yazzie, Helena Nelson, Daisy Kiyaani, Phillip K Yazzie, Alice Z Bahe, Henry Gilmore Jr, Sara Mailboy and Carmalene Mailboy to Home Improvement Projects under ARPA Funds.

Motioned: Lorraine Yazzie 2nd: Daisy Kiyaani VOTE: 16-00-02

- V. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm due to lack of quorum.

TENTATIVE: Next Planning Meeting: Monday, May 08, 2023 @ 3:00 pm

Next Chapter Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2023 @ 3:00 pm



Marlene Biltah, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer