

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting
Sunday, May 18, 2025 @ 1:00pm
MINUTES

I. Meeting Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 1:41pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President

II. Invocation – Provided by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President

III. Roll Call

	i. Present Absent	
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President	X	
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	X	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official		*

*Mr Patrick Yazzie was not present at time of Roll Call – 1:47p – Mr. Yazzie arrived at 1:50p

IV. Announcements/Introduction:

1. Tsehotsoii Medical Center – Roy Dempsey, Community Relation Outreach Specialist
Community Update

Mr. Roy Dempsey provided a presentation on Alcohol Awareness

- Highway safety – driving under the influence of Alcohol and Drugs, Correct child restraint.
- Binge Drinking – consuming more alcohol within a period of time that your body is unable to tolerate. Binge drinking is drinking on occasion.
- Young Adults – drinking for celebrating graduations
- Be aware and educate one another
- No questions posed from community in attendance

2. Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife – Howard Leonard, Jr. on Climate Change

- Provided a presentation pertaining to Climate Change that affects all Fish & Wildlife across our Reservation.
- Construction of large factories is one cause that affects the Environment and the air quality.
- Educating our youth and children about conserving energy and water
- Their department also works closely with Department of Agriculture. Presently Feral Horses are overgrazing.
- Question was posed pertaining to Prairie Dog over-population, is there any plans to aid in reducing the population from the Department of Fish & Wildlife? There were reports from several community members who have planted crops in the past that was uprooted by Prairie Dogs.
 - o Chemicals are not a proper solution because once a chemical is used and the Prairie Dog dies, another predator will come along consume it and spread the chemical.
 - o There is a device that can be purchased that can emit a high frequency sound that only they can hear. This will cause them to relocate from the area.
 - o Prairie Dog colonies all have to do with the soil, the deeper the soil a colony will start and continue building a bigger colony.

- A Resolution from a Chapter Community can start the process in dealing with an issue, he is willing to work with the community in sitting down to discuss a better plan.
 - Information about where the Department of Fish & Wildlife steps in during the process of a new homesite lease. The purpose is to keep track of various regions of the Navajo Nation where nearly extinct plants and nearly extinct wildlife that are covered by the federal government are located. This also includes overgrazing that causes extinction of cultural herbs used for Navajo traditional medicine.
3. Cornfields Head Start – Elta Shepherd – Not present
 4. Kathy Chee, Cornfields Community Baptist Church – Not present
 5. Other(s): None

V. Approval of Agenda

M: Melvin Chee

S: Linda Holigay

VOTE: 19 – 0 - 1

The Agenda was read by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer.

VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 04/13/25 Regular Chapter Meeting

M: Melvin Chee

S: Brenda Thomas

VOTE: 18 – 0 - 2

The Previous Meeting Minutes were read by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer. There were no questions posed at conclusion of the minutes read.

VII. Old Business:

1. Business Report April 2025: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager

M: Cecelia White

S: Seraphina Bob

VOTE: 20 – 0 - 2

Happy Belated Mother's Day

Attended the Planning and Regular Chapter Meetings for April 2025.

The Chapter remained opened for business from Monday through Friday and from 8a-5p, with a closure from 12pm-1pm for Lunch.

The laundry is very busy – presently there are three washers down and building funds to repair or replace them.

The Chapter had a new load of hay delivered early this week.

ARPA

Home Improvement continues. The laborers are now on North Sunrise Mesa.

Numerous requests for ramps from the Community, working with the families that the Home Improvement laborers to schedule.

Some home owners who are having their homes improved expect to keep all the material that is left over, but the chapter reuses the left over material for the next project.

Community water delivery, the water was being paid by I.H.S., but there have been no new payments applies toward the water bill, therefore she will be having a meeting with them sometimes.

COAL – the Chapter will work with NTEC at the end of the year for Winter 2025, the coal loading is now closed.

NN Elections Administration

April 24th – position for the VACANT Council Vice President closed. The Chapter was informed that no candidate filed so they will re-open the filing at a later date.

Earth Day Activities –

This year's earthday activities was held with a successful turn out. Ms. Seraohina Bob assisting with the trash pick up. A Bin is still available for trash that is around the homes or if you are picking up trash along the road. Let the Office Staff know. All household trash will continue to be collected for accepted with the fee posted.

She often thinks about ways to help the community in starting programs like turning the vacant group home building into a treatment/recovery center.

Senior Social

The Chapter will once again have Mrs. Judith Shirley restart the Senior Social, there have been numerous individual inquiring about the program

Veteran's and CPMD -

Sihasiin Funding for a Veteran's Park had been approved but the funding is still in Window Rock. CPMD has funding from Sihasiin for Veteran's Projects. Cemetery Fencing Projects and a Warehouse is still in the works. The funding for these projects are idling in Window Rock. Currently there is 7 acres fenced for the Cemetery and an additional 3 acres were withdrawn. A scope of work was submitted for the cemetery fencing, but CPMD started to change with the fencing being changed from 5 feet fencing to 6 feet and to add a security barb wire to be placed at the top of the fence.

Comprehensive Budget

Was approved at last meeting for this year, but ASC informed her that she needs re allocate the budget for half of the year, she is still working doing so and in the process the funds have still not been released. She is hoping that all her accounts that were affected with negative outcomes will return to normal once she has her budget approved.

The Chapter is waiting for their annual sales tax allocation, it is usually received by the beginning of the year. Although the Unhealthy Food Tax was approved, the chapter has not received the allocation as well.

Summer Youth Employment

Will be planning to advertise the first week of June 2025

Question about Scholarship Funds from ARPA - \$150,000.00 was transferred to RRR funds. Now a request needs to be submitted with a sub-recipient agreement.

Question to Honorable James and Philandra, LDA - The application is asking for a Unique ID # and no longer a DUNS Number. So if there is no Unique ID#, how would the chapters being awarded apply for a Unique ID#. A Unique ID# is provided if a business applies for grants.

Another Question: Does this ARPA Scholarship cover students that attended college during the COVID Pandemic? Yes, there will be additional documents requested like a transcript to show attendance through the Pandemic.

Question pertaining to the Cemetery Fencing Project - could a proposal for road improvement to the cemetery be included? The Original Cemetery Fencing project included replacing the fence to include the three acreage and improve the parking and road to the cemetery.

2. Financial Report for April 2025 by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

M: Judith Shirley

S: Seraphina Bob

VOTE: 20 - 0 - 2

The Monthly General Funds and Chapter Budget for April 2025 was read in the Navajo and

English Language by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer. There were no questions posed.

VIII. New Business:

- 1. CF- MAY2025-33:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter Activity Funds for the Month of April 2025 in the Amount of \$9,358.97.

M: Linda Holigay
No questions posed

S: Cecelia White

VOTE: 21 – 0 – 2

IX. Verbal/Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James

- Three Main Topics.

- ARPA – His region received a little over 2 million from unspent Hardship
- Department of Water Resource – Waterline and services returned funds due to 60 million to be returned
- NTUA will be returning funds as well
- BIA – Navajo/Southwest Region – will merge two office to one. Early Retirement was offered and are being accepted. Chinle’s staff has all left for District 14. This will affect the outstanding grazing permits. Proposal for BIA to accept is in June 2024. This includes Homesite leases and roads.
- President Buu Nygren – Subpoena issued by the Navajo Nation Council. He appeared before the Navajo Nation Council on Thursday, May 08, 2025 and Council Delegates had a lot of questions. The Navajo Nation President stated that he would have a written response to all the questions when he left that evening. On Friday; May 16th – he responded in 28 page response to the questions asked by the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Honorable James dropped legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$14.75 for the Executive, Legislative, Judicial Branch only. Small businesses voiced a concern that if this is for the Navajo Nation as a whole, some small businesses will be run out of business. Know that each Chapter will have to recalculate their budgets for personnel, PEP, Summer Youth, if this Legislation passes.
- Happy Belated Mother’s Day, Congratulations to our graduates throughout the community.
- Updated Reports brought.

Cecelia White – thanked Honorable James for his continued advocacy for the people.
The Minimum wage consideration

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President:

- Missed the Planning Meeting on May 06, 2025.
- May 08, 2025 – Department of Justice regarding Title 26 attended.

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

- May 08, 2025 – Department of Justice regarding Title 26 attended.

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie

- a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – June 02, 2025 @ 9:00 AM Greasewood Springs Chapter
- b. Cornfields Permittee Meeting –
- c. Agency Grazing Meeting –
 - April 29th Permittee Meeting and Workshop – Dine College Grant Office
 - Wool Marketing; Sales and cleaning the wool before selling. Leave the chest shearings separate. Churro is not high priced. There are other
 - Hoof Care and live demonstration of vaccinations. Hoof trimming of sheep demonstrated.
 - He was focusing on Range Management, but that might change due to the staff being reduced in the BIA.
 - June 02, 2025 was the next District Grazing Meeting in Greasewood Springs Chapter, but there's a Navajo Nation Holiday. He'll ask about this.
 - Jim Bydone and Nate Sam accepted the Retirement buyout so they are leaving the BIA Program. This was announced at their Friday Meeting for their Agency Meeting. Dean Gamble and Ashley Curley are the two left for BIA.
 - Grazing Permits are on Hold – Transfers, Probated are on hold.
 - June 30th Deadline for the Livestock Inventory for 2025.
 - Permittee Meeting is scheduled for the 28th of May. Ray Castillo will be providing an Update pertaining to the Reduction of Employees with BIA. Invited community participation.
 - New livestock inventory should include a description of livestock when doing an inventory and age.
 - As a permit holder, if you are assigning another individual to take your livestock to auction for you, there needs to be a notarized document to support this.
 - Valid Permit are important to show. Any permit certified as in Probate or Transfer state cannot be used for inspection.
 - 2 windmills repaired – South of Cornfields Chapter and in North Cornfields.
 - Bar-N being used with branding. It is still valid through 2028. From 6 months of age brands need to include Bar-N.

4. Farm Board

- a. Regular Meeting – June 04, 2025 9:00 AM and June 10, 2025 9:00 AM
- b. Land Use Permittee Training– June 12, 2025 9AM
Judith Shirley reported –
Changes coming forth for who they will work with.

5. School Announcements:

- a. Ganado Unified Schools – School Board Official – Not present
- b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative – Not Present
- c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
 - The Principal will be leaving
 - 101 students enrolled
 - 11 8th graders promoted on Friday May 16th, school is out for the summer.
 - July 2025 - beginning the new school Construction, the school plans to put up a Bulletin Board to share the progress of the construction once it begins.
- d. Kindahlichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member – Not present

6. Other: none

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Judith Shirley

VOTE: 15 – 0 – 1

Seraphina Bob – wanted to express her appreciation to all the Officials and Grazing especially.

Tyrone Chee – Is there a legal opinion on the certified grazing document for the Grazing Permits in Probate. Yes, the certified/stamped grazing permit is valid. The original permit if not in probate

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

1. Next Planning Meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 03, 2025 4:00pm
2. Next Regular Meeting
Date: Sunday, June 08, 2025 1:00pm

XI. Benediction: Provided by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

XII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Melvin Chee

VOTE: Unanimous

Prepared and submitted by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on May 18, 2025.