

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting  
Sunday, July 13, 2025 @ 1:00pm  
MINUTES

**I. Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President at 1:30pm.

**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		X

**\*\*Mr. Patrick Yazzie arrived at 1:54pm after Roll Call was made.**

**IV. Announcements/Introduction:**

1. N15 Reconstruction Update – Mr. Darryl Bradley, Principal Civil Engineer - NDOT
  - Mr. Darryl Bradley, NDOT – Conducted a Presentation, provided written information
  - BIA, Navajo Region had been originally designated to take on the Repaving project for N15, This highway is 21 miles from Burnsides to Greasewood.
  - The repaving project is split into three segments which are now named by phases.
  - Phase I – fully funded and presently revisiting the design to begin project – Phase I is now 95% complete for assessments to be near Construction Ready.
  - Phase II – Middle segment of the three phases.
  - Phase III – Has a shortfall of funding in the amount of \$18 million.
  - Phase I is projected to begin construction in April 2026. Most likely this projected start date will Not change due to the increasing costs of design.
  - Mr. Taliman, community member – asked how many more times will Archeology will study the identified archeological findings, haven't the findings been completely removed?
  - Mr. Bradley will reach out to Navajo Nation Historic Preservation to bring to their attention the community questions so that they can schedule a time to explain their process, for a clearer understanding.
  - NDOT does not enforce the truck traffic or enforce limit of weight for cargo transported through N15.
  - Mr. Larry Noble, visitor – posed a question regarding where the Truck Drivers hauling out of Brimhall Sand and Gravel purchases their fuel, is the tax they pay for the fuel they use entitle them to use BIA Roads?
  - Mr. Bradley responded by stating the Navajo Nation Tax Commission would be the entity to ask about the Fuel Tax.
  - Mr. Bradley was thanked for the information that he provided.

2. July 19, 2025 Fort Defiance Agency Council Meeting – 9:00a – Greasewood Springs Chapter
3. July 24, 2025 Elder Wellness Clinic – 10:00a to 2:00p – Cornfields Chapter – TMC Mobile Clinic

4. July 24, 2025 Senior Social – 10:00a – 1:30p – Cornfields Chapter
4. July 29 – 31, 2025 Wool and Mohair Sales – 9:00a to 11:00a – Window Rock Fair Grounds
5. July 30, 2025 Youth Activities – 1:00p to 2:30p – Cornfields Chapter – Office of Dine Youth
6. Kathy Chee, Cornfields Community Baptist Church – Not Present
7. Other(s):
  - Ruthie Nez, Greaswood Springs 7/21/25 10a-12p Greasewood Springs Community School

**V. Approval of Agenda**

**M: Dickie T. Smith                      S: Priscilla Chee                      VOTE: 28 – 0 – 4**

The Agenda was read by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary in both the Navajo and English Language. There were no questions posed.

**VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 06/18/25 Regular Chapter Meeting**

**M: Judith Shirley                      S: Linda Holigay                      VOTE: 28 – 0 – 5**

Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes from the last Regular Chapter meeting which occurred on June 18, 2025. There were no questions posed.

**VII. Old Business:**

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

**M: Warren Thomas                      S: Ruthie Nez                      VOTE: 29 – 0 – 5**

- Chapter Operations : Monday through Friday from 8:00a to 5:00p
- Stock Water and drinking water are available to the Community
- Stock Water price was reduced to .01 per gallon for July and August.
- Hay – Chapter plans to have a new load by Wednesday 07/15/25
- Residence Verifications continue to be provided
- Her main focus is on ARPA projects – 2 projects remaining
  - 4 homes on West Sunrise mesa were completed last week
  - 2 more home completed in the Cornfields valley, the Chapter is still encouraging home owners to take on their own repairs to save time for the group of laborers to continue with other homes.
- Reports for ARPA is kept up with and submitted to Window Rock
- Last draw down for ARPA in the amount of \$214,000.00 for the home renovation project
- Summer Youth employment – hired 39 students, and last day was Friday 7/11/25
- I.H.S. – Safe water drinking program still working with them to provide water and the project for another 2 years
- Partnership for Native Americans – assisted Cornfields Community with donations. June 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> they provided 2 shipments of supplies. CHR assisted with the distribution of supplies.
- Oakridge Fire – currently 93 % contained. Assisted with donating handsoap, masks and hand sanitizer.
- Windmill – water storage tank was delivered on Thursday but it is a temporary tank for Windmill requesting a voter's support to request an immediate repair for a Resolution.

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

**M: Priscilla Chee                      S: Warren Thomas                      VOTE: 30 – 0 – 6**

- a. RESALE ITEMS-----\$4,575.55

Hay	
Water	
b. RENTALS-----	\$ 480.00
Tractor	
c. SERVICES-----	\$2,052.95
Trash	
Xerox/Fax	
	=====
TOTAL	\$7,108.50
	-----

- Cornfields Chapter Ending Balances as of 05/31/25

General Activities	(241.81)
Personnel Funds	\$98,215.31
Land Claims	\$28,680.43
Supplemental Youth Funds	\$19,342.95
Housing Discretionary	\$19,342.95
LGA Funds	\$13,860.16
Chapter Stipend Funds	\$38,549.12
Scholarship Funds	\$9,903.50
PEP Funds	\$61,443.13
Veterans Funds	\$3,259.79
Emergency Fund	\$-
NN CIP	\$-
NN Sales Tax	\$197.33
Unhealthy Food Tax	\$37,233.99
ARPA	\$70,944.65
TOTAL	<b>\$433,766.20</b>

**VIII. New Business:**

1. **CF- JUL2025-36:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter Activity Funds for the Month of June 2025 in the Amount of \$7,281.79.

**M: Jimmie Taliman, Sr. S: Linda Holigay VOTE:**

**A Substitute Motion Request made to combine items from 1. To 5. For a consent motion**

**M: Norma Noble S : Ruthie Nez VOTE : 26 – 0 – 7**

**Substitute Motion carries**

2. **CF- JUL2025-37:** Respectfully requesting the Navajo Nation Resource and Development Committee, Navajo Nation Naabik'iyati' Committee, Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice-President, Navajo Nation Budget and Finance Committee and Division of Economic Development to allocate funding in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 from the Si'hasin Fund to the Cornfields Chapter for Infrastructure Development to support the Deer Point RV Park Project.

**M: Norma Noble S: Ruthie Nez VOTE: 26 – 0 – 7**

**This item was part of the Consent Agenda, therefore no questions posed.**

3. **CF-JUL2025-38:** Approving and Supporting to specifically accepting Cornfields Chapter's Responsibility, Accountability and control of the Si'hasin Funds for the Cornfields Chapter Veteran's Court Yard Project in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**M: Norma Noble            S: Ruthie Nez            VOTE: 26 – 0 – 7**

**This item was part of the Consent Agenda, therefore no questions posed.**

4. **CF-JUL2025-39:** Intragovernmental Office Space Use Agreement (hereinafter the "USE AGREEMENT") is made and entered into between the Cornfields Chapter of the Navajo Nation (hereinafter "CHAPTER"), P.O. Box 478, Ganado, Arizona 86505, and the Community Health Representative & Outreach Program, P.O. Box 1390, Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) 86515, (hereinafter "CHR/Outreach Program") through end of FY26.

**M: Norma Noble            S: Ruthie Nez            VOTE: 26 – 0 – 7**

**This item was part of the Consent Agenda, therefore no questions posed.**

5. **CF-JUL2025-40:** Insisting the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources to replace a water storage tank for Windmill 17T-522 located on the West Sunrise Mesa due to a leak caused by corrosion at the base of the storage tank in the Cornfields Chapter Community due to an emergency need for the Summer conditions.

**M: Norma Noble            S: Ruthie Nez            VOTE: 26 – 0 – 7**

**This item was part of the Consent Agenda, therefore no questions posed.**

6. **CF-JUL2025-41:** Requesting Cornfields Chapter to assist Dedra Tsosie, Community Member with financial assistance to repair the water line in her home located at Cornfields NHA Housing, which was damaged by a waterline break.

**M: Michelle Hodge-Smith   S: Ruthie Nez            VOTE: 18 – 0 – 10**

**Amending the motion made by Norma Noble, Community Member to add the amount of the submitted quotation on the Resolution.**

**- Amount \$3,792.98            - Vendor: Copper Penny Plumbing LLC**

**Motioner accepts the Amendment to this Resolution.**

**The Vendor Name and amount will be added to the Resolution.**

Dedra Tsosie – Addressed the Community Member to request financial assistance for a repair to the pipe connecting to her water heater that affect other pipes under the home, pictures provided in request (SEE ATTACHMENT). \$3792.98 is one quote that was submitted. There were 2 other Vendors she sought a quote from who declined due to no coverage to her location. Ms. Tsosie resides in NHA House #19. The house was obtained through her aunt Orlanda Smith-Hodge and is currently in the process of purchasing the home. In addition to the submitted price quotations, she would like to report that 3 vendors did not respond, 2 vendors: 1 – from Gallup, NM and 1 – from Winslow, AZ have not respond with a quotation.

Water Heater was replaced when she moved in, She paid \$700.00 to purchase a new water heater, but upon replacement, the pipe attached to the hot water began to leak. Efforts to fix the leak did not suffice to stop the leak. Now, it is recommended that the pipes be replaced.

COMMENT:

Vince James, Honorable Council Delegate – commented to attending quorum, that the Housing Discretionary Funding allocated from the Navajo Nation Government is not allocated to give anyone a hard time when they are requesting assistance.

Norma Noble, Community Member – Would like to comment to identify that there were three vendors contacted. One submitted a Quote, the two others reported that they do not work on projects on the Navajo Nation. Should this be sufficient?

Ruthie Nez, Community Member – Procurement Process across the Navajo Nation, Federal Government and State Government are almost similar in its process. The submitted Quotation is a Navajo Owned business, a listed vendor with the Navajo Nation Business Regulatory. She is pleading with the community to move forward to vote in favor of this requested resolution.

Cecelia White, Community Member – Commented to state that she has witnessed that the Plumbing Vendors that are available to work with are very limited to our community due to the distance they have to travel.

Vince James, Honorable Council Delegate – Your Chapter Manager, Ms. Alfreda Earle, under the 5-management system and as Cornfields Chapter being a Certified Chapter, the procurement can be managed by the Chapter Manager.

Tyrone Chee, Council President – explained that the Navajo Nation encourages the Procurement Process.

Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager – Policy for Housing Discretionary Funds for Cornfields Chapter at present is \$500.00. In the past the amount was \$250.00. With the Administrative documentation it requires a homesite lease. The Navajo Nation procurement process requires three quotations. As long as there is documentation of the pending responses, that can be sufficient. Recommendation to the applicant is to work on obtaining a homesite lease to show actual ownership.

**A motion to request to amend the Agenda to add two Resolutions:**

**M: Judith Shirley                      S: Linda Youvella                      VOTE: 19 – 0 – 10**

- 7. CF-JUL2025-42: Supporting a Legislation to the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council for a request of funding the N15 Construction for Phase III with a shortfall of 18.5 million by Vince James, Honorable Council Delegate for Cornfields Chapter.**

**M: Linda Youvella                      S: Jimmie Taliman                      VOTE : 27 – 0 – 6**

Honorable Delegate James explained that he is planning to present a Legislation to the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council to request funding to cover a present shortfall for funding the Phase III of the N15 Construction in the amount of \$18.5 Million to aid in completion of the 20+ miles of proposed construction. The attending voting audience is in favor of this said Resolution.

- 8. CF-JUL2025-43: Supporting the Cornfields Chapter Farm Board in efforts to request their scope of work for their External Contractor Proposal ATTACHED.**

**M: Ruthie Nez                      S: Joan Dalgai                      VOTE: 25 – 0 – 5**

Judith Shirley, Farm Board Member explained that the Cornfields Chapter Farm Board has decided that they would like to move forward to making a change in farming for the Community

by hiring Mr. Ed Harvey, a Conservation Planner who is experienced to study the soil to compile statistics that would benefit all future Farmers interested in farming for the Cornfields Community. They have been encouraged to find a useful project to promote and improve Farming in the community by the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and this is a result of their planning.

Ruby Lewis – in discussion of current planting field in Cornfields, would this include other fields in the Cornfields Community.

Judith Shirley – Responded to state that this study would be completed at the present Cornfields Irrigation and Farm Plot.

Clarification: To support the Farm Board, in recommending to hire Ed Harvey, Conservation Planner using the \$50,000.00 with the Department of Agriculture.

Tyrone – Do you have a supporting resolution passed by the Farm Board, this Resolution would serve as a support to move forward to hire Mr. Ed Harvey with the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture.

Judith Shirley - Responded that Nathaniel Sam, encouraged the Farm Board to move forward with a plan to show that this can be a use for the \$50,000.00 Drought Insurance Funding that the Department of Agriculture is holding.

Ruthie Nez, Farm Board Member – explained the Resolution request in the Navajo Language.

## **IX. Verbal/Written Reports**

### **1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James**

– Covered the Submitted July 2025 Chapter Report

And:

- Reported that he will be participating in a Trail Ride from Ganado Chapter to Window Rock Fair Grounds on Sunday, July 20, 2025.
- Zenni Homes was awarded \$24 Million to fund manufactured homes, but reported as of Friday 7/11/25 that they will be closing their doors on 7/14/25. This resulted in a Legislation 0175-25 being submitted by Honorable Council Delegate Shandiin Parish for investigatory procedures on ZenniHomes and Indigenous Design Studio.
- The Controller of the Navajo Nation McCabe submitted a Letter of Resignation and emailed Honorable Delegate James and others on Friday July 11, 2025 and reported that he had his letter acknowledged by President Nygren. But when Legislation 0174-25 was dropped, he rescinded his letter and states he will return to work on 07/14/25 at 8:00am.
- Division of Family Services announced that they have unspent funding for the Navajo School Clothing and are encouraging all Navajo Parents who did not apply to submit their applications. If there are any questions, reach Thomas Cody, Executive Director for Navajo Nation Division of Child and Family Services at (720)207-7696.
- Child Care Center in Greasewood closed and will be reopening in Ganado.
- Ganado Navajo Housing Authority is currently talking with the Navajo Division of Children and Family Services about leasing the vacated Annie Wauneka Life Care Center and the Cornfields Group Home as a Youth Home for the Navajo Nation. Other businesses also had interest such as Sage Memorial Hospital and Chinle Nursing Home, but they have not made a final decision to move forward with their plans.

### **2. Chapter Officials**

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President – Shared a verbal report.

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer – Shared a verbal report

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie
  - a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – August 04, 2025 – Steamboat Chapter 9:00a
  - b. Permittee Meeting – To be announced when scheduled
  - c. Agency Grazing Meeting – July 15, 2025 9:00am NDOT Complex

Provided a Grazing Report –

Would like to invite Dean Gamble to provide a presentation for the Permittee Meeting this month and will schedule his meeting based on Mr. Gamble's availability.

Mohair and Wool Sale in Window Rock scheduled at the Fair Grounds in Window Rock, AZ on July 29<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Windmills in the community still have water in the Community.

Department of Agriculture has put the Feral Horse Round-up on hold. The Ranch hands that assist the Department of Agriculture, are not being paid. The buyer for the Feral Horse disagreed for favoring one vendor, so the BIA looked back into the protocols of the hiring of ranch hands and procuring the vendors as buyers. The funding received in purchasing the Feral Horses returns the funds to the Navajo Nation General Funds.

Branch of Natural Resources under the BIA, Dean Gamble and two others Ashley Curley and Nathaniel Sam work under Mr. Gamble. Mr. Sam works closely with Farm Board.

Thursday – July 10, 2025 – stopped at Department of Agriculture to inquire what documents are required for selling wool and mohair. Bill of Sale needs to be provided, this is being negotiated. For Permits that pending the final decree of transfer and probated permits, they would be able to sell their wool and mohair. If you have a permit and have not yet taken it into court, a letter of recommendation is required.

Range Land Technicians will be hired (7 chapters) as FTE. There will be a Range Land Technician hired for chapters covered by Council Delegate. Each Range Land Technician will have their own vehicle assigned to carry out their tasks.

4. Farm Board
  - a. Regular Meeting – Aug 05, 2025 – 9:00a
  - b. Regular Meeting – Aug 12, 2025 – 9:00a
  - c. Land-Use Planning – Aug 14, 2025 – 9:00a
  - d. Joint Farm Board Meeting Nenahnizad Chapter – Aug 01, 2025 9:00a
  - Ray Castillo with Department of Agriculture to oversee the Farm Board
  - Judith Shirley reported that she was nominated as Secretary for the Agency Farm Board.
5. School Announcements:
  - a. Ganado Unified Schools – School Board Official – No one Present
  - b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative – No one Present
  - c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
    - o Job Fair – for the construction of the new school
  - d. Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member
    - Kin Dah Lichii Olta Board Meeting – July 15, 2025 6:00pm
    - o School Board Meeting scheduled
    - o Enrolling Children for the upcoming school year – recruitment

- August 06, 2025 School Begins
- Oak Ridge Fire – impacted part of the community near the school and they opened the Gymnasium was opened for shelter.
- Agenda Items for the upcoming School Board Meeting - the Big Beautiful Budget will impact the BIE Schools and this will be shared. Facilities Department might be affected.

6. Other:

- a. Fort Defiance Agency Council Meeting – 9:00a – Greasewood Springs Chapter
- b. Navajo Nation Council Summer Session – July 21-24, 2025 – 9:00a – Window Rock, AZ
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**M: Melvin Chee**

**S: Norma Noble**

**VOTE: 17 – 0 – 4**

**X. Next Scheduled Meetings:**

- 1. Next Planning Meeting  
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2025 4:00pm
- 2. Next Regular Meeting  
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2025 1:00pm

**XI. Benediction: Provided by Larry Noble, Apache County Voter Registrar**

- Updating the voter's registrar, please assist to identify deceased voters
- Census will begin, ensure they count everyone in your community

**XII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:44p by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President**

**M: Melvin Chee**

**S: Linda Holigay**

**VOTE: Majority Vote**

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Meeting Minutes Prepared and submitted by Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer