

Cornfields Chapter Planning Meeting

Tuesday, August 05, 2025 4:00 PM

MINUTES

- I. Meeting call to Order –** By Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President at 4:15 pm
- II. Invocation –** Mr. Victor Dee, EPNG (visitor)
- III. Announcement/Introductions:**

***Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer read the entire Agenda**

- 1. Regular Chapter Meeting – Sunday August 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- 2. Navajo Code Talkers Day – Thursday, August 14, 2025 – Chapter CLOSED
- 3. El Paso Natural Gas, LLC – Sheyenne Love, Tribal Relations – Introduction
Presentation was provided by Victor Dee on behalf of EPNG.
The Navajo Station El Paso Natural Gas Plant was established In 1947. Renewal of Right-of-Way is requested every so often for the continued Operation of EPNG across the Navajo Nation. The Resolution being introduced today to request a 20-year renewal of the El Paso Natural Gas Operations with no added structure or extensions. Open for questions from the community:
 - A local resident living on the route to the EPNG site asked; With the renewal of the ROW, will EPNG consider maintaining the road extending off of Highway 191 to the Navajo Station - El Paso Natural Gas Plant? There are still large equipment that utilize the road that causes large pot-holes.
 - Kinder Morgan is now the Parent Company of the former El Paso Natural Gas.
 - When EPNG switched to an automated system, everything outside of the ROW was given back to the Navajo Nation. But still in return for the renewal of the ROW, EPNG might be able to assist with some aspects like maintaining the El Paso Navajo Station Road.
 - Another possibility to add as a request is to revitalize a water source that was on the Southside of the Station for nearby residents to use for their livestock, this would save the residents a long trip to Cornfields Chapter to make it easier. Mr. Dee will look into the well mentioned.
 - A Request for a Map to be shared and location of the pipeline through the Cornfields Chapter boundaries for the Regular Chapter Meeting presentation.
- 4. Others:
 - A. Tse Ho Tsoii Medical Center – Mr. Roy Dempsey, would like to share information about the new enrollment of Medicare – Medicare Advantage. Molina and Humana are private network Medicare plans. But the Medicare Advantage Plan that covers 80% of Healthcare cost is an actual Medicare plan. He will present on the difference of the current Medicare Plans to make an informed decision.
SPOOFING – Is a current trend used by Scammers where a caller will state that they are calling from the Hospital to request personal information. Know that they Hospital will never ask you for your personal information over the

phone. Would like to be placed on the Agenda for the Regular Chapter Meeting.

- B. Melvin Chee, Community Member – Pertaining to the ARPA Home Improvement. He is becoming impatient for his home improvement to begin on his home, will the Chapter assist with hiring three laborers to complete his renovation by utilizing the Housing Discretionary Funds?

Response: Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President – The Chapter does give the option of purchasing the material and the homeowner is responsible to complete the labor. Mr. James states that this is his first participation as the newly confirmed Council Vice-President and does not have any current information pertaining the number of residents who have not yet been assisted.

- Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President was not able to respond due to Melvin being his sibling.
 - Notes of this question will be documented to obtain further information pertaining to the current status of the ARPA Home Improvement and to clarify how many homes remain on the list for the community.
 - Ruthie Nez, Farm Board Member – There needs to a clarification on how many applications were considered from the beginning and where the improvements are currently at with the number of homes remaining. How much funds have been used and what is the balance remaining. Our Council Delegate had mentioned that our Chapter has a lot of funding for Housing Discretionary Funds during our last Chapter Meeting in July and we should use the funding for the needs of our people.
 - Niomi Begaye – Community Member requested information regarding the amount of applying for Housing Discretionary Fund.
 - Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer announced to all in attendance that our Chapter Manager is currently on Vacation and due to return on August 18, 2025.
 - Marilyn Begay, Administrative Assistant whom is delegated in the Capacity of the Chapter Manager, covered the application process and requirement for obtaining the price quotation.
- A The amount of funding is \$500.00. There are guidelines for requesting funding. The home has to have a Homesite Lease in the name of the homeowner. There are guidelines that have to be followed. The Discretionary Funds can be awarded to applicants every two years. The home has to be occupied year long and not used for a home part-time. There is also a Nava-Hopi Home Renovation program that are looking for homes that are occupied by a Homesite Lease holders.

- C. Stanley Benally, Community Member – would like to request an update for a Resolution that was passed back in 2024 for a waterline extension plan under the ARPA Infrastructure Funds. There were 25-30 residents who were included in this Resolution passed for this waterline extension. A year ago, Honorable Delegate James was supposed to present this project before the Council, but the resolution was not placed on the Agenda at that time. NECA has since then placed cistern systems but the residents still have to labor in hauling water. Mr. Benally is requesting the Chapter Council to re-affirm Resolution for waterline extension for South Navajo Station

*The Announcement/Introduction was read by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

IV. Approval of Agenda

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Judith Shirley

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 1

V. Old Business

1. None

VI. New Business

1. **CF- AUG2025-44:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter Activity Funds for the Month of July 2025 in the Amount of \$7,932.03.

M: Sharon Smith

S: Lawrence Sam

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 1

No Questions posed

2. **CF-AUG2025-45:** Supporting the removal of underground storage tanks (UST) at the former Mora's Conoco site and supporting the Navajo Nation's efforts to complete the remediation project in collaboration with designated Contractors and Agencies.

M: Patrick Yazzie

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 1

No Questions posed

3. **CF-AUG2025-46:** A resolution supporting El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C. (EPNG) in seeking a new right-of-way (ROW) grant for the Continued Operation and maintenance of existing Natural Gas Pipelines and related facilities within the Cornfields Chapter Jurisdiction

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Patrick Yazzie

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 1

No Questions posed

Honorable James was updated on the Presentation provided by Mr. Dee in regards to the responsibilities EPNG gave back to the Navajo Nation once the Station was automated.

4. **CF-AUG2025-47:** Reaffirming Resolution CF-JUL2024-61- "Respectfully requesting and supporting 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 the Indian Health Services to allocate funding in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 from the Si'hasin Fund to plan, design and Construct Waterline Extension to 35 homes in the Navajo Station Area within the Cornfields Chapter Community."

M: Judith Shirley

S: Lawrence Sam, Sr.

VOTE: 6 – 0

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- Mr. Benally presented his request to Honorable Council Delegate giving a brief history of this request.

- Honorable James responded to explained the problem that occurred with the Jurisdiction/Boundary lines between Cornfields, Klagnetoh, and Greasewood Springs which changed the request to the Navajo Nation. The issue was that if a resident is a registered voter in either chapter and Cornfields residents are approved, the other chapter registrants will be left without water. There was no participation from either Klagnetoh or Greasewood Springs Chapter, therefore the request was redirected to Indian Health Services. Currently Water Resources still has over 130 Million in incomplete waterline projects, they do not have the contractors available to complete the projects and they were given the ARPA infrastructure funds for waterlines. Now they are faced with calculating how much funding is projected to be returned and in order to avoid returning any funding, there has to be decision made on where to utilize the remaining funding.
 - Honorable Delegate is due to have a meeting with I.H.S regarding waterline projects soon, but he will be extending an invitation to his Chapters when it is scheduled.
5. Recommendation: To continue with Reaffirming and to change the Resolution to be directed to Indian Health Services instead of the Navajo Nation.
- i.e. "Respectfully requesting the Indian Health Services to allocate funding in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 to plan, design and Construct Waterline Extension to 35 homes in the Navajo Station Area within the Cornfields Chapter Community."
6. **CF-AUG2025-48:** Requesting a construction of new water well north of Cornfields near the Residence of Lawrence Sam.
M: Ruthie Nez S: Patrick Yazzie VOTE: 6 – 0 – 1
Comment: Honorable Council Delegate James recommends that this request should be addressed to the new Native Land Insurance or the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources. The requested Resolution will be drafted by the requesting party and submitted to the Council Secretary/Treasurer for the Regular Chapter Meeting.

VII. Others: Meetings:

1. Regular Chapter Meeting – Sunday, August 10, 2025 1:00pm
2. Farm Board:
 - a. Regular Meeting – August 05, 2025 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
 - b. Regular Meeting – August 12, 2025 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
 - c. Land-Use Planning – August 07, 2025 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
3. Grazing:
 - a. Permittee Meeting – TBA
 - b. District 17 Meeting – September 5, 2025 Ganado
 - c. FD Agency Grazing Meeting – August 15, 2025 NDOT 9am
4. Veterans Organization – TBA
5. Planning Meeting – Tuesday, September 02, 2025 4:00pm

Addressed by returning – Mr. Wallace James, Jr as the Council Vice-President for our Chapter. He reapplied unopposed for this position. He recently took Oath last week and was recertified.

VIII. Benediction: provided by Vince James, Honorable Council Delegate

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President at 7:06pm

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Lawrence Sam, Sr.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 1

Minutes prepared and submitted by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on 08/05/2025