

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting
Sunday, August 10, 2025 @ 1:00pm
MINUTES

I. Meeting Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 1:26pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President.

II. Invocation – Provided by Wallace James, Jr. Council Vice-President

III. Roll Call

	i. Present Absent	
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President	X	
Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President	X	
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	X	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official	1:49 p	

- **Added Council Vice – President**
- **Grazing Member was not present at time of Roll-Call**

IV. Announcements/Introduction:

1. Navajo Code Talker's Day – Thursday, August 14, 2025 – Chapter CLOSED
2. Tse Ho Tsoii Medical Center – Medicare Presentation – Mr. Roy Dempsey
3. El Paso Natural Gas – Mr. Victor Dee, Kinder Morgan
4. Kathy Chee, Cornfields Community Baptist Church
5. Other(s)

- Mr. Roy Dempsey, Community Relations Outreach Specialist – TseHootsooi Medical Center
 - Medicare – Health Care Insurance
 - For ages 65 or older or younger with a qualifying disability
 - PART A – Free and covers Inpatient Care when Admitted, Skilled Nursing Facility coverage, Hospice Care, Home Health Care
 - PART B – Covers Medical Outpatient Care services, Durable Medical Equipment; ie: wheelchair, cane
 - Part D – Covers pharmaceutical medication (\$185.00 deducted from your Social Security payments. This amount can be paid by Medicaid if you qualify)
 - PART C – Medicare Advantage; Health Care plans provided through a Private Company. You will see these groups at your local grocery store and will ask if you would like to sign up for their plan. This plan is for Out of network providers. They may entice you to apply by offering a gift card or other gifts. There are no Out of Network providers in the Gallup area, but in Albuquerque or Phoenix
 - Indian Health Services – provides eye, dental, audiology services as a service under the Treaty of 1868.
 - Premiums for Medicare Part C – all vary.
 - If you decide that you would like to change or withdraw your name from a Medicare Part C Plan, contact the Tsehootsooi Medical Center Contact Representative at Phone Number listed on the flyer posted or on the handout provided.

- IMPORTANT: If you are traveling from the Navajo Nation and visiting outside the Navajo Nation, and an ER visit results in an admission, contact you local Indian Health Service Contract Health so that if there are any additional charges, they can be covered.
- Mr. Victor Dee, El Paso Natural Gas (EPNG), Kinder Morgan
 - The El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline and its Right of Way of the existing pipeline is due for renewal..
 - The existing pipeline continues to operate and this renewal request is not requesting any additional structures to be added.
 - Curtis Yazzie, Operations Supervisor with Kinder Morgan. He oversees the monitoring of the Pipeline from Tohatchi, NM to Navajo Station south of Cornfields Chapter.
 - Arvis Francisco, Pipeline monitoring personnel with Kinder Morgan, also monitors the pipeline activity from St. Micheals to Navajo Station.
 - This ROW renewal is being requested from the Navajo Nation Minerals Department.
 - There are many retirees from EPNG.
 - This Resolution for the Renewal of the ROW being requested is for 20 years.
 - Audience questioned the age of the pipelines and current operations in monitoring:
 - Mr. Yazzie explained the routine inspection of the pipeline and use of Technological equipment such a Smart PIG, Cathodic protection coating placement. They will be conducting a new test from Tohatchi to Navajo Station next month by sending a Smart Pig through their pipeline.
 - Dana Eldridge, Community Member posed a question on Emissions: Are there any exposure of gases like Methane that are harmful to residences who are living along the pipeline? When they release the pressure from the pipeline every so often, they can smell fumes.
 - Curtis Yazzie answered the Question: The fumes that are released are nothing more than what a human inhales from daily emissions from the surrounding environment. The release is recorded and monitored by Kinder Morgan which is then reported to the Federal level. During a blow-down procedure (procedure involving removal of gases for a pipeline repair), there are procedures that need to be taken where equipment are brought in to release the excess gases into during repair.
 - The pipeline is the safest form of transporting Natural Gases today other than railroad, trucking, etc.
 - Ms. Eldridge: Responded to the response given to state the question involving how much gas that is being released during pressure relief is emitted and if the level of gas released is within the approved limits from a Federal Standpoint. Then to further elaborate on how often pressure is released, by how many times per month and total amounts per month.
 - Ms. Victoria Begay, community member also resides near the pipeline who reported that she currently holds a position in working with Right of Ways across the Navajo Nation and asked if the ROW works with the Fish and Wildlife Department and if they issued a clearance for the current pipeline.
 - Question: How much Royalty is the Navajo Nation receiving per month, per year?
 - Explanation/Clarification: Mrs. Irene Aldrige, Community Member. This Pipeline was originally approved by our elders three generations back, but it is not known what vocabulary was included in the original agreement. There are concerns today that were not brought up during the initial pipeline construction due to the lack of education, now our children bring these concerns forward based on what they have studied in regards to the environment and our health.

- Stanley Benally, Community Member added that when Mr. Dee came before the Planning Meeting recently, there were others who had mentioned the El Paso Navajo Station Road and the request for maintenance to improve the existing road. At that time Mr. Dee stated that he would ask the Company about this request and if it could be included with the renewal of the lease? What information was obtained from this inquiry?
- The Questions were not clearly answered.
- Elizabeth Johnson, Community Member – made a motion to move forward on the Agenda.
- Warren Thomas, Apache County District II – Clarified that the El Paso Natural Gas Road is now Kinder Morgan Road. The Road that Apache County covers for maintenance, extends from Cornfields Chapter to the Old Navajo Station Air Strip. If the residents from South Navajo Station propose a Resolution to request N9205 to be transferred to Apache County, that could be considered.

V. Approval of Agenda

M: Jimmie Taliman, Sr. S: Joan Dalgai VOTE: 24 – 0 – 07

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

Dana Eldridge – Motions to table Resolution CF – AUG2025 -46

Shinasha Benally – Seconds the Motion

VOTE: 15 – 01 – 11

Vote will table Resolution CF-AUG2025-46 until the questions asked are answered pertaining the emission levels and road maintenance requested. This Motion was requested before the Approval of the Agenda.

VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 07/13/25 Regular Chapter Meeting

M: Stanley Benally S: Judith Shirley VOTE: 22 – 0 – 6

- Tyrone Chee, Council President – Clarification: to change language for hiring Ed Harvey as Conservation Specialist but to read that the Cornfields Chapter supports the request for the Scope of Work under comments of 8. CF-JUL2025-43.
- Motioning party and second to the Motion were asked if they approve this change. Ms. Ruthie Nez, Motioning Party and Ms. Joan Dalgai Second motioning party both approve the change.

VII. Old Business:

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

M: S: VOTE:

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

M: S: VOTE:

Table Reports 1. And 2. due to Ms. Alfreda Earl, Chapter Manager not Present and on Vacation. The two reports can be added for the September Regular Chapter Meeting.

M: Jimmie Taliman, Sr. S: Cecelia White VOTE: 26 – 0 – 8

VIII. 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: Jimmie Taliman **S: Elizabeth Johnson** **VOTE: 27 – 0 – 10**
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: Jimmie Taliman, Sr. **S: Elizabeth Johnson** **VOTE: 28 – 0 – 9**
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: **S:** **VOTE:**
Tabled at Approval of Agenda by Ms. Dana Eldridge. This Resolution will be reintroduced at the Regular Chapter Meeting on September 14, 2025 with the response to questions posed.

4. **CF-AUG2025-47:** Respectfully requesting support from 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
Reaffirming Resolution CF-JUL2024-61- "Respectfully requesting support from 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." Change to request support and funding from Indian Health Services,
M: Dana Eldridge **S: Victoria Begay** **VOTE: 28 – 0 – 4**

Questions:

Elizabeth Johnson, Community Member – Requested Clarification of Reaffirming or submitting a Resolution in addition to the Original Resolution, what was the reason that the Original Resolution was not considered?

Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer - As understood by the report given by our Council Delegate during the Planning Meeting, the request involved obtaining the approval of three chapters; Klagnetoh, Cornfields and Greasewood Springs and due to jurisdictional issues, the request was not forwarded for funding. His suggestion to Mr. Benally entailed that the Resolution be addressed to Indian Health Services due the request for this waterline being mainly for the purpose of health related reasons and to mitigate the ongoing COVID-19 virus.

Stanley Benally, Community Member – addressed the reason for this request as he continues to advocate for the residence residing South of Navajo Station. After the initial request for this waterline extension there was a collaboration between Indian Health Services and Navajo Engineering Construction Authority who placed Cistern Systems at some residences, but the cistern system have some issues:

- Hauling water is a heavy task, especially for the elderly when filling the water storage tanks.

- The water that comes from the constructed pipes have oil and there is no way to clean out the tanks that store the water.
- The cistern system runs off of an electric water pump, which does not function during a power outage.

Stanley Benally – Community Member – Pleads with the Officials to continue advocating on their behalf for this waterline extension.

Mr. Larry Yazzie – Community Member – Stated that his daughter informed them of her installed Cistern System, but he was never approached or asked if he needed one for his home.

5. CF-AUG2025-48: Requesting a construction of new water well north of Cornfields near the Residence of Lawrence Sam.

M: S: VOTE:

- Mr. Lawrence Sam, sponsor for this Resolution would like to postpone to the next Regular Chapter Meeting on September 14, 2025. There are other families that he needs to consult with who reside on the west side of N15 who also own livestock for a consensus of a proposed location of this windmill.

- Table the Resolution:

M: Judith Shirley

S: Victoria Begay

VOTE: 24 – 0 – 9

IX. Verbal/Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James – Not present

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President

- Continues to educate himself on the Policies
- Looking forward to working with the Chapter Officials in scheduling a Chapter Orientation for the Administration.

Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President

- Announced his Oath for the Position and was welcomed back.
- He is also a COO Hubbells Trading Co., A School Board Member for Ganado Unified School District and Member of the Hispanic-Native American Indian Caucus of Az.

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer –

- Commented on the efforts of the waterline extension for residents who reside south of Navajo Station.
- Expressed appreciation for all the officials who donated food provided for the luncheon.

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie

- Current requests submitted for Permit Transfers will be visited by a conservation specialist to study the forage in the area the permit will be re-established for use.
- Wool Buy, wool collected – 44,500 lbs. 1st day, 37,060 lbs. 2nd Day, and 46,600 lbs. 3rd Day.
- Ranch Crew – Tyson Charley new appointment. Will be scheduling a Horse Round-up for communities.
- NNRE – Horse penned without a brand needs to have a log number assigned before scheduling for pick-up.
- Permit Holder Meeting 7/31/25 Met with Ashley Curley and covered a Conservation Plan. This months meeting is pending.

- 08/15/25 – FD Agency Meeting.
 - No Open Burning due to Fire Restriction.
 - Livestock prices are high right now. Yearling 4.00/lb., Heffers 3.00/lb., Horses \$200+
 - Remember your Bar-N for your new tally counting.
 - a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – September 05, 2025 9:00am Ganado Chapter
 - b. Permittee Meeting – To be announced when scheduled
 - c. Agency Grazing Meeting – August 15, 2025 9:00am NDOT Complex
4. Farm Board
- a. Regular Meeting – August 05, 2025
 - b. Regular Meeting – August 12, 2025
 - c. Land-Use Planning – August 07, 2025
 - August 27, 2025 Joint Farm Board Meeting
 - Joint Farm Board Meeting in Nenanezaad Chapter last month
 - d. Judith will be helping at the Navajo Nation Fair for Kids Day in Window Rock, Az
5. School Announcements:
- a. Ganado Unified Schools – School Board Official
 - Slight decline in Enrollment especially for grades 3 – 5. This is due to neighboring BIE Schools offering sports from 3rd to 5th Grade
 - Ganado Unified School will start Little League this Fall/Winter with Cross Country, volleyball and Basketball.
 - Currently there is \$440 Million is being withheld for school funding and efforts to have it applied to the school across our region is in the works.
 - PAC IEC Representative – I more needed besides Sandra Yazzie, Cornfields Chapter Representative.
 - Construction routes to the Ganado School Campus if in effect.
 - The old Middle School building will be demolished as well as the old CEU buildings, there will a proposed Muti Sports Center built in its place.
 - More Employee Housing is planned
 - The old Football Field at the Ganado School campus will be changed to an additional parking area.
 - Keep your child home if they have a fever or sniffing
 - b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative
 - A printed report was submitted.
 - c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
 - Wednesday August 13, 2025 – 9:00am Next School Board Meeting
 - Contractors have moved into campus
 - Ricky Limbough, new principal
 - 35 staff currently provide educational services
 - Grades K-8th and Early Learning Programs
 - 100+ students and change daily. School Began 08/04/25
 - Incorporating the Navajo Language in teaching students in the Morning session.
 - d. Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member – Not Present
 Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Cake Donation for Chapter Meeting and 3 cases of water
 Provided some information that was provided by the staff who brought the Cake.
6. Other:
- Quorum was Loss**

M: None

S: None

VOTE: None

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

1. Next Planning Meeting
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2025 4:00pm
2. Next Regular Meeting
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025 1:00pm

XI. Benediction:

XII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm due to loss of quorum.

M: None

S: None

VOTE: None

Minutes prepared and submitted by Ms. Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on Sunday, August 10, 2025