

CORNFIELDS CHAPTER REGULAR MEETING

SUNDAY JULY 12, 2026

1:00 PM

MINUTES

- I. Meeting Called to Order – Meeting was called to Order by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President at 2:19 pm.
- II. Invocation – Provided by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President
- III. Roll Call (Elected Officials)

	Present	Absent
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President	XX	
Mr. Wallace James, Jr. Council Vice-President	XX	
Ms. Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	XX	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official	XX	

- IV. Announcements:
 1. Tse Ho Tsooi Medical Center Mobile Clinic – July 14, 2026 – 10a – 2p Cornfields Chapter
 2. Community Housing & Infrastructure Dept. Housing Improvement Program (HIP) – Application Intake – July 15, 2026 10a – 2p
 3. Navajo Nation Primary Election – July 21, 2026
 4. Tse Ho Tsooi Medical Center – Health Information Presentation – Mr. Roy Dempsey, Community Health Relations Outreach Specialist
 - Provided a Presentation in Lieu of the Meeting being called to order.
 5. Navajo Nation Economic Development – Micro Lending Program Presentation, Charleston White, CFO
 - Navajo Nation Business and Industrial Fund - A Micro Lending Program
 - Loans for Navajo Operated Small Businesses and the types of businesses
 - Industrial Loans options for larger amounts.
 - Loans for Investments; All businesses that can be justified.
 - Process of the Loan and agreements for the Loan.

QUESTIONS:

 - Does a person applying for a Loan for a Business have to apply for a Business Site Lease for the business they are applying for?
 - Most of the Community Members are good business driven individuals in their own way, but they do not know how to go through the process of starting a business site lease in order to make their business successful.
 - Will the Micro-Lending program assist with educating the business owner with the technical assistance needed and will there be a cost for that technical assistance?
 6. International One/Trinity – Business Development Update/Deer Point Business Lease – No one present to provide a Presentation.
 7. Others:
 - Wendy Shepherd – Introduction as Candidate for the Apache County Clerk of the Superior Court.
 - o 21 years experience with Financial Management with various positions.
 - o Has the Confidence and is a candidate for the Apache County Clerk of the Superior Court.

****Presentations began in lieu of reaching a Quorum of 15 Community Voters, the Council Officials decided to have the Presenters began their presentations. There were 14 Community Voters present.**

- Third Quarter ended at the end of June 2026. All payments and reports were submitted for the Quarter ended.
- July 21, 2026 – The Chapter will be closed for Election Day.
- N-15 Project has been advertised for Contractors to start the bidding process. She will provide more information as time goes along.
- Ms. Earle contacted International One/Trinity to ask if they were still on their way, they had a miscommunication and were preparing to attend on July 18, 2026. They will schedule another day to come out to meet with the Chapter and the Community.

VIII. New Business:

1. **CF-JUL2026-47:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter General Activity Funds for the Month of June 2026 in the Amount of \$5,167.57.

M: Dickie T. Smith

S: Cecelia White

VOTE: 22 – 0 – 3

The Resolution was read by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer. There were no questions posed.

2. **CF-JUL2026-48:** Accepting and Approving the Cornfields Chapter Financial Report for the month of June 2026.

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Linda Holigay

VOTE: 22 – 0 – 5

3. The Resolution was read by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer. There were no questions posed.

4. **CF-JUL2026-49:** Approving and Adopting the FY2026 Emergency Fund Budget of the Cornfields Chapter in the amount of \$48,293.00.

M: Sharon Smith

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 20 – 2 – 3

The Resolution was read by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer. Ms. Smith gave some time to Ms. Alfreda Earle to explain the allocations for the received budget. Ms. Earle, Chapter Manager:

Draft was received 2 months ago, but since there were some questions on use and amendments of the funds allocated.

- Budget was entered into the WIND System and reviewed by the Administrative Service Center
 - Temporary Employment: This allocation was used for employment for Emergencies. This allocation can only be used for an Equipment Operator to operate the Heavy Equipment for the Chosen Declaration of Emergency. This amount is for 140 hours of Equipment Operation.

- Questions:

- Ruthie Nez, Farm Board Member - Can Propane be included?
- Crystal Billie, Community Member -Can the elder be considered to be assisted with bottled water for the drought emergency?
- Wood and Pellet will be considered for emergency since this is the main source for heating during the winter.
- A discussion was held about adding Propane as a line item in the budgeted allocation:
 - If Propane were to be added, a consideration for reviewing each line item to add another line item for Propane. There are not many homes who use Propane to heat their homes.
 - The Budgeted Line items were already reviewed and approved by the Administrative Service Center. If there are changes considered to be made, this will prolong the use of the funds.
 - The Voting Quorum decided to vote to finalize the outcome and the votes showed an opposition to add Propane into a budget line item.

IX. Verbal and Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James

- ARPA – home Improvement project funding. Two projects that were added under ARPA is being proposed to have funds transferred to the Home Improvement Project. The two Projects which were added to the Original ARPA Budget that will be removed are for the Powerline Extension and Warehouse to store supplies. They have been working on documentation to have this transferring of funds to the Chapter for the closing projects of the Home Improvement Project. Please be patient with the process.
- N-15 Road Improvement Project: FD Agency Council Meeting; the Division of Transportation has not received many bidders for the project. There are three Contractors' Bids that will be reviewed. But, just to use a past example for Contracting: a road improvement for the Blue Canyon Road in fort Defiance was bidded at 1 mile = \$7 million. Phase II bidding will begin once Phase I is started.
- OEH – Funded waterline Projects Listing and Project Numbers will be listed on his Report. Bathroom Additions: There were many families who were assisted and would like to thank all who coordinated this effort.
- Broadband/Internet Services Funding – The Council will begin to work in making this available for the Navajo Nation with collaboration with various grants and Funding across the Navajo Nation.
- \$5 Million Funding for Council Delegate Regions. For Honorable James, he has requested to have his funding be transferred to Apache County. He will budget the funds equally for graveling projects to improve the roads in his chapter regions. For Cornfields Chapter he is looking at several BIA Routes to be graveled.

- No Questions Posed.

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President;

- He submitted an email to SMH regarding the vacated Group Home Building for an update, but still has not had a response.
- He did attend the Fort Defiance Agency ASC Meeting.
- Encouraged the Community to keep their money here to spend on hay to increase the Revenue.

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

- Shared his appreciation for all efforts put forth daily by Honorable Vince James and Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager.
- One event he participated in was assisting with the Water Stations for the JMI.
- Road Assessments continue to be reported to the Apache County and Navajo Department of Transportation.
- Requested of the Council President to scheduled another Work Session for all the Officials and Standing Committees.

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

- Assisted with the ASC Meeting held for the Southwest Region.
- Is in favor of a Work Session to better collaborate with all Officials and the Chapter Staff.

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie

- a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – August 03, 2026 – 9:00 am – Greasewood Springs Chapter
- b. Permittee Meeting – To Be Announced
- c. Agency Grazing Meeting – July 15, 2026 – 9:00 am – Ganado Chapter

- Tally Count is being taken for 2026
- Past 2024 Tally Count was higher than comparing it with the 2025 Tally Count. Even if you hold a grazing permit for a deceased relative continue to report a Tally Count. This Tally Count will affect the new proposed Agriculture Resource Management Count and based on this a new permit will be re-issued.
- He will be tallying all livestock five years back beginning 2021 to gather all the statistics to develop a graph to show the increases and decreases.
- New World Screw Worms – continue to monitor your livestock.
- The Fiscal Year is ending for their. The Grazing Officials will be going through a change. Starting FY27, Permittee Meeting was covering 12 months a year, will be reduced to 4 mtgs per year which will be once a Quarter. Chapter Planning Meetings will be omitted for attending. All funding that will be removed will be re-allocated to other use within the Program.
- He also found out that this is not yet official and is in the early planning stages.

4. Farm Board

- a. Regular Meeting – August 11, 2026 at 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
- b. Land-Use Permittee Training – July 09, 2026 at 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
Aust 13, 2026 next mtg.
 - They have also been reduced to holding Permittee Meetings to one meeting per month.
 - They have also proposed another change to hold their Land Use Planning at meeting per quarter.
 - Mrs. Shirley is questioning if this is also Legal since in their Position Qualification it lists that they need to attend all Planning Meeting for their Elected Chapter. She asked Honorable James to look into this matter.

5. Veterans Organization

- a. Meeting: No Meetings scheduled meetings.
 - There was no Representative available to provide additional information.

6. School Announcements:

- a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Official
 - Enrollment open for School Year 2026/2027
 - 3 positions open for School Board Seats
 - Ganado Primary School entrance – a new design to renovate the entrance was approved.
 - Plans for a Middle School Complex or staff Housing for the recently demolished buildings to create more space.
 - Old Football Field – a plan to improved football/baseball field
 - Due to the decrease of enrollment for the Elementary School and Middle School was due to transfers to BIE Schools due to sports participation at a younger age and Front Door Pick up Service. Plans are being considered to combine the Elementary and Intermediate school into one building.
 - The budget Cut for Indian Education was placed on hold due to Kris Mayes, Attorney General submitting a suite to oppose this budget cut again the Trump Administration.
- b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative
 - July 29, 2026 – First Day of School.
- c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
 - Not Present
- d. Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member
 - Not Present

7. Others:

M: Sandra Yazzie

S: Elenita Begay

VOTE: 15 – 0 – 2

- X. Next Scheduled Meetings:
1. Chapter Planning Meeting: Tuesday; August 04, 2026 at 4:00 pm
 2. Chapter Regular Meeting: Sunday; August 09, 2026 at 1:00 pm

XI. Benediction: Ms. Clarina Williams, Community Member

XII. Adjournment: @ 5:47p Smith

M: Sanda Yazzie

S: Elenita Yazzie

VOTE: 15 – 0 – 2

Meeting Minutes was prepared and submitted by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on July 12, 2026