

CORNFIELDS CHAPTER REGULAR MEETING

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2026

1:00 PM

MINUTES

- I. Meeting Called to Order: 1:43pm Meeting was called to order by Mr. T
- II. Invocation
- 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. Summer Student Employment Applications Closed 06/12/2026, Interviews to be held 06/18/2026
- 2. Apache County District II – Quarterly Updates, Estelle Benally, Administrative Coordinator
 - Julius Elwood and Nicole Curley – Provided a community Report:
 - Superintendent Shepherd has been busy with added responsibility as President of County Supervisor's Association and the Chairman of the Northern Arizona Council of Government (NACOG) and the Vice-Chair for the National Association of Counties (NACo).
 - Report provided for four regions under the Apache County District II Office. Cornfields Chapter is in the Region 2 area.
 - Explained the cost of maintaining the existing roads in their inventory for the community.
 - Who does the Road assessment for your office? There is a planning committee who convenes to schedule assessments. They also work closely with the school transportation departments that utilize the County Roads, other roads are maintained by NDOT and BIA.
 - Every 10 years Apache County, NDOT and BIA also all convene to review which roads will be added to their existing inventory of the IGA. The next IGA is due to be reassessed in 2030.
 - He also reported that their yard was broken into in the month of May and a side by side was stolen, if anyone has any information or hear of this UTV, please report it to the Apache County District II Office.
- 3. JMI – Cornfields Chapter will be hosting Just Move It on June 23, 2026, Health Fair will be scheduled from 9am-3pm
- 4. OTHERS:
 - Fire Restriction for the Navajo Nation: Reported to the People on behalf of the Community Health Worker to be informed there is a Stage I Fire Restriction in place issued by the Navajo Nation President as an Executive Order to restrict any open fires across the Navajo Nation. It is her duty to report any open fires and to be informed that if she observes anyone burning trash she will be reporting these incidents and there is a \$5,000.00 fine.
 - Pet Vaccination: Mr. Patrick Yazzie reported that there will be a Pet Vaccination Clinic to be held at Cornfields Chapter on June 25, 2025. The clinic will be providing Microchipping, Rabies Vaccination, Navajo Nation Pet Licensing, Parvo/Distemper

Vaccinations and Deworming, Cost is \$25.00 per pet. They will also have Unwanted Animal Drop off on same day from 9am to 3pm during clinic hours.

- Ella Earle – Resident of Navajo Station area and would like to share with residents that there have been wood cutters coming by her homestead and cutting down green juniper. She is opposed to having wood cutters taking the dry wood, but she would like to ask the community to leave the living trees alone.
- Hubbells Trading Post - Summer Weaving Series: 6/13 – A loom construction presentation was held, 6/27 Sheep wool dying from local plants will be demonstrated. Elder Food Box distribution has re-opened to the community, Elders are asked to present an Identification when asking for a Food Box. There was also an attempted break in at Hubbells, the robber tried to break down three doors but they were unsuccessful. There have been rising robbery attempts at various residences as well, please keep an eye on each other and stay vigilant.

V. Reading and Approval of Agenda

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Priscilla Chee

VOTE: 24 – 0 – 1

There were no additions or deletions.

VI. Approval of Last Regular Chapter Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2026

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Marilyn James

VOTE: 25 – 0 – 1

Ms. Ruthie Nez made a motion to accept the provided written Minutes from the last Regular Chapter Meeting held on May 11, 2026.

VII. Old Business:

1. Business Report May 2026: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager

M: Wilbur Smith

S: Cecelia White

VOTE: 22 – 0 – 2

- Mr. Wilbur Smith, Community Member – Would like to express a concern regarding the Chapter Manager not being present during this Meeting, There needs to a proper expectation for Ms. Earle to be available to answer any questions that the Community Members have, he is sure that it is in her job description that she is available for this report to be provided in person.
- Honorable Vince James – Reported to the Audience that there was an incident that occurred several months ago where an individual began to harass the Chapter Officials and the Chapter Manager and due to he safety it was recommended by the Administrative Service Center that she refrain from coming into the Chapter Meetings on weekends when she is off. Her regular tour of duty is from Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If anyone should have any issues they feel is not being resolved, the concern can be taken to the Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office. He is not sure if the past issue that caused some chaos was taken to Ethics and Rules and has not received any reports otherwise.
- Mr. Norman Chee, Community Member – Mr. Chee expressed that if the People feel strong enough to have the Chapter Manager present at the Regular Chapter Meeting they should strongly consider changing the meeting day to a weekday when they are most likely available.
- Ms. Joan Dalgai, Community Member – Expressed that she feels the Chapter Officials should have raised a concern to stop this kind of activity happening in the Chapter during a scheduled meeting. She suggests that if any kind of hostility is brought forth during meeting, this can be avoided by an Action called by the Council President.
- Ms. Marilyn James, Community Member – Feels the same way Ms. Dalgai express her concern. She feels that the People have the right to request information since the People are the main determining factor of who is elected as their leaders.

- The Chapter Manager's Report that was provided in written Form was read into the Minutes and shared by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer as requested by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President.
- Mr. Wilbur Smith, Community Member – In response to the Business Report that was read into the Minutes on behalf of the Chapter Manager. He would to share that he was the 5th applicant to have their roof fixed under this ARPA Home Improvement. His question pertains to the Priority List of the Home Improvement Project. How was the Priority of each application considered, his next question is when will they get to his home. He is a Veteran and would like to know.
- Mr. Edward Pete, Community Member; Shared that he was registered with Ganado Chapter and chose to change his registration to join Cornfields Chapter. He feels that he was not heard for any of his requests for infrastructure at Ganado Chapter so he joined Cornfields Chapter because he feels he can get better assistance. He is just sharing because he feels the Chapter is doing a very good job.
- Mr. Wilbur Smith, Community Member – Code of Conduct; the Chapter Officials has a right to adjourn the meeting if there is a verbally aggressive individual. This is in place to avoid any physical altercations as a future reference.

VIII. New Business:

1. **CF-JUN2026-43:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter General Activity Funds for the Month of May 2026 in the Amount of \$4,476.12.

M: Cecelia White

S: Judith Shirley

VOTE: 22 – 0 – 4

No Questions posed.

The General Activity Funds for the Month of May 2026 was read by Ms. Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer.

2. **CF-JUN2026-44:** Accepting and Approving the Cornfields Chapter Financial Report for the month of May 2026.

M: Judith Shirley

S: Priscilla Chee

VOTE: 25 – 0 – 1

No Questions posed.

The Financial Report was read by Ms. Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer.

3. **CF-JUN2026-45:** Approving Budget Revision and Transfer of funds within the Veterans Fund (16) Budget from Awards Line Item 16-6620 in the amount of \$846.13 to the Food Purchase Line Item 16-6352.

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Norman Chee

VOTE: 21 – 0 – 2

Ms. Ruthie Nez explained the need for Transferring funds to balance the accounts for the Veterans Organization Funding, No funds were misspent, but the cost of the food for the dinner went over the budgeted amount under the line item allocated for awards.

4. **CF-JUN2026-46:** Approving Budget Revision and Transfer of Funds within the ARPA Fund (31) Budget from Line Item 31-6109 Annual Leave \$49.65 into 31-6113 Pension Benefit; 31-6109 Annual Leave \$10.83 into 31-6107 EE Group Insurance; 31-6111 401K Expense \$25.13 into 31-6107 EE Group Insurance; 31-6380 Building Materials \$65.39 into 31-6107 EE Group Insurance.

M: Norman Chee

S: Priscilla Chee

VOTE: 23 – 0 – 1

No questions posed.

IX. Verbal and Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James
 - Provided a Chapter Report for June 2026.

- \$375,000 is being requested to be transferred back to the chapter from 2 Projects that were proposed for the Cornfields Phase IV Power-Line Extension and Cornfields PPE/Food Supply Storage Bldg. This amount is being requested to come back to the Chapter to be used for the Cornfields Home Renovation with employment for home improvement workers. The two projects were initially proposed with the ARPA Project Funding.
- 5 million allocated for roads awarded to Apache County. The \$5 Million will cover at least 10 miles per chapter for his five chapters. Considerations might include N151, 1 mile toward Navajo Station going up the hill from Sunrise, then the road leading from Sunrise toward Toyey up the hill.
- Phase III for the N15 Reconstruction from Sunrise to Greasewood Springs is still not yet funded as part of N15 reconstruction. The Federal Highway will not consider any more funding requests until Phase I has begun. His efforts in explaining this to the Navajo Department of Transportation helped for the new bidding process to start Phase I of the Reconstruction.
- \$75 billion received from the Water Settlement. The Hopi Tribe is wanting the funds to find their own Contractor. The 10 tribes were given a choice to contract with the Department of Interior for the improvement of water supply, they will charge a fee of \$15 Billion in the overall total and this was a reason the Hopi Tribe decided they wanted to find their own contractor to avoid the fees.
- Ella Earl, Community Member – asked what the plans are for charging these companies that are building Data Centers, could we charge these Date Centers an additional amount since they utilize a lot of water? She understands that these Data Centers are Politically Driven.
- Response – The Data Centere are mainly being proposed for Reservation Border Towns, the town that is being requested for a Data Center Site should consider how much water this facility will use, using an Aquafer, if it exceeds the amount of water useage both for the town and Data Center, this will be denied. As a Council Delegate for the Navajo Nation, he will always oppose this type of proposal. Encouraged the audience to ask the present Presidential Candidates what their stance is on this subject. Same with the AIF Funds for Navajo, the people need to ask questions.
- Judith Shirley, Community Member – Has there been any update of the Hardship Applications that were supposed to have been opened on June 02, 2026?
- Response – There was never any notices issued by the Controller of the Navajo Nation, there is a letter that was issued to report and inform the People that there is no Application and no plans in place presently.

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President – Addressed by reporting:

- His participation in the DNR Expo
- His Participation in the recent Economic Summit for small businesses.
- Encouraged the Community Members to apply for home improvement assistance now and not to wait until the last minute when monies are received to assist the community.
- Encouraged the Community that CLUP is very important to move projects forward and there are many project sites to be assisted by having a CLUPC.

Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President – Addressed by reporting:

- Encouragement to apply for a CLUP Position.
- Please refrain from Illegal Dumping.
- Be a responsible Pet Owner.
- Thankful for the Project of N15 moving forward

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

- Continuing to assist the Chapter with signatures and request updates weekly.

- Encouraged the Community to remain vigilant to await completion of their home renovations.
 - Wished the Fathers in the Audience a Happy Father's Day.
3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie
- a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – June 8, 2026 – 9:00 am – Wide Ruins Chapter
 - The Meeting held on June 8th included the plans for Permits recommended to be transferred through Probate.
 - The new proposed Reissuing of Permits due to the new ARMA. There were studies performed for plants and vegetation on grazing lands.
 - Letter of Intent to accept Permit issuing/reissuing from the Navajo Nation to '638 has not been written. They were encouraged to continue to hold to the Navajo Nation Treaty. The Federal Government at present is recommending the Navajo Nation to go under the '638 Program.
 - 2027 – Proposed date for re-issuance of Permits. This is all based on the ARMA and studying of the vegetation. There are plans to reduce the units on the Permits as well. For now the Probated Permits are issued with a Certified Letter to use as a Valid Permit. The vegetation varies by location across the Navajo Nation, he has observed that we should be okay with vegetation within our community.
 - The Reissuance and cancelling Permits are those Permits that have had no action taken to transfer a permit if Probate is needed.
 - Kinberly Johnson called to report the Department of Agriculture is closed and they are relocated at the Division of Natural Resources located next to the Navajo Nation President's Office
 - New Screw Worm deriving from the Fly Species – affects all animals and birds. This is new parasite that came into Mexico and it is still spreading closer. Check your livestock and animals daily. They are flesh eating parasites and can also affect humans if you have an open wound, it has also been discovered that these screw worms can get into the nostrils of horses and start eating the horses flesh. If you discover any
 - b. Permittee Meeting – June 17, 2026 – 9:00 am – Cornfields Chapter
 - Invited Leander Thomas from U of A to provide more information on the Screw Worm.
 - Question: Have there been any updated regarding the windmills in our community that tested positive for Uranium, has there been any new signs placed at the windmills?
 - Response: No, but the notices posted that water is for Livestock only and not for Human Consumption should continue to be followed.
 - c. Agency Grazing Meeting – June 18, 2026 – 9:00 am – St. Michaels Chapter
4. Farm Board
- a. Regular Meeting – June 09, 2026 at 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
 - b. Land-Use Permittee Training – June 11, 2026 at 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
 - Quarterly Farm Board Meeting will be held at the Aneth Chapter this month.
 - Their current Demonstration Field is located at the Late Thomas Smith's Farm Plot. She and her family have been hauling water to the Plot.
 - BRCF – The Biological Resource Conservation Form. The Cornfields Chapter does not have one in place.
 - There were two methods used and the third method was using the Tractor to plow rows. The Tractor plowed Rows have corn growing now. The other two methods did not produce any growth.
 - Still looking forward for a Meeting with all Officials and Chapter Organizations.
5. Veterans Organization
- a. Meeting:
 - Update on Events to the Veteran's Organization.
 - Next Meeting June 15, 2026 at 5:00 pm at Cornfields Chapter

- May 30, 2026 – Dinner and Recognition of the Veterans. There was successful turnout and awards that were ordered, did not arrive in time. The Chapter was issued a new Flag

6. School Announcements:

- a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Official
 - Parent Day was a successful event and thanked Honorable James
 - Enrollment has increased and supports the budget. 2.3 Billion cut for the upcoming school year; Title I – classroom sizes to decrease and parent involvement as well.
 - Eliminate the Intermediate School and combining the schools.
 - Apache County has announced that they have received enough funding to renovate the road around the school in Ganado.
 - The School has adopted the new Beyond Text Book Program.
 - The Space where the old Middle School is now proposed for a Middle School Recreational Building.
 - 7 Individuals are interested for the upcoming school board Member. He has also decided to re-apply as a candidate as well.
 - School starts this coming year on July 29, 2026.
- b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative
 - July 14, 2026 – Work Study scheduled . This is planning for the combining of schools and stakeholders are welcome.
 - Internet Safety Workshop is also scheduled on July 27, 2026.
- c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
 - Proposed 2 years for reconstruction of the new school buildings. The sides of the buildings are completed
 - July 08, 2026 – Next scheduled School Board Meeting
 - New Positions open for a School Counselor, Native Culture Teacher, A Cook, and a Residential Aid.
 - Recertification is also upcoming this year.
- d. Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member
 - They are also facing cuts in their educational budgets and more for health programs.
 - They have received 80% of the funding for their heating and cooling maintenance.
 - The School is holding Summer School right now and this summer they are holding weaving education.
 - BIA/BIE – Reported to the Navajo Nation Nabikiyati Committee
 - Attendance has risen for their school. But the concern surrounds the enrollment in schools today.
 - FACE Program – Grades K to 3rd to provide as much education while theyre brains are like sponges to soak up more
 - 2nd Tuesday of each month is when the School Board meet.

7. Others:

- Linda Youvella, Sage Memorial Hospital Board Member – for the Sage Memorial Hospital's Investment in the Building that was purchased on the Chapter Compound, she is requesting to bring their Resolution back to the Table. They have invested so much money to consider a very important service to our Adolescents across the Navajo Nation.
- Comment: Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President – he will contact the appropriate individual to schedule another meeting to re-visit the acreage.
- Comment: Ms. Ruthie Nez – The Veterans Organization should be included in this discussion since it will affect the new proposed Veterans Court.

M: Judith Shirley

S: Linda Youvella

VOTE: 14 – 0 – 1

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

1. Chapter Planning Meeting: Tuesday; July 07, 2026 at 4:00 pm
2. Chapter Regular Meeting: Sunday; July 12, 2026 at 1:00 pm

XI. Benediction: Benediction Provided by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President

XII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7: 05pm by Council President Tyrone Chee.

M: Clarinda Williams

S: Wilbur Smith

VOTE: I's have it.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on June 14, 2026