

CORNFIELDS CHAPTER REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY MAY 11, 2026

1:00 PM

MINUTES

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 1:32 pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President
- II. Invocation – Provided by Mr. Wallace James, Jr. Council Vice-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

** Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Member arrived at 2:00 pm

- IV. Announcements:
 1. Greasewood Springs Community School
Pre-K Promotion 05/21/26 @ 10:00 am
8th Grade Promotion 05/28/26 @ 9:00 am
 2. Ganado Unified School District:
Middle School Promotion: 05/22/26 – 9:00 am Ganado Pavilion
High School Graduation: 05/22/26 – 2:00 pm Ganado Pavilion
 3. OTHERS:
 - Presentation Request – Greasewood Springs Community School, Mr. Lindblad, Principal – A presentation packet was provided.
 - 05/18-24/26 – Ralph Johnson Memorial Rodeo Week beginning with a Parade on Monday 05/18/26
 - 05/17/26 – Ralph Johnson Memorial Rodeo Trail Ride from Burnsidess, AZ to Ganado Rodeo Grounds
- V. Reading and Approval of Agenda – Read by Mr. Wallace James, Jr. Council Vice-President
M: Judith Shirley S: Ruthie Nez VOTE: 18 – 0 – 6
No Question, add-ons or deletions
- VI. Approval of Last Regular Chapter Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2026
M: Ruthie Nez S: Judith Shirley VOTE: 13 – 1 – 6
Council Secretary/Treasurer provided printed copies of the Minutes from April 12, 2026.
The printed minutes were accepted as is with no request for a verbal reading.
- VII. Old Business:
 1. Business Report April 2026: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager
M: Judith Shirley S: Elenita Begay VOTE: 17 – 0 – 9
 - Due to Mother's Day on 05/10/26, the Regular Chapter Meeting was rescheduled to today, Happy Belated Mother's Day.
 - Regular Services continue to be provided from Monday through Friday; 8am – 5pm (closed for lunch from 12p-1p); the services include trash disposal, water sales for drinking and livestock, laundry services, equipment rental and Chapter usage.
 - ARPA Workers were laid off on May 01, 2026 due to exhaust of ARPA Funds for Labor.
 - Working closely with Honorable Council Delegate, Mr. Vince James to transfer funds from the RRR to rehire the Workers to complete Home Renovation projects.

- NACOG – Submitted a Pre-Application with deadline being on 04/03 and received a response to submit an application for the proposed project. The main application deadline is 5/19/26 for the proposal and application for soil stabilization and this project is also partly funded by Apache County's TTIP project. This project is to improve Navajo Route 151 and will be requesting support letters from community members. This road is nine miles long. She is also working with Ganado Community and its Chapter to present a Resolution to their community Chapter meeting scheduled to be held today as well. This project is closely coordinated with NDOT for cost estimate requests. She will be attending a meeting with NDOT on Friday, May 15, 2026.
- Annual Earth Day – Week of April 20, 2026. They had about 20 participants for the community clean up. They provided trash bags and Navajo Sanitation provided two trash bins. On 04/20/26 Apache County also held a Community event.
- Safe Drinking water project which is funded by the Indian Health Services – the chapter continues to deliver water to community members that do not have running water. This program will be ending soon as Indian Health Services will let them know. She has found out that some community members are misusing this project by using the water for their livestock instead.
- Last Month, she provided a written report. She had included her proposal for the community to re-establish a Community Land Use Project.
- Election Campaigns are underway, listen to their platform carefully as this decision is up to you.
- June 11, 2026 – Deadline for requesting an Absentee Ballot
- 6/17-7/11 – Early Voting
- In June, Cornfields Chapter will be hosting JMI in close coordination with Tsehotsooi Medical Center. The Chapter will post the information as the time nears.

VIII. New Business:

1. **CF-MAY2026-37:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter General Activity Funds for the Month of April 2026 in the Amount of \$4,654.49.
M: Cecelia White S: Ruthie Nez VOTE: 23 – 0 – 6
2. **CF-MAY2026-38:** Approving the Funding request from the Navajo Nation Gaming Revenue Carry-Over distribution in the amount of \$961.78.
M: Ruthie Nez S: Elenita Begay VOTE: 24 – 0 – 6
3. **CF-MAY2026-39:** Supporting the Cornfields Chapter Funding Request to the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) for Route N151 Road Improvement Project Emphasizing Community Safety, Accessibility and Long-Term Resilience.
M: Cecelia White S: Lawrence Sam VOTE: 29 – 0 – 6
4. **CF-MAY2026-40:** Approving and Supporting the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife Climate Change Program (CCP) to Initiate Field Observation to Determine and Implement Locations for Low-Impact Watershed Restoration Practices with the Cornfields area Located in the Cornfields Chapter Boundaries. The Intention is to Mitigate any Threatening Natural Events that may Further Damage Sensitive areas including Surrounding Community Homes and/or Dwellings.
M: Cecelia White S: Ruthie Nez VOTE: 29 – 0 – 8
Mr. Howard Leonard, Navajo Fish and Wildlife CCP presented the project proposed within the Cornfields Community along with Mr. Kyle Yazzie. Presented a slideshow of the

project. They are requesting a Resolution for Cultural Resource Inventory Determination and BRCF. This may include work with the Army Corp of Engineer. Presented the types of Projects and Material used for watershed and erosion control.

5. **CF-MAY2026-41:** Approving and Confirming Election Poll Workers for three positions: Chief Poll Judge, Poll Worker, and Poll Clerk for the upcoming Navajo Nation Primary Election on July 21, 2026.

M: Cecelia White

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 26 – 0 – 6

6. **CF-MAY2026-42:** Accepting and Approving the Cornfields Chapter Financial Report for the Month of April 2026

M: Judith Shirley

S: Elenita Begay

VOTE: 23 – 0 – 9

IX. Verbal and Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James –

- Speaker Curley vs. Buu Nygren Case – Speaker Curley won the case
- The Council's Budget was finally approved after the Court Session.
- Supplemental Budget's 10th day signing deadline was 05/10/26 at 5:01pm. The President signed a COPY of the Legislation instead of the ORIGINAL legislation, so he is threatening to fight the Navajo Nation Law to apply a Temporary Restraining Order on the Legislation for the Supplemental Budget.
- 5 Million funding for the Roads across the Navajo Nation. And this is only for the main dirt roads, no residential roads.
- 05/27/26 at 1:00 pm - Meeting on the RRR projects, this was listed on his April Report, there is no May Report due to no budget. He will have a Report for the month of June 2026 – 20 pages so far.
- 928-287-2831 his phone number.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Ruthie Nez – Per Mike Halona, Director of Agriculture, a homeowner is not required to present a Homesite lease for Home Renovation under ARPA, can you clarify this information:

Honorable James-

- ARPA – Does not require a Homesite Lease for Home Renovation
- Housing Discretionary Funds – When the Cornfields Chapter was approved for Certified Chapter, there was a policy placed for a Homesite Lease requirement for funds from the Housing Discretionary Funds. This Policy is a Chapter mandated policy that can be changed by the constituents,
- Bathroom Addition – Applying for assistance for a Bathroom Addition requires a Homesite Lease especially for water services to be established.

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President –

- Attended the DNR Expo on 04/28 – 04/29 at Twin Arrows Casino and Resort
- Had a discussion with the Chapter Administration and Officials to consider an option to change the Regular Chapter Meeting to be held on a weekday, a suggestion box is to be provided to give the community a choice of what day is more convenient from Monday through Friday. This will give the Chapter Staff the opportunity to spend their personal time with their families on the weekends.
- CLUPC is an important part of the Chapter function and has been a priority to re-establish.

- He has a better understanding of the Chapter's function with the Administration and the Chapter Official duties. He plans to continue to plan with both sides to improve the functioning of our roles.

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

- No Report

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer –

- Happy Belated Mother's Day to all
- Attended the Agency Council Meeting on April 11, 2026 in Navajo, NM.

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie

- Livestock Inventory for FY2026 being scheduled for this year. This Livestock Tally keeps you Grazing Permit active, without a Tally your permit will become invalid.
- DNR Expo – shared information regarding changes:
 - o 60 yrs + and Veterans – fees for Application and Clearances have been waived
 - o Livestock Rustling update – Reminding all Livestock owners of the rules
 - o All livestock being branded from this year needs to have a -N- but this excludes a State Brand. Branding should be applied from 6 weeks old to 6 months of age.
 - o Feral Horse Ranch hands – there are 6 individuals presently. The Navajo Nation constituent has a right to entrap an unbranded horse and open to resell for Male Horses at \$200, and Mares at \$150. Presently there are 10,000 horses impounded.
 - o ARMA – Agricultural Range Management Act – A Public Input to explain to communities across the Navajo Nation. This involves studying the plants and soil. Based in the plant and soil studies, there will be proposed reduction of units per Permits.
 - o NEPA – Navajo Environmental Protection Act
- a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – June 1, 2026 – 9:00 am – Wide Ruins Chapter
- b. Permittee Meeting – 05/27/26 – Cornfields Chapter – 9:00 am. Mr. Ray Castillo to present the ARMA in Navajo
- c. Agency Grazing Meeting – May 18, 2026 – 9:00 am – St. Michaels Chapter

4. Farm Board

- Judith Shirley, Farm Board Member
 - o DNR Expo – 4/28 and 4/29
 - o A Homesite Lease obtained for an inhabited plot will have fees waived for archeological clearance for utility services.
- a. Regular Meeting – May 12, 2026 at 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
- b. Land-Use Permittee Training – May 14, 2026 at 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter and a Soil Health Clinic to be presented off-site.

5. Candidate Introduction

- a. Perfelia Bradley, Justice of the Peace for Apache County.

MOVED BACK TO HONORABLE COUNCIL DELEGATE

Wallace James, Jr 4:21 pm excused

6. Veterans Organization

- a. Meeting: Last Friday May 08, 2026 they held a meeting. On May 30, 2026 the Veterans will hold an appreciation at 8:00 am. They will be presenting a Flag to the Chapter and retire the worn. They are requesting the Navajo Nation to replace the Navajo Nation Flags as well. 94 Veterans enrolled from Cornfields Community.

7. School Announcements:

- a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Official
- b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative
- c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
School Report: Mr. Lindblad, Principal
- d. Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member – not present

8. Others:

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Elenita Begay

VOTE: 23 – 0 – 2

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

- 1. Chapter Planning Meeting: Tuesday; June 02, 2026 at 4:00 pm
- 2. Chapter Regular Meeting: Sunday; June 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm

XI. Benediction: Provided by Honorable Vince James, Council Delegate

XII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee

M: Judith Shirley

S: Larry Yazzie

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting Minutes were completed and submitted by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on May 11, 2026