

Cornfields Chapter Planning Meeting

Tuesday, October 06, 2026 4:00 PM

MINUTES

- I. Meeting Called to Order – Meeting was called to order by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President at 4:30 pm
- II. Invocation – The Invocation was provided by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President
- III. Announcements/Introductions:

1. Regular Chapter Meeting – Sunday, October 11, 2026 1:00P
2. Others:
 - Mr. Kenneth Cooper, Community Member – requested to provide a Presentation at the Regular Chapter Meeting on 10/11/26.
 - District 17 Council Meeting – Wednesday 10/07/2026 at Ganado Chapter 6pm
 - Judith Shirley, Farm Board Member – Correction to dates of Meetings:
 - o FarmBoard Regular Meeting – October 13, 2026
 - o FarmBoard Land Use Planning – October 08, 2026

IV. Review & Approval of Agenda

M: Judith Shirley

S: Sharon Smith

VOTE: 3-0-1

The Agenda was read by Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President.

Elizabeth Johnson, Community Member – Would like to share a concern regarding a recent change for water delivery services for the community members that receive water to fill into their cistern system. She is advocating on behalf of all residents residing South of Navajo Station whom have health conditions to limit them from hauling their own water and if the chapter could negotiate a fee for continued water delivery.

RESPONSE: Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President – We can further discuss this issue when Alfreda Earle, Chapter Member is providing her update.

Dickie T. Smith, Community Member – Shared with the community that he would to keep the Community involved and to give them time to share what they would like. There is a good turn out in attendance today and they need to be vocal. Another concern is the New ARPA Hardship, currently it is requested for all applicants to travel to Window Rock to complete an application, there are some elders that do not have a way to get there due to no transportation or their children are working. He would also like for the Community Members to voice their appreciation for the assistance they receive from the Chapter.

V. Old Business

Staff Update:

1. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager –

- ARPA Funds in the amount of \$250.00 – the plans placed by Council was that they would be opening a location to take applications when the date proposed came. But there was a confusion caused by a neighboring Chapter and posting it on Social Media that they would be assisting the community by taking applications. The Chapter confirmed this information with the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Office, she was told that this should have not been done. There should be no applications taken out in the community except by the FRF Office Staff. They are located in Tse Bonito, NM two doors down from the SUBWAY. The Chapter does have a Flyer that lists what documents are required.
- Water Delivery Services – This Safe Water Drinking Program stopped funding to provide water delivery services in the community. These funds were provided from Indian Health Service who was paying for invoice for the water taken from the watering point. The Chapter was informed that the funds allocated for Cornfields Chapter was depleted. The Chapter informed the community members whom were receiving water delivery services of the change by letter. There were some community members that did come in to share concerns. The chapter was assisting 32 people = 12,000 gallons on a monthly basis. Due to the rising cost of fuel and to maintain the Water Truck is costly. Therefore the Chapter staff and Officials have decided to set a rate for each household on a Monthly Basis. The cost per Gallon was provided at 0.04 per gallon, now the Chapter has decided to provide water for the families whom were receiving delivery at 0.02 per gallon when they do come in.
- The FY2027 Budget was finally received. The allocation received is less than what was received for FT2026.
- The ARPA Funds were depleted at the end of August 2026.
- Recommendation: To add the Chapter Officials to providing an Update as well.
- ALSO: The Contractor who won the BID for the N15 Project came in to the Chapter to introduce himself. He would like to visit areas in the community and look for a borrow-pit for sand. The N15 improvement will require a significant amount for product to raise the ground for the new highway.

2. Vince James, Council Delegate

- Met with Indian Health Services whom reported that they are disseminating letters in regards to the Safe Drinking water project.

- Grazing Officials – consent forms needed for future waterline projects. The Chapter Officials need to work with the Grazing Official to gather all needed consents from Permit Holders.
- DJoe Construction – The N15 Construction Contractor awarded the Project has submitted the final approval for the Project on 9/28/26 through the 164 process and hopes to have the contract completed in the next couple of weeks. The construction is proposed to begin from the Cattlegaurd and west for 7.1 mile. The road portion from the Round-about to the Cattleguard is not assigned to any road Maintenance entity. The second Contract will be submitted for the 164 process for the 2nd phase.
- Legislation for Business Site for the New Post Office in Ganado. US Postal Service did not want the 8 acres due to cost. They agreed to a reduced acreage without a subcontracting to another business entity due to Federal restrictions, There will a ground breaking ceremony scheduled once the 164 process has been completed.
- \$5 million allocation for Road Construction – Priority contract with Apache County to gravel the hill from Sunrise to Navajo Station and on the opposite side of N15 from the base of the hill to the top of the Sunrise-Toyei Route. They are talking about plans Combine Cornfields and Ganado Funds for N191 to gravel the route.
- The Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget was approved. The Budget encompassed the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice=President and other Divisions, this caused him to make a hard decision. He voted green. He was criticized for it. He decided based on jeopardizing positions for Navajo Nation employees that was included in the same legislation.
- He might not be attending the Fall Council Session October 19 -23, 2026. 10/20/2026 – Indian Health Services is holding a major meeting in Palm Springs, California and a consideration to fund a New Gallup Indian Medical Center. There are three facilities being considered for a new facility; Phoenix Medical Center has an issue that arose while planning for a renovation, then White Mountain Apache was awarded for reconstruction three years ago and also have come to another issue. This is a very important project for Navajo Nation since he chairs the Health and Human Services Committee.

QUESTION:

- Mr. Lamonte Smith – asked if Honorable James oversees the '638 Program? He encountered issues with the hiring practices at the Chinle Indian Health Service.

RESPONSE:

- Honorable James replied to explain that as serving as Chair with the Navajo Nation Health and Services Committee, all concerns are brought to the Committee from the Department of Health who oversees the '638 Facilites.

Requested Mr. Smith to contact Michele Morris, Legal Analyst at the Department of Health at 928-327-6761.

- FOOD BOXES are being distributed – Residents living 5 miles or more from the highway are priority at this time. Others will be considered until these first priority are taken care of.
- MOA – Is a new requirement that needs to be established between the Non-Tribal Business Entities such as NECA, Indian Health Services for any funding for planned projects due to funding reports.

VI. New Business:

1. CF-OCT2026-01: Requesting Approval to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Carry-Over General Activity Funds for the Month of September 2026 in the amount of \$6,379.11

M: Wallace James, Jr. S: Judith Smith VOTE: 3-0-1

2. CF-OCT2026-02: Accepting and Approving the Cornfields Chapter Financial Report for the Month of September 2026.

M: Wallace James, Jr. S: Judith Shirley VOTE: 3-0-1

VII. Others:

1. Regular Chapter Meeting – Sunday, October 11, 2026 1:00pm
2. Farm Board:
 - a. Regular Meeting October 13, 2026 9:00am-12:00pm –
 - b. Land Use Planning – October 08, 2026 9:00am-12:00pm

Mrs. Judith Shirley was present to participate in this meeting although her Department does not include funding to cover her attendance at the Planning Meetings.

3. Grazing:
 - a. Permittee Meeting –
 - b. District 17 Meeting –
 - c. FD Agency Grazing Meeting –

The Grazing Official was not present due to a change in budgeting for his position that no longer requires him to attend the Planning Meetings.

4. Veterans Organization: No one present to report.
5. Planning Meeting – November 04, 2026 4:00pm – Date was due to be scheduled for 11/03/26 but due to the Elections, meeting will be scheduled the following day.

VIII. Benediction: Provided by Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, Community Member.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on October 06, 2026.