

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting
 Sunday, March 09, 2025 @ 1:00pm
MINUTES

- I. **Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Pro-Temp Council President.
- II. **Invocation:** Provided by Mr. Albert Johnson, Community Member
- III. **Roll Call:** Provided by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Pro-Temp Council President

i. Present Absent		
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp	X	
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	X	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official		X

@ time of Roll Call

IV. **Announcements/Introduction:**

1. Tse Ho Tsoii Medical Center – Roy Dempsey, Community Relation Outreach Specialist
 Community Update – “Elder Self-Care”
 Signs of Anxiety and Mindfulness and how to encourage self-care to help themselves.
 Keep a Daily Routine to keep your mind and body active. Limit screentime. Sleep at least 8 hours a night for proper rest. Reflect on Appreciation for all aspects of your life. Laughter is good for your soul. Consider a new hobby. Explore inspirations. Connect with your faith.
2. Navajo Transitional Energy Corp.– Presentation on New Energy Initiative
 Presenters: Leonard Palmer, Sr.
 2023 – NTEC generated 72 Million for the Navajo Nation General Funds. There are 350 employees of which 307 are Navajo. They also operate the Four Corners Mine where there are 255 employees. Overall Navajo Mine employs 86 % of Navajos. Navajo Mine gives out coal for a period of winter and will be closing next week for the Winter Coal hauling.
 So what is the next step for Energy production? Cleaner Energy. They have filtered the dark smoke produced cleaner smoke and which is CO2 today. Plants grow with CO2 and produce O2 for Human. 1 gallon of burned gasolines produces 1000 lbs of CO2. They would like to capture the CO2. Humans needs CO2, if there is deficient then the kidneys fail. They are also working on setting Solar Panels 210 mega watts of Energy for electricity. They are projecting 17 plants.
 This overall will produce a number of clean energy.
 Question: Explain Mega watts
 Querstion: Time Study/Time Line to make this reality – Four Years.
 NTEC produces Energy and NTUA sells it. 1760 megawatts in Power. Solar requires more plants to match power produces for electricity to run 24 hours per day.
3. Special Election – ~~Monday~~ Tuesday March 11, 2025 6:00am to 7:00pm
4. Sage Memorial Hospital Mobile Clinic – 03/18/25 Cornfields Chapter –10a to 2p
 Linda Youvella, Board Member; provided information on the Mobile Clinic.
5. Cornfields Head Start – Elta Shepherd – not present
6. Kathy Chee, Cornfields Community Baptist Church – not present
7. Other(s):
 - a. Request to ADD Resolution: Veterans’ Trust Funds Increase presented by Ruthie Nez, Veteran’s Organization

- b. Paulette Peterson, CHR for Cornfields. To contact her, call 928-729-4014 CHR Office in Fort Defiance; Welfare Checks as referred by the Hospitals, visitation of elders, Vital Checks, Medication pick-up. Health Fairs will be scheduled towards the Summer.

V. Approval of Agenda

M: Judith Shirley

S: Linda Youvella

VOTE: 30 – 0 – 6

Vera Johnson, Community Member would like to add Introduction of Candidate for Upcoming Special Election. This item will be placed under REPORTS; Others

COMMENT: Mr. Edward Pete; announced that many will be affected by the forthcoming closure of BIA offices in the Phoenix Metro Office, his children are concerned and he would like to ask the Navajo Nation Government to advocate on their behalf to avoid the loss of jobs off the Reservation.

REQUEST: Ms. Linda Youvella, Community Member made a motion to add a Resolution to be addressed to the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation President to protect our people from these unexpected cuts that Federally funded with will affect our children who live off the Reservation. She proposes to draft this Resolution and read it to the Audience when it comes time to present it for passing it by quorum.

COMMENT: Judith Shirley states that right now the information that we see or hear on the news will not go into effect right away.

COMMENT: Ruthie Nez, also supports a Resolution opposing cuts to Federal Funded Education for all students from Cornfields and surrounding communities.

COMMENT: Joan Dalgai, Community Member – we can use this Resolution to voice what we think from this community.

COMMENT: Linda Youvella, is presenting to add a Resolution for opposing this Position of Federal Fund Cuts that will affect Indian Education and Bureau of Indian Affairs Offices affecting the Navajo Nation and the community of Cornfields Council Government and its registered voting member.

COMMENT: Mr. Albert Johnson, Community Member – explained that this position of the requested resolution needs facts and suggests to add this Resolution

CLARIFICATION: Ms. Linda Youvella. Would like to forward this information to the Council and President of the Navajo Nation so that they can be aware that our community is concerned for our children who reside off-reservation who might be affected. This Resolution will go along the line of Recommending and Requesting the Navajo Nation Council and OPVP to advocate against the travesty to our Navajo Nation Treaty of 1868 that protects our Sovereignty. The final Heading and body will be prepared and shared under New Business CF-MAR2025-28.

Joan Dalgai, Community Member – She is in favor of the Resolution.

Motion to add Resolution: Linda Youvella, Second by Ruthie Nez VOTE: 30 – 0 - 6

VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 02/09/25 Regular Chapter Meeting

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Linda Holigay

VOTE: 35 – 0 – 6

The Minutes from said meeting was printed for audience and reviewed. Printed meeting minutes were reviewed and read by Council Secretary/Treasurer.

VII. Old Business:

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

M:

S:

VOTE:

Chapter and Planning Meeting attended

Chapter was open for services for the month of February.

The Chapter has been trying to keep up with hay sales and transporting additional hay

Chapter Usage – bookings through June 2025

Wood Permit and Wood Resale Permits are sold as part of services provided.

ARPA reporting is a prominent part of her duties and working against deadlines. Priority is the SAS process and to ensure they are within the dates for project completion.

Mid February – the Chapter Projects had to be stopped due to funding exhaustion. The home improvement project is the biggest part of the ARPA projects. Ms. Earle requested for the remaining 50% of the funding drawdown, but the documents which were forwarded to Chapter Government, and to the person taking care of the documents and process resigned at the end of January. The second week of February she was informed that the documents were being researched and they could not locate them. Last week, on 03/04/25 she was informed by Honorable James, Council Delegate who stopped by Community Development expedited the process.

Met with Community Development on Friday 3/7/25. \$490,000.00 to be transferred.

NTEC – She works closely with them and the Coal distribution will be closing soon.

Indian Health Services continues to coordinate payment for water delivery services provided to the community homes that do not have running water.

Election – Tuesday, March 11, 2025. For the Council President Position, The position for Council Vice-President is still in litigation, but the Election Administration will update the Chapter going forward. She is seeking a candidate that will help her along the way to make her daily work load lighter.

Chapter will be closed on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

February 4th the 7th. – Chapter Official Orientation. She attended with Council Secretary/Treasurer.

2/10 Attended a Fixed Assets Training in working with the MIP. Refresher course to add new equipment.

2/27 – CPMD – Update on Si Ha Siin Projects. Requested grant-agreement. Community Project and Veteran’s Courtyard project update

CHR – They have been assigned a new CHR. She will be assigned an office. They will work on hooking up a phone for her.

NDOT – End of April they will mobilize at the Sunrise Crossing for a temporary fix to place a culvert. The permanent box culvert will be designed into the new N15. A new proposed start date to begin construction is August 2025.

A Federal Highways Funding that was approved might be put on hold due to the new Federal Spending under review.

QUESTIONS: None

M: Linda Youvella

S; Victoria Begay

VOTE: 33 – 0 – 3

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

- Cornfields Chapter – Statement of Revenues for the Month of February 2025

o RESALE ITEMS-----	\$5,914.20
▪ Hay	
▪ Water	
o RENTALS-----	\$ 749.00
▪ Tractor	
o SERVICES-----	\$2,470.30
	=====
TOTAL	\$9,133.50

- Cornfields Chapter Ending Balances as of 01/31/25

General Activities	\$1,215.98
Personnel Funds	\$11,852.15

Land Claims	\$4,821.66
Supplemental Youth Funds	\$65.15
Housing Discretionary	\$17,982.95
LGA Funds	\$6,048.10
Chapter Stipend Funds	\$6,848.29
Scholarship Funds	\$6,947.50
PEP Funds	\$(1,545.51)
Veterans Funds	\$622.03
Emergency Fund	\$1,018.51
NN CIP	\$1,996.99
NN Sales Tax	\$(12.16)
Unhealthy Food Tax	\$60,190.83
ARPA	\$(49,432.36)
TOTAL	\$68,620.11

M: Linda Youvella

S: Vera Johnson

VOTE: 32 – 0 – 3

VIII. New Business:

1. **CF- MAR2025-18:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter Activity Funds for the Month of February 2025 in the Amount of \$9,146.79

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Desiree Taliman

VOTE: 29 – 0 – 3

No questions posed

2. **CF- MAR2025-19:** Approving the selection of Poll Officials (3) for the 2025 Navajo Nation Special Election on March 11, 2025 at Cornfields Chapter; Fort Defiance Agency:

a. **Lenora Davis**

b. **Sandra Yazzie**

c. **Matilda Taliman**

M: Judith Shirley

S: Diseree Taliman

VOTE: 31 – 0 - 3

Sandra Yazzie - Polls open at 8:00 am to Close at 5:00 pm

3. **CF-MAR2025-20:** Supporting and Recommending Approval of the Re-Authorization of Kin Dah Lichi'I Olta, Inc. a community controlled school as authorized by P.L. 100-297/96-561, for a period of three (3) years.

M: Melvin Chee

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 28 – 0 – 4

Resolution presented by Linda Youvella, Board Member

4. **CF- MAR2025-21:** *In support of* Requesting the Resource and Development Committee and Budget and Finance Committee to reappropriate unapproved Year 3 AIF Project Plans (RDCD-40-22) Funding supported by the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources and Navajo Department of Agriculture in the Cornfields Chapter/Fort Defiance Agency community pursuant to Resolution CAP-16-24 and # N.N.C §§ 831-852.

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Victoria Begay

VOTE: 32 – 0 – 4

Kimberly Johnson, Department of Agriculture - on behalf of the Grazing Committee. The Agriculture Infrastructure Funds comes from the USDA. This is to encourage enhancing the Agriculture and Natural Resources. There are various projects that AIF assists with. There is Water Resources who was given funds to enhance and repair

earthen dams and windmills. Where funding was not used, the Department of Agriculture is requesting to have funds returned for new programs. 4 wool and mohair sales proposed across the Navajo Nation this year.

QUESTIONS:

Victoria Begay – How would Cornfields Chapter Community benefit from this AIF?

RESPONSE:

Does not have the amount delegated to Cornfields for Farm or Livestock Incentives.

5. **CF-MAR2025-22:** *In Support of* Requesting the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, The Navajo Nation Department of Resource Enforcement and the Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs Natural Resource to investigate reported cattle rustling crimes with the Cornfields Chapter Grazing District Units.
M: Victoria Begay **S: Linda Youvella** **VOTE: 28 – 0 – 6**
The Resolution was read by Ms. Kimberly Johnson, Department of Agriculture.
6. **CF-MAR2025-23:** Requesting the Navajo Nation General Land Development Department to Accept a Land Withdrawal approved for the James Family's Burial Plot located at 35.7333429 Latitude, 109.649135 Longitude within the boundaries of the Cornfields Council Government
M: Judith Shirley **S: Desiree Taliman** **VOTE: 26 – 0 – 6**
Presented by Geralee Paul, and Michelle Nelson representing the James Family
Requesting for 1 acre for land withdrawal for an existing private burial area.
7. **CF-MAR2025-24:** Supporting Greasewood Springs Community School to continue operating under the provision of Public Law 100-297 as a Grant School and Provide K-8th Grade Educational programs beginning July 01, 2025.
M: Desiree Taliman **S: Linda Youvella** **VOTE: 28 – 0 – 4**
8. **CF-MAR2025-25:** Respectfully requesting and supporting 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 \$12,000,000.00 from the Si Ha Siin Fund or UUFB to cover a shortfall for pending N15 Road Reconstruction for the Sunrise Low water crossing within the Cornfields Chapter Government Community.
M: Linda Youvella **S: Victoria Begay** **VOTE: 25 – 0 – 3**
Presented by Philandra Nelson, LDA for Honorable Vince James, Council Delegate.
No questions posed
9. **CF-MAR2025-26:** Respectfully requesting and supporting 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 \$3,000,000.00 from the Si Ha Siin Fund or UUFB to cover a shortfall for Apache County Road Projects C420 Road Improvement.
M: Warren Thomas **S: Linda Holigay** **VOTE: 26 – 0 – 3**
Presented by Philandra Nelson, LDA for Honorable Vince James, Council Delegate.
No questions posed

10. CF-MAR2025-27: Resolution Supporting an Action to Increase the Veterans' Trust Fund Allotment from 4% to increase to 12% for Fiscal Year 2026.

M: Judith Shirley

S: Linday Holigay

VOTE: 24 – 0 – 4

No questions posed

11. CF-MAR2025-28: Verbal Resolution, pertaining to a request to the Navajo Nation Government to protect the rights of our people that might be affected through federally funded jobs or programs.

M: Desiree Taliman

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 26 – 0 – 4

Resolution was verbally read as drafted by Ms. Linda Youvella, community member. She will email a copy of the actual Resolution later this week.

IX. Verbal/Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James
Report was provided by Philandra Nelson, LDA.
2. Chapter Officials
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp – Thanked the community for allowing him to serve as a Council Vice-
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer –
 - a. 02/04/25 – 02/06/25 Chapter Official Orientation
 - b. 02/12/25 – Rural Addressing Meeting
3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie
 - a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – 3/14/25 WR Veterinary 9am
 - b. Cornfields Permittee Meeting – 3/17/25 – Cornfields Chapter Veterinary to Present
 - c. Agency Grazing Meeting – 04/7/25 Wide Ruins Chapter 9:00am
Sheep Tubs are still available for \$40.00 sold at a higher price in other retail stores.
AIF applications are being taken: SS Card, DL/ID, Tally Count, CIB. Farm and Garden Incentive Program was placed on hold.
Make sure you take a money order if you are purchasing a sheep tub
4. Farm Board
 - a. Regular Meeting – March 10, 2025 @ 9:00a
 - b. Land Use Permittee Training– March 13, 2025 @ 9:00a
Nenahnizaad – Orientation.
5. CLUPC:
 - a. No Meeting Scheduled
6. School Announcements:
 - a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Clerk – Not Present
 - b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative – Provided flyers on Federal Programs and Grants.
 - c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member – Update on Proposed construction
 - d. Kindahlichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member – has not had their First meeting yet.

7. Other: Candidate Introduction
a. Tyrone Chee, Candidate for Council President
- 35 years with Economic Development – Human Resources.
M: Brenda Thomas S: Desiree Taliman VOTE: 21 – 0 – 3

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

1. Next Planning Meeting
Date: ~~Tuesday~~ – Tuesday, April 01, 2025 4:00pm
2. Next Regular Meeting
Date: Sunday – ~~Tuesday~~, April 13, 2025 1:00pm

XI. Benediction: Provided by Victoria Begay, Community Member

XII. Adjournment: Meeting was Adjourned by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council Vice-President Pro-Temp at
M: Vera Johnson S: Ruthie Nez VOTE: 21 – 0 – 2

Meeting Minutes prepared by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on 03/09/25