

# (Council of Mexican Water Chapter Government)

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Council of Mexican Water Chapter Government will convene a regular chapter meeting open to the public on February 07, 2016 at Mexican Water Chapter Multipurpose Building Complex 1 locate at Highway 191 N Milepost#2, Mexican Water, Utah beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

Information regarding the following agenda items may be reviewed in the office of the Council Manager at Highway191 N Milepost#2, Mexican Water, Utah

The Council may vote to convene in Executive Session, which will not be open to the public for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the Council for any agenda item below

Members of the Council will attend either in person or by telephone, video or internet conferencing.

If any disabled person needs any type of accommodation in order to attend this meeting, please notify Martha Saggbay at (928) 429-0986 at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting.

## I. REGULAR CHAPTER MEETING

- A. Call to Order by Jerry Tsosie @ 10:45 a.m.
- B. Invocation by Cassandra Beletso
- C. Roll Call by Secretary/Treasurer for the record
- D. Approval of previous meeting Journal of Proceedings/minutes of January 10, 2016  
Motion for approval by Cassandra Beletso to be deferred to next meeting and post on website, second by Harry W. Tsosie with a vote of 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained and motion carried
- E. Approval of Agenda read by Secretary/Treasurer for the record  
Need to ratify and add **MWCJAN10-056** Approving to request the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Budget & Finance Committee, NÁBIK' IYÁTI' Committee, Resources and Development Committee, Division of Community Development, Community Housing & Infrastructure Development/Housing & Urban Development and Community Development Block Grant to allocate FY 2016 funding of \$323,157.82 for the construction of Utah Phase II Scattered Power Line Extension to serve eleven (11) homes located within San Juan County, Utah  
Motion for approval by Cassandra Beletso, second by Sarah Yanito with a vote of 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained and motion carried

Chapter Vice-President gave the floor to NN Vice-President Jonathan Nez to report first. requesting to Chapter President. Council Delegate also requested to make his report right after

**Vice-President Jonathan Nez** - to report here due to him being on his way to Salt Lake City, Utah for Caucus Day, has to leave early. On behalf of Honorable Russell Begay and who could not make it due to meeting in Phoenix with SRPAPS and will be heading to Salt Lake tomorrow with the Governor.

The Council had their session and there are Nine Bills forwarded to the NN President/Vice-President and have 10 days to consider and it becomes a law.

**\*Veterans Act** – to be recognized on the Navajo Nation and has been approved by the Council, this is the first time this has happened and it took 40 years, etc. It took the Veterans many meetings to get this through. Next Saturday, the NN President signing of the law at Twin Arrows which will be a historical document. They made two promises and this was one and the other one was appoint a worker (James C. Beshtagai) office of President/Vice President Liaison, he is the bridge between the Veterans and the President/Vice President. They will take-care of our own Veterans here on the Navajo Nation. This time the recognition will be here and they will have our own Veterans Service here on the Navajo Nation.

**\*Youth Council** – just like the Senior Citizen, they have their own council and have their meeting. They are proposing to establish a Youth Council. They would like to get these two come together and make it one group because the majority of the students speaking English and doing things in modern way and are lacking their traditional ways of life and teaching. It seems like they separate themselves from each other, Bridge the gap between Elders/Youth "Inter-generation Teaching". Because of the language we kind of separate ourselves between Elders/Youth. There are a lot of confusion for our youth, usage of TV, internet, face book, technology, etc. There is more violence because of internet now and according to social media. Teach the children to be responsible on the use of internet, etc.

## **(Council of Mexican Water Chapter Government)**

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**\*New Facility** - they are challenging the chapters to make Youth Center and Senior Citizen Centers. It would be nice to see both building together/combine, etc. They want to see a model show case, etc.

**\*Utah Water Settlement** which has been approved by the Council will be discussing it down the road, it will take another two years or so, if they feel that they need to advocate for something they will be working on it. AZ is the same way, has not been approve yet and same with Colorado.

**\*Navajo Nation Comprehensive Physical Year Budget** – this year there is 2M less because they have investment in oil/gas and because of oil/gas revenue that went down. They rely on this as a government. If the price of gas is low and the revenue is low so they cannot get the same services going out the NN; they have a lot of workers and don't want to do a lay-off and have to restructure the government and looking at 20M to 30M for 2017 starting October 1 up to September 30. Do some ear marks for shortfall and this is rainy day fund

**\*San Juan School District law sue**, 5 school board members, and two are Navajo. Redistricting plan regarding county and San Juan Schools, they were told to fix school board prescient but they did not do it, so Navajo Nation is filing sue because there is an opportunity for three Navajo District and three could take control. This is being discussed by Justice Department and Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

**\*Bears Ears** is an issue, which is calling the Public Land Initiative, to be Federal Designation, overseen by Washington and with the help of Natives. Republicans – Chiih' yee adilohii, the state is saying that these Federal land should go back to state. If any land should go back to anybody, it should first go back to the Tribe. This is all up to President Obama; he can designate land for Federal Land, etc. The same situation with Grand Canyon, these are things that we have to balance and are working on it.

He has a love one who passed on in his home town in Shonto and are meeting in Shonto today at 1:00 again, former Council Delegate Harry Brown from Shonto who was his grandpa.

### **Questions:**

**Mary Benally** – is a supporter of the water settlement, wants help to support from NN, during the drought it gets really bad, people run out of water out here, plants are down, need more different type of plants for our animals, a lot of plants with thorns have grown everywhere. We want Bears Ears the way it is too, no development on it. Again NN support is needed, etc. . . . Also Youth/Senior Citizens to be together and is for it all the way. Domestic violence is a problem within our Nation and community and need support. School redistricting is a problem too and need support on it. Wants to do a lot of awareness but there is no money for it.

**Herbert Yanito** – requested Comb Ridge area the road is a big problem, during planning meeting a while back he submitted a paper to the chapter and now gave another one to Council and NN Vice-President. Maybe with the money that's coming forth from somewhere that was put in savings way back by Chairman Zah, maybe this will become possible for our road to be fix in Comb Ridge area.

**Harry W. Tsosie** – regarding Veterans Hospital to be on Navajo Nation so they don't have to travel so far for their needs. We have a lot of Veterans within the community. Have a facility here for the Rodeo people too just like the Senior and Youth Center.

**Richard Yanito** – elaborated on Bears Ears and how people used the land there and need a strong support from Navajo Nation. Regarding the money coming forth, purchase of air plane, etc. He disagrees with the purchasing of the air plane; we need that money out here within the chapters, roads, etc. Then he heard again that air plane did not go through. Told the Vice-President to drive through the dirt road and see how the roads are, need money for this.

## **(Council of Mexican Water Chapter Government)**

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**Toni Dee** – Behalf of Bluff Elementary, need the Vice-President's support, the school is overfilled and they smell like sewer when they leave school. New school has been proposed but is going to sit on top of archeological site with remains and they don't want that, there must be another place elsewhere.

**Response by NN Vice-President:** regarding water settlement, they want the best deal for the people, one thing he likes about this issue is, the leasing of the water, economic development is also possible, farming, etc. Just like NAPI there's a lot of land for gardening, grow your own vegetables, etc. need to return to that so there will be no diabetics. We can use the water for this, etc. He would like to see a project, there are less than 10 Youth Centers within the Navajo Nation but instead they are building Jails. This is their priority. NHA has a lot of money too. There is about 90M plus money coming back to Navajo Nation.

Roads, there is a new division director (Gary Silversmith) for Navajo Department of Transportation, his priority is gravel development and to purchase a crusher, etc. If the proposed gravel site is approved on this agenda they can bring their crusher down here for use.

Veterans Hospital being built and is in the planning in Chinle but land is the problem, they need to get more lands, etc.

**\$554M** is coming forth and how much of this is it going to leave the Navajo Nation after they start spending? They don't have internal infrastructure, construction companies, architect or designer; they don't want to make all bilagaanaas be the millionaire. We need to plan this out and have our own people work on this project instead of Mexicans and bilagaanas, etc.

Bluff Elementary need to sit down with the school officials and develop more children friendly atmosphere type of school; they are in discussion with BIE schools and state school, etc.

**Mary Benally** – elaborated on the Bluff Elementary again.

**Chapter President** – stated that we had a meeting at the chapter last week with school Superintendent and some school board members. We drove up to the site and took a look at the place. We decided to sit down with the leaders and discuss the issue again after they double check the area again and testing of the ground. Maybe have all the other important people from Navajo Medicine man Association and others to come and attend the meeting, etc.

**NN Vice-President** – regarding the Senior Citizen contract given to DES takes several years to get things done. Design/Engineering Services they have a lot of projects going too and are very slow, it takes several years for them. The one for Shonto it took about four years. Maybe take the contract to the architecture design companies from the outside youth within our Navajo Nation and get it done that way. They did sign the design/engineer service contract and this will be priority for Mexican Water chapter.

**Council Delegate's report** – has a meeting to attend and will be on his way to Salt Lake and also Teec Nos Pos is having their meeting today too.

People have asked why he does not support Utah issues and people don't understand that his jurisdiction is up to the state line and from there the County Commission takes over; a lot of the people do not know this.

Going to Caucus Day in Salt Lake today and tomorrow is the meeting with the executive side Governor and other leaders there for a short time.

Our Navajo Nation President is on the agenda there which consist of:

-Position Statement through Utah Navajo Commission these are things at hand and issues was handed to Navajo Nation President and he will voice this there

-Ayei hoghan doo adei hoghan like Council and over-site, Natives will meet with them shortly, they call themselves Republicans/Democratic and we as Navajo do not have ayei/adei hoghan

-Utah Trust Fund the new ones will be there and have their meeting

-On Tuesdays he is doing a shoe game with FACE Program at Teec Nos Pos

-Yesterday he was in Albuquerque and met with Navajo Nation Oil/Gas, Share Holders, within this (Bilagaanas) Section 17 Federal Charter was voted on, within this Black, Chinese, Mexicans, and Bilagaanas to have a way but three none Navajos them confirm and set with them and within that we agreed upon

## **(Council of Mexican Water Chapter Government)**

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Forbearance Agreement. Mill-tsoh was discussed, they told us their plans, and they are very strong people which he notices. Way back CEO was Wilson Grown and a lot of mill-tsoh was lost, etc. They did not renew the CEO, but selected new board members bilagaanas. These Bilagaanas will help us along the way.

-Utah Water Rights Issue and 13 of the council okay it and 7 were against it and speaker sign it. It will be going to Washington for a while and maybe by next year it will go to Council.

-NTUA met with them in Twin Arrows, Hopi were there and Page dame, electrical line that way and power is in there. NHA will be the one to do this? What does the Council think...discuss this issue but has not been done yet. Maybe Hopi will go under NTUA...if so they will pay us? Instead they want to allow Liquor to go into the Twin Arrows Casino and are still being investigated.

-Winter Session – a lot of laws have been approved by the council, separated the money and water is their priority.

-Permanent Trust Fund. **4.4M** went through across and until it becomes a law he will report on it again

-Grazing Officials and Farm board budget was tabled

-Navajo Technical University – want to know or planning to tribute to George Werito, etc. they will do this for the late Werito, along with the Gospel line of religion

-Next Monday on President Day at Sweet water, having a meeting regarding Title 26 downsizing the Chapters and roads, NTUA projects, Women Victims, Sexual Registration, Women Propitiators, Gaming, etc. A lot of information will be given out to the communities within the surrounding area. Go and attend.

**Kenneth J. White** – a voter of Mexican Water Chapter, requested for solar panels before but never happened. Would like to request one again to go on top of his house, he is a veteran and he thinks the chapter is pretty slow at developing things, etc. Been trying to get economic development here too but due to money it has not happen yet. There are over 5 to 10,000 people within this community and economic development is needed here within this community.

Motion to accept the Navajo Nation Vice-President and Council Delegate's report by Cassandra Beletso, second by Herbert Yanito with a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained and motion carried

**10 minutes break, let the people eat lunch**

### **II. Old Business - none**

### **III. New Business/Action Items**

A. **MWCFEB07-057** Approve to request the NÁBIK' IYÁTI' Committee, Resources and Development Committee and the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development to relinquish the business site lease located along HWY 160 (Former Tes Nez lah Convenient Store owned by Giant) back to the Mexican Water Chapter  
*Chapter President elaborated on all three resolutions in more detail*

Motion for approval by Cassandra Beletso for all three resolutions, second by Mary Benally with a vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained and motion carried

B. **MWCFEB07-058** Support and approve to submit grant application to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that is managed by National Institutes of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for the amount of \$250,000.00 for Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)

C. **MWCFEB07-059** Approve to recommend the consult Jones & Demille Engineering to work with the Permittees and the Grazing Committee Representative to **ONLY** investigate for possible gravel sites located within in San Juan County Utah that will help with road improvement

*Chapter President also mention that there is another gravel site southeast of the chapter which has been used before but half might be in Arizona, not sure. There are three people with grazing permit within that area, one is okay with it*

**County Commission – Rebecca Benally** regarding the possible gravel pit/road issue.

San Juan County 2,788 miles of roads in Utah and 687 on the reservation, 286 school bus routes, and 86 miles of the bus route is still dirt road. This is her goal; dirt road bus route is their priority due to wear and tear of the bus, muddy, etc. The cost of gravel are very expensive to be haul for long distance, due to this we need a gravel pit near the community in Mexican Water, etc. People she works with has gone around to take pictures, some areas need culvert and bridges, etc.

## **(Council of Mexican Water Chapter Government)**

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Recon Oil Navajo own business has equipment which can be used, etc. It is for EMT and for safety for the community not just for bus route.

Category Exclusion is what they call it, for a ground already disturb but within five years than it needs to be renewed was what they were told. Two weeks she is going to Washington to meet with Transportation for 5M for four years and total is 20M that will be allocated for roads, Indian School Bus Route

**Kenneth White** – There was an old gravel pit up on top of the old Mexican Water, what about that? It was used before and development of water was done below Mexican Water Store.

**Cassandra Beletso** – Chapter has Comprehensive Planning Committee, go there and request with the permittees, etc.

**Herbert Yanito** – wants to know if this is related regarding Comb Ridge, response by Rebecca was it needs to be made county road first, it is possible and will happen. If all AZ, NN, BIA all work together it is possible.

**Chapter President** – back in 1985 the 191 highway was made and gravel pit was done quickly, how? This was BIA and State roads back then. It was also mention at Agency Council that if a land was already disturb and to develop, doesn't need archeological clearance, etc.

**Vice-President** – Back than they did not request for archeological clearance, etc. A lot of roads were made.

#### **IV. Reports/Announcements**

Motion for approval for item financial ratification 1-6 by Cassandra Beletso, second by Mary R. Benally with a vote of 24 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained and motion carried

##### 1) Financial Reports (Attached)

1. Ratification of January 2016 Payroll Expenses of **\$11,165.35**
2. Ratification of January 2016 Chapter Official Stipend Expenses of **\$3,000.00**
3. Ratification of January 2016 Chapter Veteran Organization Expenses of **\$ .00**
4. Ratification of January 2016 Scholarship Expenses of **\$750.00**
5. Ratification of January 2016 Vouchers Expenses of **\$8,592.33**
6. Budget Transfer /Modifications to cover expenses incurred January 2016

##### 2) Quarterly Reports (Written/Oral)

###### 1. County Commission, Rebecca Benally

-Utah Education Network, 2016 Legislative Session happening every week that started January 25 to March 10, making laws and some are being amended in Salt Lake City Capitol. She goes there Wed., Thurs., and Friday.

a) Senate Bill 14 regarding Native American State Education Plan regarding our history and language, curriculum to go there.

b) SR3 which is a resolution

-Monday is American Indian Caucus Day, Wednesday is Senior Day

-Utah Education Network Fiber, there is 12M out for this and extend out to all the schools, wants 10% matching is needed, maybe Trust Fund, Navajo Nation, or 7 chapters can help them with the 10% it will be great. Currently it is Microwave and too much interferences and this one is FIBER. Beam off the meetings to all the chapters, schools, parents, fire department, EMT, etc.

-USDA redistrict with Arizona Navajo Nation, Utah are saying they are forgotten and want this back into Utah USDA, etc. Put Utah back into Utah, maybe do a resolution.

-Bluff Elementary School – what needs to happen is the building of school has not happen yet and therefore re-checks the remains and gets a document out to the people. The money is there and it is in the planning process so be aware. It is up to the parents and has a say so, school community council is needed and will work stronger. She will help and with meeting and plan to attend.

## **(Council of Mexican Water Chapter Government)**

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Resolutions that are made from here at the chapter level do not always reach the county so maybe give it to her and she will submit to the county. All the time that she has been in office there are only 4 resolutions at the county.

**Mary Benally** – regarding Bluff Elementary, all documents have been collected and planning on Town Hall meeting somewhere, etc.

2. Navajo Nation Vice-President, Honorable Johnathon Nez
3. Council Delegate, Davis Filfred
4. Utah Education Commission, Melinda Blackhorse – **now show**
5. Grazing Committee Representative, Curtis D. Yanito - **no show**
6. UNHS, INC Health Board, Cassandra Beletso  
New clinic being built and meeting with workers is all. There were a lot of information given and we need land so be thinking about your land, so economic development can happen, etc.
7. Chapter Officials

Motion to accept all reports by Herbert Yanito, second by Chrylene Tuni with a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained and motion carried.

V. **Meeting Adjournment** by Jerry Tsosie

Motion to approve adjournment by Richard Yanito, second by Roy Hathalie with a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained and motion carried

Next Planning Meeting: March 2, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m.

Next Chapter Meeting: March 6, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.

Posted by: Mary Ann Woody

Date Posted: 2/7/2016

Time Posted: 1:53 p.m.