

Tse Alnaozti'i' Chapter
March Planning Meeting Minutes
In Person and by Teleconference
March 5, 2023
1 p.m.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order @ 1:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

1. Chapter President, Jeanne Haskie: PRESENT
2. Chapter Vice-President, Gerald Henderson: PRESENT
3. Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Jourdan Washburn: PRESENT
4. Chapter Grazing Officer, Alonzo Cohoe: PRESENT
5. Honorable Council Delegate, Amber K Crotty: PRESENT
6. In person Audience- 5 in person
7. Teleconference Audience- 2 online

III. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Larry Jumbo

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Haskie reviewed and read the agenda into record.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

VI. GUEST SPEAKER(S)

- a) Department of Energy, Chuck Denton

Chuck Denton: We are working in collaboration with the Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation Department. We have embarked on an inventory of defense related Uranium mines. We started in Red Valley Chapter house, Sweetwater Chapter and this summer we would like to come to your Chapter house. There are 12 Uranium mines located in the chapter house and we would like to inventory that. We did supply a flyer and will supply more information up to the inventory date. I would like to get your permission to attend the Chapter meeting and inform the interested public. We can answer any questions.

President Haskie: Will you have an interpreter?

Chuck Denton: I can certainly have one that day. Who is the grazing official for the Chapter?

President Haskie: Alonzo Cohoe

Chuck Denton: We've already received access agreements from the Navajo Land Department and we also like to work with the Grazing Official to inform any permit holders. We find that necessary to inform them.

Alonzo Cohoe: Yes, we spoke on either Thursday or Friday. I can't remember her name. She emailed me the maps but cannot tell where it's located at. The area is covered with people's names. If you can have a different map that just has dots, so I can actually see where it is. We basically know who lives in that area and we will get together tomorrow @ 10 am.

Chuck Denton: I can produce a map, even down to the sections.

VII. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution for Financial Report for February 2023. **Sponsor: Chapter Staff & Officials**

- b) Resolution supporting Legislation 0029-23, to reaffirm NABIN-70-18 requesting the United States Veterans Affairs administration to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel position to address housing and benefits on the Navajo nation for Navajo nation veterans. **Sponsor: Rannitta Henderson**
- c) Resolution for SASI Reauthorization **Sponsor: Dr. Kaihbah Begay**

Deswood Begay: From Chinle and working with Cellular One in Window Rock. In 2021, they received funding from NM Regulatory Commission for PRC for Cell towers. Mitten Rock, Sanostee, Two Grey Hills, Mexican Springs, Coyote Canyon, two wells, Jones ranch is where the money was to be used. Due to COVID 19, everything come to a halt because of the restrictions of meeting. Now we can come back to the Chapter meetings and move forward on these. We are on a timeline. That's why I am here. I have been working with other chapters and had the chance to come here today. The proposed area is to the North-Black Rock hill. 180 ft is the size of the area. A lot of people are working or going to school from home and we want to enhance the data service to the community. Bring the internet closer to the community and that's why we want to work on these towers. Red Valley already approved their resolution and their site. Hopefully I can get on the agenda and talk with the Grazing Official. I already talked to the people living there and they were okay with it. I am going to provide that information to you and the location is on the map. It's right on top of the hill.

President Haskie: We have a problem, the west side, they have no reception and towards the mountain. We were hoping and asking if we could get another tower. We have it on the NM listing too. It's a far cry but is it possible to move it this way. I think we already have reception where you are going to put it.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: No, they don't.

Deswood Begay: The tower is going to have good coverage. It should cover up this way (pointing to the West) near the mountains. Then the Two Grey hills should cover this way (pointing to the South)

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: How much is it going to cover?

Deswood Begay: 180 ft is the height and radius is up to 8 miles.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: Once you top that hill, there is no service to the Red Valley road.

President Haskie: While I was doing some home visits, I went up that direction and they have no service. We are supposed to call these people for the assistance but how can they even get calls.

Vice-President Henderson: Are we eligible for another one later on?

Deswood Begay: Once we build this tower and the Two Grey Hills tower, we will see how much it covers. If it covers enough, then it should take care of it.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: What does the timeline look like?

Deswood Begay: Resolution, land consents, then order our surveys for about 60-90 days. Submit paperwork to Land Department to get a telecom lease. It takes about 4-6 months. Ms. Crotty can expedite it too. Ms. Crotty, Beclabito was just turned on as well as Teec Nos Pos.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: From Chapter meeting to turning it on, how long?

Deswood Begay: 8 to 10 months, construction is only about 30 days.

Rannitta Henderson: Will this tower cover the dead zones on 491?

Deswood Begay: We have 77 sites that I am looking at on the Navajo Nation. Table mesa, Tocito is on there. As we move forward, depending on the funding. Some areas are being considered under ARPA under broadband. We have plans to provide more services. To build one tower it is \$700,000. We need the help to build those towers. The federal government allows us to provide services with the internet and their phones.

Larry Jumbo: Is it the same one like the one at Two Grey hills.

Deswood Begay: Yes, that is our tower.

Larry Jumbo: What about the one up the mountain? We need one up this way too. (Pointing towards the west)

Deswood Begay: We have a tower up Narbona Pass and Roof Butte but we cannot bring the signal down because of the state line. Restrictions on coverage with FAA and FCC, we can't send down into NM. Thank you for asking. This tower should cover these people up this way.

Delegate Crotty: Has Cellular One negotiated with T-Mobile? How are you working with other carriers? Are you allowing them back on your towers? That's the challenges when Cellular One wants to build towers and you don't allow other entities on your tower. Then you are creating a monopoly because the people should be able to access what phone service they want. T-Mobile was considered roaming and customers were kicked out of their account.

Deswood Begay: We do have a partnership with T-Mobile and AT&T as roaming partners. AT&T has a program that was awarded, when 9/11 happened. The US government wanted to have a first responders in case of a catastrophe. The large companies bided and AT&T got that funding, it's called First step. Their equipment is on our towers. Verizon works with Choice. They work on a different channel.

Delegate Crotty: So, you and choice are not working together?

They have the ability to collocate. They need to go negotiate to put their equipment on our tower. The towers we build are equip for 4 carriers, including the first responders. We go through the Navajo Nation for that. It's not only for us, we are non-monopoly, we provide the services for other people. it depends on the negotiations. NTUA wireless, we would like to work with them, but they build their towers near a water tank or the powerlines. They bypass Land Department, because of their right of way. It's hard for us to collocate on their equipment.

President Haskie: We will place this down for a resolution. Thank you for explaining this. I want to let everyone know; we will have a Special Chapter meeting on Tuesday regarding the emergency funding. The firewood was a higher need and we didn't put enough money in there, so we need to transfer from gas into that.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: We are having a tough time getting firewood. We are using a company out of Aztec and so is Sheepsprings. The delivery is a little at a time between both. Per household, the firewood will probably be less than a half of a truck load. The stove pellets were 11 bags per household. The propane we are looking at doing a bottle refill for portable bottles, 57 households. The tanks attached to the homes, we will paying directly to the propane company to their bill. The funding will be completely exhausted and no funding left. We did receive 366 assistance requests and trying to evenly distribute what we got and what we already had within those households.

- d) **ADD ON:** Resolution requesting the support and approval of the Navajo Nation for the construction of a telecommunications tower in the community of Sanostee, recommending and approving the withdrawal of a 50' and 50' acres tract of land and a utility corridor for same **Sponsor: Deswood Begay, Cellular One**

Harrison Barber: I was hoping for our Council Woman would be here and I am glad she is. This is pertaining to our greatly needed issue, our roads. I would like to request for the meeting. I might be dreaming big but I am thinking about the whole community. This recommendation request is for bridges and road improvement projects. We would like to move forward with these. The bridges are all on N34 West and they are all washed out. We have been wasting money rebuilding those and want a real bridge. On top of that, the end of the pavement, we would like to continue that into two phases. When the weather gets bad, it's impassable. The other is 5012 North. 60 plus residents in both directions. I am getting how many students and those with health needs are affected. As soon as we get those, we will share with the Chapter officials and proceed with the resolution.

President Haskie: The road up that direction, all the way up to Fred Bedah, it's really bad. I agree, it needs improvement. Well will add this on the agenda for a resolution.

- e) **ADD ON:** Resolution requesting Honorable Council Delegate Amber Crotty to secure funding for Tse Alnaozti'i Chapter Bridges and Road Improvement projects as listed in the Road Committee proposal.

Rannitta Henderson: I would to request a resolution to ask for help from the PEP workers for this event we are hosting. There are flyers for the event and if you want to help donate, there is a PayPal to donate too. My uncle was a Vietnam Vet and this is important for me. They did not get a welcome home. This event is to honor them and the hard ship they endured. We are asking for donations for this event. Also, the legislation on the agenda. We did also send an email to you Amber. Could you get back to Vern on that, we would greatly appreciate the support. OPVP is getting a tent for them and not sure if they'll be getting help to set it up. We do need more help. The donation is at the bottom of the flyer. It's going to be a lot of work for this event.

- f) **ADD ON:** Resolution requesting the Tse Alnaozti'i Chapter Public Employment Program workers to assist during the Vietnam Veterans Day event on March 28 and March 29th.

I. REPORT(S):

1. Council Delegate, Amber Crotty
2. Chapter Business Update
3. Veterans Organization
4. Grazing Official, Alonzo Cohoe
5. Navajo Traditional Awareness, Nelson Begaye

IX. NEXT MEETING:

1. April 2023 Planning Meeting: 04/02/2023 @ 1 pm.
2. April 2023 Chapter Meeting: 04/16/2023 @ 1pm.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m. by President Haskie

Submitted by: Secretary/ Treasurer Jourdan Washburn: _____ on
3/6/2023.

Chapter Administration Rec'vd: _____