

LeChee Chapter



Jerry L. Williams, President
Sara Dale, Grazing Officer
Revaline Tate, Chapter Manager

JoAnn Yazzie-Pioche, Vice-President
Paul Begay, NN Council Delegate
Vacant, Secretary/Treasure

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Regular Chapter Meeting **August 08, 2019 @ 5pm.** **Agenda**

1. Meeting Call to Order:
2. Invocation:
3. Announcements/Presentation: **(please allow for 10min. time limit)**
 - A) Tony Robbins, Natural Resource Manager
4. Review and Adoption of the Agenda:
5. Reading and Approval of July **Chapter Meeting** Minutes:
6. Action items/Financial Report/Resolutions(s): (Financial Reports are reported quarterly and hard copies are displayed at the front office)
 - A) **#LC-080819A.** REJECTING NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY'S REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ITS PROPOSED LAND WITHDRAWAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT WITHIN LECHEE CHAPTER.
 - B) **#LC-080819B.** REJECTING NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY'S REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ITS PROPOSED LAND WITHDRAWAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT WITHIN LECHEE CHAPTER AND REQUEST TO THE NAVAJO NATION TO DENY AND, OTHERWISE, REJECT ANY APPLICATIONS OR REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL REGARDING THE SAME.
7. Reports: (Reports done at the **Chapter Meeting**)
 - A. Chapter Manager:
 - B. Chapter Officials:
 - C. Council Delegate:
 - D. Grazing Representative:
8. Next Regular Planning Meeting: September 05, 2019. (Damoo doo di'aji)
9. Next Regular Chapter Meeting: September 12, 2019 (Damoo doo di'aji)
9. Adjournment:

LECHEE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2019

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** 6:20 pm (MST) by Jerry Williams, Chapter President
2. **Invocation: Community Member:** Sara Dale, LeChee Chapter Grazing Official
3. **Elect Pro-Temp Secretary:**

Motioned to get Renee Tsosie as Pro-temp secretary

Motion: Elizabeth Nez Seconded: Regina Vote: 23 yes, 0 no, 02 abstain, Motion carried.

4. **Announcements/Presentation: (please allow for 10 minutes time limit)**

A) Tony Robbins, Natural Resource Manager from Western Agency

- Working directly with WNA District One Grazing Officials. Utilizing the 25 CFR and Navajo Nation Title 3
- All Tribal Trust Land within all Navajo Nation Communities are open to anyone that has a Tribal Census Number. There are so many of us that assume that since we are Grazing Permit holders, we are the landowners of the customary use area assigned to our Grazing Permits. This is not the case; we need to educate ourselves about the definition of being a Grazing Permit holder is. By owning a Grazing Permit, it allows you to use your customary use area with the allotted amount of sheep units only. Since horses were deleted from Grazing Permits, you are not allowed to count horses against your yearly tally counts.
- Another type of land the BIA oversee is Individual Indian Trust Land Allotments, currently there are none here on the Western Navajo Agency. These types of land are within the Eastern Agency only.
- Our Navajo Nation Government Pleaded with the Federal Government years ago to allow us to have sheep units on grazing permits to utilize the land for our way of life here on the Navajo Nation Reservation.
- General Leasing Procedures is in a new process the BIA is working on to get the overgrazing under control on Navajo Nation lands. This process is in the planning stages at this time. But the BIA and Navajo Nation will utilize this new procedure once it has been completed. Updates will be made available to all Agencies.
- LUPB (Land Use Planning Board) Committee's responsibility is to identify all land withdrawals within the community, each chapter has a committee in place for the planning of new developments. Once a Land Use Plan has been developed by the committee it is adopted at the chapter level then the Community Resource Develop Committee in Window Rock has final approval.
- There has been only 10,000 Grazing Permits issued on Navajo Nation wide.
- General Leasing Act was recently approved due to all the land grazing disputes on Navajo Nation. This act will get the grazing permit holders to come up with a grazing plan, within their customary use area only. To help with the vegetation and from over grazing. RMU (Range Management Units) is what the Navajo Nation is looking forward to implementing for Grazing Permittee's.
- District Management Plans are being conducted at this time through out Navajo Nation by BIA. This is working toward enforcement for range land health for livestock.
- There is no cost to have a Grazing Permit. It actually is a free benefit to Navajo's who have livestock.
- Immanent Domain is another resource the BIA or the Local Government could use to keep from Grazing Permittee's stopping community development projects, and this has been used in some community through out Navajo Nation.
- Question: Neil John – Can the BIA share a compliance report with the chapters?
- Response: Tony Robbins – These reports are given to the Grazing Officials and are reported during the district One Grazing meetings monthly. All BIA ask is that you stay within your Grazing Permit sheep units so you can be in compliance. There are so many feral horses on Navajo Nation, and the horses are not being used, according to studies done, horses take up a lot of vegetation feed and that is the results of our studies done. So Please let people know to cut back on horses that are not being used to help with grazing problems on Navajo Nation. When you take a look at the land through out Navajo Nation there is

hardly any vegetation left for sheep or cattle to eat, to add to this the drought is another factor that we can not control. So again, please take care of your Grazing Permits and work with your local Grazing Official

- It is hard for the Grazing Officials to enforce Permittees to stay within their allotted permits, since they also work under Title 3 of the Navajo Nation. These are issues the BIA and Navajo Nation is working to get corrected.

B) LeChee District One Meeting: September 4, 2019 @9:00 am (DST) in LeChee Chapter, Arizona

C) Navajo Nation Western Navajo Agency Meeting: September 16, 2019 @ 9:00 am (DST) in Tuba City Agency Conference Room, Tuba City, Arizona

D) Monthly Feral Horse Sales has started up here on Navajo Nation, it's been called Super Tuesday, this will happen every Tuesday, all horse sales will take place at Department of Agricultural building in Window Rock, Arizona, each horse will be sold at approximately \$100.00 each, make sure they don't have brands.

5. Review and Adoption of Agenda:

Motion: Revaline Tate Second: Delphine Begay Vote: 30 yes, 0 no, 01 abstain, Motioned carried.

6. Reading and Approval of July 11, 2019 Chapter Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Marita Williams Second: Wilson Lister Sr. Vote: 26 yes 0 no 01 abstain Motion carried.

7. Action items/Financial Report/Resolution(s): Financial Reports are reported quarterly and hard copies are displayed at the front office.

Motion: Ernest Lister Second: Marita Williams Vote: 26 yes, 0 no, 01 abstain Motion Carried.

A. #LC-080819A – REJECTING NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY'S REQUEST FOR RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING ITS PROPOSED LAND WITHDRAWAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT WITHIN LECHEE CHAPTER.

Motion: Ernest Lister Second: Marita Williams Vote: 26 yes 0 no 01 abstain Motioned Carried.

Community Questions/Discussion: Annie Littleman – Have all the Permittee holders within the Right of Way for this proposal from NTUA sign off on the Land Withdrawal consent? And were they made aware this was being proposed?

Jerry Williams – No. Since this resolution is to keep NTUA from working directly with our Government in Window Rock without our LeChee community members being involved. Example: Our Navajo Nation Government has closed many deals without LeChee Chapter community member's being involved and when this happens our LeChee Chapter does not receive any revenues to improve our local government or our community.

Caroline Tom – Works for NTUA and is currently attending our meeting tonight just to hear what our community is meeting about. She is here from the Central Business office of NTUA working on getting all the right-away for land development for Power line Extensions within District One. She mentioned to have the chapter officials invite Mr. Haus who is from Central office in Fort Defiance to explain how this Solar Project will benefit our Nation.

Delphine Begay – Question for Caroline Tom, Did the Kayenta Township benefit from any revenues when the Solar Project was built in their community?

Caroline Tom – Response, I am not aware of how the financial part took place, that would be a question for Mr. Haus.

B. #LC-080819B – REJECTING NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY'S REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ITS PROPOSED LAND WITHDRAWAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT WITHIN LECHEE CHAPTER AND REQUEST TO THE NAVAJO NATION TO DENY AND, OTHERWISE, REJECT ANY APPLICATIONS OR REQUEST FOR APPROVAL REGARDING THE SAME.

Motion: Revaline Tate Second: Marita Williams Vote: 27 yes 0 no 01 abstain Motioned Carried.

Jerry Williams – This resolution is to support the #LC-080819A.

8. Reports:

A. Chapter Manager: Revaline Tate

– The Waterline project from Kaibeto Community to Pearl Begay resident is underway with Grazing Official Sara Dale and OEH (Office of Environmental Health getting all the Right of Way consent forms filled out and signed off from Grazing Permit holders within the proposed project.

- The Water Line/Power Line extension was a project our previous Council Delegate Tachoni Slim had started.

B. Chapter President – Jerry Williams

- There is a flyer on the LeChee Chapter Face Book Web site about Pea Body Coal not selling coal anymore. Please take a look at the website for more information.

- Attended a meeting in Phoenix in reference to build a facility which will do research skin graph by using cows. BCM Industries Inc. is looking for some land to build this facility. This facility will need 550 ft of water per year, with a water treatment plant which will provide water for all the cattle in the research plan, facility will be self contained by solar power. (see attached brochure for more information)

- The Resolution for the MacCracken Mesa will be drafted up and presented at the next planning meeting in September, for our chapter approval. This resolution is to request funds from the Utah Trust Funds.

- On August 14, 2019 Northern Arizona Region Re-Employment Center will be offering Work Search Hiring at the Pera Club here in Page. From 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (MST). Flyer will be posted in the chapter lobby for more information. The Economic Development Alliance Policy Proposal with Coconino County will be working with this proposal as well. (See attached flyer)

Vice President JoAnn Yazzie-Pioche reports the following:

- Currently working on the Navajo Nation Drought Management Plan with Orinda Tso, Renee Tsosie, Angela Cody and Sara Dale. We are putting this proposal together to help our Grazing Permit holders with the drought conditions within our community. Proposal is due on August 31, 2019. We have been meeting at least 2-3 hours every week.

- Continue to attend meetings on the Quadrilateral Agreement with the Negotiations Committee. Reviewing the proposed agreement line per line, very time consuming. I was selected to be on this committee to represent us as a community. This Quadrilateral Agreement the National Park Service wants to have Navajo Nation agree to whatever the NPS wants, this will affect a lot of our communities along the Colorado River Basin. NPS wants to control a one-mile buffer zone from the Colorado River, and to keep the 37.20 feet waterline lever in place. I don't want NPS to get what they want since it will affect us individuals who live along the Colorado River Basin. Since this is another 50-year agreement with NPS.

C. **Council Delegate** – Not in attendance tonight. No report.

D. **Grazing Representative** – Sara Dale

- Working on getting all the Water Line Right of Way consent forms signed by the Grazing Permittee holders.

- Still taking applications for the Supplemental Livestock Feed applications. The Feed will be ready in the month of October of 2019. Will keep everyone posted on where and when to be picked up.

9. Next Regular Planning Meeting: September 5, 2019 @ 6:00 pm (MST) Page Time

10. Next Regular Chapter Meeting: September 12, 2019 @ 6:00 pm (MST) – Page Time

11. Adjournment: Jerry Williams, Chapter President 9:08 pm (MST)

Motion: Ernest Lister Second: Marita Williams

GOOD NIGHT AND HAVE A SAFE DRIVE HOME, WEAR YOUR SEAT BELTS.