

Chapter President  
Debora Saliego

# COPPERMINE CHAPTER

Council Delegate  
Helena Nez Begay

Chapter Vice President  
Kee Black



Grazing Committee  
Stanford Fowler

The Navajo Nation

Secretary/Treasurer  
Debbie Tsinigine

Western Navajo Agency - District One  
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Community  
Service Coordinator  
Chris Paul Benally

## Coppermine Chapter Regular Meeting

April 17, 2025 @ 4:00 PM DST

### MINUTES

- I. Meeting Called to Order: Debora Saliego at 4:30pm.
- II. Invocation: Kee Black
- III. Roll Call: Debbie E. Tsinigine-present, Helena Nez-Begay-absent, Debora Saliego-present, Kee Black-present, Stanford Fowler-present, Chris P. Benally-absent.
- IV. Review/Adopt Meeting Agenda: Debora Saliego, add new resolution and add to Reports as follows:
  1. Sarah Slim, Executive Director of Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office
  2. Christine Wallace, ROW of Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Office
  3. Tom Franklin to represent Council Delegate Helena Nez-Begay.
  4. Add Resolution CO-04-031-25 for consideration  
Motion: Yolanda Lamone Second: Zena Williams Vote: 29-00-02
- V. New Business
  - a. **Resolution CO-04-019-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$250.00 for Diddie Sands Sr. utilizing General Activity Fund Account 01-6722 for Funeral Expense.  
Motion: Natalie Tsinnijinnie Seconded: Loren Thomas Vote: 32-00-01
  - b. **Resolution CO-04-020-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$500.00 for Brianna Black, a full-time student at Northern Arizona University utilizing the Scholarship General Fund Account 13-6721 for Scholarship.  
Motion: Loren Thomas Second: Laura Howard Vote: 29-00-01
    1. Yolanda LaMone – Does she have a letter attached to her application of why she is not here today?
    2. Debora Saliego – No letter attached to her application.
    3. Yolanda LaMone – I would like to table this resolution. No letter and she is not here.
    4. Debora Saliego - I know this applicant and she's attending NAU with a 3.5 GPA and plans to do counseling in the future. She has all her documents in the folder.Motion: Yolanda LaMone Second: Natalie Tsinnijinnie Vote: 25-00-01
  - c. **Resolution CO-04-021-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$250.00 for Connie Ruby Smith utilizing the Housing Discretionary Fund Account 09-6721 for Archeological Clearance.  
Motion: Laura Howard Second: Julie Goldtooth Vote: 25-02-01

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- d. **Resolution CO-04-022-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$250.00 for Henrietta Yazzie utilizing the General Activity Fund Account 01-6720 for Youth Enrichment.

Motion: Mary Francis Second: Yolanda LaMone Vote: 28-00-01

- e. **Resolution CO-04-023-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Infrastructure Septic Tank Cleaning in the amount of \$500.00 each for the following applicants utilizing the Chapter Projects Fund Account 28-6808 for a total amount of \$4,000.00. Name of Applicants: 1. Ellie Tsinnijinnie 2. Wynnette Hammond 3. Henry Yazzie 4. Frank Spencer 5. Cora J. Yazzie 6. Faith Mooney 7. Herbert Bigman 8. Betty Mae Slim

Motion: Laura Howard Second: Cynthia Slim Vote: 29-00-01

- f. **Resolution CO-04-024-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Roberta Hicks utilizing the Housing Discretionary Financial Assistance Fund Account 09-6724 for Housing Materials.

- g. **Resolution CO-04-025-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Alice Hudson utilizing the Housing Discretionary Financial Assistance Fund Account 09-6724 for Housing Materials.

- h. **Resolution CO-04-026-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Joann J. Clizzie utilizing the Housing Discretionary Financial Assistance Fund Account 09-6724 for Housing Materials.

- i. **Resolution CO-04-027-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Financial Assistance in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Jaimmie Daniels utilizing the Housing Discretionary Financial Assistance Fund Account 09-6724 for Housing Materials.

- j. **Resolution CO-04-028-25:** Authorizing the Approval of the Infrastructure Bathroom/Kitchen Addition in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Colleen Mountain utilizing the Chapter Projects Fund Account 28-6808 for Bathroom and Kitchen Addition.

1. Yolanda LaMone – What funding is being used for the housing materials? I motion to table the five resolutions, and need budget information. (Resolutions #024, #25, #26, #27 and #28)

2. Debora Saliego – According to the policy, there are four categories A, B, C, D to consider and depending on what is needed. The CSC is not present to answer our questions. There are requirements in the policy that needs to be addressed and CSC has to do some home visits just as Wilford did when he was CSC.

3. Colleen Mountain – I want to remove myself from the list.

4. Debbie E. Tsinigine – If you do not get help from any of these funds, you can be added to Bennett Freeze funds too, so stay on the list.

Motion to Table: Yolanda LaMone Second: Norman Stevens Vote: 27-00-01

- k. **Resolution CO-04-029-25:** Supporting the Issuance of a Tribal Access Authorization Agreement (TAA), from the Navajo Nation to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to attach, operate, and

s/p/c/r

maintain an existing distribution line with Fiber Optic Cable within the Coppermine Chapter to Dorothy Trujillo.

1. Christine Wallace, Right of Way Agent with Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) Powerline Extension

- Introduced herself, requesting for NTUA resolution approval today.
- This NTUA Powerline Extension project is paid in full by ARPA Funds to assist Dorothy Trujillo and Mae Betoney to extend the powerline to their residents near Waterhole Canyon.
- According to the Land Department, our powerline goes into Coppermine Chapter area and we already collected all signatures in the area for their approval.
- This existing distribution line with Fiber Optic cable will be combined, and in the future we don't need to go through the same process to add the Fiber Optic cable.

2. Floyd Stevens -There are other homes across the highway. They are near this Powerline Extension and they have been trying to get their electricity line. In 2005, Powerline was to be built in the same location and stopped there due to dispute. Powerline ends at Cynthia Slim's residence.

Motion: Wilford Lane Second: Floyd Stevens Vote: 30-00-01

I. **Resolution CO-04-030-25:** Accepting and Updating the Plan of Operations for the Coppermine Chapter Community Land Use Planning Committee for Coppermine Chapter.

1. Debra Benally – We recently had our first CLUPC meeting. We reviewed and updated the CLUPC Plan of Operations. We have five members: Laverne Tsosie-Chair, Debra Benally-Vice Chair, Cynthia Slim-Secretary, Wilford Lane and Calvin Begay-Members.
2. Debora Saliego – This will be moved to Reports and shouldn't be a resolution.
3. Floyd Stevens – Arizona State University helped us with demographics & planning. There are "copyright/plagiarism/intellectual property" to consider. New CLUPC can revise the plan, CLUPC needs to work closely with the chapter officials and grazing official. It has been 10 years and we have not gotten certified. We still have to go through the process as follows: submit final draft, hearing, second hearing with the Resource Committee, audit, implement the Five Management Systems, then get certified.
4. Wilford Lane – I worked with different Chapters and helped them get certified (Tuba City, Tonalea, LeChee). It has been over five years since we started advertising for a Planner that can help with the process and collect data. It is a must to hire AMS to get certified. We can get our certification in 3 months. Community education plan is needed for our community and to plan. There are three 3 pages of steps to go through, which Floyd talked about earlier.

m. **Resolution CO-04-031-25:** Approving the Budget Transfer from within the Chapter Fund 23- Navajo Nation Sales Tax Funds from GL CODE 6414-Waste Disposal in the amount of \$2,500.00 to GL CODE 6401-Space Rental in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Meeting Room Rental for Chapter Officials Training and to GL CODE 6304-Photocopying in the amount of \$1,000.00 and printing of the Land Use Plan for the CLUPC Members.

1. Debora Saliego – This resolution was emailed to us right before this meeting started. We have upcoming training for two days at the Page Hyatt, as there are no available conference rooms.

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2. Julie Goldtooth – I would like for our officials to attend budget training, so they can train us too, we need to know about our chapter budget.

3. Loren Thomas – I motion for resolution to be added to the agenda and motion for approval.

Motion: Loren Thomas Second: Lola Smith Vote: 27-00-01

- n. **Resolution CO-04-000-25:** Accepting and Approving of a Business Site Lease Land Withdrawal of 4 acres near Echo Cliff for Cynthia Slim. At April Planning Mtg, Cynthia requested to table her resolution.

## VI. Reports:

### A. Sarah Slim, Executive Director- Navajo Hopi Land Commission, Window Rock, AZ.;

1. In 1971, orders were given to BIA and Navajo Nation to start picking up or denying unused or unclaimed permits. In 2017, that gave leverage for the Department of Agriculture to work with Navajo Partitioned Land (NPL) and Hopi Partitioned Land (HPL), etc. Can not reissue permits to relocatees.
2. Under CJ2922 attachment of \$15M allocation, \$14M is allocated to purchase.
3. Oversight CDID with Intergovernmental Agreement allocated \$50M. The \$15M allocated to IDIQ for bids, 14 contractors applied and 7 contractors ready for work & negotiated below \$200 per square foot. To build a hogan for over \$40K was too high and instead negotiated with modular home builders.
4. 84 modular homes were delivered to Shonto, Black Mesa, Birdsprings, Tonalea, & Coalmine.
5. Chapters charge \$300/day to use their equipment and that is too high. Chapters should be there to help people in their community. Develop a plan to hire a community workforce.
6. Dine Relocation Funds are available (\$5K for Housing Repairs and Weatherization).
7. Rehabilitation Trust Funds are to be used for labor. \$3M for the bidding process and now getting RFQs ready. Will budget \$30K for labor & materials. This is for the needy of the neediest families.
8. The Navajo Land Commission has outreach ARPA funds. In 2022 received allocation but still has 200 people on the waiting list.
9. Not enough attorneys employed with the Navajo Nation to draft legislation. We try not to involve attorneys; we'd rather sit down and talk directly with clients/applicants.
10. We can do the orders and work with ASC office staff to get the materials. We were told that someone secured the allocation years ago. It is like transferring the money into a savings account, and can not be moved or used by anyone.
11. In April 2025, the Navajo Nation bought back the land from the Bureau of Land Management at NAPI of Farmington, NM. Relocatees can graze in Navajo Ranch.
  - a. Colleen Mountain - I am the second generation of the Former Bennett Freeze area. Which fundings are available for a new house? We have no running and still hauling water. It is my right to get a house from the government as they deprived us for over 50 years.
  - b. Sarah Slim – Your CSC can push for your advocacy and also your Council Delegate Nez-Begay. Your leaders should have a prioritized plan.

Ramon Bitsui submitted a proposal for NPL infrastructure for dams and windmills.

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- c. Floyd Stevens- We have to go through Window Rock to get access to 2008 allocation funds for our projects, because we are not a Certified Chapter. DCD needs to give you insight on orientational education to put the budget/proposal together. In 2018, a resolution was passed to utilize Escrow Funds.
- d. Sarah Slim – In 2023, Otto Tso sponsored a resolution for funds to be used for projects and 9 chapters received their funds. Need 3 quotes from Chapters. Jarron Charley is one of the individuals to contact.
- e. Wilford Lane – In 2019, I was the Coppermine CSC, we tried to help and plan for the Bennett Freeze area to utilize \$100K for bathroom additions and repairs. Mr. Robert Black, Director of NHPLC, was not qualified to sign checks & stopped there.
- f. Debora Saliego – Navajo Nation received a total of 96 homes and only 2 for Coppermine. Do the recipients have easy access to their homes?
- g. Sarah Slim – I gave my report to Chris Benally, CSC, you can get copies from him.

A. Council Delegate -Helena Nez-Begay (Not Present)

B. Chapter President -Debora Saliego

We attended the WNA Council Meeting at Bodaway/Gap Chapter, their newly elected officials are as follows: Dillard Curley-President, Angie Williams-Vice President, Latanya Williams-Secretary. I asked to be added to the NNDOT list to take care of our dangerous chapter turn-off.

C. Chapter Vice President -Kee Black

We have been busy attending meetings and training, and helping with the Food Bank. I have been here at the chapter to help off and on. Thank you for your help.

D. Chapter Secretary/Treasurer -Debbie E. Tsinigine;

We are attending training and meetings to collect more information about our Chapter budget and projects.

E. Chapter Grazing Official -Stanford Fowler;

1. January 2025, Resolution was approved for Wildhorse Round-up, will post flyers.
2. Shaun Holgate of Window Rock will come out to do Wildhorse Round-up and we need to help him. He will accept a cashier's check/grazing permit/CIB to rent bull starting April 29, 2025.
3. This year we had less rain & no snow, drought season, people will buy hay and haul water. Need to identify GPS on all windmills.
4. If you can not afford to take responsibility for your livestock, take your permit back to the BIA office and let someone else use the permit.
5. We are told to put our foot down, follow rules/regulations. I started the tally count. Some of you are over grazing, it is your responsibility to take care of your livestock.
6. We have a couple of Land Disputes – just remember that it is not your land, it is a government land. We are just using it to live and to graze on it.
7. We must select and approve a cemetery. Roman Bitsui approved the land for cemeteries.
8. Marilyn Yazzie is the new inspector; she is either at Cameron or Tonalea office. We need to work together. \* Next WNA Grazing Meeting on May 8, 2025 @10am at Leupp Chapter.

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- F. Community Service Coordinator -Chris Paul Benally (Not Present)
- G. Page Unified School District IEC – April Endischee (Not Present)
- H. Leonard Palmer Sr., NTEC and Navajo Mine & Four Corners Power Plant
  - 1. Introduced himself in Navajo. I am not here for a resolution. Installing new Electrical Power-lines to Page Power Plant before or by 2031, if we get approval from our feasibility study.
  - 2. If you have any questions or concerns, contact us at @navenerty.com or call (505)278-8629.

VII. Announcements: (all on Daylight Savings Time)

- A. Next Planning Meeting: May 08, 2025 @ 4 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- B. Next Regular Chapter Meeting: May 15, 2025 @ 4 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- C. TCRHCC Mobile Clinic: May 01, 2025 @ 8:45 AM-3:30 PM at Monkey Stadium
- D. District 1 GRAZING Meeting: May 01, 2025 @ 10 AM at Tonalea Chapter
- E. CLUPC Meeting: May 05, 2025 @ 1 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- F. WNA Grazing Meeting: May 08, 2025 @10 AM at Leupp Chapter
- F. Chapter Roads Meeting: May 14, 2025 @ 9 AM at Coppermine Chapter
- G. TCRHCC Mobile Clinic: May 22, 2025 @8:45am-3:30 PM at Monkey Stadium
- H. Veterans Meeting: May 23, 2025 @ 5 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- I. St. Mary's Food Bank: May 20, 2025 @12:00pm at Coppermine Chapter

VIII. Benediction: None

IX. Adjournment: by Debora Saliego at 7:50pm DST

5/3/25