

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
P.O. Box 1323 Page, Arizona 86040
Telephone No: (928) 209-3324
Email: coppermine@navajochapters.org

**Community
Service Coordinator**
Chris Paul Benally

Coppermine Chapter Meeting

MAY 27, 2025

MINUTES

I. Meeting called to order by: Debora Saliego at 5:33 PM.

II. Invocation by: Carmela Benally

III. Roll Call, Review and adopt agenda by Debora Saliego. Roll Call; Tom Franklin, Debora Saliego, Kee Black, Debbie E. Tsinigine, and Chris P. Benally. Approval of Agenda, Vote: 25-00-01.

Reports:

E. Community Service Coordinator -Chris P. Benally, Chapter Projects.

1. Chris Benally – What was the question?
2. Debora Saliego – Who is responsible for writing the policy or updating the policy?
3. Chris Benally – That would be me (he raised his hands).
4. Tina Tsingine – What position is that?
5. Debora Saliego – Community Service Coordinator
6. Chris Benally – It is already written; it must be review though.
7. Debora Saliego – Most of them are written, a lot of them just need updated and review by DOJ. So that is what we are looking at.
8. Tina Tsingine -so who made the revision?
9. Debora Saliego -Chris made the revision.
10. Chris Benally – I just use the Scholarship policy to do Youth Enrichment policy. Explain in Navajo; we do not have policy for Youth Enrichment. We send the policy to our attorney at DOJ for review; he approves it and sends it back. Then we do the two public hearings here with the community.
11. Debora Benally – We tabled Youth Enrichment, so we can get a policy in place for Enrichment.
12. Tina Tsingine – So DOJ is drafting that?
13. Debora Saliego – No, Chris Benally did the draft.
14. Debbie E. Tsinigine – We need a vote on the agenda.
15. Debora Saliego – Lets vote for the agenda. Can I get a vote to approve the agenda.
16. Debbie E. Tsinigine – (in Navajo) there is a motion & second, raise your hands to vote.
17. Debora Saliego – We have votes of 22-00-01.
18. Tom Franklin – You need 25 votes; you only have a total of 23. Need re-vote to pass agenda.
19. Debbie E. Tsinigine – (in Navajo) need 25 votes to pass, can not pass if its less than 25 votes.
20. Debora Saliego – It is 25-00-01, thank you. So, Tina your question; Chris wrote the Youth Enrichment

Policy, we tabled because we did not have a policy when we were approving those resolutions so a lot of are pending right now and they have not been paid out yet.

21. Tina Tsingine – DOJ is paying?
22. Debora Saliego- No, DOJ is reviewing the policy. Students applied, then we realized we didn't have the policy in place so those resolutions have been placed on hold.
23. Tina Tsingine – so the policy has been draft and submitted to DOJ, it is in the process.
24. Debora Saliego – Yes, we need the policy to continue with the resolutions. Then the second one is the Housing Policy that Chris Benally has been talking about. There are some people who applied for Housing improvement funding or assistance.
25. Debbie E. Tsinigine – Housing material assistance.
 26. Debora Saliego – Under the Housing Discretionary, there are five criteria. We tabled it because we did not have documentation of those five criteria. Like income, Homesite Lease, inspection has to take place, improve the road & is a need. So that is why we tabled it, and we need information, unless we revise the policy and approve it. Or we can remove all the five criteria, approve it and just approve it. But for now, we have to abide by what's in place, we need to talk about it, revise or use the same one.
27. Laverne Tsosie - Point of Order, can we get back on the agenda. Then you can finish the rest of the on your report.
28. Debora Saliego – Thank you, we will go to Resolution A.

IV. New Business:

- A. Resolution CO-05-033-25: Renovate Bennett Freeze Homes with Escrow Funds for FBFA in collaboration with Yee Ha'olnii Doo d.b.a. Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund- Interim Executive Director, Mary Francis.
 1. Debora Saliego – Escrow Funds will be use as a renovation project within Bennett Freeze area. -Bennett Freeze Committee have a list of names who are deceased and new family member moved into their house. Some did not get help before they deceased.
 2. Debora Saliego – I did ask Kee Black and Debbie Tsinigine to do home assessments, but they are waiting for me to review and update the assessment forms.
 3. Chris Benally – Housing Policy applies to Coppermine areas and Bennett Freeze areas.
 4. Debora Saliego – Chris and I need to look at Housing Policy. Mary Francis is supposed to be here.
 5. Wilfred Lane – They have a different office, and Mary Francis is just working for them. We need to get more direct information from FBFA office.
 6. Tom Franklin – Navajo Hopi Land Commission has funds of 2 hundred and 86 thousand available for materials and Grants are available for labors.
 7. Debbie E. Tsinigine – Explain in Navajo “Escrow Funds is allocated to be use for Former Bennett Freeze resident's home renovation.”
 8. Wilfred Lane – Are we going to get list of names of who needs renovation?
 9. Carmela Benally – Are they certified labors from our chapter? Does Chapter pay the labors?
 10. Debora Saliego – They hire their own contractors and pay them. Chapter does not pay the labors. Motion: Wynnette Hammond Second: Laverne Tsosie Vote: 21-06-02
- B. Resolution CO-05-034-25: Accepting and Approving the Community Land Use Planning Committee's Plan of Operation.
 1. Laverne Tsosie – Chris Benally sends our Plan of Operation to DOJ for approval. We made some changes and draft a resolution. After approval, we give it to Chris Benally to post on website. Motion: Wynnette Hammond Second: Chris P. Benally Vote: 21-00-09

C. Resolution CO-05-035-25: Approving and Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 “General Fund, Special Rev Fund Internal” Budget in the amount of \$292,663.

1. Chris P. Benally – I am your Chapter Manager aka CSC too. *Majority votes are 25 votes; you cannot pass a resolution with less than 25 votes. For resolution #035, #036, #037, #038 are funds coming into the Chapter accounts and are quarterly allocation. We had to use Window Rock office template on #3 and #4 Program Budget summary.

- General Fund, Special Rev Fund-Internal Budget is for Chapter Official Stipends/Workers Comp, Personnel Workers Comp, Solid Waste Project, Utility Payments, Veteran’s Organization, non administrative costs, Personnel and Special Revenue.

Motion: Mary Francis Second: Laverne Tsosie Vote: 22-00-08

D. Resolution CO-05-036-25: Approving and Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 “Special Rev Fund-External” Budget in the amount of \$3,458.28.

1. Chris P. Benally – Tuba City ASC office takes care of our funds. Go into WIND, open Form & Link, go all the way down, open #7, see all NN Chapters and copy of last year’s October disbursement. 2. Debora Saliego -Should it say half (1/2) of Fiscal Year?

3. Chris P. Benally – This allocation is for October 2024 to October 2025 Fiscal Year.

-Special Rev Fund-External Budget – Internet Services: to purchase relay, transmitter from Admin Building to meeting house building, for virtual attendance of community members. Energy: to purchase propane for meeting house. Supplies: to replace bent & warped aluminum door jam seals and window seals. Damaged & leaky seals at meeting house building.

Motion: Mary Francis Second: Laverne Tsosie Vote: 22-00-08

E. Resolution CO-05-037-25: Approving and Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 “Unhealthy Food Tax” Budget in the amount of \$28,247.00.

1. Chris P. Benally – I asked for a Hot Tub but not in the budget.

-Unhealthy Food Tax – Equipment: 1). Rodent Smoker machine – for garden infestation of rodents, to prevent rodent damage of fruit trees and greenhouse and greenhouse produce. 2). Purchase quilting machine, denim sewing machine, fabric materials to make quilts and sewing projects for community use. Buildings: Metal Connex to store garden supplies, fencing, garden tools, greenhouse netting. Lumber for shelves inside connex, to place various exercise equipment for storage. Miscellaneous: Two automated external defibrillators, one for chapter meeting house and one for chapter admin. Building.

Motion: Mary Francis Second: Laverne Tsosie Vote: 22-00-08

F. Resolution CO-05-038-25: Approving and Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 “General Fund” budget in the amount of 645.75.

1. Chris P. Benally – We are late in submitting these resolutions, at least we have it for next Fiscal Year. 2. Laverne Tsosie – We see the meeting minutes but does not explain what it is being used for. Need to see resolution and budget plan.

3. Chris P. Benally – In 2016, resolution for budget was approved by Budget & Finance and that is the same format we are using for the FY2025.

4. Debora Saliego – I need summary sheet.

5. Chris P. Benally – for General Fund – Operational supplies: purchase food for chapter events, such as meetings, planning and special meetings.

6. Mary Francis – We can do amendment and use this for where it is needed.

7. Chris P. Benally – I can provide summary for the people later.

Motion: Mary Francis Second: Laverne Tsosie Vote: 22-00-08

G. Resolution CO-05-039-25: The Coppermine Chapter hereby supports and recognizes the Land Withdrawal on Coppermine Chapter Compound, which will be used for Coppermine Chapter Multipurpose Building.

1. Chris P. Benally – Multipurpose Building will be within the Chapter House compound. Chapter has ten (10) acres of land withdrawal. Covid Fund will be used for the building.

Motion: Laura Howard Second: Marcinda Spencer-Shepherd Vote: 23-00-12

H. Resolution CO-05-040-25: Respectfully Requesting the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) to One Time Grade Road to FOUR Community Members, to help Aide the Navajo Nation Department of Community Development for Improving Infrastructure and Housing.

1. Debora Saliego – CHID Housing selected four (4) applicants as follow; 1). Marcinda Spencer-Shepherd, 2). Roven Black, 3). Regina Reid, and 4). Valentina Joe. They need assistance with grading the road to their resident, to deliver mobile homes.

2. Marcinda Spencer-Shepherd – She introduced herself in Navajo, her parents are Lee & Betty Spencer, she lives west of the Chapter House. Applied for Homesite Lease (HSL) five years, moved back and now living in a small cabin (G-storage). Has children who are attending school from home. Need 25 foot of existing road to be graded and can not use the road from Calvin Begay's resident. 3. Laverne Tsosie – Is there an existing road that is been graded and how far?

4. Rita Whitehair – How are they moving the trailer into her resident? That road is trouble. 5. Debora Saliego – They are waiting on your Grazing Permit and verify that with Grazing Official. Do you have your Permit?

6. Rita Whitehair – I am not going to give it to anyone and ask the Grazing Official. 7.

Debora Saliego – If there is a dispute, you need to provide the permit ad it must be documented.

8. Charlotte Spencer – We would like for my sister to get her trailer because she has children who needs a house. The access road to her place maybe rough, it can be graded just enough to get the trailer through. We are happy for my sister and her children.

9. Katie Spencer – Introduced herself in Navajo, we are all neighbors, you are all my children and grandchildren. We want our kids to move back home, we must think about the next generations. Why are we saying no to the younger generation, instead we should be welcoming them home. My daughter and grandchildren are very happy to get a new home.

10. Betty Littleman-Yellowman – Introduced herself, we are all neighbors, you both live close to me. Like my mom says, we all need to help each other and think about the future of the next generations. It is only 25 foot wide to move the trailer into their homesite and plants will grow back. Use Ke' towards all your relatives, neighbors in your area, have harmony and respect.

11. Tom Franklin – Introduced himself, CHID has four (4) applicants. I did assessment for Marcinda Spencer-Shepherd and Rohvena Black. It is up to Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) to grade roads, trees will be removed in certain areas to move in a 16x70 mobile home trailer. We do not say anything to NTUA, when they come into our area digging holes, making their Right-of-Way through our Grazing area.

12. Faith Mooney – Introduced herself & from Porcupine Mesa. Mercinda is my sister, they moved back recently, we are happy they came home, and we get to spend time with them. It is a big

change for our nephews and nieces but are happy to be home. We want our children and grandchildren to come home. We can not push them away, because they are the next generation to occupy the homelands. So please, we need to work together and help each other.

13. Rita Whitehair – There are two roads by my uncle's area. I did not say "I disapproved", I was just concerned about the road. It is good, they are getting a trailer.
14. Mary Francis – Introduced herself in Navajo, my maternal Edgewater Clan raised me in Coppermine area. I am very happy that you are talking this through, and younger generation need to come home. I want to make a motion for approval.

Motion: Mary Francis Second: Carmela Benally Vote: 22-00-13

A. Council Delegate – Tom Franklin reporting for Helena Nez-Begay.

1. Tom Franklin – I am here today to do report for Council Delegate Begay, she is in Albuquerque, New Mexico attending Budget Meeting.
 - We have a total of 155 applicants for Bathroom Renovations, 35 applications for Window Rock and will do assessments.
 - Two assessments completed for Coppermine area CHID applicants.
 - CDBG LeHeap program does not have an office in Tuba City. Application drive took place in Tuba City, LeChee and Bodaway was schedule for June 05, 2025, at 10:00AM to 2:00PM.
 - We are working on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Escrow Funds.
 - Multi-Purpose Building has been approved.
 - Delegate Begay has a Legislation for Senior Center for Bodaway/Gap, LeChee, Coppermine, Kaibeto and Tonalea Chapters.
 - Hardship Funds exhausted the funds. Utilize budget in Beautification for Trash Day. Take care of each other, especially your elderlies.
2. Laverne Tsosie – Marcinda Spencer-Shepherd and Rohvena Black are the two applicants with CHID. Did Delegate Begay combine all Bennett Freeze funds?
3. Tom Franklin – Yes, two CHID applicants that I am working with and helping to process. Delegate Begay and I talked about combining the Bennett Freeze funds but not finalized yet.
4. Laverne Tsosie – Will we go forward with the project?

B. Chapter President – Debora Saliego.

1. Need applications for five (5) Summer Youth and one (1) college student for second session.
2. Policy for Youth Enrichment and Housing Discretionary Funds are being reviewed by Chris Benally and to be submitted to DOJ for approval.
3. Food Bank boxes will be reduced to fifty (50) boxes per month.
4. Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) – every chapter gets 15 miles of road to be graded, where it is needed the most. With 2019 Resolution, requested to remove from being graded, Trading Post Road to West of Chapter 6200 road (3.1 mile). We have an old map and 6200 is in question. We need to look at deadline and go with 3.1 mile in that area, since resolution has pasted, 5. We need more volunteers for Food Bank.
6. Pick up your PPE (Hand Sanitizer, wipes, masks, rubber gloves), need to get rid of at least 60% and they have expiration date. Used ARPA funds to serve 90 people.
7. Our Planning meeting agenda has resolutions. I wrote Email to Chris Benally, staff and Chapter Officials but resolutions were not ready.

8. I read Title 26, Debbie Tsinigine has to track the resolution, gets it in her hands before the meeting. Anything that has dollar amount, Chris Benally and Marlynn Sands must do the resolutions. 9. Regarding resolutions, ASC office tells us different, and Title 26 says different. 10. We had a meeting with NDOT, request for a SLOW DOWN post and they will look into that. 11. I met with Council Delegate Begay, not certain if FRF is now in General Funds. If so, Coppermine Chapter will do a letter or a letter and resolution to continue to use the funds as we please.

C. Chapter Vice President – Kee Black;

1. We have attending meetings and trainings, still have a lot to learn.
2. Thank you to everyone for coming to Chapter Planning and Regular meetings.

D. Chapter Grazing Official – Stanford Fowler;

1. NOT PRESENT - Doing Tally count and Permittees report.

E. Community Service Coordinator -Chris P. Benally, Chapter Project; His report at top of page. F. CLUPC President– Laverne Tsosie;

1. We completed our Plan of Operation and was approved by DOJ recently.
2. Our next project - RDC gave us a book with check list and every member receive one. We will review the list and start working on that.
3. Our first CLUPC training for new members is schedule for June 10th at 8:00 AM. 4. Wilford Lane – If we do not get approved, we can not get certified. LeChee is certified and get 249 thousand, Tuba gets around 5 to 6 million a year. We can charge local Business tax.

G. Page School District (JOM/IEC) -April Endischee;

1. For the month of April and May, we did not have IEC meetings. Too many things going on and graduation.
2. On June 18 at 5:30 PM- attended Title Six (6) meeting. We started with a budget of 4-6 thousand and few carryovers next fiscal year.
3. FY25-26 proposed budget would be four hundred & 20 thousand (420 thous).
4. American Indian Education Program (AIEP) – collects all students Certificate of Indian Blood beginning of the school and school will receive funds.

H. Escrow Funds, Mary Francis

1. Introduce herself in Navajo, in 2020 worked for Grass Root (non-profit). During COVID, I volunteered to work with Navajo-Hopi Covid Family. We received supply chain from outside companies, helped deliver donation to residents. There are only (twelve) 12 stores on Navajo Nation, we open three (3) Community Center in New Mexico areas, and we are hoping to open Centers in Arizona. We had to work with both Navajo and Hopi tribe.
2. I work with Bennett Freeze for Home Renovations. We look for Grants Fund and got awarded Two (2) million for home repairs and renovations.
3. Coppermine received Two hundred & eighteen thousand, Chapter has spent some. Minimum amount is seven (7) thousand per family and ten (10) thousand is the maximum per family. 4. Met with Sarah Slim about a week ago, also met with her Attorney to update.
5. Arizona Department of Housing and Urban Development has funds. Hardrock, Pinon and Whitecone area hired some certified contractors to help with renovations.

6. Debora Saliego – We hired Electrician and Plumbing Company of Flagstaff; they are willing to work with families within 100-mile radius.
7. Wilfred Lane – We did material list for people on priority list for renovations and gave it to Navajo Hopi Land Commission. But we were told that Land Commission staff were not certified to sign off on our list.

VI. Announcements:

- A. Planning Meeting: June 08, 2025 @ 3:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- B. Chapter Meeting: June 22, 2025 @ 3:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- C. MEMORIAL DAY – **Office is CLOSED** on May 26, 2025
- D. District 1 Grazing Meeting: May 29, 2025 @ 1:00 PM at Tonalea Chapter
- E. NN MEMORIAL DAY Holiday – **Office is CLOSED** on June 02, 2025
- F. First (1st) Session SYETP Begins: June 03, 2025
- G. CLUPC Meeting: June 05, 2025 @ 1:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- H. District 1 Council Meeting: June 11, 2025 @ 9:00 AM at Tonalea Chapter
- I. TCRHCC Mobile Clinic: June 13, 2025 @ 8:45 AM to 3:30 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- J. FATHER'S DAY – June 15, 2025
- K. St. Mary's Food Bank: June 17, 2025 @ 12:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- L. JUNETEENTH (Federal Holiday) – **Office is CLOSED** on June 19, 2025
- M. Veterans Meeting: June 20, 2025 @ 5:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- N. JUST MOVE IT – June 24, 2025 @ 3:30PM for staff & 6:00PM for public at Coppermine Chapter

VII. Benediction: none

VIII. Adjournment: By Debora Saliego at 8:30PM.

Motion: Laverne Tsosie Second: Wynnette Hammond Vote: 22-00-06