

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

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**Community
Service Coordinator**
Chris Paul Benally

Coppermine Chapter Meeting

June 22, 2025

MINUTES

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: at 3:15 PM
- II. INVOCATION: by Kee Black
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: by Debbie E. Tsinigine
Motion: Marcinda Shepherd Second: Jennifer Yazzie Vote: 17-00-26
- IV. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Debora Saliego skip and moved to New Business.
- V. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. Resolution **CO-06-043-25**:
Supporting and Approving a Land Withdrawal Designation and Business Site Lease for 1267 Acres for Explore Dibe Ahxehejeehe, LLC on Land located in Coppermine, Arizona to Operate a Guided Hiking Trails on Echo Cliffs, Rim of Colorado River and Waterhole Canyon, Dry Camping, Guided Tour, Hotel Restaurant, Café and Gift Shop Business.
 1. Debora Saliego- This resolution #043 was tabled at June 08th Planning Meeting. Cynthia request for more time and wanted to make changes and forward to July.
 2. Cynthia Slim -Can I say something, I want my resolution to stay on the agenda and it was not table. I only need to make one correction, from 1267 acres to 4 acres.
 3. Kylee Secody- I motion to "Take from the Table and put back on the agenda."
Motion: Kylee Secody Second: Kaydence Tsinigine Vote: none
 4. Floyd Stevens -If the resolution has been table from the Planning Meeting, it is off the agenda, up for discussion or suspend table motion.
 5. Debora Saliego -It's been table once for update and corrections, was put back on the agenda the next month.
 6. Floyd Stevens – If it is not ready, just keep it off the agenda.
 7. Debora Saliego – We can discuss the Resolution at July Planning Meeting. Now I need a motion to amend the agenda.
Motion: Mercinda Shepherd Second: Jennifer Yazzie Vote: 17-00-26

*NOTE: According to June 08, 2025 Planning Meeting minutes are as follow;

1. Review/Adopt Meeting Agenda:
 - Debora Saliego said, we have two (2) resolutions on agenda #041 and #042 and to add #043 for Cynthia Slim's Business Site Withdrawal.
 - Cynthia Slim did her presentation and did not request for her resolution to be tabled. She did say, she will continue to work on her resolution.
 - Resolution was reviewed and forwarded to June 22nd Chapter Meeting.
- Motion by: Kee Black and Second by: Debbie E. Tsinigine.

*NOTE: A motion, second and a vote of 17 in favor to Table the resolution at June 22nd Chapter Meeting is considered null and void, votes taken have no legal effect or cannot be legally tabled or acted upon due to lack of quorum.

B. Resolution **CO-06-041-25:**

Approving and Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Revenue Fund Budget in the amount of \$45,058.

Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Revenue Fund	\$45,058
Grand Total Amount	\$45,058

1. Debora Saliego- Resolution #CO-06-041-25 is FY2025 Tax Revenue Budget in the amount of \$45,058. This will be deposited into our Chapter account.

1. Regina Reid- Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Revenue Fund of \$45,058 needs a summary, with sub-account, and a break-down of how it will be used.

2. Debora Saliego- There is missing information, it needs account numbers.

Table Motion: Katie Spencer Second: Jennie Mexicano Vote: 15-00-27

3. Floyd Stevens- The resolution is complete, just need to develop a summary with account numbers of how the funds will be used. I motion to suspend table motion and motion to pass this resolution with changes, add account number and budget summary.

4. Debbie E. Tsinigine – Explained in Navajo where this fund is coming from and every budget should have a break-down of how it will be used with account numbers.

5. Debora Saliego- I ask Debbie Tsinigine to review resolutions one (1) week before the Chapter meeting.

6. Mercinda Shepherd- Why is this different from the other resolution?

7. Floyd Stevens- The other resolution #043 was tabled for July. Resolution #041 was not table from the start. We request for changes, add account numbers, add budget summary and with majority votes to past.

Motion: Floyd Stevens Second: Al Long Vote: 30-00-03

C. Resolution **CO-06-042-25:**

Authorizing the Approval of the Chapter Scholarship General Fund for two (2) full time Students in the amount of \$500.00 Utilizing the Scholarship General Fund Account 13-6721.

Hailei Joe Northern Arizona University (F/T) \$500.00

Kimball Begay Brigham Young University (F/T) \$500.00 Total: \$1,000.00

1. Debora Saliego- Two full-time students applied for Chapter Scholarships and both students came to the Planning Meeting.
2. Regina Reid- Fund Account number is incorrect. Need to make changes to 13 or 14 Code number. Account # 01-6721, change to 13 or 14-6721.
3. Allurice Begay- I motion to make correction on the Account Numbers.
Motion for correction: Allurice Meehan Second: Laverne Tsosie Vote: 34-00-30
4. Floyd Stevens- I motion to pass resolution #042 and with a majority vote.
Motion to pass: Floyd Stevens Second: Lula Tsinnijinnie Vote: 36-00-28

VI. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

A. **Council Delegate- Helena Nez-Begay; Not Present**

B. **Chapter President- Debora Saliego;**

1. NDOT to fix Chapter Turn off, it is not safe to turn. Install center lane for turns or round-about. NDOT will help with a Resolution and need to get on their list.
2. Mike Corrona -He plans to come to the Chapter with his staff. They had over forty-nine (49) thousand boxes of food, done with Navajo Western Agency and now at Eastern Agency.
3. First Session of Summer Youth will complete their work the end of the month, we have Five (5) Youth and One (1) College students. Carlos Begay of Page did presentations with the students. On Wednesday, they talk about "How can we help our community" and "How to start a business." They did their presentation on it was so beautiful of what they talk about. The second session of SYTEP is full and will start soon.
4. ARPA Funds -Council Delegate Begay said, lots of people in Coppermine want homes. She talked with Speaker Curley regarding the funds. The funds are to be used for five (5) projects, we can pick which projects to keep and which one to take off the project list, use that funds for homes.
5. In 2005 Colorado Copper talked with Sid Whitehair about the copper mining. They will bring a resolution to re-open Coppermine Mining in July 2025. I am thinking to add more money to the Chapter scholarship funds.
6. Speaker Curley has Down Wind (uranium) mining on her list and President Trump has that on his agenda too.
 - a). Fifty (50) thousand was given to uranium affected patient claims up to 1972.
 - b). It passed in Legislation and waiting for Senator's approval. New patients can file for new claims in the amount of one-hundred (100) Thousands each claim.
7. Two weeks ago, I car pool with Bodaway Chapter staff to tour a Multipurpose Building in Casa Grande. It is beautiful with lot of rooms, that is what we need here. Window Rock will come out to do Soil Testing, it is very rocky in the chapter compound. Engineering will be here to do testing.

8. Attended District 1 Council Meeting – Each chapters did their reports, update. Kevin Slim did three (3) day, Five Management Training for Kaibeto Chapter for\$3,500.00.
9. Sarah Slim and Mary Francis are working on Escrow Funds, Department of Justice (DOJ) will work with Mary Francis on the project.
10. Four applicants were selected to get a Mobile Home trailers. We are working with NDOT to grade the road to the four residents Candice Yazzie of CDC said our request has been passed.
11. LeChee Chapter did Ground Breaking recently to run waterline to their community, 90% of the resident have running water. They will be doing job fair this week at LeChee Chapter.
12. We still need to talk about ARPA projects.

C. Chapter Vice-President- Kee Black;

1. Waterline will be a three (3) year project, apply at LeChee Chapter.
2. We do not still home and sleep. We travel to attend meetings, trainings, etc. We use our own money for gas and food to take care of business not all our meetings are paid for us.
3. We still have so much to discuss and work on, still in progress.

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

1. I am working with OEH, getting information about their waterline and storage tank project. Will try to schedule a work session for our community.
2. As everyone knows by now, get shots for measles and other flu going around. Our elderly do not know a lot about it. What are the signs, how to care for yourselves, etc. We need someone from the hospital to come out to the chapter.
1. Debora Saliego – Our President Buu Nygren wants to come out to the chapters to met with Chapter Officials according to Tom Franklin, LDA to Council Delegate Begay. When President Nygren comes to met with us, what do you all want us to ask. The last Scholarship allocation was 40 thousand. For FY2026, zero funds for scholarship.
2. Linda Long- Northwest Waterline is a twenty (20) year project under Tuba City HIS. During Covid the project stopped and we haven't heard anything. We need our water. Can someone do a follow up and need to start on the project.
3. Rita Whitehair- In 2015 we did a transfer of a Grazing Permit, has a stipulation. It hasn't completely gone through the transfer process and they are adding more stipulations and makes it very difficult to get a permit approved and taking forever. We want the chapter to help to us push them through the process.
4. Debora Saliego- Title 9 has a 90% cut, they release the money to Window Rock. Page got 10% of the funds, we want our kids to get the full amount.
5. Laverne Tsosie-It's been six (6) months, we have not received the Budget.
6. Debbie E. Tsinigine- Tuba City ASC office could not get complete transaction and balance because of lacking documents or blank receipts from the chapter office everything has to be recorded. We fixed the white board with all accounts, which

includes expenses and ending balance. You will see large amount in some accounts, those we can not spend and those are allocation for projects, Window Rock takes care of those. Our Daily Operation budget is electric, water, and propane. PEP stipends, Chapter Officials stipends, supplies) is used daily and deducted monthly. Water fee is incoming revenue, which is added on.

I asked Regina Reid to update the board and help us with Budget Report. Regina and Rohvena Black worked as clerks here at the chapter. She has knowledge with chapter operation, the budget, did all the resolutions, they took care of everything before other staff got hired.

E. Community Service Coordinator (Chapter Projects)- Chris P. Benally; Not Present

F. Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) President- Laverne Tsosie;

1. We had our meeting and revising the book. The process to get the book approve will be as follow; sixty (60) days for comments, sixty (60) for Public Hearing, three (3) days comment for Council Delegate Begay and goes through RDC for approval.
2. I attended a Public Meeting at Coalmine Chapter they are getting certified.

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

1. On June 03, 2025 -Page High School had a virtual negotiation meeting, covering budget, consolidated budget, personnel, needs assessments, education components, etc. I was not able to attend, but I do believe there were some negotiations made.
2. Shared & addressed concerns of the conditions of the school buses that runs in Coppermine and bad road conditions.
3. Superintendent was not in attendance but it has been noted.
4. FY24-25 Budget begin with an initial amount of \$406,547.00 and ending balance of \$8.87 at the end of school year.
5. FY25-26 Budget Contract proposal for this coming school year is set at \$420,080.00, which is an increase of \$13,533.00 to last year.
6. We had two (2) teachers who had been helped with JOM Funds this past year. They came back and reported how their funds were used.
7. One (1) Science Teacher shared pictures with the students utilizing the microscopes and viewing plant organisms.
8. The Year Book teacher shared his experiences with the cameras purchased with JOM Funds.
9. Per Suzanne McClelland, there are thirteen (13) students registered under Coppermine Chapter. When you enroll your child, make sure you bring their CIB.
10. On Monday, July 28th is Shared back to the school events at 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
11. Next IEC meeting is on August 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM at Page School Hogan.

H. Express Transit (Transport Bus)- Ginger Burgess;

1. Express Transit is a bus that leaves from Page, stops in Coppermine, in Tuba City and Flagstaff. I do not have bus schedule, can not tell you when it stops by Coppermine Chapter turn-off.

2. We want people in the community of Coppermine to complete a survey for us, that will give us an idea of how many would like to utilize Express Transit.
3. We would like to help the surrounding communities -LeChee, Coppermine, Kaibeto, Gap, Bittersprings, etc. to transport when needed.
4. Elderly will need transport to the new hospital. I will come back with some survey forms and plan to attend meetings.
*Debbie E. Tsinigine- Interpret in Navajo for Ginger Burgess.
5. Debora Saliego- Does it goes to N20 to pick up people?
6. Ginger Burgess- Yes, we are staying with current schedule; Coppermine stop, Coppermine Chapter turn-off, to Cameron and Tuba City. We want to provide more buses.

I. **TCRHCC Board Member, Leila McCabe;**

1. There are so many good information, I could not hear everything that was said and you need a speaker for these meetings.
2. We have Board Meetings, Budget meeting with CEO, with Doctors and Nurse Supervisor every month.
3. We need a new hospital in Tuba. The waterlines got contaminated, Inpatient Department (patients who stays for care) drunk the contaminated water, got sick and were moved to ER. Water was shut down for days.
4. We had an individual give report and lobby in Washington requesting for funds and a new hospital. We need Elderly Home, send letter to request for a new Elderly Care Facility and for funds. It kind of slowed down, but we still want to continue.
5. We also have no facilities for Cancer patients, for now using a small space for treatment.
6. Tribal Self Government- we are in charge, be responsible for all patients. Take care of your health, make sure you have a Primary Doctor, and see your doctor.
7. We are short on Doctors and Nurses, they serve their time and leave, so it's hard to keep them. Due to that we have lots of vacancies, we do not have Native doctors and nurses.
8. The new Echo Cliff Clinic update- Plans for modular housing is complete and deadline to complete the housing is February 2025. We do not have water to start the housing project -Water Pump House is still CLOSED.
9. Recently, we got cut budget and will stop in ninety (90) days. We will have to wait until September to get update, after the discussion is made.

I. **Chapter Grazing Official- Stanford Fowler;**

1. June 30, 2025 is the deadline for all Tally count, Branding and Inventory.
2. We had a meeting with Council Delegates and Resource Development Committee (RDC) at Twin Arrows about our concerns and complaints;
 - a). The last update was done in 1977, that year's cost of living was done to get an estimate of our stipends and budget was developed. We are still using that same budget summary as of today. We ask RDC to review and make changes.

- We requested for an update "Cost of Living" and to revise our Budget.
- Due to this, we have to pay for everything "out of pocket."
- We were told "your community voted you in" and ask chapter to help you.
- We also need your support; we have to buy our own laptop to use, pay for internet, pay for printing and gas for our travel to do tally count, meeting with Permittee, Meetings/trainings, etc. We do not have a secretary I do everything myself.
- b). Four years ago, I became the Grazing Official Chair. Found out Navajo Nation (NN) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) do not work together and they point fingers at each other.
- In 1934, Taylor Grazing Act is the First (1st) Federal effort to regulate grazing on the reservation. In 1937- Grazing regulations was adopted by the Tribe and District Boundary.
- In 1941, First (1st) Grazing Permit was issued.
- Tally count and other documents were developed by Navajo Nation.
- We work under Title 3, which was developed/adopted in 1940's. Request for review and revise, it is out dated.
- c). Work Session with eighteen (18) chapters, from Oljato to Leupp chapters;
- NN President Nygren attended on Tuesday and Thursday, did not talk about grazing and concerns from Permittees.
- We ask BIA about the transfers, if they were to shut down where do we submit documents, who signs it, who & where will they be filed. BIA said, we trained you long enough for you to take that responsibilities, you already know the process and keep a file yourself.
- If you can not take care of your grazing area, plans are to; Reduce permit to 20 or 30 units (limit), or charge \$5.00 per sheep/goat.
- All non-used permits and permits with Deceased name will be cancelled (permanently closed). This will evenly happen, is in the process. Due to family or relatives refused to past on to the next generation and hold onto the permit.
- Customary Use Areas is where an individual traditionally grazed or grazing areas traditionally inhabited by their ancestors. Other regulation involves like the permit system, recognition of the Customary Use areas, where permits overlaps and permit-exempt grazing situations.
- We plan to change name from Western Navajo Agency (WNA) to Eighteen (18) Grazing Committee.
- d). We are told by Navajo Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs; that we are allowing permittees to do whatever they want and not using the regulations. We try to be nice to you and you do not listen;
- We are told to enforce the law by start giving out Citations to permittees who breaks the rules and have them pay their Fines.
- Open range and Federal Trust Land is NOT YOUR LAND, we just live on it and grazed on the land.
- My responsibilities are to care & look after the land, water, wildlife and permittees are last on the list. Use windmills on for hauling.

-Navajo Nation request that every livestock has to be counted. If you have sheep in a corral without a permit, you still have to do a Tally Count. Another request is to start the 40% adjustments and you have to help us to meet that goal.

e). Other concerns;

-Department of Agriculture have a plan in place for five, ten, fifteen years. Our people do not make future plans because we live day to day.

-NAPA is owned by 51% Navajo and rest is by other business owners. They continue to leftover (old/rotten hay) to our people.

-Page, Arizona do sell spoiled and rotten hay at a cheaper price to our people. Stop buying rotten hay for your livestock, would you eat food that are spoil.

-We have to create our own resolutions for things we need and a letter to our NN President Nygren.

-NN Council Delegates does not have information for us and they are told NOT to interfere with Chapter Operation.

-LeChee Waterline Project -they want to run the water line through our Coppermine community. I said, NO unless they help us with water tanks, water lines, and anything to do with water for our people.

-Have been getting lots of calls or text from people in the community regarding problems, concerns, update and requesting for work session on Title 3 Grazing Regulations, that will take three (3) to four (4) hours.

f). Debora Saliego – I will check into getting funds for your mileage, travel to Window Rock or help you with a resolution.

g). Stanford Fowler- I pay my helpers during Branding and Tally Counts. We have to utilize a four-wheel drive to get to corrals, drive through sand dunes, rocky roads and four wheels takes more gas and are expensive. Resources will be coming out, date and time is unknown. They will call or text.

h). Debora Saliego- We have a printer here in Chapter office that you can use.

i). Debbie Tsinigine- That printer does not work, Marlynn checked.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Next Planning Meeting: July 06, 2025 @ 3:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- B. Next Chapter Meeting: July 20, 2025 @ 3:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- C. JUST MOVE IT: June 24, 2025 @ 3:30PM for Staff – 6:00PM for Public at Coppermine
- D. Page Unified School District (JOM Training): June 24-25, 2025 in Flagstaff, AZ.
- E. Second (2nd) Session of SYTEP begins: June 30, 2025 @ 8:00AM at Coppermine Chapter
- F. Grazing-Branding, Tally, Inventory Deadline: June 30, 2025 at Coppermine Community
- G. CLUPC Meeting: July 01, 2025 @ 1:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- H. Northern AZ Veterans (met w/veterans): July 01, 2025 @ 8:00AM -3:00PM at Chapter
- I. INDEPENDENCE DAY Federal Holiday: July 04, 2025 **Office will be CLOSED**
- J. TCRHCC Mobile Clinic: July 11, 2025 @ 8:45 AM - 3:30 PM at Monkey Ranch
- K. St. Mary's Food Bank: July 15, 2025 @ 12:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- L. District 1 Grazing Meeting: July 19, 2025 @ 10AM at Coppermine Chapter

M. Veteran's Meeting: July 25, 2025 @ 5:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter

VIII. BENEDICTION:

A. None

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: None Second: None Vote: None

Time: 3:53 PM

Debbie E. Tsonigine

Prepared/Submit
JuneChapMtg2025