

**COPPERMINE CHAPTER**  
**Chapter Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2026 at 2:30pm**

- I. Meeting Called to Order by:** Debora Saliego at 2:27 PM.
- II. Invocation by:** Rose Johnson
- III. Review/Adopt Meeting Agenda by:** Kee Black read the agenda for adopting and approval.  
Motion by: Leila McCabe                    Second by: Sallie Tsinigine                    Vote: 27-00-08
- IV. Review & Approval of last meeting minutes:** Debbie E. Tsinigine read December 21, 2025 Regular Chapter Meeting minutes.  
Motion by: Lucinda Dejolie                    Second by: Natalie Tsinnijinnie                    Vote: 31-00-10
- V. Presenters:**
  - A. Joann Pioche -LeChee Clinic; will do her presentation when it comes to her resolution.
  - B. Nikki Jaborski -Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy(GCOA);
    - 1. Original from LeChee born and raised there, introduce herself and her clans.
    - 2. We are free Public Charter School, across the street of Sport Complex on Haul Road, serve kids from kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, GCOA is committed to providing student center environment, outdoor learning, expeditionary learning, and discovery learning. We are collative school, that engage with our teachers, work with our parents. Its traditional base learning, we are not in the classroom much, we encourage our teachers and students to go outside at least 40% of the day.
    - 3. We have about 200 students, we are open for new enrollment now and will be open up to 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. If you are interested and I strongly encourage to stop by. Our office is open from Monday to Thursday, at 7:45 AM to 5:00 PM. We follow all Arizona State Standards and we are the highest rated school in Page.
    - 4. We have many after school club like Native American Club, Running Club, Art Club, Band, American Sign Language, Cross Country, Soccer, lots of activities for students and family. We have open-house this Friday from 3:00 PM-4:30 PM.  
\*More questions were asked from community, additional information can be provided by visiting the campus, feel free to stop by and I will give flyers to Debora Saliego.
  - C. Judge Barnes -Coconino County, Page Justice Court;
    - 1. Will not take a lot of your time and this time I'm here because it's election year. In the backroom, I have my sign-in sheet, anyone who's willing to sign for my running next year.
    - 2. I come every six months to give update, I'm a month earlier this time to get signatures.
    - 3. We have our treatment court on Friday, for those who dealing with alcohol and drugs, we have about five participants and they are all doing very well. We had four graduated from that program, so we are very proud of that program and helping them get the alcohol off their systems. Get them back into the community as useful people and get them doing what they need to be doing.
    - 4. A large part of our arrest comes from alcohol and drugs. About 70% have alcohol in their system, 10% that will tell what they have and 90% will have alcohol or drugs in their systems, and 22% will nothing in their systems. About 80% that we are seeing are on alcohol or drugs, usually when we are dealing with stuff.

5. Just to tell you what my biggest ticket is coming through Page right now, in case you're curious is speeding. Criminal Speeding is going 20 miles over the speed limit, be very careful when you are going into a place where the speed suddenly drops, like 55 mph to 45 mph. Most of those speeding does not come from the public, it's from our visitors. The worst speed I've seen was 120 mph, so when I see them, they get a big lecture as well as a big ticket. There are also animals that cross these roads and how it can impact your vehicle.
6. We have one murder and two attempted murders this year, we are not happy about that and we had none last year. We have a lot of issues with DUI, driving while they are intoxicated after they had lost their licenses. Be aware of those types of situations in our area. Everyone thinks the Judge have all powers, but I don't and who has all powers are the County Attorney's office, they solve these issues.
7. Debora Saliego -With the missing children we heard about on the reservation, are you collaborating with anyone?
8. Judge Barnes -We mostly work with County Sheriff's office and Public Safety office, the city does not deal with those. Please talk with your families and your kids about being safe. Go back to traditional teaching "do not talk to strange."
9. Debora Saliego -Can we get volunteers to pick up trash along the highway?
10. Judge Barnes -It really goes back to the County, they use to take out trustees and bring out team and because their staffing went down 20% and they cannot do that.
11. Joann Picho -Do you address speeding through N20 or is that Navajo Nation?
12. Judge Barnes -That's Navajo Nation
13. Joann Picho -What about Sheriff, they don't have jurisdiction?
14. Judge Barnes -Actually, they can stop people and DPS can stop people, but if they are Navajo their tickets are sent to the Navajo Nation Courts. If they are non-native than it goes to our court. Our jurisdiction is from Utah and down to Tuba City Junction, Kayenta, Shonto, Inscription House, Kaibeto, LeChee, Coppermine, Bodaway and not Tonalea.

D. Roberta Lyons -Hello Heart;

1. I am here for Liver Cancer Project and Diabetes Prevention. Three years ago, we had Northern Arizona University and University of Arizona came out to LeChee Chapter to do Liver scan on 150 members within the Western Agency. Out of 150 scans, 40% had fatty livers, that can lead to fatty liver disease or liver cancer. The second thing is diabetes was 28% out of 100 people we scan, also 37% of our community has hypertension which can lead to cardiovascular disease, heart attack, strokes.
2. All that information NAU took it back and they got grant, they came back to LeChee community and that's why I'm here. Essentially, I need a person to help me run this program, I need to reach far out then LeChee.
3. We did start a Walking program in LeChee; we have 30 walking session with a total of 90 participants, we do walk Tuesday and Thursday. So, if there is a community member who wants to tag team with me or LeChee. We need to develop a health committee who want to create a walking group in Coppermine and will find funds for incentives.
4. We need to develop a health committee; five (5) Community Champions from surrounding five chapters to lead the direction of this Cancer Prevention, do not get paid

and met once a month. Help lead walking clubs and be on community lead Committee to help lead the change. At a round table discussion, a community member request for a "Walking Club" that's why this was implemented and need your input.

5. **Art Contest for Branding;** Need a logo/Artwork for the brand, \$500 Art Contest/End of February, Drop off at LeChee Chapter House, and Digital online vote or in person. You have to be a Navajo registered voter with Western Agency. The art has to pertain to Dine Culture, the phase/theme is "Our Body, Our Life, Our Culture."
6. Most of the snacks are donated from myself, anyone can donate, please connect with me at: [Robertalyons86@gmail.com](mailto:Robertalyons86@gmail.com) or through Facebook.
7. **Tentative Dates for Liver Scans:** Weekend of February 21<sup>st</sup> for February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at LeChee Chapter. Team up with Hello Heart!!
8. Joann Picho -Are you willing to come to this community for scan?
9. Roberta Lyons -NAU and Univ. of Az., has agreement with Navajo Nation approval for LeChee to do scan and they cannot come here.
10. Phyllis Begay -What is the age group you're working with?
11. Roberta Lyons -Ages 18 and over, it is a two (2) year project.
12. Phyllis Begay -What about the food intake? Navajo Nation has Junk Food Tax so what is the nutrition part of this that you are looking at when you are doing this?
13. Roberta Lyons -We have NAU, University of Az, Diabetes Program will be coming out to do healthy eating cooking class.
14. Debora Saliego -The person you are looking for, is that paid position?
15. Roberta Lyons -Yes, I will not disclose the amount, it's for this project and its hourly because they only want four (4) hour a week for walking. You have to be approved by the Chapter Manager, myself, by NAU and Univ. of Az. Not necessary a Background Check, it has to be someone who is driven to create their own walks and will to work with us.

E. Eunice Tso, Chakana Copper Mining;

1. Eunice Tso -Ya'aateeh, she introduced herself in Navajo, originally from LeChee and work as a Consultant and I'm the owner of ETD Incorporation of Flagstaff, Az.
2. Adrian Dotson -Good afternoon, he introduced himself. We do Environmental Consultant with ETD Incorporation out of Flagstaff, AZ. We were recently hired back in December 2025 by Central Minerals known as Chakana Copper to help them with their public engagement and talk about their proposed projects. We will go through the handout.
3. Lee Jack Sr. -Good afternoon, he introduced himself, originally from Dilcon area.
4. Adrian Dotson -We will go over the handout I gave you. Chakana was here back in July 2025.
  - a. **WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED RIGHT NOW?**  
Essential Minerals, Inc. (Chakana Copper) has obtained a Geological Reconnaissance permit from the Navajo Nation Minerals Department to evaluate the copper potential in the Coppermine Chapter. This allows them to walk the land and collect surface rock samples to understand what and where copper minerals are present. This is reconnaissance -the first step in understanding if there is enough copper here to study further.

\*As we understand, according to Tribal Law, we don't need communities' approval and we can only work with permittees to do the reconnaissance.

b. WHAT IS RECONNAISSANCE?

We will: walk the land, collect rock samples, take photos, make maps

We won't: drill, dig, build, trespass.

c. RECONNAISSANCE ROADMAP

Step 1: NN Minerals Department -Reconnaissance permit approved

Step 2: Grazing permittees consulted for land access

Step 3: Conduct reconnaissance - walk land, collect samples, answer questions

Step 4: Negotiate Community Benefit Agreement with Chapter committee

Step 5: Chapter Resolution Vote -Decides whether to support exploration

YES: Exploration begins- Benefits start                    NO: Project ends

"Without community support, there is no project. We're asking for a fair chance to earn your trust."

d. WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS?

1. Local high-paying jobs during construction and operation

2. Preference for local hiring and Navajo-owned business

3. Improvements to public infrastructure (roads, water, grid)

4. Educational scholarships and programs

5. Community priorities funded

"If Coppermine Chapter supports moving to the exploration stage, benefits begin immediately."

e. WHAT HAPPENS DURING EXPLORATION STAGE?

If reconnaissance shows copper potential and Chapter votes to support exploration, here's what happens:

**COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES REQUIRED:**

1. Biological surveys (Fish & Wildlife Service)

2. Cultural resource surveys (Historic Preservation)

3. Environmental assessments (EPA standards)

4. Economic impact analysis

5. Water resource evaluation

6. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance

7. Preliminary economic analysis

8. Metallurgy testing

f. YOUR QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

We've heard your concerns, we want to address them and here's what we know;

1. Water -Recycled in closed loop, Separate from your wells, No discharge

2. Environment -No acid drainage, No toxic chemicals, clean sand, not waste

3. Reclamation -Required by law, funded before mining starts, Land restored for grazing.

g. WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT?

1. No acid drainage risk (oxide copper, not sulfide)

2. Water recycled, not discharged

3. EMR Capital backing (\$6.5 billion fund)

- 4. Transparent about legal process
- 5. Taking time for community conversations
- h. WHAT IS THE PROCESS?
  - 1. Reconnaissance -we are here to walk land, rock samples, photos, maps, benefits agreement.
  - 2. Exploration -Studies & Benefits; Drilling resource estimation, feasibility, environmental, benefits.
  - 3. Operations -If viable; Mine construction, mineral extraction, infrastructure, benefits.
  - 4. Reclamation -Land restoration; Rehabilitation, soil stabilization, re-vegetation, land use.

Any questions or concerns: Contact Adrian Dotson, Public Engagement Specialist with ETC, Incorporation, [adrian@etd-inc.com](mailto:adrian@etd-inc.com) or call (928)266-6604.

There were lot of concerns, questions, and discussions. Coppermine community have been reporting open drilling holes that were never clean up or closed.

**VI. Old Business:** None

**VII. New Business**

A. Chapter Financial Report by Secretary/Treasurer: I read December 2025 Regular Chapter Financial Report approval.

Motion by: Julie Goldtooth      Second by: Allarice Meehan      Vote: 30-00-11

B. Resolution CO-01-012-26:

Authorizing the Approval of the Chapter Scholarship General Fund for the following six (6) students in the amount of \$2,750.00 utilizing the Scholarship Fund Account 13:6721.

- 1. Five (5) students- full time at \$500.00 each and One (1) student- part time at \$250.00.
- 2. Roger Curley -Introduce himself, is here for his daughter's scholarship, she is busy today and want to get her scholarship approved and thank you.

Motion by: Kristie Secody      Second by: Roger Curley      Vote: 28-00-13

C. Resolution CO-01-013-26:

Approving the name of newly Community Service Coordinator/Chapter Manager to be added to the National Bank of Arizona signature card; Constance Lano.

Motion by: Floyd Stevens      Second by: Natalie Tsinnijinnie      Vote: 34-00-06

D. Resolution CO-01-014-26:

This Fund Management Plan establishes the criteria for expenditure of Revenue Fees collected during the Fiscal Year 2026 (October 01-September 31, 2025). This fund is a Chapter Activities General Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide fund for expenditures of the Coppermine Chapter.

1. Fund Management expenditure break-down prepared by Constance Lano;

20% -Fund 01 Water Expense      10% -Watering Point

20% -Waste Removal Expense      10% -Burial Financial Assistance

20% -Food Purchase      10% -Medical Assistance

10% -Electricity Purchases

2. Floyd Stevens made a motion to amend and insert 2026, with that correction to motion for approval, Loren Thomas motion to forward with amendment.

Motion by: Loren Thomas      Second by: Floyd Stevens      Vote: 35-00-05

E. Resolution CO-01-015-26:

Authorizing and supporting the Coppermine Chapter and the Coppermine Grazing Committee Member to implement an indefinite feral horse, stray, and unclaimed Livestock Removal Program in efforts to improve the Ecological Health and Productivity of the Navajo Rangelands for present and future generations of the Navajo people.

1. Stanford Fowler -Horse Round-up was schedule by Window Rock office for February 23-26, 2026 (Monday-Friday).

Motion by: Stanford Fowler      Second by: Loren Thomas      Vote: 29-00-11

F. Resolution CO-01-016-26:

Supporting and Approving a Land Withdrawal Designation and Business Site Lease for four (4) acres for explore Dibe Ahxehejeehe, LLC on land located in Coppermine, Arizona to operate a guided hiking trails, dry camping, and guided tour business.

1. Cynthia Slim -Introduced herself and explain where she is planning to withdraw the land and type of business she will be doing. This has been presented before to the people.
2. Lots of discussions and concerns from neighbors and those who lives in the area. Do not agree with her hiking trail because it is on the unmarked burial sites and sacred sites are still been used today. Local residents, do not want to have to ask Cynthia Slim for permission to hike or go horseback riding in the area.

Motion by: Natalie Tsinnijinnie      Second by: Kristie Secody      Vote: 25-11-04

G. Resolution CO-01-017-26:

Supporting and Approving LeChee Clinic resolution #LCO12082025B; Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation Administration and Board of Directors to keep the LeChee Clinic open, all current service provided, after the opening of the Echo Cliffs Health Care Center.

1. Joann Yazzie-Pichoe -Introduced herself, I'm here today to get your support to keep LeChee Clinic open after the new Echo Cliff Care Center opens. I know the pharmacy will stay open, but our elderly need that clinic and Physical Therapy is popular a lot of our people needs that, now it is 2 to 3 weeks waiting time to make appointments. People come to the clinic during their lunch breaks, after work appointments, 24 hour medication drive-up window pickup, etc. We ask if we can make the clinic into "Urgent Care", we were told we have to follow lots of law or have "Same-Day" appointment, because we have to drive to Tuba City for Same-Day clinic. Our people need that, so please help us.
2. Concerns and discussion about the "appointment" only. No emergency service after hours, Pharmacy is open 24 hours, can do referrals, need same day clinic.

Motion by: Natalie Tsinnijinnie      Second by: Floyd Stevens      Vote: 32-00-08

H. Resolution CO-01-018-26:

Recalling and Rescinding Coppermine Chapter Resolution No. CO-05-066-21; Supporting and recognizing the Land Withdrawal for the Coppermine Community Cemetery. The designated site is proposed in compliance with Section 7(B) of the Land Withdrawal Regulation of the Resolution #RDCJN-38-15.

1. Loren Thomas -Good afternoon, he introduced himself and lived here in Coppermine for 12 years. On April 2021, a resolution was passed for five (5) acres Cemetery but during that Chapter Meeting there were only four (4) officials present who passed the resolution and was not a vote from the community. In September, there was an individual at the location claiming she was asked by the Navajo Nation to do archaeological clearance. Since 2017, we kept saying no and disagreed with the land withdrawal. We are requesting to rescind and deny the resolution to continue use as grazing area.
2. Debbie E. Tsinigine -At our recent Officials & staff meeting, Laverne Tsosie told us in their CLUPC book says a survey was done on the Land withdrawal for Cemetery and was denied due to the soil, not solid for burial or the caskets will come to the top of the surface or when it rains, they will be flowing by the highway, need a different location.

Motion by: Tashoney Goldtooth      Second by: Natalie Tsinnijinnie      Vote: 33-00-07

Debora Saliego -We will be losing quorum soon, people are leaving. Now we go to reports.  
Debbie Tsinigine -Do five (5) minute report.

**VIII. Reports:**

- A. Helena Nez-Begay, Council Delegate -Absent
- B. Debora Saliego, Chapter President;
  1. We will do five minute report and quick.
  2. This past Thursday we had Ethics & Rules training for Officials and Chapter staff. I was told by them that I'm suppose to just assist to create the Chapter Agenda, that its Debbie's responsibility so I am going to give it back to Debbie Tsinigine. To finish agenda, we are all going to contribute and continue to meet.
- C. Kee Black, Chapter Vice-President;
  1. I have been helping Mercinda S., grading her road to pull in her new trailer to her resident. Recently, Connie Lano ask Roads Department to help utilizing their big heavy equipment and they are fixing the road. Mercinda's mobile home is sitting in Bodaway Chapter compound. She wanted to be here today, but busy today and says thank you.
- D. Stanford Fowler, Chapter Grazing Official -No report
- E. Laverne Tsosie, Community Land Use Planning Committee -Absent
- F. Natalie Tsinnijinnie, FBFA President;
  1. Introduced herself, at the next chapter meeting we will have the resolution and we need your support. Within Former Bennett Freeze Area, we've been waiting for so long and you wouldn't believe it when I first saw our elders, they were up and moving fast. Just a couple days ago, I saw them again and they are moving very slow. We need to help our people, continue to do so and thank you.

\*We lost quorum but continue with reports.

- G. Constance Lano, Community Service Coordinator (CSC);
  - 1. Ya'aateeh, "Junk Food Tax" was implemented back in 2002 and changed that to "Unhealthy Food Tax" in 2014. Again in 2020, they changed to "Healthy Dine Nation Act" so that money was given to 110 chapters and we got \$25,725.00, I'm working on the Budget for that amount.
  - 2. Roberta Lyons talk about the "Fun Walk Club", that's needed here and will work with her to get that going.
  - 3. Youth Event demo for this coming summer. Four phases of community garden (someone to help us with soil, potting soil, bring him/her back out in April to plant seeds, transplant back into the garden and do harvest).
  - 4. Sheep shearing for the community for the Summer Youth
  - 5. Traditional way healthy food preparation
  - 6. During our Planning Meeting, Debra Benally suggests a trash pickup for our community. I would like to do two (2) events for that, one in March and the other one to join Page Attack Trash. I handed out all this information to the officials. We will issue Event Fliers once we get these going.
  - 7. Also, we are doing Home Assessments for Delegate Region where project money was put back into one pot for 18 homes for our community. I know people in our community do not have Homesite Leases (HSL) and I want to help the first ten people with signed applications from the grazing official, first come first serve base and you need Stanford Fowler's signature to move to the next step.
  - 8. Delegate Begay is not here today; she is attending an event for the missing girl found in Coalmine, in addition Delegate Helena Begay is on the Missing & Murdered Committee for the Council.
  - 9. I'm also a Register, if you need to become a Registered Voter of Coppermine. Come see me, you will need three documents (Driver's License, SS card & CIB).
  - 10. Will post job announcements for Plummer, Heavy Equipment Operator, Janitor, Maintenance and will be open to anyone this time.
- H. Leila McCabe, TCRHCC Board Member;
  - 1. We are evaluating our CEO, when you make your visit make sure you complete your evaluation sheet to tell us about your visit because that really helps us.
  - 2. Still working on the new Hospital, we met with State Senators recently and they want to continue supporting us with fundings for the hospital.
- I. Debora Lister,
  - 1. If you need help with filing income tax, come to our office located in Tuba City or call for appointment at (928) 283-4518. CANNOT HEAR THE RECORDING, TOO MUCH NOSIE.

**IX. Announcements:**

- A. 01-13-26: TCRHCC Mobile Clinic @ 8:30 AM-3:30 PM
- B. 01-15-26: Western Agency Grazing Meeting @ 10:00 AM at LeChee Chapter

- C. 01-16-26: District 1 Grazing Meeting @ 10:00 AM at Tonalea Chapter
- D. 01-19-26: Martin Luther King Holiday -Chapter Admin is CLOSED
- E. 01-20-26: St Mary's Food Bank @ 12:30 PM
- F. 01-29-26: Floyd Stevens Story Telling @ 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at Coppermine Chapter
- G. 01-30-26: Korean Kulture Day @ 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM
- H. 02-08-26: Next Planning Meeting @ 2:00 PM
- I. 02-15-26: Next Regular Chapter Meeting @ 2:00 PM

**X. Benediction:** None

**XI. Adjournment:** Debora Saliego announced

- 1. We lost quorum at 5:45 PM
- 2. Continued with the reports and adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Prepared by Debbie E. Tsinigine, Chapter Sec/Treas.