

COPPERMINE CHAPTER
Regular Chapter Meeting **MINUTES**
February 15, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

- I. **Meeting called to order:** By Debora Saliego at 2:06 PM.
- II. **Invocation by:** Janika Fowler
- III. **Review and adopt the agenda:** Read by Kee Black
 - A. Laverne Tsosie -I like to rescind letter E. Resolution #CO-02-022-26, we have a member that resigned in January 2026.
 - B. Anneretta Dove -I would like to recall and rescind Resolution #CO-016-26.
 1. Debora Saliego -What is that resolution?
 2. Anneretta Dove – It’s a Business Site Lease of four acres for Dibe Ahxehejeehe.
 3. Debora Saliego -Do you have like supporting documents that, I understand that Grazing person talk to you about? Is there a proof of RMU?
 4. Anneretta Dove -The person that holds the permit is her (Cynthia Slim) uncle and also another family are here, of the late Clyde Littleman.
 5. Debora Saliego -If you are going to rescind it, I talk with some people and we need proof that your Grazing Permit and your Homesite Lease, that impact the four acres.
 6. Anneretta Dove -No, that is not correct.
 7. Debora Saliego -Where did you get your information?
 8. Anneretta Dove -I was told to come to the Planning Meeting, which I came to last week. You did not give me that opportunity so I here to do it publicly in front of the community and now you are doing the same thing to me.
 9. Debora Saliego -Because there’s due-diligence, this has been signed and given to Window Rock already, so what they told me is that we need proof for them to rescind it from records, with DOJ and other entities. So, what they ask of me is to get Grazing Permit and Homesite Lease that impact the four acres.
 10. Anneretta Dove -There is a few Grazing Permits, family of the late Clyde Littleman been wanting to move back and Pete Littleman keeps denying them.
 11. Debora Saliego -So, they don’t live there currently?
 12. Anneretta Dove -No
 13. Debora Saliego -Is that permit being ratify someway or through the Court System, anything like that?
 14. Anneretta Dove -If it’s moves forward, yes it will.
 15. Debora Saliego -This is your support, so what they want me to ask of you is, the person that is sponsoring it and they need your information of how it impacts the four acres.
 16. Loren Thomas -At the last meeting, we recall a resolution and I put a packet together. I got supporting documents of Permits, emails for reasons for rescinding.
 17. Anneretta Dove -When I went to the Chapter House, that I have the opportunity to rescind it. I attended the Planning Meeting and was not given the opportunity. I called to Chapter Office, I couldn’t provide information because it was five minutes to closing time.

Lucero Radonic today. introduced herself and we are a research team from Northern Arizona University based in Flagstaff.

2. Why are we here? We would like to get the communities approval to conduct household water quality testing in Coppermine area.
3. This project builds on the work Dr. Jani Ingram has been doing with this community. Last semester we complemented her work with additional water parameters, (that are consider “classical”) under her resolution and current study approval. We have an opportunity to expand testing to have a better understanding of water quality in homes, should that be of interest and value to you.
4. We are proposing to do is to sample water at homes that are not currently connected to the NTUA’s water system and are your own systems that you probably haul water for. If you are concerned about the water quality of drinking water because of your tank, cistern, or barrel, this would be for you.
5. We are here to inquire about your interest and make sure that the direction of any additional testing be guided by your concerns and questions about water. From our side, we are committed to adapting our approach to what you feel is most relevant, appropriate, and useful for our community. This testing would be possible through the initiative called “Arizona Water for All” which is funded by the state government, that’s how we all do the testing, get kits and results to advance water security (to make sure you are drinking clean water).
6. After testing we would like to come back with these results and deliver them to each household. We propose to have a day dedicated to explaining these results at the Chapter House. This will allow participants to ask questions and discuss steps forward.
7. Would you approve this expansion to the ongoing water testing? Do you know of any families that still haul their drinking water? Are you concerned about your water. If we find anything, we can explain that with you or how it can be taken care. We will have a bigger team to come in and help you with your results. Just us two that was able to make it out today.
8. Hi, my name is Lucero Radonic and I am a Professor at NAU. We are here today to get your authorization to see if you have interest, and to add our household drinking water testing to Dr. Jani Ingram’s on-going testing project with this community. Physicochemical characterization of water in households is as follow;
 - a. “Classical” Parameters -These parameters are usually measured in drinking water and reflect general water chemistry: Conductivity, pH, Total Dissolved Solids, Alkalinity, Hardness.
 - b. Microbial Parameters -Rapid screening to identify potential fecal contamination and assess microbial water safety at the household level: Total coliforms, E. Coli.
 - c. Nutrients -Related to potential runoff from fertilization or natural occurrence in soils: Nitrates, Sulfates.
 - d. Metals -Depending on specific concerns in the region: Arsenic, Lead, Iron.
9. Debora Saliego -So you are going to do water quality testing? How are you going to conduct this, just by volunteer or are you going to just visit homes?

10. Dr. Lucero Radonic -The idea was to ask for volunteers, then collect water from resident and people who haul water.
11. Loren Thomas -Would you need a Community Health approval for this?
12. Dr. Lucero Radonic -We are working under a project who has gone through the whole process.
13. Marissa Fowler -Dr. Ingram already has received the RIB.
14. Dr. Lucero Radonic -That's a great question, we are interviewing and getting approval.
15. Dr. Lucero Radonic -We are not collecting personal information and nothing will identify you. We ask for where do you haul water from, wells, windmill, and what is it used for. If you use the water for gardening, you will qualify.
16. Debora Saliego -We need a resolution for March 2026 meeting for approval.
17. Debra Benally -Dr. Ingram already has a resolution which is for water testing and was passed.
18. Dr. Lucero Radonic -We are working under Dr. Ingram's water project. We would use the same Resolution. We will bring sign-in sheet, and Business cards.
19. Debora Saliego -We are going to motion and second to use Dr. Ingram's resolution, to continue Dr. Lucero Radonic water testing.

Motion by: Brian Cling Second by: Cynthia Slim Vote: 24-01-11

*Questions and concerns were asked.

- B. Leila McCabe, TCRHCC Coppermine Board Member -update; Absent
- C. Alfred Long, Veterans Organization Commander -No update

V. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes (Jan. 2026) to be posted at Administration Building:

Review and read January 2026 Chapter Meeting minutes by Debbie E. Tsinigine.

Motion by: Louise Begay Second by: Cynthia Slim Vote: 33-00-18

VI. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Financial Report by Debbie E. Tsinigine, Secretary/Treasurer: Review and read ending January 2026 financial reports and it is on the white board.

Motion by: Laverne Tsosie Second by: Ella Tsinnijinnie Vote: 35-00-16

B. RESOLUTION CO-02-019-26

AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF THE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP GENEREAL FUND FOR ONE (1) STUDENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 UTILIZING THE SCHOLARSHIP GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT 13:6721.

Sponsored by Constance Lano

1. Debora Saliego – We had Ethics & Rules come here and said we can't announce the names anymore.
2. Laverne Tsosie -How are we going to sponsor them if we can't say their names?
3. Constance Lano -You can say their names, it's on the resolution. Can't put them on the with their names, school and how much they are getting paid.

4. Debora Saliego -Ok, I did not understand it that way, it's Chloe Yellowman, whose here for her.
5. Laverne Tsosie -Chloe is starting her school with again with South Mountain, this is her second year and is graduating in May. She's paying for everything out of pocket by working during her break.
6. Alex Whitehair -Awhile back we were going back and forth talking about this and we were not allowing this, now it will be different ball game. Why are you allowing this?
7. Debora Saliego -Because Ethics & Rules came and said, if someone or family member to represent them or if they have car issues for that reason they are not here. That's one of the reasons we talk about and they said it is ok.
8. Debbie Tsinigine -Explain in Navajo, Ethics & Rules came and saw information on the board, we were told not to put their information on the board and that is confidential information and can only provide names. I ask, where in the policy does it states "they have to attend Chapter Meeting to request for scholarship" and was told it is not in the policy. They said, other chapters have in-house policy where they volunteer to help with cleaning, cooking, and serve meals during meetings, Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks for couple of hours. For that reason, we can't make them come home to attend meetings. Our kids are attending school off the reservation, and some in other states. The cost of books is expensive and cost of living is high. Even if they have a vehicle, it will take to change the oil and gas are expensive. Where are they going to get the money to travel home? They have to work, some do rug weaving or sell jewelry for their needs, please think about those things.
9. Loren Thomas -I went to school at NAU years ago, it takes money. My older sister gave me 20.00 per week, so I had to stretch that out through the week. By the time I graduated I lost a lot of weight. It is true what Debbie said and I support that too. We have our kids attending school in California or Florida, why would they travel distance to come back just for 500.00, because they have to spend money to come home and that does not make sense. It is not right to ask them to come home because the bus and plane are expensive. I ask for your consideration and understanding, with that I like to make a motion to pass this resolution.

Motion by: Loren Thomas Second by: Brian Cling Vote: 44-00-16

10. Brian Cling -Good afternoon, I'm from west Coppermine and my parents are John & Judith. We are talking about funds, if you don't use it and you lose it. I have family members who attended school and I helped with what I can. That 500.00 is like gas money for two weeks. We use Robert Rules of Order and just vote for the scholarship without complaining.

C. RESOLUTION CO-02-020-26

COPPERMINE CHAPTER SUPPORTS AND APPROVES THE NAVAJO NATION, NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION (NHLC) TO USE FORMER BENNETT FREEZE ESCROW FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$211,126.05 TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS THAT FOSTER A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS. SPECIFICALLY, THIRTY (30)

RESIDENTS THAT LIVE WITHIN THE FORMER BENNETT FREEZE AREA WILL RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UP TO \$7,000.00 PER HOUSEHOLD.

Sponsored by Floyd Stevens

1. Debora Saliego -Read the resolution, it is sponsor by Floyd Stevens. Do you have any questions and if not, we would like to have a motion and second.
2. Natalie Tsinnijinnie talks about the Bennett Freeze, how many got assisted, problems they had and let it go through the process.
-There has been long discussion, concerns, questions from the previous meetings and today.

Motion by: Loren Thomas Second by: Jennifer Yazzie Vote: 40-00-20

D. RESOLUTION CO-02-021-26

AMENDING RESOLUTION REFERENCES TO CORRECTLY IDENTIFY THE CLUPC PLAN OF OPERATION AND FORMALLY APPOINTING LAVERNE TSOSIE TO THE COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLUPC) EFFECTIVE AS OF MAY 27, 2025, AND ALIGNING HER TERM OF OFFICE CONCURRENTLY WITH ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICIALS AND RATIFYING THE PLAN OF OPERATION APPROVED ON MAY 27, 2025.

Sponsored by Laverne Tsosie

1. Laverne Tsosie -Talked about resolutions, CLUPC book, still updating, and we are planning to have our first public hearing at the end of February or first week of March 2026.

Motion by: Debora Benally Second by: Louise Begay Vote: 28-15-10

E. RESOLUTION CO-02-022-26

RECONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COPPERMINE CHAPTER COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLUPC) TO SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM CONCURRENT WITH THE CURRENT ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICIALS.

Sponsored by Laverne Tsosie

1. Laverne Tsosie -Rescinded resolution #CO-02-022-26, due to a member resigning in January 2026.

F. RESOLUTION CO-02-023-26

IDENTIFYING AND APPROVING THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

1. Multipurpose Building
2. Former Bennett Freeze Area -Housing needs, related infrastructure support, and KOKO waterline projects.
3. Echo Cliff Industrial and Economic Development Site

Sponsored by Debora Saliego

- Debbie E. Tsinigine -Explain all the projects in Navajo, our concerns, and our needs.
- Tom Franklin requested for amendment, to add KOKO waterline projects.

Motion by: Laverne Tsosie Second by: Evelyn Tsinnijinnie Vote: 30-00-20

G. RESOLUTION CO-02-024-26

AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF \$250.00 TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ALONZO BROWN, UTILIZING THE GENERAL ACTIVITY FUND ACCOUNT 01:6722 FOR FUNERAL EXPENSE

Sponsored by Etta Black

1. Etta Black -She introduced herself, is here to get assistance for her older son. Lost her son two weeks ago. Let's all stand as one and plan as one, we all know one another and help each other please.

Motion by: Cynthia Slim

Second by: Kristy Secody

Vote: 40-00-11

Con't. Presenters/Reports:

D. JoAnn Picho, LeChee Chapter -Kids Reading Books;

1. JoAnn Picho introduced herself and want to share information about our kids, their reading level is low or beyond their grade level. At our recent Page School Attainment Meeting on January 26, 2026 on "Education Forward Arizona" and we talked about how or what we need to do to help our children with reading.
2. Promote reading within cultural, community and family context.
3. Timeframe:
 - a. Month 1-2; Place book stations in the Chapter House and commit to events
 - b. Monthly; Host literacy nights, storytelling events, read-aloud circles
 - c. Ongoing; Include the reading initiative in Chapter newsletters, meetings, and announcements.
 - d. Quarterly; Partner with schools for book distribution, tutoring sessions, or family.
4. Community Organizations and Volunteers:
 - a. Organizations; Civic groups, nonprofit, booster clubs, and youth organizations.
 - b. Primary Responsibilities; Serve as volunteers, reading buddies, event hosts, provide resource.
 - c. Month 1-2; Join the community Readers and Volunteer Corps -complete training.
 - d. Weekly; Volunteer as reading buddies or after school literacy helpers.
 - e. Monthly; Assist with book drive, reading nights, or community challengers.
 - f. Quarterly; Help track and celebrate community reading milestones.

E. Lena Fowler, County Supervisor -update;

1. She introduced herself, there are seven communities of 7,000 square miles from Utah and Arizona, population of half Navajo and half Caucasians.
2. She talked about Citizenship, Certificate of Indian Blood, Birth certificates, Driver's License are not recognized.
3. Trump Administration has Homeland Security pick up illegal immigrants and they do not recognize our CIB.
4. Our office can help you to apply for delayed Birth Certificates and we can do Income Tax. Affidavit of birth is federal legal documents.
5. Election is coming up soon, please apply to become a Registered Voter.

VIII. COUNCIL DELEGATE/CHAPTER OFFICIALS/CSC/CLUPC/FBFA:

- A. Council Delegate - Honorable Helena Nez-Begay;
1. Winter Session; we approved and disapproved items on the agenda
 - a. Delegate Amber Cobby -Request for telephone call to attend meeting (approve)
 - b. Speaker's Office Legislation requesting for funds (approve)
 - c. Dine Education request for paper & supplies (approve)
 - d. Title 2 -revise & insert "always use Ke' to work together" (approve)
 2. Legislation 009-26;
 - a. Legislation was submitted to Naabik'iyati (NABI) Committee and sent to Council (now it's just a legislation).
 - b. There are only two (2) budgets left open with my Delegate region (we have to zero out our budget). Now, Chapter can use the budget after the legislation passes.
 - c. 11 on agenda, reduce to 6
 - d. ICE Homeland Security are picking up Native Americans, we send a letter to Washington, she wrote back and said "They will honor CIB"
 - e. The thirty (30) million budget will go to Universities, Colleges, and technical schools
 3. Naabik'iyati; Legislation 0001-26 is to re-registrar and re-apportion of Chapters, according to chapter registered voters. Bodaway officially requested to go back with District #4, not with Coppermine Chapter District #1. For District #1 will include; LeChee, Coppermine, Kaibeto, Tonalea
 4. Veteran's Home; I was out here in the area when Water Resource came out to help us with grader/dozer to fix the road to Marcinda's resident and her trailer has been delivered. We have three (3) more for delivery.
 5. Bathroom Addition/Renovation; I am asking for money allocation for more projects.
 6. Water Rights; Still in the process in Washington DC and will be meeting again on Friday in Phoenix.
 7. Laverne Tsosie -Can we move 1.7 million Escrow funds around?
 8. Helena Nez-Begay -To be on the safe side, wait until it is approved.
 9. Debora Saliego -Charlene hasn't give me a call on the three (3) projects update and cost.
 10. Helena Nez-Begay -I will give update after Charlene calls me.
- B. Chapter President - Debora Saliego;
1. We will get an update on Multipurpose Building later
 2. We will give you an update every month on the projects
-Helena Nez-Begay -NOR use to take of our projects, no longer there so we need to use the money quickly. NOR is government and we no longer get our fundings through them, they shut their doors on us. You had over 15 years to use this.
 3. We need to start working on Echo Cliff business sites and projected cost.
- C. Chapter Vice President - Kee Black;

1. Mercinda finally got her mobile home on Wednesday, we are so happy for her and family. She was so happy, I graded the road for her with my tractor and thank you to Roads Department for their help too. Connie Lano, Tom Franklin, Delegate Helena Begay, and myself have been to her resident more than once.

D. Chapter Grazing Official - Stanford Fowler; No report

E. Community Service Coordinator (CSC) -Constance Lano;

1. We have HSL Application and Flow Chart at the Admin building
2. Archaeological Clearance Assistance: Only one application was received. An amount of \$250.00 will be provided for the survey.
3. Proof of Residence from the chapter is intended for internal entities, including School, Food Stamp, food bank, TANF, LIHEAP, NN & County Voter Registration, and NN General Assistance. For external entities, such as state driver's licenses or renewals, state vehicle registration, firearm purchases, USPS services, auto and bank loans, court orders, and state tax filings, please contact the Navajo Nation Addressing Authority located in Window Rock.
4. The Healthy Dine Nation Act, totaling \$25,725.00, will be allocated to support initiatives including the Healthy Way Community Garden (comprising four phases: fertilizing, seeding, planting, and harvesting), traditional food preparation activities, youth butchering demonstrations, sheep shearing events, a fun walk/run club, and clean community programs.

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

G. Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) -Natalie Tsinnijinnie; sponsored a resolution.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Feb. 15 - Chapter Meeting @ 2:00 PM
- B. Feb. 16 - President's Day (Admin. Office is CLOSED)
- C. Feb. 17 - St. Mary Food Bank @ 12:30 PM-4:30 PM
- D. Feb. 20 - Traditional Healthy Way Food Preparation Workshop @ 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
- E. Feb. 20 - Veteran's Meeting @ 2:00 PM
- F. Feb. 24 - Community Garden Workshop @ 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
- G. Mar. 02 - CLUPC Meeting @ 10:00 AM
- H. Mar. 02-05 -Drawing Completion (call Chapter Admin)
- I. Mar. 05 -BIA Grazing Questionnaire @ 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM
- J. Mar. 06 -Post the Winners of the Drawing Completion
- K. Mar. 08 - Planning Report Meeting @ 3:00 PM
- L. Mar. 08 -Daylight Savings Time begins
- M. Mar. 12 -Youth Butchering @ 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- N. Mar. 15 -Regular Chapter Meeting @ 3:00 PM
- O. Mar. 17 -Food Bank @ 12:30 PM

X. Benediction: NONE

XI. Adjournment: Adjourned by Debora Saliego at 6:05 PM, after losing quorum.

Prepared by D. Tsinigine, Secretary/Treasurer.02-15-26.RC