

Chairperson- Laverne Tsosie
Secretary/ Treasurer - Cynthia Slim
Member-

Vice Chairperson- Debra Benally
Grazing Official- Stanford Fowler
Member-

COPPERMINE CHAPTER CLUPC MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, May 04, 2026 @ 10am @ Coppermine Chapter House

1. Meeting called to order: Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:30 am DST.
2. Invocation: Philip Tsinijnie
3. Recognize Guests: Chapter Vice President- Kee Black, Floyd Stevens, Anneretta Dove, Tina Richardson.
4. Review and adopt the agenda of April 06, 2026. Correction by Debra Benally, Lola did not say I just walked and observed. Lola said Dean Hudson gave approval. He has a valid grazing permit. That's his grazing area.

1st motion: Cynthia Slim

2nd motion: Debra Benally

Votes: Yes: 2 No: 0 Abstained:1

5. Approval of Agenda: The chairperson asked for a motion to leave the agenda open. Asked Floyd if he wants to be added to the reports? Floyd- add me to F.

1st motion: Debra Benally motioned to leave agenda open. Motioned to leave it open, because I asked about the resolution that are being brought up the solar field and the mine. They have to go through CLUP. it has to go in the book. Laverne: if the individuals were here to be added they would need to be here or on their way we can add them. Loren- Yes we'll do a report. Add us to reports. I will be giving the report.

2nd motion: Cynthia Slim

Votes: Yes: 2 No:0 Abstained: 1

6. Reports:

A. Chairperson-Laverne Tsosie: The meeting opened with a confirmation of quorum, as three members were present to conduct official business. Chairperson Tsosie noted that there are currently two vacancies on the Community Land Use Planning Committee and encouraged interested community members to look into these roles. The Chairperson also addressed the absence of committee member Calvin, expressing the group's support for him and his family during his medical leave. She noted that she had been in communication with him regarding his status and future decisions with the committee.

While traveling back from Phoenix, the Chairperson attended a regional expedition at Twin Arrows. Although this was not an official paid training session for the committee, she noted the high value of the information provided by various Navajo Nation departments. During the event, she specifically sought out the Minerals Department to inquire about the proposed copper mine. While the initial staff members were from a different division, she was eventually able to consult with a Senior Geologist named Richard. He provided significant technical information and clarified departmental roles, which the Chairperson intended to share during the mining portion of the meeting agenda.

Regarding community planning, the Chairperson reminded the public that the 60-day comment period for the CLUP book is currently open until June 10th. While the link to the book has been provided to the Chapter and physical minutes are consistently turned in for the record, there is a lingering concern regarding why the CLUPC Meeting Minutes are not being posted to the Chapter's official website. The Chairperson committed to working with Chapter administration to ensure that these records are made available online for better community access and transparency.

The report concluded with a discussion regarding the recording of public meetings. The Chairperson confirmed that she records all sessions on her personal device to ensure accurate minutes, noting that Title 26 supports the recording of official proceedings. This sparked a broader conversation among members and guests regarding transparency. Concerns were raised about the selective recording of speakers in other meetings and the difficulty community members face when requesting copies of Chapter recordings. It was noted by those in attendance that under both Federal and State laws and within the Navajo Nation governance, public meetings should remain open and accessible, with some members suggesting that all recording activity be formally announced at the start of every session.

B. Vice-Chairperson- Debra Benally: I really don't have any reports. Just that I went to the meeting the one that was held in Page for the Copper mining and a lot of people are given different information its hard to decide what's what. When nobody wants to meet up and talk about it. And for Council Delegate to admit that the Copper mining company Chakana is using the 2005 resolution to push ahead with this project. And, I addressed it over there. They immediately said its not the same company. Its not the same company. We have nothing to do with that company that submitted that resolution. Just because Dave worked for them. Doesn't mean the company is no longer used. The operation is tied to illegal mining. That's what they do. They start with one company and its a shell company and they do away with the paper work and they bring in this new company and I did address that. That's what they do. They tried to say NO, NO the 2005 resolution has nothing to do with this. I don't know how the Council Delegate she said she got the information from Mineral. And, a lot of this confusion and what their doing. Google the company and it straight up says Chakana is tied with illegal mining. So I did address that and I asked them a lot of the stuff. And, its just a huge dead end right now. But, as an elected person into this position I'd rather align myself with the constituents that are opposed theres quite a few and the Chapter meeting I heard it got heated. So Its best to align myself with the opposition of all the projects that are getting a lot of opposition such as the solar field and some other stuff. I think we need to tread carefully with this book going forward and really make sure that the locations that we're trying put houses to develop are for it that way its kinda hard to move forward when theres already that road block I know a lot of people look at it as grazing land and all other issues arise I hope we can all come up with a solution and move forward and come together. Other than that. I just been trying talking to people to look at the book more. And see what they say. Several people looked at it and make some comments of what they wanted. I told them to submit their comments to the Chapter. When I tried they said just put it on the sticky note. Anyone else tried to submit anything?

- Loren Thomas-As our elders that don't speak English. The Navajo speaking only elders, they don't know about clup book right now. They're clueless of whats in there so if someone could translate that back in Navajo that would be beneficial. You're saying comment, whose going to translate that information. That's where you would get a lot of information back from the elders. I would like you to take that into consideration. The reason why is Ella comes to our chapter meetings and she might just sit and listen but not understand whats being said. She comes to our house to help her with her insurance or debit card. We help her with that.
- Philip Tsinijinie - Since you brought that up about interpreter. I think during the meetings we should put someone in charge of that. Its a good idea. Its up to you guys. Have a paid interpreter.

- Laverne Tsosie- I try my best to translate in Navajo if need be. There is the issue of privacy issue we can only help individual so much. Before it becomes privacy issue.
- Philip Tsinijinie- I have a suggestion, we need to start a crew to help Stanford Fowler with branding. Get a PEP crew together to help him this summer.

C. Secretary/ Treasurer- Cynthia Slim: No report at this time.

D. Grazing Official -Stanford Fowler: Not present

E. CLUPC members- None at this time.

F. Floyd Stevens: Thank you to CLUPC madam Chair and Officials Chapter Vice President Kee Black and members and community members. I was at the last Chapter meeting. What's going on with the chapter and also the companies that are coming in are requesting to do work on Chapter land. For these companies have to do as far as their mission and goals do what they have to do and Solar proposal and mining proposal and AI. These things are facing the Navajo Nation As a whole and local communities. We are in that situation now. For us how do we respond to these requests. When it comes into reality. It started when Trump administration has relaxed the EPA rules regards to the company like the mining and oil production and energy development and he has issued executive orders to order EPA to relax the rules. So that these companies can offer oil development in Alaska to Eastern seaboard. They're starting to do that. Energy development. We heard about that hydrogen production. The development between Coppermine and Bodaway/ Gap Chapters. Using Echo Cliffs as a location. How is that? For people that agreed to this. Ok so the present clup manuel doesn't address that. What do we fall back on. Within the Coppermine boundary. Clup manuel doesnt cover that. What can we fall back on. If the President relaxed the rules on EPA. Having clearances. Skip some rules for environmental for the land. The Companies are standing at our door step wanting to develop. How are we going to agree to them and come to a decision? Mining is like that too. To go back to 1872 the Mineral mining Act that was passed by Congress thats opened up the BLM land where were at. Where people living here. BLM was in charge of land leases land laws. Some of these prospectors were Mormons and individual prospectors that quickly want to get rich. Lees Ferry there was a gold mine set up and in Oljato.there was a big rig on the river. Late 1800's there was mining claims made. BLM office ok'd them in Phoenix. Navajo Nation boundary wasnt added until 1934. Western boundary was added as the Colorado River. Thats how some got their mining claims. How many claims in Coppermine. BLM researched and found out they were not active. To keep it active. You pay \$1 a year. Theres only a couple ones that surround the old trading post. East and north the people paid for. The trading post supplied the mining operation. And, back then the Navajo Nation didn't have any say about water and mining technique and what they do to the land. The price of copper was really high back then. World War I, there was a need for copper for a while and later copper price fell and the companies left. The benefit to Coppermine was labor. Some of your fathers probably worked there in the 50's and 60's. There was a power station that powered the mine. The water was used from 3rd windmill. Used a lot of water. It wasnt really beneficial to the Chapter. No power or running water when the Chapter was built. The road was dirt road. By the mining company they paved the road from Gap by ADOT up to 2nd windmill. Then, there was protest at the site because people didnt want residents in the area did not want their livestock runned over by vehicles. So when Glen Canyon dam was being built they built the road up the big cut. 1940's the road was supposed to be built from Cedar Ridge through the small cut and to Page. There was a lot of research done. But, that didn't happen. In the 1970's the road was built from Lechee to Monkey Stadium. Thats the history. Now theres companies planning to develop. So on our end in our clup manuel is there some guidelines some way of process so when the companies come we have guidelines they have to go by. Then, we can give them a quinteria to met for the consideration for the land. Desecration of the land and how many acres. What resources are going to be affected, water.livestock

grazing permit holders. Homesite lease areas. Respond to them. Clup manuel should be used as a guideline for Chapter future. Make land use decision for growth, for development, land conservation, transportation and also community services and chapter resources. To be aware, have a discussion. Decision makers, the people. Make a informed decision regarding the chapter. Preservation guidelines. There a lot of things that can affect these operation trail, wildlife, land scape, we need chapter authority, Navajo Sovereignty. How much authority does the chapter have. The mining com[pany has done their walking and how much does our chapter have a say so. Navajo Nation Minerals dept. Cant force EPA rules. Because of Trump Administration its easier for mining to get their operation going, what is the chapter going to get from this. Ground water what are they going to use. Guidelines should be set in place. Maybe have the chapter declare a moratorium on any contacts with these developers that are coming in because we dont have any guide lines. Then when we have the guide lines done we have them come back. To go and move up the process through the meetings, Solar plans for labor, livestock etc. Draft up the guidelines. Then it will go in the manuel.

- Philp Tsinijinie: Solar field is where? Who told you? Some of the residents of Kayenta said they wish they didnt approve the solar field its not beneficial.
- Floyd Stevens: I dont know but I heard along the ridge above the small cut to monkey ridge. They need grazing permit consent. In Cameron some grazing permits gave their consent. They asked for 5054 acres. They said they need to send down to Grey Mountain switch yard 750 megawatts. Lechee grazing Official told our Grazing Official.
- Debra Benally: A couple years ago, I went to a workshop in Albuquerque and it had to do with large projects there. It was stated that we only have a say so of inch of the soil. Anything over an inch is all the Federal Governments. The Navajo Nation isnt even ours. We're on borrowed time. The only thing that was helping us was the grazing permits. Now, Halona is running around saying hes going to cancel the permits, to do away with it. There going to by pass permittees for housing businesses everything. The Eastern side of the Navajo Nation is really pushing it. Do away with the consent of the permittees. But, they dont realize they are hurting us as a group as a nation. The grazing permits are constitutionally given to us it can only be canceled by the act of Congress. Any grazing permits whether its deceased, probated anything only be deleted by the Act of Congress. That's why when they put the freeze on the permit Navajo Nation doesn't have a plan, thats why its so hard for us, to probate a permit after a deceased individual. The permits are sitting there not active no tally. Calvin was the one who fought for us. He was the one who help us. They told him to cut back by 70%. Calvin said No we're not going to do 70% we're going to stay at 40%. He tried to go to 20% but they wanted documentation. But they didnt have it.. Thats the last thing he help with. Why cant they just certify us without all the other things. But this book is changeable, someone can delete or add. The book is not set in stone. How do we litigate through all this. A lot of things going on in Window Rock. Customary use for some of the grazing permittees that gave consent. Its illegal to put parcels on us. We can graze all the way to Tonalea because of open range. I wish all the departments all had one big meeting. Its good that as a whole chapter we are stopping a project.
- Kee Black- next 10 years we might have 10000 homesite leases. Where are the sheep, cows going to graze. Thank you Floyd for your input. We can get together to work on the guidelines. Thank you.
- Debra Benally: the navajo nation attorney said we don't really have a say so in our projects and that's why we need to watch who we vote in as council delegates because they present it to council to pass and funds.

- Laverne Tsosie- Thank you, Floyd for explaining the history, solar and mine proposal and AI. The present clup manual doesn't cover this. After the public hearing, we heard so many voices and concerns about why, why. If you have been to the meetings, you were given how many times the mines have been here. It's not just a local approval, it has to go through BLM, BIA, DWR, DFW they have to look into it. How are they taking samples? I know how samples are done. They get a permit for reconnaissance. They will turn in the samples to the Minerals Dept. These meetings highlight the solar, mining, and casino, the communities opposition. The 2022 book doesn't say no mining, no solar, no casino. It is true we don't need a resolution to take samples from the Navajo reservation. I did speak to Richard from the Minerals Department, and he said we did an ok. That's why there was a letter. And they paid a fee. And, going back to the planning book guidelines. In 2022 book. I saw this, it says all of Coppermine is feasible. This is in our CLUPup book. Who said ok? Theres a map with grid coordinates. Suppose outreach somebody had their hands on this book and said the community is ok with this, it says explored solar feasible commercial solar venture. 2 areas were designated for solar and mining on by first windmill and the old trading post. Who said it was ok. DCD is our only counsel. But this book can be changed in later years. I included the Soverienty. How they express their project. Look at all Federal and Navajo Nation regulations. All of our question might be in the regulations. Unfortunately we are not certified and the royalty is going to Window Rock and distributed to all 110 Chapters. The money they want to give us is nothing. Our General funds are low. All the help we get is depleted. Where do we get self reliant, self dependency. I wish businesses would give to scholarships or help donate to the chapter with simple things like paper plates. We have to get right on the list on being certified. Still need to find out about the solar field. Theres all these mining companies that drilled and need to know where they drilled so we put that information in the book. .5% acid. All these septic system are more dangerous and hazardous. Come up with resolution. Gary Parkinson reached out. Debra told him to write a resolution and go through the process. The resolution was voted down and all the Officials signed. Richard wants all the resolution and he wants it for his documents. His thoughts are the mining won't happen. The lake is going down because they are going to use non use potable water. They did specify they were not going to use the community water. Floyd why is the yellow dots on here saying not feasible. It was like housing, build a community housing, Its where people don't want anything built there where some proposed a site for housing.
- Debra Benally- They said they were going to bring in water from first windmill. They said they found and located a huge a large under ground water source towards first windmill. Maybe make the whole Coppermine area red. Or just along the road.
- Tachony- You mentioned earlier that Coppermine will only received 3 to 5 million that just for?
- Laverne Tsosie- Navajo Nation can only accept 3-5% of the money they make from mining. Thats nothing. Its going to be distributed to all 110 chapters. Even if they do their exploration the cost is on them. Even if we come up with community benefit plan, I wish everyone could be at a round table and talk about this and be on the same page. Grazing Official should be here and answer our questions. Grazing compliance. It was mentioned that they can work with us and contract with them about what we want from them Like pave 6210 because of the bus route. How much money will they get out of it?
- Helen Little- On the copper its just a thin layer, they said. But they already took the samples they picked up. They already knew what kind of copper we have over at the meeting in Page they already had it in glass. I regret I didn't look at it. They already knew what kind of copper we have. Because when we had a meeting in Phoenix when they went out there Adrian Dotson met us in Phoenix, he told us we have high-grade copper, that's what they want. He told us. He told us to go to the meeting when we all came, when Lola went like this to us. My mom was approached twice and she said no.

- Laverne Tsosie- Ours is top layer only about 200 feet and up. I didnt know all these people came and it was never put in the clup book. How much of a voice do we have. They might say we are running out of General funds and say go ahead. And,with the Trump administration again.
- Debra Benally - like i said we kinda have a voice with the permits and its going to fall back on Stan to apply the laws and the rules that hes been hearing. Like how Barney signed off on the mining while his livestock is way over there by Kaibeto.Thats Stanley's call again. And, Dean Hudson, Lola stated Dean Hudson gave approval. Ok. He doesn't have a permit its in probate now its completely frozen. So thats going to be Stanley's call again. I asked, they didn't want to answer but I asked because I heard they were being compensated. They were paid a couple thousand dollars to get their reconnaissance done. The two individuals I did approach them because it came from Lola. I approached the two individuals that were named and asked them if they got paid for this they didnt want to answer they beat around the bush, they're permit holders Roger Smith and Eileen Deel. They didn't want to answer they got paid.They just said Its going toi happen Trump's in office. If they got paid that automatically, should be like what happened in Cameron situation. The permittee signed they got paid and they were told that their permits were going to be canceled. So thats what happened. Even if it didnt came from them it came from someone helping them. It was announced in broad area. Its not a secret. It was announced. They said quiet. Thats where Stanford comes into play.
- Laverne Tsosie: how does a previous official was working here can work for a company on the outside. We'll look into the statue.
- Tachouny Goldtooth- Is that called compensation when they get paid.
- Debra Benally- add that into the book, where permittees are receiving compensation.
- Helen Little- I went to Dean Hudson place. There is copper right outside his house. On the north side, there's a petroglyph. He said he doesn't do any digging there and he also needs the money. On Saturday I did not sell to that man. I was nice to him. He offered a full scholarship to my granddaughter. She said no. Dean Hudson's permit is in probate. Can he still sign the consent.
- Laverne Tsosie- They need a consent to the mining resolution to move forward. Look at all the requirements they have to go through all this process.
- Judy Goldtooth-David Kelly said he would work with you, we will not over step you. I got upset with him told him to take his money and go. He calmed down and said he would work with permittees.
- Debra Benally- you need to file a complaint and its up to Stan. What upset me is when he said we build in impoverished areas. I told him, these people are self sustained. They are able to build there own building. They are over looked, we are over looked.

G. Loren Thomas: Yaateh, thank you for allowing me to be here and allowing me to speak and to the CLUP members and Mr. Black and Floyd, thank you for being here and to everyone in the room. Yahweh. Most of you probably know me by now, I live across the road with the Goldtooth I been there for a few years. We are strongly opposing the mining here in Coppermine, we have a petition going around stating that its culture use, land grazing, culture heritage thats being protected from chemicals stuff like that. If you want to sign it your more than welcome to sign it. Also, we do have

this here, we want your guidance from here on the resolution we have. We did our walk, those of you that join us thank you. It was amazing, the amount of people there opposing the mining. Back to the resolution currently opposing the mining and also rescinding the 2025 resolution and we're talking about it, trying to strategize it we came to the conclusion we will separate them one resolution to oppose and one to rescind the 2025 resolution. But, we want to rescind the resolution because of the word exploration. Council Delegate Helen Begay researched and said Minerals department said ok because in 2025 it was approved at that time. For that reason we want to rescind. The resolution went to planning meeting. I feel like I'm the face for this opposition for the mining. We have received backlash from it we had to wash eggs off our truck and its taken that far.

- Laverne Tsosie: Thank you for your comment and concerns. I do see that the resolution do have to be separate because of the names Consolation is kind of like history. Keep them separate, that would be my suggestion and recommendation. Also the rescind resolution keep them separate. That its by choice your choice. Your second resolution would be bring it to us I did draft a resolution I don't if its stronger or it may help you. We like to hear all sides of the story. We hear a lot of oppose. What about the people that are for it. How do they look at it. They are afraid to come forward because of backlash. Its the community voice. We have to stay neutral. We need to implement, this book is our guidelines. It says to the future there was a no to copper mining in 2026. They look at it and make their own decisions for years to come. This book should've been written like that with the no in the book. If it was already written we wouldn't have all these companies coming to build or mine. But then again there money and they may make promises. We need to self sustain.
- Loren Thomas: our leaders should be representing our resolution whether they want to or not. When Chana comes in you got to remember my community does not want this. Putting that stance at the beginning shows us our leader does have our back. Helena Begay shes not wanting it, she walked with us, shes respecting our choices. We are open to hearing the other side. At the meeting in Page no one spoke or said anything.
- Debra Benally: They were told to express why its ok. One person said its just in the exploration phase, it might not even happen so thats why I'm okaying it that was from Roger Smith. Its just in the planning stages this might not even happen. Thats all their saying. If their not even speaking up at these meeting and hear a lot of the opposing side. Thats why I'm aligning myself with the louder side. I asked them one by one whats your take on this, whats the benefits, have you thought about this. Will look whose in office, they blame Trump again. Why do they want the mine, everyone thats going to impact the mine has stated that they have cancer.
- Laverne Tsosie- I want to look into some policies on how petition work, I know your getting signatures. How and who getting signatures. Are they 18 years of age and active register voter because I do have active register voters. Petitions go back to that too. Must be active register voter. If they are not active voter and you have them sign names may not count. We need to get educated how process works within the Chapter.
- Loren Thomas- So we did get guidance for that. We should of took the resolution to the Western Agency meeting back in August. Our leader should be taking this and helping us. Water will not be used of the community. But they are looking at under ground water.

7. New Business:

- A. CLUPC Draft Workbook review community notes from Public Hearing. Saturday, April 11, 2026- made corrections suggested by community members. Read through the April 11th Public Hearing notes and will make corrections accordingly and will attach the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes and Notes to these Meeting Minutes for the record. We will also collect more notes from the Chapter House and take any notes coming forward at meetings.
8. Old Business:
A. CLUPC handbook
9. Announcement:
A. Coppermine Chapter Planning meeting is May 08, 2026, @ 4:00 pm DST.
B. Coppermine Chapter Regular meeting is May 22, 2026, @ 4:00 pm DST.
10. Next CLUPC meeting June 15, 2026, at 10:00 am DST
11. Adjournment: 2:40 pm DST
1st motion: Debra Benally **2nd motion: Cynthia Slim**

Votes: Yes: 2 No: 0 Abstained:1
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Notes:

Please attach the following to these meeting minutes:

- **April 11, 2026, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**
- **April 11, 2026, Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet**
- **May 4, 2026, Meeting Agenda**
- **May 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes**
- **May 4, 2026, Claim Forms**
- **May 4, 2026, Meeting Sign in Sheet**