

Chairperson- Laverne Tsosie
Secretary/Treasurer- Cynthia Slim
Grazing Official- Stanford Fowler

Vice Chairperson- Debra Benally
Member- Anneretta Dove
Member- Sheryse Burns

COPPERMINE CHAPTER CLUPC MEETING - Minutes

Monday, June 15, 2026 @ 1000 AM DST at Coppermine Chapter House

1. Meeting called to order: by Chairperson at 10:25 AM DST

2. Invocation: Sheryse Burns

3. Recognize Guest: NN DCD- Latasha James

Kee Black- Chapter Vice President

Debbie Tsinijinnie- Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

4. Review and adopt the agenda of May 4, 2026:

Motion: Cynthia Slim / Debra Benally

Votes: Yes: 04 No: 00 Abstain: 01

5. Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Cynthia Slim / Sheryse Burns

Votes: Yes: 04 No: 00 Abstain: 01

6. Reports:

A. Chairperson- Laverne Tsosie: Opened the floor by welcoming two new members to the CLUPC. She emphasized that the foundation of the team relies on robust collaboration and unity. She encouraged all members to speak their minds openly, noting that constructive critiques, differing opinions, and weighing the pros and cons are exactly what the committee needs to ensure the CLUPC book is put together correctly.

Chairperson also informed the committee that new physical copies of the book have not been printed yet due cost and printing. The team will focus on reviewing and updating the draft online before committing to a physical print run. Looking ahead, the chairperson stated her goal to target the next public hearing within the next two months, noting that this timeline will allow sufficient time for the committee to hold several necessary work sessions soon.

The committee discussed addressing the local water infrastructure, specifically regarding the area's non-functioning windmills. It was suggested compiling a detailed list of these specific windmills and drafting a formal resolution to forward to Delegate Crystalyn Curley and Council Delegate Helena Nez Begay so leadership is fully aware of what needs repair. As part of this effort, Cindy will check the Chapter office for any additional community comments or notes and will take the lead on organizing the windmill details.

Chairperson also addressed the mining opposition resolution that successfully passed at the previous day's regular Chapter meeting. She noted that the committee must think carefully about how to integrate this into the CLUPC book, paying close attention to the exact verbiage and phrasing used so it does not negatively impact the community in the future. She stressed that this is a highly sensitive subject, pointing out that numerous community members came forward after the Chapter meeting to express support for mining, presenting data and information that made a lot of sense.

The final item concerned a proposed solar field project by a company called Sunborn. Tyler Manson informed Debra that the Grazing Officials are considering a resolution to designate the planned area strictly for grazing use only. Chairperson raised concerns that the company may be bypassing local

land restrictions by utilizing NTUA numbers. She has emailed NTUA and reached out to Central Grazing Officer Marlyn Yazzie for clarification but has not yet received a response.

In response to the solar discussion, Anneretta noted that the company's access likely stems from a broader resolution passed regarding rights-of-way (ROW) for energy and minerals. Latasha James provided further legislative context, clarifying that the Naabik'íyáti' Committee passed a nation-wide action last week that is now moving to the full Council. This legislation, sponsored by Delegates Ricky Nez, Casey Allen Johnson, and Danny Sampson, authorizes the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) to approve and amend energy development rights-of-way across the Navajo Nation. Ms. James added that Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie formally questioned the sponsors during the meeting to ask if a public hearing had been conducted for the Navajo people, similar to past hearings held for coal mining.

B. Vice Chairperson- Debra Benally: Reported that the Grazing Official needs to see if the permittees are in compliance in the area. She noted that so far, the only thing that has been passed at the Chapter level is just for the mine and nothing has been passed for the solar development yet. She emphasized that the Chapter does not want any big projects happening here and that the land is mostly designated just for grazing.

Vice-Chair Benally shared updates on her coordination with Jack Lazot of Page Transportation regarding school bus routes and stops. Mr. Lazot is supposed to put a pamphlet together and send it to her. She hasn't received it yet and hasn't had a chance to check back since summer school just started up and she was out of town for the past two weeks. However, Mr. Lazot stated his main concern is the poor condition of the roads, specifically how the washboard surfaces cause the buses to constantly break down and parts to break apart. Furthermore, the highway turn-offs are really bad, causing buses to pop tires because of the gravel and road conditions, and he is hoping the Chapter, or someone can address this. He noted that he is currently emailing someone about the issue.

Vice-Chair Benally highlighted that along N20, the road has terrible drops, resulting in a high number of popped tires. As a result, the kids are always delayed and the buses are consistently late, making it a constant problem for this road. The key issue is that nothing is currently being done about it. She suggested this might be something he can address with ADOT. Mr. Lazot has all of these incidents documented, including where all the tires were popped and will hopefully forward that complete documentation to the committee. Vice-Chairperson Benally concluded by noting that this was the main item she was assigned to work on.

Chairperson Laverne summarized the report, noting that contact was made with Page USD Transportation, who are still working on compiling information regarding the bus pull-outs and stops. The report clearly expresses serious concerns about buses breaking down, parts breaking, and popped tires due to the bad road conditions on N20. Based on this report, Chairperson Tsosie officially assigned Chapter Vice President Kee Black to bring this critical issue up at the upcoming Chapter meeting to see what can be done about the bus pull-outs. She noted that while BIA recently did some trimming and side-shaving of weeds within 5 feet of N20, Vice President Black needs to get ahold of BIA or NDOT to address these broader road issues.

Latasha James provided guidance on how to reflect these community concerns in the planning documents, noting that it is optional to include this data in the book as an attachment. She stated it would be highly beneficial if a resolution regarding these infrastructure and project concerns was officially passed at the Chapter meeting. Ultimately, it is up to the committee what they want to

include. Ms. James recommended that if the community does not want solar development, mining, or large industrial development due to the impacts on water, livestock, and the community's livelihood, this stance should be heavily stressed in the land use plan's introduction or given its own designated section. This section would explicitly state that this is the community land use plan, this is what the public does not want, and these are the findings from the public hearings, while referencing the official Chapter resolution in the appendix.

C. Secretary/Treasurer- Cynthia Slim: Reported that Rohvena emailed back and confirmed there are no additional community comments or notes left at the Coppermine Administration building. She clarified that all the comments and notes the committee currently has are the ones collected during the public hearing. Cynthia posed a question to the committee regarding whether they should include or take down the names and addresses of the people who left their personal information on the comment cards.

In response to the update, Debra Benally noted that she had personally left a comment card at the office, indicating there may still be individual cards to track down.

Latasha James provided guidance on how to handle the collected comment cards for the final documentation. She stated that the committee can review the cards and make a collective decision on whether or not to include them in the final book. Ms. James explicitly advised that if the committee decides to include the comment cards in the book's appendix, they must leave out the personal names, addresses, and phone numbers of the community members to protect their privacy.

D. Grazing Official- Stanford Fowler: Not present

E. Member Sheryse Burns: New CLUPC member Sheryse Burns stated she was attending the meeting just to see how everything is run. In response, Chairperson welcomed her and promised to forward the committee's Plan of Operation. Chairperson Tsosie explained that meetings are held every month on the Monday before the Chapter planning meeting, starting at 10:00 AM. While meetings typically run until about 2:00 PM depending on the length of the topics and how busy the committee is, she noted that they will always try to accommodate members who have outside appointments.

Chairperson outlined the financial compensation for committee members, stating that the pay is \$125.00 per meeting according to the Plan of Operation, which amounts to approximately \$115.00 after taxes. She explained the routine preparation for meetings, noting that the team discusses what they are going to bring up the day before, and then arrives early on meeting days to set up the tables, emphasizing that working together is a good thing.

Addressing the spread of information, Chairperson discussed how much information goes onto social media and stressed that she tries not to get mixed into it. She asked the committee to maintain professionalism and accountability for the information shared, stating that topics should be talked about within the committee first. She highlighted the importance of keeping the camaraderie going, warning that if someone says something prematurely, it spreads like a game of telephone and can lead to people speaking on a member's behalf. She noted that she regularly asks the other members for their thoughts on various matters and reiterated that maintaining professionalism.

Regarding meeting logistics, Chairperson explained that everything else is governed by the Plan of Operation. She requested that members simply give advance notice if they have conflicts or

appointments. She clarified that a quorum consists of a 2-and-1 structure, meaning that as long as the three executive officers are present, they can legally run the meeting. However, she noted that if Secretary/Treasurer Cynthia Slim is ever absent, she wants at least one of the new members present so that one can serve as pro temp secretary while she is absent.

To catch the new members up on past work and changes, Chairperson provided a brief history of their progress. She explained that the committee went through the entire requirement checklist to ensure every necessary item was in the book, put everything back in order, and reviewed the entire draft for grammar and spelling errors. Once completed, the book was ready for the public hearing, and the committee is now at the stage of reviewing the entire book alongside Latasha James to receive her suggestions and recommendations. Chairperson concluded by noting that this land-use book is redone every five years, and since the current committee's term is for four years, it is up to the individual members if they want to stay on, encouraging them to keep being strong and stay on the committee.

F. Member Anneretta Dove: New CLUPC member Anneretta Dove presented a letter concerning mining that was drafted by Floyd, noting she was instructed to deliver it to the committee. She then personally stated that her homesite is located near Monkey Stadium and expressed explicit opposition to the planned solar field in that area. Ms. Dove explained that the proposed site is home to a family of foxes, a family of eagles, and a family of hawks, as well as a ground-level population of mountain lions and bobcats. She shared that she has been actively documenting these animals, noting that the mountain lions and bobcats appear to migrate through the area, the eagles and hawks' nest among the big power lines, and there are wolves whose homes are established in the canyon that she does not want bothered. Latasha advise on this letter brought forward is that the person that was instructing to deliver should bring this to the CLUPC, not a hand over as this may seem bias and/or taking sides. We are to be neutral.

In response to the wildlife report, Debra Benally advised that it is best to thoroughly document these sightings and take pictures whenever the animals are seen. Chairperson reviewed the document presented by Ms. Dove, noting that it reads as a resolution and explicitly says "resolution" at the top. Chairperson questioned if this was the document intended for presentation to the Chapter, observing that it looks very similar to the resolution Loren is currently working on. She stated she would like to review Loren's resolution before forwarding this document to the Chapter.

Chairperson also raised a strategic concern regarding where to place these resolutions in the CLUPC book. She cautioned that the committee must be careful not to miss out on future opportunities if developers return with financial offers for the Chapter, noting that if the CLUPC book contains outright restrictive resolutions against mining, it could result in a total loss of funding. Shifting back to the solar field concerns, Chairperson summarized that Ms. Dove is opposing the project due to the presence of local wildlife species. She agreed with Ms. Benally on the necessity of documentation and suggested connecting with Fish and Wildlife so they can officially note the species and begin zoning or marking out the area to halt development. She emphasized that the committee is actively trying to communicate to the community the importance of protecting burial sites, sacred sites, and local species to prevent construction in those zones.

Regarding potential burial sites in the area, Ms. Dove clarified that she believes only the Monkey is buried in that specific location and does not think anything else is out there. Chairperson then officially assigned Ms. Dove her first task: to get ahold of Fish and Wildlife to see what guidance

they can provide, look into obtaining a map or a pamphlet, and report her findings back to the committee next month.

E. Guest Remarks: Chapter Vice President Kee Black attended as a guest and extended his formal appreciation to Sheryse Burns and Anneretta Dove for stepping up and submitting their letters of interest to join the committee. He also thanked Latasha James for attending the meeting and providing her ongoing assistance to the team.

7. New Business: None currently.

8. Old Business:

A. CLUPC Workbook Draft 5 review community notes. We went through the whole 150 plus pages as a group. Many discussions of what needs to be removed and replaced and for reference, Latasha J James recommended that the committee completely redo the entire assessment section and the community profile section of the book. She suggested incorporating the house-to-house data collection that was conducted directly by the CLUPC. Additionally, she advised the committee to look at the data provided by the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation, specifically the health assessment for their Chapter, noting that it contains accurate population numbers and provides an established community profile. She added that the purple book should be used strictly as a supplement to these sources.

To address the community's concerns about protecting land from outside development, Ms. James shared a successful strategy used by another chapter. She explained that the Church Rock Chapter plotted their family cemeteries and marked out ancestral sacred sites using Google Earth. When outside entities from Gallup attempted to come in and develop businesses, the chapter was able to prevent it because they had proactively recognized and created a map of these sensitive areas.

Following up on the mapping strategy, Ms. James suggested that the committee should include the exact steps to obtain a family plot land withdrawal in the appendix of the CLUPC book. This addition will serve as a practical guide for community members looking to legally protect their family burial sites from future encroachment or industrial projects.

9. Announcement:

A. Coppermine Chapter Planning Meeting: July 5, 2026 @ 2 PM DST

B. Coppermine Chapter Regular Meeting: July 12, 2026 @ 2 PM DST

10. Next CLUPC Meeting: July 05, 2026 @ 10:00 AM DST.

11. Adjournment: 3:00 PM DST

1st Motion: Sheryse Burns

2nd Motion: Debra Benally

Votes: Yes: 03

No: 00 Abstain: 01