

President- Natalie Tsinnijinnie

Vice President- Brianna Black

Secretary- Laverne Tsosie

Coppermine Former Bennett Freeze Area Community Meeting
Wednesday, May 30, 2026, at 12:00 pm DST
Coppermine Chapter House

MEETING MINUTES

Thank you for attending

1. Call to Order: 12:47 PM DST by Vice President, Brianna Black

2. Invocation: Moment of Silence

3. Guests: None at this time.

4. Approval of previous Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2026.

Motion: Debora Saliego/Jennifer Yazzie Votes: 05-00-02

5. Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Kee Black/Debora Saliego Votes: 05-00-02

6. Leadership Reports:

a. FBFA President (Natalie Tsinnijinnie): Not Present.

b. FBFA Vice President (Brianna Black): Updates on old business with new names. Resolution on updated names.

c. FBFA Secretary/Treasurer (Laverne Tsosie): Gave the Vice President the FBFA assessment forms so she can scan and then get all the phones and address together and put on the spreadsheet. If we are going to have our next meeting, if we need to invite Sara Slim, Rachelle and this will be initiated.

d. Guest Speaker: None at this time.

e. FBFA Members: (Give FBFA members the opportunity to discuss their status)

1. Lita Yellowman: Why does she not see her mother's name on the list?

2. Debora Saliego: The Chapter passed and signed a resolution written by Floyd for the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA). The resolution vaguely stated that 30 families would receive assistance up to \$7,000 each. At the time of signing, it was understood to be a general assistant for 30 families, and no individual names were attached to the document. Standard protocol dictates that assistance resolutions must explicitly list the names of the individuals receiving aid before being signed. In this case, the Community Service Coordinator attached her own unauthorized list of names to the resolution after it had already been signed and returned to the Chapter House. The list was never presented, reviewed, or approved at the FBFA meeting. Verification checks with both Kee and Debbie confirmed that neither committee member had seen or been made aware of this list. Official FBFA guidelines require that the Chapter perform assessments, and the FBFA committee must review and approve the finalized list of families during a meeting to allow for community input. Once approved, Brianna and Laverne are to process the paperwork, and it must be formally read aloud during a duly called Chapter meeting. Due to the omission of the recipient list during the meeting and the failure to follow proper oversight protocols, the final recommendation is to rescind the resolution.

Lita Yellowman: stated that Rovenia came to her home a few months ago. Advised her that she was already on a previous list, that we will add her back on the new list.

Laverne Tsosie: recommendation, during the next staff meeting, to get updates from CSC on the status of renovations if it happens.

Brianna Black: stated that there are 2 phases, she will update with CSC.

Stanley Saliego: wants to know if he can still get assistance if he lives and votes in the FBFA. Advised that he is qualified for a new home but needs a Home Site Lease for electricity for future. Renovations are for an existing home.

Erlene Black: stated she needs a new home and her home has asbestos.

Sallie Whitehat: stated that the trailer she stays in needs ADA rail and needs bathroom pipes with cistern. She got a cistern for water intake, but grey water and leach field was not completed. Advised that she is on the list for assistance. She also stated that she needs windows and flooring to be redone in the brick home.

Jennifer Yazzie: stated she needs a wood stove, ADA ramps, and windows.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Resolution with Updated Names:** Went through the names from last month's preliminary names. Readjusted with replacement of 2 individuals, but 1 was already on the list. Therefore, only 1 was replaced. With this list we are rescinding Resolution Number CO-02-020-26 and replacing it with this new list of 30 names after cross-referencing and identifying those that have already received assistance.

Debora Saliego: spoke about the timeline of the request for 30 names. We started home assessments in October. Deadline was in April. Hence the urgency for meeting in April. Although we did not know names were already submitted, we are now working on a new list per Sara advice in an email received on May 6th, 2026 to: To: Coppermine Chapter <coppermine@navajochapters.org>, Caroline G. Pete <cgpete@navajo-nsn.gov>

Cc: Helena Nez. Begay <helena.begay@navajo-nsn.gov>, Debora Saliego <dsaliego@gmail.com>, keebblack2018@yahoo.com <keebblack2018@yahoo.com>, Debbie Tsinigine <mackie_50@yahoo.com>, Natalie Tsinnijinnie <ntsinnij@gmail.com>, brianna09black@gmail.com <brianna09black@gmail.com>, Lavern Tsosie <lavetsoosie74@yahoo.com>, Tom Franklin Jr. <tfranklinjr@naataanii.org>, Milford Maloney <mmaloney@nndcd.org>, Kristen Charley <kcharley@nndcd.org>, Regina Reid New Number <rreid@nndcd.org>, Otto Tso <otso@navajo-nsn.gov>, Casey Allen. Johnson <casey.johnson@navajo-nsn.gov>, Michele Peterson <mpeterson@nndcd.org>, Rena Dodson <rena.dodson@navajo-nsn.gov>, Candice Yazzie <cyazzie@nndcd.org>, Rodgerick Begay <rbegay@navajo-nsn.gov>, Cynthia Freeman <cfreeman@navajo-nsn.gov>

Dear Connie, CSC/Coppermine Chapter

Subject: FollowUp Regarding NHLC Escrow Funds and Approved Chapter Resolution

Thank you for providing the update regarding the Escrow Funds allocated to Coppermine Chapter through the NHLC. I appreciate the Chapter Administration's efforts in moving the Escrow Project forward.

To ensure we remain consistent with established chapter procedures, I want to clarify that Coppermine Chapter currently has an approved chapter resolution on record designating the authorized project list for these escrow funds. This resolution serves as the official directive for implementation and should guide all activities related to the use of these funds.

I understand that the Chapter President and a Community Land Planning Committee member have indicated that a new list has been created. At this time, any modification to the approved list would require formal chapter action, including proper notice, quorum, community input, and approval through a new chapter resolution. Until such action occurs, the original approved resolution remains in effect.

I am happy to support Coppermine Chapter in ensuring the Escrow Project stays compliant, transparent, and aligned with the community's formally adopted decisions.

*NHLCO is at a point where we need clarification on the IGA language, and I'll work through the details with the Department of Justice. Once that is resolved with the minor-approved language, we are ready to proceed with the 164 processes, and I have **attached the sample (IGA/Budget)**. Please review the sample. My staff, including the Chapter CSC, would need to initiate that before we can proceed with the project's procurement. Until all of this is satisfied, we will proceed to the RFP.*

Thank you again for reaching out. Please feel free to contact me with any additional updates or questions.

Ahéhee' / Thank you,

Sarah Slim | Executive Director
Navajo Hopi Land Commission
P.O. Box 2549 | Window Rock, 86515
Emails: sarah.slim@navajo-nsn.gov
Office: (928) 357--6904
Cell: (928) 810-9157

b. FBFA Plan of Operation: Secretary/Treasurer (Laverne Tsosie) read the Plan of Operation from 2005. Needs to be updated and vote on stipends since it's stated in the plan of operation, it is currently written at \$40.00 per monthly meeting. With the new budget, we need to discuss this in the budget. All meeting minutes should be sent to Sara as stated and to Chapter House. Laverne will send all meeting minutes for updating. The selection of membership should be automatic if they already reside in FBFA. Possible have 3 officials and 2 other members. A quorum could make 3 officials in attendance for quorum- make this parallel to CLUPC? Have a member from different areas within FBFA. Brianna would like to add a section for quorum. Check all grammar and spelling when rewritten. Stipends on Plan of Operation are \$40.00 currently; we should go with the going rate, same as CLUPC. More wording and in-depth with duties and responsibilities.

8. New Business: None at this time.

9. Announcements: Chapter Planning Meeting: June 7th, 2026 @ 2pm DST.

Chapter Regular Meeting: June 14th, 2026 @ 2pm DST.

Next FBFA Meeting: June 15th, 2026 @ 6pm DST.

10. Action Items:

1. Brianna Black: Draft Plan of Operation. Contact CSC of updates on renovations/new homes.

2. Laverne Tsosie: Draft a resolution for "group list" as an umbrella for June's Chapter Meeting. Contact OEH/IHS/ Dig Deep on the status of all projects (some clients' cisterns are incomplete). Contact Sara, Rachelle, and other individuals for attendance and updates.

12. Adjournment: 3:36pm DST by Vice President, Brianna Black.

Motion: Debora Saliego/Kee Black

Votes: 07-00-02

Notes: FBFA Home Repair(s)/ Renovation (s) list REVISED on May 30, 2026:

- 1. Jerilyn Yazzie- 2nd Phase
- 2. Etta Black
- 3. Priscilla Endishee
- 4. Janika Fowler- 2nd Phase
- 5. Wynette Hammond
- 6. Dave/Susie Williams
- 7. Colleen Mountain
- 8. Shirley Bahe
- 9. Maxine Addakai ✓
- 10. Heidi Herder- 2nd Phase
- 11. Esther/Henry Yazzie
- 12. Slim Begay- 2nd Phase
- 13. Billson Bigman
- 14. Wilson Bigman
- 15. Laveena Benally- 2nd Phase
- 16. Shawna Whitehat
- 17. Sally Whitehat- 1st Phase
- 18. Paulette/Henry Lewis ✓
- 19. Alice/Nelson Williams ✓
- 20. Tyler Endishee
- 21. Rosita/Roger Curley- 1st Phase
- 22. Chee/Louis Begay- 2nd Phase
- 23. Jimmy Ray Begay JR- 2nd Phase
- 24. Monty Slim- 2nd Phase
- 25. Mae Sands
- 26. Jean Evans
- 27. Annie Yellowman
- 28. Peggy Sands- 1st Phase
- 29. Alvina Joe
- 30. Emil Benally- 1st Phase

Attachments:

- 1. Resolution CO-02-020-26.**
- 2. Plan of Operation.**