

UPPER FRUITLAND CHAPTER
CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES
JANAURY 09, 2024 @ 5 PM
IN-PERSON

- I. Meeting called to order 5:15 PM by Madame President Lynelle Lee
- II. Roll Call by Dora Smith
 - Council Delegate Rickie Nez
 - President Lynelle Lee
 - Vice-President Lisa Byrd
 - Secretary/Treasurer Dora Smith
 - Grazing Representative Roxanne Lee
 - Farming Representative Albert Lee
- III. Invocation by Lisa Byrd
- IV. Review and Approve the Agenda
 - Motioned by Herbert Willie, seconded by Ira Dodge
 - Discussion as follows, Madame Vice President Lisa Byrd asked motioning parties to add two (2) resolutions under Item Number 7 New Business, those resolutions are budget transfers needed for payment on the chapter's Electric bill, Natural Gas bill and for Professional fees. Madame Vice-President Byrd requested to remove item (B) resolution, Supports and Approves Upper Fruitland Chapter to utilize online meetings for future Planning Meeting, Regular Chapter Meeting and Sub-Committee Meetings, sponsored by Madame Vice President Lisa Byrd until additional information is gathered regarding online meetings. Laurence Bekise questioned why his amended resolution was not on the agenda, Madame President Lynelle Lee replied, Natural Gas is already included in the original resolution, and Chapter Manager Alvis Kee provided further clarification to Mr. Bekise, therefore amended resolution not needed. Motioning parties agreed to the changes on the agenda.
 - Vote: 18 in favor, 00 opposed, 01 abstained;18-00-01 *Motion Passed*
- V. Approval of meeting minutes for Chapter Meeting held December 12, 2023
 - Motioned by Ira Dodge, seconded by Alvis Kee
 - No Discussion
 - Vote: 19 in favor, 00 opposed, 01 abstained;19 -00-02 *Motion Passed*
- VI. Old Business
 - a. None
- VII. New Business
 - a. Accepting December 2023 Budget report Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Dora Smith
 - Motioned by Laurence Bekise, seconded by Ira Dodge
 - No Discussion
 - Vote: 17 in favor, 00 opposed, 04 abstained; 17-00-04 *Motion Passed*

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- b. Accepting and Approving internal transfer of LGA Grant Funds in Fund 10 from one source into the Professional Fees for a total amount of \$1,500.00. Sponsor Alvis Kee
 - Motioned by Ira Dodge, seconded by Cecelia Antonio
 - No Discussion
 - Vote: 21 in favor, 00 opposed, 04 abstained; 21-00-04 *Motion Passed*
 - **FRUI 2024- 01-366**
- c. Accepting and Approving internal transfer of Chapter Maintenance and Maintenance Fund in Fund 21 from two separate sources into the Electric Expense and Natural Gas/ Propane for a total amount of \$3,500.00. Sponsor Alvis Kee
 - Motioned by Robert Allen, seconded by Ira Dodge
 - No Discussion
 - Vote: 17 in favor, 00 opposed, 01 abstained; 17-00-05 *Motion Passed*
 - **FRUI 2024-01-367**

VIII. Introduction, Presentation or Recognition of Guests

- a. COVID-19 Flu, RSV, Sign and Symptoms – Priscilla Yellowman, UFC IHS Representative, presentation on RSV, Flu and COVID-19. How to avoid getting sick. Respiratory Syncytial Virus is a common contagious virus that usually causes mild symptoms. In older adults with certain underlying condition RSV can cause infections. Flu, also called influenza, is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs which are part of the respiratory system. The Flu is caused by a virus. Influenza is commonly called the flu, but it's different from stomach flu, viruses that cause diarrhea and vomiting. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus named SCARS-COV-2. It can be very contagious and spread quickly. COVID-19 most often causes respiratory symptoms that can feel much like a cold, the flu, or pneumonia. It may attack more than your lungs and respiratory system. All three are respiratory infections and viruses.
- b. Community Public Health Nurse – Lisa Curley Alternate; Thanked Priscilla presentation, introduces herself in Navajo. Recommendation for vaccine. RSV vaccine, 0-7 months, 60 and older, especially high risk with heart or lung despair, adults with weaking immune system, 32 thru 36 weeks of pregnancy. FLU- 6 months and older. COVID Spike Vaccine- 6 months and older it will be seasonal like the flu. FLU and COVID Clinic- 7 AM- 7 PM, Monday-Sunday, Opens during Holidays. No more Walk-In, call the clinic to schedule an appointment. Scheduling appointments on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Vaccination clinic COVID, FLU and RSV will be scheduled hopefully soon also Health Fair for Upper Fruitland Chapter Community still in discussion.

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c. San Juan County Clerks – Arlenta Horse-Dickie, Bilingual Coordinator; Thanked the Community members, and states 2024 election is here again. Candidates filing date is March 12, 2024, for various Positions County, State and Federal positions. To become a candidate, must be registered voter in San Juan County with no felony convictions and be over age eighteen (18) years of age. Filing date is February 6, 2024, for U.S. Senator/Representatives and Justice of Supreme Court. The candidates will carry around petitions and you can only sign one petition for each position for same party—Democrats, Republicans, Liberians will vote for one. Primary election on June 4, 2024. April 02, 2024, is the last day to change party affiliation, Republican to Democratic. Filing date March 12, 2024. Write-in candidate March 19, 2024. Last day to withdraw is April 2, 2024. If you have questions, call San Juan County Clerk's Office.

IX. Reports

- a. Council Delegate Rickie Nez introduced himself in Navajo and English, his report, addressed Virtual Meetings for the 110 chapters that was previously vetoed by President Buu Nygren. C0-85-23, An Action Relating to the Law-and-Order Committee Resources and Development Committee, Naabik'iyati Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings. Naabik'iyati' and Council override the Legislation for Virtual Meetings it will go into effect December 14, 2023, and it will not need to go to President Buu Nygren's office for approval. It will be up to each chapter to pass a resolution on their stance on Legislation 0255-23. He mentioned that the Navajo Nation continues to operate under a State of Emergency declared by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management last January. Declaration CEM 23-01-19, adopted on Jan. 19, 2023, acknowledges severe winter conditions affected the Nation and remains in effect for the purposes of directing the current response to public health and safety risks. The declaration has not been rescinded therefore is still in effect. Naabik'iyati' winter session will be January 22 thru 26 from 8 AM-4 PM each day.
- b. Chapter Manager Alvis Lee reports that on 1/10/24 there is a 50% chance of snow after 11pm it is supposed to start snowing. The temperatures are supposed to get bad and the winds maybe up to 35 mph, so I ask all of you to check on your elders. The chapter is trying to find the phone numbers of all the local community elders so that we can check on them during bad weather and see what they need. We have been working with CHR Priscilla Yellowman. She helps us identify the at-risk elders. We will see if they need firewood, pellets, food, or coal. If you know anyone that might fit into that description you can let the chapter. Laurence Bekise asked do we have an emergency team? Alvis Kee

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said No we do not have an emergency team. During events that require supervision chapter staff and officials are allowed into the event free of charge to check that the event is going on safely. We have our backhoe sitting by the senior center and it will be put up for sale in the first week of February. The last time it ever worked was in 2015 and I am not sure it has a key. The quote from an outside source has been obtained and the community citizens have first choice. If you are interested, you can look at it. The construction on the meeting hall entrance is the money from NM Capital Outlay to build that atrium. We asked to build a sidewalk and are waiting for authorization from that. The chapter has been cold the last couple of months, and we asked for a propane pressure check because our propane kept dropping. Every month we check the amount of propane the chapter has. In checking a pipe that was about to burst we discovered and fixed it. Hopefully the propane will not be going up anymore. The emergency funds that the Navajo Nation has passed have already been implemented last month to offset the bad weather. We are spending it on four things one is propane and natural gas is combined, firewood, pellets, food. The food comes from Farmer's Market and the most we can assist with is \$200. If you exceed \$200 then the additional will come out of your pocket. Lina'Ba has been helping us with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects, they are helping us do research on our feasible projects. We have until March 2024 to get the expenditure plan to Window Rock the Department of Community Development. On Facebook there is information regarding assistance with a damaged septic tank or a septic that needs to be pumped, come by the chapter, and fill out an application. These are put into place for the seniors who live on a fixed income. Michael Bekise asked when are you going to make the chapter handicap accessible? Alvis Kee responded that we are currently in the process of getting that done, hence the atrium addition. There is a young lady who does those types of inspections and gives us needed recommendations to upgrade. Laurence Bekise asked how many elders know Facebook? Madame Vice President Lisa Byrd responded that we have quite a few elder members who utilize Facebook, but we also announce on the Navajo Stations the same information. Michael Bekise asked who is the administrator on the chapter's Facebook is? Madame President Lynelle Lee answered that the Chapter Manager Alvis Kee is the administrator for that. Michael Bekise asked why the chapter does not answer questions back on Facebook? Alvis Kee responded that they are busy doing office work and Facebook's main purpose is to get information to the people, and it would be impossible to answer every question asked.

- c. Chapter President Lynelle Lee, No Report, time to Arlenta Horse- Dickie

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- d. Chapter Vice President Lisa Byrd, No Report, time to Arlenta Horse- Dickie
- e. Chapter Grazing Representative Roxanne Lee introduced herself in Navajo and English, she expressed her gratitude for the holidays and for the people being able to attend the chapter meeting. The grazing committees have two (2) meetings coming up this week and wanted to reiterate some items on the agenda for the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. The District 13 Grazing committee has a meeting on January 10, 2024, at the Nenahnezad Chapter starting at 1:00pm. Then on Thursday January 11, 2024, there is a Northern Agency Grazing meeting at Red Mesa Chapter which starts at 9:00am. This information has been posted in the lobby area of the chapter house for a while, so go check it out. But regarding the Navajo Nation Farm and Garden Incentive we have the flyer for that as well as the Livestock Management Incentive.

Both applications are online so no physical applications and those can be found online. Both applications can be found online at navajoaif.com. Also, there are more opportunities for assistance from the Navajo Nation, we have information from Window Rock. You can go to Window Rock chapter on January 10, 2024, Tuba City Chapter on January 11, 2024. At these chapters they will have time to help individuals to complete their AIF applications. For Shiprock Chapter the AIF Outreach date is January 23 - 24th from 9:00am to 3:00pm, to help apply from these programs. Nenahnezad Chapter will also host an AIF Incentive Outreach on March 5, 2024. Again, reminding the community members these programs are all up to you the Land Use Permittees, it is the permittees holders' responsibility to get these done if they want. The criteria for the Farm and Garden Incentive are all agriculture projects must be on the Navajo Nation and the requirements are Identification card or Driver's License, Social Security Card, Agriculture Lands Permit. If you received the AIF incentive last year a crop report will be required and finally a current photo of your farm or garden. Livestock management is similar criteria, however, this one requires a valid grazing permit, 2023 Livestock inventory and again needing your identifying documents such as Driver's License and Social Security cards like the Farm and Grazing requirements, but this application needs Certificate of Indian blood and any Livestock sale tickets or receipts. Michael Bekise asked Roxanne Lee what her clans were and how do you reach these permittees if they don't use Facebook or social media? Roxanne Lee stated her clans again, and she responds that she gets this information out at monthly Permittee meetings and social media, and she reminded the community that all Land Use Permittees are responsible for their own documents, and in the permittee's agreements Red Book in 25CFR it specifies that anything having to do with farm, garden, or livestock that the permittees are the responsibility of the farm or livestock owners. Michael Bekise

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asked how they communicate with permittees if they don't speak Navajo. Roxanne responds that she has not come across that situation yet, but we do have translators.

- f. Chapter Farming Representative Albert Lee reports that he attended the farm board meeting held in Shiprock and that no one attends except the chapter officials and board members. The issues that are happening are not being brought to me at my monthly Farm Permittees meetings. The January farm permittee meeting has been rescheduled until further notice. Michael Bekise asked why we chapter officials do not use the chapter equipment to fix the roads? Albert responds that falls under chapter administration operations; requestors will have to speak with the chapter manager because he oversees those equipment's. Michael Bekise asked why N367 has not been repaired. Madame Vice President Lisa Byrd answered that the money needs to be there first before any construction can begin and as with everything else the Navajo Nation is slow. Now the N367 and N36 intersection are the focus of Navajo Nation officials and New Mexico State Representatives.
- g. CLUP-C President Robert Allen reports for CLUP-C that the new internet cables that are being installed is not being reported to the chapter how deep the cables go so that is why we cannot just go digging the roads up or trying to fix them, even to weed whack them. I have done as much work on the side of the local roads as I can possibly do. As far as the roads it is like everything else on the Navajo Nation...wait...wait...wait. It is the same with the intersection at Hwy 371 and N36, they had all the money together, but Window Rock sat on the money too long and that caused some problems. While we were waiting for Window Rock to apply the funds the cost of the road projects has gone up tremendously. This road N367 were talking about the Navajo Nation is doing the same thing and making us wait. Today everything has changed, and they are only doing 15 miles of road per chapter, and they focus on bus routes. The prior years CLUPC members did not retain or forward their reports and now we must start from the beginning regarding the Land Use Plan. The new cemetery will be on the Land Use plan and the old cemetery too. The old plan had included a truck stop, laundry mat and convenient store. A new company has moved into that intersection area lina'Ba to purchase 69.3 acres to build a truck stop but Huerfano is claiming that the area belongs to them. The problem lies with our boundary lines. The next CLUPC meeting will be Thursday January 11, 2024, at the Upper Chapter meeting hall starting at 10:00am to further discuss the land Use Plan for Upper Fruitland. Cecelia Antonio asked if we could request NDOT to work on the roads? Robert Allen responded that no we cannot do that because they have their own operation plans. Madame Vice President Lisa Byrd

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further added to that comment that we the chapter officials and CLUPC have met with NDOT regarding these issues and are working together to get them solved. Robert Allen also reports that he found a resolution from 1993 that the community asked the tribe to provide an actual line for the boundaries and to ask for some of the Gold King Mine Spills money to reline the irrigation ditch all the way to the end. Madame President Lisa Byrd answered that when attending the Gold King Mine Spill meetings, the Nation's Agriculture department wants to enclose the entire irrigation ditch like the San Juan community has, their plan is to add a sedentary pond so the excess sediments in the San Juan River don't clog irrigations and water pumps. Hogback is notorious for having their main water pump broken and those run about 4 million dollars to replace.

- h. UFC IHS Representative Priscilla Yellowman, No Report
 - i. Veterans, ABSENT
 - j. Fairground Committee, ABSENT
- X. Announcement
- a. District 13 Grazing Meeting – January 10, 2024 @ 1 PM, Nenahnezad Chapter
 - b. Northern Agency Grazing Meeting – January 11, 2024 @ 9 AM, Red Valley Chapter
 - c. CLUP- C Meeting – January 11, 2024 @ 10 AM, UFC Meeting Hall
 - d. Martin Luther King Day (Chapter Closed) – January 15, 2024
 - e. Upper Fruitland 4-H Meeting – January 15, 2024 @ 5 PM, UFC Meeting Hall
 - f. San Juan River Farm Board – January 16, 2024 @ 8 AM, Gaadii'ahi Chapter
 - g. Grazing Permittee Meeting – January 30, 2024 @ 6 PM, UFC Meeting Hall
 - h. Next Planning Meeting: Thursday February 01, 2024 @ 5 PM In-Person
- XI. Next Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 06, 2024 @ 5 PM, In-Person
- XII. Adjournment at 7:16 PM
- Motioned by Robert Allen, seconded by Laurence Bekise
 - Vote: 17 in favor, 00 opposed, 01 abstained; 17-00-01 motion passed

Minutes submitted January 10, 2024, by


Dora Smith, Secretary/Treasurer