



**NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE
NASCHITTI COMMISSION – MANAGER GOVERNMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2025 ♦ MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 ♦ 9:00 AM
COMMISSION PLANNING MEETING MINUTES**

- I. INSERTION OF AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- II. ROLL CALL:** Willis Nez, Rhonda Herbert, Orlin Skyberg, Alexis Wood, Tammy Yazzie
Tammy Yazzie asked to be excused at 12:08 p.m.
- III. CALL TO ORDER:** 9:14 a.m.
- IV. INVOCATION** - respectfully said by Rhonda Herbert
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - read by Rhonda Herbert to the public and for the record.
(m) Orlin Skyberg (s) Alexis Wood also motioned to keep agenda open
(v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 – nays.
Alexis Wood said that community members now have to pay for copies of documents such as financial reports.
Gloria Dennison said “there should not be a charge for copies. The chapter is provided money for such expenses.” LGA needs to address the issues such as having to pay for copies. When we adopt the agenda, it should be open to the public. She hears a lot outside this meeting, such as “Administration not knowing information on funerals. It seems like it’s useless to go before leadership even with the Navajo Nation. “ She is unhappy with things going on with the government. Commissioners need to research what their position responsibilities are. All she hears “is restrictions.” Tammy Yazzie said “we should stick to the agenda and not bring up stuff like this issue that is not related to the agenda.”
- VI. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS:** August 20, 2025 Planning Meeting Minutes. Read by Orlin Skyberg to the public and for the record.
(m) Alexis Wood (s) Rhonda Herbert (v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 – nays. Minutes approved with corrections.
- VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – 5 MINS. (INTRODUCTION)**
 - A.** Gloria Dennison wanted to bring to commission and administration’s attention that some pipelines east of US 491 have a lot of issues with water breaks. The line is too old. The pipeline was installed in 1968. The 2-inch pipe is outdated and needs to be replaced with 2-1/2-inch pipe. She would like the commission to look into this and address. She has another water leak that was just fixed this month. Commission needs to initiate research and get lines upgraded. Every time they fix it, the water flow becomes unstable. Carissa Wood said she got in touch with Wendell Damon. They are aware of it, and there is money set aside for it. She will follow up with him. Gloria Dennison recommended passing another resolution. Carissa Wood will look into sharing some of our chapter monies with NTUA.
 - B.** Mikensie John – John Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health. Ashley Thacker reported that the household water survey project was approved on January 20, 2025. As of

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today, 115 surveys have been completed. They have 3 new team members. The community has been welcoming; however, the weather has slowed them down a bit. Some homes have been difficult to get to, due to mud, locked gates, or people not being home. They're looking for suggestions for community events that they can attend and present information. Reports are being emailed monthly to the chapters.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORTS: Balance Sheet As Of July 31, 2025 and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures from July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025

(m) Rhonda Herbert (s) Tammy Yazzie. Tammy Yazzie asked if the Asaayii Burn Funds' distribution can be expedited. She said she was told we are waiting on the court. Carissa Wood said both funds are on hold due to current litigation, and we are waiting on the final judgement from the Navajo Nation court. It will then be up to the Commission to decide what to do with funds. She follows up at least once a month with the court. Tammy Yazzie asked if the case is against this chapter. Carissa Wood said initially it was against the chapter and certain individuals, but now it's just against the chapter and the Navajo Nation. Tammy Yazzie asked about the fund balances, and Carissa Wood said all the funds are committed to projects. Tammy Yazzie said it might be helpful if there is a chart on the wall to show progress of the projects. Donna Willeto would like a meeting with administration and Commission on the progress of projects and unity. "There is a lot of negativities against the administration and commission." "I would like to suggest Carissa Wood put up a chart to show the accomplishments. If there is a chart, in 4 years, the commission can show their accomplishments." Willis Nez said we can have a strategic meeting next month. Christine Bitsoi said you share the meeting minutes, and you say so and so will look into this, but there isn't an update to the public on how it was resolved. Recently someone was questioning the front office about a funeral, but administration didn't have any information. Why does the community have to pay for copies? If you can't pay for it, maybe you should shut down the chapter.

(v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 – nays. Reports moved to Commission Meeting

IX. ALSTE'E'DAA LEGISLATION: None

X. ANIIDDI LEGISLATION:

A. NAS-25-09-043: APPROVING THE REQUEST FROM THE NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE CENTER VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION'S (NCGCVO) REQUEST TO RECOGNIZE NCGCVO AS A SUB-ORGANIZATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER THE NAVAJO NATION RISK MANAGEMENT

(m) Tammy Yazzie (s) Alexis Wood (v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 - nays. APPROVED TO MOVE TO COMMISSION MEETING

B. NAS-25-09-044: RESOLUTION OF THE NASCHITTI GOVERNANCE CENTER VETERANS' ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING AN ACTION TO THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, THE FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION, AND THE NAVAJO NATION VETERAN ADVISORY COUNCIL, TO SUPPORT AND APPROVE THE PRIORITIZATION OF THE NAVAJO NATION TRUST FUND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FOR VETERANS, SURVIVING SPOUSES, AND GOLD



STAR PARENTS. THAT INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTING REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BE PRESENT OR BE REPRESENTED AT A DULY CALLED MEETING

(m) Alexis Wood (s) Tammy Yazzie (v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 - nays. APPROVED TO MOVE TO COMMISSION MEETING

C. NAS-25-09-045: THE NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE APPROVES TO REQUEST FUNDING UNDER THE NAVAJO TRANSITIONAL ENERGY COMPANY (NTEC) COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND GRANT

(m) Tammy Yazzie (s) Alexis Wood (v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 - nays. APPROVED TO MOVE TO COMMISSION MEETING

D. NAS-25-09-046: AUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING THE NASCHITTI GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE ENFORCEMENT AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT AN INDEFINITE FERAL HORSE, STRAY AND UNCLAIMED LIVESTOCK REMOVAL PROGRAM IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THE NAVAJO RANGELANDS FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE NAVAJO PEOPLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

(m) Tammy Yazzie (s) Alexis Wood (v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 - nays.

Gloria Dennison asked for some numbers to make sure the round-up is being addressed. For the community's understanding, and the intent to reduce livestock, we need to show numbers. Carissa Wood said the surveys and data numbers are done every 5 years. Angie's last roundup numbers were: 39 picked up the first day, 63 the second day, and 44 on the third day. Rhonda Herbert said on #3 and #4 we can try to get updated information from Department of Fish and Wildlife. Lincoln Nez suggested fencing off 2 acres for those without grazing permits, to keep their livestock in. Leroy Livingston said 2 acres will only house 2 sheep. Donna Willatto said a community member said he didn't like the horse round-up because we are taking their livelihood away. She told him it comes from the Navajo Nation and BIA. She asked if the commissioners are in compliance. Willis Nez said community members should attend the Grazing Permittee meetings to present their issues. Lavetta Nez said it's not so much the horses, it's the cows. They rub on houses, eat the stuff in their area, like trees and cardboard. Community members need to be responsible for their livestock. They should be fined if they are not responsible for their livestock. They don't know whose livestock they are but the grazing official should be able to identify the livestock by their brands and ear tags. If the livestock wander, they should be reported to grazing official Leroy Livingston, to bring the livestock back into their area or be fined. We need to preserve this land for future generations. Alexis Wood said that allocation of land would not be agreed on by grazing permittees. Tammy Yazzie said Leroy Livingston took notes and should address the issues at the next grazing meeting. APPROVED TO MOVE TO COMMISSION MEETING

E. NAS-25-09-047: APPROVING THE NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

(m) Tammy Yazzie (s) Alexis Wood (v) – 4 – yeas, - 0 - nays. Tammy Yazzie said we should've discussed this. She was not a part of the discussion and she thinks it is unfair.

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She strongly suggests we continue the same schedule. Discussion at this point is in front of the community. We need to let constituents have a say also. She motions to table the discussion. Christine Bitsoi said all business should be conducted during business hours, from Monday through Friday. She misses the Sunday commission meetings because she goes to church and spends time with family. If someone has a job, all they have to do is take leave. Gloria Dennison asked what the Ordinance says. It should remain as is until it is approved by DOJ. Tammy Yazzie said at one time Willis Nez said he would send out a survey but it has not been done. Rhonda Herbert read section 3.10 of the Ordinance. Donna Willatto said we all have texts or emails and it should've been sent out. We are airing our dirty laundry in this meeting. Lincoln Nez said the Ordinance says the Commission can amend the rules. And then bring it before the community. Orlin Skyberg said for the next 2 months, surveys can be left at the front desk for completion by community members. Rhonda Herbert said she could pass some out at the health fair.

Resolution Tabled (m) Tammy Yazzie (s) Rhonda Herbert (v) -4- yeas, -0- nays

F. NAS-25-09-048: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS: DONNA WILLATTO, CHRISTINE BITSOI, LINCOLN NEZ, PAULINE THOMAS AND LORENIA WATCHMAN TO THE COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLUP-C)

(m) Rhonda Herbert (s) Orlin Skyberg (v) – 3 – yeas, - 0 - nays.

Christine Bitsoi asked if we are still getting Casey Begay for technical assistance. Rhonda Herbert said she can contact him. A discussion was held on the land withdrawal issues and whose responsibility it is, recertification of CLUPC and homesite leases.

APPROVED TO MOVE TO COMMISSION MEETING

G. NAS-25-09-049: APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE FT. DEFIANCE AGENCY, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) ROADS DEPARTMENT AND NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE WHICH WILL ALLOW THE NASCHITTI GOVERNANCE CENTER TO ASSIST WITH ROAD MAINTENANCE ON BIA BUS ROUTES LOCATED WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE NASCHITTI COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES

(m) Alexis Wood (s) Orlin Skyberg (v) – 3 – yeas, - 0 - nays.

Rhonda Herbert said we are waiting for BIA Roads Department to sign their section of the MOA. Willis Nez asked for 'Ft Defiance Agency' to be added to the MOA agreement sections. Christine Bitsoi said to add 'crossing' after low in #6.

APPROVED TO MOVE TO COMMISSION MEETING WITH CHANGES

H. NAS-25-09-050: NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COMMISSION IS REQUESTING THE NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE SEWING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR SEWING DEMONSTRATIONS

(m) Alexis Wood (s) Orlin Skyberg (v) – 3 – yeas, - 0 - nays. Lavetta Nez said we should contact outside resources for materials and ideas on business and commercial development. Alexis Wood addressed the issue of lack of land for commercial development. Rhonda Herbert called Point of Order on this discussion.

I. NAS-25-09-051: NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE HEREBY SUPPORTS THE NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE CENTER'S VETERANS ORGANIZATION

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(m) Orlin Skyberg (s) Alexis Wood (v) – 3 – yeas, - 0 - nays. APPROVED TO MOVE TO COMMISSION MEETING

XI. REPORTS:

A. Chapter Manager: Carissa Wood

B. Commissioners: Willis Nez, Rhonda Herbert, Orlin Skyberg, Alexis Wood, Tammy Yazzie. Reports attached

C. District 14 Council Delegate: Nathan Notah - not present

LDA: Casey Begay – not present

Sonny Moore – The national unemployment rate is high. The Navajo Nation President and Council are playing tit-for-tat. When the President vetoes a Resolution, the Council cannot override it. There will be a DCD meeting Thursday in Window Rock for projects. He went over the transfer of funds process. He is still encouraging other chapters to attend Naschitti Community Governance's financial monitoring meetings. He provided information on how other chapters run their meetings. On Wednesday, Coyote Canyon Chapter invited Leonard Harvey to speak on projects, and suggested someone from NCG attend. He asked NMDOT to provide updates on US 491. He also suggested that we put tables and chairs in a circle, rather than have commissioners sit up front.

D. Grazing Official: Leroy Livingston – he had a horse round-up for 2 days. He will work on getting 3 more days for round-up. Some of the horses who were picked up, were taken back. There was one aggressive community member who had 2 horses picked up. The horses were released back to him. There is a Feral Equine Reward program that will pay \$50 - \$200 for unbranded feral horses. Dean Gamble asked for information on residents with an RMU. Fish and Wildlife asked if the fencing up in the mountains should be taken down. He will ask for votes at the next NCG grazing meeting, on this.

E. Ch'ooshgai Community School Board Member: Willis Nez - Report attached

F. Community Health Representative (CHR): Brianna Johnson – no report

G. Senior Center Manager: Orlynda Dennison – no report

H. Naschitti Veterans Organization: Commander Richard Notah – no report

I. CLUPC: Their next meeting will be on October 7, 2025 where they will select officers.

J. Community member: Christine Bitsoi asked the commissioners to pass a resolution regarding the rangers. About a week and half ago, there was a cow with her herd so she corralled it but it got out. She's been trying to get rid of it. Her cows come home on their own. They went way over by the mountain, and she chased them home. But a heifer calf was missing. Someone sent her a FB message about a heifer for sale. Rangers were called but they didn't show up. To this day, they still have not showed up. She thinks it's people in our community who are taking livestock. There was a publication that money would be paid for unbranded livestock. Delegate Notah said he was working on the package she gave him. This resolution would be to ask the Rangers to show up when called. Rhonda Herbert said the Resolution would need to come from the NCG grazing meeting and the NCG commission would support it. Sonny

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Moore said it would hold more weight to take it to District 14 grazing committee meeting. Donna Willatto said to write a letter to the Department of AG because they follow a chain of command. Sonny Moore asked Leroy Livingston to write a letter to Mike Halona.

K. Marianne Benally – San Juan County Clerk’s Office. Presented on the 3 ways to vote and early voting.

(m) Rhonda Herbert (s) Alexis Wood (v) - 3 – yeas, - 0 – nay. Reports accepted and will be moved to the Commission Meeting

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. **NCG Health Fair:** September 25, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

B. **NCG Commission Meeting:** September 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

C. **District 14 Grazing Permittee Meeting:** October 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

D. **District 14 Council Meeting:** October 6, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Twin Lakes Chapter

E. **NCG CLUPC Meeting:** October 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

F. **NCG Veterans Organization Meeting:** October 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.


G. **Ft. Defiance Agency Meeting:** October 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Naschitti Elementary School

H. **NCG Grazing Permittee Meeting:** October 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: 2:58 p.m.

(m) Rhonda Herbert (s) Alexis Wood (v) – 3 – yeas, - 0 – nays

Submitted by:


Orlin Skyberg

Commission Secretary/Treasurer