



Navajo Nation UPPER FRUITLAND CHAPTER

Lisa Marie Byrd, Chapter President
Robert Allen, Chapter Vice-President
Keleigh Lee, Chapter Secretary-Treasurer
Ray Jim Jr., Grazing Representative
Albert Lee, Farm Board Representative
Rickie Nez, Council Delegate

REGULAR CHAPTER MEETING AGENDA September 11, 2025 5:17 P.M.

- 1) **Call to Order** at 5:17 PM Lisa Byrd – President, Robert Allen- Vice President, Keleigh Lee - Secretary/Treasurer, Ray Jim – Grazing Representative, Council Delegate- Rickie Nez
Absent: Albert Lee - Farm Board Representative
- 2) **Invocation** Madame Lisa Byrd
- 3) **Review and Adopt the Agenda** Motion by Margaret Johnson, seconded by Christine Kee. Discussion as follows. Madame Lisa Bryd made correction to delete item B. and move item C-F up. Robert Allen requested to add 2 resolutions (Budget Transfer and Chapter Stipend Fund) under item e. Chapter Stipend and f. Land Claims Trust Fund. Stated the Rules to Order. Motion for the amendment agenda Margaret Johnson and Regina Keeswood. Vote 18 in favor, 00 opposed, 02 abstain; motion passes (a vote for the changes in the agenda). Vote 25 in favor, 02 opposed, 02 abstain; motion passes
- 4) **Review and Adopt Chapter Meeting Minutes held August 20, 2025** Motion Minutes by Christine Kee (minutes have been posted and printed out to community members), seconded by Janet Pinto. Discussion as follows. No questions. Vote 22 in favor, 00 opposed, 03 abstain; motion passes
- 5) **Old Business**
 - a) None
- 6) **New Business**
 - a) Accepts and Approves the Monthly Financial Reports (Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and the Budget to Actual) for the Month of August 2025 with attachment A & B & C. *** These (A, B, and C attachments were read on a projector for the community to see. Community members also have hard printed out copies of the Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues. Balance Sheet and Budget to Detail were combined. ***



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**August 2025 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures- (Attachment B) from 08/01/2025
through 08/31/2025**

Rental - Meeting Hall/Chairs/Table	\$1,875.00
Rental – Heavy Equipment	\$50.00
Total Revenue	\$1,925.00
August 2025 Expenses:	
Total Personnel Expenses	\$ 22,063.12
Total Travel Expenses	\$ 417.04
Total Operational Supplies	\$ 2,511.10
Total Communication and Utilities	\$ 2,076.34
Total Repair & Maintenance	\$ 522.43
Total Contractual expenses	\$ 4,888.26
Total Capitalized Expenses	\$ 921.71
Total Expenditures	\$ 33,800.00
Revenues over Expenditures	\$31,875.00

August 2025 Budget to Actual (Attachment C) 10/02/2024 through 08/31/2025
Total Budget to Actual: \$973,822.15

August 2025 Balance Sheet (Attachment A) as of 08/31/2025

- Chapter Activities- Fund 01 = \$25,019.97
- Navajo Nation- Fund 02 = \$186,705.74
- Land Claims Trust- Fund 03 = \$8,398.41
- Supplemental Youth- Fund 08 = \$953.31
- Housing Discretionary- Fund 09 = \$34,001.00
- LGA Grant- Fund 10 = \$36,357.40
- Chapter Stipend- Fund 12 = \$7,054.65
- Scholarship General- Fund 13 = \$8,026.00
- Scholarship Claims- Fund 14 = \$2,415.00
- PEP- Fund 15 = \$65,326.68
- Veterans- Fund 16 = \$8,034.16
- Emergency- Fund 17 = \$50,581.40
- County- Fund 20 = \$4,516.00



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- Chapter Repair and Maintenance- Fund 21 = \$33,847.94
- NN Sales Tax- Fund 23 = \$219,057.74
- NN 200,000 CIP- Fund 27 = \$20,963.26
- Chapter Projects- Fund 28 = \$98,288.76
- LGA Trust- Fund 29 = \$5,836.47
- Agricultural Infrastructure- Fund 34 = \$1.95
- Unhealthy Food Tax- Fund 40 = \$85,722.14
- Senior Center Building Construction Project- Fund 50 = \$53,458.59
- Rodeo Donations- Fund 51 = \$15,806.58
- NTEC Donations- Fund 53 = \$3,449.00
- General Fixed Assets- Fund 80 = 2,590,289.81

TOTAL = \$3,564,111.96

Motion by Herbert Willie, seconded by Christine Kee Discussion as follows. No question nor discussions. Vote 23 in favor, 00 opposed, 04 abstain: motion passes **Resolution FRUI FY25-09-492**

- b) Request for Budget Transfer; LGA Grant Funds. Motion by Herbert Willie, seconded by Christine Kee Discussion as follows. No question nor discussions. Vote 19 in favor, 00 opposed, 03 abstain: motion passes **Resolution FRUI FY25-09-493**
- c) Approves the necessity to update the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department “Business Tax Registration” Application. Motion by Christine Kee, seconded by Margaret Johnson Discussion as follows. No question nor discussions. Vote 24 in favor, 00 opposed, 03 abstain: motion passes **Resolution FRUI FY25-09-494**
- d) Authorizes and Approves the Consolidation of the Upper Fruitland Senior Center Building Construction Project Funds maintained in Citizens Bank with the Chapter’s Primary checking account, effective immediately. Gertrude Bedonie had a comment stating the balances just for justification. Motion by Herbert Willie, seconded by Margaret Johnson Discussion as follows. No question nor discussions. Vote 18 in favor, 00 opposed, 03 abstain: motion passes **Resolution FRUI FY25-09-495**
- e) Chapter Stipend Fund Transfer Request: Motion by Herbert Willie, seconded by Kristine Kee Discussion as follows. No question nor discussions. Regina Keeswood asked where the emergency and special meeting held at. Madame Lisa Byrd replied that both the emergency meeting and special meeting are held in Upper Fruitland Meeting Hall. Regina Keeswood had a



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follow up question on how much do the emergency and special stipends are. Madame Lisa Byrd replied on how much the meeting are. Gertrude Bedonie asked if official volunteer their time. Official volunteer their time at other meetings and other community service that do not include stipends. Council Delegate Rickie Nez explained why the chapter officials' stipends are the amount and they can only change through Legislative. Rickie Nez asked if the Gammig Department can be invited to explain the Budgets and where the money is coming from and going. (1.01.05). Vote 23 in favor, 00 opposed, 05 abstain: motion passes **Resolution FRUI FY25-09-496**

- f) Land Claim Trust Fund Transfer Request. Motion by Herbert Willie, seconded by Janet Pinto Discussion as follows. No question nor discussions. Vote 24 in favor, 00 opposed, 05 abstain: motion passes **Resolution FRUI FY25-09-497**

7) Introduction, Presentation or Recognition of Guests

- a) Arlenta Horse-Dickie colleague: Maryanne Benally; Election information for the 2025 Regular Local Election. Present that the community will be voting for. 2025 Regular Local Election 3 ways to Vote: 1. Absentee 2. Early Voting 3. Election Day. Voting date held Tuesday, November 4, 2025 from 7am-7pm. Voting locations Bloomfield Municipal School District, Central Consolidated School District, Farmington Municipal School District, San Juan Soil and water Conservation District. Community member asked: When they go to vote are they requesting a PO BOX or physical address. Replied with physical address. Asked where you can get a physical address replied you can call the county office or use google maps. Asked if they can use the physical address for the state license. M. Benally replied yes you can for a I.D. Voting date is November 4th 2025 from 7am-8pm at Nenahnezad Chapter and/or anywhere in San Juan County.
- b) Lionel Haskie; Napi. Update on the Upper Fruitland irrigation canal. Asked if community members can take the dirt. Mr.Haskie replied yes, they can but hold off on the dirt till after they are finish with their project. Madame Lisa Byrd said the Chapter will post it at the Chapter House and Senior Center to let community members know.
- c) Juan Water Users Association: Rob Atcitty and Dan Smith with the water user's association introduced themselves in English and Navajo. They came to inform the community that the San Juan Water User's Association is back together and is back working on farm and irrigation



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projects from Upper Fruitland to Gadihii. The association indicated that there are 880 farms on along the San Juan River on the Navajo Nation side. They are planning to work with farming chapters to try and resolve some of the issues that are happening to the Navajo farmers along the San Juan River. Dan Smith a farmer from Shiprock, New Mexico and serves as the Vice President of the San Juan River Dineh Water User's and would like to speak on behalf of the issues. He informed that the Shiprock Irrigation is support to be the ones in charge of the upkeep and maintenance of the irrigation system, but sue to the them being shorthanded and not possessing any supply back stock it is virtually impossible for them to get all the community irrigations repaired. The irrigation is in charge from the canal to the farm; most issues are at the farms. And when they heard about the break in the line at NAPI our President Arnold Nelson asked us to jump in and lend a hand to help the Upper Fruitland farmers. What they want to remind everyone is that the farmers are their customers. Due to a tri party agreement, they are allowed by law to conduct a community needs survey. And that we need to take a step back and look at all responsible parties. They asked for the community not to point fingers and blame but to work together to solve this issue. We need to contact the Governor and State Representatives and Congress People. The State has a lot of money from oil and gas that the Indian affairs collects and we need to ask for some of that money. The number goal for us is to use that water and are very blessed to have it so we need to use it. Younger people are not looking to farm anymore it is expensive and farm equipment and feed and supplies are too expensive now. How do we bring back the young farmers? Our association has received money from the Sihasin fund and some from the state but again the prices of supplies prices are high. They are working with NAPI and Water Management but the equipment that need to be replaced and that costs money. We just all need to work all together and we can get more done. With everyone's crew's working together we can get a lot done. Madame President Lisa Byrd requested that a member of the Upper Fruitland farmers be on the San Juan Dineh Water Usaer's Association. Dan Smith responded that yes just need a resolution to nominate a representative for Upper Fruitland. Community member #1 Asked why the chapter is not cleaning the canals anymore? President Lisa Byrd responded that years before the chapter did initiate their PEP temporary workers to get the canals clean but since it is the responsibility of the Shiprock Irrigation department and of the



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farmers which agreed to in their LUP's Land Use Plans to be responsible for. President Byrd answered that this year the chapter focused their PEP temporary workers focused on our residential addressing project, which is almost complete in Upper Fruitland. Next year depending if we do not have any major projects then we may focus the PEP workers on the canals again. Regina Keeswood asked if she could ask Delegate Rickie Nez the question of why the money is so hard to get from Window Rock and why is it such a problem. Delegate Rickie Nez answered that he will answer that during his report time. Shiprock Irrigation Responsibilities, Farmer's Responsibility, and Valve Safety. OM&R Assessment Fees; SJRDWUI collects an annual fee of \$3 an acre from Land Use Permit Holders or SJRDWUI members to pay for the Operation, Materials and Rehabilitation (OM&R) of the irrigation systems. The Funding is to benefit local farmers by paying for Filed and Office Labor, Materials, and Equipment (insurance). Projects: SJRDWUI are currently working on four projects that improve the San Juan River Navajo Irrigation Projects and surrounding areas. The projects, funded by Local, Navajo Natin, Federal Agencies. 1. Shiprock Lateral Water Conversion- Phase 1 Salinity Control. 2. Farmers Work Order. 3. Solar-Powered Flow Meters. 4. Fruitland Canal Conversion: Location is of N 367 Road (between Upper Fruitland and Nenahnezad). Question concerning community are welcome to attend the San Juan River Dineh Water Users meetings. Meeting Schedule will be posted at the Chapter House and Senior Center. Next Meeting is October 14, 2025. (only meet once a month every second Tuesday of each month)

- d) Joseph Hernadez, Serving for House District 4. New Mexico State Representative Joseph Hernandez thanked and introduced himself in Navajo and English. He explained that he is House District 4 and Fruitland in neat because it has two state representatives and he apologizes that he is not able to show up regularly but he keeps tabs on the chapter. He works out of Farmington, New Mexico. HE wanted to thank Delegate Curley because she put in the legislation to pay the New Mexico representatives. We completed our 60-day legislative session in March 2025, and was appointed to two committees and those are the Transportation Committee and the House Appropriations and House committee. The state did set aside monies for the New Mexico Governor's water plan act. Joseph represents 9 communities, the town of Kirtland and City of Farmington and 6 chapters. Senator Marc Duncan and Joseph sponsored legislation for funds to



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build the Shiprock Command Center and a Behavioral Health Center. He sponsored legislation to support Navajo Prep for funds for their school. Next January we are expecting 400 million more dollars and he wants to work with all of his communities to support them with state funds. The budget for the state is starting in July and the budget is 10.8 Billion, and the Governor asks this what the state could do to better the state and he said support the Navajo Nation, and the most important is training on project management for Navajo Nation chapters, officials and delegates.

8) Reports

- a) Council Delegate, Rickie Nez, went over what Chapter Officials duties are. Explained Strategic Planning Session, Identify Projects, Prioritize the Communities concerns.
- b) Chapter President, Lisa Marie Byrd; reported Upper Fruitland Chapter passed the Audit. Recently rewarded scholarship for students. Donation for Ojo Amarilla pageant contact Lisa Sherman.
- c) Chapter Vice President, Robert Allen
- d) Chapter Grazing Representative, Ray Jim Jr. Sept, 3rd 2025 grazing meeting covered tally count. Turning in tally books at September 30th 2025. Issues about cattle being stolen. Meeting for those that do not have a homesite lease taking 8 people first to progress. Those that have a house on the site not for those that do not have a house.
- e) Chapter Farm Board Representative, Albert Lee
- f) CLUP-C- Meeting for 2 applicant that will be filled on October 11th 2025. Will have a reelection for president and vice president soon.
- g) Community Health Representative, Priscilla Yellowman. Update on the Razor Blade COVID. A New Covid-19 Variant is increasing through airports. CHR is doing a SWEEP in the community to add elders to the elders list or to take off those who are no longer living in the community, in the nursing home, deceased and etc, CHR will be going home to home for the next few weeks. Age ranging September 17, 2025 and September 18, 2025 CHR will be in Window Rock for the 5th Annual COPE Cancer Survivorship Conference at the Navajo Nation Museum Window Rock, AZ.
- h) Veterans, Tasha Evans

9) Announcements

- a) See Calendar Attachment for October 2025.

10) Next Chapter Meeting: Thursday, October 09, 2025 at 5:00 P.M, In Person



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11) Adjournment 8:49PM Motion by Melissa Nez, seconded by Margaret Johnson; Vote 19 in Favor, 00

Opposed, 01 Abstain; Motion Passes

Chapter Meeting Minutes submitted September 16, 2025 by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keleigh".

Keleigh Lee, Secretary/ Treasurer