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President

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Member

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Eastern Navajo Land Board

VIRTUAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES (COVID-19 Emergency)

TRIBAL OFFICE TELECONFERENCE CALL

Thursday, October 7, 2021 @ 9:00 am

- I. Meeting Call to Order. Meeting call to order at 9:14 am by President Jose. Officials present: President Jose, Vice President Martinez, Secretary/Treasurer Begay, Land Board Member Rodger Martinez, call-in by Jamie Henio, Council Delegate. Quorum established. 36 total participants either by phone or Google meet.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance. (N/A)
- III. Invocation. Gilbert Maria, Pastor
- IV. Sergeant at Arms. (Effective 6Jul21 Resolution CJN-36-21)
- V. Reviewing and Approving of Meeting Agenda: President Jose read out the agenda.
Motion made by Chancey Martinez, second by Dixie Begay to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Addition to the agenda by Brenda Yazzie, CSC. Proposing to approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 "General Fund, Special, Revenue Fund-Internal". Budget in the amount of 272,149.00. This Resolution No. 102104, motioning party agree to the addition. Vote: Approve 8, Oppose 0, Abstain 0. Agenda adopted.
- VI. Review of MINUTES: Virtual RNC Regular Meeting on September 16, 2021 – Move to Regular Meeting.
The minutes of today October 07, 2021 Virtual Planning Meeting minutes will be included for approval at the Regular Chapter Meeting.
- VII. Finance Report: (Written Report Only for Review) Move to Regular Meeting.
 1. Dixie M. Begay, Secretary/Treasurer – Navajo Nation and Chapter General Funds Report.
 2. RNC OG & C -Combined Funds Balance Sheet, Investment Account Balances Report
 3. RNUA – Balance Sheet Quarterly Rep 30Jun21. Ward Hunter, Manager/RNUA.**As a reminder all reports in written form, 638 OG&C and RNUA quarterly reports and all investment account balance.**
- VIII. Condolence Resolution:(If any - otherwise N/A)
- IX. Introduction of Guests and/or Presenters:
 1. Guy Archambeau, Grants Cibola County School Board, representing District 5 which includes Ramah Navajo and Acoma areas. He wishes to send out his condolences to all families whose has experience a loss of their loved ones due to COVID 19. All Tribal offices are close all communication through virtual meetings with County schools this made it difficult for families and students' interaction. The purpose today is to provide highlights of School District. They have new staff member Tasia Martinez. Due to COVID 19 all of Acoma, Laguna tribes were close due to pandemic. Did a full remote class with student from home through internet. The outlining area no internet connection was provided which effected the students learning lost to students, this has been difficult. Classes continue at home with teachers working with children and had hybrid class as well allowing students came in for classes.

School District made sure school buildings are safe and having necessary equipment and supplies for cleaning. Cleaning of all school buildings and this year students coming to class they will follow PPE guidelines, mask required for all students and be vaccinated, all buses are running throughout the County, new year with new programs, staff, and technology are in place. They have improved learning for all Native American. Max Martinez, Superintendent started a strong academic program for K-12th grades, the Board expect to start for 696 Native students out of 3,187 students. The county has 40% of Native American students and other are Hispanic and Anglo students. We are feeling the effects of COVID 19 still moving forward right now in different way and continue to be safe going into the future. The School District graduated 28 Native American students as previous years. The county received more funds to assist students that are having problems improving measures being taken with new curriculum and staff hired to do this. Tasia Martinez new employee hired her previous job she worked 10 years for District Court for Native American communities in areas of social and mental health. She will emphasize social and cultural awareness and healing process for Native communities to the school staff. CLRE process will be forthcoming. She will be assisting Navajo students and families as well as facilitate for Pueblo students to empower the families. They will be back to present additional information as well as November election and bond information at Ramah Chapter Regular Meeting.

X. Reports:(Limited to Elected Officials Preferred)

1. Chapter Officials: President Jose, reports the process right now is construction of fiber optic extended from junction S.R. 53 and BIA Rt. 125. Running the fiber from Mountain View community to Pine Hill underground 2-3 feet. Still need additional dollars for connectivity from village or town of Ramah. Vice President Martinez, Navajo Nation are not definite on who will take up the projects. He was in attendance a meeting held in Pine Hill on the updates on ARPA project applications. In the meantime, here in the community we will do what we can in developing the application and budget forms and include the 10 % contingency plan. Once we complete the applications, Council Delegate Henio will take the documents in for Ramah, Alamo and Tohajiilee are working on their packages we are ready and all entities are doing a good job, continue to work together move them forward. Please take care of yourself and your families. Secretary/Treasurer Begay will report at regular chapter meeting.
2. Rodger Martinez, ENA, Land Board Member- Assisting Eastern Navajo Agency on amending Tri-Agency agreement which has been long overdue. The agreement between BLM, NN and BIA on land use and activities was presented to NN Resource & Development Committee, the committee agree. There have been many complaints, so these issues were considered as part of the updates within the agreement. Eastern Navajo Agency is in checkerboard area with BLM and one of the concerns was having horse roundup on BLM land as well as land use agreement with individuals here in Ramah. The agreement once signed will affect our community here in Ramah, we have BLM land east of reservation. Hopefully the agreement will be signed by December 2022, right now waiting on BLM representative for their signature, six years ago they didn't sign. Here in the Ramah Navajo Community, we are still experiencing the drought condition, no foliage although we had recent rain. Due to drought the trees are dying from bug infestation. These dead trees can be cut down and let it dry and can be use as firewood. It has also been reported someone is cutting down Pinetree hauling them out of the area. Permits for hauling wood is still required, Natural Resource program provide these permits. Once trees are cut down it takes about 50 years to grow back. Back in 1984 – 1987 Late Jerry Pino Sr. and Frank E. Paul work in replanting of trees, plans for our future generation. Home site lease is part of the Community Land Use Plan revision, this document is near completion by the committee. The Plan of Operation and Land Management Plans for White Ranch, Nicoll Ranch, Bond Ranch are near completion by contractors. Next CLUP committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021, virtual meeting. He has been assisting the committee once this is approved, he will work according to the Plan. From October 9th hunting season opens be aware of your surrounding areas for hunters and report any illegal activities. President Jose stated that Ramah is growing we would like to purchase more land. Do not be hauling wood out of the Ramah area, use the area designated by Natural Resource for hauling wood.

3. Jamie Henio, Council Delegate; Attending another meeting in Window Rock, Arizona, he will call in to give his report later throughout the meeting. ARPA project application is moving forward. Alamo, Tohajilee, Ramah get them in and DCD Dr. Yellowman to provide a report and go forward on this. Water infrastructure and electrical project to be included. Now going over the NN Drought Insurance with Navajo Department of Agriculture and Navajo Nation Resource Development Committee.
4. Navajo Nation Division of Community Development - DCD/ASC Staff; Dr. Yellowman reported on Department of Agriculture assistance with livestock feed/grain to community. The Chapters submitting a supporting resolution these will be accepted. Navajo Nation Director of Agriculture and Natural Resource were invited to the ASC meetings to present reports on the Livestock Feeding program so that can be shared with the Chapters. Last week work with CJN-36-21 went to NN Council chapter meeting on quorum into extension 2021 for 180 days as sponsored by Delegate Slater, amending the Legislation due to pandemic it has been extended on virtual chapter meetings. Extension on Heavy Equipment CJA-01-21, extension on close out by Chapter Administration with the assistance from Elmer Johnson. There were 300 pieces of heavy equipment purchased within nine months. A few more pieces to be purchase they will be closing out the Legislation on heavy equipment. Now, they are working with ARPA funds this week. DCD staff are working with Navajo Nation President, Vice President office to seek additional funds outside of 1.8 billion. BIA provided 3.5 million for potable water to assist the 110 chapters. Ramah Chapter was the first to get water other chapters will be receiving their water. Special duty pays as of yesterday they provided 130 names to Office of Controller the 125 were paid out. Chapter staff received their special duty pay at 95% done. Division staff, Police Department, CHR, Chapter Officials that were working during the pandemic received the special duty pay. New Legislation sponsored by Delegate Walker, Eugene Tso and Speaker Damon on the chapter emergency funds, chapters need to submit their documents to FEMA money spend during the pandemic/ COVID 19. Document of funds that maybe eligible to go to Navajo Nation such as Chapter fuel use, firewood, water outages, chapter to replenish these emergency funds, chapters to work with Guarena Adeky on FEMA reports on weather related monsoon relieved on DCD/NNDOT/CHR website. Lastly ARPA Legislation 41-21 deadline made to Executive Branch to establish an ARPA office by Executive Order by NN President to have the office located NN Department of Transportation to house the working group; 1. Division Directors working Group, 2. ARPA Support Working Group on fiscal matters, 3. Regulatory Review Working Group one stop shop with NN Resource Development Committee to review all regulations, and 4. Infrastructure Delivery Working Group to oversee the projects, feasibility and completion of projects. A Leadership meeting next Friday will be on reimbursement to COVID 19 to the Nation through ARPA. Secondly prepare all powerline, Broadband, expenditure on water, bathroom addition and housing. Reports on projects from all Chapters were submitted in the portal, in May and June the questions were asked where are these projects at? Vent plans to review all projects are complete 580 projects submitted; this will include the expenditure one report next week. Another project expenditure report two and three, these are under expenditure report for Leadership review. The invitation to in person meeting she can schedule that in as well as report to RNSB/ED Mr. Nez, wrap that up and take care of that. Guarena Adeky, reports she is still working with administrative staff in finalizing proposed 2022 budget. A resolution to be introduce at the Chapter regular meeting agenda will also be looking at the carry-over funds and close out. Underwriter summary has been submitted. Assist with ARPA application and prepare the budget forms, working with Debbie and Gilbert with 638 Community Development office. Chancey Martinez, VP ask Dr. Yellowman when she is available for the in-person meeting, with RNSB and Chapter. She is in contact with Darnell Maria no meeting dates proposed. Dr. Yellowman announce next week they will be meeting on expenditure report with administration and Council Fall Session begins next week. President Jose would like to meet with RNSB, RNUA, Chapter Officials and 638 program on assistance on ARPA to streamline all projects. Dr. Yellowman agreed with the idea, and she will bring other colleagues that can assist. The 21st or 22nd of October is open. Darnell Maria will work with RNSB, RNUA, Chapter and 638 program to set up a meeting date. He would like Dr. Pearl Yellowman to submit some dates. President Jose request to have Damell to work on the date of meeting and proceed with an agenda so we can move forward on this. Rodger Martinez, Land Board Member/ENA ask on the 4 million given to DCD to work with chapters on livestock feed purchase. NN Resource Committee gave this to DCD to work with chapters on this. Where is this at? It has been reported that the 50/50 has been implemented, this is used only if funds are coming out of NN General Funds. The 4 million is coming out of Drought Insurance through

Department of Agriculture to benefit the Livestock Owners. The 50/50 will assist everyone in the community and will become a problem. This should be taken care of As Soon As Possible so purchase can be done, right now the feed is being sold and going fast. Need an update on this.

Brenda Yazzie, CSC, Progress updates for the following subject matters & Completion Rate/Project:

- a. Resolution 092103 Reallocation of Expenditures among NN and Chapter Gen Accounts?
- b. Revenue and expenditure report of all Chapter General Operating Fund Accounts?
- c. Settlement Budget Expenditure Ending 31Oct21?
- d. CAP in response to follow up review #2 by OAG?
- e. Ramah Navajo Community Cemetery?
- f. American Rescue Plan Projects?
- g. Resolution 052002 Budget Transfer of \$10,000 for Mt. View Well?
- h. Housing Discretionary projects?
- i. Chapter Renovation project?
- j. Bathroom Addition Projects?
- k. Resolution No. 122001 Virango LLC Unit 5 Tower?
- l. Hay delivery?

Brenda Yazzie, CSC will report updates at the regular chapter meeting. She received the agenda just before the meeting today. Darnell Maria, ED recommended to CSC to provide an update on the listed items, these items are always listed on previous agenda at every meeting. Provide updates only.

5. Ramah Navajo Chapter - Office of Grants & Contracts: Darnell Maria, ED/638 programs stated to follow Navajo Nation protocols for ARPA funds. Fiber Optic construction ongoing. Navajo Nation Court Administrator is still working on the District Court building and sub-station as well as housing units. Grazing permits to add amendments and pending. Annual Funding Agreements have been submitted, no response at this time. The Law Enforcement budget came out less, so they resubmitted the budget and waiting on the change as requested. IDC percentage in 2021 was at a certain rate and this year 2022 we don't know. Property & Procurement program will provide a report at the Chapter Regular Chapter meeting.
6. Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. Maxine Coho, President/RNSB reported on yesterday Special RNSB meeting hired a new Superintendent David Nez, his contract as Executive Director ends December 17, 2021, following this date he will be in the Superintendent position. In the meantime, the Executive Director position will be advertised. As far as classes virtual and hybrid are still being used. Lacking a few teachers and student enrollment is at 341 and continue to increase. Need teachers, substitute teachers, contact Human Resource (HR) office if interested in these positions. With first and fifth grade classes they each have more than 30 students, these classes need to be divided up to meet teacher/student ratio. As announced the electric will be shut off to replace a pole, the school will remain open, but pine hill community will be shut down. Lucinda Pino commented on Human Resource staff do not respond when individuals go through their office. Maxine will contact the HR staff on the comments, the Board has received other concerns with HR. Martha Garcia, RNSB reported on this month's education meeting only on October 4, 2021. As of today, the student enrollment is at 341 an increase from last year the enrollment was at 332, enrollment remains open. Each classroom are allowed 12-15 students, students with 36-37 are separated into 2 groups to meet the teacher/student ratio. Students are either virtual or hybrid, they are switched between two days alternating. Seventeen students can continue virtual or hybrid on weekly basis four days. On Friday additional assistance for students on campus. The School Board approved re-entry plan for students. Reauthorization approved by Navajo Nation for one year. The school staff continue to work in preparation for March 2022 reauthorization plan. Student resting are given on annual basis, improvements to meet the requirements. All staff and substitute staff were given the program improvements, teacher observed to identify the weakness and strong points given, work session provided to Board members, parents, and students on school information. All protocols given as part of orientation in emergency if it occurs. Teacher vacancy still exists as well as Teacher aide. Need Math teacher for upper class, Kindergarten lower class, need counselor, librarian, parent involvement coordinator. At the October 6, 2021, meeting virtual interviews conducted for three of the four applicants for the Superintendent position. Point system was used to evaluate each applicant this individual will start December 2021. David Nez was selected; the Executive Director position will be advertised for applicants.

David Nez, ED made an overview of his past educational and job background. With is extensive educational background he applied for the Superintendent positions. With this position as Superintendent, he will work with parents and students in Navajo language, culture, and improvement in education for students. Improvements in reading, writing, math and required classes to graduate and work going forward to meet their goals. Prepare the students to go into higher education, Armed Forces, or jobs. He will work on School Improvement Plans. He will work with parents providing communication through KTDB radio station to encourage parental involvement to develop a strong communication and provide other school requirements. Provide student scores assist students to improve and have a plan. Other, the school electrical problem along with price quotes etc. to develop and forward to DCD, Council Delegate and CSC, this document will be ready Friday. Fiber Optic construction to Pine Hill and additional emergency funds will be sought to provide internet service to home in Unit 5-south of Pine Hill, the deadline date to submit the application is October 15, 2021. He expresses his thank you to the Clinic staff for their assistance during Pandemic, position filled and funding sources. Work continues the school audit. A meeting on October 14, 2021, will discuss the gym construction and school building renovation which has been pending due to pandemic. He will contact BIA/DFMC to begin the talk on gym, school building constructions. We are behind on designing etc. this has been in the plans.

William Becker, PHHC reported we have low numbers and test down by 20%, new cases are due to travel out of state. Children coming out positive between the ages of 5-11. Pfizer to be approve by next month. Booster shots for immunocompromised individuals; hearth condition, diabetes, living in rural area. Moderna shots for individuals over 18-year-olds and Pfizer for those over the age of 16. Flu shots are given to those over 65 years old, once the Nurse Practitioner comes on board, he/she will go out in the community with CHR to give flu shots. A schedule is posted in social media for COVID 19 shots, booster shots and flu shots. The clinic has enough supplies of vaccine. The supplies and goods across US, transportation half of truck drivers are not available. Ports have back up to receive supplies Cost will increase into 2022. The new vaccine in capsule, antiviral vaccine cuts the severity of infection, shorten the viral condition and cuts death rate at higher rate. Once release they will have the vaccine, another booster shot every year. Chancey Martinez ask if flu shots are being given? Mr. Becker, everyday flu shots are given and will begin home visits giving flu shots once the Nurse Practitioner joins the group. President Jose, Congratulations to David Nez from the Officials and community and Thank You for all that you have done and continuing your commitment to our community, working with Mr. Becker and Alvin Raphaelito. Beverly Coho provided information that the present Acting Superintendent will continue to work up to December 2021. Out of 43 class A school Pine Hill was number 3 in excellence in education and athletics despite the pandemic.

7. Ramah Navajo Agency – No report.
8. Ramah Judicial District Court – No report.
9. Chapter Standing Committees, Commissions, Boards. No reports.
10. County Commissioner, Martha Garcia reported on Ramah Precinct, two more precinct was added. She asks why this was done without communicating this with the chapter. The response was to continue at RNC and one added precinct in Ramah area. Most of the people at Precinct 5, Ramah includes Timber Lake through Pine Meadows for Precinct 5. The county stated that there are 750 voters in the new precinct, how they came up with the numbers is counting homes from aerial view and base on census count as well. Resolution was approved but pending are map with numbers in Pine Meadow, Timber Lake, aerial picture. No information on count of people in each home. There is still a concern. President Jose stated that at the last meeting a report was given by the County. Using Census numbers to provide another precinct. There is a survey report conducted by 638 Community Development that can be used as an update. Chancey Martinez, VP there is a re-districting meeting at AIPC, the next meeting is on October 8, 2021, in Farmington, NM. Rodger Martinez, every 10 years the re-district occurs throughout the State base on census numbers, county lines will be affected.
11. Housing Task Force-Alvin Raphaelito. Reported on the updates from different programs on funds and requests coming in for housing needs. So far, these meetings have been productive. PH NHA reported on staff vacancies, no Housing Director, and other vacancies. Emergency funds available to renters through NHA to pay for rent, propane, water, electric. The application is online, or a copy can be made and fill out and return to NHA in Window Rock. They will not assist with Mortgage payment. One other

Item came up for discussion was the Community Center. Since we no longer receive food for distribution they are now working on a center with funds from New Mexico. Monument Valley has received funds for community center. Ramah Chapter is considering a community center using NHA Unit #41, PH Market, two trailers, and MV senior citizen center hope we can use this building. Grant Writer Brenda Jymson is looking at Grant dollars in the millions through tourism etc. to have Economic opportunity in our community. Several options were discussed at the meeting. President Jose asks who the head or Officer for this group is. Alvin Raphaelito and Brenda Jymson to give a report under the Introduction of Guests and/or Presenters at the regular chapter meeting. Alvin Raphaelito, chair Brenda Jymson, Grant Writer and Brenda CSC as co-chairperson.

Announcement: Ramah Navajo Community Development summit – virtual meeting on Wednesday October 13, 2021.

Brenda Yazzie will also set up a face-to-face meeting on October 14, 2021 @ 9 am at chapter house.

XI. Old Business: (Emergency Relief Items from prior meetings for consideration)

1. **RNC Resolution No. 082110** Approving the action to combine the old fund accounts into the new fund account in preparation of the implementation to a MIP Finance System of the Ramah Navajo Tribal Government.
2. **RNC Resolution No. 082111** Approving and adopting to move forward with purchasing the MIP System and have the financials of the Ramah Navajo Chapter be implemented by ITG New Mexico.
3. **RNC Resolution No. 082112** Approving and adopting the action to update the Employer Identification Number (EIN) and name of the Ramah Navajo Chapter Account to 87-1398866 Ramah Navajo Tribal Government with Bank of America.

Questions asked if these resolutions are complete, and does it identify the account number for each of the resolution? Chancey stated that these resolutions need have all information. President Jose again stated that the resolutions should be completed. Brenda Yazzie, CSC reported that the three resolutions continue to be pending until a meeting with DCD staff take place for more clarification. President Jose, no face-to-face meeting has taken place on ARPA yet, so what do we do with these three resolutions. A meeting to be scheduled with 638, Officials in person at RNC. President Jose, complete these resolutions and schedule a leadership meeting. Brenda Yazzie, CSC stated we need to have Guarena Adeky at the meeting she will check with her and see when she is available, the meeting will be set. Motion made by Chancey Martinez, second Rodger Martinez to have a meeting scheduled with leadership by CSC. Vote: Approve 5, Oppose 0, Abstain 1. Move to Regular Chapter Meeting.

XII. New Business: (Emergency Relief Items)

1. **Proposed Resolution No. 102101** Approving the Homesite Lease Application for Brenda Lee on Navajo Tribal Trust Land (NTTL). A tract of land situated within the SW SE of Section 03 Township 08 North, Range 14 West, New Mexico principal meridian, County of Cibola, State of New Mexico, containing one (1.00) acre more or less.
Motion made by Chancey Martinez, second by Rodger Martinez to move this resolution to regular chapter meeting. Vote: Approve 4, Oppose 0, Abstain 1.
2. **Proposed Resolution No. 102102** Approving the request of Ramah Navajo Veterans Organization (RNVO) in support of having the Share of Fiscal Year 2022 NN Veterans Trust fund Allocation to remain consolidated with Eastern Navajo Agency Office of NN Veterans Administration to Administer and Manage the Budgeting and Expenditures.
Motion made by Chancey Martinez, second by Dixie Begay to move to regular chapter meeting. Delfino Antion reported that the Veteran committee to stay with Eastern Navajo Agency Veteran to receive funds for the chapter. If there are additional funds to go with ENA so this can be available to local Veterans. This is also due to sanction of the chapter, funds to go to ENA/VA office. Vote: Approve 5, Oppose 0, Abstain 0.

3. **Proposed Resolution No. 102103** Approving the Policy and Procedures for the acquisition of heavy equipment from the Navajo Nation via NN Council Resolution CJA-01-21 utilizing Sihasin Funds to purchase equipment and vehicles for NN Chapters.
Motion made by Chancey Martinez, second by Jamie Henio to move to regular chapter meeting and to include our chapter policy on equipment. President Jose would like to meet to discuss policy for Laborers. Vote: Approve 6, Oppose 0, Abstain 0.
4. **Proposed Resolution No. 102104** Proposing to Approve and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 "General Fund, Special Revenue Fund – Internal "Budget in the Amount of 272,149.00.
Motion made by Rodger Martinez, second by Chancey Martinez, would like to discuss this budget and carry-over funds to be reviewed as part of the three resolutions under Old Business at the scheduled in person meeting. Vote: Approve 5, Oppose 0, Abstain 1. Move to regular chapter meeting.

XIII. Community Concerns: (If any)

XIV. Announcements:

1. Month of October as the "Navajo Nation Domestic Violence Awareness Month"
2. October 11, 2021, Monday – Indigenous Peoples' Day
3. October 16, 2021, Saturday – New Mexico State Early Voting Election 8am – 4pm Ramah Chapter House. Beverly Coho announced the early election through Cibola County beginning at 8 am – 4pm at RNC building. Announcements made through KTDB radio in English and Navajo, posting of information. She is the new Voters Right Coordinator. Other poll workers are Arabell Martinez, Rachael Martine, Leroy Martine and Debbie Raphaelito.
4. October 31, 2021 – Halloween

XV. Next Virtual RNC Regular Meeting – TBA.

Motion made by Chancey Martinez, second by Rodger Martinez
Date: October 20, 2021
Time: 10 am
Vote: Approve 5, Oppose 0, Abstain 0.

XVI. Adjournment:

Motion made by Chancey Martinez, second by Rodger Martinez
Adjourn at 12:59 pm
Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Dixie M. Begay
Dixie M. Begay, Secretary/Treasurer

Oct. 14, 2021
Date