



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approval of Tribal Council Meeting Minutes)

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Secretary of the Tribal Council is responsible for keeping and maintaining minutes of all Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the order of business requires a reading of the minutes; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council Secretary requested for approval of the attached meeting minutes prepared from the Tribal Council meetings held on May 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds it in the best interest of the White Mountain Apache Tribe to approve the meeting minutes from the Tribal Council meetings held on May 22, 2020, as prepared and presented by the Tribal Council Secretary.


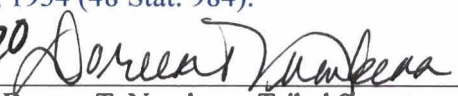
BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the meeting minutes from the Tribal Council meetings held on May 22, 2020, as prepared and presented by the Tribal Council Secretary

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances or Federal Laws, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on JUNE 02, 2020 duly adopted by a vote of ELEVEN for and ZERO against with ZERO abstaining by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

	<u>6/3/2020</u>		<u>6/3/2020</u>
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman	Date	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary	Date



White Mountain Apache Tribe

Special Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2020 – 8:00 A.M.

TELECONFERENCE

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Meeting was called to order at 8:07 A.M. by Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood
- B. Prayer was offered by Arnold Beach
- C. Roll Call: Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey III, Arnold Beach, Travis Tessay, Jerold Altaha, Renaldo Dazen, Alvin Declay, Aubrey Aday, Gary Alchesay, Alvena Bush, Kasey Velasquez
Attorneys: Kealoha Douma, Kimberly Cromwell
Others: Deron Peaches, Francene Larzelere

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Epidemiology Report – Johns Hopkins Program– Francene Larzelere, Jessica Atwell

Francene Larzelere and Jess Atwell reviewed and discussed the handouts entitled *Considerations for Re-opening the Fort Apache Indian Reservation prepared by Johns Hopkins*. "The coronavirus or COVID 19 was recognized in 2019 and quickly spread around the world in less than three months, it had become a pandemic." The first person detected to have contracted the virus on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation was on April 1, 2020 and as of May 7, 2020, the FAIR had 225 cases and continues to spread throughout the communities. The report content was thoroughly reviewed and discussed with the Tribal Council which included: Overview • Gating Criteria • Preparedness Guidelines • Guidelines for a phased approach to re-opening • Guidelines for all phases • Suggested Phases of Re-opening

The second handout entitled *COVID – 19 Data Briefing for WMA Tribe*

The objectives of the report is to Describe the current burden of COVID 19 infections and current testing patterns • Monitor trends in COVID 19 cases, deaths, and testing over time • and to Provide data to inform the Tribal Council's decision-making about when and how to loosen restrictions

The Tribal Council had questions and concerns about the report which Francene Larzelere and Jess Atwell discussed with them. Ms. Larzelere explained that numbers are still going up for Covid 19 cases and have limited testing capacity. She explained when the epidemic begins to slow down, the number of cases per day will start to level off and then it will decrease which is not happening yet.

Jess Atwell explained the number of days for the cases to double is getting longer and stated in their opinion, that the measures that the council have taken to slow the spread are working. Ms. Larzelere and Ms. Atwell explained the fluctuations of the numbers in the graph illustrates the numbers will keep going up and what they want to see is the number of cases going up day by day to come down. It was reported the speed of the virus being spread is slowing down.

Francene Larzelere expressed concerns that the tribe has been very aggressive in measures taken to slow the spread of COVID 19; however, the spread of the virus is continuing because our tribal members are not adhering to the resolutions the Tribal Council have put in place. She stated the virus continues to spread because the people are the ones that are moving it by going to several homes and spreading it to people in those homes they visit.

The Council had concerns about people being turned away from testing because they show no symptoms and that they should be tested regardless if they have come in contact with persons who have tested positive. Brian Campbell of IHS responded testing supplies are limited but are not turning anyone away that are symptomatic. He continued, IHS is logistically preparing for elder bullet testing and making sure that they have the testing supplies. He also stated that they are referring people to EOC that come to the hospital for testing.

In closing, Novalene Goklish stated for individuals that are quarantine, those individuals would have to remain home. JH and EOC, are making sure these people are provided needed items and groceries during their time of quarantine. People should stay home and not make visits to others.

B. EOC Report /Recommendations - Carlos Valadez:

1. Carlos Valadez read Resolution aloud: Implementing Temporary Restrictions and Extending Closure

It was clarified the opening of forest applies only to those listed in the resolutions for business purposes. After much discussions and suggestions and careful consideration of what to include in the resolution, the council came to a decision that it was best to do separate resolutions for each of the following:

- Implementing Temporary Restrictions and Extending Closure, *it was recommended that the Livestock Associations be added to this particular resolution.*
- Temporary opening of cemeteries to allow for people to clean graves on Memorial Day.
- Allow tribal members to go out fishing at the lakes on Memorial Day weekend only
- Allow people to go out antler hunting during Memorial Day weekend only

The Council felt it would be a good reprieve for tribal members for their mental health to go out with their families and enjoy the outdoors for the weekend after several weeks of stay-at-home orders due to Covid 19 mitigation guidelines. It was strongly recommended that people continue to practice social distancing during this time.

✓ Livestock Associations to be Added to Resolution: Implementing Temporary Restrictions and Extending Closure

Motioned by Jerold Altaha, to include in resolution the Livestock Associations, and temporary opening of cemeteries for Memorial Day.

Mr. Altaha amended his motion, seconded by Velasquez, to only include in the resolution Tribal Forestry 638 contract thinning projects, WMATCO, opening of Hon Dah RV Park, Livestock Associations. Vote: 10-0-1, Motion passed.

✓ Opening of Tribal Cemeteries for Memorial Day

Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Kasey Velasquez to open cemeteries to allow for tribal members to attend to graves of loved ones for Memorial Day from 6:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Vote: 11-0-0, Motion passed. Children will not be allowed at the gravesites.

✓ Opening of Lakes for Fishing and Forest for Antler Hunting for Memorial Day Weekend

Motioned by Kasey Velasquez, seconded by Renaldo Dazen to open up the lakes for tribal members to go fishing and antler hunting for Memorial Day weekend only. All tribal members to be given liberty to go fishing free of charge on May 23 – May 25. Mr. Velasquez amended motion to include all non-tribal member married to tribal members and that no permits be required for them, seconded by Mr. Dazen. No camping, campfires or woodcutting are allowed this weekend. Hours: Saturday - Monday: 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Vote: 9-1-1, Motion passed.

It was the Game and Fish Director's recommendation that the permits be waived for tribal members and supported the discussions. He said there was a shortage on Game Wardens but he would get some recruits. He recommended there be no campfires and that the people clean up after themselves by taking trash for proper disposal.

C. Authorizing of non-Tribal member Benjamin Yazzie on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation

Motioned by Kasey Velasquez, seconded by Travis Tessay to approve burial of non-member Benjamin Yazzie at the Hon Dah Cemetery. Vote: 11-0-0, Motion passed.

Imposing 57-Hour Weekend Curfew on the FAIR Due to the Worldwide COVID 19 Pandemic

Tabled. No action taken.

The Council tabled this for further review to see what kind of plans the Police Department have in place to enforce the resolution.

The Council Secretary gave an update on the progress of COVID 19 address updates. It was reported numerous address changes were received and had asked for additional help from the Treasurer to assist with the entries. The deadline of May 22, was not met, due to the volume of address updates that were received. With the additional help requested, and working through the weekend, it should be completed by Monday.

It was reported at WMATCO – the planer mill will be closed down due to positive Covid 19 cases at the mill. CDC guidelines will be followed to clean up the area. Suspended all activity at the planer mill.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: 11:31 A.M.

Recorder: Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Council Secretary