



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 March 3, 2021.

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 March 3, 2021, 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 March 3, 2021, 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 MAY 5, 2021 duly adopted by a vote of TEN 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).

Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary
Date	Date
5/7/21	5-7-2021



White Mountain Apache Tribe
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 03, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.
Hon Dah Conference Center / & via Teleconference

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:13 A.M. by Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood
- B. Prayer was offered by invitation.
- C. Roll Call: Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Vice-Chairman Jerome Kasey, Arnold Beach, Travis Tessay, Jerold Altaha, Renaldo Dazen, Aubrey Aday, Alvin Declay, Gary Alchesay, Alvena Bush, Kasey Velasquez
Attorneys: Kealoha Douma
- D. Approval of Minutes: Motioned by Velasquez, seconded by Renaldo Dazen, to approve minutes of February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting as written. Vote: 9-0-0 Motion passed.
(Note: Gary Alchesay noted he was present at the February 10 meeting. The minutes will be corrected accordingly.)

II. REPORTS

A. Attorney's Report – A.G. KeAloha Douma

1. Appointing oard member to Sunrise Board of Directors

It was recommended that Gladys Bencomo fill the Sunrise Board of Directors position vacated by the resignation of Verna Westover.

- Motioned by Kasey Velasquez, seconded by Renaldo Dazen to appoint Gladys Bencomo as a member of the Sunrise Board of Directors as recommend. Vote: 7-0-2. Motion passed.

2. Appointing Board Member to WMAHA Board of Commissioners

It was recommended that Joni Shipp fill the vacancy on the WMAHA Board Commissioners which occurred with the passing of the late Henrietta George.

- Motioned by Kasey Velasquez, seconded by Renaldo Dazen to appoint Joni Shipp as a member of the WMAHA Board of Commissioners as recommended. Vote: 8-1-0 Motion passed.

B. Employee Benefit Plan and Financial Update Report – Consultant, Jack Bender

Mr. Bender reported the Tribe had a better financial year. Funding remained the same. He compared debt amounts from last year to the present and said progress has been made in bringing it down. All payments have been made for 2020. He reported the dental plan has been completely paid. Pharmacy claims are up to date. There are outstanding claims from 2019. All 2018 and prior year claims are paid. He reported some changes were made and switched to MDY this year from Sherpa. SHERPA was on line only, but with MDY, calls can be made by phone. He further reported all Enterprises are current, i.e., Casino, WMAHA, Cibecue and TR Schools. Mr. Bender stated they have not been able to get wellness benefits off the ground and COVID 19 vaccines are not available through the plan. He said he could get with Jessica to get more information out about the vaccines.

C. Cibecue Transfer Station Alfred Brooks – Public Works Dir., Alfred Brooks

Mr. Alfred Brooks requested the Tribal Council's assistance to secure a 10-acre land site at the old Cibecue FATCO Sawmill. He had written to WMATCO regarding this but had not heard back from them. Mr. Brooks would like to get started on surveying and fencing off the area and setting up bunkers and equipment. He had submitted a purchase order for equipment but nothing has been done on that. When asked if he had a committee, he responded he had only been meeting with EPO and District II Council members and did not have a committee. Brenda Pusher reported plans for this project have been ongoing since 2018-19. A feasibility study with EPA was done in order to seek funding. CARES Act funding helped with purchase of equipment for the project. Construction was to begin in 2020 but WMATCO claimed the site and said a land lease was required from them. Nothing has happened since then and requesting Council's help to get things moving. Ms. Pusher reported a feasibility study will be done for a transfer station at McNary. She stated they have a five-year solid waste management plan in place and will be updating it.

- Motioned by Renaldo Dazen, seconded by Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey to approve ten acres for the Cibecue Transfer Station and for it to be moved over to Publics Works with no land lease requirement. Vote: 11-0-0. Motion passed.
- *Note: There was a concern about EPA issues that may detected at the site. The A.G. will consult with Attorney George Hesse on this and the transfer of land without a land lease.*

Other points of discussions were:

- Resolution regarding certain departments to work with EPO to Clean up the reservation;
- Wages, hazard pay, and responsibilities of the Public Works work crew;
- Strategies for wear and tear, and fuel economy on trash trucks;
- Weekly trash pickups and litter;
- Need for more landfills - litter problems;
- Delays on processing of invoices and purchase orders in the Finance Dept;
- Cleanup of the old Cibecue sawmill site or lack thereof;
- New Trash Bins – Applications for bins are in process for everyone;
- Billing project - going home to home to update the billing system;
- Stago Pit – only disposals of greens and boards; clean up and employee responsibilities for site;
- Stago Pit – Mr. Brooks was directed to take before and after pictures of the site;
- Bulky Waste Program; may be reintroduced again;
- Customers that left, are they being brought back;
- Old Broken Vehicles at homes (Proposal for funding to take care of this was done, B.Pusher);
- Request for Monthly meetings with Public Works and Council.

D. Americorps State Formula Request for Grant Application Information – Beverly Nickles

Beverly Nickles gave some information on the funding. It can be used for several things. It started in the 1960's. It's sustainable in communities throughout the U.S. and can be used for possible pipeline employment for stem crew and teaching. It can be used to create job opportunities for young adults in the tribe. Young adults can pursue stem work without secondary education and the funding pays \$1,000 a month. The money cannot be used for rehab of buildings but will look to see if there is any funding for community buildings. The Chairwoman referred Ms. Nickles to the Tribal Planner, Dallas Massey, to see how this may be useful for the tribe.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Request for Placement of Memorial Bench – Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey III

This item was presented and tabled at a previous meeting. It is being presented again with letters of support from the family of the late David M. Gooday. The attorney advised it would not be a land assignment but a place in memory of deceased individual.

- A motion and a second to approve the request were withdrawn, but it was approved by consensus by the Tribal Council with the understanding that the family has to upkeep the memorial on their own, i.e., the tribe will not be responsible for any vandalism to the memorial, or due to wildfires that may move through that area.

B. Research Study Regarding Voter Participation Amongst Members of the WMAT – Dylan Baca

The purpose of the study is to learn about political participation on the FAIR by the method of interviewing participants on a voluntary basis. The report will not be published.

A suggestion was made by Council that Dylan Baca includes in his research, how to strengthen and improve absentee votes in tribal elections. Dylan responded he would like to facilitate that request but would first have to get permission from his sponsor. He will report back to the council on his findings.

- Motioned by Renaldo Dazen, seconded by Kasey Velasquez to approve resolution, "Approving High School Research Study by Tribal Member Dylan Baca, Regarding Vote Participation Amongst Member of the WMAT". Vote: 11-0-0 Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Publication, "Early Administration of COVID 19 Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Shows Promise in a Rural Native Am. community - I.H.S. Dr. Ryan Close (A support letter was provided from the WMAT Division of Health Board)

Dr. Close read the resolution and explained a new therapy that was put in place in December. He discussed the significant impact COVID-19 has had on the FAIR. Monoclonal antibodies are the most promising treatments that can prevent progression to severe illness among those infected. WRSU is requesting permission to publish the manuscript entitled *Early Administration of COVID 19 Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Shows Promise in a Rural Native Am. Community*". Publication of the manuscript would help with the understanding of COVID-19 and the potential benefits to other tribes and rural communities.

- Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Arnold Beach to approve resolution, Authorizing Publication of Manuscript "Early Administration of COVID 19 Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Shows Promise in a Rural Native Am. Community" (Prepared by I.H.S. Personnel) as written. Vote: 5-4-1. Motion passed.

B. MOU with WMAT & NAU for Two COVID-19 Prevention Related Research Projects - JT

Nashio & Sam Sabo of NAU –Center for Health Equity Research (A support letter was provided from the WMAT Division of Health Board)

The resolution was read and discussed with the CHR Program Director. Ms. Nashio explained the purpose of the MOA was to go out in the community and collect educational materials for use by the CHR Program. The following is an excerpt from the Resolution:

"One project seeks to measure awareness and attitudes among the community of Covid-19 prevention, and vaccination, while the other will evaluate the impact of educational materials and strategies on enhanced awareness, trust, self-efficacy, and willingness and intent to participate in COVID-19 vaccine trials and future vaccine."

- Motioned by Alvin Declay, seconded by Renaldo Dazen to approve resolution, "Approving MOA between the Tribe and the Center for Health Equity Research at NAU for Two COVID-19 Prevention Related Research Projects" as presented. Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

C. ~~Supporting Save the Oak Flat Act Act, SCAT—Tribal Chairman Terry Rambler~~ -- Not Presented
This item was tabled at the request of Chairman Rambler. Will be presented at subsequent Council meeting.

D. Resolution to Support Printing Children's Book – Feather Sprengler, Chaghashe Ndee Biyati Group

- Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Renaldo Dazen to approve resolution, "Approving of and Supporting The Efforts of Chaghashe Ndee Biyati to Publish Children's Books in the Apache Lanquage". Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

E. WMAT Re-Opening Phase Update – EOC I.C. Carlos Valadez, Derrick Leslie, Shannon Tate
Carlos Valadez and Derrick Leslie presented the WMAT Reopening Phase Recommendations. Mr. Valadez read the EOC's resolution Recommendations regarding reopening aloud and also read options 1 and 2 attachments:

Option#1:

Continue with the Safer at Home Order Phased Reopening Plan

Move to Phase Two on March 15, 2021

Activate the Tribal Operations Reopening once 8,500 unique individuals have received either the first dose of the vaccine or the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, when available.

Option #2:

Activate the Tribal Operations Reopening on March 15, 2021 and reopen with COVID 19 precautionary measures still in place.

Derrick Leslie reviewed Addendum to WMAT Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual Concerning Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Other Highly Contagious Diseases point by point. He stated EOC's recommendation was to go forward with Option #1 and continue with stay at home order and move to phase 2 on March 15.

He stressed that all employees fill out the Tribal Operations Re-opening Form and submit.

The Chairwoman rested the the policies in Apache for KNNB listeners.

There were many comments and questions that were brought up concerning the recommendations . Derrick Leslie responded to the questions and concerns. One question of concern in the resolution was the removal of the *CREEA Leave and FMLA Expanded*. The concern of Council members was that if these are removed employees would come to work sick with the virus and spread the virus to other employees as they may not have leave to cover absence from work and further for reasons they may be the sole provider for their families. After much discussions and deliberations, the Tribal Council took the following vote:

- Motioned by Renaldo Dazen, seconded by Kasey Velasquez to approve resolution, Approving the Emergency Operations Centers Recommendation Regarding Reopening with

the exception of the removal of the CREEA Leave and the FMLA, but to continue to keep that in effect and further, to move to Phase 2 on March 15. Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

The Chairwoman noted that the resolution Approving Religious Gathering Guidelines was tabled at this time. No vote was taken.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairwoman call for adjournment at 4:07 P.M.

Recorder: Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Council Secretary