



RED MESA CHAPTER

Red Mesa, Navajo Nation, Utah



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JULY 15, 2026

- I. The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 1:16pm by Vice-President Marilyn Holly.
- II. **INVOCATION** was conducted by Mr. Allen Holly.
- III. The **AGENDA** was **REVIEWED** by the Sec./Treas., and a motion was made by Ms. Ella Slim and was seconded by Mr. Norman Sam to **ADOPT** it as presented with a request by Ms. Bianca Whitehorse requesting to be placed on the agenda too for financial support. She did not present her request at the Planning Meeting due to being sent out in the field. Her request is for some financial support to purchase water and food items for a healthy meal for participants in the Annual Trail Ride, that will start from Cahone Mesa, Utah to Leupp, AZ. The trail riders plan to honor her late mom, Ms. Cynthia Topaha, from Montezuma Creek, Utah, to the Red Mesa Christian Church and the Topaha family plan to feed the participants, when they arrive at the church. This item will be #8.
Also, a request was made to allow the Navajo Nation Council delegate candidates to introduce themselves under the agenda item, "ANNOUNCEMENT". This will be under "Announcement- G".
The motion was voted: 27-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 01-ABSTAINED.
- IV. A motion was made by Mr. Victor Dee and was seconded by Ms. Vina Paul to **APPROVE ACCEPTING** the hard copies of the **LAST MEETING MINUTES** from the Regular Meeting on June 15, 2026, to **REVIEW** on our time and if there should be any questions, it could be clarified at the next meeting.
The motion was voted: 27-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.
- V. A motion was made by Ms. Cheri Benally and was seconded by Mr. Victor Dee to **APPROVE** the **FINANCIAL REPORT for June 2026** as presented verbally **REVIEWED** by the Sec./Treas. The copies of the Financial Reports of the information relevant to the Fund Balance Sheet and the Statement of Revenue & Expenditure forms were made available and were presented in the Red Mesa Chapter **FINANCIAL REPORT** for the month ending **JUNE 30, 2026**.
Hard copies were provided of the Revenues and Expenditure and the Fund Balance Sheet with all accounts balances as of **JUNE 30, 2026**.
The Total Fund Balance was \$2,001,984.98. A copy of the Summary Fixed Asset Ledger at \$1,304,479.44. The Statement of Revenue & Expenditure for the month of **June 30, 2026**, was also presented and showed thirteen (13) accounts with **EXPENSES**: Chapter Activities General Funds- (\$1,049.37); Land Claims Trust Funds- (\$1,260.84); LGA Grant- (\$6,161.11); PEP Funds- (\$7,418.34); Chapter Stipend- (\$3,461.40); Chapter Utility Fund- (\$603.12); Supplemental Youth Funds- (\$9,534.69); NN Sales Tax Funds- (\$1,580.47); Elk Petroleum Fund- (\$826.36); Scholarship Claims Funds- (500.00); Housing Discretionary Funds- (6,193.69); Unhealthy Food Tax Funds- (1,106.29); and Veterans Funds- (\$415.00). The total amount of Expenditures for the month of **June 30, 2026**, was (\$40,110.68).
REVENUES: One (01) account showed Revenues: Account-01 Chapter Activities General Funds- \$755.11.
Revenues over Expenditures were (\$39,355.57) during the month of **JUNE 30, 2026**.
The motion was voted: 30-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; 02-ABSTAINED.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a) July 16, 2026- Land Commissioners/CLUPC Orientation at Red Mesa Chapter-10am.
- b) July 16, 2026- 1pm- Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund Board Meeting
- c) July 19, 2026, Sunday- Council Delegate candidates “MEET and GREET” at Red Mesa Chapter at 12pm-5pm.
- d) July 21, 2026- Navajo Nation Primary Election for Navajo Nation President and Chapters Council Delegates.
- e) Red Mesa Chapter Administration Office will be CLOSED on July 21st due to the Navajo Nation Primary Election.
- f) Presentation: by Ms. Manygoats to update information on the Navajo Nation San Juan River Eco-System Restoration Project.
The San Juan River Ecosystem Restoration Project Planning & Design Project is funded by the Bureau of Reclamation to benefit the large natural bottomland to reconnect to the river to support juvenile razorback sucker habitat. The project is in phase 2. The contracted team will continue to perform field surveys and to complete them by September 2026. A site is considered located about 3 miles downstream of Montezuma Creek within the Red Mesa Chapter service area.
Due to the razorback sucker becoming extinct they are currently protected species and cannot be consumed. Community will benefit by being made aware of preserving the Razorback Sucker fish in San Juan River.
- g) INTRODUCTION by candidates:
 - Manuel Morgan- Kinlichinni; Bilahghanna; Bitahaanii: Will be here on Sunday to give more information on platform.
 - Curtis Yanito- Informed on projects he is still working on.

**Motion party for the AGENDA APPROVAL confirmed to add to the agenda, the three additional items requested, two items by Council Delegate Yanito and another made by the community members:

- 1 -Bluff Footbridge Farm Irrigation Project for Red Mesa Chapter – will be #9.
- 2-San Juan River Watershed Alignment – will be #10
- 3-Wilford Jones requested to add on a request for a Position Statement to support opposing the downsizing of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase.

The motion was voted: 25-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approving \$755.11 Revenues for JUNE 2026 in the Red Mesa Chapter General Activities Fund 01-Account and the budget as:

6413- Waste Disposal Collection	\$ 400.00
6322- Diesel Fuel	\$ 100.00
6352- Food (Chapter)	\$ 100.00
6999- Other Miscellaneous	\$ 155.11

Total \$755.11

A motion was made by Mr. Russell Gould and was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee to approve \$755.11 **Revenues for JUNE 2026** in the Red Mesa Chapter General Activities Fund 01-Account and the budget as listed above.

The motion was voted: 29-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

2. Supporting and approving a request to the Utah Navajo Trust Funds and the Utah Navajo Revitalization Funds Board of Trustees/Dine’ Advisory Committee to approve funds for three (03) families for construction of complete new 28’ X 36’ 2-bedroom house for:

1- Tully Lameman Jr. 2- Norman Sam 3- Rosie Joe

A motion was made by Mr. Russell Gould and was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee to support and approve a request to the Utah Navajo Trust Funds and the Utah Navajo Revitalization Funds Board of Trustees/Dine’ Advisory Committee to approve funds for three (03) families for construction of complete new 28’ X 36’ 2-bedroom house for three community members, Tully Lameman Jr., Norman Sam, and Rosie Joe.

The motion was voted: 29-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

3. **Approving an Inter-Budget transfer of \$560.00 in the Red Mesa Chapter Account-03- Land Claims Trust Funds: FROM: #6415- Water Expense; TO: #6410- Telephone Expense.**

A motion was made by Mr. Russell Gould and was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee to approve an Inter-Budget transfer of \$560.00 in the Red Mesa Chapter Account-03- Land Claims Trust Funds from sub-account #6415- for Water Expense to be transferred to sub-account #6410- for Telephone Expense.

The motion was voted: 29-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

4. **Approving an Inter-Budget transfer of \$2,470.00 in the Red Mesa Chapter Account-15- PEP Funds:**

FROM:		TO:	
6101- HEO Salary	\$2,050.76	6101-Office Assistant Salary	\$1,800.00
6103- HEO FICA Expense	\$ 288.68	6103- Office Assist. FICA Expense	\$ 470.00
6104- HEO Medicare Expense	\$ 59.47	6104- Office Assist. Medicare Exp.	\$ 110.00
6108- HEO Workman's Comp.	\$ 71.09	6108- Office Assist W/C Expense	\$ 30.00
		6108- Laborer W/C	\$ 60.00
TOTAL:			\$2,470.00

A motion was made by Mr. Russell Gould and was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee to approve an Inter-Budget transfer of \$2,470.00 in the Red Mesa Chapter Account-15- PEP Funds as listed from the Heavy Equipment Operator to Office Assistant sub-accounts for (Salary, FICA Expense, Medicare Expense, and Workman's Compensation), and Laborer (Workman's Compensation Expense).

The motion was voted: 29-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

5. **Approving an Inter-Budget transfer of \$300.00 in the Red Mesa Chapter Account-16- Veterans Funds: FROM: #6352-Food Purchases-\$300.00 TO: #6620- Gifts & Awards- \$300.00.**

A motion was made by Mr. Russell Gould and was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee to approve an Inter-Budget transfer of \$300.00 in the Red Mesa Chapter Account-16- Veterans Funds from the sub-account #6352- Food Purchases-\$300.00 to sub-account #6620- Gifts & Awards.

The motion was voted: 29-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

6. **Supporting and approving to utilize up to \$300.00 each from the Red Mesa Chapter Scholarship Enrichment funds for two youth to attend the Educational Youth Summit with the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) in Phoenix, AZ, on July 14-18, 2026, for:**

1. Hyatt R. Thomas 2. Harmony N. Thomas

A motion was made by Mr. Russell Gould and was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee to support and approve to utilize up to \$300.00 each from the Red Mesa Chapter Scholarship Enrichment funds for two youths to attend the Educational Youth Summit with the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) in Phoenix, AZ, on July 14-18, 2026, for Hyatt R. Thomas and Harmony N. Thomas.

The motion was voted: 29-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

7. **Supporting and approving a request by the 2025-26 Miss Utah Navajo, Dayhenoa C. Yazzie, for Red Mesa Chapter to contribute providing (01) Fruit basket and 01-Shepherd Special basket utilizing up to \$250.00 from the Red Mesa Chapter Account -01-Chapter General Activities Funds for the 2026-2027 Miss Utah Navajo Pageant, to be held at Monument Valley High School, Monument Valley, Utah, on August 15, 2026, at 5pm.**

A motion was made by Mr. Russell Gould and was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee to support and approve a request by the 2025-26 Miss Utah Navajo, Dayhenoa C. Yazzie, for Red Mesa Chapter to contribute providing (01) Fruit basket and 01-Shepherd Special basket utilizing up to \$250.00 from the Red Mesa Chapter Account -01-Chapter General Activities Funds for the 2026-2027 Miss Utah Navajo Pageant, to be held at Monument Valley High School, Monument Valley, Utah, on August 15, 2026, at 5pm. Three (03) quotes will be provided by the requestor(s).

The motion was voted: 29-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

8. Supporting and approving to utilize up to \$300.00 from the Red Mesa Chapter Unhealthy Food Tax Funds for the Annual Trail Ride from Cahone Mesa, Utah. This year the ride from Montezuma Creek, Utah to Red Mesa Church. will be to honor and remember late Ms. Cynthia Topaha.

Mr. Russell Gould made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Wilford Jones to support and approve utilizing up to \$300.00 from the Red Mesa Chapter Unhealthy Food Tax Funds to purchase water and food items for a healthy meal for the group with the Annual Trail Ride from Cahone Mesa, Utah. This year the ride from Montezuma Creek, Utah to Red Mesa Church, on July 26, 2026, will be to honor and in remembrance of the late Ms. Cynthia Topaha.

Ms. Topaha worked with Red Mesa Chapter as a staff member and became involved with the Red Mesa Chapter Land Commissioners as the committee secretary for a few years.

The community members appreciated Ms. Topaha's services, so some made monetary contributions to add to the amount requested to help with the event.

The motion was voted: 32-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

9. Supporting and approving the Bluff Footbridge Farm Irrigation Project for the Revitalization of Farms and to provide for Agriculture Commerce (Agribusiness) for Red Mesa Chapter.

A motion was made by Ms. Vina Mae Paul and was seconded by DeBrynanna Willoughby for OPEN DISCUSSION on the Bluff Footbridge Farm Irrigation Project for the Revitalization of Farms and to provide for Agriculture Commerce (Agribusiness) for Red Mesa Chapter

The farming at Lone Mountain will be added on to the listed farm after an assessment is conducted.

The farm in Bluff area was already assessed and currently just seeking for funds at \$2million. The farm is located in the Bluff Footbridge area.

Mr. Sam Dee indicated three farms were identified and included in the studies conducted by Utah State University back in the 70's with the FFA Program and he recalls there were farms at Long Mountain (210 acres), TaaHateel (old farm) (440 acres), and Bluff (240 acres).

Ms. Marilyn Holly- She has a farm plot at the old farm at Lone Mountain and is suggesting inserting in the Resolutions that other farms will be added on too.

Ms. Jean Nakai Benally indicated she is interested in being included with farming at the Lone Mountain too.

A question was asked if the farm plots are BIA certified? If the location was consented by the Grazing Permittees.

*Mr. Yanito did a slide show of the Bluff Footbridge Farm Irrigation Project.

How many total acres? 188 acres.

Mr. Sam Dee made a substitute motion to table this item and was seconded by Mr. Allen Holly, due to needing more information to be attached prior to approving.

The motion was voted: 22-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

10. Supporting the Adoption of the San Juan River Watershed Alignment and authorizing the Red Mesa Chapter to participate with the Stakeholders in the Planning and Implementation of the developed and Agreed-To Plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Victor Dee and seconded by Mr. Wilford Jones to table this item and forward to the next meeting. This item was presented at the Land Commissioners' Meeting.

The motion was voted: 24-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

11. Supporting Red Mesa Chapter Position Statement opposing the reduction of the Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilford Jones was seconded by Mr. Sam Dee for a directive to make a statement from Red Mesa Chapter to present to the Dine' Bii Keyah and they can move forward with it.

-To include no land exploration or excavation by any company or corporation.

-The Indigenous people should be involved and informed about the plans for the Bears Ears due to the damages incurred from excavation by corporation.

- An opinion would be to purchase the land in Bears Ears area since land was purchased in Colorado.

The motion was voted: 20-FAVORED; 00-OPPOSED; and 02-ABSTAINED.

VIII. REPORTS:

1. Elsie Dee, San Juan County Election Liaison reported the General Election is November 3rd. Only the Republicans had their Primary Election in Utah and Ms. Dee read the results from the election. Only 49% of the Republicans voted.
The Election Liaison staff will begin with the voter registration again and are encouraging people to update their registration. Ms. Dee will be set up a table/booth on Saturday at Mexican Water Chapter.
2. Dalene Redhorse- Stewardship Utah report included encouraging all to update your voter registration. Many Native Americans in San Juan County are determined as "Unaffiliated" because of physical address verification. Ms. Redhorse indicated she is allowed to collect voter registration forms and turn them into Monticello. She encourages everyone to be involved with voting. Mexican Water Chapter will have "Meet the Candidates" on Saturday.
3. Perry Tso, with Tseh Tah Uranium, indicated he was asked by the San Francisco EPA he came with today, if Red Mesa Chapter has a Farm Board because she will be working with farming and she's willing to work with them and the U.S. EPA could help with the farming.
An investigation work is being conducted in the vicinity of Minnie John's residence south of Red Mesa store and east toward the mountain. Mr. Tso said he will have more reports next month.
- ~~4. Curtis Yanito - Council Delegate~~
5. Leonard Begay, Chapter Grazing Official, indicated he will have more reports until after the District Grazing Official meeting, but today he announced Wool/Mohair buying will take place at McGee Park on July 21-23, 8am-2pm.
August 13, 2026- Agency Grazing Official meeting with picnic at Jackson Lake, Mancos, CO. Everyone is invited.
He announced a Gathering for donations at Red Mesa Chapter for Ms. Ether Bia.
6. Red Mesa Chapter CSC: Bathroom Project- Red Mesa Chapter has 29 homes scheduled at \$29,000. One home is completed and it looks nice.
There are three new applicants to be considered for new homes and UNRF has a meeting on Thursday and that was why we scheduled our meeting today, to include their resolution with their packets.
-Red Mesa Administration Building- She received a call saying they finally have everything submitted.
-Red Mesa Chapter vehicles- in process of quotes. Going to direct source now. Plans to ask for a dump trailer, etc.
-The proposal for the new Red Mesa Warehouse may be changed to getting new heavy equipment for the chapter.
-No word from NDOT on an update on the Maintenance Yard or road repairs.
7. Chapter Officials- Elk Petroleum will be helping with the dirt work for Transfer Station.
Sunday, July 19th. "Meet and Greet" for all candidates at Red Mesa Chapter. The candidates were asked to provide some food for attendees.
The community donated \$128.00 and was given to Ms. Bianca Whitehorse for contribution to the event honoring late Ms. Cynthia Topaha.

IX. **NEXT MEETING:** Planning Meeting, Monday, August 10, 2026, at 1:00pm.
Regular Meeting, Monday, August 17, 2026, at 1:00pm.

X. A motion was made by Ms. Vina Mae Paul and was seconded by DeBrynanna Willoughby to **ACCEPT the REPORTS and for ADJOURNMENT of the MEETING.** The motion was carried and Meeting was **ADJOURNED at 4:56pm.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:



Marlene Dee Ben, Sec./Treas.

DATE: 07/15/2026