

Joint Village Strategic Planning Meeting Notes
Tuesday, January 5, 2021
10 am MST
Zoom Teleconference and Telephone

1. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Brian Cole at 10:05 am MST. Representatives from all three communities/villages attended. In addition, Clayton Honyumtewa, Director of the Hopi Department of Natural Resources and key Hopi contact on FBFA and ONHIR matters, participated.

2. Review of Hopi Tribal Council Resolution Draft and Submittal Documentation

All participants reviewed the HTC action item cover page, signatory checklist, and draft resolution. Minor modifications were made to each of the three documents. All three documents were considered “final” by all participants by the end of the discussion. Cathy Wright would forward the edited document to Cedric Kuwaninvaya for submittal to the Hopi Tribal Council Administrative Offices.

3. Historical Background

With the attendance by Clayton Honyumtewa, the group benefitted by learning more details related to the historical background of the Bennett Freeze and Forced Relocation. Honyumtewa reminded the attendees that an effort was made by the Village of Moenkopi (Lower) and Upper Moenkopi Village to seek funding back in 2010. The current budgetary request for both Moenkopi Villages is based upon the 2010 work.

Clayton Honyumtewa was asked to respond to the matter of the Village of Moenkopi (Lower) and Upper Moenkopi Village each receiving \$3 million (the Bennett Freeze Escrow Fund). Theoretically, given that the villages have previously received these funds, could it be argued that the impacts to the Bennett Freeze had already been resolved? Clayton Honyumtewa responded that this clearly was not the case. The \$6 million in funding related to revenue that had accumulated from permits and leases and rights-of-way which had accumulated over 40 years. These funds related to activity at Peabody, APS, Questar, and other locations. This amount, including interest, was split evenly (\$3 million apiece) between the two Moenkopi Villages, but this amount was not related to the impacts of the Bennett Freeze. Rather, it was simply an accumulation of funds placed in that escrow fund until the resolution of the land dispute.

Clayton Honyumtewa indicated that the last time that the Hopi Tribe received funding from the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR) was in 2012. All future requests for funding had been turned down. ONHIR has indicated that they have only been in business for relocation housing projects, not for infrastructure and other needs at Hopi.

Clayton Honyumtewa then summarized the previous work of Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick to address the Bennett Freeze. He also referred to the previous work of Senator John McCain. Clayton Honyumtewa also spoke to other activity dating back to 2012 related to the Old Coalmine Chapter. This related to dismantling home sites. There were 18 structures of which 13 were demolished. Five of the structures remain which contain asbestos and lead based

paint. In addition, there are some old Navajo home sites that need to be addressed. Finally, Clayton Honyumptewa indicated that there were over 100 open dump sites that needed addressed. He indicated that a \$2.4 million funding request was made to ONHIR but no funds were received in response.

4. Updating the Budget Request

Brian Cole then reviewed the status of the overall \$1.2 billion funding request. The total request was diminished by about \$20 million after the YPC board did another review of all the potential projects.

Cathy Wright noted that with the better understanding of the source of funding for the \$6 million in escrow funds, we should remove any reference to the escrow fund in the budget request. Brian Cole indicated he would update the document to delete that reference.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 am on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.