

Joint Village Strategic Planning Meeting Notes
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
10 AM MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone

1. Call to Order—Cedric Kuwaninvaya, CSA, Upper Moenkopi Village

Cedric Kuwaninvaya called the meeting to order at 10:10 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Attending the meeting included Cedric Kuwaninvaya, Le Roy Shingoitewa, James Surveyor, Mary Bradley, Linda Honanie, Andrew Gashwazra, Cathy Wright and Brian Cole.

3. Approach to Hopi Tribal Council

Cedric Kuwaninvaya opened the meeting by stating that he had reached out to the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Executive Director to notify them that the JVSP group would like the resolution placed on an upcoming Hopi Tribal Council meeting agenda. Kuwaninvaya also indicated that he is waiting for a response from Hopi General Counsel Fred Lomayesva related to the agenda item.

Le Roy Shingoitewa stated that he has done some outreach to Upper Moenkopi Village Board Members. Shingoitewa indicated that he anticipated that Philton Talahyewa would be participation in the process and might attend today's meeting.

Shingoitewa then indicated that it is very important that UMV clearly understand who is currently on the Steering Committee. Shingoitewa indicated that he has reviewed the JVSP plans, and the composition of the local Steering Committee is very important. Shingoitewa continued that he had heard that the work on the Navajo-side of this effort might result in land acquisition issues. Brian Cole later responded that he could not think of any instances where any of the ten Chapter Recovery Plans or the Navajo Thaw Regional Recovery Plan called for land acquisition/expansion.

Shingoitewa then continued that he thought it was critically important that UMV review the budget associated with the projects. UMV needed to understand the details of all of the recommended projects and feel comfortable with the recommended budgeted request.

Linda Honanie replied that the group had met in the fall of 2021 to review the budgets but it was difficult to bring everyone together for that budget review exercise.

Shingoitewa responded that he had reviewed several of the projects including the proposed improvements for the Senior Center. Shingoitewa continued that he felt as if the Steering Committed should be reestablished and that representation from the Senior Center, Assisted Living Facility, Moenkopi Developers Corporation, UMV Board and others participate. Shingoitewa added that he reviewed the request for school facility improvements. Shingoitewa questioned whether that was an appropriate request as a part of this overall effort. Kuwaninvaya provided further background on efforts to review the budget both by UMV and VML.

Brian Cole responded that Building Communities has been very involved in the development of the ten Chapter Recovery Plans and the Regional Plan that is now known as Navajo Thaw. He stated that all of the documentation can be found at www.navajothaw.com. Cole said he would make himself available if there were any questions about the Navajo Thaw.

Shingoitewa then asked if Linda Honahni, Mary Bradley, and James Surveyor would be able to participate on the UMV Steering Committee. All three affirmed. Mary Bradley indicated that she could offer their Zoom account to support meetings.

Shingoitewa indicated he would reach out to a couple of the UMV Board Members to serve on the Steering Committee as well.

Cole indicated that the people that have served previously as a Steering Committee member are listed on page 3 of 97 of the UMV Strategic Plan. Cole then sent an email to Shingoitewa with the plan.

With respect to the Hopi Tribal Council Resolution, Cole indicated that he noticed that the resolution does refer to a “federal promise” associated with the Bennett Freeze. He asked if the group wanted that particular phrase removed. The group indicated that they did. Cole had previously distributed a copy of the HTC Draft Resolution with that particular clause removed. Kuwaninvaya indicated he would forward the updated version to the Hopi Offices.

Cole indicated that he is also in the process of developing resolutions that could be considered at the Village level. Cole indicated he would finish up his review of those drafts and distribute.

Shingoitewa indicated that it would be important for the resolutions to make reference to the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR). Shingoitewa reminded the group that the Hopi Tribal Council formally expressed their displeasure with ONHIR in 2013 over the lack of services. Shingoitewa stated that if the plan is to “repurpose” ONHIR, that substantial changes would need to be made to ensure that the intent of the funding and benefits from the federal government were forthcoming to Hopi according to local planning. Cole indicated that he would review the Draft Resolutions and add a paragraph to this effect.

Shingoitewa continued that the term “forced relocation,” while it might apply to Navajo, is generally not recognized as a phrase describing activities at Hopi. Cole indicated that he would reach out to Cathy Wright and the YPC Board to see if changes might be needed in their plans and resolutions.

4. Other Business/Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 at 10 am MST.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am MST.