

Joint Village Strategic Planning Meeting Notes
Tuesday, March 9, 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 10:05 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Meeting attendees included Mary Bradley, Everett Calnimptewa, Andrew Gashwazra, Linda Honanie, Cedric Kuwaninvaya, Lorna Quamahongnewa, Le Roy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Robert Sumatzkuku, James Surveyor, and Brian Cole.

3. Approach to Hopi Tribal Council

Cedric Kuwaninvaya indicated that he has been in touch with the Vice Chairman and the Executive Director related to the submittal of the Draft Resolution for consideration by the Hopi Tribal Council. Le Roy Shingoitewa underscored that everyone was in agreement that Kuwaninvaya should be the author and that Philton Talahyewa would be the elected official. Brian Cole emphasized the urgency of the matter as Congress continues to consider legislation that relates to JVSP.

4. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

Shingoitewa stated that the UMV Steering Committee is active. He emphasized that it was important for everyone to understand that UMV continues to see itself as a team player with VML and YPC. He explained that there was a rumor that UMV was trying to “go it alone,” but this certainly was not the case. Shingoitewa stated it was important for everybody in the Village to understand what is in their plan so they are prepared to be an advocate for the entire JVSP effort.

Shingoitewa stated that the PowerPoint presentation was helpful for UMV to understand the Strategic Plan and recommended that a similar presentation be presented to VML and YPC. Cole indicated he would generate such presentations for use for when the Villages are ready.

Kuwaninvaya stated that each of the Villages are receiving notification from the Tribe that their budget allocation for the forthcoming year is likely to remain at \$290,400. Limited Village funding will make it difficult for Villages to be proactive.

b. Village of Moencopi (Lower)

Robert Sumatzkuku stated that he had sent some documentation to the prospective VML Board Members within the past couple of weeks. He was awaiting a response in order that they could move forward. Andrew Gashwazra mentioned that Carrie Joseph was looking to send a Zoom invitation to the group so the seating of the new Board Members could take place.

Shingoitewa then referred to Escrow Funding that remains with the Hopi Tribe in the amount of approximately \$1 million that should be redirected to the Villages to support this project. He recommended that UMV and VML approach the tribe for these funds.

Everett Calnimpewa stated that he thought that VML needed to get its Board together in the near future to participate in the process. Calnimpewa stated that he wants to see the UMV Bennett Freeze Escrow Fund continue to generate interest. He indicated that the interest earnings were significant in the recent year. Calnimpewa continued that UMV has been successful in drilling a new water well at Red Lake. Calnimpewa also stressed the important role of the Hopi Tribe as it is the Tribe that has the government-to-government relationship with the Federal Government. Calnimpewa also stated that he thought it was important for MUA and MDC to participate in the JVSP effort. He also spoke of the importance of connecting with Josh Clause and noted that funding would need to be found to support the work of Mr. Clause. Calnimpewa concluded by acknowledging Kuwaninvaya who has completed a lot of work on the JVSP effort.

The group then had a more detailed conversation about the Escrow Funds and how they were distributed from the Tribe to UMV and VML. It was emphasized that the group should determine how much funding remains with the Tribe that could be distributed to the Villages. The amount of available funding is in question.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

It was noted that two of the YPC Board Members were trying to attend the Zoom meeting, but the telecommunications did not allow for a sufficient connection.

5. Village Resolutions of Support

It was noted that UMV does have a draft Resolution of Support that needs to be considered by the Board. Sumatzkuku stated that this would be a matter for consideration by the VML Board once it becomes reconstituted. Cole noted that YPC has a Draft of the Resolution for their consideration.

6. Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjourn

Brian Cole noted that he continued to be in contact with Congressional Offices. He stated that the group might be able to generate attendance from a staff member from Senator Kyrsten Sinema's Office as well as Congressman Ruben Gallego. Shingoitewa stated that we probably could also generate the interest and support from Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick. Shingoitewa also stated that we could be in contact with Bart Stevens who will be in the office of Secretary Deb Haaland. Shingoitewa stated that we could also reach out to Supervisors Lena Fowler and Judy Begay from Coconino County. Finally, it was agreed that we should continue to update Josh Clause on this effort.

Cole then outlined the likely benefits to the Hopi Tribe stemming from the near certain passage of the American Rescue Plan. He shared some information about the ARP text coming out of the US Senate as shown in the box below:

However, the Secretary is directed, to the extent practicable, to make payments to tribal governments not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the bill.

Expenditure

Tribal governments, along with states and territories, must only use the funds to:

Cover costs incurred by the State, territory, or Tribal government, by December 31, 2024—

(A) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;

(B) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such State, territory, or Tribal government due to such emergency; or

(C) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Funding may be transferred to a private nonprofit organization,

Shingoitewa noted the importance of the language about the potential role of non-profits. Shingoitewa suggested that non-profits such as MDC need to be aware of a potential role with project implementation.

Kuwaninvaya stated that he has been in contact with Norm Honie related to a \$150,000 funding award from the US Department of Energy to perform the engineering analysis related to the Water Well #9 and the associated slurry line right-of-way. Cole explained to the group that this project was in response to the UMV Strategic Planning Process and that an effort was made to secure Hopi CARES Act funding for this purpose. Although that original funding proposal was denied, it has led to the funding from US Department of Energy.

Lorna Quamahongnewa asked about the status of public relations materials and a brochure that would help each of the Villages explain the JVSP process. Cole responded that he had developed a Draft Press Release and brochure for review/editing/distribution. Cole would distribute the materials along with the meeting notes.

James Surveyor stressed the importance of participation by MUA.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16 at 10 am MST. The meeting was adjourned by Kuwaninvaya at 11:50 am.