

Joint Village Strategic Planning Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 20, 2021
10 AM MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone

1. Call to Order

The call to order was made by Brian Cole at 10:05 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Meeting attendees included Mary Bradley, Linda Honanie, Norman Honie, Le Roy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Fred Shupla, Robert Sumatzkuku, Philton Talahyewa, Cathy Wright, Neil Yazzie, and Brian Cole.

It was noted that a meeting notification is now being sent to the new Upper Moenkopi Village Board Member Dale Lucero.

3. Approach to Hopi Tribal Council

Robert Sumatzkuku indicated that he has been in touch with Trudy Ami who has indicated that the action item has now been completed with all of the signatures. There are some comments by the Office of General Council that will need to be addressed. Sumatzkuku would forward the documentation to Brian Cole for distribution to the group.

Sumatzkuku indicated that the comment from the attorney related to why the three Villages were advancing this initiative outside of the Hopi Tribe. Le Roy Shingoitewa responded that the effort dates back to 2009 when it was being coordinated internally by Department of Natural Resources Manager Clayton Hongyumptewa. The group agreed that this would be the response to that question.

Le Roy Shingoitewa stated that he had been in contact with Carrie Joseph, a former board member for VML. He had also left messages for Cliff Kaye and Sarah Dallas. This was an effort to request involvement by VML in the approach to the Hopi Tribal Council.

4. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

A meeting notification was sent to the new Upper Moenkopi Village Board Member Dale Lucero at the beginning of the meeting.

Le Roy Shingoitewa indicated that the UMV Steering Committee continues to meet and they are refining the budget for the various project priorities. Subsequent to the meeting, both Mary Bradley and Linda Honanie circulated their funding request recommendations. This would be taken up at the UMV Steering Committee meeting which was held at 1 pm on the same day.

In reviewing the budget materials, a question was asked about the color highlighting. It was noted that items highlighted in yellow were VML projects, items highlighted in green were UMV projects and items highlighted in blue were combination/agricultural projects.

Le Roy Shingoitewa indicated the committee would be working to narrow the number of strategies or possibly combine them. Cole then emailed the latest version of the budgeting document to Mary Bradley for distribution to the UMV Steering Committee.

b. Village of Moencopi (Lower)

Sumatzkuku indicated that he was working to get the new board in place by May 6 or begin activity for a new election.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

Cathy Wright reported that YPC has had a board election which has established a new Board Chair and new Board Member. In addition, three Alternates were elected. One of the Board Members has been out on medical leave.

Wright also indicated that YPC has been very focused on the expenditure of CARES Act funding and anticipating Rescue Plan funding.

5. Village Resolutions of Support

No update.

6. Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjourn

Cole indicated that he had received a phone call from Tim Bodell of the Hopi Utilities Corp. Cole indicated that it was a very interesting report and he would be distributing his “telephone notes” to the group with the Minutes of this meeting (See Attachment A).

Le Roy Shingoitewa indicated that he too had been in touch with Tim Bodell. Shingoitewa concludes that the quickest route to address the long-term water problem for Moenkopi would be the new well at Range Unit 251. Shingoitewa also stated that moving forward with the Water Well #9 study is also a good idea. Shingoitewa asked Cole to coordinate a meeting sometime in May to focus upon gaining a common understanding on how we move forward.

Norman Honie reported that they have received the UMTRA project grant. He would continue to coordinate with Trudy Ami to secure the funding. In total, \$158,000 is coming to Hopi for this analysis.

Honie continued that the focus of the analysis would be on Water Well #9 and whether the water could be transported to Moenkopi. He also noted the completion of the Range Unit 251 well. Honie stated that water from Water Well #9 could be coordinated in conjunction with the Range Unit 251 well. Honie noted that construction is now underway with portions of the HAMP project which is utilizing a 10-inch line. That size of line might be similar to the project bringing water to Moenkopi.

Honie stated that although Water Well #9 has been idle, the well is still the best source of water and the well has a “long life ahead.” The well log does indicate that the well has been idle since 2006. Peabody does have substantial information on the well.

Honie said that the Moenkopi area was in an unconfined water area while the rest of the reservation, including Water Well #9, is in a confined area. Confined areas provide a better source of water than unconfined areas.

Honie also indicated that he would reach out to Peabody. Peabody does have a lot of information on the wells.

Neil Yazzie stated that he is working with an engineer, Thomas Hawkins, who might be a good source of information of the Siderock project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27 at 10 am MST.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am MST.

Attachment A

**Tim Bodell/Hopi Utilities Corp
Telephone Notes
April 16, 2021**

Timothy (Tim) Bodell, P.E. with Hopi Utilities Corp. called to provide some perspectives on the effort being coordinated by Upper Moenkopi Village and supported by the Joint Village Strategic Planning (JVSP) effort to complete an analysis of the Water Well #9 right-of-way between Black Mesa and Moenkopi (and on to Cameron and Laughlin, Nevada). The goal for Moenkopi is to secure a long-term water supply.

Bodell mentioned that he was working with the Hopi Water Energy Committee (HWEC) on similar objectives. He was calling to discuss a potential “integrated approach” between the efforts of the HWEC and JVSP.

Bodell began by noting that the Moenkopi water supply situation is critical. Moenkopi sits above the regional “N Aquifer” composed primarily the Navajo Sandstone geologic unit. Bodell explained that unlike the rest of Hopi which is above a confined area, Moenkopi is primarily located above an *unconfined* area of the N aquifer. In confined areas, when water wells are drilled, water frequently “pops up” in an artesian fashion.

Bodell explained that the coal slurry line that went to Laughlin, Nevada has significantly depleted the unconfined N aquifer. Since closing the slurry line use and cessation of pumping Wells #9 and #10, water levels in the N aquifer are recovering except for in the Moenkopi/Tuba City area.

Meanwhile, a new well has been drilled at Pasture Canyon by Indian Health service.

Bodell explained that the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) have completed what has been known as a *Value Planning Process*. This series of meetings considered several alternatives and the results of much of that dialogue are confidential under the LCR settlement. The bottom line is that the use of water from Water Well #9 from Black Mesa to Moenkopi is considered the least feasible/most expensive option of the DOI value planning exercise.

Challenges relate to distance, elevation, and the condition of the Water Well #9 line itself. In addition, Water Well #9 is 36 years old and nearing the end of its useful life. But the Black Mesa confined aquifer area may be a potential location to bank water. The benefits of that could lead to economic development related to a data center, hydrogen generation or other applications that need large volumes of water. Other feasibility challenges relate to the lack of power to the wells and the fact that neither Hopi nor Navajo own the pipe or the right-of-way. (The owner of the right-of-way is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) as “OK1” or “OK1LLC”). It was noted that no one seems to have reached out to OK1 to understand if the ROW and pipeline asset are acquirable.

HUC applied for a comprehensive Moenkopi water source feasibility including the Water Well #9 alternative that was approved by the CARES Act committee. However, the Hopi Water Energy

Committee legal advisers insisted the Well #9 alternative had already been studied and recommended focusing on the more feasible Side Rock Area well field. WEC directed to pursue development of a well field near the Red Lake area at Range Unit 251 as the most feasible long-term solution to bring water to Moenkopi. This is known as the Siderock area. There are two potential route alternatives evaluated from Siderock to Moenkopi including a route along Hwy 160 and another route that would follow the Questar Pipeline which is essentially similar to the Black Mesa slurry pipeline route but more acquirable.. The Questar alignment has the advantage over the AZ160 alignment of serving future Hopi uses along the route. The Questar alignment is also closer to the planned Poosiwlelena (the development site for Lower Moenkopi Village).

A decision was made by the WEC and approved by CARES Act committee to drill the well at Range Unit 251. The well project and testing was complete and successfully demonstrates the feasibility of a Side Rock well field to serve long term Moenkopi needs at a liberal growth rate. Now that information and direction needs communication to the village stake holders. Bodell noted that Mike Elmer, Le Roy Shingoitewa and Philton Talahyewa are familiar with the effort.

With respect to the OK ONE slurry line and Water Well #9, as noted above the well is old and the ductile line is not reusable for drinking water. Investigating engineers determined it will be better to construct a new pipeline than to try line the old abandoned slurry line.

Notably, the last 22 miles of the Slurry Line right-of-way from Peabody to Moenkopi is very close location to the Questar route.

Also, notably, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) is in the process of acquiring the Questar gas line and R-O-W over Hopi land and is prepared to grant Hopi waterline R-O-W over Navajo land as a concession to the agreement.

The aquifer and proposed future wells at Side Rock are only 400 feet deep, and therefore less expensive than wells in the Black Mesa Mine area.

Bodell noted that the engineering firm, Daniel B. Stevens and Associates (DBSA) is most familiar with the aquifer conditions and current waterline costs. DBSA has been involved with the Moenkopi groundwater conditions and modeling for decades. The contact there is Chris Wolf.

Bodell stated that the next step would be involve the Moenkopi Villages for concurrence of the long term water management plan and an MOU that identifies HUC's role to develop the planned system if that is the Village's preference. The Side Rock alternative conceptual design can be near shovel ready for potential funding through the American Rescue Plan.

The WEC assigned water CRF Task Force ranked the Side Rock well development and pipeline project as a high priority based on the apparent need from N aquifer decline in the Moenkopi area.

In addition to the direct funding to the Hopi Tribe an additional \$900 million of American Rescue Act is awarded to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The contact at BIA is John Krause. Krause has been involved with the Tuba City Uranium Reclamation project is aware of Moenkopi Water needs and at HUC request

listed the Side Rock project as a potential ARA funding request for \$20 million. The \$20 million project would bring water from Siderock to Moenkopi.

Questar is the parent company of the Southern Trails Pipeline that currently serves natural gas to the Tuba City area and the Moenkopi Legacy Inn through NTUA distribution lines.

The following is a follow-up email from Bodell to Cole:

You are welcome Brian,

We do have representative pipeline construction costs based on current bids. But the most intensive part of the study is the ground water modeling to estimate the sustainable pumping yield of each potential well field at the comparative locations.

We know Bohanon-Huston from their water line design work. On our former projects they subcontracted out the groundwater modeling scope. Our preference on this project is to work directly with the hydrogeologists already most familiar with the groundwater parameters and the pipeline design easily follows.

Based on preliminary research and reconnaissance of the currently considered alternatives we recommend development of the Side Rock Area well field for water transmission to Munqapi villages along the proposed Questar and abandoned slurry line alignment future economic development corridors.

The 36 year old 500 gpm well number 9 asset has substantial value to serve future planned water intensive projects in the reclaimed mine area (ie. hydrogen production, methane extraction, agribusiness, data center, DOD advanced technology warfare training grounds etc); that have collateral value to provide Munqapi Senom high paying jobs.

The Well 9 and Well 10 area also present a promising location for both tribes to inject Colorado River allocations into the confined N Aquifer for water banking and drought mitigation purposes.

Kwa kwah,

TIM

Hopi Utilities Corporation