

Joint Village Strategic Planning Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 27, 2021
10 AM MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone

1. Call to Order

Brian Cole called the meeting to order at 10:08 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Meeting attendees included Mary Bradley, Claudina Burgener, Andrew Gashwazra, Linda Honanie, Luther Lee, Dale Lucero, Le Roy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Robert Sumatzkuku, James Surveyor, Oriel Tootsie, Cathy Wright, and Brian Cole.

3. Approach to Hopi Tribal Council

Le Roy Shingoitewa opened the discussion by recognizing the need for a “date/time certain” for the meeting with the Hopi Tribal Council. Once we receive this, we can organize our local team to be prepared and available for the meeting.

Andrew Gashwazra responded that with Cedric Kuwaninvaya’s retirement, the *author* would be changing to Yolanda Bacca, the interim UMV CSA. Le Roy Shingoitewa added that he would reach out to Philton Talahyewa and Yolanda Bacca to make sure everything was being coordinated.

Le Roy Shingoitewa recommended that we work to get on the HTC agenda during the week of May 24-28. This would give us ample time to be prepared.

Cathy Wright asked if we should develop a memo requesting the HTC establish a date/time certain. Brian Cole offered to draft such a memo. (There was no official action on this matter during the meeting).

4. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

Le Roy Shingoitewa indicated that the committee had met last Tuesday, April 20. Shingoitewa stated that the Steering Committee has reviewed the selected strategies and has prioritized such strategies. The top six strategies are: 1) Attracting Funding, 2) Business Retention and Expansion, 3) Education Training Development Center, 4) Environmental Restoration, 5) Health Care Service Expansion, and 6) Infrastructure (Water/Sewer/Energy) Development and Effective Village Governance Development.

Le Roy Shingoitewa stressed that everyone should be working from the latest version of the JVSP budget. Cole noted that several changes were made between August 2020 and January 2021. Cole said he would review such documentation and respond with his recommendation as to which budget to work from. He would distribute this soon.

b. Village of Moencopi (Lower)

Robert Sumatzkuku stated that he is still working to address the Board election issue. Sumatzkuku has written a letter to the prospective board members indicating that they need to be sworn in next week or a new election needs to be scheduled.

Le Roy Shingoitewa said that he had spoken with former board member Carrie Joseph about participating in the approach to the Hopi Tribal Council. Le Roy Shingoitewa stated he was unsuccessful in connecting with Cliff Kaye or Sarah/Wayne Dallas. Gashwazra noted that he has been active in supporting VML. Gashwazra also noted that Robert Sumatzkuku and Rhonda Lomahaptewa were involved in the VML planning..

Gashwazra asked Cole if the VML budget included the prospective hydroponics business development cost. Cole indicated he would look into this and recommend adding such information if it is not there.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

Claudina Burgener stated that she approved the approach to the Hopi Tribal Council at the end of May. She noted that YPC has some new board members which could come up to speed on this matter prior to that time.

Cole noted that he would be in the region between May 12-May 20. If helpful to YPC, he could attend a YPC work session either in person or by phone or videoconference.

5. Village Resolutions of Support

No Report.

6. Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjourn

Similar to the previous week, Cole reported that he had been in contact with Tim Bodell of the Hopi Utilities Corp. Le Roy Shingoitewa asked Cole to coordinate an in-person meeting with several parties to discuss the long-term water supply solutions for Moenkopi. Cole will reach out to all of those parties including representatives from UMV, VML, HUC, and the Hopi Tribe. Shingoitewa asked James Surveyor if it would be possible to hold the meeting at the Legacy. Surveyor indicated that it would be possible, but CDC meeting standards would be in effect. Surveyor indicated that there might be a limit that the gathering has ten or less members. He would double check this limitation.

Luther Lee then reported on efforts by Senator Mark Kelly to gain support for the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. This information is summarized in Attachment A.

Cole then provided a board overview of his thoughts about how to secure all of the funding to implement the JVSP Priorities. Cole indicated that he believed that JVSP was well positioned to approach the Hopi Tribal Council for an allocation of funding, perhaps \$60 million, for Phase One of the JVSP effort. This funding could come from the forthcoming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding coming to Hopi soon. Cole then expressed thoughts about the repurposing of ONHIR to become the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Recovery.

Le Roy Shingoitewa responded with a historical perspective on why the Hopi Tribe is extraordinarily disappointed and frustrated with the non-performance of ONHIR. Shingoitewa stated it would be difficult to have any productive relationship with ONHIR given the lack of historical performance by ONHIR.

Shingoitewa noted that not only does this matter go back to the time when he served as Hopi Chairman, but it also relates to time when his father was a Hopi Tribal Council member.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2021 at 10 am MST.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am MST.

Attachment A

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 From Senator Mark Kelly

Today the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works unanimously passed bipartisan legislation cosponsored and shaped by Arizona Senator Mark Kelly to invest in the drinking water and wastewater needs of Arizona and its 22 tribal communities. The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 authorizes more than \$35 billion for water infrastructure projects across the country with a focus on upgrading aging infrastructure including Arizona tribal water projects, investing in new technologies, and providing assistance to marginalized communities.

Shortly after the unanimous bipartisan vote to advance the legislation, Senator Kelly [spoke](#) in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee about the legislation and its importance to Arizona.

Watch Sen. Kelly's remarks [HERE](#)

“Recent data indicates that drought conditions in Arizona and the entire southwest are the worst they’ve been in 20 years. At a time when Arizona’s population continues to grow, ongoing water shortages pose a serious threat to Arizona’s economy, and the livelihoods of all Arizonans. Yet, at a time when water conservation is so critical, most of Arizona’s drinking water infrastructure is more than 30 years old, and Arizona’s wastewater infrastructure is suffering from a \$1.4 billion investment shortfall. To adapt to ongoing drought conditions, Arizona must make smart investments in our drinking water infrastructure, to prevent leaks and water main breaks that waste our precious water resources, and in our wastewater infrastructure to support new, advanced water reuse technologies. That’s why I’m proud to cosponsor the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021,” **said Senator Mark Kelly in the committee.**

Kelly worked with Republicans and Democrats to successfully secure Arizona priorities into this water infrastructure package including the reauthorization of the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program which will fund drinking water projects for Arizona’s tribal communities and direct \$25 million for Pilot Programs for Alternative Water Source Projects. The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 includes:

- The reauthorization of the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program and provides \$50 million annually to EPA to fund tribal water projects, with dedicated funding set-aside for 10 tribal water projects in Arizona each year. In March, [Sen. Kelly requested](#) this funding be included in this legislation.
- \$25 million a year for Pilot Programs for Alternative Water Source Projects, including desalination plants, and stormwater and wastewater reuse plants. Arizona is the nation’s leader in water reclamation and reuse technologies, and in March, [Sen. Kelly requested](#) that additional funding and flexibilities be provided to support the development of water reuse technologies in Arizona.

- \$50 million per year for resiliency grants to public water and wastewater systems to secure infrastructure from cyber threats and from risks posed by climate change, including extreme drought and wildfires.
- \$280 million per year for Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants, to help cities, including Arizona's border communities, with planning, construction, and design of treatment works for wastewater systems.
- Increased funding and program flexibilities to invest in community water projects that address aging infrastructure and improve water quality through the State Revolving Loan Funds.
- Increased investment to address recruitment, training, and retention challenges facing the water and wastewater utility workforce.
- Significant investments in technical assistance and new and emerging technologies that result in cleaner, safer, and more reliable water.