

Joint Village Strategic Planning Meeting Notes
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
10 AM MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone

1. Call to Order

Brian Cole called the meeting to order at 10:13 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Meeting attendees included Mary Bradley, Andrew Gashwazra, Linda Honanie, Leroy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Robert Sumatzkuku, James Surveyor, Cathy Wright, and Brian Cole.

3. Approach to Hopi Tribal Council

Leroy Shingoitewa reported that we have a “time certain” for the presentation before the Hopi Tribal Council. ***This will be at 9 am on Wednesday, May 26.***

The group spoke about the need to meet to coordinate the messaging and presentation.

Leroy Shingoitewa indicated that the best way to address the concern about the Villages taking the lead on this is to refer to the historical effort lead by Clayton Honyumptewa with the Hopi Tribe Natural Resources Department dating back to 2009. Leroy Shingoitewa also noted that it was the Hopi Tribe through the OCPED (Andrew Gashwazra’s office) that did outreach to the Villages which led to the development of the JVSP effort. As such, this has been a Hopi Tribal initiative.

Leroy Shingoitewa asked Andrew Gashwazra if he could speak on behalf of the Village of Moencopi (Lower). Gashwazra affirmed that he could wear that hat on May 26. Leroy Shingoitewa noted that VML is focused on road improvements and range management improvements including fencing.

Leroy Shingoitewa continued that the UMV Steering Committee has been meeting and has focused its efforts on the top six priorities (which were noted in the April 27 meeting notes). Leroy Shingoitewa added that several of the Village priorities were the responsibility of the Tribe such as educational facilities and environmental cleanup.

Leroy Shingoitewa asked Robert Sumatzkuku if he could attend the May 13 UMV Steering Committee meeting which was to take place at 1 pm MST. Sumatzkuku indicated that he could be there. Gashwazra also stated he could be in attendance. Later Cathy Wright noted that she could also be in attendance. Mary Bradley would send out a broader meeting invitation for that UMV Steering Committee meeting.

There was then some discussion as to the format of the HTC meeting. It was noted that given the COVID restrictions, it is currently unknown as to whether the meeting will be held in person. Gashwazra noted that the Tribe may enter Phase 3 which might allow for greater in-person meetings. It was also noted that the JVSP effort will hold regular meetings on May 11, 18 and 25 so there are three more regular meetings prior to addressing the Hopi Tribal Council.

Leroy Shingoitewa reviewed where he thought many of the Hopi Tribal Council members may vote. Shingoitewa does believe it is possible to secure a majority vote for this effort. Continued outreach will take place.

If this effort is not immediately successful with the HTC, there are other avenues to pursue, especially recognizing that YPC is a charter community and UMV has its own constitution. Leroy Shingoitewa then described the differences between the District 6 portion of Hopi and other areas such as NPL and HPL.

Wright asked about the status of the UMV CSA. It was noted that Yolanda Bacca is the interim CSA.

Linda Honanie stated that she had been in contact with Philton Talahyewa with respect to who the author would be for the submittal to the HTC. Talahyewa recommended that the author might be Brian Cole. This change would be necessitated because Cedric Kuwaninvaya is no longer the CSA for UMV. Leroy Shingoitewa indicated that having Brian Cole as the author, or at least as the main presenter, would be a good idea. Cole responded that he was happy to serve in any form that would be beneficial to the overall effort. Cole indicated that he would work on an updated PowerPoint presentation for the HTC meeting.

Cole then provided three quick updates: 1) the April 27 meeting notes do provide an update on the six strategies selected by UMV and information is also contained on new federal water infrastructure legislation, 2) VML may wish to include the cost of the hydroponics facility and infrastructure development (Gashwazra and Sumatzkuku confirmed this was a good idea), and 3) Cole had a lengthy follow-on conversation with Luther Lee of Congressmen Mark Kelly's office after the April 27 meeting (Lee is very aware and supportive of our efforts and is keeping the Senator informed).

4. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

The full report for UMV was provided in agenda item #3 above.

b. Village of Moencopi (Lower)

Sumatzkuku indicated that there was a scheduled meeting of the prospective new VML board members for Thursday, May 6.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

Wright stated that she had a meeting with the incoming new YPC Board Chair who was coming up to speed with the YPC priorities.

5. Village Resolutions of Support

No report.

6. Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjourn

Cole noted that he was to be coordinating an in-person meeting related to water infrastructure and the availability of funding for a water analysis. Cole asked Leroy Shingoitewa who should attend the meeting. Shingoitewa responded with the following invitees: Tim Bodell, Norman

Honie, Leroy Shingoitewa, Brian Cole, Edison Tu'tsy, Priscilla Pavatea, and Andrew Gashwazra. It was noted that the Mining Building has a new ventilation system that is helpful in addressing the Coronavirus. In addition, that meeting can host up to 16 people. Cole was to look into both options (the Mining Building and the Legacy) for the prospective meeting. Cole would send out the email later in the day. Leroy Shingoitewa noted that holding the meeting at UMV (the Legacy) would be advantageous to offer a site tour.