

**Joint Village Strategic Planning
IN-PERSON MEETING
MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
9 AM MST
In-Person with Zoom Videoconference and Telephone Backup**

1. Call to Order

Brian Cole called the meeting to order at 9:10 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Meeting attendees included Sarah Dallas, Lahoma Davidson, Andrew Gashwazra, Linda Honahni, Carl King, Fred Lomayesva, Martin Manuel, Le Roy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Kathleen Sumatzkuku, Robert Sumatzkuku, Philton Talahyewa, Jolinda Tsawatewa and Brian Cole.

3. Efforts to Refine Projects and Budgets and Seek Federal Funding

Brian Cole opened the meeting by providing a brief description of the history and purpose of JVSP. Le Roy Shingoitewa then provided additional background.

Cole then noted that he had heard from Yuwehloo Pahki Community and they would not be able to be in attendance due to concerns over the Coronavirus. It was later learned that several of the YPC Board Members are quarantining. (We wish for you and everyone to be healthy and safe.)

Cole then noted that with the strong in-person attendance from UMV and VML along with new in-person attendance from the Hopi Utilities Corporation (HUC) this would be a great opportunity to hold a work session focused upon the water infrastructure development needs at Moenkopi.

Fred Lomayesva with the Hopi Office of General Counsel provided a detailed background on this matter from the perspective of the Hopi Tribe. He stated that the Tribe was aware that Moenkopi may run out of water by 2025. He stated that the Tribe took this matter very seriously and wants to work to find solutions. This led to a very serious and focused dialogue in late 2020 about the water infrastructure priorities of the Hopi Tribe for potential investment of CARES Act funding. It was identified then that the Siderock Well development was a very high priority. It was also determined that the Siderock Well development could be done at a lower cost than another alternative which would be to bring water along the slurry right-of-way line at an estimated cost of \$35 million. It was then that the Range Unit 251 water well development was prioritized. This led to the drilling of Well #2 in December of 2020. This was followed by the drilling of Well #3 in December of 2021. There is still consideration of potential drilling of Well #4 and #5, although no funding has been allocated for this purpose. HUC indicated that it is thought that the water supply from Well #2 and #3 could meet the short-term demand for Moenkopi. Drilling Well #4 and #5 could accommodate the 50-year growth projection.

The next goal will be to develop the right-of-way and construct the transmission line from the new wells to Moenkopi. One challenge might be crossing Navajo land.

The estimated cost to develop the transmission line from the two new wells to Moenkopi is \$19 million.

It was noted that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding might be one solution to meet the funding needs. The Hopi Tribal Council is still determining the procedure to make ARPA funding allocation decisions.

HUC then indicated that the Questar right-of-way is the preferred route for the transmission line. The attendees of the JVSP meeting affirmed this as the preferred right-of-way, especially because it could ultimately benefit the proposed Poosiwlelena community development project being advocated by the Village of Moenkopi (Lower). Fred Lomayesva indicated that there are current discussions related to the right-of-way along the Questar line. Fred estimated that resolving the right-of-way issue would likely take between three and six months. HUC indicated that this would be a very satisfactory time frame. Carl King noted that there would need to be a widening of the Questar right-of-way to accommodate the infrastructure development. HUC would also engage with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office (CPO) and Hopi Real Estate.

Robert Sumatzkuku with VML asked about the status of funding that had been secured by Norm Honie to analyze water solutions. He also inquired about work that Tim Bodell was working on with HUC related to the slurry line right-of-way. Philton Talahytewa responded that there was some consideration about redirecting the funding secured by Norm Honie from the U.S. Department of Energy for the well drilling work at Range Unit 251.

Carl King stated that HUC coordinates with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates related to virtually all water development engineering and analysis. They coordinate with Jennifer Hill. Daniel B. Stephens and Associates was helpful in concluding that resources should be directed to Range Unit 251 rather than Water Well #9. This being said, Water Well #9 is still a candidate for long-term water infrastructure investment and development.

Carl King of HUC then presented portions of a PowerPoint presentation that he was scheduled to provide to the Water Energy Committee. That meeting was cancelled due to COVID concerns. Carl King focused his presentation on the information relevant to Moenkopi. He noted that Well #2 which was drilled in December 2020 is producing 85 gallons per minute. Water Well #3 which was drilled in December 2021 is providing 105 gallons per minute. (There is not a well that is referred to Water Well #1.) Both of these water sources could address both the agricultural as well as the residential water needs of Moenkopi.

There was then further discussion about the right-of-way to bring the water to Moenkopi. There was continued consensus that the Questar right-of-way was the preferred route, especially because it could benefit the Poosiwlelena development project. Analysis would be needed to determine how much additional infrastructure would be necessary to support Poosiwlelena.

Further discussion would need to take place between HUC and the Tribe and Moenkopi and MUA related to the ownership of the wells. Much of the work has been done quickly in order to access the CARES Act funding. Backtracking to fully consider long-term ownership/operations would now be beneficial. Le Roy Shingoitewa stated that it might be advantageous for HUC to own and operate the main line while allowing the Village to own and manage the local infrastructure through MUA.

King stated that HUC is currently out for bids on the line that would connect First Mesa to Keams Canyon.

Carl King then stated that he believed it should be a priority for HUC to engage professional engineering services through Daniel B. Stephens and Associates to complete the design and engineering to bring the water from the new wells to Moenkopi. *He stated that it would probably take approximately nine months to do the design work and 12 months to do construction. There was unanimous agreement in the room that this should be a priority. Carl King was encouraged to bring this message back to his board.*

Carl King noted that in order to bring new water service to Villages the existing Village system must be served either by septic or lagoon. It was noted that there probably needs to be analysis that would target VML to address this concern.

Sarah Dallas indicated that VML has recently brought on a Project Manager who is knowledgeable. It would be important to connect all of these parties.

Le Roy Shingoitewa emphasized the importance of Navajo and Hopi working together. Brian Cole noted that he had facilitated a meeting that connected Le Roy Shingoitewa to the Navajo Hopi Land Commission. That meeting was very positive.

4. Response and Dialogue with Hopi Department Heads

Only the Hopi Office of General Counsel attended the meeting. Response and feedback from the Office of General Counsel is provided above.

5. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

No report.

b. Village of Moenkopi (Lower)

No report.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

No report.

6. Other Business

No other business.

7. Next Meeting

There will be no meeting next week on January 25 due to scheduling conflicts. The next regular JVSP meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1 at 10 am MST.

8. Adjourn

Brian Cole adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm MST and invited all of the in-person attendees to stay for lunch hosted by Building Communities.

