

**Joint Village Strategic Planning
MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, October 26, 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, Dale Lucero, Leroy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Fred Shupla, Robert Sumatzkuku, Neil Yazzie and Brian Cole.

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

Brian Cole updated the group on the efforts in Congress to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Reconciliation Bill (Build Back Better). Cole indicated that Senator Sinema is a pivotal figure in how all of this moves forward. Cole indicated he had reached out to her Indian Affairs staff member, Chris Phalen, to update him on JVSP activities and requests.

Le Roy Shingoitewa indicated that in addition to meeting with Navajo Delegate Otto Tso, he also met with key supporters of the Navajo Thaw, Raymond Maxx and Bobby Robbins. Shingoitewa indicated it was a very positive discussion about working together. Shingoitewa continued that he was reaching out to the Hopivewat Learning Center board. There have been some changes with the board and there still is an opportunity for that project to move forward with the NHH Regional Tourism Collaborative application which was submitted on October 19. We will have news on that grant on December 8.

Brian Cole indicated that the Hualapai Tribe was the lead applicant with the NHH Regional Tourism Collaborative. Cole indicated that the Hualapai Planning Office was very professional and effective to work with.

Neil Yazzie stated that it would be very helpful to better coordinate with Mike Elmer who serves as Chairman of the Hopi Tribal Council Water Energy Committee. Everyone needs to be on the same page on the planning and funding for future infrastructure improvements.

Dale Lucero echoed the need for improved coordination and communication. Le Roy Shingoitewa stated that the UMV Steering Committee would take the lead in bringing these communication efforts together.

Robert Sumatzkuku emphasized the need to get the Water Energy Committee involved. (Mr. Sumatzkuku later responded with a current listing of the committee membership which is shown in the box at right.

Water & Energy Committee
Michael Elmer, Vice Chairman
Clifford Quotaquahu, Member
Phillip Quochoytewa, Member
Rosa Honani Member
Pansy Edmo, Member
Chairman Tim Nuvangyaoma, Member
<i>Wallace Youvella Sr., Chairman position is vacant.</i>

Neil Yazzie indicated that Ky Macktima-Borhauer represented the Moenkopi Water Authority during the recent briefing to the UMV Directors. Yazzie reminded the group that the Water Energy Committee had made a trip to Moenkopi to understand the water project. Yazzie stated that we should not look at the Siderock well as an “either/or” situation with improvements stemming from Water Well #9. Both projects should be in the planning stages. Yazzie emphasized that MUA does have a good understanding of the demand for water and how the existing water wells could meet those demands. He stated that all of the projects are necessary both for UMV and VML.

4. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

No additional report.

b. Village of Moenkopi (Lower)

Robert Sumatzkuku indicated that his board is expressing interest in our efforts. He noted that many of the VML board members have occupations which conflict with our regular meeting times.

Sumatzkuku continued on, inquiring why there was such a focus on coordinating with Senator Sinema. Brian Cole indicated that it was his view that Senator Sinema was best positioned to support this effort, at least in the immediate term. Cole added that he could make himself available at a future VML board meeting for a briefing. Cole then asked Sumatzkuku if the new board was supportive of the Poosiwlelena Community Development Project. Sumatzkuku affirmed that the new board is interested in the Project. Cole noted that VML should be involved in discussions on the routing of the water transmission line from the Siderock Well. Cole indicated it may be in the interest of VML that the transmission line routing connect with the Poosiwlelena Project.

Fred Shupla emphasized that now is the time to plan and develop infrastructure projects with so many funding sources available.

Neil Yazzie reminded the group that MUA also supports the development of Pasture Canyon Well #5. Yazzie noted that that is the “quickest way” to resolve the water demand needs of Moenkopi. That project would entail the development of a 300,000-gallon storage tank. Yazzie indicated that MUA has been satisfied with the engineering support from Indian Health Services (IHS). Their contact there is Andrew Larson. They have been coordinating with the Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority (NECA) on their current water and sewer project.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

No report.

5. Other Business

No other business.

6. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 2 at 10 am MST.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am MST.