

**Joint Village Strategic Planning
MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, November 23, 2021
10 AM MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone**

1. Call to Order

Brian Cole called the meeting to order at 10:11 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Meeting attendees included Andrew Gashwazra, Travis Hyer, Dale Lucero, Fred Shupla, Sam Shingoitewa, Kathleen Sumatzkuku, Robert Sumatzkuku, James Surveyor, and Brian Cole.

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

Brian Cole welcomed Travis Hyer from the Hopi Office of the General Counsel to the meeting. He stated he was greatly appreciative of Mr. Hyer for attending the meeting as much of the planning work should be turning into implementation projects that could directly involve the Hopi Tribe.

Cole then proceeded to provide a historical account of the efforts of JVSP and a current report on existing activities.

From there, Cole reminded the group that the Hualapai Tribe should hear the results of the EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant application either today or tomorrow (by December 8). Andrew Gashwazra emphasized the important role of non-profits given the increase of federal funding for projects.

James Surveyor updated the group that MDC will be conducting some internal strategic planning which will help the non-profit have a firmer idea on what to focus upon for the future. Over the past 21 months, MDC has been primarily focused upon mitigating COVID and addressing operational needs. There will now be new energy to focus upon planning. MDC is currently looking for an experienced Economic Development Facilitator to assist in the strategic planning.

Travis Hyer with the Office of General Counsel stressed that the group needs to be mindful that some of the work and activity is the domain of the Hopi Tribe while other activities can be advanced by Villages and non-profits. Hyer noted that it is important to involve his office early on anything that might involve the Hopi Tribe.

Sam Shingoitewa stated that he had reached out to Taos on their recent success in receiving a planning grant for telecommunications. He has not received a response from them. Shingoitewa indicated that telecommunications planning is very important right now.

Robert Sumatzkuku asked about funding availability through the recently-passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. Cole responded that he is still examining that bill to determine the benefits to Hopi. Cole stated that he believed much of the funding would be retained by Federal Agencies and it would be up to Tribes to apply for funding (as compared to ARPA where Tribes receive a formula-based allocation).

4. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

Elections for the Upper Moenkopi Village Board are underway. Both Dale Lucero and Kathleen Sumatzkuku have submitted paperwork to be considered for those positions.

b. Village of Moencopi (Lower)

Brian Cole mentioned to Robert Sumatzkuku that JVSP would make itself available to make a presentation to the VML Board at their convenience.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

No report.

5. Other Business

None.

6. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, December 14 at 10 am MST.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am MST.