

**Joint Village Strategic Planning  
MEETING NOTES  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
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, Linda Honahni, Travis Hyer, Le Roy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Fred Shupla, Kathleen Sumatzkuku, Robert Sumatzkuku, Neil Yazzie, and Brian Cole.

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

Brian Cole initiated the meeting by indicating he was trying to schedule a time to present the activity of JVSP before the UMV Board. The UMV Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

Le Roy Shingoitewa stated that he continues to reach out to meet with Vice Chairman Craig Andrews related to JVSP efforts.

The group agreed that it would be advantageous to hold a joint meeting between MUA and HUC at the earliest mutual convenience. After the meeting, it was concluded that a special one-hour meeting right before the next JVSP meeting on Tuesday, March 15 would be ideal. Bailey Anderson would be coordinating the meeting logistics.

**4. Telecommunications Report**

No report.

**5. Reports from Villages/Community**

**a. Upper Moenkopi Village**

No report.

**b. Village of Moencopi (Lower)**

No report.

**c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community**

No report.

**6. Other Business**

Neil Yazzie with MUA provided an extensive update on the status of water infrastructure associated with MUA and Pasture Canyon. Yazzie indicated that the Pasture Canyon project is “near shovel ready” with sign offs from UMV, IHS, and the Hopi Tribe. Discussions are underway with IHS related to funding that needs to come from UMV and MUA in order to advance a \$1.5 million project. The total cost of the project could be lowered if: 1) UMV could provide a solid

count on the number of HUD houses, and 2) if projects do include HUD houses and businesses, then the IHS SDS scoring system is not as competitive.

MUA and IHS operate on a project justification system. Work orders must be created to justify specific projects. Yazzie indicated that all of this work has been done.

IHS indicates that if the hotel, for example, were served by a different water source, the SDS score would be increased.

Another factor is how many of the HUD homes have been fully paid off and have received their deeds. The more people that actually own their homes with the deeds, the higher the SDS scoring.

Linda Honahni noted that many of the seniors still have not received their deeds even though they have paid off their homes for over 30 years. There was a discussion about how to approach the Hopi Tribal Housing Authority (HTHA) to get documentation so that UMV can show IHS the high percentage of home ownership.

Neil Yazzie indicated he had received a document from IHS that states that either a bill of sale needs to be shown to prove that the house has been paid off, or a letter from HTHA could be provided listing the homes with completed pay-offs.

At one point there was a discussion about circulating a letter around the Village and having people sign off on the fact that they have paid off their homes and they have "\$0 debt" with respect to their home. It was later concluded that circulating a letter was not as satisfactory as getting the documentation directly from HTHA.

It was noted that there still is a board vacancy on HTHA. There was some discussion about Duane Sekakuku filling that board position.

Another way to lower the cost of the project is to remove portions of the project such as the tank, the transmission line, or if businesses and schools owned their own storage. Frequently, hotels, for example, have their own tank.

The group agreed that every effort should be made to lower the cost of the project in terms of the amount paid by UMV.

MUA currently serves 210 residential customers and 10 businesses. All of these businesses are served by the same water system.

The \$1.5 million cost does include: 1) the transmission line from Pasture Canyon (including tunneling under the highway), 2) the pump house, 3) the SCADA System, 4) fencing, and 5) a 230,000 gallon fiberglass tank.

The well has been drilled and capped. It is not enclosed. The project has been signed off and does have approved blueprints. Well #1 produces 45 gallons per minute.

Le Roy Shingoitewa stated that it would be a wise investment by UMV to commit its Bennett Freeze funding toward this project. Ideally, some or all of that funding could be pledged upfront

and then reimbursed from other funding sources later. Shingoitewa stated he would recommend to the UMV board that they proceed with a commitment similar to this.

Another consideration would be to coordinate and package the water project in association with the transmission line project from the Siderock Well (with an estimated cost of \$24 million).

As the conversation shifted to the Siderock Well, it was noted that there still is a determination needed on the routing of the transmission line from the Siderock Well to Moenkopi. There are two options, including one along the Questar right-of-way that could benefit the Poosiwlelena community development project. It was noted that getting information about the water demands for Poosiwlelena would be important.

Neil Yazzie stated that there has been communication with HUC.

With respect to MUA and VML, MUA does provide water to VML on “one bill, one meter, one customer.”

Neil Yazzie spoke of the phase one and phase two water improvement projects over the past 10 years. Approximately 15-20% of the Village water system is new. The definition of “new” means that the system is in good shape, the system can acquire parts for maintenance, there is very little hazardous situations, blueprints are in place, and the project was led by a contractor/engineer.

The new water improvement project would not change the service status for existing customers. The new assets would tie into the existing system.

The new well project would serve the entire community. The system would be based upon the consumption of water used (metering).

IHS operates in several regions. Hopi is in the Southwest Region served by the Phoenix Area District. The new contact from IHS has received a tour of the MUA system. The IHS system is always oversubscribed, meaning that there are more requests for funding than funding is available. This ratio has recently been \$175 million requested for an availability of \$80 million.

The new IHS contact person is Andrew Larson. Andrew Larson has provided a project background memo including the number of commercial services, residential services, the percentage eligibility, and the total well cost at Pasture Canyon. The total project cost is \$1,983,000. \$1.4 million is needed from the Village. It is estimated that 37% of the homes do not have a deed.

It was noted that UMV does have a Housing and Lot Committee that could be tasked with working on this activity.

Le Roy Shingoitewa noted that everyone should be mindful that there are two separate projects: 1) the MUA project at Pasture Canyon, and 2) the transmission line from Siderock. While the projects are separate, planning for both of them and seeking funding can be a coordinated process.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 10 am Arizona Time.

**8. Adjourn**

Brian Cole adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am MST.