

**Joint Village Strategic Planning
MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, June 7, 2022
10 AM MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Brian Cole at 10:10 am MST.

2. Self-introductions

Meeting attendees included Andrew Gashwazra, Ronald Honahni, Travis Hyer, Le Roy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, Fred Shupla, Neil Yazzie and Brian Cole.

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

Brian Cole opened the meeting by stating that he had heard very positive reviews of the Moenkopi Water Infrastructure Tour. He noted that he and Bailey had already distributed a report from the event that took place on June 3.

Andrew Gashwazra stated he thought the tour was very beneficial in clarifying to the Water Energy Committee the goals of both the Pasture Canyon and the Side Rock Well water infrastructure project. Gashwazra stated it was important that the committee understand that both projects are needed and they are not competing or overlapping with one another. He also emphasized the importance of the potential \$20 million allocation for the project to bring water from the Side Rock Wells to Moenkopi.

Neil Yazzie stated that the best part of the day was to “clear the air” on all of the projects by having all the right people there all at the same time.

Governor Ronald Honahni congratulated Neil Yazzie on his good work and the good work of the Moenkopi Utility Authority. Mr. Honahni stated he was hopeful that funding would be forthcoming for both projects.

Neil Yazzie asked about the letter that is being developed for the Hopi Tribal Housing Authority from Upper Moenkopi Village. Yazzie indicated that MUA would be supportive of also signing or supporting the submission of that letter.

Brian Cole then asked about a Letter of Concurrence. Le Roy Shingoitewa clarified that this would be for a letter encouraging the Hopi Procurement to release the funding for the Water Well #1 project for MUA. Brian Cole indicated he would draft the Letter of Concurrence.

Neil Yazzie then summarized the water infrastructure project associated with Well #1 which has been drilled and is currently capped. Yazzie indicated that funding from Hopi would be a necessary contribution to leverage funding already committed by Indian Health Services (IHS). The end goal for that project is to build a pump house, associated fencing, and piping from the well under Highway 160 and then connected into the existing system.

Yazzie also stated that there is a second project associated with Water Well #2. That project would entail:

- Drilling the well
- Constructing the pump house
- Connecting the two water wells into one overall system
- Development of a distribution line up the hill
- Construction of water storage

Yazzie stated that if Congressional or other funding was forthcoming, MUA and IHS would still find a way to advance the project. They would simply prioritize the project features and advance as much of the project as they could. This really underscores the importance of coordinating with HTHA to identify how many of the HUD homes have been “paid off” so they can count to receive future IHS funding. Yazzie also stated that MUA would be seeking an update on the water demand study which could show more population and growth which could yield additional grant money down the road.

Andrew Gashwazra indicated that a letter had been sent from Joe Russell of Senator Kelly’s Office related to the request for \$1.5 million of Congressional funding. Gashwazra reported that the project “has made it through hundreds of requests” and has been deemed as eligible for further consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee which will be holding Bipartisan negotiations for such potential funding within the next six months.

Brian Cole then reminded the group that they discussed advancing a draft Resolution and an Agenda Item for the Hopi Tribal Council to seek ARPA funding. The JVSP committee directed Brian Cole to draft a Resolution and Action Item to this effect.

4. Telecommunications Report

Sam Shingoitewa reported that he continues to receive information about funding sources for telecommunications improvements. Brian Cole stated that he offered a letter from Building Communities to HUC for their EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 2 proposal. Sam Shingoitewa stated he also submitted a similar business letter.

5. Reports from Villages/Community

a. Upper Moenkopi Village

No further report.

b. Village of Moencopi (Lower)

No report.

c. Yuwehloo Pahki Community

Andrew Gashwazra indicated that he had received a notice from YCP indicating that Claudina Burgener would be a contact person in the interim period before they replace their Community Service Administrator (CSA).

6. Other Business

Cole asked the group about efforts to collaborate with Navajo to seek the \$1.2 billion in Congressional funding. Le Roy Shingoitewa responded that continued outreach to Delegate Otto Tso and Executive Director Robert Black would be in order. Brian Cole indicated he would follow through on this request.

7. Next Meeting

Brian Cole stated he would not be available for the June 14 meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting would be on June 21.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am Arizona Time.