Joint Village Strategic Planning
MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
10:00 MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone

Attendees:

- Yolanda Bydonie, Sarah Dallas, Andrew Gashwazra, Diana Lucero, Tim O'Brien, Bonnie Secakuku, LeRoy Shingoitewa, Sam Shingoitewa, and Brian Cole.

Primary Meeting "Take-aways:"

- Brian Cole opened the meeting by asking Tim O'Brien of the Harvard Growth Lab (HGL) to introduce himself and the new grant that he is administrating
  - Tim O'Brien described the work of the HGL and the work that it has done around the world and more recently in the United States
  - HGL is engaged with two interns, Eloise Bentley and Mellie Mesfin who will be stationed at Hopi over the Spring and Summer; Ms. Bentley has already arrived
  - O'Brien stressed that their emphasis is to listen and to be responsive to any needs identified by the Hopi Tribe and its people
  - LeRoy Shingoitewa welcomed the work of HGL and made mention of positive experiences with Harvard in the past
  - Yolanda Bydonie emphasized that the Yuwehloo Pahki Community is very interested in development and building projects and would welcome the help
- Andrew Gashwazra talked about the planning process and the approvals that are in place through the Hopi Tribal Council to advance projects
- Sarah Dallas explained that the Lower Village is impacted by allotment lands associated with the 1934 Dawes Act so some of their land is stifled but that is why they have the Poosiwlenena Planned Community Development District which is a 45,000 acre land assignment with 1,200 acres set aside for housing
- Cole then announced that the Hopi Tribe has cleared the first round for potential funding through the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) process for $2 million of improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Moenkopi
  - LeRoy Shingoitewa explained the logic of where the treatment plant facility was located and the technology that was used
  - Shingoitewa also acknowledged the tremendous support from Luther Lee, Congressional Aide to U.S. Senator Mark Kelly

- Shingoitewa also thanked Brian Cole for his work on submitting the grant documentation; he noted that the proposal came together very quickly, and enjoyed the support of Hopi Chairman Lamar Keevama and Hopi Vice Chairman Mikah Kewanimptewa
- Diana Lucero also noted the strong support from the Offices of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

- Cole explained that he has heard from a couple of people that we should open up JVSP to serve additional Villages; Cole explained that Building Communities is eager to serve all of Hopi, but wanted the opinion of JVSP members on this
  - Yolanda Bydonie, Sarah Dallas, LeRoy Shingoitewa, and Sam Shingoitewa all agreed that JVSP is functioning very well with its more limited geographic scope and that it should remain serving the areas of Hopi that were impacted by the Bennett Freeze and Forced Relocation
  - Diana Lucero reminded the group that the Tribal Resolutions make specific reference to Upper and Lower Moenkopi and Yuwehloo Pahki as the focus for this work
  - Sam Shingoitewa provided additional detail that it is fine for people from other Villages to listen into the meetings; he noted that JVSP has been successful because it can balance culture with "today's world"
- Cole noted that he had received an email from Hopi Vice Chairman Mikah Kewanimptewa offering to provide additional support on the possible CDS award for wastewater treatment facilities
  - LeRoy Shingoitewa recommended that we coordinate through Diana Lucero to hold a meeting with the Vice Chairman and ask for the Vice Chairman's leadership to continue the good progress on this potential funding award
- Andrew Gashwazra noted that the next Tribal Council discussion related to the BEAD telecommunications grant program is scheduled for May 27
  - LeRoy Shingoitewa noted that the availability of Starlink for telecommunications is a real plus, and competition is good
  - Sam Shingoitewa agreed and noted that there may be a small price increase for Starlink services in the near future (an increase of $5-$10 per month); he also emphasized that Starlink has recently purchased EchoStar so the actual speed of the service may get even better
- Yolanda Bydonie announced that the Yuwehloo Pahki Heritage Festival is September 12

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, May 26 at 10 am MST.