Joint Village Strategic Planning
MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
10:00 MST
Zoom Videoconference and Telephone

Attendees:

- William Charley, Andrew Gashwazra, Dale Lucero, Sam Shingoitewa, and Brian Cole

Primary Meeting "Take-aways:"

- Brian Cole stated he learned that NeRD Power may be looking for business location space both for employees and potentially for a staging area for their projects at Upper Moenkopi
    - It was noted that one of the best locations would be where the fire wood operation is taking place, but that is already busy as a work center
- Cole reported that he had med with Neil Yazzie related to the fist stage clearance on the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding; Yazzie helped to reduce the project from $2,997,000 to $2,000,000
    - Cole indicated he had then forwarded the updated information to Vice Chairman Mikah Kewanimptewa and his assistant Diana Lucero
    - Andrew Gashwazra indicated he would follow up with the Vice Chairman related to reviewing the updated budget and forwarding to Luther Lee
        - Cole noted that this then would be forwarded by Luther Lee to Joe Russel in the office of Senator Mark Kelly
- It was emphasized that this is a budding success story, as it would follow on the previous successful effort by JVSP to coordinate with the Hopi Tribe to advocate for CDS
    - It is only through these allocations that this level of large-scale infrastructure funding can take place
- Dale Lucero stated that the water well and waterline transmission project bringing water from Rage Unit 251 (Side Rock) to the Upper Moenkopi Village is complete!
    - The contractor has now moved out of the location of the reverse osmosis plant
    - The water tanks are full
    - Lucero indicated he is anticipating information from Selwyn Sekaquaptewa at HUC related to the required payment amounts by the Village for water service
    - The Upper Village is very pleased that the project was actually completed ahead of the September 2026 deadline
    - Lucero commended Philton for "dusting off" the plans and pushing the project forward successfully
    - There will be an upcoming ribbon cutting

    - The project is truly a blessing for all of the people
- Cole emphasized that it is very important that the demand for water matches the new available supply
    - Water projects are engineered for an anticipated water consumption
    - Cole emphasized this creates commercial, business, and industrial opportunities for Moenkopi
        - This is consistent with work that he is doing for HTEDC to foster business and revenue-producing projects
- Lucero continued that the Upper Village is coordinating with the Hopi Tribe Housing Authority which indicates that housing development projects at Moenkopi are now shovel-ready! In other words, due to the infrastructure improvements, the prospect for new housing development is getting underway
- William Charley noted that he is working with plans for 12 new homes
    - He is working on an application for a land assignment for 12 trailer pads
    - He anticipates that within three years new housing development will be developed in the northeast portion of the Village on a project referred to as Northeast Hopi Subdivision Phase III which will accommodate both housing and commercial shopping
- Cole noted that the current work that he is doing with HTEDC includes a teammate: Travois
    - Cole emphasized that Travois has extensive experience with residential development in many Tribal locations
        - Sam Shingoitewa sated that it would be beneficial for the Upper Village to avail itself of potential support from Travois
        - Shingoitewa made reference of an existing resident that needed upgrades and improvements with her roof, but received an unaffordable $60,000 estimate for roof improvements
- At this time William Charley joined the meeting
- William Charley stated that indeed, he is coordinating with NeRD Power to find housing and a temporary business location for NeRD Power
    - He stated that temporary arrangements have made to provide somewhat of a cost break at the Legacy Inn which he is grateful for
    - Charley stated that NeRD Power will be underway with roof improvements and solar installation at the Senior Center
    - In addition, the Administrative Building will benefit from roof improvements and solar which will “save a lot of us a lot of money”
- Charley then added that the non-profit Red Feather has been successful at doing several roof projects in one day
- Next, Charley stated that he had received a letter from the Village of Moencopi (Lower) requesting help with projects; Charley responded to that letter indicating that the Upper Village would be pleased to help (which is a different position than was experienced between the two Villages years ago)
    - Specifically, the local farmers have been requesting help related to flooding and irrigation requirements
- Charley then indicated that he was looking for a front end loader and grader

    - Cole responded that at a previous meeting, Jarvis Namoki, Office Manager for Yuwehloo Pahki, indicated that his community is now in the business of providing the services with their loader and grader
        - Cole would send an email to both Charley and Namoki to initiate this coordination
- Charley continued that the Village would receive 1.5 million gallons of water per month
    - The cost of this would be $14,000 per month and there needs to be specific discussion related to who will pay this amount (the Village or Moenkopi Utility Authority or split between the two)
    - He noted that Selwyn Sekaquaptewa of HUC is working on that agreement
- Charley reminded the group that "we were desperate that we would have no water by 2025"
    - He stated that the situation has completely changed as a result of the advocacy and coordination of JVSP as well as the work of the Upper Moenkopi Village and other local partners
- Charley then added that the construction for Water Well #1 would be online this year
- Charley added that he believed that Water Well #2 will be drilled in 2026
- Charley then added that the Upper Village of Moenkopi is in regular meetings with HTHA related to a 12-unit housing project in which the Village would be providing land
    - Charley noted that he is the Chair of the Lot and Housing Committee
    - He added that there are currently 180 applications for housing dating back to 1970
    - This would be the first time in years that the waiting list could be meaningfully addressed
    - He noted that many of those that are on that list are now deceased and many are from the Lower Village
- Charley then stated that he has written to HTHA to provide a trailer at the Upper Moenkopi Village that could house a new police office
    - That agreement is rapidly coming into place
    - This would allow a new trailer near the Administration Building and the Village would have its long-standing wishes of having a public safety officer located at Moenkopi
        - A memorandum of Agreement has already been put in place to establish the police force
        - The goal is to have a permanently stationed officer at Moenkopi
        - This will be the first time that a police force staffed individual will be at Moenkopi in many years
        - Although three officers live in the community, none of them are stationed in the community
            - Cole noted that this is an excellent outcome and consistent with the Victim Services Plan that Building Communities created for the Hopi Tribe many years ago
- Charley then indicated that he is coordinating with the Arizona Department of Economic Security which is desiring a location for an office building
    - Charley noted that this would be a real plus for local revenues for the Upper Village

- Charley then provided an update on substantial progress being made to bring the audits up to date
    - Charley stated that local audits have not been up to date since 2017, but they've now been working on it for seven months and now have a goal of having all of the audits through 2023 up to date by December 2026
    - Charley stated that it is very important that these audits be brought up to date as the Hopi Tribe has been holding funding otherwise dedicated to the Upper Village due to the lack of audit compliance
    - The Village will be able to access five years of funding at $200,000 per year, or $1 million that the Village could then use
- Charley then stated that the Moenkopi Developers Corporation (MDC) is "doing great"
    - He stated that sales have substantially increased which helps everyone
    - He stated that a couple of years ago everything looked bleak, but all parties are now in a stronger position
    - He noted that there is a Wisconsin-based company that is providing the expertise to bring the audits up to speed and to overcome issues such as a lack of passwords to access Quickbooks-based information
- Charley then indicated that he is coordinating with a Tribe "back east" related to the assisted living facility at the Upper Village
    - That facility has been vacant recently, and there have been discussions about alternate use of that facility
    - It is generally agreed, however, that the reestablishment of the assisted living facility, perhaps operated as a nursing home, is the priority of the community
    - Charley noted that he is working with Linda who has strong administrative skills at the Senior Center to address this problem
    - They intend to apply for $500,000 from the Tribe
- Charley then reported that he would send a summary of some of the business projects to Brian Cole
- Gashwazra noted that the Clifford Honanie Building would benefit from a brownfield assistance grant to convert the hazardous building and to mitigate problems with the building
    - We might look into the Tribal Technical Assistance Brownfields Program
- Charley stated that he would like to know more about the efforts by HUC to pursue a broadband grant
    - Cole noted that Wayne Sekaquaptewa provided an update at a recent meeting
        - Cole would have Bailey Anderson email the notes from that meeting to Charley
- Charley stated that it will continue to be imperative that Hopi work with Navajo with respect to broadband improvements and there is an existing Memorandum of Agreement to allow directional drilling under the Pasture Canyon Spring
    - That has allowed broadband to benefit Tuba City and the stage is set for a reciprocal benefit for Hopi
- Sam Shingoitewa explained why he believed that the BEAD grant will not be approved and that fiber will not be brought to Upper Moenkopi Village

    - He emphasized that fiber is only as good as its provider and that through Starlink he is currently getting 17-18 millisecond capacity which will get even faster because of the purchase by Starlink of EchoStar
- Shingoitewa concluded that "of all of the things that Charley spoke of in the meeting today, these are the things that we are doing"
    - In other words, the success of the Upper Moenkopi Village and JVSP are the direct result of the initiatives of the Village and JVSP itself
- Shingoitewa indicated that he has been in contact with T-Mobile
    - He believes that with the proper communication and advocacy, we may be able to establish stronger T-Mobile service at Moenkopi, especially at the Tuuvi Store where they could set up a kiosk