

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE  
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION  
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

**RESCHEDULED REGULAR SESSION**

**MINUTES**  
May 17, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Billford Curley

**ROLL CALL:**

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Norma Gourneau *Medical appt</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Eva Foote</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Phillip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Serena Wetherelt, President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Gwen Talawyma *Was attending Medical appt., entered @ 9:47 a.m.</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>1</b>

Quorum Established

Henry Speelman: Madame President, the Council would like to congratulate the Northern Cheyenne for winning the Handgames Tournament. It was a good day, a good weekend, so I'd like to congratulate them [applause]. Madame President, other announcements. Veterans Meat Market will be here from 10am-2pm with different kinds of meat—buffalo, deer, beef, whatever they have for Veterans. Last time they were here, whoever came up, they helped them.

Debra Charette: Good, back here?

Eva Foote: Today, Henry?

Henry Speelman: Yes, 10am-2pm. I believe after this, they will start using the pantry area when they come up. We'll go ahead and start the meeting. I'd like to take #11 and replace #2. We have no budgets, Lane?

Lane Spotted Elk: Correct.

Debra Charette: I would like to move #10 to behind Commnet. Move #10 up behind the Minutes.

Henry Speelman: Okay, move #10 to #2 ½ [laughter].

Melissa Fisher: Before the minutes?

Debra Charette: Yeah.

## **ELDERLY UPDATE**

Silver Little Eagle: I have a report from the Elderly Board. I was talking to some individuals and they were telling me that often times when Elders report abuse to law enforcement, they don't really know what happens next because nothing really seems to be done. We were in search of a concrete victim advocacy for Elders who experience physical and financial abuse. We asked Healing Hearts, but they only do domestic relationship services, so we were just searching for a victim services that we could direct elders to. I think the ultimate goal in this situation would be a temporary shelter for elders to be safe in those situations. We're beginning the elderly garden and the initial stages, so preparing the site at the Shoulderblade Complex. We did one two years ago and it was good, it was our first time gardening. We're in search of funding to build the raised garden boxes for the garden and possibly some to be distributed to elders.

Diane Spotted Elk: What to be distributed to elders?

Silver Little Eagle: The raised garden boxes. And currently the residential areas that we've chosen: Lane Deer, Busby, Muddy, Birney, and Ashland are being inspected for the solar array areas.

Debra Charette: Thank you.

**MALINDA HARRIS, ELTON HARRIS, RYNALEA PEÑA, AND CLARA HARRIS  
ENTERED SESSION @ 9:38 A.M.**

## **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF FUNDS EARNED UNDER THE REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT WITH COMMNET FOR A MOBILE HOME PURCHASE FROM NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Diane Spotted Elk: Good morning, everyone.

Lane Spotted Elk: Madame President, in attendance today we have Malinda Harris and family members. I'd like to recognize them as well. This issue has not been a simple issue. There have been a lot of complexities around this issue, but I feel today this Council action would remedy that situation that has happened, and it would move forward with all parties involved. So, I would just like to take a moment to recognize Malinda and her family members today. Because of you, all of your efforts, is why MMIW and MMIP issues are recognized at such a national level. So, the Tribe really appreciates the advocacy, and there's a lot more work that needs to be done. And I know this is only the start of it, but we feel that those efforts are because of where

we are today with the national movement and things like that. The nexus, the correlation between that issue and the issue with the home, is completely spelled out in this resolution as well. I guess I would just like to honor you all today and we hope that this issue would bring some sort of resolve to the ongoing situation that has arisen. The Council did everything in our efforts to make sure we could do that. There were some things that were out of our control, but we feel that this action taken today would bring a solution for everybody. So, thank you.

Diane Spotted Elk: Thank you for being here.

Debra Charette: We want to thank you all for being here today. And for all of your endeavors, what you've done.

Motion made by Diane Spotted Elk. Second by Melissa Fisher.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau				X
Eva Foote	X			
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma *Absent for vote				X
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**MALINDA HARRIS, ELTON HARRIS, RYNALEA PEÑA, AND CLARA HARRIS EXITED SESSION @ 9:44 A.M.**

**EMMA HARRIS, LARISSA KILLSNIGHT, JEFF BROWN, AND HUNTER JAMES ENTERED SESSION @ 9:46 A.M.**

**GWEN TALAWYMA ENTERED SESSION @ 9:47 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ESTABLISHING THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE FOOD PANTRY**

Emma Harris: As you know, we've been trying to get the Food Pantry going, so this is a resolution authorizing and establishing the Northern Cheyenne Food Pantry.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau				X

<b>Eva Foote</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Phillip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Henry Speelman: Madame President, I would just like to commend Emma and her crew for doing an outstanding job. They've been busy and we really appreciate what you guys do and tell you all thank you and keep up the good work.

Melissa Fisher: Yes, could you introduce your crew?

Emma Harris: Sure, Larissa Killsnight, she'll be doing a lot of the media and things like that and more of the office work because we want to work with DES and also are trying to get more information for families in case of an emergency. So, we'll be working on side projects so we know, if there is an emergency, where are the elders? Do they need help? Do they have help? If it's an electrical issue, how many people does that impact in each community. So, we want to move towards preparedness in times of disaster, because we know, more than likely, we'll have a fire this year. So, we want to be proactive rather than reactive. Larissa will be doing a lot of that. This is Jeff Brown, he's been with us, Hunter James, and Delano Harris [not present today].

Melissa Fisher: And Delano is the delivery man?

Emma Harris: Yeah, well they all do deliveries.

Melissa Fisher: Thank you guys for your hard work.

Lane Spotted Elk: Emma, I just want to mention to you and your crew that your selfless, tireless efforts don't go unnoticed. We notice when there's a water outage, when there's something like that, usually the first people we see out and about are you guys. And we really appreciate your guys' tireless efforts and the Tribe really appreciates you all for what you do for the community. Thank you [all applaud].

**EMMA HARRIS, LARISSA KILLSNIGHT, JEFF BROWN, AND HUNTER JAMES EXITED SESSION @ 9:53 A.M.**

**MINUTES  
MOTION TO PASS MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2, 2022 REGULAR SESSION  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Debra Charette: Abstain, I wasn't here.

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Melissa Fisher.  
**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette			X	
Norma Gourneau				X
Eva Foote	X			
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	1 Abstention	Motion Carried
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**BILLFORD CURLEY ENTERED SESSION @ 9:55 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL  
 SUPPORTING THE TRADITIONAL CIRCLE OF INDIAN ELDERS & YOUTH  
 GATHERING**

Billford Curley: I wanted to share a little bit with you. I've seen a lot of things that's very positive today. The food program, certain people getting help with housing. And I see every one of you guys up here shaking hands with them, that's what makes me feel good. You are here for the people, every one of them. Youngest to the oldest. I need to see you all moving forward together. What I wanted to present today is that I need some support from the Council. I've been working with the American Indian Institute for a long time and with Youth & Elders. Lane is aware of it, I talked with him for quite a bit. We started out with Austin Two Moons and we started this gathering with the Youth & Elders, we're sponsored by Eric Noise, Steffon, and Joe Medicine Crow who came to the house and wanted our support from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. I've been involved with the American Indian Institute for a long time. People gather all the way from the state of Washington and Canada border, all the way up to Maine and California and in between there. I'm very fortunate to know some people in these areas, and we've even had people from Hawaii and Alaska come in. I need some support from the programs, if they could donate something at least, in memory of when we have this gathering for Austin Two Moons and also Herman Bearcomesout. They worked for a long time within this group. I work with Wallace Bearchum and Mildred Eaglefeathers. Those are the ones that I would like to... I've talked to several of them. I've talked to Serena that we need some support. I'd also like some support from you guys. We need a location of where we're going to have this gathering. Also, Diane is aware of it, I've asked her to support us also. And those are things that we're going to need to plan this. We do have a staff, I was given a staff a couple of years ago. The state of Washington, we were the third one down, the last one was Oklahoma. So, they asked the Northern Cheyennes to sponsor this gathering. So, they gave me the staff. We requested a long time, for a gathering here, in memory of Austin Two Moons. In the state of New York, when I

was there, it finally came. And I really need your support for the Youth & Elders. This is something positive, just like the circle here. The circle here, I've seen a lot of positive things today. That's what this circle is about. So, those are the things that I wanted to share with you. I need your support if I can get it, and get these programs to help with that. Lane, Diane, Serena, I need your support on this. And whoever else wants to volunteer. I really appreciate it. We'll need to have a planning meeting soon here. I'll let Wallace know so he can let you know. Thank you very much for listening to me.

Lane Spotted Elk: Madame President, I'd like to make a motion to pass a resolution of general support. Nothing financially binding at this moment, but just a resolution of support from the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, supporting the event that Mr. Curley had just briefed us on. So, it would just be of general support, and showing our interest and supporting this in the future. I'd like to make that motion.

Diane Spotted Elk: Thank you, Billford, for giving us that presentation and I know that he's been working on it for a long time. It's the Elders gathering. And there are a lot of good, influential people that are a part of that group and its origins from Austin Two Moons, I know that my aunt Adeline and aunt Marie Sanchez used to be a big part of that group also. I just want to say I support it fully, and thank you for bringing it to Northern Cheyenne.

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Henry Speelman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau				X
Eva Foote	X			
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**JOHN GRINSELL ENTERED SESSION @ 10:04 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, SMART FY 2022 SUPPORT FOR ADAM WALSH ACT IMPLEMENTATION GRANT**

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			

<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Eva Foote</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Phillip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**JOHN GRINSELL AND LANE SPOTTED ELK EXITED SESSION @ 10:05 A.M.  
 JASON WHITEMAN ENTERED SESSION @ 10:06 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL ACCEPTING FUNDING FROM BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE “CO-DESIGNING BLACK-FOOTED FERRET CONSERVATION WITH THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE COMMUNITY” PROJECT WITH THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE’S NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE PROJECT**

Jason Whiteman: We’ll start with the Co-Designing the Black-footed Ferret. It actually started about 3 years ago when we started on the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan. It started out with the Prairie Dog Recovery Plan, and now it’s the Black-footed Ferret. We want to make this program/plan to be community based. The idea is to make it an outreach, and that’s what, there were 2 VISTA workers hired, Cheyenne members, both with Bachelor’s degrees. They were doing an outreach, but this is just a continuation to try and finalize this community-based Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan. That’s the goal for this. I don’t know if anybody received the...we just got a grant award for \$119,721.00 for this program. It comes from the Endangered Species Program. We’re under sanction and we just get a limited amount each time from the BIA. The award letter and budget are in here. The Natural Resources Department would administer the program here. We will hire one contractor for a biologist, and also the U.S....another just for the Place and Pressure Program, that’s a fancy way to put it—dusting. Another is Antidote University is, they analyze the survey that we get from the Tribal community members, all the way from elementary, high school, to the community and that’s our target group, and our Tribal leaders. Adrienne Killsnight mentioned at the meeting in December, that’s the purpose of our meeting was to contact Tribal leaders and get their input as well. Then we’ll hire the professional consultants to do the analyzing of that report. The one thing that we stressed was privacy. Names and some other things. That’s what the purpose was, to protect and respect the privacy of our tribal members. We categorize them in the order of males and females. Our plan is to set it up that way.

**DEBRA CHARETTE EXITED SESSION @ 10:09 A.M.**

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
<b>Lane Spotted Elk *Briefly absent for vote</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Debra Charette *Briefly absent for vote</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Eva Foote</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Phillip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>			

<b>7 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Henry Speelman: Before we move on to #7, Billford Curley would like to show the staff for the gathering.

Billford Curley: Thank you. This staff was given to us, since we'll be sponsoring the next gathering. It's been all over the United States and Alaska, and all over. This is something positive. We have the youth coming in the first two days and they have speakers that talk about anything from drugs, everything that's going on in the reservation. Also, the outer circle is planning. We talk about planning. Maybe with elderly abuse and we have speakers from all over the United States. They're doctors, psychologists. I wanted to show you all this staff from Washington, for us to sponsor. I really appreciate it.

**BILLFORD CURLEY EXITED SESSION AND LANE SPOTTED ELK RE-ENTERED SESSION @ 10:13 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING BUFFALO NATIONS GRASSLANDS ALLIANCE'S (BNGA) VISION OF NATIVE NATIONS UNITING SO THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE IN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS (NGP) FLOURISHES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Jason Whiteman: Okay, this one is requesting for support. It's an organization that started in 2019 and the focus was on tribes in Great Plains Area of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and again it's called Great Plains. It's the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance, and it's just an infrastructure. Something like St. Labre or even a trust fund, like [it would be like] the Tribe has a permanent trust fund and relies on donors to provide that. Again, the focus would be for tribes in Great Plains. It's simply saying that the Great Plains, to focus on infrastructure. We had a conference call last week with Libby Kamala, with Lane Spotted Elk and Henry Speelman to have a brief overview of this program here. Later on, the Tribe can join, once this infrastructure is developed, we'd come back before the Council to join. Again, right now it's just a resolution of support from the Tribe.



**DEBRA CHARETTE RE-ENTERED SESSION @ 10:14 A.M.**

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Eva Foote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau				X
Eva Foote	X			
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**JASON WHITEMAN EXITED SESSION @ 10:15 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 SPECIAL PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION TO FILL VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau				X
Eva Foote	X			
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING A REVISION TO THE HOLIDAY LIST FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Henry Speelman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau				X
Eva Foote	X			
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau				X
Eva Foote	X			
Phillip Beckman		X		
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

8 votes Yes	1 vote No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 10:19 A.M.**

**PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council with 8 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022.

  
 Nizhoni Friesz, Secretary  
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe