

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

**RESCHEDULED SESSION**

**MINUTES**

September 13, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Donna Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Lane Spotted Elk

**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</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Eva Foote *Absent due to family emergency*</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Phillip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Donna Fisher, President</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>Total:</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>1</b>

Quorum Established

**ADD ON: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VOTERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS OF 2021**

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</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>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>	
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Lane Spotted Elk: Madame President, are you looking at filling that last seat on NCDC?

Donna Fisher: Yeah, I'm working on it right now.

Lane Spotted Elk: Okay, I know they have a meeting tomorrow about a \$115,000 contract.

Donna Fisher: It's not ready today. It will be ready at the next meeting. All of the boards.

Lane Spotted Elk: Oh, okay.

**ELDERLY**

No updates at this time.

**BUDGETS**

Lane Spotted Elk: Let's move these to the end. We have some budget resolutions being revised.

Melissa Fisher: Okay, so she's changing these ones?

Lane Spotted Elk: Yeah, there was an error in one of the ARPA ones.

**DISTRICTS**

President Donna Fisher gave a short update from the BIA Chief of Police.

**RECESS @ 9:59 A.M.**

**RECONVENED @ 10:16 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

**MOTION TO PASS MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2, 2021 REGULAR SESSION COUNCIL MEETING**

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Debra Charette *Abstained, was not present for August 2, 2021 Council Meeting*</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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</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>1 Abstention</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Nizhoni Friesz: We also have the minutes from the September 7<sup>th</sup> Roll Call regular session from last week.

Henry Speelman: I'd like to make a motion to pass September 7<sup>th</sup> Roll Call minutes.

Phillip Beckman: I second that.

Debra Charette: It was just roll call. We don't need it. We didn't have a quorum.

**MOTION TO TABLE: SOLE SOURCE FOR GENERATORS**

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</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>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL  
NOMINATING NORMA GOURNEAU TO THE JOINT COMMISSION ON REDUCING  
VIOLENT CRIME AGAINST INDIANS, TO REPRESENT THE NORTHERN  
CHEYENNE TRIBE**

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			
Serena Wetherelt, Vice President	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

10 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**JASON WHITEMAN, SR. ENTERED SESSION @ 10:22 A.M.**  
**DONNA FISHER EXITED SESSION @ 10:24 A.M.**  
**LANE SPOTTED ELK EXITED SESSION @ 10:26 A.M.**

Jason Whiteman, Sr.: Good morning, this is called protocol for our joint funding agreement with USGS. Generally, each year we develop a proposal for the following fiscal year. We do it one year in advance. In this agreement, it requested that the Northern Cheyenne Tribe enter an agreement with the United States Geological Survey to conduct some of the information. One of those is streamflow stations, and those are in Birney Day school. The other is Rosebud, across from Jimtown—Jim Peppers’ place. That’s the other location of the Rosebud Creek Service Water Station, and Granite, just downstream north of Ashland. They’ve been doing that for 40 years, conducting these, operating these service water stations. The groundwater monitoring of existing wells, those generally are in Cook Creek. That’s from Birney, all the way up to the head of the creek. We’re now thinking about, since the water isn’t changing as much, is to actually phase that out and move into groundwater. But for now, this is Cook Creek Well. I had Ron Burns as a water technician getting detailed out. He’s the one who actually does the water testing at Cook Creek. We have two water level sensors, in two of the wells in Cook Creek. We’re also talking about instrumentation and monitoring water wells. We’ve identified three in Cook Creek—there’s one in Birney Day, Birney Village, and one north of Ashland that we’re looking at. We just identified two more last week, that will be on Jim Peppers’ property, his wife’s property, right next to Bailey’s. And Sam Bixby’s old place, Norma Bixby’s place. And we want to have four recorders on those ground water wells there. So that’s our plan. There’s also data management reporting. Usually, the surface water data actually is a large report for the whole state of Montana. Our data is in that report. It’s strictly numbers, and we use that. Our department, DES, we use that data for the surface water if there’s any potential flooding. I go with DES to Birney to let them know if there’s any threat of flooding. But the data comes directly from our surface water stations here. Usually, Art Hayes informs us the data is coming out.

**DONNA FISHER RE-ENTERED SESSION @ 10:30 A.M.**

Debra Charette: Jason, in your invoices, they're paid by your program, right? For the \$67,662?

Jason Whiteman, Sr.: Yeah, the agreement here is usually pre-signed, but we were supposed to have an updated agreement. We got funded for between \$31,000-\$50,000 for that project and it's mostly on Tongue River there. And I believe it's not included in this Joint Funding Agreement. So, I want to amend that Joint Funding Agreement.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AUTHORIZING THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE TO ENTER JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THREE YEARS TO INSTALL STREAM FLOW STATION TONGUE RIVER – ASHLAND, MONTANA; TONGUE RIVER 2100: FUTURE TONGUE RIVER STREAMFLOW ESTIMATES TO ENABLE NORTHERN CHEYENNE DATA-DRIVEN WATER MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING; CONTINUE MEASUREMENTS OF GROUNDWATER WELLS; STREAMFLOW MONITORING INCLUDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STREAMFLOW STATIONS ON THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk *Briefly absent for vote*				X
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman	X			
Serena Wetherelt, Vice President	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**LANE SPOTTED ELK RE-ENTERED SESSION @ 10:32 A.M.**

Jason Whiteman, Sr.: Again, thanks. So, this is just an update. The Council had done a resolution of support for a proposal to the VISTA program. And we got funded for it, so it's a joint sponsorship by our Natural Resources Department. And we also have the World Wildlife Funds (WWF) and the funding sources and VISTA Program. The proposal went in the and WWF actually provided a lot of the technical support and guidance. This proposal is for the Black-Footed Ferret restoration efforts. We will engage with youth and the community. We actually hired Adriann Killsnight and Benjamin Bahr, they have credentials.

Diane Spotted Elk: Did they get their extensions for the surveys?

Jason Whiteman, Sr.: Yes, that's correct. And what we did was, Adriann and Benjamin have experience with that and they've gone through orientation. We just want to organize how this will happen here. Because of the pandemic, we will conduct interviews over the phone. We're trying to focus on tribal ownership of property. So, our focal point will be Ashland and part of Birney will be part of this recovery plan. The information that we're collecting, the WWF wants to hire outside analysis experts from a university. And all of the data is confidential.

Donna Fisher: Jason, is Genie White still the lawyer?

Jason Whiteman, Sr.: Genie White is mostly water range. Two more things, we have the Subotic plague on the reservation again. We sent flea samples to the CDC. This is the third time the plague has been on the reservation on the prairie dogs. And this year, we've been dusting for the fleas. We'll do it hopefully this summer again.

Diane Spotted Elk: So, is that a parasite?

Jason Whiteman, Sr.: It's actually a bacteria. When humans come in contact with it, it's known as Bubonic plague. I've actually notified IHS to let them know if someone comes in with COVID-19 common cold symptoms, they need to ask if they've been around the prairie dog colonies to hopefully be treated right away. An 11-year-old in Colorado died from that. So, it is a deadly disease. Today, it's here, so hopefully no one will be in prairie dog areas. We had prairie dogs at 10,000 acres in the 1980's and the plague hit, and we went down to 500 acres. And then to 600 acres, then back up to 4,000-5,000. But the plague, it's here. Again, those are the issues we're dealing with today. Another issue is that Transportation has contacted me about prairie dogs living in these cavities underneath Ashland flats, and they're starting to burrow under the pavement. They could collapse it. So, this is part of our prairie dog management plan as well. We'd like to also have another working session in Billings for a 20-year lease agreement, for 300 ft acres., near Spring Creek Mine. And Genie White has been working on it with us.

**JASON WHITEMAN, SR. EXITED SESSION @ 10:42 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VOTERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS OF 2021**

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</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>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**Norma Gourneau read her notes and minutes from the Council’s previous Budget & Finance Committee meeting.**

Lane Spotted Elk: To follow the resolution established around ARPA, the Budget & Finance Committee would receive these requests, review them, and approve or deny them. That was the resolution voted on unanimously.

Melissa Fisher: I think we should treat this like a program. And it needs a Director. So that they can prepare everything, then they can come to us once they need approval.

Lane Spotted Elk: So, there are three options. One, we could pass everything as is and put it up for a vote. Two, we could pause this meeting, regroup in a Budget & Finance session and make sure everything is in there that we approved in the committee. That way, all of the requests, we make sure they’re all in there and in line with our policy. Or three, we could temporarily wait on everything until our ARPA session. I don’t know what the Council wants to do. Third option, everyone then knows what we’re passing.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL  
AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN  
BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</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>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Lane Spotted Elk: Madame President, is it your recommendation to adjourn this council meeting to work out the issues?

Donna Fisher: Yes, work out the issues, get them in there. There is guidance to the ARPA budget. And I want to make sure everyone understands where we're going with ARPA. That needs to be on task, and I'm currently getting some guidance from them. We have to make sure those four line items are in there, Water and Sewer. Those are our main budgets because that's what ARPA, what we have to rebuild. We need to make sure that everything gets figured out with the line items, and then we'll come back and pass them.

**RECESS FOR BUDGET & FINANCE MEETING @ 10:59 A.M.  
RECONVENED AFTER BUDGET & FINANCE MEETING @ 12:33 P.M.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL  
AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN  
BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS; WITH AMENDMENT  
TO REMOVE 840F FIRE PROTECTION AND REPLACE WITH 830A  
ADMINISTRATION**

Nizhoni Friesz: So, you're removing 840F?

Lane Spotted Elk: Yes, and replacing it with 830A ARPA Administration.

Diane Spotted Elk: At the same amount?

Lane Spotted Elk: No, ARPA Administration is a different amount. It's on here. That's with all the changes that were just made and approved.

Melissa Fisher: It's \$1,716,456.92.

Debra Charette: Oh, that's just with the salary.

Lane Spotted Elk: Is that B? No, A is...

Serena Wetherelt: It's \$1,773,945.44.

Lane Spotted Elk: Yep.

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</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>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Lane Spotted Elk.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</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>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 12:38 P.M.**

**PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council with 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.



Nizhoni Friesz, Secretary  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe