

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

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

July 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

INVOCATION: Vice-President Ernest Littlemouth, Sr.

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Debra Charette	X		
Norma Gourneau <i>*arrived @ 9:18 a.m.</i>		X	
Eva Foote	X		
Torrey Davie	X		
Serena Wetherelt, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X		
Silver Little Eagle	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:	11	1	

Quorum Established

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: One question on the executive order. Thank you for issuing it. We have one contractor. Can he be out there mapping?

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: I spoke with Jason this morning. They are going to see Fire Management and get some tools, fire extinguisher. They are supposed to be bringing me a permit to sign.

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: I asked Angel to come in as the DES Director to give us an update on the fires near Birney.

ANGEL LEI - DES UPDATE:

- 6 fires; 4 of the 6 merged. 2 large fires. They are calling the other 2 smaller fires but 1,000 acres and the other one is like 4300 acres. So, they are not really small compared to the big ones that are the Buffalo and the Anderson.
- North and East side all buttoned up. Dozer line around it. Southeastern side of it is what is giving them trouble. Anything internal wise, as far as threats coming towards the reservation, is no longer.
- Hackley and Prairie is what merged.
- Nothing on the Wolf Mountain fire. That is the one the BIA Fire Management was little worried about. That one would be coming out of Billings. Active fire danger sitting at moderate.
- Thank you to Land Authority for getting the dozer lines around the southern part of Birney. Going to be proactive when things like this happen.
- State of emergency done by President Wetherelt in case we need it.
- Estimated it about 7 miles from Birney. Fire in red about 15,000+ acres. Type I team came in to manage it. Smoke jumpers may be utilized. Back burned to the Tongue River road.
- Will check in on the Wolf Mountain fire.

**MOTION TO ADD 2 RESOLUTIONS TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE MONTANA COMPACT BOARD AND AGREEMENT
WITH GREAT NORTHERN PROPERTIES**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Item #2 will be moved down. Waiting for a response. Joetta is out and I didn't get the information from Wallace. So, I'll move that one down.

ITEM #1 – BUDGETS

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Can we move that one down also?

ITEM #3 - MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING ON MAY 7, 2024

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Silver Little Eagle.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette				X
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'll make a motion to approve May 16th minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR SESSION MEETING ON MAY 16, 2024

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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ITEM #4 – BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST INTRODUCTIONS

ANDREW JOHSON:

- Forest Supervisor of the Bighorn National Forest based in Sheridan, Wyoming.
- Wanted to come introduce ourselves.
- Responsible for managing and ensuring the resources of Bighorn National Forest which is 1.1 million acres of public lands all in Wyoming.
- Have had a good working relationship with the Northern Cheyenne Nation, stewardship of the Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain National Historic Landmark. We just met with the consulting parties that we co-manage the Medicine Wheel with on Saturday and there was very good representation from the Northern Cheyenne and we very appreciate that engagement.
- The forest provides all the same natural resources that has been provided for thousands of years. We are very privileged to have the job of stewarding those resources. We can't do that without the expertise, assistance and the engagement of the communities that we serve.
- The Bighorn provides a place for recreation, drinking water, home of significant of wildlife habitat, many native plants, and other species and resources.
- Our role to make sure that all peoples, including the Northern Cheyenne, have ready access to those resources and the ability to utilize those resources, whether its to collect native plants, to collect tipi poles or firewood, or just to come and recreate and enjoy the public lands.
- Christine's role is to help facilitate that access for folks and answer questions. A liaison Between them and the forests.
- Employment opportunities – started a program where we are employing tribal youth as part of our interpretation program to help tell the story of the Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain National Historic Landmark. Starting relationships with Conservation Foresters to provide employment opportunities for tribal youth in doing resource management work on the national forest.
- We provide information on places to go to collect tipi poles. Just what that process looks like. We don't issue a permit for that because it's something that you have a right to. We provide information on what to cut; what not to cut; where to go; where not to go. Things like that. Recommendations in essence.
- We are happy to provide that information. We can leave it with security.
- 2 sets per season. Red willow; sage; bitter root can all be collected.
- Contact Christine to get started.
- Manage the preservation of the Medicine Wheel National Monument is by co-management. We manage the Medicine Wheel with 7 consulting parties. 2 of those are those are the Medicine Wheel Alliance and Coalition. We make decision on how we preserve that site; interpret that site; tell its history; manage the road system that goes through there as a group of equals. We have co-managed that site for 20+ years.
- Always open to, willing and wanting to discuss the interest of the Tribe in the management of the Bighorn National Forest in all aspects of it is the central focus of our program work.

CHRISTINE VARAH:

- Tribal Relations Specialist. I serve both the Bighorn National Forest and the Shoshone National Forest, which is part of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.
- Spending a lot of time in Lame Deer and Busby helping to create relationships mostly with

practitioners who are utilizing the Medicine Wheel and particularly with Teanna Limpy and her staff through the cultural resource department and heritage departments on the forest.

- This position has not existed at the forest level before.
- The agency has really looked internally at how they can work better with tribes and as a result they created this full-time position to work with all the tribal partners.
- Some opportunities through the funding coming out: water shed studies; aspen restoration; Grass land restoration; fighting invasive weeds. Could pass on those opportunities through Edina, if that's appropriate.
- When those forest products leave the forest, that goes towards the timber quota. There's a certain amount of timber that has to be harvested in general.
- Tipi pole collection actually helps us to meet that quota.
- A permit is just help us keep track of that inventory. Its record keeping on our side. It helps the harvesters validate that they are there for traditional uses.
- A lot of education on both sides that has to happen.
- I'm really eager to learn the best way to work with the business council or other departments. I am always open to suggestions or introductions for other folks that you think it might be appropriate to work with.
- I have some grant opportunities I can forward to you to take a quick close look at. I am always happy to come back to do presentations if we wanted to do a brainstorming session around what is co-stewardship and co-management look like.
- We were looking at dates before this meeting about hosting something on the Bighorn. We can certainly extend that opportunity to you all so you can come visit the forest.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR:

- Thank you both for coming. Lame Deer District representative.
- A lot of things our membership isn't aware of such as: harvesting tipi poles; timelines; permits; where to get them; recruitment part for the positions.
- If you could share that information with us pre-season, then we could help recruit.
- If you could communicate with all of us. You can get a list of our emails from the Secretary. That would be best so we are all aware of it because we are all focusing on different things. Then we could share the information.

ITEM #2 – ENROLLMENT – TABLED TO THE NEXT MEETING. ENROLLMENT STAFF OUT ON CEREMONIAL LEAVE.

ITEM #1 – BUDGETS

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the modification and or adoption of certain budgets for the expenditure of available funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby authorizes the following budgets to be enacted or modified and approves the contemplated

expenditures contained in the presented budgets, subject to the listed conditions, restrictions or constraints:

Program Budgets FY 2024

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
245	PROSECUTION	\$ 933,546.49
338-9999	CHILDCARE/DISCRETIONARY	\$1,014,830.10
595C	NC DOT CONSTRUCTION	\$ 821,532.38
595F	NC TRANSPORTATION	\$ 300,000.00
336A	CHILDCARE/MAND/ADMIN	\$ 41,279.03
336-9999	CHILDCARE MANDATORY	\$ 276,251.97
338C	CHILDCARE DISCRETIONARY	\$ 30,000.00
388A	CHILDCARE DISC/ADMIN	\$ 112,758.90
309A	CHILDCARE	\$ 126,138.30
607	LAND LEASING	\$ 188,730.00
798	THPO	\$ 128,416.00
197	THPO	\$ 895,688.64
815	HAF	\$2,363,140.70

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

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**ITEM #5 – NORTHERN CHEYENNE COVID STUDY – MOVED DOWN ON THE
AGENDA. PRESENTER ON HER WAY.**

ITEM #6 – TRIBAL OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: This is a resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Board of Health to submit an application for the Tribal Opioid Response Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

WHEREAS, the Tribal Opioid Response Grants purpose is to assist in addressing the opioid overdose crisis in Tribal Communities by increasing access to FDA-approve medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (MOUD) and supporting the continuum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services for opioid use disorder (OUD) and co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS; the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Board of Health desires to accomplish the goals of this Tribal Opioid Response Grant by implementing and enhancing the Northern Cheyenne Board of Health's supportive continuum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support services for opioid use disorders and co-occurring substance use disorders and further expand current services being offered by our current and existing Tribal Opioid Response Grant;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Northern Cheyenne Tribe hereby authorizes the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Board of Health to submit an application for the Tribal Opioid Response to the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the amount of \$250,000.00 per year for 5 years to increase the number of individuals receiving MOUD and/or other substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, increase access to naloxone and other opioid overdose reversal medications, decrease mortality from drug overdoses, and promote education of school-aged children, first responders, and key community sectors on opioid and/or stimulant misuse on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribe agrees to sign the required documentation required for the grant application and to receive manage and oversee the grant funds.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL BOARD OF HEALTH TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE TRIBAL OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) NOFO No. TI-24-009.

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Norma Gourneau.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			

Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #5 – NORTHERN CHEYENNE COVID STUDY

DESI SMALL-RODRIGUEZ:

- Professor at UCLA;
- I am a Statistician;
- Run the Data Warriors Lab; mobile lab; pull it around Indian country; support tribes in rebuilding data;
- Work with Tribes on language data, survey data, censuses, GIS;
- Work with partnership with the Northern Cheyenne Boys & Girls Club;
- Did work with Wallace Bearchum in 2020 regarding the blood quantum;
- Would like to talk about a Covid project that we would like to get underway;
- The work that I do has always been in service to sovereignty and to really figure how we can exercise our sovereignty as tribes over our data;
- Our Tribe needs a law put in place to protect our data to make sure that we are in control of our data; to make sure that we can get data from I.H.S., HUD, B.I.A. and not have to jump through all these hoops to get the information that is actually ours to begin with;
- In 2020 when the last census was held, they said there is only 7,502 Northern Cheyenne's; that is over 2500 people that the census did not count; that means 2500 less people that we can get funding for; we've been undercounted every census;
- In our current blood quantum distribution, what do our people look like? Only about 3.5 percent are full 4/4 blood. The majority of us are about 1/4 to 3/4. Quit a lot of our people are 1/8 or less. About 20% of our people are 1/8 or less Cheyenne blood.
- Covid project; look at the impacts of the loss of people; pull together all of the data that is out there; we should have full access to our data; build data base and turn it over to the tribe;
- Lost about 50% of language speakers to covid;
- Will get a draft of the law (ordinance); other tribes have done this so we would be following;

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING A NORTHERN CHEYENNE COVID STUDY TO DEVELOP DATA AND RESOURCES ON THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #7 – TERO ORDINANCE APPROVAL

COLTON SMALL:

- Lame Deer Representative for TERO and also the secretary;
- Have been working on our Ordinances for a while and getting them updated; biggest thing was getting our Law and Order codes in there to make it enforceable;

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACTING LAW FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Eva Foote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #8 – NORTHERN CHEYENNE MONTANA COMPACT BOARD APPOINTMENT

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE-MONTANA COMPACT BOARD – SHANNY SPANG - PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE-MONTANA COMPACT.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #9 – AGREEMENT WITH GREAT NORTHERN PROPERTIES

RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH GREAT NORTHERN PROPERTIES AND SIGNAL PEAK ENERGY RE SALE OF OFF- RESERVATION COAL

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Norma Gourneau.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Nizhoni Friesz.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice-President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MEETING ADJOURNED @ 11:34 A.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 abstention on this 4th day of November 2024.



Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe