

NRF REVITALIZATION BOARD MEETING

Friday, March 21, 2025 - 11:00 AM

Location: UNTF Offices - 151 E 500 N, Blanding, UT 84511

Virtual Option via Zoom: <https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/85985413878>

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Evan Curtis, Chairman

Silvia Stubbs, San Juan County Commissioner

Jamie Harvey, San Juan County Commissioner

Kenny Victor, Navajo Utah Commission Chair

Willie Grayeyes, Navajo Mountain Chapter President Pro Tempore

Staff and Guests Present:

Tony Dayish, *Utah Navajo Trust Fund Administrator*

Curtis Yanito, *Navajo Nation Council Delegate*

Maury Bergman, *Utah Navajo Trust Fund Financial Manager*

Deswood Tome, *Legislative District Assistant to Council Delegate Curtis Yanito*

Carol Tallus, *Oljato chapter*

Cortney Yazzie, *UNTF*

Stephanie Holly, *Navajo Utah Commission*

Jaimee Little, *UNTF*

Clarence Rockwell, *Executive Director, Navajo Utah Commission*

Carey Nakai, *UNTF*

Justin Anderson, *Assistant AG*

Wilbur Capitan, *Aneth Chapter*

John Nakai, *Utah Navajo Trust Fund Construction Manager*

Jennifer Johnson, *Aneth Chapter*

Janice Bitsoie, *UNTF*

Cenai Jaccus, *OCHC Oljato*

Dorthey Phillips, *UNTF*

Dr. Carma Claw, *Aneth Chapter President*

Veronica Salazar, *DWS Contract Analyst*

Ajla Hadzialijagic, *GOPB Fellow*

Stephanie Johnson, *DWS Financial Manager*

Rose Dandy, *UNTF*

Jennifer Dominici, *HCD Acting Director*

Carver Black, *DWS Financial Manager*

Corri Benally, *Aneth Chapter*

Michael Mowes, *DWS Program Specialist*

Paul Moberly, *DWS Program Manager*

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Chairman Evan Curtis officially called the Navajo Revitalization Fund (NRF) In-Person Board meeting to order at 11:10am, on Friday, March 21, 2025, meeting at the UNTF Offices in Blanding, 151 E 500 N, Blanding, Utah 84511, with a virtual option.
 - i. Chairman Curtis expressed appreciation to the UNTF staff for hosting the meeting, then asked for those in attendance on zoom to introduce themselves, with board members going first. There was a quorum present with Chairman Evan Curtis, Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Board member Willie Grayeyes and Commissioner Kenny Victor in attendance.
- b. Welcome new program staff
 - i. Chairman Curtis welcomed the new program staff members; Stephanie Johnson (DWS Finance and NRF Financial Manager) and Justin Anderson (Assistant Attorney General and NRF Legal Counsel).

2. Approval of Minutes [6:59]

- a. Approval of minutes from the October 11, 2024 board meeting

The draft minutes from the June 11, 2024 Navajo Revitalization Fund Board meeting were presented. The chair called the question:

Commissioner Silvia Stubbs made and Commissioner Kenny Victor seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the board meeting held on October 11, 2024. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis.

3. Fund Report [7:44]

- a. Carver Black, DWS Finance Manager reviewed the chapter's unallocated chapter account balances as of 3/18/2025:

CHAPTER	AVAILABLE
Aneth	432,659.24
Dennehotso	103,469.59
Mexican Water	315,704.91
Navajo Mountain	365,332.75
Oljato	1,154,654.14
Red Mesa	203,100.85
Teechnospes	223,848.35
Non-Chapter	0
Interest	207,601.59

4. Board Business [9:05]

- a. Justin Anderson Assistant Attorney General presented the Annual Required Trainings: OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act), GRAMA (Government Records Access and Management Act), and Ethics.
- b. Board member Willie Grayeyes asked for the presentations in hard copy. He asked questions about how to know when Utah law applies vs. when the Navajo Nation's laws apply. He also asked about how/why the federal funds earmarked for the Navajo people have to go through the State of Utah. Justin Anderson addressed the legal questions but couldn't speak to the funding question.
- c. Dr. Carma Claw asked for a review of the legal consequences for violating OPMA. Mr. Anderson explained the consequences being that the votes could be ruled void by a court and legal fees would need to be paid by the board.
- d. Council Delegate Curtis Yanito asked if Legislative District Assistant Deswood Tome could ask a question, which was regarding how fund distributions were determined. Chairman Evan Curtis asked Fund program manager Paul Moberly to give a brief explanation of the fund distributions. Delegate Yanito followed up on the funds question asked by Board member Willie Grayeyes about why the board was subject to State of Utah laws when the fund is for the Navajo Nations which have their own sovereignty and laws. Chairman Curtis explained that OPMA only applies to the board as a public body of the state of Utah and not to the Navajo Nation. He added that a more in-depth discussion could be scheduled for those interested in the administration of the funds and that this OPMA training is an annual requirement for all boards and commissions and that is why it was reviewed in this meeting.

5. Project Applications [41:46]

Chairman Curtis invited Mr. Moberly to present the projects. Program manager Paul Moberly directed the board members to the board packet for the meeting which included the list of projects and their comparative specifications. He went through each project; allowing the opportunity for board members to ask questions and discuss.

5.a [41:52] Renewal of 11 grants from NUC, Aneth, Mexican Water, and Dennehotso Chapters which expired on 12/31/2024; all requested to be renewed until 12/31/2026.

- a. In the discussion on this application the Chairman asked that the applicant verify that the projects are moving forward as a few of the grants are for projects that have been in the works for many years. His ask is for a verification of the projects progress so the funds could be reallocated if the project is no longer continuing.
- b. There was no discussion or questions from the board regarding this project.

Commissioner Jamie Harvey made and Commissioner Kenny Victor seconded the motion to approve the renewal of the 11 grants which expired on 12/31/2024 until 12/31/26. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis.

5.b [44:08] Aneth - New Home Construction - Laura Mitchell

- a. \$55,775.12 requested for the construction of a 28' x 44' (1232 sqft) 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home for Laura Mitchell. UNTF is matching \$82,762.68 funding.
- b. Aneth Chapter President Dr. Carma Claw explained that the chapter had sent a letter asking for this project to be put on hold. She stated, "My letter specifically is just stating that we are committed to ensuring transparency, accountability and proper adherence to the Aneth housing assistance program guidelines, and we are in the process of completing an internal review on this project and another. We're just asking for some time to look at that, and then to assess for corrective actions and improve to prevent from similar issues occurring within our chapter." President Dr. Claw continued to explain that the Aneth chapter would be having a special chapter meeting to present the findings of the review with the community to allow for the community to determine if they wanted to continue to fund this project. Dr. Claw asked to be able to return to the board to share the community's decision before proceeding with the approval of this project.
- c. The board asked if this review would be just for the Mitchell projects or others being reviewed by the board. President Dr. Claw said that current review was for the Mitchell and Chee projects but that as the review had taken place more projects have come to light that will also need review so there will be more to come but for now the Mitchell project.
- d. Council Delegate Curtis Yanito interjected when the board was proposing a motion. He commented that he didn't understand why the board would be considering holding on the project since they had originally approved it. The board acknowledged the comment and the discussion consensus was to honor the Aneth Chapter's request to allow time for the review and community approval.

Commissioner Jamie Harvey made and Board member Willie Grayeyes seconded the motion to table the Aneth – New Home construction for Laura Mitchell project at the recommendation of the Aneth Chapter President. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Board member Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis. (Note: Mr. Curtis Yanito attended this meeting as a member of the public, he is a council delegate for the Navajo Nation. He is not a voting member of this board but did add a "Nay" during the call for votes on this motion and the Chairman said his vote would be noted)

5.c [51:17] Aneth - Home wiring - Ernest Johnson

- a. \$5,500 requested for materials and labor to complete electrical wiring for the home of Ernest Johnson. UNTF has \$11,000 in funding in this project.
- b. There was no discussion or questions from the board regarding this project.

Commissioner Kenny Victor made and Commissioner Jamie Harvey seconded the motion to approve the request for the Johnson Home Wiring project. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis.

5.d [52:05] Mexican Water - New Home Construction - Valentina Benally

- a. \$66,405 requested for the construction of a 28' x 44' (1,232 sqft) 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home for Valentina Benally. UNTF is matching \$69,115 in funding.
- b. There was no discussion or questions from the board regarding this project.

Commissioner Silvia Stubbs made and Commissioner Kenny Victor seconded the motion to approve the request on the Mexican Water - New Home Construction - Valentina Benally project. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis.

5.e [52:56] Dennehots - Home renovation - Nancy Tsosie

- a. \$50,000 requested for the renovation and reconstruction of the previously damaged 24' x 56' with 10' x 20' stub out (1544 sqft) home of Nancy Tsosie and Andrew Tso. NRF has \$11,543 in previous funding, with UNTF matching \$69,537 funding currently, and \$4,792 matching previously.
- b. Commissioner Silvia Stubbs clarified the \$4,792 previous match.

Commissioner Jamie Harvey made and Commissioner Kenny Victor seconded the motion to approve the request on the Dennehots - Home renovation - Nancy Tsosie project. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis.

5.f [54:12] Navajo Mountain - Security Gate Project at War God and Beaver Springs

- a. \$5,000 requested for installation of heavy duty metal pipe security gates including labor and materials sufficient for two gates, with required site preparation, welding, assembly, and installation of the gates, and installation of a concrete support slab (approximately 4ft deep and 3ft diameter), at the entrance to War God Road and Beaver Springs Road at the base of Navajo Mountain to prevent unauthorized access. UNTF is requested to match \$5,000.

- b. There was no discussion or questions from the board regarding this project.

Commissioner Silvia Stubbs made and Board member Willie Grayeyes seconded the motion to approve the request on the Navajo Mountain - Security Gate Project at War God and Beaver Springs project. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis.

5.g [55:15] NUC - Repurposing 546 for Montezuma Creek Market Analysis Project

- a. Request to repurpose \$15,000 from grant 546 (Housing Subdivision Planning) to transfer to grant 820 (Montezuma Creek Market Analysis Project) to cover estimated project funding gap.

- b. There was no discussion or questions from the board regarding this project.

Commissioner Jamie Harvey made and Commissioner Silvia Stubbs seconded the motion to approve the request on the NUC - Repurposing 546 for Montezuma Creek Market Analysis Project. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan.

6. Board Member Issues [56:17]}

6.a Scheduling next board meeting

Chairman Curtis stated that the board did not yet have a specific date in mind for the next meeting but it would be around the first week of June and notifications will be sent out.

7. Adjournment [56:44]

Chairman Curtis asked for a final motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Kenny Victor made and Commissioner Silvia Stubbs seconded the motion to approve the request for the Johnson Home Wiring project. The motion carried as approved with affirmative votes by Commissioner Silvia Stubbs, Kenny Victor, Commissioner Jamie Harvey, Willie Grayeyes, and Chairman Evan Curtis.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm

Submitted by Janell Quiroz