



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approving June 1, 2022 Tribal Council Meeting Minutes)

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Secretary of the Tribal Council is responsible for keeping and maintaining minutes of all Council meetings; and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Article XIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the order of business requires a reading of the minutes; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council Secretary requested approval of the attached meeting minutes prepared from the Tribal Council meetings held on June 1, 2022, and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council finds it in the best interest of the White Mountain Apache Tribe to approve the meeting minutes from the Tribal Council meetings held on June 1, 2022, as prepared and presented by the Tribal Council Secretary.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the briefs with supporting meeting minutes from the Tribal Council meetings held on June 1, 2022, as prepared and presented by the Tribal Council Secretary.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on JULY 6, 2022 duly adopted by a vote of NINE for, ZERO against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Kasey B. Velásquez 7/8/22  
Kasey Velásquez, Tribal Chairman Date

Vaneyssa Johnson 7/8/22  
Vaneyssa Johnson, Tribal Secretary Date



# TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## Regular Council Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.

### Executive Conference Room

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:09 A.M. by Tribal Chairman Velasquez
- B. Prayer was offered by Annette Tenijieth
- C. Roll Call: Chairman Kasey Velasquez, Vice Chairman – Jerome Kasey, Travis Tessay, Jerold Altaha, Renaldo Dazen, Aubrey Aday, Annette Tenijieth, Gary Alchesay, Mariddie Craig, Verna Westover. Excused: Arnold Beach. Attorney's: Anthony Lee, Kim Cromwell.
- ~~D. Introduction – University of Arizona Representative –~~ Chairman Velasquez moved the introduction to New Business.
- E. Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes for May 17, 2022  
Motion by Travis Tessay, seconded by Gary Alchesay.  
Vote: 9-0-0. Motion passed.

#### II. REPORTS

##### A. Attorney's Report

###### ➤ NCAI Membership Renewal

- Resolution was presented to approve Renewing Membership with National Congress of American Indians for 2022-2023.  
Motion by Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey, seconded by Gary Alchesay.  
Vote: 9-0-0. Motion passed.

##### B. Head Start Report ( In Person)

Leola Larzelere said that May 13<sup>th</sup> was the children's last day and last day for the teachers was May 17, 2022, they will not return until the building is done. She stated that they work closely with First Things First and McNary Center had received a five star and that is the highest you can get. She said the teacher is Pauline Kessay and assistant is Wylene Perry and bus driver Sylvia Toney. Mrs. Larzelere said the building is about complete. Also they are working on the classrooms. Heather Larzelere said currently they have 31 staff member on summer furlough they started on May 13, 2022 was their last day. Also two staff members that completed their services with the Head Start Program. For the summer months they have eight staff members that are working.

Heather continued to inform the Council that Cibecue Head Start and McNary Head Start programs start date is August 10, 2022 for the first day of school. Whiteriver Head Start date will be August 10, 2022 also depending on the building construction. She also stated that they are required by the office of Head Start that they have 170 service days, meaning the days that they have school and the hours that they have that goes into their Budget/Grant.

Mrs. Larzelere stated that this current school year they did not services any homeless children or families. They had 35 families under foster care which means they had court documents or placed with grand children, done legally.



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Heather said they had 87 two parent families, 46 single parent households, 56 families employed, 78 families unemployed, 1 family under the TANF program, 6 under SSI, 91 children participating in the WIC program, and 80 families participating in the Food Stamp program. She also said that 2 parents have their BA and 6 have their AA, 86 are High School graduates, 17 received their GED, and 40 families that are below the High School level. Also she said that 91 families are under the poverty guidelines that Head Start issues out every year, 9 of them that are receiving public assistance also serviced 41 over income families and 1 family in job training.

Heather continued saying that they had 124 English speaking homes and 26 Apache speaking homes. She stated that the current ending number of enrolled students this year was 159, this was due to the pandemic, but Head Start is funded for 252 children. Due to the pandemic we had to send the Office of Head Start updates regarding the current status of the Reservation, and had a meeting with the program managers from Washington DC by phone giving updates on how close to we are to be fully open.

Mrs. Larzelere said that they are hoping to get the school back up to 252 enrolled students and have started the recruiting efforts and promoting their program to make this happen. Head Start is planning to have weekly activities to help with this process. She stated that the document passed out to the Council is from Indian Health Serves and it states that there are only 266 children on the reservation, but this number only includes children getting services under Indian Health Services. Heather said is other children receive services off the reservation they are not included on this count that they received from Indian Health Services. She stated that this is number is the lowest she has ever seen in the last 15 years with Head Start, usually they would get 350 to 400.

#### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Introduction – University of Arizona Representative

Councilman Gary Alchesay introduces University of Arizona Representative and said that these individuals can get us grant writers, support letters and will help assist in what the White Mountain Apache Tribe want. Levi Esquerro introduced himself; he stated that he is from Parker, Arizona and from the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe of California. He said he is the first University of Arizona first Senior Vice President for Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement, which was created 20 months ago. He also introduced Jacquelyn Valenzuela Executive Assistant, Ron and Tina Gargus.



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Mr. Esquerra stated that Councilman Alchesay and Milford Cosen meet with some individuals Chad Mershawed and that he could assist them where he could, they talked about a couple of grants regarding Police Department and Public Safety. He also said that they also meet with Professor Rock Williams talked about a project that they are finalizing a Micro Campus with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, for online classes for Pascua Yaqui. Grand opening will be in August and hoping will be up and running in July. Mr. Esquerra said he has had conversations with the Vice Chairman on getting these same services here in the White Mountains. Tribal members will not have to leave the reservation to attend school and get their education. He also stated that a plaza will be created to recognize all 22 Tribes in the state of Arizona.

Jacquelyn Valenzuela talked about promoting visibility tribal languages on the building at the University of Arizona. She said right now they have the Tohono O'odham language on their communications building. She stated it basically says what the building is in the Tohono O'odham language, she would like the White Mountain Apache Tribe to come and have a building with the Apache language telling others what the building is in your language. We invite you to participate in that and will give more information to the Chairman on this.

Tina Gargus said in the fall they will be having their second Tribal Leaders Summit, the first Tribal Summit was last October, in Tucson. At this Summit the primary focus was on governments. Ms. Gargus said that this year it will be on Public Health and will be happening in early November but right now everything is being planned. She invited all the Tribal Council to come and attend. Additional information will be forthcoming. It is a two day event on the University of Arizona campus. Mr. Levi Esquerra presented the Tribal Chairman with a gift. He said they will work on the proposal for the Micro Campus to present to the Tribal Council.

Chairman Velasquez called Milford Cosen on the floor to clarify the 12 million for Day Care when in actuality it was 1.2 million. Mr. Cosen explained that the cost estimate for the Head Start in Whiteriver was 12 million and total amount is 31 million. The actual grant that Day Care received was 1.3 million. They met with KITCHEL the staff heard 8 million but Mr. Cosen heard 12 million. That was where they got it clarified that the total amount approved for Day Care was 1.2 million. Mr. Cosen said they toured the Head Start sites and have identified a grant to help Head Start which includes Whiteriver, McNary and Cibecue locations. Total for all three buildings is 31 million. He said they are trying to get information from the Head Start staff to start this approval on the building.

Milford said there are three or four grants that are due on June 15 called Native American Business Development Institute Grant and they want a resolution approved.



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Mr. Cosen presented two resolutions.

Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Renaldo Dazen to approve resolution, Approving FY 2022 NABDI Grant Application: White Mountain Apache Timber Company Value-Added Product-Market Feasibility Study

Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Renaldo Dazen to approve resolution, Approving FY 2022 BIA Office of Indian Economic Development, Division of Economic Development, Indian Business Incubator Program Grant Application: White Mountain Apache Business Innovation Center

Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

Milford Cosen also requested with Ruby Altaha to get another resolution approved, Approving Supporting the CDC Projects

Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey

Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Environmental Protection Office Grant Application presented by Brenda Pusher-Begay

1. Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Renaldo Dazen, Authorizing the Tribe's Environmental Protection Office to Apply for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's FY 2023 Clean Air Section 103 Grant, in the Amount of \$77,076.00

Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

2. Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Renaldo Dazen, Approving the Environmental Protection Office's Grant Application for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's FY2022 CERCLA Section 128(a) Grant of \$90,000.00

Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

3. Authorizing the Tribe's Environmental Protection Office to Apply for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's FY2023 Region 9 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program

Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

B. Presentations at Annual Conferences and Funding Agencies resolution presented by John Hopkins

Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey, Authorizing John Hopkins University Staff to Present at Annual Conferences and for Funding Agencies Using Studies Approved by Tribal Council

Vote: 10-0-0. Motion passed.

C. Closing Forestdale Livestock Association Grazing Lands resolution presented by



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Forestdale Cattle Association

Motioned by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey,  
Closing Forestdale Livestock Association Grazing Lands to All Large Gatherings  
Indefinitely

Vote: 9-0-1. Motion passed.

#### D. First Things First Update presented by Regional Director, Feather Sprengeler

Feather said that they serve as a critical partner in creating a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that support the developments, health and early education of children birth through age 5. She said that the FTF White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council has the responsibility of assessing, planning, implementing programs, and developing partnerships and resources for early childhood development and health improvement. She continued to say that every two years the White Mountain Apache Tribe Region conducts a Regional Needs and Assets report (RNA). The RNA is a valuable tool that informs the Regional Partnership Council about the current circumstances of children birth through age 5 and their families, highlights assets that are available in the region, and identifies the unmet needs of young children and families.

Feather said that this report also serves as a resource for the tribal community and previous reports have been shared with tribal programs to assist in their grant writing efforts. Depending on the year, the report may be a long report with several data sources or a short report with federal and state sources update. She said that per the MOU signed into agreement on January 31, 2020 between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and FTF, the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council would like to provide the 2022 Regional Needs and Assets report for your 30-day review. Ms. Sprengeler presented the Tribal Council with documentation regarding two 2022 needs and assets supplemental reports for their review.

#### V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey, seconded by Renaldo Dazen at 1:04 PM to go into executive session.

- A. Update Sunrise Park Resort 1:04PM
- B. Update HonDah Casino & Conference Center
- C. Update Fair & Rodeo
- D. Tribal Enrollment Applications (20) / Relinquishments (1)

Motion by Vice Chairman Jerome Kasey, seconded by Renaldo Dazen at 4:44PM



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to come out of Executive Session.

Motion by Jerold Altaha, seconded by Renaldo Dazen,  
Granting Tribal Membership to 20 Applicants

Vote: 9-0-0. Motion passed.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman called for adjournment at 5:04 P.M.