

**CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMISSION
MEETING**
Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Office
208 E. Allen Road, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
February 3, 2015 – 9:00 AM

PRESENT:

Commissioner: Dr. Marty Matlock via conference phone
Commissioner: Ed Fite
Commissioner: J. Blake Fletcher
Commissioner: Jack Spears

ABSENT:

Commissioner: Dr. Lynna Carson

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Tom Elkins, CNEP
Jackie Woodward, CNEP
Terrance Nofire, CNEP, Student Intern
Pat Gwin, CN Admin Support
Jimmy Davenport, CN Risk Mgmt
Shane McMahan, CN Risk Mgmt
Joe Washum, CNB
Fan Robinson, CNWM
Nancy John, CNEP
Sara Hill, CN Asst. AG
Shaun West, CNEP
Laura Adair, CNEP

APPROVED

MAR 03 2015

Cherokee Nation
Environmental Protection Commission

1. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Fite at 9:00 A.M.
2. Commissioner Fite acknowledged and placed into record the Record of Public Notice and Agenda, distributed and posted on January 23, 2015.
3. Commissioner Spears made a Motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2015 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, roll call vote, minutes approved.
4. Public Comments – None
5. Dredging Project for County Commissioner
 - A. Description & Location of Project - Mr. Elkins stated that the Delaware County Commissioner, District 3, is requesting to stockpile gravel from Cherokee Nation land and provided an overview of the permits which request 2500 cubic yards for each permit. The gravel would be used for emergency road repairs when needed. Discussions ensued regarding the request and proposed permits. Mr. Elkins will make corrections to the proposed permits changing from ‘perennial streams’ to ‘ephemeral streams’.
 - Permit No. 001-2015 – Commissioner Spears made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, roll call vote, motion carried.
 - Permit No. 002-2015 – Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Spears, roll call vote, motion carried.
 - Permit No. 003-2015 – Commissioner Spears made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, roll call vote, motion failed with Commissioner Fite (with explanation) and Commissioner Matlock opposed. Tie vote, permit declined.

Commissioner Matlock stated that the permittee could come back with reconciling information if they consider Commissioner Fite's assessment is incorrect. Mr. Elkins informed the Commissioners that he would talk to the County Commissioner regarding the need for additional gravel.

6. Reports

A. EPC & Environmental Programs & NEPA projects for Realty, IHS, NAHASDA, Roads-Tom Elkins

- Introduced Terrance Nofire, an intern from Sequoyah High School.
- A Resolution was passed at Intertribal Council discussing Self Governance at EPA. May draft one for the National Congress of American Indians.
- Meeting with a respondent to the RFP to re-write the codes and regulations.

B. Administration Support-Pat Gwin

- The Seed Bank seed distribution is ongoing, have received approximately 1500 orders, 700 have been filled. Will continue to distribute through April.
- Cherokee Nation is in active consultation with the Fish & Wildlife Service in regards to endangered species issues, specifically the American Burying Beetle and the Northern Long-Eared Bat. CN will request a programmatic agreement that will include the Tribe offering its services to the Fish & Wildlife Service to do some biologic population work on the beetle. CN is submitting comments on the Northern Long-Eared Bat to include language for deminius project sizes that would exempt all such projects.
- CN has grant-funded climate change funding, exploring training opportunities in the private sector.

C. Cherokee Nation Businesses-Joe Washum

- South Coffeyville casino will be opening later this month. The proper permits are in place for sewage and water with cooperation from the city.
- The plans are in place for the replacement of Outpost #1. Final plans and approvals scheduled to be completed in March.
- The Board approved the funding for the sewage line project at Will Rogers Downs. Discussions ensued regarding the project specifications and the opportunity for other entities to use the line.
- Mr. Elkins suggested that CN may consider operating their own rural water district and permit through the CN EPC.

D. Emergency Management-Shane McMahan

- Introduced the new Risk Management Specialist, Jimmy Davenport

E. Natural Resources-Shane McMahan

- No additional information to report

7. Cherokee Nation Sanitary Landfill-Fan Robinson

- Mr. Elkins and Mrs. Robinson provided Commissioner Spears information regarding sludge and discussions ensued regarding permitting.
- Mr. Woodward stated there were no compliance issues.

8. Attorney General Issues – Sara Hill

- Current issue with the water plan is funding and currently working on getting it restored for FY15

9. New Business – None

10. Announcement of upcoming meetings and events

- April 17, 2015 – 4th Annual Environmental Festival at Talking Leaves Job Corp
- March 11, 2015 – State Water Day at the State Capitol
- Next EPC meeting – March 3, 2015

11. Meeting adjourned