

**CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMISSION
MEETING**
Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Office
208 E. Allen Road, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
April 7, 2015 – 9:00 AM

PRESENT:

Commissioner: Dr. Marty Matlock, Chairman
Commissioner: Ed Fite
Commissioner: J. Blake Fletcher
Commissioner: Jack Spears
Commissioner: Dr. Lynna Carson

APPROVED

MAY 05 2015

Cherokee Nation
Environmental Protection Commission

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Tom Elkins, CNEP
Jackie Woodward, CNEP
Fan Robinson, CNWM
Nancy John, CNEP
Wayne Isaacs, CNEP
Shaun West, CNEP
Michael Miley, CNEP
Chad Harsha, CNAG
Sara Hill, CNAG
Pat Gwin, CN Admin Support
G.V. Gulager, CN Nat. Res.
Deanna Hartley-Kelso, Indian & Environmental Law Group
Krystina Phillips, Indian & Environmental Law Group
Laura Adair, CNEP

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Matlock at 9:25 A.M.
2. Chairman Matlock acknowledged and placed into record the Record of Public Notice and Agenda, distributed and posted as appropriate.
3. Commissioner Fite made a Motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2015 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Spears, roll call vote, minutes approved.
4. Public Comments – None
5. Reports
 - A. EPC & Environmental Programs & NEPA projects for Realty, IHS, NAHASDA, Roads-Tom Elkins
 - Contract to update EPC statutes and regulations have been awarded to Indian and Environmental Law Group.
 - Federal Agencies are not consistent with their application of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Meetings regarding this topic are pending.
 - B. Administration Support
 - Working with Wayne Isaacs and US Fish & Wildlife Service to explore the possibilities of developing a captive breeding program for the American Burying Beetle. Two more species are likely to be listed on the endangered species in the next two months.
 - Discussions regarding the status of Salix Humilus.

- Information was provided on the specifics of the Value Added Product Grant, Commercialize CN seed bank, legally protected genetics of Cherokee plants, developing a Cherokee brand to be placed on Cherokee items
- C. Cherokee Nation Businesses-Tom Elkins for Joe Washum
- Will Rogers Downs lagoon is tying into the City of Claremore sewer system, design has been approved through DEQ
 - Outpost I draft design has been approved.
- D. Emergency Management-Dwayne Fain- not in attendance to report
- E. Natural Resources-G.V. Gulager
- Provided an update on the buffalo project
 - Hired a grant writer, looking at USDA grants
 - Discussing coops for several products, wood, hay, cattle with CNB
 - Provided an update on activities at Sallisaw Creek Park
6. Cherokee Nation Sanitary Landfill-Fan Robinson
- Holding steady at 200 tons daily
 - Provided an update of issues at the landfill
 - Jackie Woodward reported on compliance issues, mainly litter. Other issues are environmentally related, mostly rain
7. Attorney General Issues – Sara Hill
- Provided a brief update on contract work, basically water resource assessment and uses. Chairman Matlock stated that the EPC’s enabling act specifically states that the EPC will report on water so will need to be engaged in the discussions
8. Environmental Statute Review – Tom Elkins
- Introduced Indian and Environmental Law attorneys that will be working on the EPC Code and regulations revision. Anticipated timeframe for completion is 18 months. Chairman Matlock asked that Mr. Elkins report on the specifics of the scope of the work and schedule at the next meeting.
9. New Business
- Chairman Matlock requested an item on next month’s agenda, which is the issue of mercury in fish. Mr. Matlock stated that as a Cherokee citizen, I will present to the Commission, through Mr. Elkins, a notice of finding of impact from a scientific perspective in two weeks for submission to the Secretary of State. The finding of impact is that women of child bearing age and children should not eat fish in Cherokee Nation. It is not healthy, and the mercury content is too high. Additional discussions on this topic ensued.
10. Announcement of upcoming meetings and events
- Next EPC meeting at 9:00 A.M. – May 5, 2015
 - 4th Annual Environmental Festival – April 17 – Talking Leaves Job Corp
 - Landfill Board Meeting is April 9th
 - Intertribal Council Meeting – Thackerville, OK, hosted by Chickasaws, April 9-10, 2015
11. Commissioner Fite made a Motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned.