

**CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMISSION
MEETING
Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Office
208 E. Allen Road, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
June 7, 2016 – 9:00 AM**

PRESENT:

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

APPROVED

JUL 07 2016

Cherokee Nation
Environmental Protection Commission

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Tom Elkins, CNEP
Salli McLemore, CNEP
Joe Washum, CNB
Rick Gassaway CNNR
Shaun West, CNEP
Nancy John, CNEP
Chad Harsha, CNAG
Fan Robinson, CNWM
Billy Hix, CNEH
Philip Ketcher, CNEP
Pat Gwin, CN Admin Support
Laura Adair, CNEP

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Matlock at 9:04 AM.
2. Commissioner Matlock acknowledged and placed into record the Record of Public Notice and Agenda, distributed and posted as appropriate.
3. Commissioner Fletcher made a Motion to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2016 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carson, roll call vote, minutes approved.
4. Public Comments – None
5. Secretary of Natural Resources – Sara Hill was not in attendance.
 - A. Water Plan Update – no update available.
 - B. Discussion and Opportunity for Comments – none
6. Reports
 - A. EPC & Environmental Programs & NEPA projects for Realty, IHS, NAHASDA Roads-Tom Elkins
 - Ken Purdy with the Solid Waste Institute is working with Delaware County to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Elkins will assist with this effort and has the support of Secretary Hill.
 - CNEP's General Assistance Program coordinates with ODEQ and other entities throughout the 14 counties and has decided to develop a more formalized group at the Cherokee Nation relating to the fish kills that have happened in the past year or two.
 - Mr. Elkins talked about the Radon levels in the CN Courthouse downtown. The Radon levels were still high after a system was installed to lower the levels. A temporary

system was installed which lowered the radon levels substantially. The radon levels will be monitored using continuous monitoring once the instrument returns from laboratory calibration.

- Mr. Elkins participated on a self-governance call on June 6, 2016. A white paper is being developed to address self-governance for EPA programs. There will also be an Environmental Justice round table held on June 14, 2016 where the document will be submitted.
- There was a Joint Committee meeting on phosphorus issues in the Illinois River on June 6, 2016.

B. Administration Support- Pat Gwin

- Two climate change grants were submitted and approved. The tribe will be conducting a number of climate change public awareness activities including the installation of a solar powered electric vehicle recharging canopy at the tribal complex located next to the gas station. Another grant was submitted to the Department of the Interior for \$200,000 to expand the solar canopy and add more parking to the complex.
- The Keeps Eagle Settlement was accepted by the judge and there is a 60 day appeals process. A fast track funding request will be submitted for 38 million dollars. After the funds are distributed, a trust will be formed to accept and review grant requests from Indian Country throughout the United States.
- Fish and Wildlife Services has requested some changes to BEPA (Bald Eagle Protection Act).
- Mr. Gwin gave a brief update about the status of Zika virus outreach in Cherokee Nation.

C. Cherokee Nation Businesses - Joe Washum

- The EPA is waiting for the final report on the Cherokee Nation Outpost. The report should be finished soon for Mr. Elkins and Mr. Washum to review. A chemical compound was scheduled to be applied to the contaminated soil on June 8, 2016. After the second application is applied, then it can be filled in for the new system.
- The water and sewer lines are going into the City of Grove for the new casino property. Drawings should be 90% complete. It is planned to be completed in September and will be opening in Mid-November.
- Will Rogers Downs received 8 bids to construct a sewer line. On June 6, 2016 a company was selected and approved to do the job starting in June.

D. Emergency Management – Jeremie Fisher

- Representative was not in attendance to report

E. Natural Resources- Rick Gassaway attended for G. V. Gulager

- Nothing to report.

7. Cherokee Nation Sanitary Landfill-

A. Report

Fan Robinson reported the following:

- The money from the contaminated soil received in previous months has been spent on repairs and equipment the landfill needed.
- Secretary Hill has instructed the board for Cherokee Nation Waste Management to dissolve at the next board meeting.

B. Compliance Issues

- Nothing to report

8. Environmental Statute Review – Tom Elkins

- No additional activities to report on the Review. Mr. Elkins will be drafting a TEPA (Tribal Environmental Protection Act) for Secretary Hill and Mr. Gwin to review.

9. Inventory of Lagoons – Tom Elkins

- The small lift station at Cherry Tree has been a source of concern. A project is in place to replace the existing wooden privacy fence with a new chain link fence with a no climb barbed wire top to control access to the site. A lift station pump has been rebuilt and the plan is to try to put it back into the lift station so it could be operational and up to current specifications.
- A Grant was submitted to the Economic Development Authority to construct the forced main from the Cherry Tree site to the city of Stilwell.

10. Request for Scientific Collector's Permit

A. Presentation

- Philip Ketcher gave a short presentation to commissioners on CNEP's water sampling program and on an upcoming study of alligator snapping turtles in order to receive consideration for scientific collector's permits.

B. Consideration and vote to approve, amend or disapprove

- Scientific Collector's Permit – CN Environmental Programs
 - Commissioner Fite made a Motion to approve, Commissioner Carson seconded, roll call vote, unanimously approved
- Scientific Collector's Permit – CN Education Dept.
 - Commissioner Fite made a Motion to approve, Commissioner Carson seconded, roll call vote, unanimously approved

11. New Business

- No new business

12. Announcement of upcoming meetings and events

- Next EPC meeting will be July 7, 2016.

13. Meeting adjourned