

**CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMISSION
MEETING**

**Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Office
208 E. Allen Road, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
December 14, 2016 – 9:00 AM**

PRESENT:

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

APPROVED

JAN 09 2017

Cherokee Nation
Environmental Protection Commission

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Tom Elkins, CNEP
Salli McLemore, CNEP
Joe Washum, CNB
Wayne Issacs, CNEP
Laura Adair, CNEP
Chad Harsha, CN AG Office
Jackie Woodward, CNEP
Shaun West, CNEP
Butch Garner, CNNR
Pat Gwin, CN Admin Support

1. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Matlock at 9:08 AM.
2. Commissioner Matlock acknowledged the Record of Public Notice that was posted on December 2, 2016.
3. Commissioner Spears made a Motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2016 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, roll call vote conducted. Minutes were approved.
4. Public Comments – Mr. Elkins encouraged everyone to read the editorial Chief Baker did about the Illinois River and Phosphorus issues.
5. Secretary of Natural Resources – Sara Hill was not in attendance. Tom Elkins Reported for SONR
 - A. Water Plan Update – Nothing to report.
 - B. Cherokee Nation Sanitary Landfill
 - Report
 - The Tier 2 testing was done but it will take time to review the findings. Tier 1 looked as though it would need a Title 5 system, so the sampling was done for that. It will take time to get those results as well. The modification to the permit is not completed. It will hopefully be completed near the first of the year. It is moving forward.
 - Compliance Issues
 - Mr. Woodward reported that trash is still being piled on slope 3 and it continues to get higher and very steep.
 - C. Discussion and Opportunity for Comments –
 - No comments.

6. Reports

A. Environmental Programs -Tom Elkins

- Mr. Elkins reported that CNEP is grant funded. The majority of the funding is project funding and not program funding. The funding is received annually, by the time the money is received the projects have started and journal entries are being performed to replace tribal funds used during this time.
- Mr. Elkins mentioned that Chief Baker wrote a letter to Donald Trump showing his support for Governor Mary Fallon for interior secretary because she is from here and has dealt with tribes.

B. Administration Support- Pat Gwin

- Mr. Gwin and Secretary Hill were on a conference call with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and Sequoyah Fuels. Sequoyah Fuels Uranium Enrichment closure plan has always revolved around removing the radioactive waste materials out of state. That is no longer the case. Sequoyah Fuels has been given approval to dispose of these materials on site in a cell with soil and construction debris. It was always in the decommission plan to build an on-site landfill. The new legal team for Sequoyah Fuels has instructed them to commence constructing the cell. They will probably begin depositing the waste material sludge at the end of January or the first of February. The waste material has been stored for over 10 years. Radioactive waste disposal is very difficult to do. It is going to go onsite. They've been trying to get Cherokee Nation and Oklahoma do this the last 5 plus years. Neither the Tribe nor the State has primacy in these regulations since it is covered by the NRC.
- Mr. Gwin had a meeting with a citizens group concerning poultry issues on the Illinois River watershed. A group of citizens is concerned with the number of poultry operations that are going up in the Chewey area. They wanted to know if Cherokee Nation could assist them with a couple of things. They are working with the Attorney General's office and Mr. Gwin provided them with some maps as well. CNEP helped them with some air monitoring several years ago and this may be done again regarding particulates and such. The residents are concerned that their quality of life is being impacted by these facilities and they want to make sure the regulations for these facilities are being followed.

C. Cherokee Nation Entertainment – Joe Washum

- In Roland, the paper work was filed to close out the construction/storm water permit. Staff felt they were way past the 90 percent vegetation growth. A local representative from the DEQ disagreed, so CNB decided to continue those programs. According to the DEQ regulations, when you file the paper work to close it out, it closes the permit out just by filing. CNB paid the fees for a new one. Hopefully in the spring CNB will be able to close out the permit which is now good until July 2017.
- The only thing left to do at the Cherokee Nation Outpost in Tahlequah is to install monitoring wells. The people at the Tribal Complex have requested this be done on a weekend so there is less traffic. The contract has been signed and CNB is just waiting for the Drillers to give them a weekend date on when that will start.
- The casino at Grove opened Monday December 19th. The water and sewer lines are flowing to and from the city of Grove. Some issues with the receiving process of the pipes had occurred but the drop in date for the pipes was still met. Mr. Washum received the final testing reports December 13th and forwarded them to Cherokee Nation Environmental Health and the Gaming Commission.
- Construction is almost finished for the sewer and water line at Will Rogers Downs. Early February is the flow date for the sewer and water lines. Renovation is going on inside the casino. Barns were damaged during a tornado in the spring of 2016 and CNB will be tearing them down. They will also be doing lead and asbestos testing prior to this demolition.

D. Emergency Management – Jeremie Fisher

- Representative was not in attendance to report

E. Natural Resources- Butch Garner reporting for G.V. Gulager

- General maintenance was done on some of the equipment and a few site inspections were made.
- Some yearling calves were pulled off and put in their own pens. It has been good for them and they are gaining some weight. There has been talk about sending some buffalo down to the Sequoyah's Cabin area. Mr. Garner suggested they work with the young ones in the lot and take some down there and put some fencing up. Natural Resources has two workers in that area on a daily basis already.
- Natural Resources has been doing some work at the Jay Community Garden.
- Cherokee Nation took 5 semi loads of wood up to North Dakota on 3 separate trips.
- Natural Resources got a call about a family around the Bell area that didn't have wood. Mr. Garner and 4 others went and cut a trailer load of wood and delivered it to the family.

7. Environmental Statute Review – Tom Elkins

- The first draft has been distributed internally and is not ready for publication.

8. New Business

- No new business

9. Announcement of upcoming meetings and events

- The Oil and Gas Commission meeting will be in Ft. Smith on December 19th.
- Next EPC will be on Monday January 9, 2017

10. Meeting adjourned