

**CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMISSION
MEETING**
Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Office
208 E. Allen Road, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
January 9, 2017 – 1:00 PM

PRESENT:

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

APPROVED

FEB 06 2017

Cherokee Nation
Environmental Protection Commission

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Tom Elkins, CNEP
Salli McLemore, CNEP
Nancy John, CNEP
Sara Hill, SONR
Jackie Woodward, CNEP
Butch Garner, CNNR
Matt McCrary, CNE
Shaun West, CNEP
Pat Gwin, CN Admin Support
Laura Adair, CNEP
Wayne Issacs, CNEP

1. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Matlock at 1:03 PM.
2. Commissioner Matlock acknowledged the Record of Public Notice that was posted on December 29, 2016.
3. Commissioner Fite made a Motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2016 meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Carson. A roll call vote was conducted and the minutes were approved with only Commissioner Carson abstaining.
4. Public Comments – no comments.
5. Secretary of Natural Resources – Sara Hill
 - A. Water Plan Update – Nothing to report
 - B. Cherokee Nation Sanitary Landfill
-Report
 - The Landfill asked for a minor permit modification on January 9, 2017 to transfer the operator from Waste Management LLC back to Cherokee Nation.
 - A Mission Statement has been put together for the Cherokee Nation Landfill. The Mission Statement should help describe the long term closure plan for the landfill. The goal of a controlled closure is to provide a service to the community and to develop and evaluate potential options for the community going forward and after closure.
 - Secretary Hill will be getting weekly reports from the Landfill and will provide a monthly report to the EPC to improve communication.

- Secretary Hill requested to talk to the EPC in an Executive Session regarding an issue that was not known prior to the meeting.

-Compliance Issues

- Nothing to report

-Minor Permit Modification (New Cell & Ownership Change)

- Commissioner Fite made a motion to approve the minor permit modification to transfer the landfill permit from the LLC to Cherokee Nation. Commissioner Carson Seconded. The motion was approved by the Commission unanimously.

C. Discussion and Opportunity for Comments –

- No comments.

6. Reports

A. Environmental Programs -Tom Elkins

- Mr. Elkins hasn't heard anything about the Joint Commission Findings. There will be a follow up. A public notice will go out to finalize it with the principles of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Cherokee Nation. It will then go out to the public. There will also be a meeting at that time.

B. Administration Support- Pat Gwin

- The National Park services have promulgated regulations and polices affording Native Americans the opportunity to gather within their park boundaries. In conjunction with the Cherokee Nation Medicine keepers, Mr. Gwin has been asked by the National Park Service and the University of Arizona to accompany them on an initial trip to White River National Park. Mr. Gwin was there January 7th and 8th identifying plants.
- Through a DOI climate change grant, Administrative Support is doing a series of PSA's. The PSA's are promoting a residential solar heating system. Mr. Gwin provided a picture on his report of a residential solar heating system that is installed at his house.

C. Cherokee Nation Entertainment – Matt McCrary reporting for Joe Washum

- Grove Casino is open. The water and sewer line passed the operational testing. Cherokee Nation Health has been kept in the loop during the process. Clean up on the south end of the bridge is in progress.
- Will Rogers Downs sewer line is scheduled to be operational by January 19th. Cross Bow Construction is coordinating the final inspection with ODEQ.
- The Cherokee Casino in Tahlequah is back in service after having an issue with the water system.

D. Emergency Management – Jeremie Fisher

- Representative was not in attendance to report

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

- The Cherokee Nation land leasing cycle started January 1st for a 5 year period. There are new leases and some old ones that are repaying the grazing fees. All of the leases have issues like brush hogging, fixing creek crossings and building gates. So, the staff has been performing this work recently.
- Natural Resources is in the process of submitting a grant for Sallisaw Creek Park. There are a thousand acres that have been previously used for hunting purposes. There are also riding trails for horses that are in the process of being completed. The grant will be for connecting to electricity and installing water lines.
- Natural Resources has also been cutting fire wood for the elderly.

7. Environmental Statute Review – Tom Elkins

A. Status Report –

- There hasn't been an update on the Statute Review this month.

B. Discussion and Opportunity for Comments –

- No comments

8. New Business

- No new business

9. Announcement of upcoming meetings and events

- Next EPC will be on Monday February 6, 2017 @ 1:00 p.m.

10 Due to proprietary information, Commissioner Fite made a Motion to go into Executive Session, Commissioner Carson seconded the Motion, roll call vote, and Commission went into Executive Session.

11 Commissioner Carson made a Motion to end the executive session and adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, roll call vote, executive session ended and meeting adjourned by unanimous vote of commission.

12. Meeting adjourned