

**CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION COMMISSION  
MEETING**  
Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Office  
208 E. Allen Road, Tahlequah, Oklahoma  
March 13, 2017 – 1:00 PM

**PRESENT:**

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

**APPROVED**

APR 10 2017

**Cherokee Nation**  
Environmental Protection Commission

**STAFF AND GUESTS:**

Tom Elkins, CNEP  
Pat Gwin, SONR Office  
Salli McLemore, CNEP  
Laura Adair, CNEP  
Jackie Woodward, CNEP  
Shaun West, CNEP  
Butch Garner, CNNR  
Chad Harsha, AG Office

1. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Matlock at 1:08 PM.
2. Commissioner Matlock acknowledged the Record of Public Notice that was posted on March 2, 2017.
3. Commissioner Fite made a Motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2017 meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Spears. A roll call vote was conducted and the minutes were approved.
4. Public Comments – Commissioner Fletcher visited Arkansas and southern Missouri. He visited Top of The Rock a golf course owned by John Morris. Under Arnie’s Barn Restaurant, is a really nice display of Indian artifacts and tools. Commissioner Fletcher recommended a visit to those in attendance.
5. Secretary of Natural Resources – Sara Hill
  - A. Water Plan Update – It is still under review. Secretary Hill is cautiously optimistic the plan will start moving forward since the Choctaw/Chickasaw case has now been settled. Commissioner Fite asked Secretary Hill if she was okay with the Choctaw/Chickasaw settlement. Secretary Hill said there were provisions of the settlement that she would not want to use for Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee Nation and the Choctaw Nation have very different problems. Every tribe has to decide for themselves what is valuable to them. Secretary Hill also said that she hopes that the new Oklahoma Attorney General, Mr. Hunter, is someone Cherokee Nation can work with in the future.
  - B. Cherokee Nation Sanitary Landfill  
-Report
    - Secretary Hill and Pat Gwin met with the site Engineers to discuss scoping out the Landfill closure plan which is a big agenda item for Cherokee Nation. Secretary Hill has also signed off on the work orders for the Air Permitting Report and the NPDS Permit.

-Compliance Issues

- There is substantial progress on getting the environmental and compliance issues addressed.
- The litter situation is extremely challenging and day workers having been picking up litter daily.
- The progress on the new cell is not going as quickly as Secretary Hill would like. She is reevaluating the options to try to get the work completed. There is still a lot of work left to do and a lot of challenges with the new cell.

- Discussion and Opportunity for Comments –

- Sequoyah Fuels- A brief has been filed in the Sequoyah Fuels case. The State is going to file it. Once the brief is filed then Cherokee Nation will re-address the issue and determine their next response to the closure plan.
- Commissioner Matlock asked Secretary Hill what happens if the president's budget is approved by the house and the senate under its current proposed format and EPA loses a third of its funding. Secretary Hill stated that the Tribe has contingency plan budgets already in place in case of a reduction in funding.

6. Reports

A. Environmental Programs -Tom Elkins

- Mr. Elkins met with Mr. Washum (CNB) and reviewed Outpost 1. When CNB were working on removing the old tanks they were bringing up product and their excavator buckets were catching on fire. The removal was completed under a RBCA (risk base corrective action). Work will continue until there are no more products. Staff discussed using monitoring wells but they are not going to have to do that. The only issue that might come up is what is left under the building. Interior assessments have been completed and the air from the penetrations is not showing elevated levels.
- An Environmental Review was completed on the Sally Bull Hollow Road Project. This is probably the biggest archeological site Cherokee Nation has worked on for a road project. Consequently, it has now progressed from a field inspection to a Phase II. There have been discussions about changing the road design to avoid this area.

B. Administration Support- Pat Gwin

- Mr. Gwin provided his report and had nothing to add to it.

C. Cherokee Nation Entertainment –Joe Washum

- The Outpost I is now in full operation. Staff is just reviewing documents.
- Will Rogers Downs in Claremore is still waiting for the ODEQ to approve the pumps that are proposed for the sewage system.

D. Emergency Management – Jeremie Fisher

- Representative was not in attendance to report

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

- Natural Resources Charges \$25 to till a garden. They have forms to fill out to request for NR to till a garden for tribal members.
- A tornado went through Greasy on March 6, 2017. Natural Resources rented a wood chipper to help the community with tree/branch clean up.
- NR has been spraying for weeds and thistle.

7. Environmental Statute Review – Tom Elkins

A. Status Report – Nothing new to report at this time.

B. Discussion and Opportunity for Comments –

- No comments

8. New Business

- No New Business

9. Announcement of upcoming meetings and events

- Next EPC meeting will be on Monday April 10, 2017 @ 1:00 p.m.
- The Environmental Festival will be held on April 21, 2017 at Talking Leaves Job Corps
- The EPA Tribal Summit will be in Dallas on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

10. Meeting adjourned