

24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL 2020 Winter Session



Speaker's Report
24th Navajo Nation Council
Honorable Seth Damon, *Speaker*

WELCOME TO THE 2020 WINTER SESSION

Yá'át'ééh dóó ahéhee' nihi nanit'áii. Welcome to the 24th Navajo Nation Council 2020 Winter Session.

On behalf of my colleagues in the 24th Navajo Nation Council, we invite you into the People's House, the Navajo Nation Council Chamber. Within this National Historic Landmark, you will see the governing body of the Navajo Nation creating laws on behalf of the Navajo people. During the 2020 Winter Session, there are 21 legislation that will be debated on the Council floor for consideration by the Executive Branch to enact into law.

Winter is a time for the Navajo Creation Story, Coyote stories, and Navajo string games. Like Navajo Fundamental Law, these traditional Navajo teachings have been passed down generation to generation through the oral tradition of storytelling. To this end, the Diné Bizaad Subcommittee held its first meeting earlier this month for the selection of committee chair and vice chair. Congratulations to Chairman Nathaniel Brown and Vice Chairman Elmer Begay. *Diné bizaad dílzin éi baa ntsékees.* Honoring our Navajo language is what we think.

The revitalization of Navajo language is an immense effort that is going to take the help of our counterparts in the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch. Many will have to help us revitalize our language, including Navajo instructors, tribal elders, parents, grandparents, siblings, tribal officials, linguists, and anybody willing to support the effort to save our language. We are at risk of losing the language for future generations and we must work with the Department of Diné Education to provide our schools with the necessary funding to provide Navajo language and culture instruction for students.

We honor the service of former Navajo Council Delegates who faithfully served the Navajo people during their tenure on Council. We recently lost three *Naat'áaniis* who served to advance the Navajo Nation forward: Councilman James TomChee of Tiis Nazbas, Councilman Benjamin Hogue of Tiis Tsoh Sikaad and Councilman Jonathan Perry from Crownpoint. We will honor their leadership and memory on the Council floor during the Winter Session with a moment of silence.

In Dec. 2019, Council honored the past Speakers of the Navajo Nation Council during a ceremony that honored their service to the Navajo people. We provided these former leaders with a plaque commemorating their public service and a Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise Pendleton blanket featuring the Navajo Horned Moon logo. Thank you to NACE for working with the 24th Navajo Nation Council to honor our Navajo leaders.

For the first time in Council history, we have five members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council on the Tribal Interior Budget Council subcommittees, representing the Navajo people on a national level. Especially impressive are the TIBC co-chairman appointments for Council Delegate Jamie Henio, Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton, and Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr. to the Budget Subcommittee, Public Safety Subcommittee, and Transportation Subcommittee.

The Legislative Branch has strong relations with our counterparts in the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch. In order for our nation to grow, it is important that we work together and remain steadfast to improving the quality of life

for our Navajo people. The Budget and Finance Committee has already started its process for the FY 2021 Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget. The budget process is right around the corner and we must be ready for the challenges of balancing this year's budget, which will not include the royalties from Navajo Generating Station.

During the fall session, the Council passed a number of bills that were not enacted and were instead vetoed by President Jonathan Nez. The Council sponsored override legislation for the amendments to the Navajo Nation Election Code and for approval of increasing the NTUA debt ceiling limit from \$500,000 to \$1.5 billion. This is to provide NTUA with the necessary credit from the Rural Utility Authority to continue providing electrical power to Navajo families and growing the Navajo Nation renewable energy effort from solar, wind and other sources.

The 24th Navajo Nation Council is also addressing the transportation problems that many Navajo communities are currently facing. We will soon unveil the Navajo Nation Transportation Stimulus Bill. *Nihi Dine'é baa atiin hasht'e nádlééh.* We are working with Navajo Division of Transportation and Controller's Office to leverage Fuel Excise Tax and Federal Highway Administration funding for a bond or loan to be repaid over a 10-year period. The money from the bond will allow us to repair roads and bridges across Navajo land in a three-year period. The Office of the Speaker will be working with NDOT with assistance from the Office of the President and Vice President on this project.

Council Delegate Carl Slater is going to work as the direct liaison between Council and the Naataanii Development Corporation to ensure transparency and accountability while seeking new opportunities for economic development on Navajo. His placement on the shareholders representative board is to ensure we have the priorities and perspective of the Navajo people first and foremost when it comes to Naat'áanii Development Corp.

Keep an eye out for upcoming legislation from the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch for \$2 million that will be equally distributed to Navajo chapters for emergency assistance. We haven't had a major storm roll through yet, but there always stands the possibility and we want to be prepared to address emergencies related to snow, mud, and transportation access to homes in rural areas. There is also going to be a \$3 million legislation for summer youth employment.

The 24th Navajo Nation Council is also working with Navajo Transitional Energy Company to deliver coal to all 110 chapters to address the winter conditions. We have delivered to one chapter through a successful pilot project and we will have four segments of 24 chapters that we will be delivering to Navajo communities.

Thank you for your attendance at the 2020 Winter Session. *Náádii Dii' Béesh Baah Dah Si'áni danilnígíí éi Diné Biwáashindoon yá nidaha'áh.* The 24th Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation.

Seth Damon, *Speaker*
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

Legislative Branch veterans honored



Councilmen Vince James, Kee Allen Begay Jr., and Pernell Halona were honored by Speaker Damon for their service in the U.S. Armed Forces on Veterans Day.



Veterans serving for the Legislative Branch were also honored by Speaker Damon on Veterans Day. They received a Navajo flag, mug and certificate.

NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL DELEGATES APPOINTED TO TIBC SUBCOMMITTEES



Jamie Henio



Eugenia Charles-Newton



Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

Speaker Seth Damon commended the Navajo Nation Council Delegates who were appointed to Tribal-Interior Budget Council subcommittees during the Nov. 12-14 budget formulation meeting in Washington, D.C. “This is the first time that the Navajo Nation has had this many leaders on the TIBC subcommittees. This is a great day for Navajo leadership,” Speaker Damon said. The Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee is now the Chairman of the TIBC Budget Subcommittee.

The new appointments include:

- Delegate Jamie Henio (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee) appointed as the Budget Chairman;
- Delegate Paul Begay (Bodaway-Gap, Coppermine, K’aibii’to, LeChee, Tonalea- Red Lake) appointed as a member of Education;
- Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock) appointed as Public Safety Chairwoman;
- Delegate Kee Allen Begay (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee-Blue Gap, Tselani-Cottonwood) appointed co-chairman of Road Maintenance;
- Delegate Pernell Halona (Bahastl’a’a’, Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi) appointed as a member of Data Management; and
- Delegate Raymond Smith Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Lupton, Nahata Dziil, Wide Ruins) appointed as a member of Land and Water.

CHACO CANYON PROTECTION ACT OF 2019 PROPOSED 5-MILE BUFFER ZONE



Navajo allottees filled Nageezi Chapter during a meeting with Rep. Paul Gosar.

Resolution NABIJA-05-20 set in place the Navajo Nation’s opposition to H.R. 2181 and S.1079, the 10-mile development exclusion zone (“buffer”) around the Chaco Culture National Historic Park, until such time as the federal legislation are amended. The H.R. 2181 passed the US House of Representatives and its Senate counterpart, S.1079, is currently under consideration by the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The federal bills would cause a restriction on the extraction of federally-owned minerals in the buffer area that, if made law, would have a severe economic impact on Navajo allotted land owners (“allottees”) with land interests. The checkerboard land status in the eastern Navajo agency means that the interests of allottees are indirectly threatened by this potential change in federal law.

Our legislative staff have evaluated the scope of the impact of the current federal legislation and reported federal sources that there are 53 leased allotments comprised of 5,462 allottees within the proposed buffer. 8,479 acres in this area are leased allotments. We know that in the same buffer, there are 418 unleased allotments comprised of 16,615 allottees associated with these allotments covering 66,576 acres.

If we take the average value of current leased allotments and calculate an overall value

of leased and unleased allotments in the proposed buffer, we arrive at a potential total value of approximately \$3 billion.

The Office of the Speaker has tracked this legislation and is currently coordinating with the Resources and Development Committee to continuously educate key members of Congress and our federal partners on our communities’ call for more field hearings on the bills. As a group, we recently engaged with Senators and Congressmen in Washington on the outcomes of field hearings that RDC conducted in local communities.

The Nation’s official position reflects a compromise from local Navajo communities that would see the 10-mile buffer reduced to a 5-mile buffer. This compromise would reduce the number of unleased allotments in the buffer from 418 to 51. It’s important to point out that nearly every voice raised from the local communities recognizes the overall intent of the federal legislation. But the interests of the allottees, as we have continuously heard over the past three quarters, have been left out of the federal legislation. Moreover, the Navajo ceremonial and cultural connection to Chaco Canyon and Chacoan outliers were omitted from the initial congressional legislations.

We must recognize that this effort was led by local Navajo Nation grassroots allotment land owners.

Intertribal Agriculture Confab: “Investing in Sovereignty”

In the wake of the Cole Memorandum in 2013, the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah adopted statutes and regulations that partially, or wholly, allowed cannabis usage, production, sale, and distribution. The Office of the Speaker has been supporting the statutory authority of the Resources and Development Committee to authorize and oversee the regulation and enforcement of industrial hemp through the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the “2018 Farm Bill”). The bill authorizes states and tribes to develop policy and plans for hemp production under the USDA.

The Office of the Speaker sent representatives to observe the final rule government-to-government consultation meeting hosted by the USDA during the IAC and reported that the key enforcement agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Agency, were not present to address tribal concerns. Currently, tribes are caught in the middle of conflicting federal implementation allowing hemp production through USDA and its assertion that tribes lack the capacity to properly regulate and enforce hemp production through the FBI and DEA.

In distinguishing between cannabis-as-industrial-hemp and cannabis-as-marijuana, the federal government allows cannabis containing less than 0.3 percent of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to be considered hemp. In 2018, the Navajo Nation Council adopted an identical percentage for the Nation’s list of controlled substances. The 2018 Farm Bill further removed hemp from the list of federally controlled substances.

The question of cannabis legalization on the Navajo Nation was answered in 2000 when the Navajo Nation Council approved Resolution CJY-54-00 and President Kelsey Begaye signed it into law. CJY-54-00 distinguished between industrial hemp and marijuana based on the percentage of THC. Though the distinction was made, it did not permit industrial hemp until the Navajo Nation Council adopted a regulatory system and gained any necessary permits for industrial hemp (which it has not yet done).

Over the past few years, the Nation has been presented with

“THE QUESTION OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION ON THE NAVAJO NATION WAS ANSWERED IN 2000, WHEN THE COUNCIL APPROVED RESOLUTION NO. CJY-54-00.”

another question regarding the actual regulation of industrial hemp as an economic development opportunity. However, the simultaneous state-level decriminalization of marijuana has complicated any discussion of cannabis regulation.

With guidance from the Resources and Development Committee, the Office of the Speaker is coordinating, first, the re-assertion of the Navajo Nation Council’s sole authority to approve industrial hemp regulation on the Navajo Nation. Second, legislative staff are monitoring the developments of tribal regulations and issues so that it may be reported to the Navajo Nation Council as they unfold. The Office of the Speaker is continuing to evaluate the implications of these new developments in agriculture for potential impacts to the Nation’s sovereignty.

NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL-NTEC PILOT COAL DELIVERY INITIATIVE

The Office of the Speaker is coordinating a pilot coal delivery project in response to the recent shift in coal supplies to Navajo communities. As part of our community involvement and coordination functions, we are working with the Navajo Transitional Energy Company's Community Heating Resource Program to expand the number of chapters that receive coal distributions from the Navajo Mine.

Over the past few weeks, legislative staff have been in contact with members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council to identify 24 Chapters within their respective districts that: 1) do not currently receive coal through the NTEC resource program, and 2) is a priority,



as determined through a combination of remoteness, elderly population, and community membership factors.

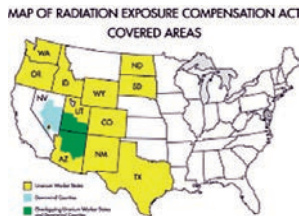
We felt the need to respond directly to the input the Office of the Speaker staff have

reported from all the agency council meetings. Every region across the Nation is experiencing a shortage of coal alongside an increase in local prices and an overall decrease in coal quality. In recognizing the

need for an immediate infusion of coal for heating homes during this winter season, the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the Speaker is coordinating the delivery of over 400 tons of Navajo Mine coal to an additional 24 Navajo Chapters beginning Friday, Jan. 31.

The Office of the Speaker is working with the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority to carry out the pickup and transportation of coal deliveries to priority Chapters. The pilot coal project is being supported by matching contributions from our office, NECA, NTEC, Bisti Fuels, and the North American Coal Company.

RECA lobbyist recruitment by Navajo Nation Council



WASHINGTON, D.C.-Since October, the Office of the Speaker has developed and distributed a request for proposals for a Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) lobbyist on behalf of the 24th Navajo Nation Council. The Navajo Nation has been supportive of federal legislation to reauthorize RECA, which is set to expire in 2022. The federal reauthorization of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act is a clear priority of the Navajo Nation due to the extensive history of harmful exposure to radiation that many Navajo people faced as a result of the federal government's actions

The Office of the Speaker received proposals for qualified consultants, firms, and individuals to represent and coordinate the Navajo Nation's interests in Washington on a more continuous basis. We are currently in the process of scheduling interviews for the lobbyist in mid-February, with the final selection taking place within two days of the final interview.

The Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee, a non-governmental organization based in Shiprock, N.M., will assist the Office of the Speaker in evaluating the most qualified applicant. The lobbyist will then immediately commence their initial work in developing a multi-party strategy for advocating the Navajo Nation's position.

NAVAJO SALT TRAIL CANYON AND LCR PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT PROPOSAL

At the Fall Session, Honorable Thomas Walker Jr. brought to our attention the announcement in the Federal Register of two separate proposals for federal permits through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These permits proposed studies of the feasibility of developing a Navajo Nation Salt Trail Canyon Pump Storage (Project #14992-000) and Little Colorado River Pump Storage (Project #14992-001).

Between the two projects, the construction of four dams, four reservoirs, water conveyance, power generation facilities, access road, and transmission lines within the tributaries of the Little Colorado River were included in the study proposal.

The sole purpose of these preliminary permits are to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. The preliminary permit does not allow the permit holder to access waters owned by the Navajo Nation without the Nation's consent.

In view of the projects' proposed locations by a non-Navajo entity, the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Water Rights Litigation Unit filed a Motion to Intervene on the proposed permits to the FERC. That motion was filed in November 25, 2020. A Cameron Chapter resolution opposing the proposals was utilized in filing that motion, along with support from the executive and legislative branches.

The Office of the Speaker is continuing to monitor these, and any other, FERC applications that might impact the Navajo Nation's land and water resources without proper consultation.



RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE LISTEN TO ALLOTTEE ISSUES

NAGEEZI, N.M.—The Resources and Development Committee met with Eastern Navajo Agency allottees Nov. 21 and heard concerns about the Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act. The event included a report from Tom Van Flein, chief of staff for Congressman Paul Gosar’s (R-Ariz.) office.

The Chaco Canyon bill provides for the withdrawal and protection of certain federal land in the State of New Mexico. Two companion bills are currently going through Congress. H.R. 2181, sponsored by Congressman Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and S. 1079, sponsored by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM). Both bills were introduced April 9.

Ervin Chavez provided opening remarks at Nageezi Chapter. He spoke in Navajo for the benefit of the predominately elder audience and said staff from Congressman Gosar’s office would be recording 30-second to one-minute video interviews with allottees at the next-door building. “The Resources and Development Committee are the only Navajo leadership to attend today. We invited tribal leaders to attend in July and they were the only ones at that meeting, too,” he said. Chavez said allottees were concerned about the lack of consultation before the bills were crafted.

On April 14, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources conducted a field hearing at Chaco Canyon to learn about the impacts of oil and gas production. Discussions focused on creation of a 10-mile buffer zone around the park after infrared camera footage showed methane gas leaks. The meeting was considered government-to-



Chairman Rickie Nez of the Resources and Development Committee addressed Navajo allottees at Nageezi Chapter during a special meeting.

government consultation between the Navajo Nation and federal government.

Allottees do not support the proposed 10-mile buffer zone because it will end the oil and gas royalty-payment they receive from the energy industry because of drilling on their allotments. Instead, a five-mile buffer zone would be appropriate, land owners said, because of a rock formation that extends about five miles from the park. The rock formation prevents oil and gas extraction. Anything beyond five miles infringes upon individual allotments and payments made to families by energy companies.

President Jonathan Nez thanked the congressional delegation during the field hearing for supporting the “Navajo Nation’s position” for the protection of Chaco Canyon. Many people at the eastern agency meeting expressed frustration with the presidential support for the Chaco Canyon bills. Others said the Navajo Nation Council is the governing body and authority for the Navajo Nation. Eastern agency chapters crafted resolutions in opposition to the bills, specifically the 10-mile buffer zone proposed.

Attorney Justin Jones explained the purpose of the meeting and said the audience can share their views on the issue with Congressman Gosar. Jones provided an update on the companion bills and said they are stalled in the Senate. Over the summer, a Nageezi resident testified her opposition to the bills on C-SPAN in Washington. The segment resulted in a phone call from Congressman Gosar’s office supporting the community opposition. “The thought and understanding are that your allotments are the last promise that Washington seems to honoring. The allotments were given back in the 1930s and those same allotments are still here,” Jones said.

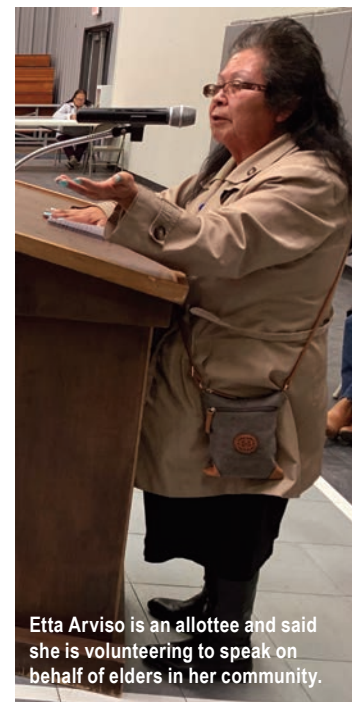
A dozen Navajo allottees stepped up to the podium to speak about the financial impact the buffer zone would have on their families. Many of the elder people said their parents taught them about the importance of the land they own and warned them against selling their allotment. There were also second and third generation allotment owners present for the meeting. Delora Jesus of Nageezi said her advocacy is for the elders who do not have a voice because

of the language barrier. “It’s a really tough subject. I took a lot for us to be heard,” she said, adding that many elders are worried about losing the extra income they receive from oil and gas.

Jesus questioned how a bill can be crafted without any input from the allottees. “How did this happen? Don’t we mean anything? I was really upset with our Navajo leadership,” she said. She encouraged the audience to share their perspective and story on their allotments. “It took the C-SPAN testimony I did in June to make a difference in people hearing about our livelihood,” Jesus said. The RDC is working

“DON’T WE MEAN ANYTHING? I WAS REALLY UPSET WITH OUR NAVAJO LEADERSHIP.”

with the chief legislative counsel to clarify Navajo Nation jurisdiction over allottees in the affected area.



Etta Arviso is an allottee and said she is volunteering to speak on behalf of elders in her community.

Denver Indian Center Partnership



DENVER INDIAN CENTER, INC.

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY THROUGH SELF-DETERMINATION, CULTURAL IDENTITY, AND EDUCATION.

DENVER- On Nov. 1, 2019, the Navajo Nation delegation met with local community leaders at the Denver Indian Center. The Denver Indian Center was founded in 1983, it is an urban cultural gathering for the American Indian-Alaskan Native communities in the Denver metropolitan area. The Denver Indian Center seeks to meet the unique needs and challenges faced by the native community. The Center is funded through various state funds and private donations. The intent of the visit is to discuss various issues affecting the Denver urban Indian Community. During the visit, the delegation advocated on behalf of the at-large Navajo representation in Denver's urban Indian community. Navajo leadership pledged to sponsor a Navajo Na-

tion Council legislation to help fund programs on an annual basis to enhance educational opportunities, offer Navajo Language courses, and increase mentorship opportunities within the Denver metropolitan areas.

Currently in partnership, the Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker and the Denver Indian Center and local community leaders led by Lucille Echohawk, pledged to work together for the greater good of the Native community in the Denver metropolitan area. The Navajo delegation expressed their gratitude to the community leaders and discussed future partnerships with the Native leaders of the State of Colorado.

Veterans Initiatives



The Office of the Speaker, in coordination with the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, is working to secure federal benefits for Navajo veterans through Operation: Foxtrot Bravo. We will be releasing more information on this unique initiative in the coming weeks. Please contact your local commander for agency commander for details.

The 24 th Navajo Nation Council is also collecting data on veterans healthcare services on the Navajo Nation. This is being coordinated through Nevill area Indian Health Services as well as the Navajo Nation Department of Health. Contact your Council Delegate and let them know of issues that you are facing or specialized care needs to care for injuries sustained while on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The 24 th Navajo Nation Council is also working with state legislators and federal appropriators to secure additional manpower in northern Arizona for vetera services. The Council will be meeting with state officials in the coming weeks and we encourage you to share information on challenges you may face with regard to veterans benefits.

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs

On Dec. 13, 2019, State Taskforce Chairman Mark Freeland and legislative staff assistant Sherylene Yazzie presented before the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs in Denver. The presentation included a formal meeting with Lietenant Gov. Dianne Primavera, Southern Ute Mountain Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Department of Higher Education, Department of Transportation, Department of Healthcare Policy and Finance, and the Office of the Attorney General. Chairman Freeland discussed the 24 th Navajo Nation Council's priorities for the State of Colorado.

The 22 nd and 23 rd Navajo Nation Council began actively pursuing opportunities to reclaim ancestral territories in Colorado. In 2016, the Navajo Nation purchased Wolf Springs Ranch and Boyers Ranch, both comprised of more than 28,855 acres of fee simple land. Prior to meeting with CCIA, the 23 rd Navajo Nation Council met with local government officials in Huerfano and Custer Counties in Colorado. The intent of the visit was to discuss potential development, use, and rights of newly-acquired Navajo territories.

Chairman Freeland expressed the importance of fostering partnerships with community stakeholders, local and state leadership. Thank you to Lucille Echohawk and family, as well as the former chairmen and leaders that paved the way for many Native American families in Colorado and the Denver metropolitan area.

NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT



The view looking east from the Hard Rock, Ariz. chapter area.

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Leadership Meetings

Hosted two leadership meetings: Dec. 5, 2019 at Nahata Dzil Chapter and Dec. 21, 2019 at Teesto Chapter. The meeting covered governance commissioner and chapter official challenges and issues residents face today from relocation.

Plan of Operation Amendments

NHLC amended its plan of operation and is now in process of working with the Office of the Legislative Counsel for drafting the legislation for consideration by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council.

Coalmine Chapter House

NHLC provided guidance on the replacement of Coalmine Chapter House. The plan includes reassessment of available funding, expediting the contract process, meeting with congressional staff for funding, and identification of available Navajo Nation resources.

Technical Amendments

NHLC established its position on the technical amendments to the Settlement Act. These amendments included Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation, program funding, programs to be assumed by the Navajo Nation, federal processes, generational residents on Hopi Partitioned Land, agricultural permits, minerals rights, and more.

Controller's Office Update

NHLC met with the Office of the Controller on the Rehabilitation Trust Fund and escrow accounts. An update was provided on the list of projects, available funding, expended funds, and available balances.

Funding Reallocation

Navajo-Hopi Land Commission reallocated the Rehabilitation Trust Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for Coppermine Chapter to complete home repairs and renovations. Funds were transferred from the housing construction account.

Housing Assessment Report

NHLC continues to monitor the Division of Community Development regarding progress on completing the Housing Assessment Report, funded by NHLC.

Transportation

NHLC set parameters for road projects in impacted areas funded by the Navajo-Hopi Indian Land Settlement Act. The strategy is to cash match federal and state funding for prioritized road projects.

Leases and Development

NHLC continues ongoing work related to Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, Padres Mesa Ranch Demonstration Program, Paragon-Bisti Solar Project, and other leases and development within the lands purchased through the Settlement Act.

Navajo DOJ Update

On Nov. 27, 2019, NHLC received legal updates from Attorney General Doreen McPaul, Deputy Attorney General Kimberly Dutcher, attorneys Susan Eastman and Chris Benally. Many issues were covered, including Hopi Partitioned Land Accommodation Agreement, governing CFRs, District 6 benefits, GAO report, ONHIR, revenue generating projects, benefits, and other related issues.

NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT



Sheep units are a primary concern of Navajos living in Navajo Partitioned Land. Legislation will be introduced to resolve the existing 10-sheep limit that residents are unhappy with.

FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Meetings

Three more leadership meetings will be scheduled to hear the challenges and issues chapters face as a result of relocation.

Sheep Units

Legislation will be introduced to resolve the limit of 10-sheep units in Navajo Partitioned Land.

NHA

Housing reports will be requested from NHA on homes purchased, delivered, and setup; including closeout reporting.

Housing Policy

A housing policy will be drafted to address the housing needs in the impacted areas, funding sources, and eligibility requirements. This will include the number of homes to be constructed per quarter, funding, location, and infrastructure, if needed. Determination will be made on Navajo Partitioned Land housing assessment study once the Division of Community Development and Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office provide the completed report. Partnerships will be established with other entities to build homes in the impacted areas.

Rehabilitation Trust Fund

NHLC will collaborate with the Office of the Controller to develop real time accounting to track Rehabilitation Trust Fund balance. The unused balance of RTF will be reallocated for priority projects. This will include closeout reporting.

Jeddito Chapter

Jeddito projects will be added to priority listing, including one waterline project.

Field Hearing

NHLC will recommend congressional field hearings to address the ongoing needs of Navajo relocatees, relocation communities, and residents of the Former Bennett Freeze Area.

State Lands

NHLC will address the deselection and selection of lands in New Mexico and over selection of lands in Arizona.

Speaker Damon attends keel laying ceremony for USNS Navajo



Speaker Damon was joined by former Speaker LoRenzo Bates, former Council Delegate Jonathan Hale, Chief of Staff LaShawna Tso, Council Delegates Kee Allen Begay Jr., Raymond Smith Jr., and Charlaine Tso.



Veterans are a priority for Speaker Damon's administration and he expressed appreciation for honoring Navajo veterans with the new ship.

Speaker Seth Damon (Baahaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) and former Miss Navajo Jocelyn Billy-Upshaw authenticated the keel for the USNS Navajo Oct. 30 at Gulf Island Shipyard in Houma, La. USNS Navajo is a new class of T-ATS 6 vessels, which will be utilized for towing, salvage and rescue operations.

The keel laying ceremony recognizes the start of a ship's construction and the joining of the ship's modular components, according to the U.S. Navy. "The keel serves as the symbolic backbone of the ship and is said to be "truly and fairly laid" with the etching of an honoree's initials into the keel plate," stated Navajo Sea Systems Command.

Speaker Damon thanked the late Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), former Arizona State Sen. Carlyle Begay (R-Dist. 7) and members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for their work with the USNS Navajo. "Our veterans are honored and we thank the U.S. on their behalf," he said.

ETHICS AND RULES OFFICE FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

The Ethics and Rules Office plan of operation is outlined in LOCJA-02-13.



FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Ethics in Government Law

The Ethics and Rules Office continues to provide Ethics in Government Law training to Navajo Nation elected officials and chapter staff, school board members, and other entities.

Chapter Support

The Ethics and Rules Office continues to provide support services to the 110 chapters. Working with the local governments is a collaboration with the Division of Community Services and the Administrative Service Centers.

Amendments

The Ethics and Rules Office continued work on amending the Ethics in Government Law and Standards of Conduct. The office also worked on memorandums of understanding between the Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office and other tribal departments.

Restitution Payments

The Ethics and Rules Office collected \$4,369.96 in restitution.



FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Plan of Operation

Re-implementation of Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office Plan of Operation on Case Management, Internal Guidelines on Case Intake, Investigations and Case Priorities as per department resources and assets for maximum efficiency. This action was initiated during FY 2019 fourth quarter with completion date scheduled for the end of FY 2020 second quarter.

Vacancy Listings

Fill three vacant positions for Executive Director, Ethics Presenting Officer, and Ethics Investigator.

Amendments

Continue work with amendments to memorandums of understanding between the Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office and Navajo Nation departments.

Issues and Recommendations:

Reclassify Positions

Initiate reclassification of Ethics Presenting Officer as Advocate/Attorney and Ethics Investigator as Investigator.

Hearing Body

Initiate research to establish and Ethics and Rules Hearing Body to hear administrative ethics cases. Work toward implementation in FY 2020.

Established to enforce the Ethics in Government Law, 2 N.N.C. §§ 3741-3793, and to educate and inform the public officials and employees of the Navajo Nation to comply with the highest standards of ethical conduct to sustain the authority vested in them as a matter of public trust and policy.

BLACK MESA REVIEW BOARD FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Many Mules Water Project – Phase 2

Met with Indian Health Services, Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, and NTUA on the funding status for MMWP. The Infrastructure Committee's decision to contribute the remaining \$4.5 million PWCC settlement fund for Phase 2 will advance the MMWP. Once the required funding is in place, construction could commence at any time.

BMRB Monthly Meetings with Chapters

Monthly meetings with chapter residents pertaining to the impact from the Peabody Mine closure has generated dialogue for transition planning for the community. The chapter is interested in acquiring certain permanent facilities for community use. Specifically, the discussions covered improvements to facilities and buildings, including the airport.

Waterline Infrastructure Study

Black Mesa Review Board continues coordination with chapters and IHS to provide Navajo families with waterline and plumbing. There are still a number of Navajo families with homes that require bathroom additions and related plumbing.

Peabody Mine Reclamation

Coordination with local communities to monitor Peabody Mine reclamation activities is ongoing. When Peabody Western Coal Co. completes reclamation, the Navajo Nation and other agencies have to assume responsibility for school bus routes that are currently the responsibility of the PWCC. This will allow them to complete the reclamation activities they are tasked with.

Livestock Issues

BMRB continues coordination with chapter residents to refrain from grazing livestock in the reclaimed areas to avoid permanent damage to the land. This activity is ongoing.

FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Planning Activities

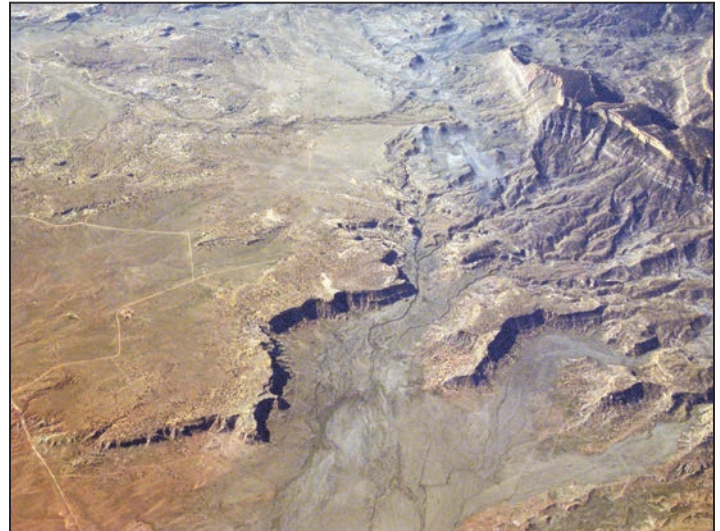
Continue working with the local community to obtain support from Navajo Nation officials to address environmental issues. These considerations include the post-mining land use plan, economic development, and other community issues.

Working with Council

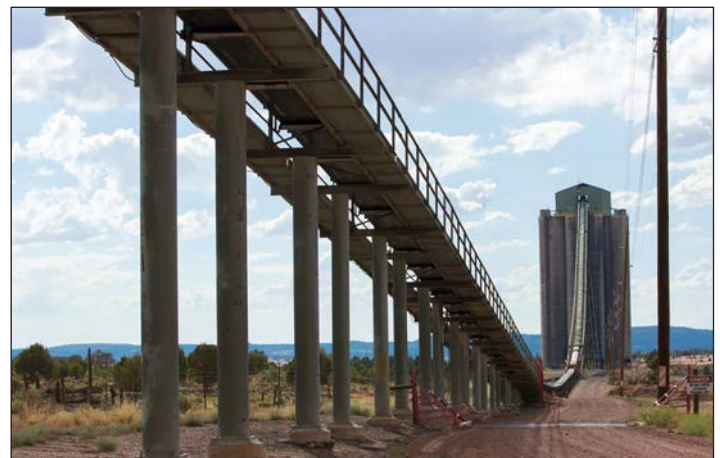
BMRB is going to solicit the support of Council to establish self-governance at the community level, separate from the chapter government. Black Mesa Review Board has made repeated requests to the Office of the President and Vice President for assignment of a representative to work with us.

Office of the Speaker Updates

BMRB continues to meet with the Office of the Speaker to provide updates on the Many Mules Waterline Project related to Phase 2 and 3 funding requirements. Quarterly reports have been submitted to Office of the Speaker.



Aerial view of Black Mesa region, also known as Big Mountain. Courtesy photo by Doc Searls, circa 2008.



The Peabody Western Coal Company \$4.5 million settlement fund is going to be used for Phase II of the Many Mules Water Project. BMRB anticipates construction to start soon once the funding is received. Photo by John Burcham, New York Times.

Issues and Recommendations:

Many Mules Waterline Project – Phase 2

Continue meeting with Navajo Nation and IHS officials to rescind decision that removed families from Phase 2 of the Many Mules Waterline Project. We support efforts to seek alternative funding to provide water to the families removed from the project listing.

Peabody Mining Operations

In August 2019, Peabody Western Coal Company ended mining operations. Black Mesa Review Board continues work on obtaining assessments for community improvements such as water wells, public coal, airstrip offices, warehouses, and other facilities the community may want to retain for use by the chapter residents.



NAVAJO BOARD OF ELECTIONS SUPERVISORS FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

NBOES Meetings

Meetings are conducted twice a month at the Quality Inn Business Complex in Room 107 on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. During the past quarter, the board convened six times.

Resolutions

Navajo Board of Elections Supervisors passed 20 resolutions over the past quarter.

Vacancies

The list of Navajo chapter positions that remain open include six vacancies in Chinle Agency, five vacancies in Eastern Agency, four vacancies in Ft. Defiance Agency, one vacancy in Northern Agency and four vacancies in Western Agency.

Independent Legal Counsel

NBOES and Navajo Election Administration have been working toward hiring legal counsel to represent the board and administration full time. Currently, legal assistance is provided by the Office of the Legislative Counsel, Navajo Department of Justice and outside representation.

County and State Activities

NEA continues to work with counties and states within the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation to ensure participation of Navajo voters during elections. NEA works with 11 counties and three states to provide election-related services to the Navajo people. During the reporting period, the Navajo Nation filed a lawsuit against the State of Arizona after the general election for infringement of voting rights of Navajo voters. A settlement with Apache County and Coconino County was reached Sept. 2019.

San Juan County Utah

This case with San Juan County is ongoing. The main effort is working with the San Juan County Utah Office to improve working relations with the Navajo people residing and voting in the county.

Redistricting was ordered by the federal court and completed. As a result, two Navajo citizens were voted into office as county commissioners during the general election. There is still opposition action being done by non-Navajo voters.

In Nov. 2019, San Juan County added Proposition 10 as a referendum measure on the ballot. It would have approved a study on the county governmental structure to expand the commission membership from three to five. The ballot measure was defeated.

Arizona Counties

Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties will work with Navajo chapters in Arizona for compliance with ADA accessibility. This will provide chapters with accessibility related to disabled parking, signage, building ramps, and restroom stalls.

Grievance

The office is working with a grievance case filed by a candidate against NEA and NBOES. The complaint involves ballot shortages and extending voting as the reason behind losing an election. Five chapters are involved in the grievance.

New Mexico Chapters

N.M. Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver established the Native American Voters Taskforce. All tribal nations in the state have a representative in the taskforce and NEA believes it is the best approach to work with Navajo voters. NEA met with N.M. counties for the use of chapters for early voting, including the execution of a memorandum of understanding. NEA also met with McKinley County to provide accessibility for disabled voters at chapters. NEA visited the affected chapters and is working on the issue.

Election Code Amendments

NBOES has worked on election code amendments, including CO-44-19, which was for changing the primary election date in Navajo Nation elections to the first Tuesday in August, to coincide with the State of Arizona primary election date.

NBOES is considering other election code amendments for purposes of clarification, policies related to unforeseen action taken by candidates or elected officials, and NBOES appointments for vacant positions to eliminate special election costs.

Voter Registration

NEA is continuously training voter registrars and conducting voter registration. As of Sept. 30, 2019, there is a total of 107,379 voters that were registered. Chinle Agency had 14,666; Eastern Agency had 25,937; Ft. Defiance Agency had 26,383; Northern Agency had 21,306; and Western Agency had 19,087.

Voter Registration Database

The Voter Registration Database software is obsolete but will continue to be utilized until a new database can be acquired. The current system is missing source code and installation disc, preventing reprogramming. The database needs replacement before catastrophic trouble occurs.

Equipment Upgrade

NEA needs upgrade for computer hardware and software. This also includes office equipment. Current workstations are still utilizing Windows 7 operating system, which expires in Jan. 2020.

Budget

Work continues for work with NEA budgeting to cover administrative costs and special elections. The office was allocated \$1,190,257 for FY 2020 after the proposed budget of \$1,510,637 was not approved.

Goals and Objectives

NBOES continues work on goals and objectives. Current goals include Election Code amendments, permanent independent status, Council reapportionment, public education, increasing annual funding, improving federal, state, county relationships, secure office buildings and equipment, upgrade offices, and new voting equipment.

NBOES FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Election Code Amendments

NEA is constantly recommending changes to the Election Code to serve Navajo voters. This includes changing the primary election date to coincide with the State of Arizona primary election date.

Federal, State, and County Elections

NEA will be assisting federal, state and county elections with in areas such as translation of election information, ballot measures, early voting sites, vote convenience centers, and more.

Consent Decrees

The office will continue with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. In particular, processes in the Voting Rights Section on decrees and agreements that cover counties on Navajo. Decrees vary from county to state and the work it to ensure consistency across the Navajo Nation.

Initiatives Amendment

NBOES and Navajo Government Development Commission will work on amendments to Initiatives. The current law states petitions are 15 percent of registered. The amendments will be based on the number of voters from the last election.

Issues and Recommendations:

Voter Registration Database

This issue requires the utmost attention. Immediate upgrades are needed to meet the needs of the voting public. NEA completed a study and provided recommendations for database upgrade.

Office Building

NEA is seeking a new office building. Land for the office is secured and floor plans for the new offices were developed. The office is seeking \$4 million for the new building. The primary considerations for the building include accessibility for elderly voters and reduction of voting equipment storage costs in Rio Rancho, N.M.

Independent Status

According to the Election Code, the NBOES is mandated by law to function as an "Independent Entity" outside of the three branch government. NBOES is currently under the oversight of the Navajo Nation Council and NEA is a program under the Legislative Branch.

Funding

NEA requires adequate funding to cover costs for polling sites for early voting; for referendum, special elections, and primary/general elections; public education; equipment storage; poll workers; and a new building.

HEHSC work session for school board apportionment



The Health, Education and Human Services Committee work session on school board apportionment brought out educators, administrators, community members and school board officials from across the Nation.

The Nov. 19 Health, Education and Human Services Committee work session covered school board apportionment, tribal scholarship endowment plan, and higher education fund. The work session included the Dept. of Diné Education, Office of Diné Accountability and Compliance, and Navajo Election Administration.

School board members from across the Navajo Nation filled the Law and Order Committee office space, including representatives from Diné College and Navajo Technical University.

Legislation No. HEHSCO-25-19 was passed Oct. 16 to extend the approval date for the 2020-2024 Navajo Nation School Board Apportionment Policy.

The committee called for a work session with the Department of Diné Education, Office of Diné Accountability and Compliance, and Navajo Election Administration to iron out issues with the apportionment policy.

DODE reported on the research study that was conducted in 2016 to count the number of school board members, school employees, and students (including chapter affiliation). According to the study, there is a population of 14,060 students on the Navajo Nation. There are 64 school boards with 275 school board members who receive \$250 in stipends for regular meetings and \$150 for special meetings.

DODE presented five options for school board apportionment to HEHSC members. The committee said the options would be reviewed before meeting to take action on the apportionment plan in Dec.

Several school board members stood up to speak on behalf of their schools about the apportionment plan.

Martha Garcia, speaking on behalf of Ramah Navajo School Board, said they stand behind the resolution that keeps things the same.

"We need to do this right. We need to go the communities, ask questions and have a public meeting," she said in Navajo. Several school board members stood up to speak on behalf of their schools about the apportionment plan.

Louise James Nelson of Wide Ruins Community School Board said that it was too late to consider changes to reapportionment. "Leave it the way it is," she said. "It's too late."

NAVAJO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Meetings

NBOES members convened for six regular meetings and approved 20 resolutions.

Legislation

Three legislation were approved for amendments to the Election Code. These included: CO-40-19, CO-50-19, and CO-51-19. These were related to changing the primary election date, appointment provision, and removal provision.

Special Election

Conducted a special election for Chinle Chapter for tax ordinance. The measure failed.

Voter Registration Card

Update voter registration cards and the policy. NBOES approved update.

Voter Registration Database

Request for proposal was completed for voter registration database. Currently in progress.



FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Election Code

Continue work on amending the Election Code and laws.

Executive Director

Executive director position is vacant but cannot be advertised due to pending grievance issues.

Vacant Positions

Continue work to fill 20 elected positions that remain vacant across the Navajo Nation. These include 17 school board and 3 chapter official positions.

Equipment Upgrade

NEA will continue work to find funding for equipment upgrade for computers, printers, and obsolete voter database system.

Issues and Recommendations:

Funding

NEA needs funding for 2020 elections, a new office building, and 10 percent shortfall for FY 2021.

NEA

Fill executive director position and continue work on establishing the administration and board and independent entities.

EASTERN NAVAJO LAND OFFICE FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT



White Rock, N.M. sunset.

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Land Buy Back Program

The Navajo Land Buy Back Program Phase II administrative operation concluded Oct. 31, 2019. However, it is not officially closed as the Navajo Nation via Office of the Controller needs to submit a final expense report for the federal funding source.

NELI-NIIP

The Commission, through its Dec. 2019 resolution, de-coupled the NELI-NIIP project and will now proceed with NELI alone. A Navajo Nation Council legislation will request the New Mexico congressional delegation to assist in acquiring federal lands within Eastern Navajo Agency and place in tribal trust status through a congressional act.

Ft. Wingate

The Commission worked with a non-profit entity with the proposed Old Ft. Wingate Historic Preservation National Park.

FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Reporting

Assist with the closeout of the Navajo LBBP-II with financial reporting.

NELI Project

Pursue talks with N.M. congressional leaders and staffers regarding the NELI Project and support Navajo Nation Council legislation by Spring Session. The office will produce a set of analytical maps and acreage tables to support the project.

Land Purchase

Continue to work with the Navajo Nation Land Department regarding the Commission-approved and proposed purchase of the Chaves Ranch located between Tohajiilee Chapter and Interstate 40. The area is prime land for future economic development opportunities.

Ft. Wingate

Commission is going to pursue implementing the Old Ft. Wingate for historic preservation, including plan of operation and one-time funding for a taskforce to produce a master plan.

Issues and Recommendations:

None.

EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Commission Meetings

During the fourth quarter, the Commission convened three regular meetings and two special meetings. The regular meetings were on Oct. 20, Nov. 27, and Dec. 23. The special meetings were held on Dec. 12 and Dec. 18.

Staffing and Consultation

The Land Statistics Technical position was advertised during the last two weeks in Dec. 2019 and into the new year. This position should be filled by mid-Jan.

The contracts for Frye Law Firm of Albuquerque and POWERS attorney group in Washington, D.C. remain in effect through the end of this fiscal year. POWERS assist with the NELI-related contacts and meetings in Washington, D.C. while Frye Law Firm directly assists the Commission with drafting of tribal and federal NELI legislations. Frye otherwise provides continuing legal support pertaining to Commission work activities.

NELI Project

The Commission passed a resolution separating the NELI-NIIP Project that had been proposed the last six years. Under the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, the joint approach was de-emphasized, especially that the Naabik'iyáti Committee established a subcommittee on negotiating with the federal government to finish out the remaining two blocks of NIIP as planned under at 1962 congressional act to provide irrigation to 110,000 acres. As the projected cost kept escalating, Congress became more alarmed at continuing the fund, which with current estimates may cost between \$800 million to \$1 billion. The concept of putting together the two projects: NELI and NIIP was to show an alternative method of pay for the operational and maintenance costs when the entire infrastructure is turned over to the Navajo Nation to operate. Any realized revenue as a result of NELI would place proceeds into a special O&M account for future use. As the NIIP project became seen as controversial, the recommendation was to separate out the two projects and pursue NELI alone.

Additional considerations were made to the original project by including fee-to-trust conversion, Executive Order lands, enabling language for a three-way land exchange between the Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico, and BLM for federal lands. Another enabling clause would allow the Navajo Nation to place selected parcels in Restricted Fee that will serve as incentive for economic development. The new approach with a more comprehensive package will ensure greater Eastern Navajo land consolidation. The Navajo Nation Washington Office has already started reaching out to New Mexico congressional members and staffers. The Commission will pursue tribal legislation through RDC, Naabik'iyáti Committee, and Navajo Nation Council then work with congressional members for a landmark federal act. Since the change of NELI-NIIP to NELI alone and consideration of new components, Exhibit maps need to be modified. That mapping work is now all that is needed to re-introduce the measure into legislation.

Old Ft. Wingate

The Commission has met several times with Martin Link, who is heading up a non-profit taskforce to turn the old Ft. Wingate Boarding School compound and nearby 400-plus acres into a National Park. The effort has the support of the local chapters. However, they want a role in the process to plan for other uses other than a National Park. The chapters agree with preserving historic buildings, but also along with buildings that can still be used for a variety of purposes, including public buildings for offices and to operate programs beneficial to the Navajo public and residents. The joint group recommended the Commission pursue legislation to create an official taskforce that would produce a master plan for the subject area with revitalized streets, utilities, and renovated buildings. The non-profit group intends to pursue funding for restoration of the historic buildings.

Navajo Land Buy Back Program

Only a final financial report is needed to officially close out this program. The Office of the Controller will prepare the final fiscal report and submit to the federal funding source in Washington, D.C. Internally, OOC asked ENLC Office to make sure there were no outstanding commitments. Only the office lease agreement in Gallup was considered outstanding although the agreement ended Oct. 31 and the last invoice for that month was honored. Due to travel expense report re-submissions due to errors, several were not considered for reimbursement. Unless the claim continued to be pursued by the traveler meeting deadlines and if approved, paid through ENLC funds.

Ranch Purchases

The Commission, at its Sept. 30 meeting, approved a resolution for the purchase of the Chaves Ranch that is located between Tohajiilee Chapter and Interstate 40. The Commission, through the same resolution, requested Navajo Land Department to conduct due diligence and recommend a fair market value price. The ranch includes a combination of state and BLM leased lands, and about one-third of the ranch is private land. There are strategic land pieces that would provide the Tohajiilee community direct access to I-40. The land located near I-40 are considered prime parcels. The seller is open to a counter offer.

The Commission also has a standing resolution requesting to purchase the three-ranch combination on the east and northeast flanks of Mount Taylor. As with the Chaves Ranch purchase proposal, Navajo Land Department was tasked with due diligence. Former president Russell Begaye did not express support based on a helicopter flight review by his inhouse legal counsel. No additional meetings other than a tour were made with the sellers of the three ranches and no counter offers were made.

NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Leadership Meetings

Hosted two leadership meetings: Dec. 5, 2019 at Nahata Dzil Chapter and Dec. 21, 2019 at Teesto Chapter. The meeting covered governance commissioner and chapter official challenges and issues residents face today from relocation.

Funding Reallocation

Navajo-Hopi Land Commission reallocated the Rehabilitation Trust Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for Coppermine Chapter to complete home repairs and renovations. Funds were transferred from the housing construction account.

Plan of Operation Amendments

NHLC amended its plan of operation and is now in process of working with the Office of the Legislative Counsel for drafting the legislation for consideration by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council.

Housing Assessment Report

NHLC continues to monitor the Division of Community Development regarding progress on completing the Housing Assessment Report, funded by NHLC.

Coalmine Chapter House

NHLC provided guidance on the replacement of Coalmine Chapter House. The plan includes reassessment of available funding, expediting the contract process, meeting with congressional staff for funding, and identification of available Navajo Nation resources.

Transportation

NHLC set parameters for road projects in impacted areas funded by the Navajo-Hopi Indian Land Settlement Act. The strategy is to cash match federal and state funding for prioritized road projects.

Leases and Development

NHLC continues ongoing work related to Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, Padres Mesa Ranch Demonstration Program, Paragon-Bisti Solar Project, and other leases and development within the lands purchased through the Settlement Act.

Technical Amendments

NHLC established its position on the technical amendments to the Settlement Act. These amendments included Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation, program funding, programs to be assumed by the Navajo Nation, federal processes, generational residents on Hopi Partitioned Land, agricultural permits, minerals rights, and more.

Navajo DOJ Update

On Nov. 27, 2019, NHLC received legal updates from Attorney General Doreen McPaul, Deputy Attorney General Kimberly Dutcher, attorneys Susan Eastman and Chris Benally. Many issues were covered, including Hopi Partitioned Land Accommodation Agreement, governing CFRs, District 6 benefits, GAO report, ONHIR, revenue generating projects, benefits, and other related issues.



Black Mesa, Arizona

FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Meetings

Three more leadership meetings will be scheduled to hear the challenges and issues chapters face as a result of relocation.

Housing Policy

A housing policy will be drafted to address the housing needs in the impacted areas, funding sources, and eligibility requirements. This will include the number of homes to be constructed per quarter, funding, location, and infrastructure, if needed.

Determination will be made on Navajo Partitioned Land housing assessment study once the Division of Community Development and Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office provide the completed report. Partnerships will be established with other entities to build homes in the impacted areas.

Rehabilitation Trust Fund

NHLC will collaborate with the Office of the Controller to develop real time accounting to track Rehabilitation Trust Fund balance. The unused balance of RTF will be reallocated for priority projects. This will include closeout reporting.

Sheep Units

Legislation will be introduced to resolve the limit of 10-sheep units in Navajo Partitioned Land.

Jeddito Chapter

Jeddito projects will be added to priority listing, including one waterline project.

NHA

Housing reports will be requested from NHA on homes purchased, delivered, and setup; including closeout reporting.

Field Hearing

NHLC will recommend congressional field hearings to address the ongoing needs of Navajo relocatees, relocation communities, and residents of the Former Bennett Freeze Area.

State Lands

NHLC will address the deselection and selection of lands in New Mexico and over selection of lands in Arizona.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT



FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Legislation

OLS processed 91 legislation in the past quarter.

Meetings

OLS personnel participated in 70 Council, standing committees, and hearings over the past quarter.

Legislative Financial Advisor

OLS continued providing assistance to the Office of the Speaker for the duties and responsibilities of the Legislative Financial Advisor.

Policy

OLS internally reinforced Navajo Nation policies and procedures.

Budget

OLS expended 25 percent of the FY 2020 budget for the department.

Hardware

OLS worked with the Office of the Speaker Department of Information Technology to issue laptops to staff.

Cost-Sharing

Cost-sharing agreements were formalized with two standing committees and five subcommittees. Remaining standing committees are informally in agreement.

New Subcommittees

OLS scheduled two initial meetings for subcommittees: Diné Bizaad Subcommittee and Title II Reform Subcommittee.

FY 2020 Second Quarter Goals:

Training

Increase training opportunities for delegates and staff. This training will be in the areas of professional development and annual/semi-annual training.

Equipment

OLS is purchasing new recording equipment for support staff. The equipment will be issued upon receipt.

Meeting Scheduling

Continue to effectively coordinate all meetings include subcommittees that have met (i.e. Title II, NIIP, Diné Bizaad NABI Subcommittee).

Legislative Tracking

Utilize DiBB meeting request module for legislative tracking. This legislative tracking effort includes DiBB backup storage for personnel.

Job Descriptions

Finalize and implement OLS job descriptions.

Issues and Recommendations:

Communication

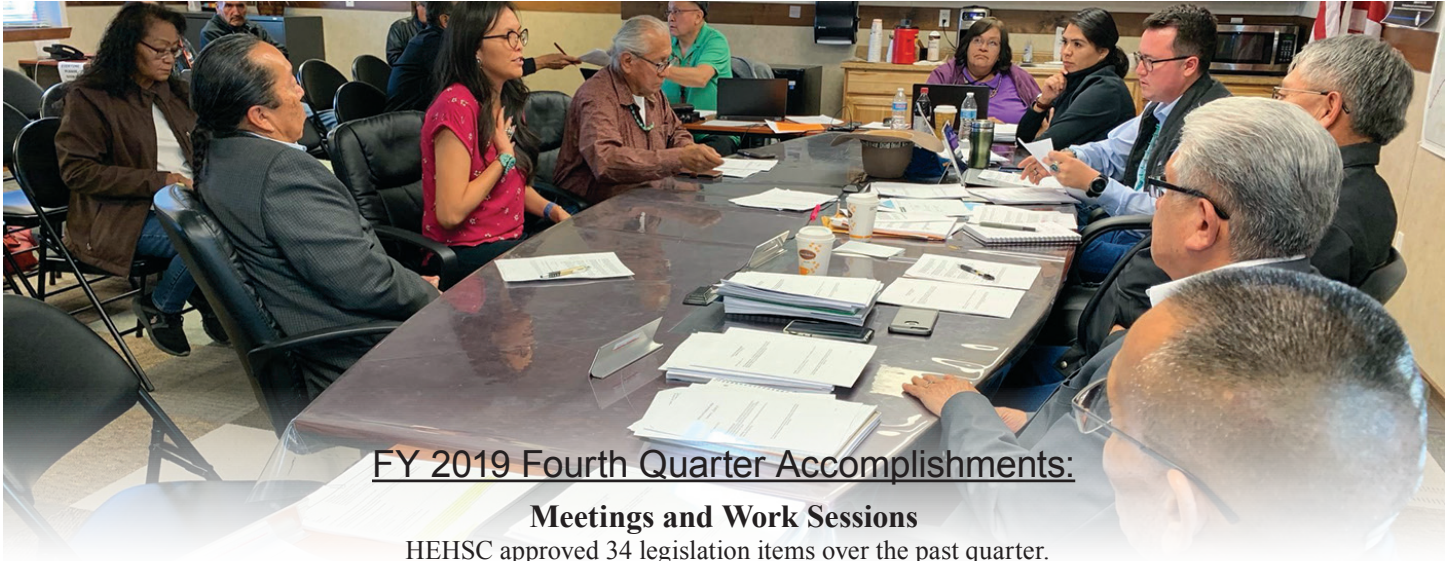
The inconsistent line of communication branch-wide is the issue. The recommendation is to create a consensual standardized format of communication in accordance with policies and procedures.

LDA Oversight

The issue is oversight for the Legislative District Assistants Program. The recommendation is to work with the Office of the Speaker to establish a program plan of operation.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT



FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Meetings and Work Sessions

HEHSC approved 34 legislation items over the past quarter.

Oct. 2, 2019

Special meeting with Navajo Indian Health Services.

Oct. 16, 2019

Regular meeting with non-emergency medical transportation, Title IV-E drawdown, and Gallup Middle College High School.

Oct. 28, 2019

Work session at UNM main Campus with Naataanii Development Corporation and Molina Healthcare. Work session with UNM College of Pharmacy regarding METALS Research.

Oct. 30, 2019

Regular meeting with Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation for annual report, renewals for financial projects and report of Yazzie vs. Martinez.

Oct. 31, 2019 work session with Division of Social Services for amending plans of operation (Legislation No. 0303-19). Work session included report on financial position of NTEC.

Nov. 5, 2019

Special meeting at Twin Arrows with Office of Indian Self-Determination (Navajo Area IHS).

Nov. 5-8, 2019

Work session with Navajo Area IHS for FY 2022 budget formulation.

Nov. 19, 2019

Work session with Office of Diné Accountability and Compliance, Department of Diné Education. Legislation No. 0263-19 and Legislation No. 0238-19 were included on the agenda.

Nov. 20, 2019

Regular meeting at Nenahnezad Chapter included reports from

Navajo Preparatory School, Four Corners Regional Health Center, and Navajo Nation Veterans Administration.

Nov. 25, 2019

Special meeting covering Navajo youth biking initiatives, transportation bonding, personnel policies manual related to donation of leave, Navajo Area Diabetes Program, and Title VI 2020-23 grant application.

Dec. 4, 2019 work session with Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care. Discussions included effort to have Navajo representative to serve on AACIHC Board and FY 2020 legislative priorities.

Dec. 9, 2019

Work session with Department of Self Reliance regarding plan of operation amendments (Legislation No. 0338-19).

Dec. 10, 2019

Work session with Division of Social Services on proposed amendments. Included report from Four Corners Regional Health Center.

Dec. 11, 2019

Report on Legislation 0238-19 to approve \$50 million from the Sihasin Fund to establish Navajo Nation Scholarship Endowment Plan.

Dec. 17, 2019

Special meeting regarding report on '638 programs and tribal health organization audit findings. Special Diabetes Program for Indians FY 2021 distribution formula included in discussions.

Dec. 18, 2019

Regular meeting for oath of office for new members of the Navajo Nation Board of Education. Report on plan of operation for Navajo Nation Council on Aging.

HEHSC FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT CONT.



The Health and Human Services Committee worked with DODE and OPVP for the confirmation of new members to the Navajo Nation Board of Education. The positions were vacant for more than 10 years.

Legislation

Legislation No. 0284-19: Approving supplemental funding from the UUFB in the amount of \$920,400 for lease payment to UNM for the Rain Forest Building. Passed with no amendment and no directive to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Legislation No. 0294-19: Extending approval date for 2020-24 Navajo Nation School Board Apportionment Plan. Passed with no amendment and no directive. HEHSC is final authority.

Legislation No. 0295-19: Amending the Navajo Office of Standards, Curriculum and Assessment Development plan of operation. Tabled pending updated organizational chart and updated NNBOE resolution Oct. 16, 2019.

Legislation No. 0305-19: Approving Navajo Nation Indian Education Committee policies under the Johnson O'Malley Program. Passed with no amendment and no directive. HEHSC is final authority.

Legislation No. 0315-19: Approving agreement between U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Navajo Nation under Public Law 93-638.

Legislation No. 0316-19: Rescinding NABI-59-18, granting the designation of Tribal Organization to Four Corners Regional Health Center, Inc.

Legislation No. 0333-19: Confirming Health, Education and Human Services Committee selection of Vice Chairman Carl Roessel Slater.

Legislation No. 0322: Approving the reinstatement of Karen Rae Nieto as a member of the Navajo Nation.

Legislation No. 0341-19: Amending CAP-35-18 passed and was forwarded to the Resources and Development Committee for consideration.

Council mourns passing of Sophie Yazzie at age 105



WINDOW ROCK—Sophie Yazzie (c. 1914 – Jan. 25, 2020), 105, passed Jan. 25, 2020. Sophie is remembered as a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who was a member of the Navajo Nation that served in World War II.

“On behalf of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, I wish to express the solemn observance of the passing of Miss Sophie Yazzie. It is with hearts full of deep regard for her service to our Nation that we recognize the true blessing her soul was to our People. May her legacy continue to be a guiding light of service, dedication, and the ultimate fulfillment of a life truly well-lived,” said Speaker Seth Damon.

Sophie Yazzie was a decorated veteran of the Women’s Army Corps, formerly called the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. She enlisted in 1943 and rose to the rank of Technician Fourth Grade (Sergeant) in the 734th WAC. She was trained as a cook and nurse.

“It is sad to learn that we have lost a Navajo woman warrior. We express our sincere condolences and offer support to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It is with great gratitude to know she served with great honor and was a noble example to her family and extended relatives. We join them to remember her as a Navajo Veteran and many Navajo veterans who to this day protected our right to free speech, the right to vote, to assemble and freely exercise our beliefs.” said Health, Education, and Human Services Committee Chair Daniel E. Tso.

Sophie Yazzie had her home in Canyon De Chelly, which was also described as her birthplace, recounted Chinle Chapter Council Delegate Eugene Tso.

“Sophie was well known, and she was a person who inspired many people. She motivated many lives and was kind and generous to all. She attended community meetings and got her issues and concerns across in a strong, kind hearted manner. We knew Sophie as a loving family lady that was admired by whoever she met,” said Delegate Eugene Tso. Sophie Yazzie married Jordan B. Yazzie in 1945 and together they had four children. After she was honorably discharged, she became a cook.

RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT



Eastern Agency allottees were thankful that the RDC listened to their issues.

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Grazing Issues

Resources and Development Committee scheduled and met with Navajo grazing officials and Eastern Navajo Land Boards to address issues and concerns. According to grazing officials and land boards, this is the first time Navajo Nation leadership scheduled listening sessions with them.

Energy Policy Amendments

RDC hosted a work session on Legislation No. 0073-19, an action relating to amending the 2013 Energy Policy. After the work session, the committee referred the matter to the full Council for final action. The legislation did not pass the Council. The committee will continue working on the energy policy and establishing the Navajo Nation Energy Office.

Greater Chaco Canyon Protection Act

RDC convened twice with Eastern Navajo Agency allottees regarding their concerns with the Greater Chaco Canyon Protection Act of 2019. During the meetings, landowners expressed lack of support from the Office of the President and Vice President, especially their failure to meet with them on the proposed bill. When the Senate held hearings on the bill, several Navajo allottees traveled to Washington, D.C. to provide testimony in opposition to the bill. On Nov. 21, RDC traveled to Nageezi Chapter to support the allotment owners and their meeting with Congressman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.).

Chapter Sanctions

RDC continues work with Division of Community Development, Office of the Auditor General, and Administrative Service Centers to address sanctioned chapters and compliance with corrective action plans and deadlines.

Streamlining Processes

RDC continues to work with the Navajo Nation Land Department, General Land Development Department, Navajo Department of Justice, Office of Legislative Counsel, and BIA to revise policies and streamline right-of-way and service line agreement compliance for Navajo Nation projects.

Navajo Water Rights

RDC has started working with Sacks Tierney, P.A. on the Navajo Nation Water Rights negotiation and adjudication process. Meetings with the law firm will continue to ensure timely information gathering and meeting scheduled timelines.

NPL Grazing

RDC will continue monitoring the Navajo Partitioned Land grazing reissuance and livestock management plan with Navajo Department of Agriculture, BIA, and NPL grazing officials.

Tourism

RDC continues work with Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department to address the tourism and vendor issues at tribal parks. The particular areas of concern include the communities of Cameron, Bodaway-Gap, LeChee, Shonto, and Monument Valley.

Transportation

RDC is coordinating with NDOT to address road issues and transportation needs across Navajo land. This includes streamlining ROW processes for road construction and other compliance issues delaying construction schedules.

RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FY 2020

FIRST QUARTER REPORT CONT.

Oct. 1, 2019: RDC work session with Western Agency grazing officials regarding the need for technical support, training, and streamlining the stipends claims process. Officials requested approval of electronic submission of stipend claims to cut down on travel and time.

Oct. 2, 2019: RDC regular meeting at Dzil Yijijin Chapter including report from Dzil Yijijin Naal Dloshi Group regarding concerns to the NPL grazing permits reissuance program and the NPL range management units.

Oct. 3, 2019: RDC-BFC work session with Naataanii Development Corporation to receive a report on their operation and future initiatives. Corporation provided an update on program performance, budget and membership.

Oct. 7, 2019: RDC leadership meeting with NTUA on renewable energy projects and the effort to raise the NTUA debt ceiling limit.

Oct. 8, 2019: RDC work session with Navajo Oil and Gas Corp. to receive a report on the company's roles and responsibilities with regard to Navajo Nation shareholders. NNOG provided a strategic overview of their operations.

Oct. 9, 2019: RDC regular meeting at Tse Dakaan Chapter to receive report from chapter officials on the need for a new chapter house. Committee took action on five legislation items.

Oct. 14, 2019: RDC work session on Legislation No. 0073-19.

Oct. 16, 2019: RDC regular meeting included report from AML-UMTRA staff, including request for work session. Exit report for Navajo Nation Fair was also covered.

Oct. 17, 2019: RDC leadership meeting with ASC covered sanctioned chapters and updates on implementation of corrective action plans.

Oct. 30, 2019: RDC regular meeting covered six reports and the committee took action on six legislation items.

Nov. 1, 2019: RDC leadership meeting with Sacks Tierney, P.A. Law Firm regarding Navajo water rights settlement.

Nov. 2, 2019: RDC leadership meeting with Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise CEO and management regarding the enterprise and projects for the next five years.

Nov. 6, 2019: RDC regular meeting included three reports and the committee took action on six legislation items.

Nov. 12, 2019: RDC work session with NTUA and NTEC was for information gathering related to the LCR water rights negotiation and adjudication.

Nov. 13, 2019: RDC regular meeting covered Census 2020, Little Singer Road Project and the committee took action on seven legislation items.

Nov. 20, 2019: RDC regular meeting had the committee taking action on six legislation items.

Nov. 21, 2019: RDC leadership meeting with Congressman Paul Gosar's Chief of Staff Tom Van Fliein and Eastern Navajo Agencies allottees opposed to the Great Chaco Canyon Protection Act of 2019.

Nov. 22, 2019: RDC work session with AML-UMTRA covered the duties and functions of the department, including support for SMCRA Reauthorization and Reclaim Act.

Nov. 25, 2019: RDC Leadership meeting with BIA, Department of Agriculture and NPL officials covered issues presented by the Dzil Yijijin Naal Dloshi Group. Discussions covered sheep units, amendments to laws regulating NPL grazing and enforcement.

Nov. 26, 2019: RDC work session with Chinle grazing officials covered issues with support staff and problems processing claims.

Nov. 27, 2019: RDC regular meeting included a report on NGS and the committee took action on four legislation items.

Dec. 2, 2019: RDC work session with Northern Agency grazing officials covered roles and responsibilities with BIA and tribal programs. Group requested funding resources to open agency office for grazing officials.

Dec. 3, 2019: RDC leadership meeting on rights-of-way and service line agreements and the impact to Navajo if fees are waived or perpetual leases granted.

Dec. 3, 2019: RDC leadership meeting with the Ten Tribes Partnership regarding the Colorado River Watershed Users Association.

Dec. 4, 2019: RDC regular meeting covered four reports and the committee took action on nine legislation items.

Dec. 7, 2019: RDC leadership meeting NNOG was the second part to the work session on the company's strategic plan and overview of the San Juan Basin. Discussions included helium opportunities.

Dec. 9, 2019: RDC leadership meeting with Raytheon officials included an overview on the facility operation and its security.

Dec. 10-14: Colorado River Watershed Users Association and Ten Tribes Partnership meetings covered Navajo water rights and networking opportunities.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FY 2020 FIRST QUARTER REPORT



Legislation

Legislation No. 0271-19: Approving a change in project funding from Year 3 to Year 2 for Round Rock Chapter Road Improvement Projects.

Legislation No. 0311-19: Approving a change in project funding in Resolution No. CAP-35-18 for Cornfields Chapter.

Legislation No. 0306-19: Approving and adopting the Tselani Power Line Extension Project Sihasin Expenditure Plan.

Legislation No. 0329-19: Approving a project change in CAP-35-18; change in project funding year for Sawmill Chapter.

Legislation No. 0310-19: Approving a change in project for the Greenhouse Project.

Legislation No. 0312-19: Approving a change in project type for Rural Addressing E911 Project.

Legislation No. 0323-19: Ojo Encino Chapter approving a change in funding from Year 3 to Year 1.

Legislation No. 0324-19: Counselor Chapter approving a change in funding from Year 1 to Year 3; approving a change in project description.

Legislation No. 0327-19: Low Mountain Chapter approving a change in projects from Head Start facility to the planning and designing of a Head Start facility and planning and designing of a multipurpose facility.

Legislation No. 0328-19: Blue Gap-Tachee Chapter approving a change in projects from constructing a new chapter to upgrading the chapter's sewer system and lagoon.

Legislation No. 0340-19: Tohatchi Chapter amending projects description, project type and amount of funds to be expended in Years 1, 2, and 3.

Legislation No. 0344-19: Crystal Chapter Green Knoll-Split Mesa Waterline and Water Storage project changing project description, project type, and years the funds are to be expended.

Legislation No. 0342-19: Shiprock Chapter Waterline Extension amending the project description, project type, and years the funds are to be expended.

Supplemental Funding Requests

Legislation No. 0182-19: Approving and adopting the Shiprock Judicial and Public Safety Center.

Legislation No. 0238-19: Approving \$50 million from the Sihasin Fund to establish the Navajo Nation Scholarship Endowment Expenditure Plan.

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter Accomplishments:

Meetings and Work Sessions

Budget and Finance Committee considered a total of 35 legislation in the past quarter.

Oct. 3, 2019

Joint work session with Resources and Development Committee at Hogback Chapter to receive a report and update from Naataanii Development Corporation.

Nov. 25, 2019

The committee reviewed 13 legislation considering changes in project funding from year to year, changes in scope of work, and changes to project type for several chapters this quarter.

Dec. 3, 2019

The committee received a report from Navajo Department of Justice on the Navajo Nation Gaming Distribution Plan. Proposed amendments would allow DALTCS to use \$1.1 million annually to pay utilities and telecommunications. Head Start would receive \$1 million annually for the same. The committee held a joint session with HEHSC on the plan Jan. 22, 2020.

Dec. 3, 2019

The committee received a report from Navajo Division of Transportation on the proposed Transportation Bonding Program for \$320 million to fund a plan over three years that would improve roads and bridges from 24 districts each at \$4.67 million. The bond would be paid over 10 to 12 years.

Dec. 16, 2019

The committee hosted a leadership meeting regarding depleting Sihasin Fund. Office of Legislative Counsel provided a report on the number of legislation requesting funding had approved \$350 million with \$662 million requests pending. The unallocated balance is \$383,698,049.

Dec. 17, 2019

OPVP and OMB presented a report for development of the second 5-year plan for the PTF income. The Council will determine if a second 5-year plan will be approved.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FY 2020

FIRST QUARTER REPORT CONT.



Derrick Watchman and Rebecca Benally report to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Audits

Legislation No. 0275-19: Accepting the special review of the Smith Lake Chapter submitted by the Office of the Auditor General and approving the corrective action plan.

Legislation No. 0313-19: Accepting the special review of the Oljato Chapter submitted by the OAG and approving the corrective action plan.

Legislation No. 0187-19: Accepting the special review of the Nohodishgish Chapter submitted by the OAG and approving the corrective action plan.

Retirement Plan

Legislation No. 0264-19: Adopting and approving the amended and restated plan document for the Retirement Plan for employees of the Navajo Nation.

Refer Back to Other Committees

Legislation No. 0263-19: Approving and adopting the Sihasin Higher Education Initiative Fund.

Amendments

Legislation No. 0270-19: Rescinding CD-85-18, which amended the Navajo Nation Permanent Fund Income 5-year expenditure plan, CAP-19-16, regarding fourth year funding for Ft. Defiance Agency projects.

Legislation No. 0241-19: Amending 12 N.N.C. § 820 (O), distributions to chapters.

Legislation No. 0253-19: Recommendation by the oversight committee to the Budget and Finance Committee to vacate certain conditions of appropriations as the pertain to updates of certain plans of operation within the Legislative Branch.

Legislation No. 0267-19: Amending 12 N.N.C. § 820 (O), distributions to chapters.

Amendments to Investments

Legislation No. 0290-19: Approving and adopting the amended 1982 Scholarship Claims Fund sub-policy.

Legislation No. 0291-19: Approving and adopting the amended 1982-1986 Chapter Claims Fund sub-policy.

Legislation No. 0299-19: Approving and adopting the amended Scholarship (Graduate and Tucson Gas & Electric) Trust Fund sub-policy.

Legislation No. 0300-19: Approving and adopting the amended Land Acquisition Trust Fund sub-policy.

Legislation No. 0301-19: Approving and adopting the amended Vocational Education Trust Fund sub-policy.

Legislation No. 0334-19: Approving as recommended by the Navajo Nation Investment Committee, the selection of Wesport Capital Partners LLC as a non-core real estate manager for the Navajo Nation Permanent Fund and Retirement Plan.

Legislation No. 0335-19: Approving as recommended by the Navajo Nation Investment Committee, the termination of Montag & Cadwell, Inc. and the selection of Jennison Associates LLC as the Domestic Large Capitalization Growth Equity investment manager for the Navajo Nation's Master Trust, the Investment Management Agreement and related documents.

Legislation No. 0336-19: Approving as recommended by the Navajo Nation Investment Committee, the ratification of the Securities Lending Authorization Agreements and related documents.

Legislation No. 0337-19: Approving as recommended by the Navajo Nation Investment Committee the selection of Pine-Bridge Investments LLC as the Bank Loan Manager for the remainder of the Navajo Nation's Master Trust Funds.

Budget and Finance Committee receive reports, take action on legislation items



The Budget and Finance Committee discussed bonding for Navajo Division of Transportation projects on the Navajo Nation Dec. 3. The committee discussed needed stimulus component, projects from the 24th Navajo Nation Council and preparation for presentations before B&F Committee.

WINDOW ROCK—

The Budget and Finance Committee met Dec. 3 for their regular meeting and received a report from Navajo Division of Transportation on the transportation bond.

NDOT completed the draft Navajo Nation Transportation Bonding Program on Oct. 31, 2019, with assistance from the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch. The division has presented the plan to Resources and Development Committee and Law and Order Committee. Next, they will report before the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

Executive director Garret Silversmith said the bonding program covers four major areas across the Navajo Nation transportation infrastructure: bridges, pavement preservation projects, earth road improvements, and Tribal Transportation Improvement Program shortfall.

“Distribution of the \$320 million will be done evenly among all five agencies. Each of our main areas is described here, from design on down to actual construction,” Silversmith said.

There is a total of 14,167 roads across the Navajo Nation. The BIA owns 42 percent or 5,994 miles of road. The Navajo Nation owns 34

percent or 4,890 miles of road. The states own 12 percent or 1,645 miles of road. The counties own 12 percent or 1,638 miles of road.

Only 15 percent of the roads maintained by the Navajo Nation and BIA miles are paved or graveled, amounting to 10,884 miles of road. From that amount, 14 percent or 1,500 miles of road are paved. One percent or 98 miles of road are graveled. Eighty-five percent or 9,286 miles are dirt roads.

There are 179 bridges maintained by the BIA and NDOT. From that amount, 38 bridges are eligible for rehabilitation and 28 bridges are eligible for replacement.

The Long-Range Transportation Plan was completed by NDOT in April 2016 and approved by the RDC on Oct. 25, 2016. The plan identified \$1.4 billion in needs to address pavement deficiencies and \$6.5 billion was identified for upgrades to the existing roadway system. The total transportation need is \$7.9 billion.

NDOT receives \$55 million annually in federal funding from the Federal Highway Administration. Additionally, \$6 million is generated from the Fuel Excise Tax. NDOT also receives \$1 million from the General Fund. BIA

receives \$6 million annually from the Dept. of Interior to maintain BIA routes. The total funding for the transportation is \$68 million annually, which will take 116 years to meet the current needs.

Several delegates had concerns regarding the plan for bonding of NDOT projects, including Delegate Amber Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadiiahi-To’ Koi, Red Valley, Sheep Springs, Toadlena-Two Grey Hills, Tse’alnaozt’i’i) who said a similar bonding effort for the tribal justice centers resulted in a “huge payout” because projects were not shovel-ready.

“This is something that I’d support, but I know there’s a financial dynamic that is not discussed in your presentation,” she said. Delegate Crotty was especially interested in learning about the stimulus component to their plan that would benefit Navajo small business owners. “What kind of conversations are we having with small business owners who do this kind of work?” she asked.

Chairman Jamie Henio (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee)

“THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I’D SUPPORT, BUT I KNOW THERE’S A FINANCIAL DYNAMIC THIS IS NOT DISCUSSED N YOUR PRESENTATION.”

shared similar concerns and said financing of the bond will be a major consideration when the legislation moves forward. He noted that before the start of the meeting, he met with Office of the Speaker and NDOT staff. “NDOT staff

wasn’t ready. We didn’t get anything done. In the future, please make sure your staff is ready to go,” Henio said.

Delegate Raymond Smith (Houck, Klagetoh, Lupton, Nahata Dziil, Wide Ruins) made the point that NDOT’s plan was from the 23rd Navajo Nation Council. “I’m sure they had different plans and thoughts than the 24th Navajo Nation Council. I think this plan should be reviewed properly before jumping ahead,” he said.

Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, White Cone) asked why numerous studies are conducted over the same stretch of road. He said Navajo Route 15, from Burnside to Dilkon, is one such road that is dangerous for travelers. Despite several studies, the first seven miles of construction has yet to start, he said. “Everybody’s looking at this new project now and how long is that going to take?” Begay asked.

Delegate Begay motioned for a leadership meeting between RDC and Budget and Finance Committee to discuss the bond plan for NDOT. Crotty seconded the motion before the committee accepted the report by a vote of 4-0.

Before ending the meeting, Budget and Finance also heard a report from Navajo Dept. of Justice attorney LaTonya Johnson regarding the gaming distribution plan and approved six legislation items, ranging from approval of changes in project funding, amending project descriptions and approving chapter corrective action plan for audit findings.

Information: www.navajonationcouncil.org