



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2016

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyne Curley (928) 286-7918
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Budget and Finance Committee applauds chapters for meeting Corrective Action Plan requirements



Photo: Navajo Nation auditors, Red Valley Chapter officials, and Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty present an audit report to the Budget and Finance Committee on April 5, 2016 in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Budget and Finance Committee received several reports from the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General regarding chapter audits for St. Michaels Chapter, Rock Springs Chapter, Low Mountain Chapter, Becenti Chapter, and Red Valley Chapter.

According to the report from the Office of the Auditor General, an audit review of each chapter resulted in the recommendation of “no sanction” for St. Michaels Chapter, Rock Springs Chapter, Low Mountain Chapter, and Becenti Chapter – who all met the requirements outlined in their respective Corrective Action Plans.

In 2000, Red Valley Chapter initiated an audit report and in 2002 a CAP was developed and approved by the BFC. However, the chapter did not successfully implement all corrective action items which resulted in the chapter being sanctioned in 2005, and for nearly 12 years the chapter has attempted numerous times to lift the sanction, according to the OAG report.

Beverly Tom, the lead auditor for the Red Valley Chapter audit, said the fifth follow-up review audit report revealed that the chapter has carried out and completed the corrective action items in their CAP, and recommended that the sanction on the chapter be lifted and previously withheld funding be released back to the chapter.

BFC vice chair Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinõn, Whippoorwill) said that there are high costs associated with having auditors visit the chapter five times and urged the chapter officials and staff to continue practicing proper management of their chapter finances.

“There is a financial cost to go to your chapter five times. Please do not go back into a rut, and make sure you are on top of your finances and continue to follow the policies and procedures,” said Delegate Witherspoon.

On March 25, the Office of the Auditor General sent a letter to the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller to authorize the release of the withheld funding back to the Red Valley Chapter.

BFC member Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) commended all the chapters for meeting the compliance requirements of their CAP’s and said it is a good reason to celebrate their accomplishments.

“Thank you for meeting the compliance that was requested of you. [At some chapters], it is sad to see our people fighting over audit issues and money issues. It’s to the point where people have no regard for each other and it’s a breakdown of the K’é system,” said Delegate Chee. “I’d like to celebrate with you guys. We need to celebrate more of the right things in our communities.”

With a vote of 4-0, BFC members unanimously accepted all five chapter audit reports.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council