



## Work Session to discuss Chapter Infrastructure Projects hosted by Council Delegate Vince James

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**PHOTO:** Council Delegate Vince James joins Chapter leaders and administrators for a Community Land Use Planning Committee Work Session at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino and Resort.

**LEUPP, Ariz.** — Council Delegate Vince James of the 24th Navajo Nation Council was joined by chapter leaders and administrators for a Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) Work Session with the Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, KinDahłichii, and Steamboat Chapters at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino.

Topics of the discussion focused on potential infrastructure projects eligible for American Rescue Plan Act funding, updating CLUPC manuals, and team-building activities, so chapter administrators work together to plan future community initiatives.

“We want to thank the Division of Community Development and the Administrative Service Centers from Ft. Defiance and Dilkon regions for making our work session a success. Updating our CLUPC manuals and offering professional development opportunities empower our planning members for community development projects. We hosted a mock-committee meeting with potential questions to prepare chapter officials for recertification by the Resources and Development Committee. I am proud of our grazing officials, CLUPC members, and chapter administrators for their hard work on behalf of the Navajo people,” said Council Delegate Vince James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinłichii, Steamboat).

According to the Division of Community Development (DCD), four of the five chapters are LGA-certified and in good standing within the 5-year recertification period.

“This pandemic has challenged chapter leaders to adapt and be better service providers to the people we represent. Leadership begins at the chapter level because that is where decisions are made. COVID-19 impacted us locally because we were also first-responders who gathered PPE materials and food donations to give to our most vulnerable families. Work sessions with the other chapter administrators from the Jeddito, Ganado, Kinłichii, and Steamboat communities helped reconnect us. We are grateful to Delegate Vince James and his Legislative District Assistant Philandra Nelson for their hard work and leadership,” said Chapter Manager Ms. Alfreda Earle.

The work session ended with several reports provided by Delegate James, including a breakdown of road projects for the chapters in his district. Representing the Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT), Mr. Edwin J. Begay also responded to questions regarding regional road routes, the Tribal Transportation Infrastructure Project (TTIP) development process, and the road inventory processes.

“Local empowerment is important to the governing body of the Navajo Nation. Our 110 chapters continue to be on the frontlines fighting COVID-19. We honor their hard work and appreciate Honorable Vince James for standing alongside our chapter officials by hosting these work sessions. Becoming LGA-certified ensures our chapters decide how they administer their land and plan for infrastructure projects. The Navajo Nation Council commends the leadership of all our chapter administrators during this pandemic,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Łichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh).

The 1998 Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA) grants chapters authority over local issues relating to economic development, taxation and revenue generation, infrastructure development, and land use planning. Chapters must develop and adopt a comprehensive, community-based land use plan which provides local chapters the tools to administer their land.

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