



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

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

Delegate Damon presents infrastructure funds to chapters



PHOTO: Council Delegate Seth Damon along with Speaker LoRenzo Bates and Vice President Jonathan Nez present funding to Manuelito Chapter officials at Manuelito Chapter House on May, 17, 2015.

WINDOW ROCK— Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááhááí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) on Sunday presented funding for power line and sewer line projects for the communities of Chichiltah, Manuelito, and Tsé Lichíí' — each within his legislative district.

The funding was made possible through legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí', Steamboat), which was approved by the Navajo Nation Council on April 22, and later signed into law along with the approval of funds from the Nation's Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance for numerous projects and initiatives throughout the Nation.

Speaking to Tsé Lichíí' Chapter officials and nearly 50 chapter members, Delegate Damon explained that he ran for the position of council delegate based on a platform to secure funds for power lines and water projects for his communities and added that he would continue advocating on their behalf.

“Power and water are basic human rights that every human being deserves to have,” said Delegate Damon, who also thanked his Council colleagues for working together to fund the projects and for lobbying former President Ben Shelly for approval.

“One objective we have focused on is how well we can work together and I’m thankful for the guidance and support that I received from my colleagues,” added Delegate Damon.

Funding in the amount of \$250,000 was presented to the Chichiltah Chapter for power line projects, approximately \$520,000 for power line extensions and sewer line repairs for Tsé Lichí’ Chapter, and approximately \$280,000 for power line projects in the Manuelito Chapter.

Several of the impacted families were in attendance at each of the chapters during the presentations, many of whom have lived without electricity in their homes for most of their lives.

One elderly couple from the community of Chichiltah, said they have lived in the area for over 40 years without electricity and said they are grateful for the Council’s approval of the funding.

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) was also in attendance and commended Delegate Damon for his successful efforts while acknowledging the need to address other issues across the Nation.

“The needs are great and this is a small part of the big picture,” said Speaker Bates. “There’s a multitude of needs on the Navajo Nation such water projects, roads, and education and we recognize those needs.”

Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez, who voted in favor of the legislation as a member of the Council before resigning as a delegate on May 12, was also on hand and thanked his former Council colleagues for pushing the bill and said he looks forward to working together with the Council on more initiatives to assist chapters.

Other communities who were approved for funding include Kin Dah Lichii, Cornfields, Jeddito, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Kayenta, Shonto, Tó Nanees Dizi, Mariano Lake, Round Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh, Whitehorse Lake, Many Farms, Tselani/Cottonwood, and Newcomb.

###

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