



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee addresses chapter service boundaries while approving LeChee Chapter's Community-Based Land Use Plan

K'AI'BII'TO, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0048-16, recertifying LeChee Chapter's Community-Based Land Use Plan which has been reevaluated and readjusted to meet community needs. The chapter's first community land use plan was approved by the RDC in 2004. LeChee Chapter is located 5-miles south of Page, Ariz.

Pursuant to Navajo Nation Code Title 26 section 2004, chapter governments shall reevaluate and readjust their community land use plan every five years to meet the needs of their changing community. LeChee Chapter's new plan supports housing, public and community facilities, and economic development projects for the citizens of the chapter, according to Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'Bii'To, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake), who sponsored the legislation and represents the LeChee community.

During the discussion, K'ai'Bii'To Chapter vice president Ernest Goatson raised an issue regarding the chapter boundaries outlined in LeChee's new plan and how it could interfere with K'ai'Bii'To Chapter's community plan.

"While I am looking at the new plan for LeChee Chapter, I noticed that the boundaries outlined in the maps overlap K'ai'Bii'To Chapter boundaries. I have a problem with this," stated Goatson.

RDC chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) stated that the legislation and the community plan does not delineate or present chapter boundaries.

"The purpose of the legislation is to recertify the community land use plan and it does not have the right to distinguish permanent chapter boundaries. The maps included in the legislation outlines the boundaries for services and planning. It does not give ownership of land to the chapter. Overall, it is the decision of LeChee Chapter and K'ai'Bii'To Chapter if they want to work together or not," stated Delegate Shepherd.

The legislation states that the "certification of this Community-Based Land Use Plan shall not delineate adjacent chapter boundaries. Any chapter disputes rest solely within the Courts of the Navajo Nation."

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) recommended LeChee Chapter to work with K'ai'Bii'To Chapter if any service boundary issues arise and asked how the new plan will address economic development.

LeChee Chapter manager Wilford Lane stated that the whole service chapter boundary is within the Lake Powell Navajo Tribal Park and the community land use plan addresses various economic development initiatives. The community revealed that residents support economic development, such as gas stations, convenient stores, grocery stores, laundromats, hotels, and restaurants along Antelope Point Road Corridor, State Highway 89 and 98, and Navajo Route 20, added Lane.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation 0048-16 with a 3-0 vote and a recommendation for Navajo Nation Division of Community Development to provide clarification and information regarding chapter service boundaries to all Navajo Nation Chapters.

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