



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee receives report from Becenti Chapter regarding Administrative Service Centers

BECENTI, N.M. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee received a report from Becenti Chapter officials regarding the level of effectiveness of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development’s Administrative Service Centers, the need of accessible roads, and broadband coverage for the community of Becenti, located approximately 11-miles north of Crownpoint, N.M.

RDC member Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock), who represents the community of Becenti, stated that the chapter has been working aggressively to address their concerns and requested the continued support of the committee.

“Becenti Chapter is located in an isolated area with no data services or improved roads. The chapter has been working hard to work with central government to resolve the issues, but their concerns are not addressed. The ASC’s should be there working adjacently with the chapter, but they don’t communicate or provide technical assistance,” stated Delegate Perry.

In 2014, the committee amended DCD’s plan of operation for the ASC’s, which replaced the Local Governance Support Centers, to provide technical assistance to chapters related to project planning, infrastructure development, community land use planning, and guidance to implement the Five Management System.

According to Becenti Chapter president Charles Long, the ASC does not provide technical assistance and has not demonstrated effective performance.

Long added, “The intent of ACS was to help the chapters, but have only seen the ASC manager and planner once. The Council needs to consider the ASC’s poor performance during budget session.”

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) agreed that the ASC’s have low performance and do not effectively provide assistance to chapters.

“Chinle Chapter has the same issue with ASC. There is no consultation or support provided to the chapters regarding major projects,” stated Delegate Pete, “I don’t know if there are any real

solutions, because the Nation has been trying to explore different models to reconstruct chapters and support services, such as amending the local governance act and regionalization.”

RDC vice chair Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) recommended that the DCD provide a report to the committee regarding ASC’s performance.

Delegate Perry added that the collaboration and assistance from ASC could achieve many community projects and initiatives, such as providing broadband services and improved roads.

The Resources and Development Committee approved the report with a 3-0 vote.

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