



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Resources and Development Committee re-certifies Bááháálí Chapter's Community-based Land Use Plan**

**BÁÁHÁÁLÍ, N.M.** – On Wednesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0213-18, recertifying Bááháálí Chapter's community-based land use plan, which was reevaluated and readjusted since the chapter's first plan was approved in 2006. The community of Bááháálí, also known as Bread Springs, is located approximately 20-miles southeast of Gallup, N.M.

Pursuant to Title 26 § 2004 of the Navajo Nation Code, chapter governments should reevaluate and readjust their community land use plan every five years to meet the needs of their changing community. The community land use plan projects future community needs including residential, commercial, industrial, and public purposes.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh), who sponsored the legislation and represents the community of Bááháálí, stated that the chapter administration and officials have worked diligently to update the community land use plan that reflects the community's visions and goals.

"The community-based land use plan will guide the community leaders' decisions regarding community development. The plan supports housing, community facilities, and economic development for the citizens of Bááháálí," said Delegate Damon.

Bááháálí Chapter president Lee C. Jim provided an overview of the goals of land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and community facilities such as identifying all leases and permits, acquiring land through possible land exchanges, developing a master housing and parks/recreation plan, initiating road projects, implementing the Chapter Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, and others. Over 80 survey responses from community members were assessed to identify the goals of the community, added Jim.

During the discussion, the chapter requested the committee to extend the recertification from five-years to 10-years.

RDC chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) reaffirmed that pursuant to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, community-based land use plan are updated every five years.

“The current Navajo law states that land use plans are reevaluated every five years. There has been several attempts to amend Title 26, however, it has not happened yet,” said Delegate Shepherd.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0213-18 with a 3-0 vote and serves as the final authority for the bill.

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