



# Speaker's Report

2018 Summer Council Session

**Honorable LoRenzo Bates**

*23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

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23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
Summer Council Session  
July 2018



# Speaker's Report



## Message from Speaker LoRenzo Bates

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné Citizens. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2018 Summer Council Session.

I also extend a very special welcome to the many horse riders who made the difficult journey over several days to be with us on the opening day of the session. Over the week, riders began their journey from their respective chapter areas to honor the tradition started many years ago by previous Navajo leaders.

In the past, community leaders and Council members rode on horse back or in horse-drawn wagons from their home areas to the Council Chamber, bringing with them their community issues and concerns – this tradition continues today.

As the Legislative Branch concluded events for the 150<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Naaltsos Saní – The Treaty of 1868 for the month of June, we reflect on the many sacrifices and hardships our past leaders endured. In the spirit of their resilience, we are reminded as we begin another Council Session to remember our ancestors who ensured our continuation as a Nation and to express our gratitude through prayer and reverence for our past leaders.

As we begin the session and as we receive numerous reports and deliberate over legislations, I would like for us remember that we are now in the summer season – for our people, it is a time to care for our crops and for our livestock.

Just as our elders have taught us to tend to the crops and livestock to ensure a prosperous future, our Nation's leaders will tend to many challenging issues and make many difficult decisions to ensure a bright future for the Navajo Nation.

As we proceed with our agenda for the Summer Session, I ask my colleagues to be mindful and to remember that our people have always overcome challenges and persevered. On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens and many others for your continued support.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LoRenzo Bates".

LoRenzo Bates, *Speaker*  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council



## Year of the "Naaltsoos Saní" – Treaty of 1868 Legislative Branch Events

In February, the Navajo Nation's three branch chiefs came together to sign a proclamation to recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the signing of Naaltsoos Saní—The Treaty of 1868. The "Year of the Naaltsoos Saní" recognizes, honors, and reflects on the strength, growth, healing, and resilience of the Navajo people in the past, present, and future.

In 1864, the Navajo people were forcefully removed from their homelands and moved 300 miles east to Bosque Redondo, N.M., also known as Hwéeldi. The Treaty allowed the Navajo people to return to their homelands and established a governmental relationship between the Navajo people and the U.S. government.

The Legislative Branch, along with the Executive and Judicial branches collaborated to aid in bringing the Treaty to the Navajo Nation. During the month of June, the original Treaty documents were exhibited at the Navajo Nation Museum, which was achieved through an agreement between the Navajo Nation and the Smithsonian's National Museum.

To assist in bringing the original Treaty back to the Navajo Nation, Council voted in support of legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd that approved supplemental funding in the amount of \$350,000 to allow the Navajo Nation Museum to exhibit and display the original Treaty of 1868 for the public to view, and to acknowledge the 150th year anniversary of the signing.

In coordination with the Treaty exhibit, the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch proudly hosted "Diné Cultural Nights" every Wednesday evening, as well as daily tours of the Council Chamber, during the month of June. The theme was "A Journey of Strength, Growth, Healing, and Resilience." The weekly events showcased the talents, progress, and success of Navajo people since the time of The Long Walk.

On June 6, the Office of the Speaker collaborated with Diné College's Navajo Cultural Arts Program, which provided students and master artisans the opportunity to showcase their cultural arts practices and share their unique knowledge and skills. Cultural demonstrations included moccasin making by Brent Toadlena, sash belt weaving by Aaron Begay, Navajo rug weaving by Heather Williams, Navajo basket making by Wacey Harvey, and silversmith work by Delia Wauneka.

During the traditional talent show on June 13, Navajo elders and youth had the chance to share their traditional talents and skills with the public, and each were rewarded with a prize. Some of the traditional talents performed included Navajo singing and the reenactment of a kinaalda, or Navajo womanhood ceremony.



*PHOTO: Navajo artisan Aaron Begay demonstrates Navajo sash belt making during the Navajo Nation Council's "Diné Cultural Night" at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on June 6, 2018.*

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*PHOTO: Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie welcoming visitors during a Navajo Nation Council tour in Window Rock, Ariz. on June 11, 2018.*

On June 20, the Office of the Speaker collaborated with the Navajo Technical University's Culinary Arts Program chef JD Kinlacheeny, who prepared rabbit with beans, squash, and corn during the traditional food demonstration. Along with the demonstration, Navajo medicine practitioner Kenneth Joe also shared traditional names and teachings to convey the significance of the traditional Navajo foods.

The Legislative Branch's cultural events concluded with a traditional fashion show on June 27, which included Navajo designers Jennifer James of JJ Jamz Design, Mae Mallahan, Jolonzo Goldtooth of JG Indie Designs, and Shayne Watson. The fashion show included traditional Navajo outfits and contemporary Navajo attire such as coats, dresses, skirts, and male clothing.

The Legislative Branch's cultural events concluded with a traditional fashion show on June 27, which included Navajo designers Jennifer James of JJ Jamz

Throughout the month of June, the Council Chamber tours welcomed over 700 visitors to the historical Navajo Nation Council Chamber to view the murals, historic photos from the 1930s by Milton "Jack" Snow, and a historical overview of the Navajo Nation Government.

On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I extend my appreciation to the visitors, Navajo people, youth groups, families, tourists, and communities who attended the cultural events and took part in the tours in recognition of the 150th year anniversary of the Naaltsos Saní.

## Veterans Housing

On June 12, Council Delegates Steven Begay, Alton Joe Shepherd, Tom Chee, and I joined disabled Navajo veteran Johnathan Becenti, as he and his wife and children received a new home in the community of Tohatchi, N.M.



*Photo: Members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council with Navajo veteran Johnathan Becenti and his family, and officials with the Southwest Indian Foundation in Tohatchi, N.M. on June 12, 2018.*

The new home was made possible through the partnership of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Veterans Administration, and the Southwest Indian Foundation – a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of services and programs that benefit Native Americans in the southwest.

In 2013, Council approved resolution CS-48-13 sponsored by Delegate Shepherd, which amended the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund policy to provide funding for the construction of new homes for veterans in each of the Nation's five agencies. However, the veteran's administration, under the Office of the President

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and Vice President, encountered issues that were outlined in an audit report produced by the Office of the Auditor General in 2017.

The report contained eight audit findings including lack of financial and expenditure documentation, lack of quality homes built, veteran eligibility issues, and veterans' dissatisfaction upon receiving their completed homes.

These issues prompted Delegate Steven Begay and Tohatchi Veterans Organization Commander and Fort Defiance Veterans Agency Organization Commander Olin Kieyoomia, to meet with officials from the South-west Indian Foundation to discuss the possibility of providing pre-constructed homes for veterans on the Navajo Nation.

In December 2017, the Fort Defiance Veterans Agency Organization reached out to the Office of the Speaker to request assistance by facilitating meetings between the foundation and Navajo Nation officials. The Council coordinated a meeting, which eventually led to the formation of the partnership and the recent signing of a contract to provide 10 new homes for Navajo veterans. Johnathan Becenti and his family were the first to receive a new 1,136 square-foot, three-bedroom home.

I want to recognize my colleagues for their continued advocacy to ensure housing and services are improved for our Navajo veterans. This Council has worked diligently to address veterans' issues and I thank my fellow Council members for their hard work.

## **\$100 Million Síhasin Fund Power Line and Chapter Projects Expenditure Plan**

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During the 2018 Spring Council Session, members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council unanimously passed CAP-35-18: the Síhasin Fund Power Line and Chapter Projects Expenditure Plan. The resolution was signed into law with the exception of two projects within the communities of Rock Point, AZ and Shiprock, NM.

In January 2018, the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee and Naabik'i'yati Committee directed the Office of the Speaker to work with Council members and their respective chapters to establish a comprehensive list of projects that range from power lines to capital improvement projects. Each legislative district was allocated \$4.1 million to be divided among the chapters within that district.

The Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) and Navajo Utility Tribal Authority (NTUA) played a vital role in the establishment of the comprehensive projects list. CPMD and NTUA provided technical assistance to ensure each chapter is familiar with the status of existing projects and the procedures associated with initiating a project.

Upon the passage and approval of CAP-35-18, the Office of the Speaker began meeting with the Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Controller, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, and Capital Projects Management Department to establish an internal process for the distribution of funds.

On June 25, the Office of the Speaker met with LGA-Certified Chapters to discuss the distribution of project

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funding. The intent of the meeting was to provide guidance to these chapters to ensure they are aware of the procedures associated with taking full ownership of their projects.

Within CAP-35-18, LGA-Certified Chapters are given an opportunity to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CPMD to receive project funding and manage their projects, while CPMD continues to provide technical support. Prior to entering into an MOA with CPMD, chapters are required to submit a complete project folder, and those who fail to provide a complete project folder will be deemed ineligible to enter into an MOA. This could also result in the delay of funding.

On June 28, the Office of the Speaker and CPMD met with non-LGA Certified Chapters. Non-LGA Certified chapters will have their projects managed by CPMD. The meeting allowed for chapters to review their project folders and obtain technical assistance from CPMD project managers.

It is anticipated that the first-year funding will be available in the coming weeks, the second-year funding will be available in December 2018, and the third-year funding will be available in December 2019. The funding distribution schedule is based on the Navajo Nation's fiscal year schedule.

## Summer Youth Employment Funding

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During a special session held on May 17, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council unanimously voted in support of resolution CMY-51-18 sponsored by Council Delegate Seth Damon, which was signed into law on May 31. The allocation provides \$2 million for the 110 chapters to employ high school and college students this summer. The allocations allow our Navajo students to gain work experience and allow them to earn income for college tuition, school supplies, school clothes, or other cost-of-living expenses.

The funding will be distributed to the 110 chapters based on the 50/50 formula, which requires that half of the \$2 million be distributed evenly among the 110 chapters, the other half would be distributed to the chapters based on the number of registered voters in each of the 110 chapters.

The supplemental funding of approximately \$2 million will be distributed to the chapters in each agency as follows:

- \$522,000—Eastern Agency
- \$409,000—Fort Defiance Agency
- \$378,000—Northern Agency
- \$344,000—Western Agency
- \$265,000—Central Agency

Resolution CMY-51-18 also directed the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the Controller, and the Division of Community Development to update the chapter summer youth employment balances within seven calendar days to allow chapters to begin hiring students as soon as possible.

## Naabik'íyáti' Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee

Members of the Naabi'kíyáti' Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee have accomplished yet another significant milestone in completing the Navajo Nation's first-ever Human Trafficking White Paper, which is a research-based project that analyzes the occurrence of trafficking on the Navajo Nation and will provide proposed policy recommendations to Navajo leadership in addressing human trafficking.

SAPS chair Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty and member Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, along with the University of Colorado-Boulder American Indian Law Clinic and the Navajo Nation Sexual Violence Prevention Work Group, have completed the first draft of the White Paper and are currently in the editing phase. The subcommittee hopes to find a publisher to disseminate this important research to the Navajo communities and across the nation.



*PHOTO: Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty provided a plenary address at the Women Are Sacred Conference on June 28, 2018 in Albuquerque, N.M.*

Delegate Crotty and Delegate Brown have made numerous presentations at conferences and have inspired other tribes to begin their own human trafficking initiatives. The data and information that has been collected were utilized as a tool to illustrate what is occurring on the Navajo Nation, and how the implementation of our own human trafficking laws have aided in apprehending traffickers and protecting victims.

In addition to the ongoing human trafficking prevention efforts, the SAP Subcommittee continues to meet and work with Navajo programs, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutorial entities at the tribal and federal level to strengthen protections for victims of human trafficking.

In June, the subcommittee met with officials from the Indian Health Service Headquarters and the Navajo Area IHS to address issues concerning the handling of sexual assault and sexual abuse cases by local health providers on, or near the Navajo Nation. Delegate Crotty issued a letter to IHS in March requesting their assistance to address the breakdown in sexual assault protocols.

It was found that some health care providers are lacking vital needs such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, victim advocates, and coordination between dispatching, emergency transportation services, and medical centers. In understanding the challenges, the subcommittees met with the appropriate entities and are looking at areas that need to be amended and strengthened.

In addition to working on local Navajo issues, the subcommittee's successful advocacy of Arizona Senate Bill 1498 entitled the "Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert on Tribal Lands Act," sponsored by Sen. Steve Smith (R – Dist. 11), was signed into law by Gov. Doug Ducey on June 1 at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber. It now requires the Arizona Department of Public Safety to assist tribes in implementing and testing AMBER Alert

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notifications on tribal lands, and allows the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board to provide additional training resources for tribes.

Delegate Crotty, who has been a strong advocate for implementing an AMBER Alert system on the Navajo Nation, said the additional resources provided through S.B. 1498 would assist in protecting Navajo children and provide AMBER Alert training for Navajo law enforcement and communities.

On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I commend the SAP Subcommittee for continuing to make effective strides in sexual assault prevention and continuing to support efforts to protect our Navajo children and people.

## Proposed Reorganization of the U.S. Department of the Interior

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On April 18, the Navajo Nation Council strongly objected to the U.S. Department of the Interior's planned reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs through the unanimous passage of CAP-40-18. The reorganization of the BIA would impact all tribes in the United States, including the Navajo Nation.

On June 25 during a formal consultation session, several of my Council colleagues and I conveyed the Navajo Nation's opposition of the reorganization to Principle Deputy Asst. Secretary for Indian Affairs, Mr. John Tahsuda, III. We informed him that the proposed plan put forth by the Department of the Interior would split the Navajo Nation between two separate regions within the BIA. Working with two BIA regions, as opposed to the one BIA region currently in place, will only complicate matters and create barriers to delivering direct services to Navajo people.

In addition, the Navajo Nation has gained its own authorities for land leasing and business site leasing, how would the reorganization affect those authorities? If the Navajo Nation were split into two BIA regions, which region would the Navajo Nation work with? How would it impact the jobs for many Navajo people who are employed with the BIA? How will the federal trust responsibility to tribes remain a priority under the reorganization? These are a few of the questions we posed to the Department of the Interior.

The federal government has a duty to fulfill the obligations within the Treaty of 1868 and the proposed reorganization would further stifle the process of fulfilling those treaty obligations for the Navajo Nation. As I have previously stated, the Navajo Nation Council will not idly stand by while the federal government again decides what is in our best interest.

## Navajo Generating Station

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The Navajo Generating Station (NGS) has achieved an important milestone in which we have selected a potential buyer to begin negotiating the future ownership of the power plant. A nationwide search for a new owner began last year as the current owners opened a data room for potential buyers to carry out their due

diligence and consider all factors involved in taking over ownership, which would aid in keeping the Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine in operation beyond 2019.

As we move into the negotiating stage, time will be of the essence as we work to prepare a completed negotiated plan for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council to consider. Included in these considerations will be Navajo jobs and families who depend on this source of revenue for their income. Our Navajo workforce is a vital part of what allows us as a sovereign nation to continue to act in the best interest of our people.

Without these sources of revenues, we would not be able to perform many of the daily essential governmental functions that keep our people healthy and safe from harm. These revenues help to support our direct services such as our police department, elderly care, students, and road maintenance.

The 2013 Navajo Energy Act includes the diversification of our energy resources to include renewable energy in our overall energy portfolio, but only in a responsible way that would not affect current jobs and revenues. While we support green energy, we must carefully consider all options so we do not lose critical jobs and revenues, and we must interpret how it could impact our electric rates for our Navajo citizens. Many Navajo families and elders are on fixed incomes and hundreds continue to request for electrical assistance each year due to the high utility rates.

## FY2019 Comprehensive Budget

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On May 29, the Budget and Finance Committee took the first steps to approving the Navajo Nation's General Fund revenue projection, establishing the General Fund budget amount, and allocations for the three branches of government in preparation for the Comprehensive Budget for fiscal year 2019, which begins on Oct. 1, 2018.

The gross FY2019 revenue projection for the Navajo Nation totals \$205,770,000. Following set-asides for the Permanent Trust Fund, Land Acquisition Trust Fund, Capital Outlay Match Funding Special Revenue Fund, Water Rights Claim Fund, Diné Higher Education Grant Fund, and the Veterans Trust Fund, the net general fund for the FY2019 budget would total \$152,331,000. This amount combined with \$19,828,000 from the interest earned from the Permanent Trust Fund principal provides a total projected revenue amount of \$172,159,000.

On May 23, the three branch chiefs met to discuss budget allocations for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches for FY2019. The Budget and Finance Committee revised several of those recommended allocations to reflect the following amounts:

- Fixed Costs                    \$17,724,696
- Executive Branch            \$102,568,267
- Legislative Branch         \$14,643,003
- Judicial Branch              \$14,373,994

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- Chapters – Non Admin. \$12,040,299
- External Funds Cash Match \$4,400,000
- Permanent Fund Contingency \$3,345,918

The allocations also include approximately \$3 million in the base budget for compensation for grazing officials, farm board members, and the Eastern Navajo Land Board members. Moving forward, the Office of the Speaker and the Council will continue to closely monitor the Nation's revenues and expenditures for the current and upcoming fiscal years. Standing Committees are currently holding oversight budget hearings.

## Delayed Birth Certificates and Real I.D./Driving Authorization Card (DAC)

The Real ID Act was passed by Congress in 2005 to set standards for states to improve the reliability and accuracy of state-issued identification documents, such as driver's licenses, which would minimize potential abuse by undocumented individuals. The new identification standards and documents allow individuals to access federal facilities and to board federal commercial aircrafts. As of today, 32 states are compliant with the federal Real ID Act, including New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado.

In November 2016, the state of New Mexico began issuing driver's licenses and identification cards for New Mexico citizens. Since the changes took effect, many Navajo Nation constituents, particularly our elders, continue to experience challenges in providing documents to obtain a delayed birth certificate or Real ID/ Driving Authorization Card (DAC).

With the ongoing concerns, the Office of the Speaker once again reached out to New Mexico State officials to identify solutions to better serve Navajo citizens. After several meetings, it was suggested that several public events be held on the Navajo Nation to assist Navajo citizens, especially our elders who are unable to travel to Santa Fe or Window Rock to obtain vital records or to seek clarification on any questions they may have. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker, Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification, New Mexico Tax and Revenue –Motor Vehicle Division, New Mexico Department of Health – Office of Vital Records, and New Mexico State Representatives are sponsoring the public events.

The public events schedule is as follows:

Date	Location	Time
July 09, 2018	Crownpoint, NM at Navajo Office of Vital Records & Id	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
July 10, 2018	Crownpoint, NM at Navajo Office of Vital Records & Id	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
July 16, 2018	Window Rock, AZ at Department of Diné Education	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
July 17, 2018	Window Rock, AZ at Department of Diné Education	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
July 18, 2018	Window Rock, AZ at Department of Diné Education	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
August 06, 2018	Shiprock, NM at BIA Building	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
August 07, 2018	Shiprock, NM at BIA Building	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
August 22, 2018	Shiprock, NM at BIA Building	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
August 23, 2018	Shiprock, NM at BIA Building	8:30 am – 4:00 pm

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In addition, Office of Vital Records from Arizona, Utah and Colorado will be participating in the Window Rock event. This is a great opportunity for all four states to collaborate together to serve the entire Navajo Nation. Moving forward, the Office of the Speaker has tentatively scheduled a follow-up meeting during the third week of September in which all entities will provide updates on their progress.

## 2018 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Award

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On June 7 during the 2018 Awards in Historic Preservation ceremony, the Office of the Speaker had the honor of accepting the Arizona Governor's James W. Garrison Heritage Award in recognition of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council's efforts to restore and preserve the historic Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

The Arizona Preservation Foundation and the State Historic Preservation Office sponsored the awards ceremony, which is held on an annual basis to award individuals, businesses, organizations, and/or projects in recognition of outstanding preservation achievements. This year, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey personally selected the Council Chamber renovation project as the prestigious James W. Garrison Heritage Award winner, for the exceptional achievement in preserving Arizona's historic and prehistoric cultural resources.

Approximately two years ago, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council delegated the Office of the Speaker to conduct a structural investigation and renovate the building based on the findings of the investigation. Since the investigation has been conducted, the buildings renovations include the replacement of the rotted timbers, roofing, and reorganization of seating arrangements. The Chamber is now adequately equipped and meets Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Since 1982, the Governor's Heritage Preservation honors and awards ten recipients throughout the state of Arizona. In addition to receiving the Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Award, one of the ten recipients is selected to receive the James W. Garrison Heritage Award.

The Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Awards ceremony was created to promote public awareness, to recognize and promote the goals of preserving historic sites, and to recognize those who demonstrate excellence in design and preservation.

I extend my appreciation to Stroh Architecture, Inc., whom completed the architectural planning and design for the renovations and Keyah Construction, which oversaw the construction work.

## Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation

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Last month, a delegation comprised of Navajo Nation Council leadership and staff met with the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to discuss the potential closure of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, which in accordance with Public Law 93-531 oversees the relocation of Navajo people who were affected by the Navajo-Hopi land dispute settlement.

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The roundtable discussion focused on the Nation's opposition to the premature closure of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR) until all promises made to relocatees have been fulfilled. It is the position of the Navajo Nation that the federal government must continue to commit to their trust responsibility to uphold certain provisions under the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act.



*PHOTO: 23rd Navajo Nation Council members discuss the status of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation with federal officials in Washington D.C. on June 14, 2018.*

As you are aware my colleagues, the Office of the Special Trustee is beginning to plan for the transition of ONHIR's responsibilities. If funded, the Office of the Special Trustee would need to develop a plan for transition and takeover of land management responsibilities during the 2019 fiscal year.

Speaking at the roundtable discussion, Council Delegates Walter Phelps, Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Raymond Smith, Jr., Dwight Witherspoon, and Lee Jack, Sr., advocated to the subcommittee to ensure that ONHIR fulfills their promises to the relocatees, which includes funding for road construction, community buildings, schools, and other direct services.

Delegate Phelps, who also serves as the chair for the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, stressed to the subcommittee that the fundamental principle is to ensure that every family not be short-changed in any way. The decisions that were made by the administration to reduce the funding for ONHIR was quietly made without consultation with the Navajo Nation, and that remains a huge concern for us.

Leadership emphasized that the Navajo Nation is requesting the subcommittee or the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to hold oversight hearings regarding the intended closure of the office in order to provide congressional leadership firsthand accounts from Navajo families who have yet to receive full benefits for the relocation they endured.

According to the original language within the Navajo Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974, ONHIR was directed to fulfill provisions to provide roads, power lines, water lines, and community facilities such as chapter houses, head start buildings, and senior centers to communities affected by the relocation. However, amendments were later made in 1988 effectively relieving certain obligations of ONHIR, which were done without consultation with the Navajo Nation.

Delegate Begay made a very important point to the subcommittee that their decision to prematurely close ONHIR would have devastating effects to relocatees and their families that would last for generations to come.

As leadership, we must continue to push for accountability of the federal government and their trust obligations to ensure promised services and funding are fulfilled. The Office of the Speaker will continue to monitor the issue and assist leadership in advocacy.

## Federal Land Buy-Back Program

On June 21, members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, and the Eastern Navajo Land Commission office met with officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program, Appraisal and Valuation Services Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, to discuss the implementation of the second round of the federal Land Buy-Back Program for the Navajo Nation.

The 2012 Cobell Settlement, which stemmed from a class action lawsuit over claims that the federal government mismanaged and incorrectly accounted for the income from Indian Trust assets – specifically Individual Indian Money accounts. Out of the total settlement award of \$1.9 billion, \$1.5 billion was allocated to purchase fractional land interests, \$285 million for implementation and administrative costs, and \$60 million for scholarships for Native Americans.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council approved legislation in April 2014 that authorized former President Ben Shelly to sign a cooperative agreement with the federal government to allow the Eastern Navajo Land Commission to hire staff, educate Navajo landowners, and coordinate sale offers under the implementation of the program on the Navajo Nation.

In January 2017, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council hosted a closing ceremony to mark the successful end to the first round of the program for the Navajo Nation, in which more than \$108 million was paid to Navajo landowners and an equivalent of more than 155,000 acres of land was restored into trust for the Navajo Nation.

During the meeting, Honorable Seth Damon and Eastern Navajo Land Commission office Director Larry Rodgers emphasized the need for sufficient resources and funding to effectively implement the second round of the program, due to the allotment landownership population, land size, and the geographic distribution of allotment lands throughout the Navajo Nation.

Leadership also pointed out that the Navajo Nation is different than other tribes, and in order to make this second round a success we need to make sure that the Navajo Land Buy-Back Program operation has adequate resources to reach as many allotment owners as possible and return as much land to the Navajo Nation as possible.

The Eastern Navajo Land Commission and its office will be tasked once again with working collaboratively with federal Land Buy-Back Program officials on outreach efforts, and the overall administration of the program. Eastern Navajo Land Commission members include Honorable Leonard Tsosie, Honorable Seth Damon, Honorable Jonathan Perry, Honorable Norman M. Begay, Honorable Edmund Yazzie, and former Delegate Danny Simpson.

Prior to the start of the second round of the program, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee will have to consider and approve a new cooperative agreement. Once finalized, outreach efforts will begin early next year followed

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by appraisals of fractionated allotment lands. The program anticipates mailing offers to landowners by summer 2019.

As of June 21, federal officials said they will allow allotment owners up to 60 days to consider whether or not to accept offers from the federal Land Buy-Back Program. Federal officials emphasize that the program participation on part of the landowners is completely voluntary.

In preparation for the second round of the Land Buy-Back Program, landowners are encouraged to contact their local Office of the Special Trustee or to call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 1-888-678-6836, in order to ensure their contact information is up-to-date and that the Office of the Special Trustee has their correct information, such as their correct date of birth and spelling of their name. For more information on the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, please visit <https://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram>.

## **Extension of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)**

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Last month, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty met with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the extension of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) and to expand certain provisions that would include providing benefits to victims of nuclear fallout such as “downwinders” and former uranium mine workers.

RECA was first enacted in 1990, however the provisions ensuring compensation and benefits to affected community members and mine workers is set to expire in 2019. Understanding that several Navajo workers and families still have not received compensation, a delegation that included Delegate Crotty, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and Navajo mine workers met with congressional leaders to advocate for the extension of RECA, including the expansion of benefits.

The scope of coverage was broadened in 2000, however the provisions did not include certain states, post 1971 miners, specific types of cancers, expansion of benefits, and downwinders who experienced the poisonous fallout of nuclear weapons testing. The fallout affected water and food supplies, namely farms, farm animals, rivers, and lakes.

Sadly, the Navajo Nation also fell victim to the nuclear fallout that drifted to Navajo land from the states of Nevada and New Mexico, where nuclear weapons testing took place. However, the majority of the land, air, and water poisoning derived from uranium mining. Navajo families moved near uranium sites while their spouses worked in the mines, and many innocent Navajo people came into contact.

Delegate Crotty and the delegation met with U.S. Sen. Tom Udall (D – NM) and Sen. Mike Crapo (R – ID) and staff from the offices of Sen. Jeff Flake (R – AZ) and Sen. Mike Lee (R – UT), requesting their support for Senate Bill 197 entitled the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2017, which is sponsored by Sen. Crapo.

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The proposed bill seeks to extend RECA for an additional 19 years, increase compensation for affected individuals, include affected areas in the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and New Mexico, and expand eligibility requirements and benefits.

Delegate Crotty told congressional leaders that in order to make a living, several Navajo uranium miners, millers, and core drillers worked day and night in the mines. Navajo families moved to mining camps and were directly impacted by uranium contamination, and unknowingly, families drank, bathed, and washed clothes with radioactive water resulting in high levels of uranium exposure.

The United States conducted nearly 200 atmospheric nuclear weapons development tests from 1945 to 1962, and uranium mining for the federal government continued on the Navajo Nation well into the 1980's. Nuclear weapons development included uranium mining and processing, which was carried out by tens of thousands of workers, and in 1962, many of these workers filed class action lawsuits alleging exposure to known radiation hazards.

Congress responded by devising a program allowing partial restitution to individuals who developed serious illnesses after exposure to radiation released during the atmospheric nuclear tests, or after employment in the uranium industry, through the enactment of RECA in 1990.

I urge my colleagues to continue advocating for S. 197, and I commend the delegation for their advocacy efforts to ensure protections and just compensation to Navajo workers and families.

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## *Third Quarterly Report Program Summaries* Fiscal Year 2018

### Office of the Auditor General

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Contact Person: Elizabeth Begay, *Auditor General*

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Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018: Issued 9 reports

- Program/Chapter audits – 3 reports
- 18-23 Hardrock Chapter Special Review
- 18-26 FY2018 Second Quarter 110 Chapters Available Funds (as of 03/31/18)
- 18-28 Pueblo Pintado Chapter Special Review

Follow-up on Corrective Action Plan Implementation – 3 reports

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- 18-21 Division of Public Safety P-card Activities Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- 18-24 Parks and Recreation Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- 18-27 Veterans Administration Fort Defiance Agency Corrective Action Plan 2nd Follow-up

## Investigations – 3 reports

- 18-22 Division of Public Safety employee
- 18-25 Hardrock Chapter President and Accounts Maintenance Specialist
- 18-29 Navajo Nation vendor - Building Nations

## Goals for 4th Quarter FY2018

- Water Rights Commission Special Review
- Navajo Food Distribution Program
- Navajo Housing Authority Forensic Audit of Non-Program Funds
- Facilities Maintenance Performance Audit
- Navajo Land Department Homesite Lease Process
- Department of Family Services
- Nahodisgish Chapter Special Review
- Manuelito Chapter Special Review
- Lukachukai Chapter Special Review
- Dilkon Chapter Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- Dennehotso Chapter Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- Fraud Investigations of chapters/staff
- Revisits of sanctioned programs and chapters

## Section Three: Issues/ Recommendation(s)

- Recommendation to hire additional auditors to conduct surprise audits of chapters.

## Black Mesa Review Board

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Contact Person: Andrew Benallie, *Member*

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- Collaborated with IHS on 100% completion of Phase #1 Many Mules Water Project.
- Held public meetings to solicit suggestions and input from residents to develop a transition plan upon Peabody WCC's departure from Black Mesa. Improvements such as the air strip, offices, and warehouses may be retained to provide facilities for future self-government.
- As mentioned above, Many Mules main Waterline Project is 100% complete, the BMRB is now working with the chapters to have as many families receive running water, and concentrating on homes that need to be fitted with bathroom additions and related plumbing.
- Continue coordination with local communities in monitoring Peabody's reclamation work such as offering input for consideration such as rainwater catchments, contours, slops, etc.

# Speaker's Report

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- As a follow up, BMRB has contacted Infrastructure Committee about its resolution which requested the full \$1.5 million of Peabody's annual contributions be strictly obligated to the Many Mules Waterline Project.
- Assisted Peabody in rounding up feral horses which were transported off the Navajo Nation, a major preventive measure to protect reseeded areas from over-grazing and damages.
- Met with Peabody workers on employment issues. Referred them to NNDOL and advised them to report the findings by NNDOL back to BMRB if further action is necessary.

## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter FY2018

- Coordinating with the local community to attain the support from Navajo Nation officials to address environmental concerns, post mining land use plan, economic development, etc.
- Solicit the support of the Navajo Nation Council for assistance in establishing a self-government at the community level separate from chapter government. Repeat request for the assignment of a representative from the Office of the President and Vice President to work with the Black Mesa Review Board.
- Schedule a meeting with the Speaker in July to provide an update on the Many Mules Waterline Project Phase 2 and Phase 3, and to lobby for construction funds needed for Many Mules Phase 3 and the remaining waterline project.
- To make sure that all eligible residents are compensated pursuant to the settlement agreement, which obligated the Navajo Nation and Peabody to provide fair compensation to residents for their loss of grazing lands.

## Section Three: Issues/ Recommendation(s)

- Develop a strategy for revision/amendment to Resource and Development Committee's legislation/regulations which are contrary to Navajo Nation laws.
- Continue to assist Peabody Coal to stop/prevent illegal fence cutting by certain residents to graze their livestock in reseeded area thus destroying reseeded vegetation.
- Continue to meet with Peabody and IHS to include the families that were deleted from the original list on Phase 2 Many Mules waterline project.

## Eastern Navajo Land Commission

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Contact Person: Larry Rodgers, *Executive Director*

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### Commission's Top Priorities:

1. NELI-NIIP Project;
2. FW AD Parcel Transfers, railroad attention, and future use planning;
3. Preparation for Navajo Land Buy-Back Program - II;
4. New ranch land purchase opportunities;
5. Tracking two Land Exchanges: a) NN-State; b) BLM-State

# Speaker's Report

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- The Commission prepared a proposal to participant in Round II of the Land Buy-Back Program, signed by the Navajo President in April. Federal LBBP hosted a meeting among OST, BIA, ENLC, and elected Navajo Officials on June 21<sup>st</sup> to initiate preparation of a new Cooperative Agreement to implement the Program in 2019;
- Fort Wingate Army Depot Land Division: The three Chapters of Baahaali, Church Rock, and Iyanbito indicated that have their "own" plan for the use of the FWAD; there is growing interests on part of the In-Land Port concept and a basis for startup around greater Gallup would be use of the railroad, igloos in the flat areas of subject land, thus will involve cooperation of both Navajo Nation (including the three chapters as stakeholders), and Zuni Pueblo;
- NELI-NIIP Project: The Commission will hold a meeting with congressional staffer to renew interests, but include a 3rd modification of the congressional bill;
- The Commission has visited and toured three ranches for potential purchase; the ranches are adjacent to each other and if purchased as a package it would involve an undivided landscape of 102,000 acres.

## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter of FY2018

- Re-new talks with congressional staffers on the NELI-NIIP Project;
- Coordinate approval of Cooperative Agreement via Naabikiyati for Navajo LBBP-11;
- Coordinate general planning work for the Fort Wingate Army Depot;
- Monitor ranch land purchase, due-diligence work, and negotiations.

## Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- Attempt to resolve NN-State of New Mexico Land Exchange issues.

## Navajo Election Administration

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Contact Person: Edbert Little, *Executive Director*

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- Election Board members conducted six (6) regular meetings.
- Election Board approved 18 resolutions during their regular meetings
- Legislation No. 0335-17, An Act Relating to Law and Order, Budget and Finance, Naabik'iyati' and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Per Diem Provision of 2 N.N.C. § 874(F). Passed on April 18, 2018.
- Conducted 16 Special Elections to fill 9 elected Positions, and 2 chapter referendum election.
- Program Project Specialist two applicants applied for the position and scheduled an interview for April 13, 2018 and Voter Machine Technician's positions is being advertised on the NNDPM website.
- Sr. Tribal Court Advocate applicant; OHA's decision appeal to be filed with Supreme Court

- There are 89,928 Registered Navajo voters

## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter in FY2018

- Eighteen (18) Candidates applied for NN President, eighty-four (84) applied for the NN Council, seven (7) applied for NNBOES, two (2) applied for Commission Government of Naschitti Chapter, and three (3) applied for Kayenta Township Commissioners.
- Continue working on amending Election Laws/Codes
- NEA's vacant positions are; Office Aide for western agency office will be advertised and Voter Machine Technician positions at NNOBI.
- Continue other Goals and Objectives of the Election Administration/Board; implement directives
- 23 elected positions to be filled reservation wide
- NEA is working on upgrading computers, printers, and replacing the old election data base with a new one.

## Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- Election Administration needs funding for a new office building
- Elections 2020
- Recommend: Fixed cost for all elections in the coming years and in anticipation of 10% budget shortfall for FY2019/2020
- Hire Legal Counsel
- Selection was made; but one of the applicants for the Sr. Tribal Court Advocate filed a grievance against the NEA for non-selection and awaiting second hearing with OHA.
- Establish Board and Administration as an independent entity.

## Office of Ethics and Rules

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- The Ethics and Rules Office (ERO) has been filing more ethics complaints, in-depth investigations and providing more presentations as stated in our goals for the 3rd Quarter 2018.
- The ERO has established contacts with agencies outside of the Navajo Nation, such as the IRS and Office of Inspector General, in order to address accountability of ethics offenders.
- Collaborated with OHA to develop an amendment to the hearing rules that clarify the authority to issue investigative subpoenas for the ERO.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has surpassed the quarterly goal for filed complaints, consultations and intakes. Although the number for presentations is not above 8, the ERO reached a broader audience since the presentations that were provided at conferences with hundreds of attendees.

# Speaker's Report

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## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter FY2018

- Fill two (2) Ethics Investigator position; explore a revision of the salary grade/step to allow for recruitment and retention of candidates.
- Secure contract forensic accountant to assist with case preparation that involves misuse of high dollar amounts from overpayment of TA's, stipends, etc.
- Draft a new plan of operation and a Memorandum of Agreement for more efficient work flow with the Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Attorney General/Chief Prosecutor, Navajo Government Development and Division of Community Development.
- Purchase new desktop computers and printers for all office staff.
- Training- send Ethics Investigators and the Presenting Officer to training on fraud investigation and prosecution to keep them up to date on modern techniques.

## Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- Change to Rules or Plan of Operation, either for ERO, Elections or Title 26 to allow for an administrative leave for elected officials when there is an active ethics investigation.

## Office of Navajo Government Development

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Contact Person: Edward K. Dee, *Executive Director*

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- The revision of 2 NNC Article 3 – Plan of Operation is completed. An Action Relating to Law and Order, Naabik'íyáti' and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving and Authorizing an Election Referendum on Amending 2 N.N.C. §§ 970 through 978, Commission on Navajo Government Development.
- ONGD is re-visiting Resolution No.: TCDCAP-36-01 Approving the Alternative Forms of Chapter Governance Models Policies and Procedures, specifically the Commission-Manager forms of governance. Under the four different models of alternative forms of governance that the then Transportation and Community Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council devised, has not been updated after 16 years. ONGD has examined the four models that the then TCDC generated the policies and procedures on guidance to governance-certified chapters to consider when adopting alternative form of governance, under 26 N.N.C. § 103(E)(6). A report on the reexamination of the four models will be presented to the Commission and Navajo Nation Resource and Development (RDC).
- ONGD is working in collaboration with sustainability scholars and from Arizona State University's School of Sustainability and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability reviewing Navajo Nation Sustainability guidelines and procedures that could be adopted for Navajo central government and local chapters as a model with which to devise sustainable transitions in governance and other domains.
- Develop partnerships with universities and entities for Navajo government studies or special projects

that will improve the Navajo Nation government. ONGD is one sub-component in Navajo government that partnered with Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the Navajo Nation's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), so to help assist the NATION in conducting outreach to—and producing discussion with—Navajo communities, including chapter houses, regarding the potential benefits associated with renewable energy development and how renewable energy development could complement existing land uses, such as grazing. ONGD staff assisted and facilitated in two workshops at Kayenta and Tuba City.

## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter FY2018

- The Office, directed by the Commission, will continue to direct resources to organize the first-of-its-kind 2018 Navajo Sustainability Symposium: Nahasdzáán dóó Yáidíłhił. The mission of the Sustainability Symposium is to engage business, academia, communities, and NGOs in active discussion of the issues of Sustainability for Navajo Nation including, but not limited to, sustainable business practices, sustainable energy transitions, energy conservation, adopt and implement sustainable practices, creating sustainable tourism, water conservation, natural capital investments, and reinvestment in language and culture. The current proposed dates for the symposium is October 29-31, 2018.
- ONGD is in a joint-research endeavor with Diné College DPI will continue to share data and findings from its study on the LGA certified chapters and non-LGA certified chapters accomplishment and challenges.
- The ONGD staff and Commission will closely work with Title 26 Task Force committee to forge a meaningful and impactful "government reform" initiative or options for both LGA-certified chapters and non-LGA certified chapters, which is intended to be presented to Resource and Development (RDC) Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

## Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- The Office and Commission is quite concerned about the FY2019 proposed budget in the amount of \$535,824, which essentially amounts to \$500,632 due to significant changes in FY2019 BIM, where commission stipends (\$35,192) is budgeted in the 2001 series of the object code rather than the 3000 series. It is a \$10,498 decrease from the FY2018 operating budget of \$511,130.

## Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

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Contact Person: Leonard Gorman, *Executive Director*

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- San Juan County Utah Voting Rights: The Office continues to work on voting rights issues for the State of Utah San Juan County. The Office in partnership with the Navajo Election Administration, Navajo Utah Commission, Navajo Rural Addressing Authority and Rural Utah Project, worked on updating the voter registration of Navajos who reside in San Juan County, Utah and helped identify

# Speaker's Report

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on a map where they reside so they are placed in correct precinct.

- Hate Crimes Training: The Office, in a partnership with the City of Albuquerque, held two Hate Crime Awareness Seminars in Albuquerque. The first was held at the Albuquerque Indian Center and was open to the general public. The second was held at the City of Albuquerque downtown office and was for the city employees.
- Consumer Seminar on Small Loans. The Office attended and participated in a New Mexico Financial Institutions Division ("FID") of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department public hearing on May 15, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. in Gallup, New Mexico at the Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services to stressed the importance for the FID to strengthen the communication efforts between the small loan industry and Navajo consumers and make it effective, and that the FID must provide meaningful and effective public education on the Navajo Nation as part of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act.
- Reviewed Citizen Complaints: The Office received new complaints during the second quarter. Intake meetings were conducted and majority of the complaints were staffed for investigations. Majority of issues include predatory automobile sales and employment issues.

## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter FY2018

- Conduct Public Seminar: Development of advertisement and educational materials on hate crimes, which will be a partnership with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law from Washington, D.C. The hate crime project will be a seminar, and the dates and locations for the seminar will be finalized in the fourth quarter.
- The Treaty of 1868: Develop public education materials to educate the Navajo youth on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Navajo human rights, which will be in line for the upcoming recognition of the 1868 Treaty.
- Continue Receive Complaints: Navajo citizens file complaint about discrimination and human rights violations. Will continue to assess and investigate filed complaints.

## Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- Subcommittee on Sacred Sites: Several internal Navajo sacred site issues come to the commission. While the office is required to coordinate with other Navajo government programs, it continues to be a concern that Navajo individuals raise concerns on sacred sites with the commission while the Navajo Historic Preservation Department ("HPD") statutorily protects all Navajo cultural resources. It is necessary to streamline how the commission and HPD would respond to cultural properties issues.

## Navajo Nation Labor Commission

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Contact Person: Anslem Bitsoi, *Executive Director*

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# Speaker's Report

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- Efficient use of allocated funds, NNLC held (02) evidentiary hearings due to lack of duly NNLC appointment.
- NNLC and program timely processed three (00) appealed NNLC cases to Navajo Nation Supreme Court
- NNLC program timely processed twelve (10) formally filed complaint
- NNLC timely adjudicated (02) NPEA cases but no duly NNLC appointments
- NNLC and program timely closed and issued (00) orders due to lack of duly appointment of NNLC
- NNLC & program timely issued and mailed six hundred (500) subpoenas and notice of hearings & NNLC Rules by certified mail, first class, facsimile and email to counsels of record or parties
- NNLC will continue to adjudicate seventy (75) pending NPEA cases
- NNLC program made three (00) audio copies at parties' request

## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter FY2018

- NN Presidential appointment of NNLC membership per CJY-42-16. Continue to refer candidates to appointing authority.
- Efficient use of allocated funds and timely processed appealed NNLC case(s)
- NNLC & program will timely adjudicate NPEA cases
- NNLC & program will timely process formally filed NPEA complaint(s) and/or petition(s)
- NNLC & program will timely issue and close out NPEA cases
- NNLC & program will continue review and amend NNLC Ruled of Procedure
- NNLC & program will continue to preserve substantial rights of all employees and employers in accordance to Navajo Law
- Closure of NNLC cases heard by current sitting NNLC members

## Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- Due to the elack NNLC appointments, all hearings for October, November December 2017, and January, February, March, April, May and June 2018 were vacated, and hearings have reset for the coming months. Four NNLC members were confirmed.

## Navajo Utah Commission

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Contact Person: Clarence Rockwell, *Executive Director*

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## Section One: Accomplishments from 3rd Quarter FY2018

- Collaboration among Navajo Utah Commission, NN Human Rights Commission, Navajo Election Administration, Navajo Rural Addressing Authority, Rural Utah Project, & the seven Utah chapters addressed election-related challenges (i.e. residency verification, ballot issues & voter apathy) and produced a higher than normal Navajo voter turn-out during the June 26<sup>th</sup> Utah Primary.

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- Prepared and submitted a funding application seeking \$100,000 in Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) appropriations to conduct a Market & Economic Feasibility Study & Geo-Design Land Use Plan for the Utah chapters, and leveraged \$20,000 in matching from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund.
- Sustained lobbying and advocacy by NUC and Oljato Chapter resulted in Gov. Gary R. Herbert's June 11th announcement that the Utah Department of Transportation will be constructing a roundabout interchange at the Goulding's intersection on S.R. 163 in Monument Valley at cost of \$2 million.
- Distributed \$266,000 in Utah Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund as \$38,000 housing grants for seven low-income applicants from the Utah chapters as well as mobilization of \$245,000 in Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund for construction purposes at \$35,000 per chapter.

## Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter FY2018

- Initiate construction of seven housing units at the Utah chapters including procurement of building materials, construction crew empowerment, and project management.
- Continue partnership with NN Human Rights Commission, Navajo Election Administration, Navajo Rural Addressing Authority, and the Rural Utah Project in registering Navajo voters and promoting voter turn-out during the General Election.
- Identify and prioritize capital projects and seek matching funds from the FY2019 Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund revenues.
- Assist the Utah chapters in implementing capital projects appropriated by the NN Capital Outlay Special Revenues Fund and recent Sihasin Fund distribution.

## Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- The Navajo Utah Commission recommends the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development-Administrative Service Center (ASC) to establish a regional Administrative Service Center in Utah as part of current efforts to amend the ASC plan of operation and regionalization plans. The Utah chapters consider themselves a community of interest and has a shared preference to be kept together due to a variety of reasons, including access to Utah funding and collaborative continuity.