



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RDC Plans Coordination,
Leadership Work Sessions**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Sept. 25, 2019 – The Resources and Development Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council held a leadership meeting on September 24, 2019 to review priorities and future meetings with Navajo Nation programs, chapters, and regional organizations.

In reviewing water rights issues, the members of RDC agreed to pursue the appointment of commissioners to the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission from each of the five agencies of the Navajo Nation. RDC was notified that the commission has been fully vacant for an extended period of time. RDC also agreed to pursue a leadership meeting with the Office of the President and Vice President to coordinate efforts among Navajo Nation leadership.

The committee also considered long-running issues with the Navajo Nation Fair. RDC has requested close-out reports on the 2018 and 2019 fairs, which were run by the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department before it was transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

RDC will be planning leadership meetings with the Division of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, and the Parks and Recreation Department in addition to holding work sessions to identify needed policy changes to resolve issues brought before the committee.

The Navajo Nation's ranch properties and leases were also identified as a priority issue by RDC. The committee agreed to hold follow-up meetings with Division of Natural Resources programs and to plan tours of Navajo Nation properties to assess their size and potential for development.

RDC also planned to hold work sessions on behalf of the Eastern Navajo Land Commission to address issues with grazing permits, inclusion in the 2020 Census, and coordination with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Navajo Nation programs.

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The committee reviewed ongoing road projects and an upcoming roads measure through the Navajo Division of Transportation. The planned discussions on roads projects will also include development of gravel pits and sources of funding for Navajo roads.

The day-long leadership meeting also included discussion on coordinating projects involving: earthen dams, Sihásin Fund water projects, the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, assessing the Navajo Nation's readiness for assuming the grazing permit system from the BIA, a report from the Division of Community Development on assistance for resolving sanctioned chapters, McCracken Mesa grazing issues, and more.

“We need to continue raising these issues so that we can make progress in improving direct services to the Chapters and the Navajo people,” said Resources and Development Committee Chairman Rickie Nez.

RDC is scheduled to hold a special meeting October 1 at the Tuba City Wellness Center with Western Agency Grazing Officials, a regular meeting October 2 in Dził Yijiin at the Pinon Chapter House, and a regular meeting October 9 at the Tse Daa Kaan Chapter House.

Tentative meeting agendas will be posted to the Navajo Nation Council website at navajonationcouncil.org when dates have been set.

The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and is comprised of six Council Delegates. The committee is chaired by Honorable Rickie Nez and Council Delegates Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Herman M. Daniels, Mark Freeland, Wilson Stewart, Jr., and Thomas Walker, Jr. are members.

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