



New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Meets with Various New Mexico Chapters

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SANOSTEE, NM — Last week, Navajo Nation Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley, Tsé Ałnáozt'íí, Tooh Haltsooi, Beclabito, Gad'ii'áhi/Tó Ko'í) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council attended the New Mexico Indian Affairs Meeting at Tsé Ałnáozt'íí Chapter to listen to hear the needs of the communities of Tsé Ałnáozt'íí, Beclabito, Gad'ii'áhi/Tó Ko'í, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills.

“This was a great opportunity for the districts that are represented in New Mexico to improve our partnership with the state, the governor’s office, and the Indian Affairs Department,” Said Delegate Crotty. “Secretary Trujillo and her team have been great partners in the relief effort of our communities and it was nice for Secretary Trujillo and her team to come out to experience the distance, the conditions of the road, and understand the needs of these communities to better the relief effort.”

Those in attendance were; Delegate Crotty, Secretary Lynn Trujillo from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, Beclabito Chapter President, Melissa Kelly, Gad'ii'áhi/Tó Ko'í Chapter President, Harry Descheene, Red Valley Chapter President, Ella Frazier, President for the Tooh Haltsooi Council of Naat'aani, Brain Yazzie, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter President, Kirby Johnson, Tsé Ałnáozt'íí Chapter President, Jeanne Haskie, and Tsé Ałnáozt'íí Chapter Vice President, Gerald Henderson.

Each leader presented to the department their community needs, which mainly consisted of waste management, road development, broadband, bathroom and handicap additions, powerline extensions, and addressing drought issues.

“The Indian Affairs Department is really happy to be out here in Sanostee to hear directly from the chapter leadership about their priorities for their communities,” said Secretary Trujillo. “We’re happy to be a partner with them in seeing those projects come to fruition and providing to their communities.”

Additionally, Sharon Clahchischilliage was in attendance and pressed on the issue of chapter projects that needed reauthorization from the state but were unable to get in contact due to the Navajo Nation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Secretary Trujillo informed Clahchischilliage that if the projects are not reauthorized, despite not having contact, the chapters would lose their funding on July 15.

To end the meeting, Secretary Trujillo commended the chapters for the lateral projects they have done so far to better their communities. Afterwards, a visitor look out of Tó Ko'í was conducted to advocate additional funding to develop the land.

Doing so would boost the local economy, increase monetary turnover, increase revenue for

local artists, and promote more tourism in the area.

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