



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL 2024 WINTER SESSION - SPEAKER'S REPORT



CRYSTALYNE CURLEY, SPEAKER
25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



Message from Speaker Crystalayne Curley

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Madam Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné People. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2024 Winter Council Session.

As we come together this winter season, known as Hai, we reflect on our Diné teachings and values passed down from our elders, which continue to give us strength and endurance. Many of our homes and communities, near and far, are filled with winter stories and shoe and string games filled with teachings that define our identity and strengthen our foundation, as Diné. As the animals hibernate, we take this time to share our stories, to connect with one another through kinship, K'é, and to thank the Creator for all of the blessings bestowed upon us through the moisture that our lands receive.

Recent snow storms have also created some challenges for those living in rural areas, but through the teachings of our elders, we are reminded to prepare our homes for the winter season by gathering firewood, blankets, supplies for livestock, and food and water. We strongly encourage our children and grandchildren to help their elders, so they are safe and taken care of through the cold season.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council marks one year in office, we recognize that there is much work ahead of us and that our people look to us for change and progress. As I have stated before, the will of our people to be a part of the government process has never dwindled. In fact, the call of our people to be involved and informed continues to grow. As leaders, the responsibility to make our government open to the people rests on our shoulders. I thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for persistently being out in many communities listening to the issues brought forth by our people and offering your support



Crystalayne Curley, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker

and solutions.

As we move forward, we encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to kinship and decision making. As our grandparents always taught us, Ni'hi'saad ayoo bi'dzil, our spoken words have power to create change that improves the livelihood of our people for many years to come, but we have to work together and move forward on a positive path during this Council session.

I also want to take this opportunity to honor and thank former Speaker Seth Damon, who recently announced his resignation from the 25th Navajo Nation Council to serve as the Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. In his nine years serving his communities on the Council, Speaker Damon has chaired the Budget and Finance Committee, Eastern Navajo Land Commission, and led many initiatives that have had positive impacts on our Nation. As the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank him and his family for their service and sacrifices and we



Speaker Crystalyne Curley stands on the floor of the Arizona House of Representatives during the 2024 Arizona Legislative Session.

pray for his continued success as he moves forward into a new endeavor.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the winter session, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and plan for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens for your guidance and support moving forward.

Mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

The Office of the Speaker mandated sexual harassment prevention training for all Legislative Branch employees last year. We are pleased to report that the Legislative Branch successfully collaborated with the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women and the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition to hold a two-day training session in October for all employees, in compliance with the Navajo Nation Sexual Harassment Policy.

The training addressed safety in the workplace, trauma

informed care, and workplace wellness. Safety in the workplace is a top priority for the Legislative Branch and we will continue to offer additional trainings for employees and Council Delegates, as we move forward into the new year. All Legislative Branch employees are mandated to complete the training on an annual basis.

Internal Policies and Procedures

The Office of the Speaker continues focusing on developing and formalizing internal processes and procedures, which have long been requested by members of the Navajo Nation Council. As the first woman to serve as the Speaker, it remains another top priority to ensure that our foundation is strong and that we have policies and procedures in place to guide our employees and our leaders.

In August, the Naabik'iyatí' Committee approved the first ever plan of operation for the Office of the Speaker. I thank my colleagues for supporting the legislation, along with a directive to provide a report by early December on the progress of developing a human resources section specifically for the Legislative Branch. The plan of operation allows additional internal policies and procedures to be implemented to assist Council members and the entire Legislative Branch.

The Office of the Speaker has developed an implementation plan to create a Human Resources section for the Legislative Branch. There are over 180 employees within the Legislative Branch which includes permanent, temporary, and political-at-will staff. The Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the Legislative Branch program budgets includes these positions which would be managed by the Human Resources & Personnel Management Office under the Office of the Speaker. The Human Resources office functions and responsibilities will include the following: HR/Personnel Administration, Classification & Salary, Recruitment & Hiring, Support Services for Position Control, Employee Relations & Employee Assistance, Personnel Records Management, and Human Resources IT Support. The Office of the Speaker has met with the Navajo Nation Department of Personnel



Left to right: Delegate Cheryl Yazzie, Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr., Speaker Crystalne Curley, Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson, Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya, Delegate Curtis Yanito, Delegate Shaandiin Parrish, Delegate Shawna Ann Claw.

Management and will continue implementation plans with the Office of the Controller to finalize a transition plan with legislation to follow.

The Office of the Speaker has also introduced legislation to provide guidance and clarification regarding the use of media during Council sessions, meetings and work sessions of the Standing Committees, subcommittees, commissions, boards and task forces.

In the coming weeks, the Office of the Speaker will also introduce legislation to establish the framework for the "Legislative Protection Services" program, which will aim to raise the level of security for the Legislative Branch, the Council, and the general public.

Utah State Priorities

On January 10-11, my colleagues and I had the honor of meeting with Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson and several key state legislators to push for several bills and initiatives that are important for our people and communities in the state of Utah. We had very productive discussions in which we offered our

support for roads, traditional healing services through Medicaid, voting rights, and other critical matters. On January 5th the Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee adopted the Utah legislative priorities through Resolution NABIJA-01-24.

The following are several key bills that we will continue tracking in the current Utah State Legislature's General Session.

- The Council continues to advocate for \$2.9 million from the state of Utah to partially fund an Environmental Impact Study to advance the process of constructing a roadway between the communities of Navajo Mountain and Oljato. The total cost of the study is \$4 million. The Navajo Nation has committed \$1 million and \$100,000 was secured from the Navajo Revitalization Fund. The roadway would help many Navajo residents who currently travel long distances through rough terrain to and from their homes, improve emergency response times for first responders, and increase economic opportunities for businesses,



Left to right: Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, Delegate Vince James, Delegate Helena Nez Begay, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalayne Curley, Delegate Carl Slater, Delegate Lomardo Aseret, and Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie.

residents, and tourism.

- Council members also urges Utah state lawmakers to support a bill that will allow Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal health facilities to receive reimbursement for qualified traditional medicine services provided for Medicaid beneficiaries, who reside in the state of Utah. In meetings with state legislators, my Council colleagues explained that traditional healing methods provided by Navajo medicine persons can be more effective at a lower cost than medication prescribed by doctors at hospitals, and may save funds for the state. A similar measure was successfully implemented in the state of Arizona in 2016.
- Council members expressed our concerns with Utah House Bill 92, which proposes several very concerning voting amendments for the state. One such provision states that an election officer would only be required to send ballots by mail to active voters who request, in a voter registration form or another written document, to receive ballots for future elections by mail. This proposed amendment would create another unnecessary barrier for our

elders and those who do not read and/or write the English language. We will continue to address H.B. 92 with state legislators as the state's General Session continues.

- The Council is also aware of another concerning bill, S.B. 57, which proposes a framework that would allow the Utah State Legislature, by concurrent resolution, to prohibit the enforcement of a federal directive within the state by government officers if the Legislature determines the federal directive violates the principles of state sovereignty. This type of law has the potential to impact all tribes in the state when it comes to important issues such as the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and other federal laws.

Arizona State Priorities

On January 9-10, my colleagues and I met with Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, House Speaker Ben Toma, Senate President Warren Petersen, House Minority Leader Lupe Contreras, House Majority Whip Teresa Martinez, and our Diné legislators Senator Theresa Hatathlie,



Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren as he signed Legislation No. 0231-23, appropriating \$3M for the construction of a new student residential building at Navajo Prep.

Representatives Myron Tsosie and Mae Peshlakai.

Among many priorities, the following are several key bills that we will continue tracking in the Arizona State Legislature's General Session.

- The Council continues to work with Arizona officials and elected leaders to address fraudulent sober living homes in the Phoenix area that continue to victimize members of Arizona's tribes including many of our Diné brothers and sisters. In our discussions with state leaders, it's clear that reforming the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is necessary to close loopholes that allow fraudulent sober homes to operate. We look forward to working with legislators, the Governor, and the Attorney General to support bills in the state legislature that resolve these issues.
- The state of Arizona faces a major budget deficit that will require state legislators to make difficult decisions when it comes to funding programs such as the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

- program, also known as the school voucher program that was originally intended to provide financial assistance to parents for charter, private or home schooling. During discussions with state legislators, my colleagues explained that this program does not benefit students on the Navajo Nation due to low numbers of charter and private schools. Navajo leadership expressed concerns over the growing cost of the program relative to needed investments in the state public education system on the Navajo Nation. We will continue to propose alternative options that will benefit students residing on our Nation.
- Tax parity continues to be a major issue for all Arizona tribes. The Council, in meetings with state legislators, proposed an option in which the Navajo Nation would be responsible for distributing Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) revenue to Diné College and Navajo Technical University who are each a beneficiary of the TPT on an annual basis. Dual taxation is another tax issue that is very challenging to address and remains a top priority for the Council during the state's session.

New Mexico State Priorities

On January 15, my colleagues representing New Mexico communities, met with state leaders to present the Council's priorities outlined in Resolution NABID-60-23 for the ongoing New Mexico State Legislature's Session.

Among many priorities, the following are several key bills that we will continue tracking in the Arizona State Legislature's General Session.

- The completion of New Mexico Capital Outlay funded projects is a top priority year after year for the Council and New Mexico Chapters. In addition, the New Mexico Council Delegates are also proposing several measures to streamline processes including removing or amending the requirement to obligate 5-percent of an appropriated amount within six months of acceptance of an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement and allowing for the delegation of the signing authority of the Navajo Nation President to expedite the timeline.
- Increased tribal consultation between the Navajo Nation and New Mexico state agencies is another key component to moving toward solutions that help tribal members in areas such as public safety, health care, education, broadband expansion, and many others. We are also requesting for more Navajo representation on vacant or proposed commissions, boards, and other seats to ensure that we have a voice at the table when it comes to discussing and deciding important issues.
- In addition to supporting the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) at the federal level, our Navajo communities continue to oppose any and all uranium/radiation repository sites on or near Navajo Nation lands. The tragedies and ongoing illnesses and deaths caused by uranium mining and development continue to cause much heartache for our people and we will continue to oppose any proposal that may bring further harm to our communities.



Arizona Speaker of the House, Hon. Ben Toma, Speaker Curley and San Carlos Chairman Terry Rambler.

ARPA Funding

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) deadlines are approaching quickly and the 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to work with the Executive Branch to provide support and direction to ensure that funds are obligated or expended as soon as possible. Nearly all Council Delegates have introduced legislations to allocate the \$8.8 million per delegate region. The encumbrance and expenditure of ARPA funds is a challenging task that requires a great amount of coordination and communication with the Executive Branch. In December, the Council held a weeklong work session to further the work with the Executive Branch for ARPA planning and spending.

I fully understand the urgency to expend ARPA funds, especially for infrastructure projects that will deliver water, electricity, housing, and other needs for communities and residents. As we move forward, we will schedule additional meetings with the Office of the President and Vice President to work through obstacles and identify solutions to expedite the process. We also congratulate all the chapter governments whose ARPA projects are moving ahead.



Speaker Crystalyne Curley encouraged Navajo Preparatory Students to accomplish their educational goals.



Speaker Crystalyne Curley serves as an alternate STAC member representing the Navajo Area Region.

Water Rights

The Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission established a water rights negotiation team to represent the Navajo Nation in negotiating a water rights settlement with the state of Arizona and other stakeholders. Council Delegates Brenda Jesus, Cherilyn Yazzie, Otto Tso, Vince James, Carl Slater, Shawna Claw, Shaandiin Parrish, Herman Daniels, and Germaine Simonson have been appointed along with representatives from the Executive Branch and several technical experts.

Considering the severe drought conditions in the southwest and particularly in Arizona, negotiating a settlement presents many challenges for all stakeholders including the Navajo Nation. During recent negotiation team meetings, I have conveyed my commitment and support for the efforts to come together and reach a proposed settlement with the Hopi Tribe before negotiating with other stakeholders.

Beginning at the end of January, in collaboration with the Water Rights Commission, Attorney General Ethel Branch, and the Executive Branch, we will begin hosting public education sessions in various Arizona communities to present information regarding proposed Colorado River settlements. It is very important that our Navajo people are informed and that we proceed carefully to ensure that our communities receive much needed water resources that can sustain generations to come.

Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force

The Naa'bik'iyati' Committee's Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force members began meeting in June 2023 and have had 14 regular meetings to date. The MMDR Task Force is lead by Chairperson, Delegate Amber K. Crotty, and the co-lead is Sonlatsa Jim, Legislative Staff Assistant with the Office of the Speaker. MMDR Task Force members have heard reports from the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah regarding initiatives related to missing, murdered, and human trafficking victims who are Navajo citizens. The MMDR Task Force members include new Community

Representatives who have extensive experience and knowledge as victim advocates and victim service providers. The members continue to implement action items outlined in the responsibilities of the MMDR Task Force which includes collaborating with Navajo Technical University in creating a data institute and finalizing a Navajo Nation Missing Persons Toolkit with the Navajo Police Department MMIP Liaison. The MMDR Task Force will be providing recommendations to the Naa'bik'iyati' Committee in the next quarter.

Under the previous Council, the Naabik'iyati' Committee approved Resolution NABIN-36-22, establishing the Naabik'iyati' Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force to "help combat the missing and murdered Diné relative crisis on and off the Navajo Nation."

On June 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee approved Resolution NABIJN-17-23, to appoint members to the Task Force. Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Helena Nez Begay, and Eugenia Charles-Newton were each appointed as representatives of the Naabik'iyati' Committee, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, and the Law and Order Committee. Legislative Staff Assistant Sonlatsa Jim was also selected to represent the Office of the Speaker on the Task Force.

The Task Force will conduct a study to determine how to increase resources for reporting and identifying missing and murdered relatives, to collaborate with programs, departments, and entities within the Navajo Nation and federal and state agencies to identify barriers to address the crisis and create partnerships to improve the reporting of and the investigations and to improve MMDR's processes for information sharing and coordination of resources in regard to reporting and investigating cases of missing and murdered relatives, and to report the findings and recommendations to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and the Office of the President and Vice President.

Staff is also engaged with the Diné Action Plan Work Group, which utilizes the traditional Navajo planning



Left to right: Delegate Cheryl Yazzie, Delegate Shawna Ann Claw, Utah State Representative Doug Owens, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Delegate Curtis Yanito, and Utah State Representative Tyler Clancy.

model of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahat'á (planning), liná (action), and Siihásin (reflection) to help address public safety, violence, substance abuse, suicide, and missing and murdered Diné relatives on the Navajo Nation.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us during the 2024 Winter Council Session. As we move into the next quarter, the 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to serve as the governing body of the Navajo Nation and work to improve the quality of life for our Navajo people. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we move forward together.

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Crystalyne Curley, *Speaker*
25th Navajo Nation Council

Office of Government Development Fiscal Year 2024 – First Quarter Report Summary

Contact:

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The Commission on Navajo Government Development (CNGD) is a task specific entity created by the Navajo Nation Council with quasi-independent authority to accomplish the Navajo people's Government Reform Project. CNGD's purpose is to institute a government reform proposal to be approved by the Navajo people by a referendum vote to create an accountable and responsible government. The purpose of the Commission and Office is to review and evaluate all aspects of existing government structure of the Navajo Nation including laws, rules and regulations, practices, functions, goals and objectives of the central government; and to develop recommendations and proposals for alternative forms of government, including chapter governments for consideration and possible adoption by the Navajo People through a referendum or initiative vote.

The Office of Government Development (ONGD) was established for the purpose of assisting the Commission on Navajo Government Development with administrative tasks and by conducting research, analysis and making proposals for governmental changes that are necessary to ensure an accountable and responsible government to the Navajo People. The Office is tasked with assisting the CNGD draft the Government Reform Proposal and seek the Navajo people's involvement and input into the Government Reform Proposal with public informational meetings and direct communication. ONGD is also charged with developing proposals for alternative forms of local governance and empowerment.

Accomplishments from FY2023 First Quarter

In addition to ongoing research and operation of ONGD, the following outlines the accomplishments for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

Program Performance Criteria Goal Statements

1. Work on the Navajo Government Reform Project

1. Continuing to develop the Diyin Nohookaa Dine'e Bi Beehaz'aanii Bitsi Silei as part of the Navajo Government Reform Project.
2. Presenting the history of Navajo Nation Government, the history of CNGD & ONGD, the Navajo Comprehensive Government Reform Survey, and current governmental issues.
3. Have been consulting with Navajo people at Chapter meetings, Agency Council meetings and ONGD sponsored meetings regarding the perspectives and ideas of Navajo people regarding governmental and legal needs.

2. Draft the government reform proposal (measure by articles, sections)

1. Drafted government reform proposals for executive leadership roles.
2. Local Governance Section is currently being analyzed and discussed by ONGD&CNGD.
3. Fielding the Essential Attributes of a Democracy presentation as further public engagement.
- 4.

3. Empower the Navajo people by proposing amendments to Initiative procedures

1. The Office resubmitted the Initiative legislative packet to Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. The legislative packet was also provided to the Department of Justice for review.
2. The Office may need an alternative sponsor to introduce legislation to make amendments to Title 11 of the Navajo Nation Code.

4. Public Engagements regarding Navajo Government Reform Project proposal.

1. Shiprock High School Presentation: Staff was able to provide a Dine Governance presentation to Shiprock High School Seniors and Freshmen. The topics discussed were traditional governance and existing governance on the Navajo Nation. All four classes were studying the U.S. Constitution and requested information if there were attempts of creating a constitution on the Navajo Nation. The office shared the previous attempts on a constitution and senior students were also inquiring about voting, registering at their chapter, and learning about local governance.
2. Northern Navajo Fair: Dine Bidziil - Navajo Strong was this year's fair theme and started October 2nd thru October 8th. On October 5th, the Office 6 set up an information booth at the Kids & Elders Day to share information about the Navajo Government Reform Project and shared a ONGD word search & crossword puzzle with students. Several educators wanted to learn more about the Navajo government and wanted to seek information for student learning.
3. District Chapter Meeting: On October 26th, Director Tsosie and Policy Analyst Tristan Black attended a District Chapter meeting in Sheep Springs, NM. Director Tsosie provided a report on the Navajo Government Reform Project.
4. "Treaty of 1868" Presentation: On November 21st, in collaboration with the Staff Development and Training Department, Director Tsosie presented on the "Treaty of 1868". I discussed the history and significance of the treaty and how it currently plays a role in today's Navajo Nation Government. The hour-long presentation had approximately 50 government employees join the zoom, and participants asked for a second-part.
5. Navajo Agency Council Meetings:
 - November 4, 2023, the Central Navajo Agency Council Meeting was held at the Round Rock Chapter House in Round Rock, AZ. Director Tsosie attended the meeting and provided a report.
 - December 2nd, the Eastern Navajo Agency Council Meeting was held at White Rock Chapter House in White Rock, NM. Director Tsosie attended the meeting and provided a report.
 - December 16th, the Northern Navajo Agency Council Meeting was held at Sanostee Chapter House in Sanostee, NM. Director Tsosie attended the meeting and provided a report.
 - December 16th, the Western Navajo Agency Council Meeting was held at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff, AZ. Policy Analyst Damon Clark attended the meeting and provided a report.

5. Develop proposals for alternative forms of central and chapter government

1. The Office traveled to the Navajo Nation Council Resources & Development Committee Worksession in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-15th. November 15th's work session focused on the Local Governance Act (Title 26) Amendments with presentations by Navajo Department of Justice Chapter Unit Asst. Attorney General Rodgerick Begay and Division
2. of Natural Resources Division Director W. Mike Halona. Director Tsosie presented on the "Essential Attributes of a Democracy" to the RDC members and attending chapter officials.
3. The Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, and the School of Dine Studies and Education, and Dine Policy Institute at Dine College, invited Director Tsosie to join an "Uncommon Dialogue on Tribal Clean Energy Development in the Navajo Nation". The dialogue was guided by sovereignty and sustainability. They discussed a range of topics including: renewable energy development, possible new energy developments, market focus, & the role of local governance.
4. ONGD & CNGD are working on the Navajo Government Reform Project and creating a proposal for reforming the central and chapter government. The proposal is in draft form and is protected by the Navajo Nation Privacy & Access to Information Act.

Office of the Auditor General

Fiscal Year 2024 – First Quarter Report Summary

Contact:

Helen Brown, CFE, Acting Auditor General; (928) 871-6303; helenbrown@navajo-nsn.gov

Accomplishments from FY2024 First Quarter: 3 reports

A. Audits and Reviews of Programs/Navajo Nation Chapters

Our audit work in the program performance area includes full scope performance audits, limited scope performance audits, special reviews/investigations, and corrective action plan (CAP) follow-up reviews.

Our audit work in the chapter area includes full scope and/or limited scope financial related audits, special investigations, CAP follow-up reviews, LGA certification reviews and continuous monitoring and continuous auditing of chapters' accounting systems and bank accounts.

Completed Audits/Reviews

DESCRIPTION:

STATUS:

AUDITS:

Baahaali Chapter Internal Audit

Report no. 24-01, issued Dec 2023

B. Accounting and Management Related Non-Audit Services

In addition to conducting audits, we provide non-audit services to the Navajo Nation Council standing committees, executive management, and chapters. The Office of the Auditor General staff conducts meetings based on preferences of our clients (chapters and programs) which are done via teleconference, Zoom or in-person. The Acting Auditor General participates in various meetings via teleconference calls to address chapter related matters, pending audits/corrective actions plans and any audit-related information. The Acting Auditor General also serves on the Navajo Nation Investment Committee and participates in duly called meetings. The audit staff also participate in meetings for the Public Integrity Task Force and Navajo Nation Insurance Commission.

UPCOMING PLANS/INITIATIVES

A. Planned and Ongoing Audits/Investigations of Programs/Chapters

DESCRIPTION:

STATUS:

Audits/follow-up reviews:

Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund Special Review

Planning phase in progress

Special Duty/Hazard Pay Special Review

Quality review/Reporting phases in progress

Office of the Speaker Special Review

Planning phase in progress

Whippoorwill Chapter Internal Audit

Planning phase in progress

Crownpoint Chapter LGA certification revisit

Quality review

Investigations:

Ganado Chapter Investigation - CONFIDENTIAL

Quality review/Reporting phases in progress

B. Proposed Corrective Action Plans within Review Process

CHAPTERS:

Red Rock Chapter

Tolani Lake Chapter

Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter

Nageezi Chapter

Newcomb Chapter

Kin Dah Lichi'i Chapter



Rough Rock Chapter
Sheepsprings Chapter

Tse Daa Kaan Chapter

PROGRAMS:

Navajo Transit System	Business Site Lease
Food Distribution Program	Office of the Controller
Facilities Maintenance Department	NN Veterans Administration

C. Auditor General Website Enhancements

With support by the Office of Legislative Services, the Office of the Auditor General has initiated steps to revamp and enhance the program website after so many years. This initiative is long overdue, but our goal is to introduce our new website by the end of the 2nd quarter with the assistance of Realtime Solutions, a website developer. The new website will offer more information on our audit processes and activities as well as provide easier access to our audit reports and other resources.

STAFFING AND VACANCIES

The Office of the Auditor General has a budget for 15 employees. There are two administrative staff members, the Auditor General and twelve auditors. By the end of the first quarter, our office will have five vacant positions (three associate auditors, one auditor, and the Auditor General). During the first quarter, we hired Mr. Riley Wilson for the Auditor position; Mr. Wilson is a prior employee who returned to our program so we look forward to working with him. Otherwise, our office continues to advertise the vacant positions and expanding recruitment efforts to fill the vacancies.

PLAN OF OPERATION

The Office of the Auditor General continues its efforts to amend the plan of operation per Title 12 of the Navajo Nation Code. Initially, our plans were to update both the plan of operation and the OAG procedures manual concurrently. However, the task for updating the OAG procedures manual involved more work than anticipated and to date, approximately 85% of the manual updates have been completed. We are considering plan of operation amendments at this time due to repeated comments from the Resources and Development and the Budget and Finance Committees about making the corrective action plan approval process an administrative process where in the Auditor General will approve these plans without the need for legislations. Our office is agreeable to these suggestions and we are also considering alternatives to sanctions. We will be working closely with the Office of Legislative Counsel on these amendments.

ONGOING CHALLENGES FOR PROGRAM

CHAPTER STAFF VACANCIES - It is our general practice to conduct chapter audits unless there is full staff; for non-certified chapters it would be a Community Services Coordinator and Accounts Maintenance Specialist and for certified chapters, it would be a Chapter Manager and Administrative Assistant. There are several non-certified chapters on our annual work plan who have not been audited by our office over 20 years but each of these chapters is lacking one or both employees. These chapter vacancies have become an ongoing issue, more so for the non-certified chapters.

CHAPTER FINANCIAL DATA BACKUPS - The Budget and Finance Committee Resolution BFJA-05-12 directed all chapters to grant the Office of the Auditor General read-only or view-only access to their financial accounting systems and related bank accounts. Accordingly, the chapters were directed to submit the backup of their accounting data on or by the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter. However, it has become an ongoing practice in which a handful of chapters are not submitting their MIP backups despite repeated requests. Chapters may have no staff to meet our requests, or they are encountering problems with their systems. Regardless, we continue to work with the Administrative Service Centers to identify solutions to address these issues and improve the backup submission process.

MAJOR ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

HIRING AND RETENTION OF AUDIT STAFF - It has become more challenging to hire suitable candidates for our vacant auditor positions and to retain auditors after investing a great deal of time and resources on staff training. Nonetheless, we are making additional recruitment efforts such as participating in job fairs and improving our applicant vetting process to determine appropriate suitability for our positions. We are also prioritizing our employee performance evaluations to reward auditors with high achievements for upward mobility within the office. We consider employee bonuses or other incentives to recognize the staff for their hard work and commitment during challenging times with limited staffing and to help with staff retention. Overall, the lack of audit staff directly impacts program performance and productivity.

Navajo Nation Labor Commission Fiscal Year 2024 – First Quarter Report Summary

Contact:

Anslem Bitsoi, Executive Director

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Accomplishments for 4th quarter of FY 2023:

- Efficient use of allocated funds, NNLC held (20) hearings by teleconference or Zoom or in person with counsels of record and parties.
- NNLC and program timely processed (02) appealed NNLC cases to Navajo Nation Supreme Court.
- NNLC program timely processed (15) formally filed complaint by mail, fax & email.
- NNLC timely adjudicated/ settlement conferences (20) NPEA cases.
- NNLC and program timely closed and issued (18) continuance orders.
- NNLC & program timely issued and mailed (700) 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 (85) pending NPEA cases.
- NNLC program made (06) audio copies at parties' request.
- Amended NNLC Rules of Procedure effective April 19, 2021
- NNLC staff continues to participate in 25th NNC and Committee leadership meetings

Section Two: Goals for Second Quarter of FY 2024:

- NN Presidential and HEHSC appointment of NNLC membership per CJY-42-16. Continue to refer candidate(s) to appointing authority.
- Efficient use of allocated funds and timely processed appealed NNLC case(s).
- NNLC & program will timely adjudicate NPEA cases by teleconference, Zoom, and authorized in person hearing(s) from July 08, 2021.
- 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 Rules of Procedure.
- NNLC to assist and complete proposed amendments to NNLC Plan of Operation
- NNLC & program will continue to preserve substantial rights of all employees and employers in accordance to Navajo Law. Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s):
- NNLC lacks one (1) NNC Health, Education and Human Services Committee duly appointment and (2) Navajo Nation Presidential appointment. Vacancy been advertised.
- NNLC will continue to expedite office renovation & funding per COVID- 19 guidance

- Continue need of sanitation supplies re: COVID-19 issues
- Need equipment for audio Zoom NNLC hearings
- NNLC & office updating NNLC Plan of operation, Honorable Otto Tso processing legislation
- Continuing compliance with Federal American Disability Act
- FMIS (6(B) - NNLC continues to use the system when needed, average of once or twice. The problem is once an input is made, the process becomes lengthy and only due to NN employee in official capacity do not immediately make the appropriate decision to approve, disapprove or request for more information or justification or the request sits there and time expires and is returned to the requester for untimely submission.

Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Fiscal Year 2024 – First Quarter Report Summary

Contacts:

Dr. Jennifer R. Denetdale, PhD., Chairperson Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
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SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission addressed significant issues this reporting period. Monday morning weekly meetings remain intact this reporting period where a review of ongoing activities and new case and work activities were reviewed and discussed. One major accomplishment is the hiring of an investigator and the interviews of candidates for the Office Assistant position. These positions were vacated for the last two quarters of the fiscal year. A summary of the major activities conducted by this office are as follows.

1. New Mexico Redistricting Task Force: As a member of the New Mexico Redistricting Task Force, the Office participated in several task force meetings in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024. In 2020, the office was appointed to be a member of the task force. During the same year the task force worked on proposing to the New Mexico legislature legislation that would establish a citizen redistricting committee. The legislature passed legislation in 2021 creating the redistricting committee without the authority to give final approval to the redistricting maps – the legislature retained that authority. In 2023, the task force reassembled to work on new legislation to continue the effort to amend the New Mexico constitution to create an independent redistricting commission, similarly to Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission. In December 2023, the task force drafting committee submitted draft legislation to the New Mexico Legislative Services sponsored by Representative Natalie Figueroa. The draft legislation, if passed by the New Mexico legislature will allow for a referendum to be placed on the ballot in

the November of 2024 for New Mexico voters to decide whether an Independent Redistricting commission is to be established.

2. United States Census: At the end of FY 2023, the Office met with the United States Census Department along with the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Authority. One of the basic issues that the Navajo Nation presented to the US Census Department is the recognition of the official Navajo Nation chapter boundaries; Navajo Nation Department of Justice has shared the information that chapter boundaries for the purpose of voting and census were put in place in the 1970's by a Navajo court. It is reported to the Office that the Navajo Nation, through the Navajo Nation Land Department, submitted chapter boundary maps to the US Census Department. However, the Navajo Nation states the chapter boundaries were not appropriately incorporated into the US Census Department block lines. During the September meeting with the US Census Department, the discussion surrounded the chapter boundaries used by

the Navajo Nation as litigated in the 1970's. This situation is serious as the block lines the US Census office deploys before each decennial census count determines voting districts, which can negatively impact voter participation at all levels of state and federal elections. The Commission anticipates this initiative to be on-going with the goal of aligning county precinct boundaries with census blocks that are aligned with chapter boundaries in the 2030 redistricting cycle.

3. Interfacing with San Juan County Utah: The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission has a settlement agreement with San Juan County; this agreement ends in December of 2024. There was a 2023 municipal general election in Blanding and Bluff, Utah communities in November. While county believed that it did not have to abide by the settlement agreement during the municipal elections, the Office insisted, along with the attorneys, that the county under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act still has to provide language assistance during any election in the county. The County hesitantly provided the Section 203 language assistance to voters in the Bluff election – the Blanding election was canceled due to no need to have an election. The County, after six years, does not fully grasp its responsibilities to implement Section 203 requirements and the settlement agreement.

4. Interaction with State Attorney General's offices: The office sometimes refers Navajo citizen complaints to the New Mexico and Arizona attorney generals' offices for assistance. In the cases of businesses off the Navajo Nation, the Office has been working with the Arizona AG's office for several years investigating the mistreatment of Navajo consumers at an auto repair shop in Flagstaff, AZ. The most recent development is the new owner of the repair shop has taken on the initiative to remove vehicles on his business premise while Navajo consumers are left without any update or status of their vehicles by the previous owner; the new owner alleges Navajo customers abandoned their vehicles. In New Mexico, the Office continues to work with the AG's office on various consumer issues that also relate to auto sales. The efforts to bring relief to Navajo consumers is an enduring effort as much of groundwork to elevate a consumer's case to legal review by the AG's office takes many hours of research and investigative review. This particular case load comprises of well over a hundred Navajo consumers to date.

5. United States Department of Justice: The Commission continued to work with complaining parties on complaints regarding the Monument Valley High School at Oljato, Arizona and the Gallup McKinley County School District.

6. Sacred Sites and the San Francisco Peaks: On October 26, 2023, the Commission met with the Navajo Nation Washington Office staff to provide information about the Commission's activities with sacred sites specific to the San Francisco Peaks. Information included the incorporation of International human rights instruments that provide protection for Indigenous lifeways. This included the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with an emphasis on Article 19 concerning Free, Prior and Informed Consent; Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Corporate Social Responsibility and aspects of SWOT, Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Training that related to sacred sites. The Commission also met with United States Forest Services in the Department of Agriculture where the statement was conveyed by the two agents representing the United States Forest Services that the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture is intended to rebuild trust between the Department and Indigenous Nations that are concerned with the San Francisco Peaks. With that statement, the commission raised concerns with the construction of the Memorandum of Agreement that concerns the San Francisco Peaks. The final meeting in Washington D.C. proceeded with Ms. Rose Petaskie, Director of Tribal Affairs, White House Intergovernmental Office. This meeting was an introductory meeting as Ms. Petaskie recently assumed this position from the former Director PaaWee Rivera. The Commission raised issues surrounding the San Francisco Peaks, the occupancy of the Snowbowl Resort and the Forest Services involvement as it relates to the recent draft development of the Memorandum of Agreement that is before indigenous nations of Arizona. The issue concerns the absence of any monitoring mechanism of the refurbished snow on the Peaks. Governmental agencies are reluctant to insert a provision into the MOA that will allow for the monitoring and testing of the water run-off from the snow that is artificially reproduced on the mountain. Additionally, the Commission learned that the White House introduced the Initiative 40, which encourages the principles of Tradition Ecological Knowledge to be intertwined with all aspects co-management agreements, co-stewardship agreements, self-determination agreements and the management of

indigenous lands with indigenous peoples. The discussion points are relevant to the construction of the proposed MOA that is under review.

7. Memorandum of Agreements with border town municipalities: The Office reached out to the Farmington Community Relations Committee (CRC) to reestablish ties with new members of the committee. The CRC handles citizen complaints regarding disparaged treatment from businesses, governmental agencies and law enforcement complaints that come from our office or complaints directly filed with their office. Since the establishment of several MOAs with border towns surrounding the Navajo Nation, the commission is revisiting this mechanism to ensure Navajo citizens are treated with dignity and fairly when in border communities. The Commission also met with the Flagstaff city officials, including the Mayor Daggett on December 4th, 2023, to reestablish ties and exchanged information on activities in Flagstaff that concern Navajo patrons.

8. Interaction with Native Civil Engagement Table: The Office attended meetings hosted by New Mexico Representative Charlotte Little to examine Indigenous voting issues in New Mexico. This included a review of the recent passage of HB 4 which includes the Native American Voting Rights Act engrossed in HB 4 and signed by Governor Lujan Grisham on March 30, 2023. Members of the engagement table are looking at how to assist with the implementation of HB 4 on tribal lands and await the Navajo Nation's input on specific aspects of this bill. The Engagement table is composed of indigenous leaders from the Apache and Pueblo nations who are instrumental in supporting voting legislation in the state.

9. Complaints: During this reporting period the office received 18 new complaints. Most of the new cases included vehicle purchases that had aspects of fraud that included such matters with inflated income and damaged vehicle not reported during purchasing. Nine complaints were closed. Four cases were referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for review. The Office had 59 active cases at the close of the first quarter report.

10. Public Information Activities: The Commission held

two regular meetings and one work session during this reporting quarter. The October meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum as one commissioner fell ill. PIO activities remain constant this reporting period with providing the public information via radio Public Service Announcements. One specific forum this reporting period dealt with current litigation against Ed Corley's Nissan of Gallup, NM where Navajo consumers encountered financial burdens and the inability to register vehicles purchased from this dealer. A substantial amount of work was dedicated to the planning and discussion with external organization on the 2024 Four Corners Indigenous Language conference. Additional duties were assigned to assist with all complaints filed with this office. Prior to any dialogue with a complaining party, this added responsibility included ensuring the complaint forms were properly filled out, supporting documents were copied, stamped dated, an explanation of the internal review and process the complaint undergoes and finally, a coded case number is given to each complaint too ensure accurate data calculations are captured. A total of eighteen new complaints were filed with this office this quarter. Daily interactions with public entities and persons were on-going as required of this position.

11. Close out meeting on San Juan County, New Mexico Litigation: On October 16, 2023 the Commission, plaintiffs and attorneys representing the Navajo Nation in the county redistricting litigation against San Juan County Commission conducted a close out meeting at the residence of Bessie Werito of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. Ray Williams the lead attorney for the Plaintiffs updated the group on the final agreement with county regarding the Native American Voting Age Populations in District 1 and 2. These districts are largely populated with Native American citizens who now will have ample representation in the districts 1 (74 %) and 2 (69.77 %) to elect candidates of their choice. The Commission and plaintiffs expressed their appreciation to the attorneys that skillfully litigate this case to create the opportunity for Native Americans (Navajos) to share in the governance of San Juan County in the future. This is truly a milestone for political participation as it relates to Navajo assets and contributions to San Juan County from Navajo citizens that reside in San Juan County.

Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office Fiscal Year 2024 – First Quarter Report Summary

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Significant Activities and Accomplishments

Lewnell B. Harrison, Ethics Investigator was appointed Interim Executive Director on October 15, 2021, to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office so that services to the Navajo Nation would not be interrupted. The Ethics and Rules Office continued contracting with Mr. Joe W. Washington, Attorney for all our filings and hearings. On November 10, 2021, The ERO requested and was approved by the Motor Vehicle Review Board to replace our current high mileage vehicles with two newer vehicles. We have received one unmarked vehicle and are working with fleet management to get the other vehicle replaced and we are optimistic it will happen this fiscal year (2024). The Ethics and Rules Office also was able to get a bid from a contractor to connect our building with our conference room building and Executive Director's office. The Ethics and Rules Office has filed eight (8) Order to Show Cause Hearings for Respondents who haven't paid their restitutions. The Ethics and Rules Office files four (4) new cases and are scheduled to be heard in January of 2024. The Ethics and Rules Office also we are finally ready to file our first Garnishment with the Navajo Nation District court. Efforts are still being made to locate and contact individuals that have outstanding restitution with the Navajo Nation. There has been some success in obtaining restitution from some Respondents that have never made payments before. Intakes continue to be received and reviewed for possible investigation and prosecution. Each Investigator has a number of investigations they are working on. The office continues to answer questions regarding the ERO process either by phone or email.

Navajo Utah Commission Fiscal Year 2024 – First Quarter Report Summary

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Summary of Significant Accomplishments in the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024:

Accomplishments and activities for the Navajo Utah Commission during the period of October 01, 2023 through December 31, 2023 are enumerated as follow:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission (NUC) conducted three regular monthly meetings and one special meeting during the 1st quarter of FY2024, including October 10th at Dennehotso Chapter, November 14th at Fort Defiance, AZ, and December 08th at Monument Valley, UT, and one special meeting on October 27th at Red Mesa Chapter. The commission enacted 08 resolutions during the 1st Quarter.
2. The Navajo Utah Commission staff attended 23 hybrid meetings with various tribal, county, state, and federal entities relative to subject matters of importance to the seven Utah chapters.
3. The Navajo Utah Commission and other Legislative Branch programs attended a Sexual Harassment Awareness training conducted virtually by the Navajo Nation Staff Development & Training on November 1st. One NUC staff member also attended an in person Sexual Harassment Awareness training conducted by the Office of the Speaker and a consultant on October 11th in Tse Bonito, NM.
4. The Navajo Utah Commission prepared and submitted the Annual Performance Report (APR) and Program Income information to the Navajo Housing Authority for the Aneth 23 Unit Housing Project appropriated by NAHASDA. The Navajo Utah Commission is required to submit the APR's for a 15 year period for a housing project that was completed in 2013.

5. The Navajo Nation hosted the bi-monthly Utah Tribal Leaders (UTL) Meetings at the Navajo Utah Commission Office in Montezuma Creek with the executive session occurring on October 19th and the regular session on October 20th. The NUC Staff, Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish, and two Utah chapter officials attended the UTL meetings and participated in dialogue regarding reports provided by 11 state agencies. The NUC staff provided a written Utah Navajo report and gathered information from the meetings for the upcoming 2024 Utah Legislature.

6. The Navajo Utah Commission submitted a revised funding application to the Utah Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund (OWHLF) seeking \$426,762 for a housing project serving the seven Utah chapters. The NUC staff participated in the Utah OWHLF Board meeting on October 19th and secured funding approval for \$426,762 for Utah chapter housing project. The grant is contingent on construction labor funds for the project from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund (NRF).

7. The Office of the Speaker and Utah Lobbyist Consultant, Moroni Benally, organized a planning and strategy meeting in Salt Lake City for the 2024 Utah Legislature. The event was well attended and productive with participation by NUC staff, Council Delegates Shaandiin Parrish, Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Council Delegate Curtis Yanito, Utah legislative leaders, San Juan County Commissioners, and project partners. The effort identified new issues and reaffirmed continuing support for existing priorities, including legislative appropriations. The Utah Division of Indian Affairs has scheduled the tribal caucus on January 10th and 11th at the state capitol.

8. The Navajo Utah Commission conducted a special meeting on October 27th at the Red Mesa Chapter to reaffirm legislative priorities for the upcoming 2024 Utah Legislature with the understanding that other impactful legislative bills may still surface as the legislative session draws near. The Navajo Utah Commission have been advised to limit their legislative priorities and issues in order to achieve certain legislative action.

9. The Navajo Utah Commission completed the 164 Review Process during the first quarter of FY2024 for a Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) appropriated for a market feasibility study for the Montezuma Creek region. The project will seek services of a consultant during the second quarter.

10. The Navajo Utah Commission staff participated virtually in the Restoring Ancestral Winds (RAW) Annual Conference on November 2nd. The conference highlighted domestic violence issues, safety for indigenous people, strengthening collaboration among law enforcement, service providers, and tribal nations. The 2023 RAW Conference also recognized the work and advocacy of Navajo Nation Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton.

11. The Navajo Utah Commission's regular meeting for November was conducted at the NTUA Headquarters in Fort Defiance to advocate for broadband expansion on the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation, including identification and coordination of resources made available by state, federal, and tribal entities. A follow-up meeting was conducted virtually on December 18th to keep planning and momentum moving forward.

12. The Navajo Utah Commission staff virtually attended the Utah Native American Legislative Liaison Committee (NALLC) meeting on November 14th to hear reports from Utah Division of Indian Affairs, Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Utah Department of Education/San Juan School District, and the Utah Navajo Trust Fund. The Utah Indian Health Advisory Board requested the support and leadership of Utah NALLC to legislatively recognize Medicaid reimbursement for traditional health service benefits. The Navajo Utah Commission enacted resolution no. NUCDEC-934-23 during their December 8th meeting requesting the 2024 Utah Legislature to support and enact legislation making this possible.

13. The Aneth Chapter, Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund, Utah Navajo Trust Fund, Utah DFCM, and the Navajo Utah Commission completed construction of Aneth Chapter Solid Waste Drop Off Station Project at cost of approximately \$1 million. Project partners also included contractor PRT Builders LLC, NTUA, and Frontier Communications. The Aneth Chapter and surrounding communities will utilize this urgently needed facility to dispose of their refuse properly and without long distance travel. The Navajo Utah Commission secured \$150,000 for the project from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund.

14. The Navajo Utah Commission staff met with the Navajo Nation Shopping Center, Inc. on November 29th in Window Rock, Arizona to provide project overview for a proposed market feasibility study for the Montezuma Creek area and to seek technical assistance and other collaborative

support with the Navajo Nation Shopping Center, Inc. The Navajo Utah Com.mission is seeking project partnership consisting Navajo Nation Shopping Center, Inc, Shiprock Regional Business Development Office, Utah Navajo Trust Fund, and the Aneth Chapter.

15. The Navajo Utah Commission and the Aneth Chapter extended years of advocacy to rehabilitate and improve SR 162 between Montezuma Creek and Aneth, Utah, including project appropriations of \$73 million from Utah Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration in 2019 and acquisition of right-of-way approval from the Navajo Nation Resources and Development Committee on November 29, 2023. The Utah Department of Transportation is currently working with Navajo Utah Commission in securing accommodations for weekly construction meetings for project scheduled to begin in May 2024.

16. The Navajo Utah Com.mission staff virtually attended the 2023 Utah ICWA Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. The conference highlighted the Supreme Court ruling in the Brackeen v. Haaland case and the urgent need to identify Native American families willing to adopt Native children, including Navajo children. The Utah tribes are currently putting their legislative effort on hold in regard to establishment of a state ICW A bill in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling.

17. The Navajo Utah Commission, Utah Navajo Trust Fund, and Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management (DFCM) met virtually with the U.S. Postal Service to continue planning for a new post office in Montezuma Creek, including discussion of U.S. Postal Services requirements, schematic design review of a 3,000 sf facility, and funding options, including matching by the U.S. Postal Service. The Navajo Utah Commission Office acquired \$90,000 from the

Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund for planning and design and is making considerable progress in completing the A&E document.

18. The Navajo Utah Commission staff attended two Utah Tribal Leaders meetings on December 14th and 15th in Salt Lake City at the Confederated Tribe of Goshute health care facility, including an executive session with tribal leaders on the first day and regular meeting with state agencies on the second day. The NUC staff presented the Navajo Nation Utah report and participated in discussions regarding amendments for Utah Division of Indian Affairs Statutes. The Utah Tribal Leaders discussed reports presented by ten state agencies. The NUC staff established contacts with several agencies regarding potential collaboration on various Utah chapter issues and projects.

19. The Navajo Utah Commission staff and Delegate Curtis Yanito met with Utah Rural Development Director Michelle Weaver and a representative from Congressman John Curtis' Office (District 3) on December 18th in Montezuma Creek for presentation of grant award of \$80,000 from the USDA Rural Development/Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG). Rural Development's district office from Monticello, Utah was also in attendance to conduct grant compliance requirements for the proposed market analysis project for Montezuma Creek with the NUC staff.

20. The Navajo Utah Commission and the Utah chapters finalized legislative priorities for the upcoming 2024 Utah Legislature and Office of the Governor. Council delegate Herman Daniels will be sponsoring legislation no. 0276-23 to seek a supporting resolution from the Naabik'iyati Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The Navajo Utah Commission appreciates the support of the Navajo Nation Council particularly in dialogue and collaboration with the 2024 Utah Legislature.



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