



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee approves Forest Lake Chapter's updated Community-Based Land Use Plan



RDC Chairwoman Brenda Jesus recognized Forest Lake Chapter officials and current and former Community Land Use Planning Committee members for their work on the chapter's updated Community-Based Land Use Plan.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Monday, the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) unanimously approved Forest Lake Chapter's updated Community-Based Land Use Plan (CLUP), certifying revisions to reflect changing community needs and guide future development.

Legislation No. 0200-26 certifies the updated plan, approved by Forest Lake Chapter through Resolution FLC-26-06-001. Under the Local Governance Act, community-based land use plans must be reevaluated and readjusted every five years.

RDC Chairwoman Brenda Jesus thanked Forest Lake Chapter officials and current and former Community Land Use Planning Committee members for their work. She emphasized the importance of identifying infrastructure needs, transportation routes and projects benefiting Forest Lake and neighboring communities. Chapter president Loren Silver and CLUP-C president Gloria John attended the meeting and presented the updated plan.

"Community planning involves many components, from thoroughfares and infrastructure to identifying what is lacking in the community," Jesus said. "We appreciate the chapter officials and committee members, past and present, because putting a plan like this together takes a lot of work and consideration for future needs."

Forest Lake Chapter, also known as Tsiyi Be'ak'id, developed its initial CLUP in 2005 through its Community Land Use Planning Committee, with assistance from the Division of Community Development's senior planner. Contributors included the Navajo Housing Authority, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Navajo Nation departments, the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of Roads.

In spring 2018, the chapter engaged Native Builders LLC to update the plan and maintain a Navajo Nation-recognized framework that supports the community's traditional way of life. Chapter leadership reviewed the existing plan, sought public input and identified necessary revisions.

The plan emphasizes grazing and land conservation. Its community assessment covers demographics, land status, current and future residential needs, grazing and agriculture, commercial and industrial development, and community and public facilities.

Chair Jesus also highlighted proper land-use zoning and watershed restoration to support development, livestock and groundwater replenishment. She noted that proposed projects must be evaluated for funding opportunities and meet applicable requirements.

"Proper zoning and watershed restoration are important as communities plan for the future," Jesus said. "Restoring watersheds can help retain water for livestock and replenish groundwater, so these needs should be considered as the chapter identifies its priorities."

Northern Arizona University collected demographic survey data, while its Center for Community Health and Engaged Research developed assessment forms to document existing facilities and land uses.

Under Navajo Nation law, CLUPs identify future land needs and designate areas for residential, commercial, industrial and public purposes, considering community priorities, natural and cultural resources, infrastructure and the land's capacity for development.

The Resources and Development Committee unanimously approved Forest Lake Chapter's updated Community-Based Land Use Plan with a vote of four in favor and none opposed. The RDC congratulates the Forest Lake Chapter, the chapter's CLUP-C, and all community members who worked to finalize the plan. The RDC serves as final authority.

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