

**The Resources and Development Committee of  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council**



**Second Quarter Report  
Fiscal Year 2019**

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **A. Standing Committee: RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Committee Authority:** 2 N.N.C. §500 (C): *"The Committee shall exercise oversight authority over water, land, grazing environment, environmental protection, cultural resources, agriculture, livestock, wildlife, road, transportation, communications and utilities, information technology, chapter activities, economic and community development, commerce and trade, gaming, rights-of-way, minerals, public utilities, telecommunications, housing...."*

**B. CHAIRPERSON :** Honorable Rickie Nez  
Northern Agency

**VICE CHAIRPERSON :** Honorable Thomas Walker, Jr.  
Western Defiance Agency

### **C. Committee Members:**


Honorable Mark Freeland	Eastern Navajo Agency
Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.	Chinle Agency
Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.	Fort Defiance Agency
Honorable Herman M. Daniels	Western Agency

**D. Committee Meeting Dates :** First, Second, Third & Fourth Wednesday of each Month @ 10:00 am.

**E. Committee Staff :** Shammie Begay, Legislative Advisor II  
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### **F. Acknowledgement and Submittal:**

  
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**Rickie Nez, Chairman**  
**Resources and Development Committee**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council**

4-05-19  
**DATE**

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED SECOND QUARTER:**

1. On January 15, 2019, the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Inauguration was held at the Window Rock High School Event Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona.
2. On or about January 18, 2019, Honorable Rickie Nez, Honorable Mark Freeland, Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. and other 24<sup>th</sup> NN Council members represented communities in the State of NM at the “New Mexico Navajo Nation Chapters Preparation Meeting” held in to prepare for the 2019 New Mexico legislative sessions.
3. January 28 – 31, 2019, the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council held their Winter Session and the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council elected for a 2 year term Honorable Seth Damon to serve as the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council.
4. On February 20, 2019, the Resources and Development Committee held their first meeting and selected their leadership. Honorable Rickie Nez was selected as the Resources Development Chairperson and Thomas Walker, Jr. was selected as the Vice-Chairperson.
5. On March 6, 2019, Honorable Mark Freeland, Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. and other Council Delegates of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council attended the Congressman Ben Lujan’s Town Hall meeting in Church Rock, New Mexico. Both Honorable Rickie Nez and Honorable Mark Freeland spoke about a variety of issues, i.e., the continual impact of the Gold King Mine for Navajo families residing along the San Juan River, Coal transition, proposed Methane production in Northeast New Mexico; the re-introduction of the National Renewable Energy Policy; and inquired on the status of when USDA will release the HEMP production policy. Furthermore, urged Congressman Lujan to develop a strong working leadership with the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council for state and federal agencies initiatives with regards to future NN and NM projects.
6. On March 18, 2019, RDC participated in the “Navajo Power – Energy Round Table” held at TANCR, Twin Arrows, Arizona. The summit brought to the table a wealth of information on national and global renewable energy projects and other entities’ regulations and policies.
7. On March 19, 2019, RDC held its orientation with Navajo Environmental Protection Agency at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino and Resort, in Twin Arrows, Arizona. During the presentation, RDC was presented with information on the Division’s operation, legislative amendment, financial reports and budget shortfalls. RDC did not complete the orientation with one Department. This Department’s orientation will be rescheduled to a later date in May 2019.
8. On March 19, 2019, Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr., participated in a leadership meeting with Congressman Tom O’Halloran and Derrith Watchman-Moore, Phase II RSE Trustee at Tuba City Regional Health Care facility in Tuba City, Arizona. Congressman was

visiting Western Navajo Nation seeking updated information on the investigation of abandoned uranium mines.

9. On March 26, 2019, RDC held its orientation with Division of Community Development at the Navajo Nation Museum. Again, the Divisions provided their operational and management information to the Committee, identifying their issues and concerns and budget shortfalls.
10. On March 29 and 30, 2019, RDC held their orientation with Division of Natural Resources. The Division also presented similar information on their operation and management. The Committee did not finish the orientation with two Departments. Those Departments will eventually be rescheduled sometimes in May 2019.

### **REGULAR, SPECIAL MEETINGS, WORK SESSION AND LEADERSHIP MEETINGS FOR FY 2019 – SECOND QUARTER:**

**February 20, 2019    RDC Regular Meeting  
NNC Chambers  
Window Rock, Arizona**

The Resources and Development Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council held their first meeting appointing Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr., as the Pro Temp Chairperson to preside over the opening session of the committee meeting and selection of the Committee's leadership. As first order of business, the Committee nominated Mr. Thomas Walker, Jr., and Rickie Nez for the Chairperson. Nomination was closed. The Committee voted. When the votes were tallied, it was a tie-vote. Honorable Thomas Walker, Jr. spoke and stated he would step back and have Honorable Rickie Nez take the Chairperson position. Upon consensus the members agreed. Thereafter, the same nomination and voting process applied to the selection of the Vice-Chairperson. Honorable Thomas Walker and Wilson C. Stewart, Jr., were nominated. When the vote was tallied Honorable Walker was selected to serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee enacted Legislation # 0029-19, an action relating to the confirmation of the RDC's Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

After the leadership were confirmed, the Committee moved forward with their meeting. Under Reports, a status report on the Westwater Community Subdivision and Back Taxes Owed to San Juan County, Utah was presented by Mike Halona, Director of Navajo Land Department. Thereafter, under New Business, the following were considered: (1) Legislation # 0009-19, an action relating to confirming the appointment of Rudy Shebala as the NN Division of Natural Resources Executive Director was supported and referred the matter to Naabik'Iyati Committee; (2) Legislation # 0011-19, an action relating to confirming the appointment of Garret Silversmith as the Division Director for the Navajo Division of Transportation and referred the matter to Naabik'Iyati Committee; (3) Legislation # 0012-19, an action relating to Confirming the Appointment of Dr. Pearl Yellowman as the Division Director of the Division Community Development for the Navajo Nation and referred the matter to Naabik'Iyati Committee; (4) Legislation # 0022-19, an action relating to confirming the appointment of Jt. J. Willie as Navajo

Nation Division of Economic Development Executive Director and referred the matter to Naabik'Iyati Committee; (5) Legislation # 0027-19, an action relating to Confirming the Appointment of Christopher Becenti as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and referred the matter to Naabik'Iyati Committee; (6) Legislation # 0020-19, an action relating to certifying Thoreau Chapter Governance Community-Based Land Use Plan Which has Re-evaluated and Re-adjusted Thoreau Chapter's Previous Community-Based Land Use Plan was approved; Legislation # 0023-19, an action relating to Reaffirmation and Possible Amendment of NABIF-13-18, an action relating to FirstNet and AT&T, in developing Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network to Recognize and Accept Nation to Nation Relationship; further requesting for an Assessment and Strategic Plan from NN Public Safety and Telecommunication Programs was considered and referred to Law and Order Committee. Other Committee business considered and approved were: Scheduling of DNR Orientation for March 4 – 5, 2019; DED orientation for March 21 – 22, 2019 at TANCR; DCD Orientation for March 25 & 26, 2019 in Chinle, Arizona and NDOT Orientation on April 8 & 9, 2019 in Albuquerque, NM; NEPA orientation on March 11 & 12, 2019 in Page, Arizona; Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise for March 26, 2019 at TANCR. These dates were tentative and subject to changes. The dates be presented to the appropriate divisions for their consideration before final preparation begins. Committee completed their agenda and adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

**February 27, 2019    San Juan Chapter  
San Juan, New Mexico**

San Juan Chapter hosted RDC's regular meeting. The Committee received the following report: (1) Cameron Agricultural Ad Hoc Committee Report Regarding the Cameron Farm Enterprise Initiative from Stanley Robbins, Coordinator for the Cameron Agriculture Ad Hoc Committee; (2) Report from NDOT on their 2019 Tribal Transportation Program Deliverables. The Deliverables legislation is in the legislative five day comment period and will be ready for Committee action soon. (3) Division of Community Development and Administrative Service Center also provided a report on their work with the 110 Chapters during the inclement winter storm which called for the Navajo Nation to establish an emergency declaration. Under New Business, the Committee approved the following: (1) Oljato Chapter's request to Host RDC's Regular meeting of March 20, 2019 at Monument Valley Welcome Center in Monument Valley, Utah; and (2) Accepting Invitation to Participate in the Navajo Power, Renewal Energy Summit at TANCR on March 18, 2019. The Committee completed their agenda and adjourned by 3:00 p.m.

**Reservation Wide Grazing Officials/Farm Board Meeting  
San Juan College  
Farmington, New Mexico:**

After RDC adjourned their regular meeting at San Juan Chapter, Honorable Mark Freeland, Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr., and Honorable Chairman Rickie Nez attended the Reservation-Wide Grazing Officials/Farm Board meeting at the San Juan College in Farmington, NM. RDC members were given opportunity for introduction (meet and greet). After the conclusion of the meeting, several Grazing Officials and Farm Board came to briefly talk with the new RDC leadership. The Committee indicated a work session will eventually be scheduled to discuss a variety of issues relating to the Grazing Officials and Farm Board.

**March 4, 2019                      Leadership Meeting with Office of Legislative Counsel  
   And Office of the Speaker  
   Budget and Finance Conference Room  
   Window Rock Arizona**

RDC held a leadership meeting with Office of Speaker's staff and Office of Legislative to have some information discussion on the NTEC legislation #0044-19. The Committee further met with NN Department of Justice and Division of Natural Resources staff who were working on the negotiations relating to NGS acquisition.

**March 6, 2019                      RDC Regular Meeting  
   Navajo Nation Council Chambers  
   Window Rock, Arizona**

RDC received two reports, (1) Navajo Housing Authority provided a written report and an oral report to the Committee on the Navajo Nation's concern with NHA's federal funding and the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs' concern with NHA's Unspent Federal Funds. Honorable Herman Daniels requested for NHA to provide a work session to the Navajo Nation Council so that everyone is of the same understanding of NHA's report. RDC will be in collaboration with Speaker's Office in scheduling the work session with NHA. It was also noted that OPVP is also working on scheduling a Housing Summit sometimes in April on 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. The Second report was from the Eastern Land Board members requesting RDC to recall RDCD-100-18 an action relating to the Approval and Adoption of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Project Plans for Crop Years 2017 and 2018. After Mr. Clinton Jim's report, Mr. Leo Watchman, Jr., Director of Department of Agriculture provided a report on the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Project Plans for Crop Years 2017 and 2018 as Mandated by Sihasin Fund Pasture Range and Forage Expenditure Plan Enacted by CO-57-16 and amended by CMY-54-18. Mr. Watchman provided a summary of the intent of the resolution. Along with the discussion, Mr. Jim made mention of their concerns with BIA picking up grazing permits and not reissuing them to potential heirs of the family. So it was recommended BIA provide a clarification of those activities in the near future. Under New Business, the Committee approved several Committee businesses: (1) Approved Oljato Chapter's request to host RDC's Meeting of March 13, 2019 at MV, Utah; (2) Approved DED's orientation for March 20 and 21, 2019 at TANCR, Twin Arrows, Arizona; (3) Approved DNR orientation for March 29 and 30, 2019. Committee completed their agenda by 4:30 p.m..

**March 6, 2019                      RDC Work Session  
   NDOT Administrative Complex  
   Tse Bonito, NM**

RDC held a work session with Navajo Division of Transportation Planning staff and Division Director Garret Silversmith to provide an overview of the Navajo Nation Tribal Transportation Program Deliverables which is to be submitted to BIA, Navajo Regional Office by March 15, 2019. The NDOT Planning staff provided a power point to the Committee outlining the task the NDOT planning staff conducted in 2018. The Department stated public hearings were held within

the five agencies to collect comments from the communities and chapters. After the public hearing, the Department staff finalized their deliverables for 2019 and prepared the packet for legislative process. The process is now completed and ready for Committee action and the packet is in the five day comment period. After this overview presentation, the Committee had a special meeting on Monday, March 11, 2019 to consider and approved the legislation for submittal to BIA.

**March 11, 2019      RDC Special Meeting  
NDOT Administrative Complex  
Tse Bonito, NM**

RDC considered only one legislation because it had a timeline for submission to BIA. NDOT Planning staff during the February 27<sup>th</sup> RDC meeting presented an overall summary of the intention of the legislation and informed the Committee the important of the legislation to be submitted to BIA March 15<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, under New Business: Legislation # 0039-19, an action relating to the approval of Navajo Division of Transportation 2018 Tribal Transportation Program Deliverables was considered and approved. After the completion of their agenda, the Committee adjourned their meeting.

**March 13, 2019      RDC Regular Meeting  
Monument Valley Welcome Center  
Monument Valley, Utah**

Oljato Chapter hosted RDC regular meeting in Monument Valley Welcome Center to address the community's concern with the management and operation of the Monument Valley Tribal Parks. The community's concerns included the unlimited number of permits issued for tour guides and inadequate tribal road maintenance particularly during the tourist peak season. The Committee also received a report from the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation and Division of Natural Resources with regards to the operation and management; NDOT provided a report on the tribal road maintenance coordinated with Navajo Nation Parks and Rec as well. The third report received is from a company named Tacitus, a company that works with the helium production on a smaller scale business than an oil and gas companies. Tacitus reported they are having drilling and testing program which began in May 2018 and five existing wellbores were reactivated. And their Helium Processing facility installed since November 2018 and production began in December 2019. Under New Business the following Legislation was added to the agenda and considered: Legislation # 0044-19: an action relating to Supporting Navajo Transitional Energy Company's Independent Acquisition of Navajo General station and Kayenta Mine; Statement of Policy Regarding Refusal to Financially Guarantee or Provide Waivers or Releases of Claims by the Navajo Nation Pertaining to that Acquisition was considered and referred to Naabik'Iyati Committee with no amendments. The Committee also considered several committee businesses: Approving to reschedule DED Orientation to March 20 and 21, 2019; and to Schedule an Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Work Session with Department of Agriculture and Eastern Land Board on April 30, 2019 at NTU. And approved a leadership with all of key Tribal staff to address the concerns surrounding Navajo Tribal Parks to meet in Window Rock on April 29, 2019. Location of such meeting will be determined at a later date. The Committee completed their



agenda and adjourned around 5:00 p.m. After the RDC meeting several members of RDC went on a brief tour to several residences within the tribal Park.

**March 18, 2019      Navajo Power Summit  
Twin Arrows Navajo Casino & Resort  
Twin Arrows, Arizona**

Several members of RDC and staff participated in the renewable energy summit, “energy round table” held at TANCR. The summit provided a wealth of information from various individuals and companies working with renewable energy. Topics such as Power Markets Economics; Western Energy Landscape; Renewable Economics and Transition Economics; and Navajo-Self Determination in Energy, California’s Energy Transition and Opportunities for Navajo Nation; Hogback Solar Project Case Study – the Time is Now for an Energy Transition; and PNM closed the summit with their presentation on Renewables on Tribal Lands.

**March 19, 2019      NEPA Orientation  
Twin Arrows Navajo Casino & Resort  
Twin Arrows, Arizona**

Navajo Environmental Protection Agency’s Administration, Departments and Programs provided orientation with RDC. The following Departments provided presentation on their plan of operation, significant accomplishments, legislative barriers and recommendations for RDC’s priorities. Air and Toxics Department, including their programs (Air Quality, Pesticide Enforcement and Development and Radon Program) presented. Waste Regulatory and Compliance Department and programs (UST/LUST; Superfund Program and Resource Conservation & Recovery Program). Surface and Ground Water Protection Department did not present because each presentations exceeded their allocated time. RDC concluded at 8:30 p.m. with a notation that the Surface and Ground Water Protection Department would be rescheduled to a later date.

**March 25, 2019      RDC Special Meeting  
NDOT Administrative Complex  
Tse Bonito, NM**

**9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.** – RDC held a leadership meeting with NNDOJ and DNR to have some discussion on the establishment of an NN Energy Office and the proposed Renewable Energy Policy.

**10:30 A.M.** - RDC call the special meeting. The Committee received (a) briefing from NNDO with regards to the NPL Grazing Permit Reissuance initiatives; (b) Update report receive from BIA on their work with regards to the NPL Grazing Permit Reissuance initiatives; (c) Report – Clarification from BIA Eastern Agency on the Eastern Land Board Grazing permits; and (d) A report from Dine Policy Institute on their study of the Local Governance and Report – Local Empowerment. Under New Business, the following legislations were considered: Legislation # 0046-19, an action relating to approving a change of fund year for Naatsi’aan Rainbow Plateau Power Line project; Legislation # 0052-19 was deferred to Wednesday’s regular meeting agenda.



Other discussion was for the RDC to revisit the Title 26 Task Force and look at the Election Code on how to address concerns with regards to the Chapter official leadership.

**March 26, 2019      Division of Community Development Orientation  
Navajo Nation Museum  
Window Rock, Arizona**

RDC held orientation with Division of Community Development at the Navajo Nation Museum. Dr. Pearl Yellowman provided a brief overview of the orientation and informed the Committee that all of the Departments will be present for their Department's presentation. Ms. Yellowman further presented her Administration on how she will be coordinating with each of the Departments to address the concerns and barriers the Divisions is faced with. Thereafter, DCD's Information Technology, Rural Addressing, Community Housing and Infrastructure Department presented their powerpoint presentation. After lunch, Capital Projects Management Department, Administrative Service Centers provided their presentation. Committee adjourned the orientation around 5:30 p.m.

**March 27, 2019      RDC Regular Meeting  
NDOT Administrative Complex  
Tse Bonito, NM**

RDC held their regular at NDOT in Tse Bonito, New Mexico. Meeting was called at 10:14 A.M. The Committee received (a) Report from Arizona Department of Transportation; (b) Dine Chamber of Commerce; and added (c) Report from the USEPA on their work with uranium reclamation on Navajo Nation. Under New Business: Legislation # 0062-19, an action approving the Revocable Use Permit for NECA for a temporary Hot Plant Site and Construction Yard in the vicinity of Chinle Chapter; (2) Legislation 0064-19, an action relating to the selection of RDC representative to NIIP Subcommittee was considered and referred to Naabik' Iyati Committee; (3) Legislation # 0066-19, an action relating to the selection of an RDC shareholder presentative to Navajo Oil and Gas Company; Navajo Times Publishing Company; Dine Development Corporation; Navajo Community Development Financial Institution; and Navajo Transitional Energy Company was considered and approved with amendments incorporation the respective RDC representatives; (4) Legislation # 0067-19, an action relating to accepting the special review of Pueblo Pintado Chapter was discussed and tabled to April 10, 2019 regular meeting; (5) Legislation # 0070-19, an action relating to the selection of Naabik'Iyati Committee Title II Reform Subcommittee was discussed, however was tabled with a directive from OLS Director to provide a summary of the accomplishment of the 23<sup>rd</sup> NNC' Title II Reform Subcommittee; and (6) Legislation 0052-19, an action relating to Tsayatoh Chapter's corrective action plan was discussed and tabled to April 10, 2019 regular meeting. Several directives were issued along with the tabling motion. Other Committee businesses approved were travel to TANCR for the Transportation's Annual Symposium; RDC meeting with NNSI and NNGE at TANCR on April 5, 2019; and approving off-reservation travel to have an orientation with NDOT in ABQ, NM at Wilson & Company, 4401 Masthead St., NE #150, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**March 29 - 30, 2019 DNR Orientation**  
**Twin Arrows Navajo Casino & Resort**  
**Twin Arrows, Arizona**

RDC held DNR Orientation at TANCR in Twin Arrows, Arizona. The Divisions Administrative presented their overview of their administrative functions and thereafter each of the Departments presented. Fish and Wildlife Department; Department of Agriculture presented during lunch; Navajo AML/UMTRA; General Land Development Department; Navajo Forestry Department; and Heritage & Historic Preservation Department presented on Day One (March 29<sup>th</sup>). The Committee completed their orientation agenda for Day One by 5:45 p.m.

**LEADERSHIP MEETING: (6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.)**

RDC held a leadership meeting with the Division of Natural Resources Staff. Power Point presentation was provided on the work that the Division staff had done over the past years in developing an energy policy and the proposed renewable energy policy. Along with that presentation, the staff also provided a brief summary of the transmission lines where the NN could tap into should there be a renewable project established. The Committee called to conclude the meeting around 8:30 p.m. The further added that there will be continuing discussion on the matter at a later date.

**March 30, 2019: DNR Orientation (Continued)**

RDC began orientation Day 2 at 8:30 a.m., with Navajo Nation Land Department; Mineral Department and Navajo Nation Museum presented during lunch; Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department presented last. Because of the presentations exceeding the allocated time scheduled for them and several RDC members serving on NHLC also wanted to participate in NHLC's orientation and meeting with the federal agencies, RDC Chairman stated Department of Resource Enforcement and Department of Water Resources would be rescheduled to a later date. Thereafter, the Committee concluded their work around 4:30 p.m. (AZ time). Thereafter, the four members serving on NHLC then went to participate in NHLC's orientation.

**COMMITTEE ACTIONS:**

- 5 – Committee resolution approved;
- 13 – Committee reports issued to other Committees or placing legislation on Table status;
- 51 – Oral reports received; Committee Meetings Scheduled; and Committee Travel Approved;
- 4 – Committee Journals approved