



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Low Mountain Chapter's Community Based Land Use Plan gets certified by TCDC

LOW MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — The Transportation & Community Development Committee (TCDC) of the 21st Navajo Nation Council certified the Low Mountain Chapter's Community Based Land Use Plan on April 11.

The Low Mountain Chapter certification brings the total to 66 Community Based Land Use Plans that the TCDC has certified thus far. Ten land use plans have been certified within the Chinle Agency, 12 within the Fort Defiance and Western agencies, 20 within the Eastern Agency and 21 within the Northern Agency.

Certification of Community Based Land Use Plans lie within the oversight authority of the TCDC as part of the Local Governance Act (LGA), which stipulates that a Community Based Land Use Plan shall "project future community lands needs, shown by location and extent, of areas identified for residential, commercial, industrial and public purposes, and based upon the guiding principles and vision as articulated by the community."

Council Delegate Larry Noble (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain) sponsored the legislation before the TCDC in Low Mountain and he recognized members of the Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) who were identified as Jerry A. James, President; Sarah Attakai, Member; Benedict Gonnie, Grazing Officer; Michael Bahe, Secretary; and Venora Kanuho, Vice President.

Noble informed the committee that the process was lengthy and that this effort began in 2000 with its then consultant, Rez Star Point. After several meetings and public hearings, the plan was updated in December 2006 and finalized in January 2008.

Noble also recognized the Chinle Local Governance Support Center Staff, Peggy Sue Nez and Dorothy Denetclaw, as having been instrumental in providing technical assistance to the CLUPC towards finalization of the land use plan.

Sampson Begay, Chairperson of the TCDC (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain), acknowledged the time consuming process and praised the chapter for moving forward with the land use plan and encouraged the chapter to begin the process of also becoming LGA certified. Currently, there are nine chapters that are LGA certified.

Several community members attended this historic event, where a plaque was presented to the CLUPC, Council Delegates Larry Noble and Sampson Begay from the TCDC and from the Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale).

After each member of the TCDC voiced their vote by addressing and applauding the Low Mountain Chapter, the TCDC certified the plan by a unanimous vote.