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**Resources and Development Committee accepts exit report from the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park**

**MONUMENT VALLEY, U.T.** – The Resources and Development Committee approved an exit report on Tuesday, regarding the status of the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park from former interim park manager Edward Dee.

Dee managed the daily operations of the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park during the summer of 2013.

According to Dee’s report, he states that there were improprieties that took place at the park such as mishandling of funds by fee collectors and other staff.

“I am not going to beat around the bush, but let’s call it what it is — embezzlement,” said Dee. “Through a money receipt booklet and prewritten checks, staff was able to manipulate the funds in a manner to account for any money taken.”

“I am almost too angry to comment on this report,” stressed RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta). “There needs to be corrective action at the government level to address these problems.”

According to the written report provided by Dee, other problems include emergency services/response time, entrance fee collection, commercial filming/photography permits, Navajo market vendors, staff compensation, valley residents, and carrying capacity.

“One of our biggest problems at the park is emergency response services,” said Dee. “We had a tourist die due to an ill-equipped ambulance and the response time took over an hour before transporting the patient, who died on the way to the hospital. This isn’t the first time this has happened.”

In response to the report, RDC members were quite distressed upon hearing of the improprieties and embezzlement taking place, especially the slow response time of emergency services.

“All these years, no one has come forward to report these disturbing events that are taking place at our Navajo Nation park. It is time to do an audit of the entire park operation,” stated RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater,

Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake). “It is things like this that make the Navajo Nation look bad.”

RDC vice chair Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) also recommended that the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park go through a reorganization and restructuring of its entire operation, upon receipt of the audit.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Delegate Benally and Delegate Tsosie commended Dee for his courage and fortitude for bringing the issues to light.

RDC members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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