



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Transportation and Community Development Committee certifies Bodaway-Gap Chapter with LGA certification, approves land use plan

**BODAWAY-GAP, Ariz.** — The Bodaway-Gap Chapter became the 17th Local Governance Act certified chapter on the Navajo Nation when the Transportation and Community Development Committee granted certification on Dec. 2. Following its LGA certification ceremony, TCDC, along with the Navajo Division of Community Development, presented the chapter with a \$160,000 check in an effort to help empower local development.

"The chapter officials have worked hard and tirelessly to pass the Five Management System Policies and Procedures," said Chapter President Billy Arizona, Jr. "I am confident we will continue to work hard for the people, as well as passing next year's accounting evaluation with positive marks."

As a certified chapter, Bodaway-Gap now has the capacity to administer business sites and create business plans, enforce local taxes and exercise supervisory control of local matters, while abiding Navajo Nation laws. Bodaway-Gap Chapter also has the opportunity to develop local businesses and establish a postal service program that will deliver mail directly to homes.

Honorable Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council, expressed appreciation for the chapter's efforts in achieving LGA certification.

"One more chapter has become an aspiration for non-certified chapters," Morgan said. "Community involvement is important to this new direction of self-governance. I am proud of this community because markets such as tourism, for example, will draw people to this beautiful region of the Navajo Nation. This is also historic, since LGA certification means that the Former Bennett Freeze Area has the opportunity to develop economically. LGA certification requires long hours and hard work. I commend the community of Bodaway-Gap."

The committee also certified Bodaway-Gap's land use plan on a unanimous vote. The historic signing ceremony at Bodaway-Gap was the first time TCDC had ever granted LGA and land use plan certification concurrently.

"Thank you for attending and understanding how important certification of the Bodaway-Gap Chapter is," Elizabeth Johnson, community services coordinator, said. "This is a special day for everyone."



Elizabeth Johnson, community services coordinator; Andrea Dawes, office specialist and Billy Arizona, Jr. presented check by TCDC and the Navajo Division of Community Development, as Honorable Evelyn Acothley looks on. (Photo by Laphillda Tso)

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"Today is a great day. Something precious has been achieved and given to us. Bodaway-Gap is now LGA-certified," said Honorable Evelyn Acothley, adding that she appreciated the efforts of the Community Land Use Plan Committee and chapter officials. "I want to thank TCDC and everyone who came to celebrate with us. Look around, Bodaway-Gap Chapter is making a positive difference. We are only the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter to be certified."

The chapter now has the authority to exercise its local governance by utilizing the Five Management System Policies and Procedures for its accounting records, pursuant to the Local Governance Act of 1998. In one year from now, the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor will review the chapter's financial records to ensure that all policies and procedures are abided by according to Navajo Nation law.

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