



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Alastair Lee Bitsoi, Acting Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

abitsoi@navajo.org

navajocouncil_pio@yahoo.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

January 14, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22nd Council welcomes President Shelly to work session to announce the appointments of executive branch officials

*"We need your leadership and our leadership to improve the quality lives of our people,"
– Honorable Lorenzo Curley*

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – In the spirit of unity, the 22nd Navajo Nation Council welcomed President Ben Shelly and First Lady Martha Shelly to its roundtable this morning to announce the appointments of executive officials.

President Shelly announced his cabinet officials, as well as the appointments of executive divisions and offices. To date, eight appointments for executive divisions and officers were officially announced, which include the following:

Division of Community Development – Arbin Mitchell, acting division director; Division of Finance Controller – Mark Grant, acting controller; Division of General Services – Virgil Brown, acting director; Division of Natural Resources – Frederick White, acting director; Division of Transportation – Paulson Chaco, acting director; Department of Justice – D. Harrison Tsoie, attorney general; Department of Justice – Dana L. Bobroff, deputy attorney general; Environmental Protection Agency – Stephen B. Estitty, director; Office of Hearings and Appeals – Kenneth Howard, Jr., chief hearing officer.

The appointments for the Division of Economic Development, Division of Health, Division of Social Services, Division of Human Resources, Division of Public Safety, Navajo Nation Washington Office, Navajo Hopi Land Commission and Telecommunications Regulatory Commission announcements are pending.

President Shelly's cabinet consists of Chief of Staff Sherrick Roanhorse, Executive Staff Assistant Alberta Laughing and Staff Assistant Alray Nelson. Vice President Rex Lee Jim's top official is Staff Assistant Irvin Morris. Cora Maxx-Phillips, former executive director for the Division of Social Services, is the executive staff assistant for the Office of the First Lady. Angie Cody, executive staff assistant, and Desiree Etsitty, staff assistant, will have oversight over the budget unit in the Office of the President and Vice President. Michelle Morris, executive staff assistant, will head the policy unit in the new administration.



Members of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council hear President Ben Shelly's announcement of the appointment of executive officials, including his cabinet members (Photo by Laphillda Tso).

-more-

The new administration will have a constituent services unit comprised of Isabelle Walker, western agency liaison, Cyndi Nelson and Brian Begaye as the constituent services representatives. Heather Anderson is the legal counsel for President Shelly and Vice President Jim. She will be assisted by Brittney Smith, administrative assistant. The hiring of policy advisors, administrative assistant and press officer are in the process of being hired.

President Shelly said the announcement of his officials coincides with unity and that the new administration will consist of a mixture of young and experienced faces. Members of the new Council appreciated the president's announcement of his executive officials.

"I really like this theme of unity. It is a new beginning and I'm very happy to see many accomplished individuals part of your administration," Honorable Joshua Butler said at the work session.

Honorable Lorenzo Curley also encouraged the appointments of the executive officials, but at the same time emphasized the need for all three branches to improve the delivery of services to the Navajo people.

"We need your leadership and our leadership to improve the quality lives of our people," Curley said. "This is the type of government our Navajo people have been asking for."

The rest of today's work session will focus on committee restructuring of the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch.

###