



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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22nd Navajo Nation Council confirms Mitchell



Arbin Mitchell responds to questions and comments from the 22nd Navajo Nation Council during his confirmation hearing as division director for the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development on April 20. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK- During the waning evening hours of April 20, 2011, Arbin Mitchell was confirmed as division director of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council. Flanked by council delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbetso, Dennehotso, Kayenta) and Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, Mitchell provided the council with his strategic plan and vision for the division.

“From the Shelly-Jim Administration, in the effort to move the nation forward, we picked the best and brightest servants for you and our Navajo people,” Shelly said. “We believe that and so here I present to you, Mr. Arbin Mitchell, Division of Community Development

Director.” Mitchell introduced himself to the council in Navajo and spoke of his upbringing herding sheep and taking care of the land. He has been leading the division since 2005 and said the goal is to improve the quality of life for Navajo people. He said the division works with chapters in providing infrastructure such as power lines and water lines.

“My main focus while working for the Navajo Nation has always been trying to get monies for our Navajo people, trying to get monies for our people at the local level,” Mitchell said.

During travels to Washington, D.C. he was able to do exactly that, securing \$48 million for school shortfalls at Tuba City, Wingate,

Leupp, Wide Ruins and Mariano Lake. He was also able to bring in \$5 million for scholarships.

Mitchell found success in procuring funding in other areas as well. He said \$1.2 million was secured for the Bennett Freeze area through a line item because Washington, D.C. does not like earmarks.

“We’ve created that line item so leadership in D.C. can funnel monies into redeveloping the Bennett Freeze,” he said. “(Bennett Freeze) is so far behind, something like 40 years behind.”

Funding has also trickled down to the chapter level.

“With the leadership of Mr. Bates, we managed to get \$30 million in capital outlay using the general

funds money and that hasn’t happened since 1997,” Mitchell said.

With help of leadership from the legislative and executive branches Mitchell said chapters received \$180,000; \$200,000; \$100,000; and within this budget, \$36,000 for capital outlay.

“We have done much work for our people at the chapter level for funding,” he said.

Improving communications with the chapters is a major priority of the division and Mitchell said transparency is the goal. One tool utilized to that end has been the Woven Information Navajo Data System, which is available to the general public at www.nndcd.org.

“We’re the only division in within the Navajo Nation that does budgets online,” he said. “You can log on to any chapter’s budget and go back about six years and

look at their budget. That’s transparency.”

Technology has been a main concern for the division and the Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Projects are no exception. The ICIP allows the chapters to complete their capital priorities online, prioritized from one to five years. The priorities are tied in with chapter resolutions, allowing for easy creation of Capital Improvement Plans.

Mitchell said the system allows for immediacy regarding queries on projects, whether they are power line or water line projects.

“We can just go to the system and say give me all these projects,” he said.

Other technological innovations still under construction are the project authorization and project administration, which allows people to track work projects online. This will See MITCHELL on page 10



Arbin Mitchell, director of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, responds to questions from the 22nd Navajo Nation Council during his confirmation hearing on April 20. Mitchell was confirmed as division director and has led the division since 2005. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Message from the division director

Yá'át'ééh!

Welcome to the first edition of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development newsletter. The purpose of the division is to develop a dynamic and cohesive plan for community development activities.

This issue features stories from our Navajo Nation and the services provided by the division in our aim to promote viable communities through Navajo values. You can read about how we are trying to streamline our budget

process working with OMB, for faster delivery of services and thorough, accurate accounting for our Navajo chapters.

Other budgetary considerations include our work on the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, which is part of the proposed bond financing initiative that was presented to the 22nd Navajo Nation Council recently. We are further refining our project listing to focus on shovel-ready projects that are set for construction.

You can also read about my confirmation hearing as division director by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council, where I have outlined our future goals and objectives for the division. We are the only division providing online budgeting and the transparency the Navajo people have requested from their leadership. Our Woven Information Navajo Data System will provide you with everything from chapter budgets to the Navajo Nation ICIP to mapping with high-resolution satellite imagery of the Navajo Nation. Visit our website sometime.



The Round Rock Chapter recently opened the valves to their \$3.9 million waterline extension, which took over five years to construct and finalize. Read about the homeowner training

that took place and our partnership with Indian Health Services and our chapters to get these types of infrastructure development completed.

Our Community Development Block Grant funding process is a tedious cycle and we have completed waterline and power

line projects with these funds, improving the quality of life for many Navajo families living in remote areas. Read about the close out of two grant funding years, FY 2003 and 2004, and the communities that benefited from these projects.

Finally, read our feel-good story about the Adopt-A-Native-Elder program, which has been working with Navajo communities for the past 20 years under the radar. This non-profit organization from Salt Lake City has been making a difference in Navajo communities with food, firewood and medicine for our elders in the spirit of goodwill.

We have a something for everyone in this issue and I hope you enjoy. Look for our upcoming editions and please keep reading about what is happening at the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development.

Thank you.

*Arbin Mitchell, Director
Navajo Nation Division of
Community Development*



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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‘Water is life’

Round Rock community members receive running water

ROUND ROCK—Water is a precious commodity and nobody knows that fact more than Navajo families that haul water for everyday living. For these families, water conservation is a way of life, not just words espoused in the spirit of ecology.

Arbin Mitchell, director of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, said funding waterline projects is a mainstay of the division, especially since it helps so many Navajo families.

“Promoting viable communities through Navajo values is the mission of the division,” Mitchell said. “Water is life for Navajo people and nothing is more important than sustaining this natural resource.”

On May 4, 2011, 81 homeowners in Round Rock gathered at the chapter house to learn maintenance of plumbing and septic systems. It was the final step in a lengthy process of receiving running water.

The Many Farms Indian Health Service Environmental Health and Engineering Services provided the training.

Round Rock Chapter President Kellywood Harvey Sr. said phase one of the waterline development was initiated in the 1960s, which started in the center of the Round Rock community and extended out over the decades.

“What we’re concentrating on today is phase six and seven,” Harvey said. “We will continue working on phase eight bathroom additions next.”

Bathroom additions are a prerequisite in requests for waterline extensions.

Funding from NND CD fun-

nels down to the chapters, which in turn, construct the additions for homes before waterline development begins. It is the responsibility of the chapter to ensure homes have potable water.

Ali Ali, field engineer for IHS, covered care for plumbing, water meter, septic tank, and drain field. Ali worked for Many Farms IHS for over five years and worked on sanitation project

86-121, or the Indian Sanitations Facility Act, was enacted on July 31, 1959. It provides authority for providing essential water supplies and sewage facilities.

Under provisions of the act, IHS provides water service lines, water wells, water pressure systems, septic tanks and drain fields, and sewer service lines for newly constructed, recently renovated and existing medical

threatened and endangered species survey, BIA road processing permits and signatures, Apache or Navajo County road processing permits and signatures, and grazing permit signatures.

“After the right-of-way package, we receive permission to construct from the Navajo Nation,” Ali said.

The design-construction package is the next step, consisting of

the waterline design and actual construction with backhoes and bulldozers. The final inspection package comes next, with coordination from local utility companies. Work by IHS and Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority is inspected to ensure all parts are working.

Next, homeowner training is conducted and water deposits are paid to the utility company. Finally, the waterline is turned on and Navajo families are able to enjoy the amenities of running water.

“All of these packages and signatures are required by law and that’s why it takes so long,” Ali said.

Regardless of the wait, one community member was ecstatic the waterline was finally going to be activated. Angelita Bahe said she applied for running water in 2003, when she moved back to Round Rock.

“It’s going to make a huge difference because we actually have to go to the windmill to get water,” Bahe said.

Her family of six utilizes a 600-gallon water tank that must be replenished twice a month, which entails an hour-long process of hauling water buckets from the windmill, six miles. See WATER on page 11



Perry Reed explains in Navajo the detailed process for waterline activation. Reed and staff from the IHS Environmental Health and Engineering Services provided homeowner training to Round Rock Chapter residents on May 4, 2011. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

NA-09-S09, which piped water to Round Rock southwest and southeast.

“It was two projects in Round Rock, one toward Rock Point, west of town and another going east, toward Lukachukai. It’s been in development for five years now,” Ali said.

Ali said the total cost for the project was \$3,944,000. IHS funded \$3,538,849. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funded \$131,000. The IHS American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funded \$275,000 for the project.

The Q28 and N75 waterline development were part of the PL-86-121-ARRA project. PL-

referral individual homes.

Joining Ali for the final inspection meeting was environmental health specialist Jacey McCurtain and engineering technician Perry Reed. McCurtain and Reed addressed the community in Navajo for the benefit of many Navajo elders in the audience.

The biggest concern for many families was the lengthy period of time required to for the waterline to be activated, Ali said. He described the process, which begins with funding from IHS headquarters in Rockville, Md.

What follows next is the right-of-way package, which consists of an archaeological survey,

DCD meets with OMB for FY 2012 budget



Emmett Francis, budget officer for Office of Management and Budget shares ideas and proposed changes to streamline the budget process for FY 2012 with staff from community development. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-Ironing out the wrinkles in the tribal budget is an annual process for the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. The division resolved to get an early start on the 2012 budget, which includes Local Governance Act certified chapters.

NNDCD met with the Navajo Nation Office of Management and Budget on April 22, 2011 to discuss changes to the fiscal year 2012 budget instruction manual and prepare for the annual budget process. The Local Governance Support Centers was a primary focus of discussion.

“We’re on the doorstep of the annual fiscal year 2012 budget process,” said Dominic Beyal, executive director of OMB. The spirit, the flavor, what’s in the air you might say, from the council the new administration, is about doing things better.”

Beyal said the council reduction from 88 to 24 has created a \$2.2 million undesignated pool that needs to be allocated, pending the council’s final restructuring. The revenue projection hasn’t come out and that’s important to all of us, he said.

For FY ’12, OMB will promote having the Navajo Nation adopting priorities, goals and objectives as a means for funding allocation. The idea is to have high priority areas receive additional funding and non-priority areas to be reduced.

“If we’re not able to do it, then we’ll just get back into the old rut. You just go by whatever the base was,” Beyal said.

Emmett Francis, budget officer for OMB, said getting started on the budget process and having meetings is crucial for the memorandum of agreement between NNDCD and OMB. Under the terms of the agreement, chapter budgets are monitored and allocated by the LGSC.

“From our side, we discussed maybe we should get rid of the MOU and move everything back to OMB rather than keeping it down at the LGSC because of all the problems the chapters seem to be having with budgeting,” Francis said.

Stanley Yazzie, deputy director for NNDCD, disagreed with the notion of terminating the MOU.

“On the issue with the MOU, I think it’s working and that’s part of our decentralization,” Yazzie said.

Peggy Sue Nez, programs and projects specialist for Chinle Agency LGSC, said the MOU is working and chapters rely on it because it’s a set of instructions.

“Whenever there’s a chapter asking questions, we refer to various sections and make sure they are following instructions,” Nez said.

She noted one point of concern for the chapters was the quarterly disbursements of chapter official stipends. Based on policies in the budget instruction manual, stipends are not distributed until chapter financial statements are submitted on a monthly and quarterly basis.

“For that reason, we withhold based on instructions here. We request that stipends be withheld until the chapter complies with the financial reporting requirements,” she said.

Arbin Mitchell, division director for NNDCD, warned against holding disbursements to the chapters.

“If you look into what was in here last year, it’s written the annual disbursements of checks have a certain amount of time. To me, we still need to give that money to the chapter,” Mitchell said.

Holding onto chapter disbursements impacts the entire community, he said.

“Fine with me if you’re holding on to the chapter official’s stipend. You need to get those other ones out,” Mitchell said.

Casey Begay, department manager of the Capital Improvement Office, identified bureaucracy as another stumbling block to the budgeting process. Communications between OMB and controller’s office was the source of his concern.

“In some cases, (budget documents) are downstairs and we are See OMB on page 11

CDBG closes out FY 2003 and 2004 grants



James Adakai, senior programs and project for Navajo Nation Community Development Block Grant, has worked with CDBG for over 19 years. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK—Closing out a grant is a tedious process.

Nobody knows this fact more than James Adakai, senior programs and projects specialist for the Navajo Nation Community Development Block Grant. Adakai recently closed out two block grants and sent reports to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

His workspace tells the tale of a man on a mission.

Adakai's horseshoe-shaped desk is clean, except for a computer, phone and two monstrous stacks of paperwork. A bookshelf in the corner is packed with 19 years of three-ring binders from CDBG grants dating back to 1992.

Arbin Mitchell, director of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, said the goal of the division is to help Navajo communities become self-governing and to improve their standard of living for infrastructure growth.

"We are here to help the Navajo people," Mitchell said. "CDBG does a lot of work to that end."

Established in 1974, HUD's Indian Community Development Block Grant was created to help Indian tribes and Alaska Natives to meet their community development needs.

ICDBG is a competitive program and governed by strict federal guidelines where projects are rated on a 100-point scale to determine funding allocations. The Navajo Nation competes with 171 tribes in the southwest region.

Management of the ICDBG begins with the signing of the grant agreement and ends after the project has been completed and final project reports submitted and accepted. The management of existing grants is evaluated as part of the review process for future grant applications.

Eligible activities for block grants include public facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation, and economic development.

"We were successful in the close out of FY 2003 and 2004, after using project savings to finance an additional four projects," Adakai said. "They were very small projects, under \$100,000 each, which really helped communities assist more families with needed infrastructure."

Adakai filed a narrative report, close out agreement and final financial status report with the HUD Southwest Office of Native American Programs on April 28, 2011, for FY 2003 grant B-03-SR-04-0281.

The grant amount totaled \$4,345,947. Pursuant to the close out process, a check in the amount of \$11,463.51 was also submitted to HUD as a reimbursement for unused funds.

Program administration cost for the grant totaled \$580,138 and project cost amounted to \$3,765,809. The grant was originally for eight projects but was stretched to 11 with grant amendments added from cost savings.

Two waterline/wastewater disposal projects were funded, totaling \$2,584,798. CDBG worked with Indian Health Services to provide water services, indoor plumbing, septic tank and drainage field systems to 52 homes in the communities of Kayenta and Tolani Lake.

The grant also funded eight power line extension projects with Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$2,325,059 for 166 clients and an electrical line mileage of 90.1 miles.

The communities served were Coyote Canyon, Dilcon, Mexican Water, Sanostee, Sweetwater, Whitecone, Wide Ruins, and Tsaile/Wheatfields. Two power line projects were also completed as an amendment to the grant and served 24 households with 5.23 miles of electrical extension in the communities of Indian Wells and Torreon.

On June 4, 2010, HUD approved to have two projects added, which were originally approved in the 1998 ICDBG grant to recoup outlay shortage incurred in the amount of \$512,459 due to expiration of grant appropriation.

The amount approved was \$393,585.32 for the communities of Whitecone and Indian Wells.

"We continually coordinate efforts with cooperating entities and partners to help these families as much as possible," Adakai said.

Tribal bureaucracy is a hurdle that comes up continually, he said. "It's challenging sometimes. I guess that's how it is being the largest tribe," Adakai said. "We just have to continue doing our work here for the people out there, that's the main focus."

On May 6, 2011, Adakai filed a close out report complete with narrative report, close out agreement and final financial status report for FY 2004 grant, B-04-SR-04-0877 with SWONAP.

The grant totaled \$5,491,00. Program administration cost totaled \$757,875 and project cost amounted to \$4,733,125.

The Ramah water/wastewater disposal project funded with the grant funds totaled \$1,484,500. CDBG worked with IHS to provide water services, indoor plumbing, septic tank and drainage field systems for 126 homes.

The grant also funded seven power line extension projects in cooperation with NTUA in the amount of \$3,248,625. A total of 70.15 See INFRASTRUCTURE on page 9



Two bookcases are packed full of CDBG information from the past 19 years, dating back to 1992. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Adopt-A-Native-Elder

Making a difference in the lives of Navajo elders with gifts of love



An unidentified Navajo elder reads homeowners manual for water and septic services for her home in Round Rock. The Adopt-A-Native-Elder program reaches out to elders like her on the Navajo Nation with gifts of food, toiletries and medicine. The Salt Lake City-based non-profit organization has been providing services for over 20 years. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-In 1991, Linda A. Myers co-founded a non-profit organization with Grace Smith Yellowhammer, a Navajo woman living on the Navajo Nation. Adopt-A-Native-Elder was created to help traditional Navajo elders living on the remote areas of the reservation.

Initially, the program began as a means to address the hunger problems on the reservation, especially during times of inclement weather. The program now works to address other areas for service to senior citizens living on the reservation, after 20 years of dedicated assistance.

Mary Phillips, grants and development specialist for ANE, said aid comes in the form of food, household goods and time spent with Navajo elders.

"All of these items are purchased, sorted, packed, labeled and carried to the reservation by volunteers who donate their time and expenses to attend social gatherings we call food runs," Phillips said.

The food runs deliver sup-

plies and social interactions with elders in the form of games and conversations, as lunch is also served. Volunteer nurses also participate, offering elders free assessments.

Across the U.S. and internationally, people adopt an elder by sending \$75 each spring and fall to buy food for their elder. They may also buy additional items through ANE, in the form of food certificates, firewood, medicine, blankets, clothing, cleaning supplies and kitchen items.

The mission of ANE is to create a bridge between Native Americans and other cultures.

"We work with many to accomplish much," Phillips said. "It takes about 150 volunteers to produce the food runs each spring and fall.

We actively pursue in-kind and financial donations from businesses, foundations and individuals," she added.

More than 2,500 people from the U.S. and some foreign countries currently participate in the program, offering assistance

to 528 elders that are currently enrolled. ANE provides services to 11 areas of the reservation, with two communities in Utah and nine communities in Ariz.

For the 2011 fall food run, 11 new elders will be added to the program, although ANE has reached capacity.

"We are at maximum capacity and not looking to expand service area right now, though we are aware that there is much more need than we are currently filling," Phillips said.

Lola Bahe, temporary supervisor at the Leupp Senior Center, said ANE has been working with the Leupp Chapter for the entire 11 years that she's worked there.

She was excited when explaining the goods provided by the organization.

"Adopt-A-Native-Elder's most recent visit was in April and they are going to be returning in October," Bahe said. "They provide elders with food, soap, wash cloths and other personal hygiene items."

Other Navajo chapters were equally enthusiastic.

Elizabeth Jackson, office specialist for Dilkon Chapter, said community elders receiving mail at the chapter get care boxes in the mail on a consistent basis.

"Chapter elders receive sealed packages at least once a month. It's been pretty consistent, at least for the past few years I've worked here," Jackson said.

At Birdsprings Chapter, account maintenance specialist Gloria Curtis said ANE often stops at the homes of elders in the community.

"They don't necessarily work with our chapter, but I've seen them at the homes of our elders," Curtis said.

In addition to general food and household items, some elders also receive yarn for rug weaving.

Phillips explained the reasoning, "We help weavers on the reservation who can no longer herd sheep, so they can continue to have quality wool to weave and sustain themselves."

Some food run volunteers buy rugs, jewelry and crafts made by elders.

ANE also buys rugs for resale and consigns rugs for weavers. The rugs are sold on ANE's See ELDERS on page 10

"It takes about 150 volunteers to produce the food runs each spring and fall," Phillips said.

Bond financing report

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Project included in proposal



Left to right, Mark Grant, Paulson Chaco, Albert Damon, Katherine Benally and Arbin Mitchell all gave reports to the 22nd Navajo Nation Council on projects for the proposed bond financing initiative. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development presented a report on bond financing to the 22nd Navajo Nation Council on May 5, 2011.

Division director Arbin Mitchell was joined by directors from the Office of the Controller, Division of Transportation and Division of Economic Development, to explain the benefits of bond financing for the Navajo Nation.

Council delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) said the issue of bond financing first appeared during the 21st Navajo Nation Council.

“November 17, 2009, was the exact date we started the discussion on this economic development finance plan,” Benally said. “Summer 2010 was when we finished up the economic development five-year plan.”

She said Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly traveled to New York City with controller Mark Grant and speaker Johnny Naize to discuss the Navajo Nation’s

credit rating.

“We got an A-rating, which is investment grade for the (Navajo) Nation,” said Albert Damon, director of Division of Economic Development.

The nation is eligible to receive an AA-rating, according to Damon, provided certain provisions are met.

According to the Standard and Poor’s rating system, A-ratings represent a “Strong capacity to meet financial commitments, but somewhat susceptible to adverse economic conditions and changes in circumstances.”

“Last year, we put a plan together, an ICIP,” Mitchell said. “It was presented to the Transportation and Community Development Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council.”

The AA-rating is a “Very strong capacity to meet financial commitments.” The highest rating is the AAA-rating, which is an “Extremely strong capacity to

meet financial commitments.”

Damon said the five-year plan was for a \$100 million infusion. However, with supplemental funds from other funding sources, that amount to increase to as much as \$250 million.

“Therefore, more projects can be put in there,” Damon said. “Remember, this is a loan. It has to be paid back.”

One of the additional funding sources for the bond financing proposal is from NNDCD, via the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan.

“Last year, we put a plan to-

gether an ICIP,” Mitchell said. “It was presented to the Transportation and Community Development Committee and went before the 21st Navajo Nation Council.

“But before we could get to that document, we lost the quorum and time ran out,” he added.

The proposed ICIP from the division has 61 projects, totaling \$69,344,880. Most of the projects progressed past the planning phase, with chapter resolutions, surveys, consents and assessments completed.

“A lot of these projects are in shortfall status. Do we use that for bonding?” Mitchell asked.

“What about for renovation?” Another potential funding source to supplement the bond proposal is NDOT, specifically from the Transportation Improvement Plan.

“The Transportation Improvement Plan consists of all the Indian Reservation Road projects that are on Navajo,” said Paulson Chaco, director of NDOT.

Chaco said the IRR program is an allowable revenue stream to leverage or bond against, stated in federal regulations at 25-CFR Part 170. Additionally, NDOT also receives about \$9 million a year under the See BOND on page 9

Round Rock residents sign for utilities connection



After listening to homeowner training, the 81 residents receiving running water in Round Rock signed utility services documents and identified their residences on maps provided by IHS. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Round Rock Chapter President Kellywood Harvey said the waterline development in the community began in the center of town in the 1960s and progressed outward through the decades. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Ali Ali, field engineer for IHS Environmental Health and Engineering Services, said the lengthy timeframe to receive running water is due to standard federal laws. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Left, Perry Reed explains the element of a waterheater. Right, Angelita Bahe checks her paperwork before signing for utilities. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



Round Rock residents had to identify their homes on maps before signing for utility services during homeowner training on May 4, 2011. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Infrastructure for Navajo communities continues

From page 5

miles of electrical line serviced 158 clients in the communities of Ttec Nos Pos, Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Coppermine, Bodaway/Gap, Rock Point and Oljato.

On June 4, 2010, HUD approved two projects to be added that were originally approved in the 1998 ICDBG grant to have the Navajo Nation recoup outlay shortage incurred in the amount of \$512,459 due to expiration of grant appropriation.

The amount was \$118,873.68 for the grant amendment.

On July 13, 2010, HUD approved \$230,894 from FY 2004 leftover funds to supplement four power line projects for 11 households to receive electricity in the communities of Ttec Nos Pos, Dennehotso, Inscription House and Shonto.

Chavez John, program manager for Navajo Nation Community Housing and Infrastructure Development, said the nation does not like sending money back to HUD.

“We spend all the money,” John said. “Now, people have electricity and water. We want to see them maintain it.”

John congratulated all for the successful implementation of the projects, including NTUA, JMEC, IHS and Navajo chapters. He was especially proud of the CDBG staff.

CDBG originally began as the Navajo Nation Office of Program Development in 1976. The ICDBG program and set aside was established in 1978.

Maximum ceiling grants were imposed in 1981 at \$5 million. Current ceiling limit was increased for the Navajo Nation to \$5.5 million in 2003.

The objective of CDBG is to develop viable communities by creating decent housing, suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate-income families.

CDBG is currently accepting applications for the FY 2011 grant cycle and the deadline is June 15, 2011.

Information: www.nndcd.org

Bond financing initiative to provide millions for nation

From page 7

fuel excise tax program.

“Those are the two revenue streams we have as far as this initiative,” Chaco said.

Navajo Nation Controller Mark Grant said the different types of projects all required different types of funding, which he reviewed with council.

Capital improvement projects, economic development projects, local government improvement projects and essential government projects were all reviewed at length and definitions read into the record.

Grant shared calculations on the borrowing capacity for the nation.

“I used the number \$140 million (an average) as the annual recurring revenues for the nation. If you take that number and multiply it by eight percent, you come up with \$11.8 million that’s available for debt service,” Grant said.

From that \$11.8 million set aside from general funds for debt service, the nation could borrow \$122 million over a 15-year period at five percent.

The next calculation was for the road management fund, which is basically fuel excise tax transfers that were moved into the fund, he explained.

“I used the average number \$9 million,” Grant said. “If we used that as debt service at five percent over 15 years, we could borrow \$93 million for the road fund.”

The final calculation was on the permanent fund.

“I used the number \$25 million and calculated five percent for 15 years and the amount you could borrow would be \$259 million,” Grant said.

Still, other options remained available to the Navajo Nation, like tribal economic development bonds, EB-5 bonds, and new market tax credits. The New Mexico Finance Authority was also another viable option, providing a low interest rate source of funding.

“The projects here are all going to require review and approval by the respective oversight committees. The bond agreement will definitely need to go before council to have their approval,” Grant said.

He said the plan is to try for a bond that recognizes tribal court and tribal law. The timeline for the proposal would start May 18, 2011. Meetings to discuss the bond proposal are scheduled for March 16 and 18, in Albuquerque with KPMG, LLC.

Tribal officials and the audit, tax and advisory firm will review the proposal with a fine-tooth comb before submitting to the Navajo Nation Council for approval and the green light to proceed.

Next comes the road show, beginning August 2, for onsite investor presentations.

“This is where we take out bond out on the road and we try to sell it to all the investors out there,” Grant said. “From there, we’ll go to the closing, which is on August 25.

“At that point, we would receive the money and issue the bonds to investors,” he said.

Benally said the bond financing is an opportunity to address economic development.

“For too long, we’ve been watching the dollar go off the Navajo Nation. (Bond financing) will pay for itself, eventually. It takes money to make money,” Benally said.

Information: www.nndcd.org

Mitchell confirmed as community development director

From front page
be used in tandem with the SAS Tracker, which will provide chapter expenditure and balance information.

Plans are to have the chapter monthly reports online as well.

“That way, we’ll have a lot more eyes looking at the expenditures,” Mitchell said. “It won’t just be two people looking at the information. That’s probably why you are missing funds.”

The division currently utilizes GoToMeeting, which allows Mitchell and other staff to have online conferencing with chapter staff, reducing the cost for travel and time spent on the road.

“I’d like to meet with the delegates here that want to use that method to talk to your chapters,” he said.

Mitchell said another area goal for the division that was

revealed by the Nabik’iyati’ Committee of the council is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity designation.

“(Housing) is something that all Navajo chapters want. Right now, I only oversee BIA monies, which we only get \$1.2 million,” Mitchell said. “The rest of the money is with NHA and people always ask where is the money, where did it all go?”

Aside from housing, another major aim for the division is the Five Management System and chapter certification through the Local Governance Support Centers. Streamlining the certification process with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and other approving offices has been critical for the certification of chapters, embodied by the FMS.

“For so long, we only certified 10 chapters,” Mitchell said.

“Then doing the streamline, we managed to certify 12 chapters within a year.”

Five chapters are currently on the waiting list for certification and the division anticipates the certification of 30-40 chapters within this fiscal year. The Community Land Use Plan recently had two chapters certified and are looking to have more qualified.

The Local Governance Act proposed amendments are another division priority. Mitchell said the overstrike and underscore portion of the amendments are completed and they are awaiting the Title II amendments to be finalized.

“A lot of roles and responsibilities were not in (the Title II amendments) and we want to include that in this LGA amendment,” Mitchell said. “People just blame each other out there

on the chapter level.”

Post certification remains the last remaining hurdle for chapters, which includes the utilization of alternative forms of government, taxation, ordinances, etc. Taking chapters to the next level after certification is also a priority for the division, Mitchell said.

Finally, the reorganization of departments within the division is another goal of the division’s strategic action plan. Design and Engineering Services will merge with the Capital Improvement Office to streamline services. Included in the reorganization is also the Local Governance Support Centers.

Information: www.nndcd.org

Elders receive food, clothes

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website online and at rug shows hosted by volunteers throughout the year, like the Park City Farmer’s market in the summer.

“Adopt-A-Native-Elder returns all money from sales for weavers and

does not charge for this service,” Phillips said. “Elders say they sell more rugs this way and sell them at full value.”

Linda Myers, director and co-founder of ANE said the organization touches the lives of elders with the gifts of food that is shared.

“We feed their spirits and their hearts. Just to have sat with each of the elders and listened to their simple needs has touched my life with simplicity and

grace,” Myers said.

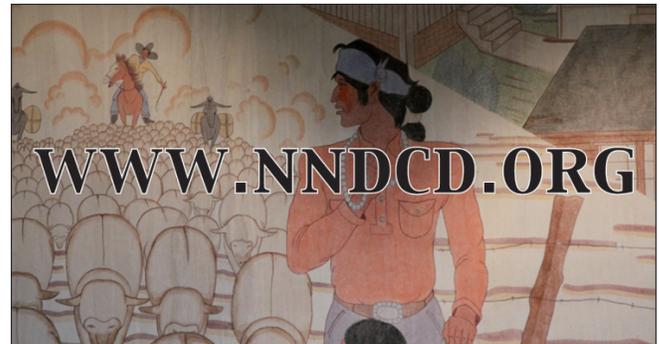
The organization is currently accepting volunteerism and donations from the general public.

In addition to the ANE program, the organization also sends out backpacks school supplies and Christmas

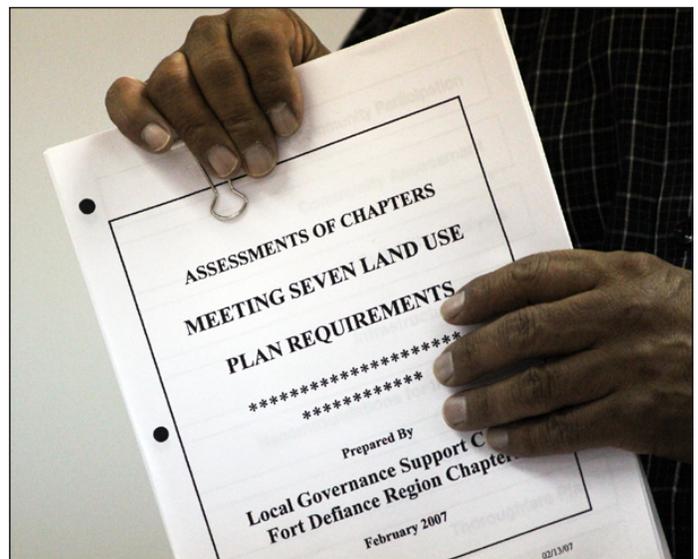
stockings to reservation children.

The Walk –In-Beauty program works with reservation teachers to size children for new shoes that are delivered. Correspondence from Salt Lake City students and reservation elders also take place.

Information: www.anelder.org



New manual in progress



On May 25, 2011, senior planners from agency LGSC offices gathered in Window Rock to discuss the proposed CLUP post certification manual to guide chapters on the Navajo Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

OMB discuss changes to budget manual for FY 2012

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rejected even though they're in the right codes. By the time they reject and send it back through the mail, a month has gone by," Begay said.

Budget transfers are another sticky point, often required for even the most minute of changes. Because budget transfers at the chapter level would require a resolution, oversight committee review and full SAS review, NNDCD serves as the administrative oversight in these cases, Begay said.

Mitchell said working with 110 chapters is like working with 110 different governments, where micromanagement is frowned upon.

"Are we monitors or enforcers?" Mitchell asked.

He said the LGSC are monitors only and that the LGA will

be amended to allow chapters to be the enforcers.

Brenda Holgate, program and projects specialist for NNDCD, said the bulk of complaints funneling into OMB stem from stipends not being paid out. She said those calls need to be transferred back to the LGSC because they are the oversight.

"(LGSC) have something why they're not releasing disbursements, whether they're not receiving certain documents, or something else is lacking," Holgate said.

Francis said OMB receives a lot of complaints from the tribal council about the chapters and

the work LGSC do for them.

"I don't know if those complaints have a legitimate basis or not," Francis said. "I would suggest that if we're going to keep the MOU and improve it that we meet during the year to discuss these issues and problems.

"This helps everybody, not just the LGSC, the division, or the chapters," he added.

Francis said chapters are local units of government and should not

be treated as tribal programs. Therefore, disbursements must be made to chapters directly and they determine their own rules, regulations and hiring proce-

dures.

"Even when we hear about chapters stealing money, that's their problem. They need to know how to deal with people stealing money right out from under their noses," he said.

Mitchell agreed and recommended a provision be added to the budget manual regarding chapter fraud. He suggested mandating chapters to utilize Sage MIP Fund Accounting software.

"One thing that we can hopefully put in here that will have teeth is to mandate all chapters to go on MIP," Mitchell said. "They can manipulate the system using Excel but when you're on MIP, you can't do that," Mitchell said.

Information: www.nndcd.org

"Are we monitors or enforcers?" Mitchell asked.

Water brings smiles and relief for Navajo families

From page 3
away.

Bahe's message to the government is simple: "We really need this water. Try to supply more people with water because there's still a great deal of people out on the reservation without running water."

Perry translated Ali's presentation to the audience about the one-year warranty period for the water system installed by IHS. He stressed that after one year all repairs would be the responsibility of the homeowner.

"Everything inside the house, everything from the house to the water meter, and everything in the septic tank, and the drain field is the responsibility of the homeowner," Ali said.

Residents were given a 13-page guide detailing how to care for plumbing, water connections and septic system. A list of contractors was included in the handout for repairs and septic cleaning service.

Reed took the residents outside the chapter house, where a septic tank, drain field and water meter system was set up for the demonstration.

He showed them how to turn the waterline off in case of emergencies and emphasized not to drive or park on the drain field.

Construction atop that area was also discouraged.

Reed said residents are able to see if the septic tank needs to be cleaned by checking the red-colored septic tank access port.

He warned against children stuffing trash or other items down the port to prevent clogging the system. The blue-colored ports represented fresh water access, he explained.

The biggest warning was not to connect washing machines to the septic system because that would result in immediate backup of the system, which only has a capacity of 1,000 gallons.

Rather, the grey water from the washing machine should be drained into a separate channel outside for evaporation, Reed said, because IHS wouldn't be liable for repairs in that instance. McCray gave instruction on the septic tank and the microbes that breakdown the solids inside the tank.

"Don't use your toilet as a trash can," McCray said. "Don't poison your septic system. Poison or harsh household chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria."

Septic tanks need to be checked every two years, McCray said, to determine when the system must be pumped. She

said checking the sewage level with a six-foot pole or stick is ideal, especially when septic service is performed.

"When that contractor shows up, you need to make sure you're there to make sure they do their job correctly and not just take the water," Ali said.

Manual inspection to see if the solids are cleared from the tank is crucial, he said. Otherwise, the tank will fill up and need cleaning again right away.

Candelaria Manygoats, a lifelong resident of the community, said, "It's important and great that some of our remote communities are getting water. Water is life and I hope they know how to conserve."

After waiting for over six years, Jaye Betonie said the new waterline would save wear and tear on his vehicles from hauling water.

"We have to conserve water and not waste. It has to serve everybody," Betonie said. "Don't shower 10 times a day."

Information: www.nndcd.org

"It's important and great that some communities are getting water," Manygoats said.

THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE ACT BEGINS IN THE HOGAN

Traveling the road toward chapter certification

LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT CENTERS

CHINLE AGENCY
928-674-2250

EASTERN AGENCY
505-786-2096

FT. DEFIANCE AGENCY
928-729-4344

SHIPROCK AGENCY
505-368-1020

WESTERN AGENCY
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