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## Vice President Nez Advocates on Behalf of NM Navajo TIF Projects, Awarded \$3.395M



Left to right: George Mihalik from Souder, Miller and Associates and John Chavez from Tohajiilee Chapter sit next to Vice President Jonathan Nez and OPVP Liaison for the State of New Mexico Mark Freeland during discussion on the Tohajiilee Water Supply Line Project.

Santa Fe, NM-Eleven Navajo Nation planning, design and construction projects were awarded \$3.395 million in total during the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Regular Board Meeting held on Apr. 25 at the New Mexico State Legislature in Santa Fe.

Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez was in attendance to advocate on behalf of funding for TIF projects in Eastern and Northern Navajo chapters. A total of \$11.62 million TIF funds were available and of that Nation received \$3.395 million, which is just under 40% of the total available funds.

"The Office of the President and Vice President are advocating on behalf of these projects that support the four pillars of our administration. These pillars are Veterans, Youth and Elderly, Infrastructure, and Job Creation. These projects before you encompass all of the pillars," Vice President told TIF Board Chairwoman Kelly Zunie in his opening statement.

The awards were as follows:

### Requests for Extensions

- Sheep Springs Multi-Purpose Building - An extension was granted to the date of May 6, 2017, pending the following three conditions: amending the AIA contract to change the date from March 2017 to May 2016; for the Chapter to submit all invoices and financial statements related to the project to the TIF Board by May 6; and to update the Capital Project Monitoring System to reflect the current project status.
- Iyanbito Chapter House - The Board voted 6-1 against a time extension for Iyanbito Chapter. The \$200K was then transferred to Tse'li'ahi Chapter for a total of \$240,000.00 for design of three water line projects. The TIF Board had to work with an original over-budgeted amount of 2.7 million.

### Planning Projects

- Tohajiilee Chapter – Albuquerque Water Supply Line Proj-



Members of Navajo Nation Capital Improvement Office, Chapter Officials from Tse'ii'ahi, Baca/Prewitt, Mariano Lake and Smith Lake stand beside Vice President Nez and members of OPVP staff after the TIF Meeting at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe, NM.

ect was awarded \$350K.

- Tse'ii'ahi' (Standing Rock) Chapter Waterline Extension Project was awarded \$350K.
- Counselor Chapter - Powerline Extension Project (Cedar Hill) was awarded \$160K.

#### Design Projects

- Baca Prewitt Navajo Chapter – Water Supply Improvement Project was awarded \$390K.

#### Construction Projects

- Smith Lake Chapter – Water System (New Well) Project construction was awarded \$132M.
- Mariano Lake Chapter – Bathroom Additions was awarded \$300K.
- Littlewater Chapter – Littlewater Springs Power Line Extension was awarded \$173K.
- Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter – Elderly Group Home Parking Lot Pavement and Wind Barrier was awarded \$102K.
- Thoreau Chapter – Power Line Extension was awarded \$150K.
- Chichiltah Chapter – Power Line Construction was awarded \$250K.

“Navajo Nation OPVP will work to ensure that our chapters in both Eastern and Northern Agencies will get maximum funding from TIF and Capital Outlay and more importantly get projects completed to benefit our New Mexico chapters, communities and Navajo people,” said Mark Freeland, State of New Mexico Liaison for OPVP.

Vice President Nez said the TIF projects embody a partnership between the Navajo Nation and the state of New Mexico while exhibiting empowerment at the highest level.

“We are not asking for state of New Mexico to do everything. We need these supporting dollars to make ensure these projects happen,” he said. “In this, we are empowering the community and developing jobs and we will see that New Mexico benefits as well.”

Community Services Coordinator for Mariano Lake Chapter, Leandra James was thankful for the \$300,000 that was awarded to her Chapter although she said their original request was for \$500,000.

“I hope the Navajo Nation will be able to help us in providing matching dollars. Originally the intent was for 30 bathroom additions but overall we really need additions for 43 homes,” she said.

Elmer Johnson, Project Manager for Capital Improvement Office (CIO) was also thankful for the awards given to the Eastern Chapters.

“I’m involved with most of the chapter projects that were awarded today,” he said. “From CIO we feel very comfortable with this amount of money and the projects that were funded.

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