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FBFA ACTION TEAM ADDRESS NEED FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The FBFA Action Team met on Wednesday, Feb. 1, to discuss housing construction and development throughout FBFA Chapters.

TSE BONITO, N.M. – Community development dominated most of the discussion at the Former Bennett Freeze Area Action (FBFA) Team Meeting in which Vice President Jonathan Nez stated that FBFA communities are in dire need of critical infrastructure and safe homes for their children.

“These communities want growth, we are working together to educate the chapters to create their community development plans,” said Vice President Nez. “There are four technical groups to assist the chapters in their growth.”

The four technical groups focus on housing, infrastructure, public health & public safety, and economic development. In 2009, the Bennett Freeze was lifted by President Barack Obama. Many federal dollars and Navajo Nation dollars have been allocated to assist this region in community development.

“With two construction seasons left in our term, we need to push to complete these homes for those in the community,” said Vice President Nez. “The foundation has been created to successfully complete these projects in a timely manner.”

Utilizing the \$2 million allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Navajo Housing Authority will begin conducting environmental assessments for all nine chapters. This funding will allow for 360 assessments, roughly 40 clients per chapter in the Bennett Freeze region.

“We are teaching them how to complete these documents to en-

sure funding for the projects. Community assessments are personal for the chapters now. They see that the assessments are needed to meet certain requirements for funding,” said Angela Cody, Office of the President and Vice President Executive Staff Assistant.

The Team is also incorporating the youth of the community to help complete the community assessment plans through Google Maps.

“The youth of these communities are really grasping the Google Map technology and are now teaching the instructors new ways to utilize the technology,” said Earnest Franklin, Navajo Housing Authority.

The housing group will focus on completing 36 manufactured homes this summer. The team also anticipates to renovate 45 homes and complete legal surveys and environmental clearances for 56 clients.

The Former Bennett Freeze Team Meeting was put in place by the Office of the President and Vice President to provide technical support and assistance to the chapters of that region. There are nine chapters within the FBFA. They are Tuba City, Coalmine, Tonolea, Kaibito, Bodaway-Gap, Cameron, Tolani Lake, Leupp, and Coppermine

The meeting took place at the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation in Tse Bonito, N.M., on Feb. 1, 2017.

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