



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2019

President Nez and Division Directors meet with Navajo Utah Chapters



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and several Division Directors under the Nez-Lizer Administration in attendance at the Navajo Utah chapters project update meeting on Oct. 4, 2019 at Mexican Water Chapter in Utah.

MEXICAN WATER, Utah – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and several Division Directors under the Nez-Lizer Administration were in attendance for a Navajo Utah chapters project update meeting, held on Friday at Mexican Water Chapter in Utah. San Juan County, Utah Commissioners Kenneth Maryboy and Willie Grayeyes and Utah Navajo Health System, Inc. officials were also in attendance.

President Nez, who represented several Utah chapters as a former member of the Navajo Nation Council, gave his commitment to meet with the eight Utah chapters on a regular basis to address issues raised by the chapters during Friday's meeting including road projects, school bus routes, scholarship funds, emergency services and public safety, power line projects, tourism initiatives,

broadband, healthy food needs, chapter facilities, waste disposal, modernizing the homesite lease process, the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act, and more.

“I’m committing to you today that I’ll bring our Division Directors to Utah on a regular basis to meet with all of you to work out these issues and identify how to best coordinate and partner with San Juan County and others to make these issues move forward,” said President Nez.

Chapter presidents and vice presidents from the communities of Mexican Water, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Dennehotso, Red Mesa, and Tófikán each provided updates and projects and requests for support.

Mexican Water Chapter President David John highlighted some of initiatives that the community is working on related to partnering with Navajo Housing Authority to develop more housing, constructing a health and wellness center, water line extensions, and the need for road improvements.

Dennehotso Chapter President Larry Tuni spoke about the need to improve school bus routes, the need for more scholarship funding, improvements for homesite lease processing, and the need to better coordinate communication between tribal, county, and state emergency response officials to alert community members and to respond quicker.

President Nez and Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, Division of Human Resources Executive Director Dr. Perphelia Fowler, Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie, Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office Executive Director Robert K. Black, and Division of General Services Executive Lomardo Aseret were on hand to provide information, updates, and to respond to questions from the officials and community members.

President Nez said he and Vice President Myron Lizer have directed the Division Directors to visit communities and to be visible among people in order to better engage with community members and better understand local issues and initiatives.

He also requested the support of the chapters for Legislation No. 0238-19, which proposes to set-aside \$50 million from the Nation’s Síhasin Fund for scholarship opportunities. The bill is currently making its way through the Navajo Nation Council’s Standing Committees.

On Wednesday, President Nez also joined U.S. Rep. John Curtis (R-UT) in Blanding, Utah as they met with San Juan County, Utah officials, Navajo Utah residents, and others to talk about how the entities can come together to overcome some of the challenges related to recent litigation between the county and the Navajo Nation to build a more positive working relationship.

“The Nez-Lizer Administration appreciates the Utah Chapters, San Juan County officials, and others for meeting and bringing forth your initiatives as we continue to work together to move our Nation forward,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.