



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee approves Tsidi To'ii Chapter's corrective action plan



PHOTO: The Resources and Development Committee heard the audit report and corrective action plan for Tsidi To'ii Chapter.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Oct. 8, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Resources and Development Committee voted to approve the Tsidi To'ii Chapter's audit report and proposed Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

The corrective action plan was presented by Tsidi To'ii Chapter leadership through Legislation No. 0247-23, which was sponsored by RDC Vice Chair Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii), who represents the community.

"I'd like to thank the chapter for presenting the audit findings and the corrective action plan, and also for their diligence in tending to the financial situation that had been left behind by former chapter leadership," said Vice Chair Johnson. "As they've expressed, it hasn't been easy to get the former leadership to cooperate in providing documents to assist in these situations."

The Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General prepared the audit report in April 2023. The Tsidi To'ii Chapter responded with a letter on April 11, 2023. The Chapter then prepared a detailed Corrective Action Plan addressing the findings in the audit report and submitted the CAP to the Auditor General on Aug. 31, 2023.

The internal audit of the Tsidi To'ii Chapter identified 22 findings that ranged from inaccurate tracking of financial records, chapter property not being properly identified, lack of monitoring of the chapter's accounting system, to more serious financial issues such as the chapter's Fraud Loss Fund reporting a deficit cash balance of \$101,319.

Senior Auditor from the Office of the Auditor General, Beverly Tom, explained that the audit covered the timeframe of October 2021 to December 2022, and that one objective was to determine if the chapter's financial statements were accurate and reliable. Tom reiterated that the Tsidi To'ii Chapter had different leadership during the audited timeframe.

"At the beginning of this audit, the chapter had a sitting president and vice-president," she said. "Now, they have an appointed president and vice-president. The chapter has prepared a corrective action plan for each of the audit findings."

Tsidi To'ii Chapter Manager Dolly Wagner noted that because of turnover in chapter staffing, many staff members had not been trained in critical financial software that provided access to financial records. The staff members have since received training and the chapter has been able to correct 18 of the 22 audit findings.

"We are on our way to completing these corrections, but some will take time and legal advice," Wagner said. "We are also on our way to addressing the deficit balance."

Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw (Chinle) said the situations regarding turnover and new leadership are understandable but that the chapter needs to maintain consistency and financial oversight.

"We completely understand that there are new leaders, but the chapter needs to maintain their financial reports," Delegate Claw said. "The RDC might need to look at what the Administrative Service Centers are doing to help our chapters stay on track."

RDC Chair Delegate Brenda Jesus encouraged the Tsidi To'ii Chapter to remain diligent and work to correct all the audit findings.

"Thus far you said you addressed 18 of the 22 audit findings. You're going to do it and fulfill the ethical integrity of your chapter for your people," Chair Jesus said. "I have faith that you'll fulfill your obligation to account for every cent that is going out of your chapter on behalf of your constituency."

The Tsidi To'ii Chapter has until Oct. 1, 2024, to resolve all audit findings.

The Resources and Development Committee voted to accept the report and corrective action plan with three in favor and zero opposed. The Budget and Finance Committee has the final authority to review and approve the chapter's audit report and corrective action plan.

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