



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Resources and Development Committee passes six legislations, hears three reports including proposed confluence project concerns**

ST. MICHAELS, Ariz. – At their regular meeting held Tuesday at the Karigan Professional Building Complex, the Resources and Development Committee of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council passed six pieces of legislation and received three reports.

A representative from the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority delivered the first report regarding the Pueblo Pintado Bridge construction project in New Mexico. NECA expects the bridge to be completed in October.

The bridge deck is nearly complete, and concrete for the deck will be poured in September, stated a NECA representative.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie pressed NECA for certainty that the bridge project will be finished by its expected completion date, purporting the importance of having Navajo infrastructure projects completed in a timely manner.

Navajo Nation fair manager Norma Bowman and Navajo Nation Museum director Manuelito Wheeler delivered the second report, updating RDC on the plans and coordination of the upcoming 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair.

The dates have been set for Sept. 2-9, 2012, and the fair theme this year is, “Appreciating Tradition.”

Concerns were expressed by Delegates David Tom and Leonard Pete to organize the parade in a way that maximizes efficiency and reduces the time non-fairgoers are stuck in parade traffic.

The RDC also requested insight on how the success of the fair is measured, whether there was a plan to cut down on vehicle traffic, how fair funds and transactions were accounted for, and whether there was an emergency response and evacuation plan in place.

The committee requested for additional fair statistics to be provided at a later date.

At the end of the report, Delegate Tsosie suggested that RDC meet with President Ben Shelly’s office and other programs that have a role in the coordination of the fair. The purpose of the meeting is to strategize on “how to make the fair better for the Navajo people,” said Delegate Tsosie.

In the final report that morning, the RDC heard from a group of concerned Diné citizens from Bodaway/Gap Chapter that were not pleased with activities surrounding a proposed tramway development project near the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers.

The purpose of their report, said a group spokesperson, was to request for RDC to rescind the Memorandum of Agreement President Shelly reportedly signed on Feb. 21 with Confluence Partners, LLC., to develop the project.

Council Delegate Katherine Benally said her committee has yet to receive a presentation from the developers regarding their project plans, and to be fair, RDC needs to allow Confluence Partners equal time to explain information on the development.

“We are the economic development committee, and we are also the committee that protects land and resources, so we have to reach a good balance,” Delegate Benally said.

In an effort to operate in fairness while ensuring cooperative involvement, RDC plans to meet with the developers, President Shelly, and the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department to learn more about the proposed tramway development project.

At the conclusion of the reports, the RDC considered six pieces of legislation.

Legislation No. 0203-12, sponsored by Council Delegate Roscoe Smith, rescinds RDCO-41-11 and approves the assignment of a right-of-way for a 10-inch crude oil pipeline from Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. to Patara Midstream, LLC.

This legislation had been previously tabled on June 12 to allow time for corrections to be made to the legislation packet.

RDC passed the legislation with a vote of four (4) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation No. 0276-12, also sponsored by Delegate Smith, authorizes the budget amount for the Navajo Nation Archaeology Department’s proprietary fund to be set at \$98,093. This was a new appropriation because it was not a part of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget process, and as such, required legislative approval.

RDC passed the legislation with a vote of four (4) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation No. 0258-12, sponsored by Council Delegate Jonathan Hale, approves a telecommunications joint-use permit to Navajo Technical College to place, operate, and maintain equipment on a tower previously owned and operated by KYVA/KOVO, Inc. at the Mount Powell Communications site. The site is located within Smith Lake Chapter in New Mexico.

RDC passed the legislation with a vote of four (4) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation No. 0274-12, also sponsored by Delegate Hale, approves a budget modification in the amount of \$400,000 for the Tribal Ranches Program under the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture. The funds are to be used to address taxes related to grazing and leases, temporary employment, operating costs, and travel expenses.

RDC passed the legislation with a vote of two (2) supporting and one (1) opposing.

Legislation No. 0263-12, sponsored by Council Delegate David L. Tom, approves supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$40,898 for the Navajo Nation

Archaeology Department's Student Training Program at Diné College-Shiprock Branch and Northern Arizona University.

RDC passed the legislation with a vote of four (4) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation No. 0262-12, sponsored by Council Delegate Katherine Benally, approves the land withdrawal of approximately fifty-five acres of Navajo Trust Land to create an industrial park site within the Dennehotso Chapter in Arizona.

The proposed industrial park site will be located on the south side of U.S. Highway 160, between mileposts 413 and 414.

RDC passed the legislation with a vote of four (4) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

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