



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### **Resources and Development Committee receives report from LeChee Chapter regarding tourism concerns and issues**

**TONALEA/RED LAKE, Ariz.** – On Wednesday, the Resources and Development Committee received a report from LeChee Chapter officials and administration regarding concerns with vendors, tourism, small business establishments, and Navajo Parks and Recreation’s boundaries and management issues within the vicinity of LeChee Chapter, which is located approximately five-miles south of Page, Ariz.

Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K’ai’Bii’To, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) stated that LeChee Chapter is within a unique area with many economic establishments and opportunities, but face many distinct concerns.

“Antelope Point, Horseshoe Bend, Antelope Point Marina, and Navajo Generating Station are within the vicinity of LeChee. The community relies heavily on the tourism market, but there are many issues that make it difficult for the chapter to prosper economically,” said Delegate Slim.

LeChee Chapter president Jerry Williams stressed during his report to the committee that community members have not seen a clear and suitable plan to capture the tourism market from the Navajo Parks and Recreation. The lack of a plan causes the City of Page to economically benefit instead of the Nation, added Williams.

He also questioned, “The City of Page is growing and we see new hotels and establishments every year and we have not seen any developments in our community. The Nation profits from the tribal parks, but we never see the investments and returns. What is Navajo Parks and Recreation doing with the revenues and how do they plan to improve the tourism market in our community? How much revenues are collected from our area and it is managed correctly?”

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) agreed that the Navajo Parks and Recreation needs to present a plan that captures the tourism market on the Nation.

“The Nation Parks and Recreation needs a evolving plan. The same plan from five years ago will not work, because the market is always changing. Our tribal parks have great potential to generate revenues, but we are not strategically addressing it,” said Delegate Pete.

In addition to his report, Williams added that the Navajo Parks and Recreation, National Park Services, and chapter boundaries needs to be clarified, because it presents many challenges to resolve on-going issues and future development.

RDC chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) recommended a follow-up meeting with all entities, such as Navajo Parks and Recreation, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, Office of the Auditor General, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development, and Navajo Nation Tax Commission Office, to address the chapter's concerns during a joint committee meeting with the Budget and Finance meeting on Nov. 3 at LeChee Chapter.

The Resources and Development Committee approved the report with a 3-0 vote with one directive.

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