



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RDC Holds Many Farms Farming and Irrigation Project Field Meeting

MANY FARMS, Ariz. – Aug. 8, 2019 – Members of the Resources and Development Committee convened Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, at Many Farms Chapter to tour farming, irrigation and infrastructure projects and to receive reports from programs providing technical assistance for the Many Farms Irrigation Project.



PHOTO: Resources and Development Committee Member Delegates Freeland, Begay, Stewart and Chairperson Delegate Nez listen to Many Farms Grazing Official Roland Tso, second from left, and Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources Branch Manager Najam H. Tariq, second from right, at the Many Farms Diversion Dam site on Aug. 7, 2019.

The Many Farms Irrigation Project consists of a diversion dam spanning Chinle Wash that sends rainwater runoff to Many Farms Lake through an inlet system and feeder canal.

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The delegates toured the Many Farms Irrigation office, after which they went to the reservoir. The group saw several flowing artesian wells that are used by local community members for livestock and household use. Afterward, they toured the restored diversion system and completed the tour at a nearby portion of the existing irrigation canal system.

The tour was led by Many Farms Chapter Grazing Official Roland Tso and Najam H. Tariq, Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources Technical, Construction, and Operations Branch.

Tariq reported that the Navajo Nation purchased a backhoe and two farm tractors within the past year for the Many Farms Irrigation Project and the Many Farms Farm Board. Work to rehabilitate the diversion dam successfully restored the inlet structure, which controls the flow of water into the feeder canal leads to the reservoir, Tariq reported.

Over time, the diversion system fills with sediment even though it was designed to be self-cleaning, said Grazing Official Tso. He explained that after the dam and inlet structures were fixed up, the system started storing water that would have washed away within days.

“I wanted to show the committee what progress has been made to restore farming infrastructure. We must keep building support, as delegates, for the work being done in Many Farms,” stated Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., who represents the Many Farms Chapter on the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

“Your greatest asset is your water. It is good to see that you have that wealth and that it is being taken care of,” said Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr.

Each member of the Resources and Development Committee commended the programs that have worked to rehabilitate the farming infrastructure in Many Farms. They called on the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, which oversees the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Water Resources, to continue developing partnerships that will support the Many Farms Irrigation Project.

The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council. The Chairperson is Honorable Rickie Nez, the Vice Chairperson is Honorable Thomas Walker, Jr., and Honorable Delegates Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Herman M. Daniels, Mark Freeland and Wilson Stewart, Jr. are members.

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