



# NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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## Local Governance Act certification achieved by five chapters



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said Local Governance Act certification is a boon for chapters, offering authorities like business site leasing, home site leasing, alternative forms of government, local ordinances, and a streamlined expenditure process. Mitchell commended the five chapters receiving LGA certification on July 11. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-It was a good day to be certified.

There were five Navajo Nation chapters that received Local Governance Act certification on July 11, 2011.

The 22nd Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee approved the Five Management System policies and procedures for Chilchinbeto, Leupp, Teesto, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, and Tsidii To'ii chapters.

A quorum was reached with Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso and Kayenta), Leonard Pete (Chinle), Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Ft. Defiance, Red Lake and Sawmill), and David Tom (Toadlena-Two Grey Hills, Red Valley, Tse'alnaozt'ii, Sheep Springs, Beclabito, Gadiiahi-To'koi). Absent were George Apachito (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee) and Leonard Tsoie (Baca-Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake).

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said LGA certification is an opportunity for chapters to build their communities.

"When you become certified, you're given that opportunity to use those five manuals out there," Mitchell said.

He counted off the opportunities available to chapters: business site leasing, home site leasing, alternative form of government, local ordi-

nances, and streamlining expenditure processes.

"It gives you that opportunity to go into contract, into sub-grant agreements with the Navajo Nation central government," Mitchell said. "It's all about opportunity and it's up to you to get it done."

Stanley Yazzie, deputy director for Community Development, agreed with Mitchell and said the opportunities available are contrary to conventional wisdom floating around out there at the chapter level.

"I wanted to cover one thing," Yazzie said, "Some people, even the delegates, say that when you become certified, you no longer receive help from the Nation.

"Regardless of certification, the Local Governance Support Centers still have the responsibility to assist all of the 110 chapters," he added.

NNDCD worked with the Office of the Auditor General and paid an outside consultant to conduct the FMS reviews, at a cost of \$5,000 per chapter. Dreams Come True Incorporated of Albuquerque conducted the reviews via certified public accountant Eliot Stenzel.

Teesto Chapter was the first to become certified on July 11 at the Navajo Nation Council Chambers.

It's an honor to come before the newly established Resources and See LGA on page 8

# Message from the NNDCCD Director

Yá'át'ééh!

Welcome to the third issue of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development newsletter. We had another busy month filled with efforts to enhance the authorities of Local Governance Act certified chapters.

Our cover story on the LGA certification of five chapters illustrates the productivity of chapters adopting the Five Management System policies and procedures. The Navajo Nation now has a total of 27 LGA



certified chapters and we are on the cusp of certifying six more chapters in the near future.

Recently, LGA certified chapters took a leap forward with their contracting authorities, as 25 certified chapters signed a memorandum of understanding with the Weatherization Assistance Program to weatherize up to 10 homes in their respective chapters. The funds for this effort are from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The other side of the coin for Navajo chapters is the certification process for Community Land Use Planning. Read about the successful CLUP certification for LeChee and Kaibeto. CLUP certification is only one component in the development of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which is the next step for chapters developing community master plans replete with infrastructure, economic development and housing.

In most land use plans, chapters are focusing on the development of waterlines and power line extensions, to bring utility services to community mem-

bers. Read about the Churchrock power line extension and the efforts to bring electricity to over 100 homeowners in the White Cliffs, Sundance, Rehoboth and Peretti Canyon areas.

Ensuring our Navajo communities have Enhanced 911 service is another project Community Development has tackled alongside the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. Find out about how the Navajo Nation Addressing Authority continues working on rural addressing efforts for the reservation.

Finally, we have a piece on the Violence Against Family Act and the march coordinated by the Navajo Nation Office of the First Lady to generate awareness on this issue plaguing tribal communities nationally. We also have a story on the Department of Information Technology and the vision to unite information technology islands created with the advent of the Internet in the 1990s.

It was just another fast-paced month for Community Development, where we continue to strive for the promotion of viable communities through Navajo values. We hope you enjoy this issue and stay tuned for our Navajo Nation Fair edition in September.

Ahe'hee.

Arbin Mitchell, Director  
Navajo Nation Division of  
Community Development



## NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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# Church Rock powerline extension

## Over 100 Navajo families to benefit from efforts of multiple funding sources



**Bruce Prichard, engineering services supervisor for Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, proudly displays a check in the amount of \$299,742.50 from the Navajo Nation. The second half of the payment will be distributed upon completion of the Church Rock power line extension. (Photo by Rick Abasta)**

CHURCH ROCK-Residents in the Church Rock Chapter will soon receive an electricity service line extension for 107 families in the communities of White Cliff, Sundance, Rehoboth and Peretti Canyon.

A total of 27.5 miles of primary line have been laid by Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, providing three-phase power to Fire Rock Casino and single phase electricity to homes in the area.

Casey Begay, department manager for Capital Improvement Office, estimated the project has been in development for at least 11 years.

Everything from checkerboard land status to inaccurate land withdrawals to simple non-cooperation slowed the progress of the project from reaching completion.

“There’s over 150 families that are being served,” Begay said.

The power line extension for Church Rock Chapter was a multi-agency effort, Begay said,

with collaboration from Community Housing and Infrastructure Development, Capital Improvement Office, Church Rock Chapter, Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Gallup Joint Utility, Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands, Land Administration, Office of Environmental Health, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacred Wind Communication, Fire Rock Casino, Economic Development and the Eastern Local Government Support Center.

“Fire Rock paid for the power line up to their place. We tapped off from their line, going south, over I-40,” Begay said.

The CIO contributed \$190,000 and Church Rock Chapter contributed \$232,000 to provide electrical services to 30 clients. New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Funds contributed \$300,000 and Navajo AML contributed \$300,000 to provide services for 77 clients.

Begay said CIO’s contribution was actually more, when you factor in the free in-kind contribution of the cultural resource

inventory completed by archaeologist Denise Copeland.

“Our commitment would have been well over \$300,000 because that work is expensive,” Begay said.

The CIO assisted Church Rock Chapter with writing proposals and completing feasibility studies before submission to the State of New Mexico and Navajo AML.

“The chapter didn’t have a community services coordinator at the time,” Begay explained.

In August 2008, Crownpoint BIA granted power line right of way approval to Continental Divide. Subsequently the contract start date was initiated on October 8, 2009 and Continental

Divide’s subcontractor start date was on October 25, 2010.

Navajo AML Program and Projects Specialist Marietta Jensen said the \$300,000 contribution was a part of the Public Facilities Project funding.

“We awarded Church Rock Chapter \$300,000 for FY 2010,” Jensen said. “They received the PFP award for their claim on uranium mining impact for their chapter.”

She said Navajo AML has also provided technical assistance with securing match funding from the State of New Mexico.

“The chapter has been very proactive, which is very good. Not too many chapters are that involved,” Jensen said.

The biggest hurdle to pass was the right of way granted south of Fire Rock Casino, which became an issue when New Mexico Department of Transportation disapproved of plans for an aerial power line crossing Interstate 40.

Jimmy Francis, utility foreman for Community Development Block Grant, said plans now are to bore underneath the freeway for the power line extension.

“The project contract was extended to September 30, 2011,” Francis said. “Power line construction was completed on July 22, 2011, for primary line only.”

The next project meeting update is scheduled for September 13, at Fire Rock Casino, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

For more information: [www.nndcd.org](http://www.nndcd.org)



# Local Governance Act certification pays big



Chapter officials from Chilchinbeto chapter proudly display their check for \$160,000 after receiving Local Governance Act certification by the Resources and Development Committee on July 11. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Staff and community members filled the gallery of the Navajo Nation Council Chamber. Chilchinbeto, Leupp, Teesto, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, and Tsidii To'ii chapters received LGA certification. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Isabelle Walker, vice president of Bird Springs Chapter, said Local Governance Act certification was appreciated by her community and she thanked all involved in the review and approval of the chapter's Five Management System policies and procedures. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



George Arthur, former council delegate for Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, said it was an honor and privilege to be inside the Navajo Nation Council Chamber again. Arthur initiated early efforts for LGA certification for the New Mexico chapter. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Leupp Chapter staff, Resources and Development Committee members, and Local Governance Support Staff clutch the chapter's check for \$160,000 after becoming LGA certified. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Johnny Nazie, Speaker of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council, presents a plaque of appreciation to Chilchinbeto Chapter. Chilchinbeto Chapter President Lee J. Gambler said it was a good day to be certified.. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

# LGA certified chapters execute contracting authority



Navajo Nation Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Cornfields, Ganado, Jeddito, Kinlichee, Steamboat) listened in on discussions for the memorandum of agreement between the Weatherization Assistance Program and Local Governance Act certified chapters on July 15 at the Navajo Nation Museum and Library. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK—Recently, Navajo chapters took a leap forward with their authorities.

Local Governance Act certified chapters gathered at the Navajo Nation Museum and Library and outlined a new memorandum of understanding with the Weatherization Assistance Program on July 15, 2011.

On April 1, 2009, the WAP received \$9 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide repairs addressing general heat waste, insulation, storm windows and incidental repairs on the Navajo Nation homes.

The MOU is created between and entered into by the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development and Local Governance Act certified chapters as a cooperative agreement implementing the lead agency policy for procurement and project management related to construction projects.

Reducing heating and cooling costs for a safer energy efficient home is the goal of the WAP.

The dwelling unit must be existing and occupied by an

eligible owner. The home must be substantially complete, meaning permanent foundation, floor, walls, roof, windows, doors and a heating system.

Community Development Deputy Director Stanley Yazzie said, "This contracting is an opportunity. We have funds available, ARRA money."

Funding was used to provide services before the March 31, 2012 deadline. Under terms of the MOU, each participating certified chapter could weatherize up to 10 homes within their chapter.

"This is only contracting. You have the authority to do ordinances. And then searching for grants and other funding," Yazzie said.

He praised the certified chapters present for the orientation and said, "You're all in one effort and that is to assist the Navajo people.

"Your presence here is indicative of your interest to continue the work of your chapter," Yazzie said.

Brian Lewis, an attorney with the Navajo Nation Depart-

ment of Justice, said the MOU is a contract to provide services. The DOJ will ensure terms of the agreement are met and not hindered by any conflicts of interest.

"What I look for as an attorney is are you related by blood or do you have some kind of special relationship with the person," Lewis said regarding hiring practices.

Because the MOU is the first of its kind for certified chapter, there's much potential for contracting opportunities in the future, now that the boilerplate has been developed.

"Becoming LGA certified doesn't cut you off. This is the grand misconception with a lot of the programs," Lewis said.

Conversely, Lewis said certification does not relieve chapters of their responsibilities to the Navajo Nation central government.

"You'll always be a part of the (Navajo) Nation," Lewis said.

He explained DOJ would be ensuring policies and procedures were fulfilled. The WAP would

shoulder the bulk of the responsibilities.

"Weatherization would handle the big or what I call the heavy lifting," Lewis said. "The Weatherization Assistance Program will perform the procurement.

"That puts them on the hook for complying with the code as it exists," he added.

Chavez John, program supervisor for Community Housing and Infrastructure Development, congratulated the certified chapters for attending discussions on the MOU.

"You're paving the way for the rest of the chapters. This is a learning opportunity," John said.

He explained the contracting opportunity with WAP under terms of the MOU would create opportunities for other divisions and departments in the tribe.

"It may not be much but you are going to learn big things from it because we are going to open up the door for you, using this MOU," John said.

CHID currently has open grants amounting in excess of \$39 million.

For weatherization projects, ARRA funded WAP with \$9 million, which was separated into three portions: 10 percent for administrative costs, 10 percent for training and technical assistance, and the remaining 80 percent for projects.

Prior to receiving the ARRA funding, the WAP was only funded \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year. The multi-million dollar grant required grant management with new provisions, policies and procedures.

"It's up to you," John said. "How big of a dream, how big of a contract do you want to have with these other programs?"

Stanley Pahe, program manager for the ARRA Weatherization Assistance Program, said no funds or allocations would be exchanged from the program to the chapter.

"We have processes and procedures in place," Pahe said. See WEATHERIZATION/pg 13

# In support of the Violence Against Family Act



WINDOW ROCK-Navajo Nation First Lady Martha Shelly led a group of supporters who marched against domestic violence on the morning of July 20, 2011.

Shelly organized the march in support of the Violence Against Family Act. The Act was created to address the safety and protection of family members against violence.

The legislation was developed by the Navajo Nation Advisory Council Against Domestic Violence, which is comprised of members from the Division of Social Services, Shiprock Battered Families and Homeless Shelter, Judicial Branch, Division of Public Safety, and the Public Defender's Office.

Supporters marched from the Division of Public Safety to the Navajo Nation Council Chambers and included legislation co-sponsors Katherine Benally (Chilchibeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) and Joshua Butler (To' Nanees' Dizi).

A contingent of 30 marchers carried a variety of signs. "Walk Against Domestic Violence" read one sign. Another read "Walk Against Child Support." The First Lady carried a sign that read, "Respect Women. Women Are Sacred."

Upon reaching the chambers, the group gathered in front to speak on the issue of violence against women and family members.

Lorena Halwood, director of Amá Doo Áłchíní' Bighani Incorporated, said it was Stop Violence Against Women Day.

"However, it shouldn't be just today, it should be every day," Halwood said.

She encouraged supporters to be proactive and make domestic violence prevention their responsibility by speaking out to bring awareness.

First Lady Martha Shelly said she is a wife, mother and grandmother.

"The history of Violence Against Family Act legislation, Title 17, has been in amendment stage for the past 10 years," Shelly said. "Domestic violence issues have brought us here today."

She said advocating for traditional ways of life and restoring traditional teachings will restore peace and harmony within immediate clans, neighbors and families.

"Now, I handoff the Violence Against Family Act to honorable Katherine Benally and Joshua Butler to ensure the process on the legislative side for approval," Shelly said.

Benally said to a lot of people in tribal government, the Violence Against Family Act is a dangerous document to touch.

"Even the Council kept sending it back," Benally said.

She challenged her colleagues to approve the Act for immediate implementation, after more than a decade of indecision.

"We can no longer turn the other cheek because that side is bruised too," Benally said. "We waited too long for this."

"I want to thank Mrs. Genevieve Jackson for her efforts moving this legislation when she was a delegate," she added.

Jackson was a former council delegate for Shiprock.

Butler said it was a celebration for the Navajo Nation, now that the Act was ready to reach the Council floor for approval.

"I think the days of the 50s and 60s mentality are long gone," Butler said.

Butler said he was proud to be a co-sponsor of the Act and was confident the legislation will receive approval by the Navajo Nation Council.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly supports the legislation and said, "Let's get this legislation through. It's long overdue."

Information:

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

**"We can no longer  
turn the other cheek  
because that side is  
bruised too."**

# Navajo Nation Addressing Authority

## Rural addressing for Navajo communities configured with GIS software

WINDOW ROCK—On July 25, 2011, the 22nd Navajo Nation Council Law and Order Committee convened for their regular meeting in the north conference room of the Navajo Nation Council Chambers.

The committee received a report from the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development and the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Office on efforts with Enhanced 911 initiatives on the reservation.

The initiative first came into light in January 2003, when the former General Services Committee passed resolution for the Navajo Nation to establish E911 for emergency response.

“The E911 is a very critical issue for the Navajo people,” said Brian Tagaban, executive director of the NNTRC.

Tagaban said E911 is a process whereby a caller is able to dial a simple code and receive emergency response.

“Now, in the age of computers, internet and voice over IP, the regulatory issues are placing a burden on the telecommunications providers,” he said.

In 2005, the GSC established an E911 subcommittee consisting of former council delegates Orlanda Hodges and Danny Simpson. The subcommittee coordinated with the Navajo Nation Telecommunications and Utilities on the project.

The NNTRC is not authorized to operate any type of operations on telecommunications. Rather, the commission is charged with the regulation of telecommunications industry on the Navajo Nation.

The sticky point on the initiative are the public service answering points, or lack thereof.

“The PSAP needs to be a facility or building that is what we refer to as ‘hardened,’ or latched into critical events that may damage its operation,” Tagaban said.

Community Development became involved in the E911



The 22nd Navajo Nation Council Law and Order Committee received a report from Navajo Nation Division of Community Development and the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission on July 25. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

efforts in 2009, when the Navajo Nation Addressing Authority stepped under the umbrella of NNDCD.

Stanley Yazzie, deputy director for Community Development, said the primary responsibility from the division is the development of rural addressing.

MC Baldwin is the coordinator for NNAA and previously worked for the NNTU when the E911 project first took flight.

“We’re using the Geographic Information Systems, where you capture spatial information that’s referenced in such a way that you can generate numbers,” Baldwin said.

Rural addressing efforts involve coordination with chapters via Local Rural Addressing Committees, which are in place at all 110 chapters.

LRAC activities involve the collection of field information on a map, with resources provided

to the chapter by NNAA.

“We have LRAC training every other Wednesday in our shop,” Baldwin said. “That’s where we give them maps, guidance and training tools so they can collect information for us.”

The information is deposited into a database named the Master Street Addressing Guide, which is shared with PSAPs outside the

**“We give them maps, guidance, and training tools so they can collect information for us.”**

reservation, which transmit the calls to the appropriate

law enforcement agency or jurisdiction.

“We’ve launched a web resource mapping tool for our chapters so that when they’re collecting field information, they can review the data from any computer, without having to worry about GIS software,” Baldwin said.

The rural addressing is still a work in progress but one Navajo community has illustrated the viability of E911 services.

Tohajilee currently has E911 services after years of development.

“Someone with a landline in Tohajilee, if they dial 911, the call will be picked up in Bernalillo County. That is proof that we can have Enhanced 911 without a PSAP,” Baldwin said.

Formulating memorandums of understanding with surrounding counties and the Navajo Nation is an intrinsic part of the E911 process. Through these collaborative efforts, the NNAA foresees the successful completion of the rural addressing portion of the project.

“You can think of the rural addressing portion as the horse and the E911 section as the wagon,” Baldwin said.

Information: [www.nndcd.org](http://www.nndcd.org)

# LGA chapter certification empower Navajo communities

Continued from front page  
Development Committee of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council,” said council delegate Elmer Begay.

Begay said Teesto met the safeguard of property and provided financial reporting compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Navajo Nation Auditor General Elizabeth Begay concurred and said the purpose of her review was to determine whether the chapter’s financial transactions are authorized, valid and properly recorded to permit the preparation of accurate financial statements and other financial reports.

“Therefore, in accordance with the authorities vested in the Office of the Auditor General, we recommend to this committee, the Resources and Development Committee, to approve the Teesto Chapter for governance certification,” Begay said.

The chapter also received the blessing of the Ft. Defiance Local Governance Support Center.

Cecelia Largo-Nez, senior programs and projects specialist for the Ft. Defiance LGSC, said, “I do fully recommend for Teesto to get certified.”

Teesto Chapter was certified by a vote of 3-0.

Tsidii To’ii Chapter Vice President Isabelle Walker was thankful for the opportunity to become certified.

“We are very thankful to all the people who spent their time preparing and reviewing our documents,” Walker said.

Chapter secretary-treasurer Mitzi Begay said the Tsidii To’ii Chapter maintained contact with the Western LGSC through emails, phone calls and visits.

“I’d like to thank the LGSC office and their team members. They worked very hard with our chapter coordinator and office specialist,” Begay said.

Delegate Roscoe Smith was appreciative during the report.

“I want to express my appreciation to the chapter officials and the LGSC administration,” Smith

said. “It was a major undertaking at the local level and I’m proud of that accomplishment.”

By a vote of 3-0, Tsidii To’ii Chapter became LGA certified.

Tiis Tsoh Sikaad brought supporters with them from New Mexico, including reigning 2011-2012 Miss Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Gavelita Bitsui.

Council delegate LoRenzo Bates was thankful.

“On behalf of Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, we appreciate this opportunity to come before you today for this very honorable, well-thought out, and featured event for Tiis Tsoh Sikaad,” Bates said.

Bates gave thanks and appreciation and said the previous council delegate, George Arthur, was also a major contributor to the chapter’s certification success.

Arthur was afforded an opportunity to speak.

“For 20 years, I’ve been coming in here and doing business on behalf of Tiis Tsoh Sikaad,” Arthur said. “It is an honor to be here today and I give a lot of credit to our leadership and the local people of Tiis Tsoh Sikaad.”

“I appreciate the opportunity. I’m humbled by being in these chambers,” he added.

Roger Joe, senior program and projects specialist for Northern LGSC, gave his approval for certification.

“They’ve done a remarkable job. From our standpoint, we issued a letter of assurance and they are ready to be certified,” Joe said.

By a vote of 3-0, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad was certified.

Delegate Walter Phelps said he was happy and thrilled to be before the Resources and Development Committee with Leupp Chapter.

“I just want to share that this work, the Five Management System, started many years ago,” Phelps said. “It dates several years back, to 2006.”

He said the chapter received the financial system in June 2010, which was reviewed a couple months later by the LGSC in Au-



Lee Gambler, president of Chilchinbeto Chapter, said the community is happy to receive LGA certification after 16 years of development. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

gust.

The public comment period took place during the same time and by January 2011, the three-month review was completed by the Auditor General.

“On April 14, the compliance review was very favorable and that is what we brought before you,” Phelps said.

Regina Allison, senior program and projects specialist for Western LGSC, said her staff is charged with the responsibility of preparing chapters.

“I have a wonderful accounting staff and they have worked very hard with the Leupp Chapter in providing technical assistance, administrative support,” Allison said. “I do also want to say congratulations to the Leupp Chapter for their tireless efforts to reach this point.”

Leupp Chapter President Thomas Cody was elated and optimistic about the future.

“I think our community really supports us in what we’re trying to do,” Cody said.

He said the community’s land use planning is in place and they are now looking toward Community Land Use Planning certification.

“I just want to say give us the chance to grow our community,” Cody said.

Leupp Chapter was certified by a vote of 3-0.

Delegate Katherine Benally

sponsored Chilchinbeto Chapter for certification.

Speaking in Navajo, Benally said, “We usually hear that there is no work coming from the Local Governance Support Centers. Today is proof of otherwise.”

Benally thanked the previous delegates for their work in bringing the chapter closer to certification and said the standardized FMS manual helped the chapter achieve its goal of certification.

“Moving forward, we will work hard together,” Benally said.

Lee Gambler, chapter president, said it was a long road and a long struggle to get the FMS together for certification.

“It’s been almost 16 years that I have been in office and I already said one day soon, we will have this chapter Five Management System in place,” Gambler said. “I think this is really going to help us, the community.”

“I am going to say again that this is a good day to be certified,” he added.

Chilchinbeto was certified by a vote of 3-0.

The certified chapters all received a check for \$160,000 and instructions on how to budget the funds. There is currently 27 LGA certified chapters on the Navajo Nation.

Information: [www.nndcd.org](http://www.nndcd.org)

# LeChee and Kaibeto attain community land use certification



Legislation sponsor Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) listens to questions from members of the Resources and Development Committee. Former Navajo Nation President and Kaibeto Chapter President Kelsey Begaye listens to concerns about the chapter's Community Land Use Plan on July 26. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-Planning for the orderly growth and development of Navajo communities is the purpose behind Community Land Use Planning efforts, said Arbin Mitchell, director of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development.

On July 26, 2011, the 22nd Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee certified the land use plans of LeChee Chapter and Kaibeto Chapter.

"We are working with Navajo chapters to grow their communities for the future generations" Mitchell said. "There are now 95 chapters that are CLUP certified."

Legislation sponsor Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) said the community land use planning documents were compiled by the communities.

"Moving forward, we have planned for the community of LeChee with this document," Benally said.

Preliminary efforts with the land use plan began in 1993, when Cornoyer-Hedrick worked with LeChee to sketch out early plans. The Phoenix-based company laid the foundation for what would later be built upon by Randall Ewers and Associates, and Irene Ogata.

Utilizing the consultant services of outside architects and planners provided education to community members on the development of their chapter.

Irene Nez-Whitekiller, president of LeChee Chapter, said the CLUP document began in 1997.

"This Community Land Use Plan wasn't just talked about or planned on recently. This all started back in 1997," Whitekiller said.

Community members from LeChee gathered during CLUP committee meetings and voiced their need for development like a convenience store, laundromat, trailer court and housing complex. Practical considerations like a cemetery and post office were also

included in the plan.

Wilfred Lane, community services coordinator, said LeChee's CLUP was developed according to guidelines provided by the former Transportation and Community Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

Public hearings were held to provide community education, assessments, prioritizing, and vision for the future of LeChee.

"We would hold meetings and everybody would discuss these See COMMUNITY on page 11

## Empowering Navajo chapters



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell signs the historic memorandum of understanding between the Weatherization Assistance Program and LGA certified chapters. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

# Unifying information technology islands is the goal



Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology Manager Harold Skow said the department is working to dissolve separate information technology islands existing in Navajo Nation tribal government. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK—No man is an island.

The Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology recognized that truth long ago and has been working to eliminate fragmentation in communications within the tribal network.

Separate information technology islands within the government results in waste, according to Harold Skow, department manager for NNDIT.

Effective and immediate contact between these technology islands is the primary concern.

A decade from now, Skow foresees the Navajo Nation operating in a paperless environment.

The Shelly-Jim Administration view the same reality and is working with the NNDIT to provide the reach to contact all tribal employees at once.

Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim said unifying the IT islands is paramount.

“The primary objective is to unify all IT islands, in case of an emergency or public safety issue,” Jim said.

The department’s new Microsoft Exchange server is a step in the right direction.

Jim said, “With this new system, the Shelly-Jim Administration can send out an email and his message can reach over 8,000 employees at once.”

NNDIT recently migrated from an obsolete email server to the updated MS Exchange 2010,

after the previous system crashed in November 2010.

The exchange server provides email services, Skow said, and new features for tribal employees, like calendar sharing and integration with Macintosh computers.

“There are different ways of setting it up and there’s a lot of good functionality in there,” Skow said.

“Our current President Ben Shelly, his platform is to have one IT for the Navajo Nation. He’s been moving along and we’ve been following his lead,” he said.

All Navajo Nation divisions and departments should be using the integrated network infrastructure from NNDIT, he said.

In the past, dependence on outside vendors from surrounding urban centers led to the evolution of the IT islands, splintering the tribal structure. Many divisions and departments have outside websites and email service, often at a significant cost, he noted.

“Now, we’re trying to bring them back together. The IT islands were here before I came to work for the Navajo Nation,” Skow said.

NNDIT is currently developing a Navajo Nation IT governance law that will be presented to the Navajo Nation Council.

“Once the council adopts the law, it will be the law of the land,” Skow said.

Having one IT platform for the Navajo Nation will eliminate

costs from exorbitant consultation fees and email networks that are divided from NNDIT.

“Some divisions and departments are already jumping onboard and we really appreciate that,” he said.

NNDIT will integrate with the new fiber optic line being installed by Navajo Tribal Utility Authority for a lightening fast connection.

The department has a staff of 23 and plans are underway to add more personnel to serve the needs of the tribe.

“DIT serves the whole Navajo Nation government,” Skow said. “We do technology in a holistic manner.”

Facilitating support services for the department are the administrative, network, desktop, development, and software sections.

Each section handles duties such as administrative functions, web helpdesk, email, PC installations, maintenance, developing websites and web applications.

Since 1992, the NNDIT has been responsible for using technology to control the flow of information between chapters and the central government, after resolution CJY-34-92 was passed by the Navajo Nation Council.

The department was formerly known as Computer Services and became established as the NNDIT in 2003.

The mission of the department is to provide an environment that

integrates people, processes and technology to increase the efficiency of Navajo Nation services.

Staying abreast of innovations in the industry is the key and the NNDIT datacenter is prime.

“What we’ve done is create a virtual environment. And in that environment, we’ve basically configured a Navajo Nation IT cloud,” Skow said.

Cloud computing allows access to computer resources like data and software via computer network, as opposed to a local computer. Using the cloud provides secure access to all applications and data from any network device.

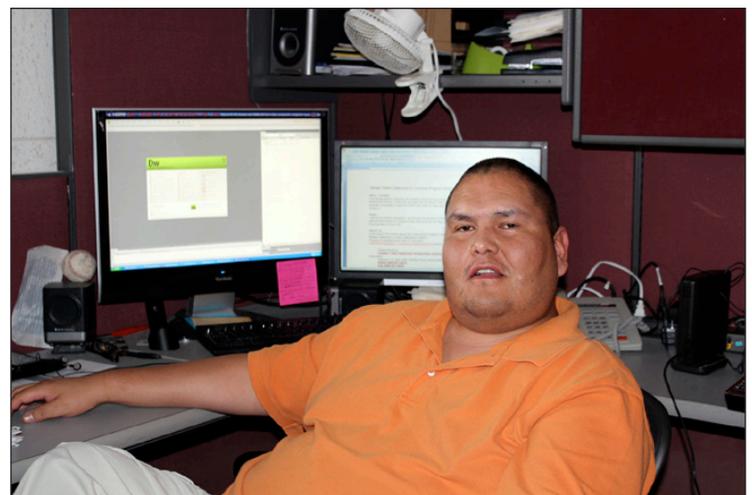
Skow said the department loaded a new Microsoft Exchange 2010 server in the cloud.

“It has a redundant environment, where it’s fail safe and very secure,” Skow said. “It’s a very complex environment right now.”

The datacenter’s complexity includes seven terabyte storage area network drives and a proposed 60-terabyte SAN drive, to increase the cloud’s capacity.

“I think there’s still a lot of misconception about technology and the use of it in our government,” Skow said. “Most of our leaders tend to see the IT solution only as email.”

“They don’t see the capacity of what IT can do, especially in the wireless environment,” he added.



Alex Yazzie, web developer for NNDIT, spends his day utilizing software like DreamWeaver to build websites for Navajo Nation divisions, departments, and programs. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

# Community Land Use Planning aimed at job creation

Continued from page 9 issues. That's how this document came to be," Lane said.

The land carrying capacity was studied, along with open space, residential and commercial areas, economic development, and the thoroughfare for streets and roads.

"We are thankful and we will begin to implement this land use plan for the chapter," Lane said.

Sarah Dale, chapter secretary and CLUP committee member, said the community supports the renewal for the lease by Navajo Generating Station, especially since so many community members work there.

"Some of our Navajo Nation tribal members from across the reservation work (at NGS). They get a lot of job skills," James said.

LeChee Chapter Vice President Yvonne Bigman agreed.

"We support Navajo Generating Station. I worked there for 25 years and retired from there," Bigman said. "This is a historical moment for us as chapter officials to come before you."

The LeChee Chapter CLUP was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Katherine Benally was also the sponsor for the Kaibeto CLUP.

"This is another one of the community land use plans that we're seeking your support for the community of Kaibeto," Benally said.

Kaibeto Chapter President Kelsey Begaye spoke in Navajo and said the community has followed leadership and planning to this point and is thankful for the opportunity of certification.

"Looking back, it's been over six years now that we've really started working on this plan," Begaye said.

He said the community was involved with CLUP meetings, emphasizing the need for small



**Kaibeto Chapter Vice President Ernest Goatson said the chapter will develop a 3x3-mile community planning area, with further planning to expand it to a 6x6-mile tract in the future. Job creation and the evolution of small businesses was instrumental in Kaibeto's Community Land Use Plan. (Photo by Rick Abasta)**

businesses and employment opportunities.

"Small businesses are the backbone of the whole Navajo Nation and the United States," Begaye said. "Orderly growth and infrastructure development was planned."

The first community store in Kaibeto was opened in 1912, followed by the first BIA school opening in 1937. The first Bureau of Indian Affairs elementary school opened for the community in 1965.

Navajo Housing Authority built 10 homes in Kaibeto in

1970, which was followed by the construction of Highway 98 in 1972.

The 1980s brought housing

communities, churches and a new IHS clinic.

Franklin Fowler, CLUP committee chairman, said, "Everybody played a role in developing this."

Fowler said the purpose

behind the plan was to create jobs for community members and to bring economic opportunity for Kaibeto.

"We need to give something to our children to work with," Fowler said.

Ernest Goatson, vice president for Kaibeto Chapter, said there are nine major projects that have been identified for development in the next five years.

An 80-acre commercial multipurpose building tops the list, followed by eight and 10-acre business site leasing. A solid waste transfer station and recycling center is also planned, along with a 120-acre industrial site. A public safety complex is also planned, plus a 12-acre senior independent living center. Rounding out the development projects are a 1.8-acre flea market, five-acre one stop tribal building and a one-acre feed store lease.

Land was identified for the nine major projects, followed by the completion of archaeological and environmental surveys by JJ Clacs.

The chapter also met with Navajo Tribal Utility Authority,

where commitments were made for power line, waterline and sanitation.

The Arizona Department of Transportation was consulted for right of way permits, along with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads Department.

"We want to grow, expand," Goatson said. "We're looking to develop a laundromat, fast food, convenience store, auto parts, towing center, and self-storage."

"Another good resource is the tourism," he added.

The Kaibeto Chapter moved steadily through the planning process, utilizing the marketability studies from the Tuba City Economic Development Committee to hit the ground running.

The chapter is also planning to become a satellite school of the Page School District, providing educational services for Kaibeto, Navajo Mountain, Inscription House and Shonto.

The Resources and Development Committee approved the CLUP for Kaibeto by a vote of 3-0.

Information: [www.nndcd.org](http://www.nndcd.org)

**"We need to give something to our children to work with," Fowler said.**

# LGA certified chapters launch tribal contracting



Left, Steamboat Chapter President Andrew Simpson signs the MOU. Right, Newcomb Chapter President Donna Benally signs. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



Dilkon Chapter President Felix Tsinijinnie signs the MOU, along with Littlewater Chapter President Thomas Barbone. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Hoskie Bryant, Naschitti Chapter President, signs the MOU with the Weatherization Assistance Program on July 15. Right, Cornfields Chapter President Jimmy Taliman, Sr. also signs the MOU. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Left, Chilchinbeto Chapter President Lee Gambler joins the list of MOU signers, along with Chinle Chapter President Leo R. Begay. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



White Rock Chapter President Lucinda Henry signs the MOU. Right, Two Grey Hills Chapter President Stanley Hardy also signs. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Community Housing and Infrastructure Development Department Manager Chavez John said certified chapters now have a boilerplate to execute contracting authorities with tribal departments. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



This Weatherization Assistance Program staffer demonstrates the utilization of thermal imaging equipment to detect heat loss. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

# Weatherization MOU

Continued from page 5

There's currently a workforce of over 70 crewmembers in all five agencies, averaging 15-18 staff per agency. The weatherization projects are only "patch and seal jobs," not to be confused with renovations, remodeling, and rehab jobs, he underscored.

Weatherization personnel will assist certified chapters with new employee orientation at the chapters, reviewing the scope of

test levels of carbon monoxide from wood and coal stoves, and inspect for propane leaks in the kitchen.

"We will also provide technical assistance for weatherization measures, final inspections, priority listings, use of equipment, listing of duties for lead man, confidentiality and records management," Pahe said.

Under terms of the agreement, four carpenters will take three

**"The weatherization projects are only patch and seal jobs, not to be confused with renovations, remodeling and rehab jobs."**

work, construction safety training, material listing orientation, unauthorized work, blower door testing, and the pre and post-testing.

"Energy auditors are available at each agency. They measure the square footage, height of your house, the outside wind. They will walk throughout the home and develop the scope of work," Pahe explained.

Utilizing high tech tools like thermal imaging equipment, the energy auditors will inspect insulation, windows, doors, and weather stripping. They will also

days to weatherize a client's home, with 10 home weatherization projects per certified chapter.

Specific details on the MOU will be discussed August 11-12 in room 7103 at San Juan College. Community Development is currently working with the Navajo Nation Department of Personnel Management to train certified chapter staff on providing personnel assessments at the chapter.

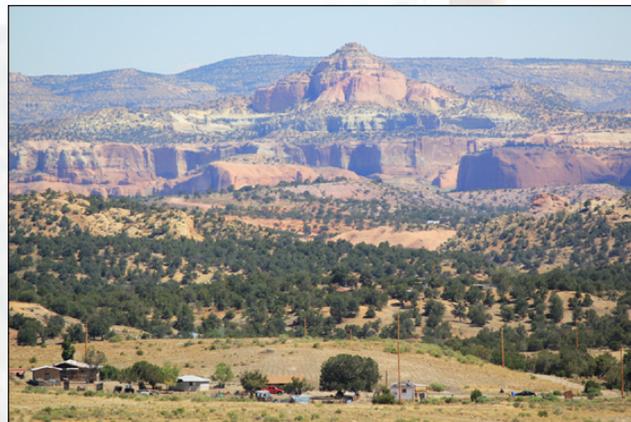
Information: [www.nndcd.org](http://www.nndcd.org)

## Proud new homeowner



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly presents a certificate of home ownership to Eunice Wauneka on July 21 in Ft. Defiance. Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell and BIA head Sharon Pinto look on at the presentation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

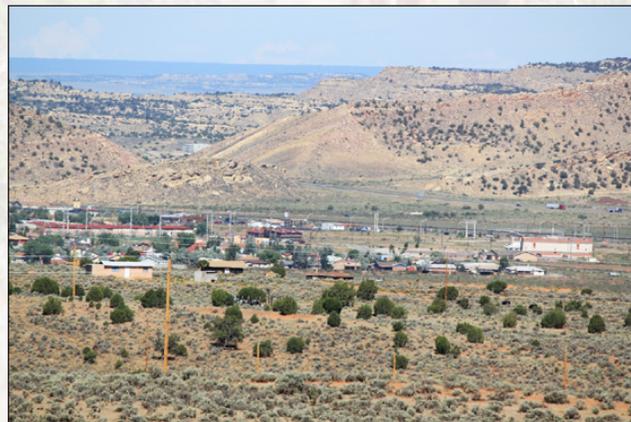
## Church Rock Power Line



After 11 years of development and numerous setbacks, the Church Rock power line extension is finally taking shape for residents of Sundance, Rehoboth and Peretti Canyon. The multi-agency project will be completed by September 30, 2011. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Incorporated utilized 35, 40 and 45-foot poles, insulator string, ground, arrestors, anchors, conductors and restake center line to lay 27.5 miles of primary line for the Church Rock power line project. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Church Rock Chapter residents living in the Rehoboth, Sundance, and old Zuni Drive-In areas will receive electricity soon. Residents in the more remote area of Peretti Canyon are also scheduled to enjoy the amenities of electricity. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

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*Meet with Navajo Nation Branch Chiefs, Office of the President and Vice President, Division of Community Development, Local Governance Support Centers, Retirement Program, Benefits Program, Department of Justice, Election Administration, New Mexico Capital Outlay Projects, Indian Health Services, Design and Engineering, Capital Improvement Office, Community Housing and Infrastructure Development, Dorkin Consulting, Office of the Auditor General and more!*

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