

NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4
THE NAVAJO NATION

SEPTEMBER 2011
WWW.NNDCD.ORG

INSIDE:

ENHANCED 911 INITIATIVE
CHURCH ROCK POWER LINE EXTENSION
LOCAL GOVERNANCE ACT CHAPTER SUMMIT
WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MOU
COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING CERTIFICATION
COMMUNITY HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Letter of thanks and appreciation

AUG-23-2011 TUE 01:30 PM MANUELITO CHAPTER

FAX No. 5059050600

P. 001/002

FAX # 928-729-4288



Ms. Louise Adakai
HC 57 Box 9001
Gallup, NM 87301

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	8/23/11	# of pages	2
To	Randy Yazzie	From	Louise Adakai		
Co./Dept	CHD Program	Co.	Manuelito		
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	928-729-4288	Fax #	505-905-0600		



Mr. Max Lucero
HC 57, Box 9001
Gallup, NM 87301-9801

75-A
Manuelito, N.M.
8-23-2011

TO: N.W.A.P.
Ft. Def. AZ

Thanks so much for your help on our home. On Jan. 11, 2011 - Randy Yazzie and Raymond Tsosie, came to our home to do a weatherization. They both did a nice job on checking our home. On Aug. 1, 2011 Michael T. Legah & Lumber Co. Alpine fr. Gallup, N.M., brought us a beautiful new wood stove & green boards, light bulbs, plug foam cover - everything for weatherization. On Aug. 2, 2011 our home was all finish. A thanks N.W.A.P., Randy Yazzie, Michael T. Legah, Franklin Baker, Raymond Tsosie. They did job well + not took much laughing or joking - just their job.

Franklin + Michael put up the stove, seal windows, and what it was to be put up. Green board in bathroom - put up smoke + carbon mon alarm. These workers are very nice. I would like to put in a good letter for them. We need some more work like them. Before I was getting very sick with migraines, now with out the propane gas stove - I feel very good + happy. I thank all and god bless you.

Thanks
Louise Adakai

ADMINISTRATION
Arbin Mitchell, Division Director
Stanley Yazzie, Deputy Director
Norbert Nez, Computer Operations Manager
Gerri Harrison, Legislative Associate
Brenda Holgate, Program and Projects Specialist
Raymond Tsosie, Program and Projects Specialist
Sylvia Jordan, Principal Information Systems Technician
Raymond Willie, Information Systems Technician
Leslie Sandoval, Senior Office Specialist
Sharon Blatchford, Office Assistant
Rick Abasta, Public Information Officer

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
Brenda Notah, Senior Office Specialist
Charlene Long, Administrative Assistant
James Adakai, Program and Projects Specialist
Saraphina Curley, Office Assistant
Patrick R. Dalgai, Field Supervisor
Orlinda Cleveland, Accountant
Roger Morgan, Field Supervisor
Benjamin Cowboy, Construction Supervisor
Ronald Tsosie, Field Supervisor
Jimmy Francis, Utility Foreman

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES COMPUTER LAB
Melanie James, Office Specialist

NAVAJO NATION RURAL ADDRESSING AUTHORITY
M.C. Baldwin, Rural Addressing Coordinator
Clarence Begay, Rural Addressing Technician
Carrie House, Rural Addressing Technician

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
LaVerne Benally, Program Manager
Marilyn Barney, Accounting Technician
Darrell Jimson, ARRA Planner/Estimator
Harriet Mike, ARRA Accounting Technician
Elsie Jones, HIP Eligibility Technician
Marlene Johnson, HIP Eligibility Technician
Laverne Watchman, HIP Eligibility Technician
Emma Redfeather, HIP Eligibility Technician
Carol Davis, HIP Eligibility Technician

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT OFFICE
Casey Begay, Department Manager II
Jacquelyn Morgan, Office Specialist
Marie Begay, Contract Analyst
Margaret Begay, Accountant
Glenna Begay, Administrative Assistant
Irma Julian, Program and Projects Specialist
Henry Yazzie Jr., Program and Projects Specialist
Denise Copeland, Principal Archaeologist
Harrison Todacheene, Program and Projects Specialist
Elmer Johnson, Program and Projects Specialist
Rhonda Francisco, Archaeologist
Olsen John, Senior Archaeologist
Leland Dayzie, Program and Projects Specialist

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Elfina Wauneka, Program Supervisor I
Kathy Davidson, Office Assistant
Jarvis Nez, Carpenters

ARRA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Stanley Pahe, Program Manger
Myrtle Youvella, Administrative Assistant
Arthur Natonabah, Accountant
Christina Lewis, Construction Compliance Officer

DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
Vernon Clashin, Department Manager II
Lucinda Yazhe, Office Specialist
Johnny Long, Contract Compliance Officer
Regina Eltsocie, Office Specialist
Kamaria Begay, Office Assistant
Roscelia Sells, Administrative Assistant
Marie Scott, Office Assistant
Arthur Moore, Planner/Estimator
Johnathan Yazzie, Engineering Technician
Andy Thomas, Senior Engineering Technician
Sony Franklin, Senior Engineering Technician
Edward Preston, Registered Architect
Harrison Martin, Principal Planner
Leo Barber Jr., Senior Engineering Technician
Wendell Murphy, Planner/Estimator
George C. Hubbard, Project Manager
Leonard Hardy, Electrical Inspector
Jerrald Scott House, Program and Projects Specialist
Shirley Lee, Senior Accountant
Cheryl Joe, Senior Office Specialist

LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT CENTER CHINLE AGENCY
Peggy Sue Nez, Senior Program and Projects Specialist
Phyllis Begay, Administrative Assistant
Evangeline Smith, Chapter Accounting Technician
Lorenzo Dineyazhe, Senior Accountant

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
James Benally, Senior Environmental Specialist
Angeline Roan, Office Specialist
Norman Scott, Community Involvement Specialist
Wilson Laughter, Environmental Specialist
Jim Littlesinger, Engineering Technician

LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT CENTER EASTERN AGENCY
Anselm Morgan, Senior Program and Projects Specialist
Olivia Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Marjorie Lantana, Community Involvement Specialist
Vivinita Bennett, Chapter Accounting Technician
Janice Padilla, Senior Accountant
Geneva Tsoulharkis, Senior Planner
Felix McDonald, Accountant

COMMUNITY HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT
Chavez John, Program Supervisor III
Bernita Nez, Senior Office Specialist
Raymond Jones, Housing Specialist
Alfreida Nez, Senior Accountant
Benson Dineyazhe, Planner/Estimator
Freddie Howard, Contracts Compliance Officer

LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT CENTER FT. DEFIANCE AGENCY
Cecelia Largo-Nez, Senior Program and Projects Specialist
Agnes Saganey, Administrative Assistant
Rita Silago, Senior Accountant
Jack Tapaha, Chapter Accounting Technician
Walter Hudson, Senior Planner
Kathleen Shurley, Accountant

All stories, photos, designs and desktop publishing were produced by Rick Abasta except where noted.

The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development is the official newsletter of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. It is published monthly and is available exclusively online, with a tabloid print edition on a quarterly basis. The entire contents of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development are Copyright 2011 by Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, P.O. Box 1904 Window Rock, AZ 86515. No portion may be reproduced in whole or in part by any means including electronic retrieval systems without the express written permission of NNDCD.

We welcome your questions, comments and feedback. We also welcome submissions from Navajo chapters, communities, departments and programs. Please direct correspondence to rabasta@nndcd.org. We regret that we are unable to publish all submissions. The editor reserves the right to modify submissions to conform to editorial guidelines and space constraints.

The views expressed in newsletter articles, submissions and spotlights are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development or the editor of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. It is the purpose of this periodical to share a variety of viewpoints. Please visit our website at www.nndcd.org for further information.

NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX 1904
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
PHONE: 928-871-6442
FAX: 928-871-7090
WWW.NNDCD.ORG



COVER:
The majestic beauty of the San Francisco Peaks in Flagstaff, Ariz., site of the Navajo Nation Post LGA Certification Chapter Summit.

NNDCD DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

CONTENTS

Yá'át'ééh!

Welcome to the fourth issue of our Navajo Nation Division of Community Development newsletter. We continue to promote viable communities through Navajo values. We are committed to empowering Navajo communities with decision-making, infrastructure



development, housing and technical services provided by NNDCD.

Navajo chapters have made much progress since the enactment of the Local Governance Act in 1998 and we continue to provide them with the necessary tools to make a difference in their communities. LGA certified chapters are on the rise and we now have 27 certified chapters after producing a standardized Five Management System manual for use by chapters for fiscal accountability.

Earlier this month, we hosted the Navajo Nation Post Local Governance Act Certification Chapter Summit in Flagstaff, bringing together chapters, Navajo leaders and panel experts from various tribal programs and departments to discuss LGA authorities. We interacted with chapters through question and answer sessions and we are developing policies based on those discussions.

LGA certified chapters recently executed contracting authorities with tribal programs after signing a memorandum of understanding with the Weatherization Assistance Program. Under terms of the MOU, certified chapters will have a chance to weatherize up to 10 homes in their respective chapters with funding provided by WAP's \$9.3 million grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Speaking of ARRA, we are also proud to report 22 Navajo elders now have decent, sanitary housing across all five agencies of the Navajo Nation. The Housing Improvement Program built homes for the "neediest of the needy" and employed a workforce of over 50 carpenters across the reser-

vation to build the homes with funding from the \$2.3 million grant.

These developments are proof positive that President Barack Obama's goal of creating jobs and rebuilding America with stimulus funding is working, despite the political rhetoric disputing these facts from the other side of the aisle.

ARRA has made a tremendous impact on the Navajo Nation and Indian Country.

On the Navajo Nation, infrastructure development is something every chapter requests, whether it is an electrical power line extension or waterline extension to provide basic services to Navajo families. We have two stories on such need in Navajo communities and we continue to make every effort to stretch our funds through supplemental funding sources.

The Community Development Block Grant continues to ensure the Navajo Nation receives the necessary funding to make these infrastructure projects come to fruition.

Finally, Community Development is proposing amendments to the Local Governance Act, the first in its history, to address the chain-of-command at the chapters and the issues of financial mismanagement.

We are on the doorstep of a new fiscal year and Community Development is prepared to face these challenges head-on, to provide our Navajo people with the best services in the Navajo Nation.

Ahe'hee.

Arbin Mitchell, Director
Navajo Nation Division of
Community Development



PAGE 16

LGA CERTIFIED

Navajo chapters have been empowered with the Local Governance Act fast track certification process, using outside CPAs to conduct auditing requirements.

ELECTRICITY NOW

Navajo families in the Churchrock Chapter will finally receive electricity after 11 years of setbacks, delays and development.



PAGE 11

NEW HOMES

Navajo elders enjoy the amenities of 22 new homes built across the Navajo Nation with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.



PAGE 7



PAGE 5

WHITE ROCK CHAPTER

The smallest chapter on the Navajo Nation continues to move forward after achieving Local Governance Act certification in December 2010. Like most chapters, the focus is on waterlines and power lines for the New Mexico San Juan County community.

Navajo elders rest easy inside new homes funded by ARRA



Nellie Lee of Rocky Ridge, Ariz listens to instructions from Housing Improvement Office staff on the care and maintenance of her new two-bedroom, one-bathroom home. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Betty and John Nez of Mexican Springs, New Mexico were extremely thankful and appreciative of the new home they received in July 2011. The elderly Navajo couple previously lived in crowded housing conditions and now have enough room to stretch out in comfort. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Eunice Wauneka's new home in Fort Defiance, Ariz. Wauneka was blessed twice in the same day, first with her home and second, with visiting dignitaries, including Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, First Lady Martha Shelly, Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell and Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Area Director Sharon Pinto. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Far left, the rugged terrain of Hard Rock, Ariz. Left, the new home of Betty Burbank, Blue Gap, Ariz. elder. Above, Charlie and Helen Begay of Pinon, Ariz. hold their certificate of home ownership. Top, Construction workers from the Chinle Agency share a private laugh. Below, previously, elders were living in dilapidated hogans like the one below in Pinon, Ariz. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



Alice Willie of Pinon, Ariz. received the keys to a new two-bedroom, one-bathroom home in June 2011. Willie was one of 22 new homeowners. The funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act housed the neediest of the needy on the Navajo Nation and brought temporary employment to a workforce of 50-plus carpenters. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Betty Burbank of Blue Gap said she was happy with her new home. Burbank spends her free time at the Cottonwood Senior Citizens Center and previously lived in substandard housing. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Navajo chapters execute contract with Weatherization Program



Local Governance Act certified chapters gathered at the Navajo Nation Museum on July 15, 2011, to sign a new memorandum of understanding with the Weatherization Assistance Program to weatherize up to 10 homes within their respective chapters and learn the concept of executing contracts with tribal programs. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

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

The Local Governance Act certified chapters gathered at the Navajo Nation Museum and signed a new memorandum of understanding with the Weatherization

Assistance Program on July 15, 2011.

This is the first time certified chapters have contracted with a tribal program.

The WAP received \$9 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act on April 1, 2009, to provide repairs addressing general heat waste, insulation, lack of storm windows and incidental repairs on Navajo Nation homes.

The deadline to complete the weatherization projects is March 31, 2012.

The contract was created between and entered into by the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development and LGA certified chapters, as a cooperative agreement that is implementing the lead agency policy for procurement and project management related to construction projects.

Arbin Mitchell, director of NNDCD, said opportunity is what the agreement is all about.

“It’s all about opportunities. Opportunities for the chapters to determine the future of their chapters,” Mitchell said. “We are giving them an opportunity to weatherize homes and learn about contracting with tribal programs.”

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

The dwelling unit must be existing and occupied by eligible owners. The home has to be substantially complete, meaning permanent foundation, floor, walls, roof, windows, doors and a heating system.

“This contracting is a new opportunity. We have funds See CHAPTERS/page 22

Rural Addressing Authority works on E-911 initiative

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, Roy Laughter and Danny Simpson. The subcommittee coordinated with the Navajo Nation Telecommunications and Utilities Department 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 was the public safety answering point, 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 efforts in October 2009, when the Navajo Nation Addressing See E911/page 20

White Rock Chapter lauds LGA certification

WHITE ROCK—Arbin Mitchell, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director, said Local Governance Act certification is the law and will help chapters become more self-sufficient in terms of streamlining a lot of the approval processes.

LGA certified chapters are able to approve home site leases, pass ordinances such as taxation and alternative forms of government, and execute contracts.

“When people ask does LGA certification work, my simple answer is yes,” Mitchell said. “The chapters right now can run a balance sheet. The Five Management System we have is up-to-date and we are making significant headway on the issue of accountability.”

White Rock Chapter President Lucinda Henry said LGA certification is working for her community, creating an atmosphere of fiscal accountability.

In 2009, Henry took over the

reigns for the chapter and found out it was in a state of disarray: missing reports, financial numbers not balancing out.

“At that time, my chapter was not really doing a good job,” Henry said.

Personnel and financial mismanagement were an issue.

Felix McDonald, accountant with the Eastern Agency Local Governance Support Center, said the previous chapter administration left chapter finances in a state of mediocrity.

“We found a lot of misposting and some of the financial documents were not even completed. Cash receipts were not being reported,” McDonald said.

He said that the LGSC reported the findings from the monitoring and within three months, there were personnel changes.

At the end of 2009, the chapter coordinator opted for the early retirement package and left. A few months later in 2010,



White Rock Chapter President Lucinda Henry signs the memorandum of agreement with the Weatherization Assistance Program, as Raymond Tsosie and Chavez John witness. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

the office specialist resigned.

Faced with two vacant positions Henry decided to call Nancy Brown back to duty for the chapter. Brown worked for the chapter as a volunteer first, before getting hired on permanently.

Filling the administrative assistant position was Tabitha Harrison, who transferred from the chapter of Nageezi, where

she worked toward chapter certification.

“I wanted somebody that was trying to get their chapter certified, somebody that knew what they were doing,” Henry said. “My goal was to get the chapter certified within one year.”

McDonald commended the work of Harrison and said she knew her finances in and out. See WHITE ROCK/page 22

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation connects Navajo Nation chapters



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Computer Operations Manager Norbert Nez said the Public Access Computer Hardware Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was critical to establishing a computer network infrastructure for Navajo Nation chapters. All 110 chapters received computers through grant funding. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-The Gates Foundation developed a new advanced infrastructure on the Navajo Nation.

Arbin Mitchell, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director, said Bill and Melinda Gates pulled Navajo chapters into the digital age. "The Gates Foundation has provided Navajo communities with advanced technological infrastructure most cities and towns take for granted," said Mitchell. "Our Navajo chapters appreciate this major step into the modern world."

Chapter houses are now all connected on the wide area network of NNDCD, through the Internet. Since 2000, chapters have served as community libraries and received grant funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The foundation makes grants in three program areas: Global Development, Global Health, and the United States. For the United States, the mission to

improve education includes the focus area of U.S. Libraries, via the Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Grant.

NNDCD Computer Operations Manager Norbert Nez, said the chapter houses grew technology in the last decade, thanks to PACHUG funding.

In May 2011, Community Development closed out the support and sustainability grant portion of the PACHUG, known as the closeout grant. The division closed the funding with the creation of a new online file management system, SAS tracking system, server hardware and software upgrades.

The Gates Foundation's Native Americans Access to Technology program funded NNDCD \$6,632,615 since 2000 to provide chapter houses with computers and Internet access. Chapters received two to four computers per community.

Nez said, "Since 2000, the Gates Foundation has made several grants to the Navajo

Nation. DCD basically took the responsibility for these grants."

The Gates Foundation has worked with 43 tribes in Ariz., Colo., New Mex., and Utah to provide computers, peripherals, training and technical support for a total investment in excess of \$9.6 million, according to a news release from the Gates Foundation.

Denise Copeland, principal archaeologist for the Capital Improvement Office, said the grants have increased the knowledge of technology at the community level.

"In the beginning, most of the chapters were afraid of the computers. I don't think they have that perception anymore," Copeland said.

Nez and Copeland formed the Navajo Technology Empowerment Center in March 2005 to utilize electronic solutions to provide support and training to the chapters.

The principal information systems tech Sylvia Jordan and information systems technician Roymond Willie assisted, as the NavTEC team laid the backbone and improved information services over the years.

Both technicians joined the team when the the P A C H U G R e p l a c e - m e n t Grant took effect in 2006, which addressed the obsolescence of the computers purchased in 2000.

Willie said, "When we first began switching out the old computers with new ones through the Gates Foundation, there was over 400 computers."

The new computers were welcomed at the chapters but the reality

of many chapters was finding funds to maintain the systems, Jordan said.

To address this issue, she trains chapters to troubleshoot their computers and find free resources that meet their needs.

"It's going to be difficult to try and service 110 chapters but we do the best we can," Jordan said. "It always feels good to help our chapters because their resources are low and they don't have very many places to go."

Phase Two of the PACHUG created seven computer labs on the Navajo Nation, with 10-12 computers at each location.

With the completion of grant funding from the foundation, NNDCD is seeking other grants and funds to sustain the programs that brought chapters into the digital age.

"The next step is to continue working with the chapters. The division has limited resources and we don't have these grants anymore," Nez said.

Community Development is working with chapters for the transition of support for the PACHUG devices. The division also continues to assist chapters

with finding free services on the Internet.

Nez said it's an opportunity for chapters to take ownership of the devices and find funds for upgrades and maintain the momentum in the public access computing effort.

DCD's Woven Integrated Navajo Data System has given chapters a robust set of tools and transparency.

"We started doing some e-Government applications, which eventually became known as the WIND System. It's a suite of web applications that work together," Nez said.

Nez foresees a leap forward in progression after the broadband efforts of Navajo Tribal Utility Authority are finalized.

"Looking forward, with the coming of all this fiber and wireless connectivity, you know the applications are just going to grow," Nez said.



WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME AGAINST THE ELEMENTS.



The Weatherization Assistance Program received \$9.3 million from the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to perform energy audits and repairs on the Navajo Nation before the March 31, 2011 deadline.

The mission of the Weatherization Assistance Program is to provide weatherization services to low income Navajo families to reduce heating and cooling costs, particularly for the elderly, disabled and those with dependent children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes and ensuring their health and safety.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
 P.O. BOX 2396
 WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
 PHONE: 928-729-4290
 FAX: 928-729-4288
 WWW.CDBG.ORG



Housing Improvement Program conduct final inspections for ARRA homes

SOME OF THE poorest elders on the Navajo Nation now have homes. Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act built 22 new homes in all five agencies of the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said ARRA funding has made a positive impact on the needs of the Navajo Nation. "The Navajo Nation has been strengthened by these funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Not only were homes constructed, but new jobs were also created," Shelly said.

ARRA funds were funneled through the U.S. Department of Interior to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and finally, to the Navajo Nation Housing Improvement Program.

Arbin Mitchell, director of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, said the new homes improved the quality of life for Navajo families. "These new homes were built to meet the needs of the elderly homeowners," Mitchell said. "Now, they have a house that will not only shelter them but keep them relatively comfortable."

NNHIP conducted final inspections from June through September 2011. Darrell Jimson, ARRA Planner and Estimator, hit the road with his construction crew for months, turning keys over to excited new homeowners.

Jimson said his crew also fixed any issues that were uncovered during inspection.

On June 15, Charlie and Helen Begay of Pinon, Ariz. received keys to a new two-bedroom, one bathroom home. The couple was appreciative and thanked the construction crew for work on the new home over the past six months. Charlie said the new home was a major improvement over the couple's previous home.

Chinle Agency lead carpenter Timothy Tsosie said he ensured the construction went according to the blueprints. He has worked as a carpenter for over 13 years and has been employed with NNHIP for the past four years. "We should build more homes like this for our elders," Tsosie said with a grin.

Alice Willie of Pinon exited

the hot conditions of her hogan to walk the perimeter of her new home and inspected the interior with the construction crew. Willie said she was thankful for the new home but became emotional when she spoke of her old home that sheltered her family for a generation.

Her new home features partial disability amenities such as wide doorways to accommodate a wheelchair and a spacious kitchen and bathroom to match the same. Low windows, lever door openers and a ramp with railings were also included.

LaVerne Benally, program manager for HIP, said the program has helped a lot of Navajo elders with needed housing. "We're building these homes at a cost of \$107,045. It's like an eye opening experience because a lot of these elders never had a home like the ones we built for them," Benally said. "They're so overwhelmed."

Blue Gap resident Betty Burbank also received keys and certificate of home ownership after returning from an afternoon of activities and visiting at the Cottonwood Chapter Senior Citizens Center. Burbank was thankful for the new home and said the winters were always a concern. Her new home was sealed against the elements.

Carpenter Aaron Denny worked on all five homes within the Chinle Agency and said he has been a carpenter since the age of 17. He said the clients were all very thankful for the new homes. "Some of the houses that were here before were nothing like these (new homes). It's a big deal for the homeowners," Denny said.

Navajo Housing Improvement repaired any warranty issues on the homes for a period of one year, after which, all repairs will be the responsibility of the homeowner. NNHIP was awarded one-time funding in the amount of \$2,355,000. The funding began on Sept 24, 2009 and the deadline to expend funds is on September 30, 2011.

The NNHIP served the "neediest of the needy" and clients selected met the eligibility requirements of 25 CFR, Part 256. Applicants were ranked and provided certificate of Indian blood, evidence of low



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly shares the certificate of homeownership with Eunice Wauneka of Ft. Defiance, Ariz. Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell and Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Area Director Sharon Pinto look on and listen closely. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

income, proof of substandard housing, confirmation they have no other resources for housing, home site lease, elderly or handicap status, and verification they received no assistance since 1986.

On June 16, John and Nellie Lee received their certificate of homeownership and keys to their new home. John Lee was herding sheep and had to return to sign the necessary paperwork. The couple said they previously lived in cramped quarters and would turn out the lights early each evening and retire for the day. "Now we have all this space," Nellie Lee said.

Archie Becenti, building inspector for HIP, oversaw the completion of all 22 homes, from the ground up. Becenti was also the architect that designed the homes. "They're designed for older people," Becenti said.

Becenti has over 20 years experience in construction, in all phases of the industry. He said the Navajo Nation needs new homes throughout the reservation for the homeless. "When (homeowners) signed up for the homes, it was 10 to 15 years ago," Becenti said. "They were healthy and by the time their home was built, they're old."

The homes were built on approved home sites. The old homes were demolished and

the new homes built atop the old site. This was a streamlined process for home site leasing that could take years for approval.

Funded by ARRA, the new homes not only changed the lives of the homeowners but also provided work for many working on the project. The funds gave temporary employment for over 50 Navajo carpenters. Administrative costs from the \$2.3 million project amounted to 20 percent and the remaining 80 percent was for direct services associated with construction activities.

Administrative costs covered grants management, project management, project monitoring, project inspections, accounting, procurement and reporting. The direct services portion included equipment rental, labor costs, building materials and other construction related services.

Karlene Zajicek, housing program officer for BIA, said the new homes are beautiful. "I think the elders, the grandmas and grandpas, are going to enjoy them," Zajicek said. "The importance is that families are finally receiving and having access to standard, sanitary homes that are warm in the winter and cool in the summer."

Information:
www.nndcd.org

NAVAJO NATION HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING

FY 2010: \$1 million
8-10 units at \$129,600 per unit

FY 2009: \$1 million
10 units at \$107,045 per unit

FY 2009 ARRA: \$2.3 million
22 units at \$107,045 per unit

FY 2008: \$1.5 million
35 units at \$69,000 per unit

FY 2007: \$2.6 million
44 units at \$68,637 per unit

FY 2006: \$2.4 million
40 units at \$66,625 per unit

FY 2005: \$3.8 million
65 units at \$77,923 per unit

FY 2004: \$2.8 million
31 units at \$64,923 per unit

FY 2003: \$3.6 million
69 units at \$52,877 per unit

FY 2002: \$3.2 million
60 units at \$56,210 per unit

FY 2001: \$3.9 million
90 units at \$51,100 per unit

FY 2000: \$3 million
60 units at \$43,700 per unit

The Housing Improvement Program was established in 1980. HIP is 100 percent federally funded and was established to meet the living standards of Navajo families and individuals through the use of modern methods and techniques in the construction of new homes.

Weatherization Assistance Program partners with LGA certified chapters



Chavez John, program manager for Community Housing and Infrastructure Department, said the memorandum of understanding is a chance for Local Governance Act certified chapters to learn about their authority to contract with tribal programs and departments. John said it's up to the chapters what direction they take next. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Left, the Weatherization Assistance Program had a number of items on display, including a blower door kit and the thermal imaging equipment used to detect leakage in a home. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Council Delegate Alton Shepherd sat in on discussions about the memorandum of understanding between LGA certified chapters and the Weatherization Assistance Program in July 2011. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Top, Navajo Nation Department of Justice Attorney Brian Lewis said the MOU is a contract to provide services. Above, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director signs the memorandum of understanding to empower LGA certified chapters with their contracting authorities. A total of 26 of the 27 certified chapters signed the MOU. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Kin Dah Lichii' Chapter President Johnny Curtis Sr. signed the MOU as Raymond Tsosie and Chavez John look on with smiles. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Community Development Block Grant expends funding, submits reports



Community Development Block Grant Senior Program and Projects Specialist James Adakai said closing out a grant is a tedious process. Adakai has faithfully served CDBG for over 20 years and was nominated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Most Valuable Partner award for FY 2012. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-Closing out a grant is a tedious process.

Nobody knows this fact more than James Adakai, senior programs and projects specialist for the Community Development Block Grant. Adakai recently closed out two block grants and sent reports to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

His workspace tells the tale of a man on a mission.

Adakai's horseshoe-shaped desk is clean, except for a computer, phone and two monstrous stacks of paperwork. A bookshelf in the corner is packed with 19 years of three-ring binders from CDBG grants dating back to 1992.

Arbin Mitchell, director of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, said the goal of the division is to help Navajo communities become self-governing and to improve their standard of living for infrastructure growth.

"We are here to help the Navajo people," Mitchell said. "CDBG does a lot of work to that end."

Established in 1974, HUD's Indian Community Development Block Grant was created to help Indian tribes and Alaska Natives to meet their community development needs.

ICDBG is a competitive program and governed by strict federal guidelines where projects are rated on a 100-point

scale to determine funding allocations. The Navajo Nation competes with 171 tribes in the southwest region.

Management of the ICDBG begins with the signing of the grant agreement and ends after the project has been completed and final project reports submitted and accepted. The management of existing grants is evaluated as part of the review process for future grant applications.

Eligible activities for block grants include public facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation, and economic development.

"We were successful in the close out of FY 2003 and 2004, after using project savings to finance an additional four projects," Adakai said. "They were very small projects, under \$100,000 each, which really helped communities assist more families with needed infrastructure."

Adakai filed a narrative report, close out agreement and final financial status report with the HUD Southwest Office of Native American Programs on April 28, 2011, for FY 2003 grant B-03-SR-04-0281.

The grant amount totaled \$4,345,947. Pursuant to the close out process, a check in the amount of \$11,463.51 was also submitted to HUD as a reimbursement for unused funds.

Program administration cost for the grant totaled \$580,138 and project cost amounted to \$3,765,809. The grant was originally for eight projects but was stretched to 11 with grant amendments added from cost savings.

Two waterline/wastewater disposal projects were funded, totaling \$2,584,798. CDBG worked with Indian Health Services to provide water services, indoor plumbing, septic tank and drainage field systems to 52 homes in the communities of Kayenta and Tolani Lake.

The grant also funded eight power line extension projects with Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$2,325,059 for 166 clients and an electrical line mileage of 90.1 miles.

The communities served were Coyote Canyon, Dilcon, Mexican Water, Sanostee, Sweetwater, Whitecone, Wide Ruins, and Tsaile/Wheatfields. Two power line projects were also completed as an amendment to the grant and served 24 households with 5.23 miles of electrical extension in the communities of Indian Wells and Torreon.

On June 4, 2010, HUD approved to have two projects added, which were originally approved in the 1998 ICDBG. See BLOCK GRANT/page 20

CDBG FY 2011 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The CDBG program completed eight power line projects to serve 318 households and one waterline serving 126 families. Grant total of CDBG funds in the amount of \$6 million was expended to complete the projects.

The eight communities served were Cornfields, Inscription House, Kinlichee, Dennehotso, Kaibeto, Shonto, Tonalea and Chinle. The lone waterline project was for the Ramah community.

On June 15, 2011, the CDBG program submitted FY-2011 ICDBG application to HUD online in the amount of \$5.5 million. The application includes eight infrastructure projects (seven power line and one waterline to serve a total of 208 households. HUD award letter is expected in October 2011.

The seven communities to be served with power line extensions are Dennehotso, Kayenta, White Rock, Cornfields, Mexican Water, Red Mesa and Oljato. The single waterline project is for the Lake Valley community.

On April 6, 2011, the Navajo Nation was successfully awarded FY-2010 ICDBG funds in the amount of \$3.7 million to fund four power lines and one waterline activity to serve a total of 93 households.

Power line extensions are for the communities of Klageetoh, Chilchinbeto, Jeddito and Ganado. The waterline extension is for the Ramah community.

On July 14, 2011, HUD approved \$198,000 program amendment request from 2005 left over funds to supplement two waterline projects under the 2005 grant. Each project was approved for \$99,000 and this will help to expend project savings before the grant closeout.

The first project to be served with the program amendment is the Oljato community, for a waterline extension providing service to 132 homes. The second program amendment is for the community of Little Water, which will extend a waterline to provide services to 49 homes in the area.

The CDBG currently has a total of 16 projects currently in development at a total cost of \$25,107,187, which will provide needed infrastructure services to 687 homes. A total of 229.72 miles will be covered for waterline service and a total of 99.41 miles will be completed to cover power line services.



Seeing electrical line extensions stretching across vast expanse of the Navajo Nation are a common sight. For most chapters, the development of power lines and waterlines are the priority. This power line dissects the town of Hard Rock. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Community Development works with chapter ICIP reporting efforts



All 110 chapters are contained within this Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan compiled by the Capital Improvement Office. Navajo Nation chapters gathered at the Navajo Nation Education Center on August 15 to discuss the ICIP with the 22nd Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Chief Justice Herb Yazzie said although the focus of the ICIP was on chapter projects, the committee needs to give serious considerations to funding government facilities, like a new Navajo Nation Supreme Court building. Yazzie said it's embarrassing when outside officials visit the Navajo Nation and ask where the Supreme Court is located, which was confined to a mobile home for years. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation chapter officials stepped up to the mic to discuss their issues and concerns with the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. Many officials cited the lack of adequate funding as an impediment to getting the projects to fruition. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said Navajo Nation chapters have the advanced tools of the Woven Integrated Navajo Data System to work with when it comes to capital improvement plans, SAS tracking, budgeting, project authorization and project management. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

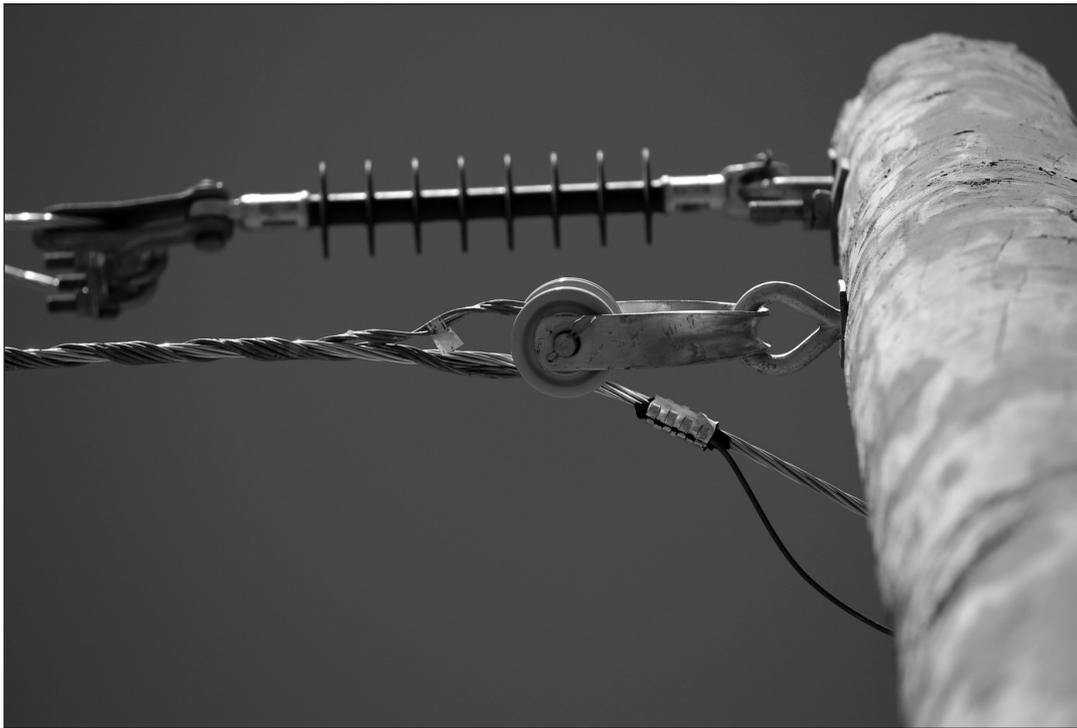


Resources and Development Chairwoman Katherine Benally said the ICIP was not a source of contention, but rather, the processes involved with the plan. Benally said potential funding options include funding the chapter projects through the Permanent Trust Fund, if enough support is gained when the proposal goes to referendum vote. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Chapter officials and staff gathered at the Navajo Nation Education Center on the Navajo Code Talkers Holiday to discuss their Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Plans with the Resources and Development Committee. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Church Rock electrical line extension slated for September 2011 completion



The Church Rock electrical line extension has been in development for the past 11 years. The project is slated for a September 2011 completion date, bringing electricity for over 107 families, via 27.5 miles of electrical service line. The project was stalled until Fire Rock Casino stepped into the picture to provide support. (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 Governance 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.

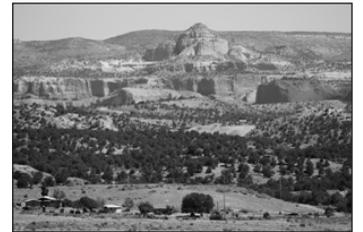
The biggest hurdle to pass was the right of way granted south of Fire Rock Casino, which became an issue when New Mexico Department of Transportation disapproved of plans for an aerial power line crossing Interstate 40.

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

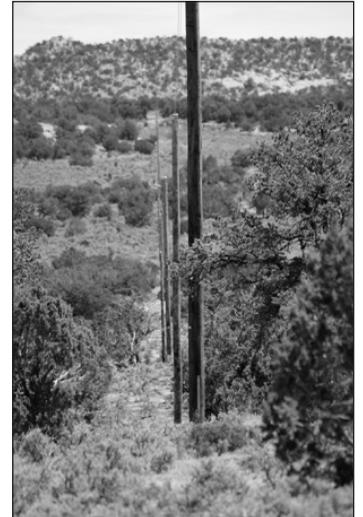
"The project contract was extended to September 30, 2011," Francis said. "Power line construction was completed on July 22, 2011, for primary line only."

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



This view of Pyramid Rock includes the electrical line extension for families living off the grid in Church Rock Chapter. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Families living in the remote expanse of the Peretti Canyon area will soon have electricity. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Building projects on the Navajo Nation one plan at a time.

Current construction on Hard Rock Multi-Purpose Building. The construction crew is working on the building pad, grease pad and existing sewer line. Current rate of completion is at 16 percent. Completion date is May 2012.



DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES was established for the purpose of providing planning, architectural, engineering and surveying technical services, and construction administration to chapters, tribal departments and entities.

We provide:

- schematic design services
- design development services
- construction document services
- bidding and negotiation services
- construction contract administration
- post construction services



The Navajo Nation
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES

P. O. Box 610
Window Rock, Arizona

TELEPHONE • (602) 871-6734 / 6095 FAX • (602) 871-6098

Post Local Governance Act Certification

Navajo Nation chapters receive valuable information during chapter summit

NAVAJO NATION CHAPTERS converged at the Flagstaff Woodlands Radisson Hotel on August 30 – September 1, 2011 for the Navajo Nation Post Local Governance Act Certification Chapter Summit.

Hosted by the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, the aim of the chapter summit was to provide LGA certified chapters with a roadmap of what to do next, after attaining certification. It was also an opportunity to hear the concerns of Navajo chapters.

Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said certified chapters have the opportunity to make a difference in their communities through certified chapter authorities that have not been wholly realized by chapter officials.

“(Certified chapters) ask us, ‘Now that we’ve been certified, what next?’ Hopefully, we can share what we need to next for your people, your community,” Mitchell said.

He explained the purpose behind the summit that feedback from the chapters is essential to the process, rather than utilizing a conference format, where information is only presented and the audience does not have an opportunity to interact with panelists.

“We want to hear your ideas and what you have to say. When you’re in conference mode, the presenters just present their materials,” he said.

Sharing a brief history of the Local Governance Act, Mitchell said the first discussions on decentralization of government authorities happened in the 1980s, when former Chairman Peterson Zah was in office. What followed was President Albert Hale’s successful bid for Navajo Nation President on the platform of local empowerment.

“In 1998, the Local Governance Act came into existence,” Mitchell said. “It’s been over 12 years this law has been in place.

“But to me, LGA and those working with it are barely on their feet now. We will move forward with it,” he added.

Shonto Chapter was the first chapter to get certified in



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said the Local Governance Act is all about opportunity and streamlining government. Mitchell gave opening remarks on the purpose behind the summit during the opening day on August 30, 2011. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

September 1999. Nahata Dziil would be next for certification in August 2002, followed by Cornfields Chapter in May 2003. Five more chapters became certified in 2007 and 2008.

However, the certification process stalled in 2008 and would not pickup again until 2010, when Community Development worked with the Department of Justice, Office of the Auditor General and the Controller’s Office to produce a unified Five Management System manual.

Mitchell said once the manual was produced things moved forward and 12 chapters attained LGA certification in a two-year period.

“Now we have 27 certified chapters. We have five more that are ready to go and by the end of the year, our goal is to have 40 certified chapters. Being certified is all about streamlining,” Mitchell said.

The opening day of the chapter summit featured Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, Navajo Nation Chief Justice Herb Yazzie and Speaker Johnny Naize. Resources and Development Committee Chairwoman Katherine Benally also addressed the audience, as well as Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Area Director Sharon Pinto.

Shelly spoke about fiscal year 2012 and beyond, outlining the future of the Navajo Nation. He said technology is an important part of that future and encouraged chapter officials to not be afraid of the digital age and what it brings to the table.

Chief Justice spoke about the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch and how courts relate to LGA. Yazzie emphasized the courts are an adversarial system of adjudication and encouraged chapters to work things out through peacemaking, a traditional Navajo concept that has been lost through the years.

Naize spoke about the Nabik’iyati’ and the reorganization process for the Navajo Nation Council, which was reduced to 24 members from the previous council of 88 delegates.

Pinto said she was happy to be a part of the summit, especially since the BIA was usually left out of such tribal functions. She shared information about land concerns from both the bureau and chapters on the Navajo Nation.

The remainder of the first day focused on three panel discussions: Post LGA Certification, Alternative Forms of Government, and Contracting, Agreements and Procurement. Hour-long question and answer

periods allowed the audience to ask questions about each respective panel and panelists to provide answers and advice.

The second day of the summit featured Arizona Representative Albert Hale (D-District 2), who provided an overview of local empowerment.

Hale said LGA is about empowering Navajo communities and giving the decision making back to the people.

“All of your authorities have been given to the central government and Window Rock,” Hale said to the chapters, speaking in Navajo. “When did this happen and how?”

He said chapters identify problems in their communities and all they can do is point it out to the central government authority and say, “There’s a problem over there. Can you fix it?”

Using the example of graffiti in Chinle, near the hotel for visitors traveling to see Canyon de Chelly, Hale said such blight is not only an eyesore, but evidence of societal problems that could easily be addressed locally.

“Fixing those types of problems at the local level was what local empowerment was about. Local empowerment is nothing more than doing for yourself,” Hale said.

He said Navajo people today are too dependent, the complete antithesis of Navajos thriving before the Long Walk. Hale said Navajos today have the mentality of “sha,” or do this for me.

“Sha. That became our thinking. When did this happen? Let me tell you, in my opinion. We started thinking that way after the Treaty of 1868,” Hale said.

He explained that the treaty outlined boundaries for Navajo land and the federal government stepped in to say, “Let me take care of your housing. Let me take care of your schooling.”

“Since then, we’ve been looking to Washington, D.C. asking, ‘Do this for me.’ It’s still like that today. When I took office, the thinking changed and shifted,” Hale said.

What he wanted to see was an orderly development moving toward local empowerment and reaffirming that power comes from the people, not from Window Rock, not from the Council.

“It all starts with understanding that power is inherent in the people. It doesn’t come from anywhere else other than the people,” Hale said.

Day two concluded with panel discussions on Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Taxation, Business Site Leases and Home Site Leases, and Non-Profit Organizations, For-Profit Organizations and the Navajo Corporation Code.

LoRenzo Bates, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, kicked off the final day of the summit with discussion on chapter accountability. Bates stressed the importance of honesty and fiscal responsibility.

All five Local Governance Support Centers provided a panel discussion on the Five Management System and answered questions from chapters. The final panel discussion focused on Audits, Legal Representation and Local Ordinances.

The summit accomplished the goal of empowering Navajo chapters with new ideas and tools to utilize at the local level to make a difference in the lives of their community members.

Historic chapter summit unites Navajo leaders with chapters



Carol J. Davis, community services coordinator for Dilkon Chapter, spoke about the need for more communications with chapters and the central government. Davis spoke during the second day of the chapter summit. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Arizona Representative Albert Hale said power is inherent in the Navajo people and lies with the people, not the central government in Window Rock or the Navajo Nation Council. Hale said the premise behind local empowerment is simple: "Do for yourself." (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Chief Justice Herb Yazzie attended all three days of the chapter summit and said certified chapters need to closely examine the law before creating ordinances for the communities. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Department of Justice Attorney Brian Lewis attended all three days of the summit and provided legal advice on post LGA certification authorities. Lewis maintained that certification does not cut chapters off from tribal government services because they will always be a political subdivision of the Navajo Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Speaker Johnny Naize spoke during the opening day of the summit. Resources and Committee Chairwoman Katherine Benally spoke on the opening day and attended all three days of the chapter summit. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

The many faces of GPS

By Jimmy Francis

BACK IN THE days of mankind and society, directions to locations or places was word of mouth, a form of communication. Some even said the world was flat. Exploration took this niche of science to a new level.

The basic compass had its heyday as a tool for directions. As society grew, the sun, stars, planets and moons were used to navigate in and around earth's surfaces with little known significance to accuracy.

As technological advances were made, more accurate instruments were developed to better determine the exact accuracy of the use of an instrument. Then the earth was no longer a flat surface, but a sphere.

So how was this sphere to be used as a universal form of communication between differing continents on the earth's surface in relation to location? The keyword was location, a driving force in the understanding of the unique geometrics that make up the geometrics of spheres.

What developed over time was the revelation that the earth is not a true sphere, but rather an ellipsoid, similar to being egg shaped. Most instruments were of a mechanical nature, meaning the person behind the instrument had to know what he was looking at or for, the proper use of the instrument and understanding of the data collected from the instrument readings.

This mechanical method of data collection was interpreted by the user of the instrument. So each individual would come up different results and the culmination of all these results would leave mankind to get at best, interpreted results and be accepted.

As the day and age advanced, technology continued to move forward with the state-of-the-art instruments, but use was left to high military programs. This equipment was in essence advanced beyond the mechanical instruments of the past.

This article sheds light on some of the advances made since 1960, when the U.S. Navy Branch of the military was the only forces utilizing this advanced electronic technology to

determine locations.

By 1983, this technology was modified for civilian use due to a North Korean airplane drifting into USSR air space and was shot down.

From that day forward, more sophisticated electronic instruments were developed for civilian use and the driving forces of saving time, money and lives became synonymous with Global Positioning Systems.

Today's equipment is much more sophisticated and the accuracy was beyond anybody's expectations. As the world uses GPS more often, more accurate maps can be developed, location accuracy tolerances become commonplace.

This program is currently utilizing the technology to map projects of different types all over the Navajo Nation.

The more accurate information we can have will assist programs with adequate planning activities, long range goals, engineering of construction projects and the ability to communicate on a even playing field.

For the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department, one initiative is the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Authority, which is responsible for mapping all addressable structures through GPS, which will work toward meeting the needs of emergency services provided through various Navajo Nation programs and the general public.

As with the cell phones in use today, compared to the large instruments of yesteryear, GPS has gone through the same advances in physical size.

Editor's note: Jimmy Francis is the senior program and projects specialist with CHID.



Wheatfields Senior Citizens Center



The Tsaile-Wheatfields Chapter celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony on June 30, 2011. Community elders and chapter officials gathered for the ceremony, which included a blessing of the grounds by a medicine man. Current and former council delegates also joined the festivities. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

ROCK SOLID

Build on the solid foundation of CHID and become the bedrock of your community.

COMMUNITY HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2365
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
PHONE: 928-871-6680
FAX: 928-871-6684
WWW.CDBG.ORG

Mitchell is confirmed as division director by 22nd Navajo Nation Council



The 22nd Navajo Nation Council confirmed Arbin Mitchell as Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director on April 20, 2011, inside the Navajo Nation Council Chambers. Mitchell is pictured here with Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Resources and Development Committee Chairwoman Katherine Benally. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-During the waning evening hours of April 20, 2011, Arbin Mitchell was confirmed as Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council. Seated next to council delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) and Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, Mitchell provided the council with his strategic plan and vision.

“From the Shelly-Jim Administration, in the effort to move the nation forward, we picked the best and brightest servants for you and our Navajo people,” Shelly said. “We believe that and so here I present to you, Mr. Arbin Mitchell, Division of Community Development Director.”

Mitchell introduced himself to the council in Navajo and spoke of his upbringing herding sheep and taking care of the land. He has been leading the division since 2005 and said the goal is to improve the quality of life for Navajo people. He said the division works with chapters in providing infrastructure such as power lines and water lines.

“My main focus while

working for the Navajo Nation has always been trying to get monies for our Navajo people, trying to get monies for our people at the local level,” Mitchell said.

During travels to Washington, D.C. he was able to do exactly that, securing \$48 million for school shortfalls at Tuba City, Wingate, Leupp, Wide Ruins and Mariano Lake. He was also able to bring in \$5 million for scholarships.

Mitchell found success in procuring funding in other areas as well. He said \$1.2 million was secured for the Bennett Freeze area through a line item because Washington, D.C. does not like earmarks.

“We’ve created that line item so leadership in D.C. can funnel monies into redeveloping the Bennett Freeze,” he said. “(Bennett Freeze) is so far behind, something like 40 years behind.”

Funding has also trickled down to the chapter level.

“With the leadership of Mr. (LoRenzo) Bates, we managed to get \$30 million in capital outlay using the general funds money and that hasn’t happened since 1997,” Mitchell said.

With help of leadership from the legislative and executive branches Mitchell said chapters received \$180,000; \$200,000; \$100,000; and within this budget, \$36,000 for capital outlay.

“We have done much work for our people at the chapter level for funding,” he said.

Improving communications with the chapters is a major priority of the division and Mitchell said transparency is the goal. One tool utilized to that end has been the Woven Information Navajo Data (WIND) System, which is available to the general public at www.nndcd.org.

“We’re the only division in within the Navajo Nation that does budgets online,” he said. “You can log on to any chapter’s budget and go back about six years and look at their budget. That’s transparency.”

Technology has been a main concern for the division and the Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Projects (ICIP) are no exception. The ICIP allows the chapters to complete their capital priorities online, prioritized from one to five years. The priorities are tied

in with chapter resolutions, allowing for easy creation of Capital Improvement Plans (CIP).

Mitchell said the system allows for immediacy regarding queries on projects, whether they are power line or water line projects.

“We can just go to the system and say give me all these projects,” he said.

Other technological innovations still under construction are the project authorization and project administration, which allows people to track work projects online. This will be used in tandem with the SAS Tracker, which will provide chapter expenditure and balance information.

Plans are to have the chapter monthly reports online as well.

“That way, we’ll have a lot more eyes looking at the expenditures,” Mitchell said. “It won’t just be two people looking at the information. That’s probably why you are missing funds.”

The division currently utilizes GoToMeeting, which allows Mitchell and other staff to have online conferencing

with chapter staff, reducing the cost for travel and time spent on the road.

“I’d like to meet with the delegates here that want to use that method to talk to your chapters,” he said.

Mitchell said another area goal for the division that was revealed by the Nabik’iyati’ Committee of the council is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) designation.

“(Housing) is something that all Navajo chapters want and right now, I only oversee BIA monies, which we only get \$1.2 million,” Mitchell said. “The rest of the money is with NHA and people always ask where is the money, where did it all go?”

Aside from housing, another major aim for the division is the Five Management System (FMS) and chapter certification through the Local Governance Support Centers (LGSC). Streamlining the certification process with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and other approving offices has been critical for the certification of chapters, embodied by the FMS.

“For so long, we only certified 10 chapters,” Mitchell said. “Then doing the streamline, we managed to certify 12 chapters within a year.”

Five chapters are currently on the waiting list for certification and the division anticipates the certification of 30-40 chapters within this fiscal year. The Community Land Use Plan (CLUP) recently had two chapters certified and are looking to have more qualified.

The Local Governance Act (LGA) proposed amendments are another division priority. Mitchell said the overstrike and underscore portion of the amendments are completed and they are awaiting the Title II amendments to be finalized.

“A lot of roles and responsibilities were not in (the Title II amendments) and we want to include that in this LGA amendment,” Mitchell said. “People just blame each other out there on the chapter level.”

Finally, the reorganization of departments within the division is another goal of the division’s strategic action plan.

Information:
www.nndcd.org

'It's all about opportunity'

Five Navajo Nation chapters achieve Local Governance Act certification



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell pointed out that LGA certification is all about opportunity on July 11, 2011. Five chapters became LGA certified on that date, after the Resources and Development Committee approved their Five Manual System. (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 Tsosie (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 ordinances, 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 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 ap-

proval 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 August.

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 See LGA on page 20

Round Rock Chapter residents finally receive waterline extension

ROUND ROCK-Water is a precious commodity and nobody knows that fact more than Navajo families that haul water for everyday living. For these families, water conservation is a way of life, not just words espoused in the spirit of ecology.

Arbin Mitchell, director of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, said funding waterline projects is a mainstay of the division, especially since it helps so many Navajo families.

“Promoting viable communities through Navajo values is the mission of the division,” Mitchell said. “Water is life for Navajo people and nothing is more important than sustaining this natural resource.”

On May 4, 2011, 81 homeowners in Round Rock gathered at the chapter house to learn maintenance of plumbing and septic systems. It was the final step in a lengthy process of receiving running water.

The Many Farms Indian Health Service (IHS) Environmental Health and Engineering Services provided the training.

Round Rock Chapter President Kellywood Harvey Sr. said phase one of the waterline development was initiated in the 1960s, which started in the center of the Round Rock community and extended out over the decades.

“What we’re concentrating on today is phase six and seven,” Harvey said. “We will continue working on phase eight bathroom additions next.”

Bathroom additions are a prerequisite in requests for waterline extensions.

Funding from NNDCC funnels down to the chapters, which in turn, construct the additions for homes before waterline development begins. It is the responsibility of the chapter to ensure homes have potable water.

Ali Ali, field engineer for IHS, covered care for plumbing, water meter, septic tank, and drain field. Ali worked for Many Farms IHS for over five years and worked on sanitation project NA-09-S09, which piped water to Round Rock southwest and southeast.



Community members of Round Rock Chapter attended homeowners training on May 4, 2011, to learn about the activation and maintenance of the new \$3.9 million waterline funded by Indian Health Services, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

“It was two projects in Round Rock, one toward Rock Point, west of town and another going east, toward Lukachukai. It’s been in development for five years now,” Ali said.

Ali said the total cost for the project was \$3,944,000. IHS funded \$3,538,849. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funded \$131,000. The IHS American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funded \$275,000 for the project.

The Q28 and N75 waterline development were part of the PL-86-121-ARRA project. PL-86-121, or the Indian Sanitations Facility Act, was enacted on July 31, 1959. It provides authority for providing essential water supplies and sewage facilities.

Under provisions of the act, IHS provides water service lines, water wells, water pressure systems, septic tanks and drain fields, and sewer service lines for newly constructed, recently renovated and existing medical referral individual homes.

Joining Ali for the final inspection meeting was environmental health specialist Jacey McCurtain and engineering technician Perry Reed. McCurtain and Reed addressed the community in Navajo for the benefit of many Navajo elders in the audience.

The biggest concern for many families was the lengthy period of time required for the waterline to be activated, Ali said. He described the process, which begins with funding from

IHS headquarters in Rockville, Md.

What follows next is the right-of-way package, which consists of an archaeological survey, threatened and endangered species survey, BIA road processing permits and signatures, Apache or Navajo County road processing permits and signatures, and grazing permit signatures.

“After the right-of-way package, we receive permission to construct from the Navajo Nation,” Ali said.

The design-construction package is the next step, consisting of the waterline design and actual construction with backhoes and bulldozers. The final inspection package comes next, with coordination from local utility companies. Work by IHS and Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority is inspected to ensure all parts are working.

Next, homeowner training is conducted and water deposits are paid to the utility company. Finally, the waterline is turned on and Navajo families are able to enjoy the amenities of running water.

“All of these packages and signatures are required by law and that’s why it takes so long,” Ali said.

Regardless of the wait, one community member was ecstatic the waterline was finally going to be activated. Angelita Bahe said she applied for running water in 2003, when she moved back to Round Rock.

“It’s going to make a huge difference because we actually have to go to the windmill to get water,” Bahe said.

Her family of six utilizes a 600-gallon water tank that must be replenished twice a month, which entails an hour-long process of hauling water buckets from the windmill, six miles away.

Bahe’s message to the government is simple: “We really need this water. Try to supply more people with water because there’s still a great deal of people out on the reservation without running water.”

Perry translated Ali’s presentation to the audience about the one-year warranty period for the water system installed by IHS. He stressed that after one year all repairs would be the responsibility of the homeowner.

“Everything inside the house, everything from the house to the water meter, and everything in the septic tank, and the drain field is the responsibility of the homeowner,” Ali said.

Residents were given a 13-page guide detailing how to care for plumbing, water connections and septic system. A list of contractors was included in the handout for repairs and septic cleaning service.

Reed took the residents outside the chapter house, where a septic tank, drain field and water meter system was set up for the demonstration.

He showed them how to turn the waterline off in case of

emergencies and emphasized not to drive or park on the drain field. Construction atop that area was also discouraged.

Reed said residents are able to see if the septic tank needs to be cleaned by checking the red-colored septic tank access port. He warned against children stuffing trash or other items down the port to prevent clogging the system. The blue-colored ports represented fresh water access, he explained.

The biggest warning was not to connect washing machines to the septic system because that would result in immediate backup of the system, which only has a capacity of 1,000 gallons.

Rather, the grey water from the washing machine should be drained into a separate channel outside for evaporation, Reed said, because IHS wouldn’t be liable for repairs in that instance.

McCray gave instruction on the septic tank and the microbes that breakdown the solids inside the tank.

“Don’t use your toilet as a trash can,” McCray said. “Don’t poison your septic system. Poison or harsh household chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria.”

Septic tanks need to be checked every two years, McCray said, to determine when the system must be pumped. She said checking the sewage level with a six-foot pole or stick is ideal, especially when septic service is performed.

“When that contractor shows up, you need to make sure you’re there to make sure they do their job correctly and not just take the water,” Ali said.

Manual inspection to see if the solids are cleared from the tank is crucial, he said. Otherwise, the tank will fill up and need cleaning again right away.

Candelaria Manygoats, a life-long resident of the community, said, “It’s important and great that some of our remote communities are getting water. Water is life and I hope they know how to conserve.”

Information:
www.nndcd.org

Weatherization Assistance Program making a difference

Story and photos by
Elfina Wauneka

THIS IS A REPORT of the Navajo Weatherization Assistance Program project in Manuelito, New Mexico. The client is a 57-year-old Navajo woman who lives alone.

The weatherization of her home began on January 19, 2011. The initial assessment was completed by senior carpenter Randy Yazzie and Raymond Tsosie, carpenter.

After interviewing the client during the assessment, she complained of migraine headaches. The carpenters checked the residence with a carbon monoxide detector and learned there was a leak from the propane gas stove and the water heater.

The gas line to stove was shut off to prevent further health risks for the occupants of the house. The water heater leak was fixed onsite by Yazzie and the initial assessment was completed on Jan. 20.

This process included a pressure diagnostic test to find any air penetrating the home, which also established a target range for the post pressure diagnostic test. It was determined several measures could be implemented to improve the overall energy efficiency for the residence.

A scope of work and material listing was developed, illustrating the steps needed to fix the problems. A timeline of two days was established to complete the project.

Yazzie ordered materials from Sunshine Lumber Company of Gallup. The delivery of materials was on July 18, 2011.

Construction activities began on August 1, as carpenters Michael Legah and Franklin Bahe arrived onsite to begin work. Several tasks on the scope of work were completed on the first day.

The crew removed an old wood stove and replaced it with a Skyline wood/coal stove with a blower fan. A new chimney kit with dual 36-inch triple wall stove pipes were installed through the attic and roof, along with three new six-inch black stovepipes from the stove to the ceiling.

Two new thresholds with vinyl and aluminum weatherstripping were also installed on both front and back doors to prevent leakage.

Day two consisted of finalizing the scope of work: replacing the wall around the bathtub area with water resistant drywall to prevent air leakage from the exterior walls. A shower kit was not a part of the weatherization and the client was advised to purchase one for installation.

The old stovepipes were removed from the ceiling and roof, after which, the roof was sealed with plywood, felt paper, roof cement and shingles to prevent seepage. The interior ceiling was patched with drywall patch and joint compound for a finished look.

Additionally, foam outlet covers were installed throughout the home on all electrical outlets and light switches to reduce air infiltration. Compact fluorescent light bulbs were installed to reduce the energy usage from traditional bulbs.

The construction crew also installed new smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in the kitchen and bedroom areas for health and safety. The final energy conservation measure was sealing all of the interior windows with latex caulking. The exterior windows were sealed with silicone to prevent air and water leakage.

After the scope of work was finished, lead carpenter Randy Yazzie performed a post pressure diagnostic test. Yazzie was assisted by fellow crewmembers Michael Legah and Franklin Bahe to weatherize the home.

When the weatherization was finished, the homeowner contacted the crew to inform them that since the propane stove was replaced and water heater leak fixed, she no longer suffered from the painful migraine headaches.

The client was so pleased with the work performed that she contacted the Weatherization Assistance Program to commend the work of the construction crew through a faxed letter.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY 1998

\$193,222 - Assisted 110 families

FY 1999

\$191,961 - Assisted 86 families

FY 2000

\$190,934 - Assisted 83 families

FY 2001

\$212,022 - Assisted 101 families

FY 2002

\$326,589 - Assisted 163 families

FY 2004

\$322,621 - Assisted 157 families

FY 2005

\$350,927 - Assisted 133 families

FY 2006

\$362,433 - Assisted 119 families

FY 2007

\$289,645 - Assisted 119 families

FY 2007 GF Roofing Projects

\$161,000 - Assisted 65 families

FY 2008

\$321,735 - Assisted 90 families

FY 2009

\$346,331 - Assisted 110 families

FY 2009 Supplemental

\$357,517 - In Progress

FY 2009 ARRA

\$9,068,150 - Assisted over 456 families

FY 2010 APS

\$73,267 - Assisted 152 families

FY 2011

\$234,760 - In progress

FY 2011 APS

\$69,554 - In progress



Randy Yazzie, lead carpenter for the Weatherization Assistance program, was commended for services performed on the home of an elderly Navajo woman living in Manuelito, New Mexico.



This crew from the Weatherization Assistance Program perform a cellulose demolition.

LeChee and Kaibeto attain land use certification



Kaibeto Chapter Vice President Ernest Goatson said economic development was an important component to their plan. (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 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 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.

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

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 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

LEAVE YOUR MARK FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT
P.O. BOX 2365
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
PHONE: 928-871-6539
FAX: 928-871-6684
WWW.CDBG.ORG**

The Navajo CDBG Program provides Chapters with eligible organizations with grants for use in developing viable Communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, primarily for low and moderate income persons.

Block grant close out process

Continued from page 9
grant to recoup outlay shortage incurred in the amount of \$512,459 due to expiration of grant appropriation.

The amount approved was \$393,585.32 for the communities of Whitecone and Indian Wells.

"We continually coordinate efforts with cooperating entities and partners to help these families as much as possible," Adakai said.

Tribal bureaucracy is a hurdle that comes up continually, he said.

"It's challenging sometimes. I guess that's how it is being the largest tribe," Adakai said. "We just have to continue doing our work here for the people out there, that's the main focus."

On May 6, 2011, Adakai filed a close out report complete with narrative report, close out agreement and final financial status report for FY 2004 grant, B-04-SR-04-0877 with SWONAP.

The grant totaled \$5,491,00. Program administration cost totaled \$757,875 and project cost amounted to \$4,733,125.

The Ramah water/wastewater

disposal project funded with the grant funds totaled \$1,484,500. CDBG worked with IHS to provide water services, indoor plumbing, septic tank and drainage field systems for 126 homes.

The grant also funded seven power line extension projects in cooperation with NTUA in the amount of \$3,248,625. A total of 70.15 miles of electrical line serviced 158 clients in the communities of Teec Nos Pos, Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Coppermine, Bodaway/Gap, Rock Point and Oljato.

On June 4, 2010, HUD approved two projects to be added that were originally approved in the 1998 ICDBG grant to have the Navajo Nation recoup outlay shortage incurred in the amount of \$512,459 due to expiration of grant appropriation.

The amount was \$118,873.68 for the grant amendment.

On July 13, 2010, HUD approved \$230,894 from FY 2004 leftover funds to supplement four power line projects for 11 households to receive electricity in the communities of Teec Nos Pos,

Dennehotso, Inscription House and Shonto.

Chavez John, program manager for Navajo Nation Community Housing and Infrastructure Development, said the nation does not like sending money back to HUD.

"We spend all the money," John said. "Now, people have electricity and water. We want to see them maintain it."

John congratulated all for the successful implementation of the projects, including NTUA, JMEC, IHS and Navajo chapters. He was especially proud of the CDBG staff.

CDBG originally began as the Navajo Nation Office of Program Development in 1976. The ICDBG program and set aside was established in 1978.

Maximum ceiling grants were imposed in 1981 at \$5 million. Current ceiling limit was increased for the Navajo Nation to \$5.5 million in 2003.

The objective of CDBG is to develop viable communities by creating decent housing, suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, for low and moderate-income families.

Nobody said going green would be easy.



Don't just watch TV, pickup some trash!



The Navajo Nation is one of the most photographed areas in the State of Arizona and a favorite tourist destination. Unfortunately, our visitors are greeted with pollution issues like illegal dump sites and trash along our scenic areas.



At the Solid Waste Management Program, we are doing our very best with limited funding, much like other programs in the Navajo Nation. The bulk of our funds are taken by the Joint Powers Agreement we have with Coconino County in Arizona. We need a new way to fund this JPA.



Our Navajo communities depend on these services to get rid of the refuse in their communities and terminating the agreement is not an option. Where will we dump our trash?

It all starts at home. Teach your children the importance of not littering and the values of recycling. Together, we can tackle this problem and truly walk in beauty across our great Navajo Nation. Walk in beauty or walk in trash.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 2457

WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515

PHONE: 928-871-6309

FAX: 928-871-6168

WWW.NNSWMP.ORG

Rural addressing and E911 efforts

Continued from page 5
Authority stepped under the umbrella of NNDCCD.

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

M.C. Baldwin is the coordinator for NNAA and previously worked for the NNTU prior to FY 2010.

"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 maps and field ledger sheets, 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 called the Master Street Addressing Guide, which is shared with PSAPs outside the reservation, which transmit the calls to the appropriate law enforcement agency or jurisdiction.

This method is used because the Navajo Nation does not have their own PSAP.

"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.

Tohajillee currently has E911 services after years of development. However, the community still lacks road and street signs.

"Someone with a landline in Tohajillee, 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.nnaa.nndcd.org

LGA certification is finally reached

Continued from page 20
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

Bond financing initiative aimed at economic development

WINDOW ROCK-The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development presented a report on bond financing to the 22nd Navajo Nation Council on May 5, 2011.

Division director Arbin Mitchell was joined by directors from the Office of the Controller, Division of Transportation and Division of Economic Development, to explain the benefits of bond financing for the Navajo Nation.

Council delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) said the issue of bond financing first appeared during the 21st Navajo Nation Council.

“November 17, 2009, was the exact date we started the discussion on this economic development finance plan,” Benally said. “Summer 2010 was when we finished up the economic development five-year plan.”

She said Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly traveled to New York City with controller Mark Grant and speaker Johnny Naize to discuss the Navajo Nation’s credit rating.

“We got an A-rating, which is investment grade for the (Navajo) Nation,” said Albert Damon, director of Division of Economic Development.

The nation is eligible to receive an AA-rating, according to Damon, provided certain provisions are met.

According to the Standard and Poor’s rating system, A-ratings represent a “Strong capacity to meet financial commitments, but somewhat susceptible to adverse economic conditions and changes in circumstances.”

The AA-rating is a “Very strong capacity to meet financial commitments.” The highest rating is the AAA-rating, which is an “Extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments.”

Damon said the five-year plan was for a \$100 million infusion. However, with supplemental funds from other funding sources, that amount could increase to as much as \$250 million.

“Therefore, more projects can be put in there,” Damon said. “Remember, this is a loan. It has to be paid back.”

One of the additional funding



The 22nd Navajo Nation Council confirmed Arbin Mitchell as Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director on April 20, 2011, inside the Navajo Nation Council Chambers. Mitchell is pictured here with Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Resources and Development Committee Chairwoman Katherine Benally. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

sources for the bond financing proposal is from NNDCD, via the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan.

“Last year, we put a plan together, an ICIP,” Mitchell said. “It was presented to the Transportation and Community Development Committee and went before the 21st Navajo Nation Council.

“But before we could get to that document, we lost the quorum and time ran out,” he added.

The proposed ICIP from the division has 61 projects, totaling \$69,344,880. Most of the projects progressed past the planning phase, with chapter resolutions, surveys, consents and assessments completed.

“A lot of these projects are in shortfall status. Do we use that for bonding?” Mitchell asked. “What about for renovation?”

Another potential funding source to supplement the bond proposal is NDOT, specifically from the Transportation Improvement Plan.

“The Transportation Improvement Plan consists of all the Indian Reservation Road projects that are on Navajo,” said Paulson Chaco, director of NDOT.

Chaco said the IRR program

is an allowable revenue stream to leverage or bond against, stated in federal regulations at 25-CFR Part 170. Additionally, NDOT also receives about \$9 million a year under the fuel excise tax program.

“Those are the two revenue streams we have as far as this initiative,” Chaco said.

Navajo Nation Controller Mark Grant said the different types of projects all required different types of funding, which he reviewed with council.

Capital improvement projects, economic development projects, local government improvement projects and essential government projects were all reviewed at length and definitions read into the record. Grant shared calculations on the borrowing capacity for the nation.

“I used the number \$140 million (an average) as the annual recurring revenues for the nation. If you take that number and multiply it by eight percent, you come up with \$11.8 million that’s available for debt service,” Grant said.

From that \$11.8 million set aside from general funds for debt service, the nation could borrow \$122 million over a 15-year period at five percent.

The next calculation was for the road management fund, which is basically fuel excise tax transfers that were moved into the fund, he explained.

“I used the average number \$9 million,” Grant said. “If we used that as debt service at five percent over 15 years, we could borrow \$93 million for the road fund.”

The final calculation was on the permanent fund.

“I used the number \$25 million and calculated five percent for 15 years and the amount you could borrow would be \$259 million,” Grant said.

Still, other options remained available to the Navajo Nation, like tribal economic development bonds, EB-5 bonds, and new market tax credits. The New Mexico Finance Authority was also another viable option, providing a low interest rate source of funding.

“The projects here are all going to require review and approval by the respective oversight committees. The bond agreement will definitely need to go before council to have their approval,” Grant said.

He said the plan is to try for a bond that recognizes

tribal court and tribal law. The timeline for the proposal would start May 18, 2011. Meetings to discuss the bond proposal are scheduled for May 16 and 18, in Albuquerque with KPMG, LLC.

Tribal officials and the audit, tax and advisory firm will review the proposal with a fine-tooth comb before submitting to the Navajo Nation Council for approval and the green light to proceed.

Next comes the road show, beginning August 2, for onsite investor presentations.

“This is where we take out bond out on the road and we try to sell it to all the investors out there,” Grant said. “From there, we’ll go to the closing, which is on August 25.

“At that point, we would receive the money and issue the bonds to investors,” he said.

Benally said the bond financing is an opportunity to address economic development.

“For too long, we’ve been watching the dollar go off the Navajo Nation. (Bond financing) will pay for itself, eventually. It takes money to make money,” Benally said.

Information:
www.nndcd.org.

White Rock Chapter work on power lines and waterlines

Continued from page 5

“When she transferred, she put the finances back together from the previous year and then FY 2010, which was the current budget,” McDonald said.

Working together, the team was determined to straighten out the accounting. By April 2010, White Rock finally knew where they were financially.

What they uncovered was money owed to the Internal Revenue Service and Navajo Nation Tax Commission, which were paid.

As things fell into place, financial reporting was in order and accepted by the LGSC.

Chapter staff busied themselves with inserting policies, procedures and forms that had to be done in the name of White Rock Chapter. They held several meetings and strategized on how to address their financial situation to meet the standards of LGA certification.

McDonald said by the first quarter of FY 2011, White Rock was encouraged by Mitchell to use the fast track LGA certification process.

“It was tough, really tough. The previous administration didn’t really help the chapter. After they left, it was the best thing that happened,” McDonald said.

In July 2010, the chapter began practicing use of the FMS for the required three months, in accordance with LGSC policy.

The FMS defines work for chapters in the areas of accounting, personnel, procurement, property and records management.

By Sept. 2010, White Rock submitted its financial records for certification and auditors were called in to review the books.

“He told us that when he opened the folders, the papers didn’t attack him,” Henry said.

The audit findings were corrected and the biggest finding was the chapter owed money to the Navajo Nation Tax Commission.

Henry took a check to the tax commission the same day and White Rock Chapter was officially certified on Dec. 22, 2010.

“It was exciting, very exciting,” Henry said. “It was a very big step for White Rock Chapter. In two years time, it was a big turnaround.”

She said other findings were similar to most chapters, mainly the abuse of travel authorizations. The solution was simple and straightforward: get rid of the people that were doing it.

“I couldn’t drag that on. It’s embarrassing when you see your chapter’s name in the paper,” Henry said. “Right now, I think LGA certification is working good for White Rock.”

As the first chapter in the Eastern Agency to get certified, White Rock maintained a solid footing into 2011, when they See WHITE ROCK on page 13

Cont. from page 5

switched over to the Sage Fund Accounting software.

SFA, formerly known as MIP, is the preferred nonprofit financial management solution used to plan and manage budgets, maximize grants, manage human resources, and produce accurate customized reports in minutes.

Henry said the software investment was expensive but well worth it.

White Rock has 362 registered voters but not all live in the community because of the lack of employment opportunities.

As the smallest chapter in the Navajo Nation, White Rock has a BIA school, chapter house, senior citizens center and a chapter house in their community.

Located in the New Mexico county of San Juan and 35 miles north of Crownpoint, White Rock Chapter is situated on a dirt road about 5.8 miles off the main highway.

Chapter manager Nancy Brown said the community has traveled a long way in a short amount of time, bringing electricity to 95 percent of the community.

Brown said, “On Dec. 23, 2010, power was turned on for 23 families. We had some excited community members who said they had the lights on all night.”

White Rock Chapter is now switching gears and focusing

their attention on a new waterline for the community.

“Our community people still haul water from a great distance and we’re really trying hard on our next project, which will be the waterline,” Brown said.

The community’s basic infrastructure setup is a far cry from how things used to be.

“Imagine going to work and you have to go to the back of the chapter house and crank up the generator,” Brown said. “That’s the only way you can go into your office and actually start working.”

“You couldn’t stand there and say, ‘I’m the chapter manager.’ Chapter manager or not, you had to have that machine going,” she added.

Despite their remote location and diminutive nature, White Rock Chapter is a community filled with growth and a new future. Information: www.nndcd.org

Chapters take the initiative for community weatherization

Continued from page 5

available, ARRA money,” said Stanley Yazzie, deputy director for NNDCCD.

Weatherization received ARRA funding for services. Under terms of the MOU, each participating chapter will 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 encouraged the chapters present and said, “You’re all in one effort and that is to assist the Navajo people.”

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

Brian Lewis, an attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, said the MOU is a contract to provide services.

DOJ will ensure terms of the agreement are met and have no conflicts of interest.

Lewis spoke of new hiring

practices and said, “What I look for is are you related by blood or do you have some kind of special relationship with the person?”

LGA certified chapters have much potential for contracting opportunities in the future, now that a boilerplate has finally been developed.

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

Conversely, revealed that 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 that DOJ will ensure policies and procedures are fulfilled. WAP will shoulder the bulk of the responsibilities.

“Weatherization will handle the big or what I call the heavy lifting,” he said. “The Weatherization Assistance will perform the procurement.

“That puts them on the hook for complying with the code as it exists,” Lewis added.

Chavez John, department manager for the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department, 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 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.

The funding was separated into three portions: 10 percent to cover administrative costs, 10 percent for training and technical assistance, and 80 percent for projects.

Previously, WAP was only funded \$200,000 to \$300,000

per year. The new multimillion dollar grant required intense grant management with strict 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 Navajo programs?”

Stanley Pahe, ARRA WAP Manager, said that no funds or allocations would be exchanged from the program to the chapter.

“We have our own processes and procedures in place,” Pahe said.

There are currently over 70 crewmembers in all Navajo agencies, averaging 15-18 staff per agency. The weatherization projects are only “patch-and-seal jobs,” not to be confused with renovations, remodeling, and rehabilitation jobs, he said.

Weatherization personnel will assist with the chapter new employee orientations, the scope of work review, construction safety training, material listing orientation, unauthorized work, blower door testing, and the pre

and post-testing.

“Our energy auditors are available at each agency. They measure the square footage, height of your house and the outside wind. They will walk throughout the home to develop the scope of work,” Pahe said.

Utilizing high tech tools like thermal imaging equipment, the energy auditors will inspect insulation, windows, doors, and weather stripping. They will also test levels of carbon monoxide from wood and coal stoves, and inspect for propane leaks in the kitchen.

“We also provide technical assistance for weatherization measures, final inspections, the priority listings, use of equipment, listing of duties for lead carpenter, confidentiality and records management,” Pahe said.

According to terms of the agreement, four carpenters will take three days to weatherize a client’s home, with 10 home weatherization projects for each chapter.

Proposed LGA amendments to empower Navajo chapters

WINDOW ROCK-The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development is currently proposing amendments to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Local Governance Act.

On June 20, 2011, the division presented a full report on the amendments and the certification process for chapters with regard to the Five Management System and Community Land Use Planning to the Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee.

Community Development presented the amendments to the committee alongside the Department of Justice and the Office of the Auditor General.

At present time, there are 22 LGA certified chapters and 93 CLUP certified chapters on the Navajo Nation.

Five chapters are currently on deck for certification and they are Teesto, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tsidii To'ii, Leupp, and Chilchinbeto.

NNDCD Director Arbin Mitchell said the LGA amendments have the underscore and overstrike portion completed and now, review by the RDC and then the NNC remain.

The amendments to the Act are the first of its kind since it was enacted on April 18, 1998.

"When people ask if (LGA) works, my simple answer is yes, it works," Mitchell said. "On the federal government side, independence came in 1776, but we still don't have a perfect government.

"LGA was enacted in 1998 and within a few years, people are questioning if it works," he added.

Provisions in the LGA amendments include identifying the chapter supervisor and the duties and responsibilities at the chapter. Another mandate is to have all of the chapters operate on Sage Fund Accounting Software, formerly MIP, which is a nonprofit financial management system.

The title is also proposed to change from LGA to Local Empowerment Act, reflecting the promulgation of certain powers from the central government down to the chapter level.

Perhaps the biggest amendment is the inclusion of read-only capability on chapter bank accounts for the Office of Management and Budget, Community Development, Local Governance Support Center and the Office of the Controller.

This was designed to prevent financial mismanagement that has plagued chapters in the past.

"We've been meeting with Wells Fargo representatives to view these balances online. That way, the chapters will know that we are also the reviewers on the account," Mitchell said.

Navajo Nation Auditor General Elizabeth Begay said her office is mandated to review the FMS policies and procedures of chapters and recommend certification to the RDC.

"We obtain an understanding of the internal control policies and procedures established by the chapter's Five Management System, we evaluate the design effectiveness and determine whether such procedures have been placed in operation," Begay said.

She said LGA certification is

the responsibility of three parties: the chapter, OAG and the RDC.

In early 2010, DOJ finalized a Five Management System Policies and Procedures Manual for all non-certified chapters to adopt and implement.

DOJ's standardization of the FMS manual for the chapters has not only brought accountability but also eliminated costs for chapters trying to develop their own manual.

"Based on that standard manual, all of the certified chapters are required to at least implement the policies and procedures for three months," Begay said.

Brian Lewis, an attorney for DOJ, produced the FMS manual shortly after becoming employed with the Navajo Nation on Jan. 19, 2010.

Lewis said it was designed to address two main problems facing DOJ: white collar criminal activity at the chapters and political interference.

"The guiding principle in trying to make this (LGA) work with these amendments is prioritizing what the chapters need to do and the persons who administer the law," Lewis said.

He noted that people respond to incentives and that as policymakers, council delegates need to keep that concept in mind when creating policies for people to do one thing or not.

"I would say as we go through this, keep in mind that incentives have to be created and this is a balancing act," Lewis said.

Making sure the all the laws are consistent is important, Lewis said, because it could lead to inconsistencies and competing authorities.

"What you need is to do way with the previous Act and certain items will have to be amended, namely Title 5, Title 12 because all of the law must be consistent," Lewis said. "The average layperson reading the law is going to need some kind of indicator where and how, wherever things are changed."

He said the Act must promote the political integrity, economic security, and the health and welfare of the Navajo Nation.

LGA certified chapters are still a political subdivision of the Navajo Nation and still have



Brian Lewis, attorney for Department of Justice, produced the standardized Five Management System manual, which led to an influx of LGA certified chapters after its creation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

access to all of the data, technical assistance and services, he added.

Lewis said, "There's a lot of talk about weaning the chapters off the central government. This is kind of the intent of the law over the long term, to devolve certain authorities like taxation, imminent domain, zoning.

"Becoming LGA certified doesn't cut you off," he added.

Certification doesn't mean absolute autonomy either, Lewis explained. Rather, chapters are still bound by the statutes of general applicability.

"You're always going to be subject to those laws. When you become certified, you're still bound by the laws of general applicability that apply to everybody else, all the other programs, divisions," Lewis said.

Mitchell said maintaining transparency within the division and the chapters is the ultimate goal, to keep an atmosphere of fiscal accountability at all levels.

The Woven Integrated Nav-

ajo Data System has provided transparency for the division and was noticed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency when they visited the Navajo Nation.

"FEMA compared Window Rock to the chapters and the FEMA representative said the chapter is better organized because they had all their files in order," Mitchell said.

With the proposed amendments to the LGA and continuing innovations of the WIND System, Community Development continues to strain for progress at the local levels of governance and accountability.

The five chapters ready for certification will be initiated on July 11, 2011.

Information: www.nndcd.org



Chinle Local Governance Support Center Program and Projects Specialist Peggy Sue Nez read the proposed LGA amendments into the record in Navajo on June 20, 2011. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

65th Annual Navajo Nation Fair brought Navajos together



The Weatherization Assistance Program joined the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department inside the Nakai Hall exhibits, during the 65th Annual Navajo Nation Fair. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



The 65th Annual Navajo Nation Fair was crowded and started early this year. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Jonathan Davis and Korn closed the 2011 Navajo Nation Fair with thunderous finality. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Jonathan Davis came out wearing a kilt. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Above, Danita Ryan, a Navajo from Flagstaff, is the 65th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Fry Bread Champion. Below, Judy Arviso of Historic Preservation Department served food during the Navajo Nation Fair Barbecue. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



The line for the Korn show stretched out past Gorman Hall. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



The Saturday afternoon grand entry at the powwow arena was packed. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



An estimated 3,000 Korn fans packed into the Dean C. Jackson Memorial Arena to see the Nu Metal band perform. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Douglas Miles of Apache Skateboards insisted to have his model in this photo of his artwork and skateboards. Note the Volcom Apache Skateboards t-shirt and belt buckle she is modeling inside Gorman Hall. (Photo by Rick Abasta)