



CONTACT: Charmaine Jackson
Communications Director
Office – (928) 871-7884
Cell—(928) 637-5507

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President Shelly Announces New Directors

Window Rock—President Ben Shelly today announced the appointment of three division directors. Tom Ranger has been named as the new Director of Human Resources, Paulson Chaco as Director of Transportation and Stephen B. Etsitty has been reappointed as Director of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“I am pleased to announce three exceptional individuals who have joined my new administration,” said President Shelly. “Each of these directors bring their combined expertise and valuable experience to our tribal government and will play a major role in restructuring and improving their divisions.”

On January 31, 2011, Tom Ranger was appointed as the new Human Resources Division Director. He holds an advanced degree from Weber State University in family studies with a minor in sales and service technology. Mr. Ranger also completed graduate courses at the Marriott School of Management’s MBA program with an emphasis in organizational behavior at Brigham Young University. He previously served in the Begay-McKenzie Administration from 1999-2000.

“It was an honor to receive a call from President Shelly, I’ve always wanted to come back and help enhance the Nation and give back to the people,” said Mr. Ranger. “I plan to reach the next level of productivity and excellence through quality people providing quality services.”

He also founded the Tom Ranger Training and Development—a leadership and management support service company and served as president and a training and development consultant for over twenty years. The firm combined architects of high performance organizations and leaders in design and execution of human productivity improvement. Mr. Ranger has served as Director of Native American Leadership at the Covey Leadership Center, the Chief of Staff for the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President under the Begaye-McKenzie Administration and was an adjunct professor at Dixie State College in St. George, Utah.

Paulson Chaco was appointed on January 14, 2011, as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation (NDOT). His professional background includes working at the Navajo Housing Authority as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Administrative Officer. He directed the construction and maintenance of the Navajo housing needs. For seven years, Mr. Chaco was the NDOT’s Department Director, including serving as Executive Director of the Office of Government Development and Director for Transportation Planning. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico’s Anderson School of Management.

Considering the challenges of the Nation's large land base, Mr. Chaco plans to build safe roads throughout the Nation.

"One of my priorities is to build quality roads by exercising proper planning and utilizing scarce resources to its fullest potential," Chaco said. "As director, I plan to work in a collaborative effort with the State of Arizona and New Mexico, their counties and the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

Under his leadership, he assisted in the lobbying effort to increase the funding level for Indian Reservations Roads with former New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici on the reauthorization of the "Highway Bill." In addition, he worked with the Navajo Nation Tax Commission on the development of the Navajo Nation Fuel Excise Tax Program, which allocates approximately \$10 million annually for road construction. During his tenure with the Ramah Navajo Chapter, Mr. Chaco was instrumental in the implementation of the second direct Federal Highway Agreement in Indian Country. He also obtained funding from former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson for a GRIP project and received the first funding in Indian Country from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act's TIGER grant.

Mr. Chaco was selected by Arizona Governor Jane Hull to serve as a task force member for the Vision 21 Transportation Task Force and for the Indian Reservation Roads Coordinating Committee.

Stephen B. Etsitty was re-appointed by President Shelly and will continue serving as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection; his term started back in July 2003. Mr. Etsitty manages four departments: Air & Toxics, Waste Regulatory Compliance, Surface & Ground Water Protection, and Criminal Enforcement, including 17 other division programs. He spent five years establishing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 -Indian Programs Office in California, and three more years as national manager for the EPA's Office of Solid Waste Tribal Programs in Washington, D.C. He also helped develop the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program and the Municipal Solid Waste & Hazardous Waste Grant Programs for Indian Country.

Mr. Etsitty currently serves on the EPA's Regional and National Tribal Operations Committee. From 2006 to 2008, he was Chairman of the National Tribal Caucus and Co-Chair of the National Tribal Operations Committee; currently he is serving as secretary. In 2007, he provided testimony to Congress on the uranium toxic legacy clean up on the Navajo Nation. His extensive leadership experience includes serving on both Arizona and New Mexico's Climate Change Advisory Group. Mr. Etsitty received his B.A. in Urban Studies from Stanford University in June 1991.

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