



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2025

Resources and Development Committee Reviews Navajo Gaming Enterprise Structure and Leadership Priorities



RDC Members Left to Right: Rickie Nez, Danny Simpson, Otto Tso, Shawna Ann Claw, Cassey Allen Johnson and Chairwoman Brenda Jesus

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On April 7, the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) held a regular meeting to review the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise’s (NNGE) leadership structure, staffing status, and executive roles, advancing the RDC’s oversight efforts and setting the stage for deeper financial discussions with the full Gaming Enterprise board.

RDC Chair Brenda Jesus said the Committee will work closely with the full board of the Gaming Enterprise to align priorities and create shared success.

“Understanding the operational structure of our enterprises is not just good practice — it is essential for safeguarding the Nation’s assets and ensuring opportunities for our people,” Chair Jesus said.

The NNGE presentation, led by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) John James, provided a detailed overview of the enterprise’s organizational chart. The committee learned that NNGE employs 1,051 individuals, with an impressive 90 percent of its workforce comprised of enrolled Navajo citizens.

CEO James outlined the executive leadership team, confirming key roles such as Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Marketing Officer, General Counsel, and Executive Directors. He acknowledged that while executive positions are stable,

a full report on departmental vacancies will be provided at an upcoming leadership meeting that will include the full Gaming Enterprise board.

During the session, committee members underscored that while the report clarified organizational roles, topics including financial performance, dividend distributions, audit findings, and board composition will be thoroughly addressed at the forthcoming leadership session.

The Committee stressed that understanding these elements will ensure NNGE's alignment with the Nation's long-term economic goals. Members also highlighted the importance of transparent governance and the need for the NNGE board to work cohesively with council leadership.

The RDC reaffirmed its commitment by voting unanimously to accept the report from NNGE to ensure that Navajo enterprises operate effectively, with accountability and a clear focus on advancing the Nation's economic development.

A follow-up leadership meeting with the NNGE board will be scheduled to bringing greater clarity to enterprise governance and strengthening partnerships that benefit the Navajo people.

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