



Rickie Nez,
Council Delegate

NENAHNEZAD CHAPTER

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Norman Begaye
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NZC-34-2022

SUPPORTING THE 2-DAY SUMMITT, "DINÉ BICH'ITYA BA" (FOR NAVAJO FOOD)
BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE NAVAJO NATION SAN JUAN RIVER
IRRIGATION DISTRICT, TO ADDRESS LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS AND CREATE A
"MASTER PLAN" TO ADDRESS BOTH PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOFT
INFRASTRUCTURE (POLICIES, SOFTWARE, PROCEDURES, MAPS) NEEDS

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. § (A), the Nenahnezad Chapter was certified on November 10, 1955 as a Chapter of the Navajo Nation and is listed under 11 N.N.C., Part 1, §(B), the Nenahnezad Chapter is delegated the governmental authority to make decisions over local matters consistent with Navajo Laws including custom, tradition, and fiscal matters; and
2. The Nenahnezad Chapter was informed by Farm Board member on the concerns that needs to be addressed to the Navajo Nation and community; and
3. Farmland, irrigation water and farmers are a vital resource for the future of the Navajo Nation. The largest concentration of farming on the NN occurs along the San Juan River in northwest New Mexico. The NNSJIS water rights were finalized in 2010, giving the system 66,730 acre-feet water to irrigate 12,165 acres of farmland. However, less than 25% of this allocation is being used and the reasons for the underutilization are varied and complex, and due in part to the many agencies and institutions with some responsibility for the management and maintenance of the system. The groups involved in the system have never met jointly to discuss how to move forward to improve the system. A proposed 2-day meeting is planned to discuss each entity's roles and responsibilities, options/suggestions to improve, and to develop a common vision to improve the NNSJRIS. The ultimate goal is to fully use the water rights and open available land to young Navajo farmers.
4. Per a Position Statement of San Juan River Farm Board, the Farm Board advocates for maximum utilization of Navajo tribal water rights to support tribal food sovereignty.
5. The problems facing the NNSJRID are complicated and almost impossible to resolve by any one stakeholder department or organization; and
6. Funding has been secured through the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union to pay for expenses associated with a 2-day meeting and a professional facilitator has been hired.

7. This chance to bring focused attention to the issues that need to be addressed is an important and timely opportunity;
8. Strong support from chapters who farm along the NNSJRID will help ensure that NN department managers and BIA representatives attend the two-day meeting;
9. That this action is the in the best interest of the Nenahnezad Chapter community.

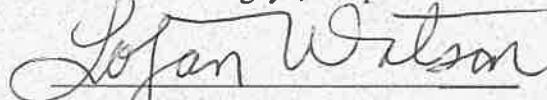
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Nenahnezad Chapter is supporting a two-day meeting to be held in 2022 that brings together all relevant stakeholder groups including Navajo Nation Departments, the Water Users, the Farm Board, and representatives of the chapter, and the BIA.
2. The Nenahnezad Chapter directs the Community Coordinator, Chapter Officials, and Council Delegate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Nenahnezad Chapter via teleconference meeting at Nenahnezad, (New Mexico) Navajo Nation. A motion was made by Martha Johnson and seconded by Delphina Shunkamaiah and the same was passed by a vote of 13 in favor, 00 opposed, and 01 abstained, this 9th day of February 2022.

Norman C. Begaye, Chapter President



LoJan Watson, Chapter Vice-President



Shania Begay, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Rickic Nez, Council Delegate