



## RESOLUTION OF THE SHIPROCK CHAPTER Shiprock, Navajo Nation



**Shiprock Chapter Supporting a Two-Day Summit, “Diné Bich’iya Bá” (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**

**WHERE AS:**

1. The Shiprock Chapter of the Navajo Nation acts on this resolution pursuant to the authority conferred on the Chapter through Navajo Nation Code Title 26, Chapter 1, Section 1, B. Purpose which states "Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to Chapters governmental authority with respect to the local matters consistent with Navajo law, including custom and tradition" the inclusivity provided by the Diné Fundamental Law, in that "it is entirely appropriate for the government itself to openly observe these fundamental laws", and
2. 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.
3. 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;
4. The problems facing the NNSJRID are complicated and almost impossible to resolve by any one stakeholder department or organization;
5. 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;
6. This chance to bring focused attention to the issues that need to be addressed is an important and timely opportunity;
7. Strong support from chapters who farm along the NNSJRID will help ensure that NN department managers and BIA representatives attend the two-day meeting;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Shiprock Chapter supports 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 chapters, and the BIA, and pledges to send a Shiprock Chapter official to attend the meeting.

**Motioned by: Arnold D. Yazzie    Seconded by: Milford Denetclaw**

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was presented and considered at a duly called Chapter meeting by both: TELEPHONE CONFERENCE (ZOOM) and in person meeting the requirement of a quorum of 25; per the guidance for all chapters issued by NNDOJ MEMO dated July 12, 2021. (Due to COVID19 Pandemic). Chapter met the required 25 quorum were present and was approved by a vote of 28 in favor, 00 opposed and 02 abstentions on this 10th day of **March, 2022.**

  
Nevina D. Kinlahcheeny, President

  
Debra A. Yazzie, Vice President

  
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, Secretary/Treasurer

**CHAPTER OFFICIALS**  
Nevina D. Kinlahcheeny – President  
Debra A. Yazzie – Vice President  
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay – Secretary /Treasurer

**GRAZING OFFICIAL**  
Sarah Denetclaw-Begay  
President

**FARM BOARD**  
Beatrice Redfeather-Benally  
President

**COUNCIL DELEGATE**  
Eugenia Charles-Newton