

Resolution of the San Juan River Dineh Water User Board

Supporting the 2-Day Summit, “Diné Bich’iya Bá” (For Navajo Food) between all Stakeholders in the Navajo Nation San Juan River Irrigation District (NNSJRIS), 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 San Juan River Dineh Water Users was established by the San Juan River Farm Board by resolution on August 24, 1999 as a non-profit organization under the Navajo Nation Corporation Code with the purpose in assisting with the operation and maintenance of the Navajo Nation San Juan Irrigation System.
2. 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 under utilization 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 San Juan River Dineh Water Users 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 the San Juan River Dineh Water Users pledges to send representatives to attend the meeting.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by San Juan River Dineh Water Users a regular called meeting at San Juan River Dineh Water Users office at which a quorum was present and that the resolution was **passed/denied** by a vote of **_3_** in favor, **_0_** opposed and **_** abstained, this 2th day of March, 2022.

Motion; **Harold Dodge**

Second; **Gary Clark**



Arnold Nelson, President