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Resources and Development Committee approves Newcomb Chapter's community land use plan

NEWCOMB, N.M. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0195-16, certifying Newcomb Chapter's community-based land use plan which has been reevaluated and readjusted to meet community needs. The chapter's first community land use plan was approved by the RDC in 2006.

Pursuant to Navajo Nation Code Title 26 section 2004, chapter governments shall reevaluate and readjust their community land use plan every five years to meet the needs of their changing community. The chapter's new land plan accommodates the economic, infrastructure, grazing, farming, and cultural needs of the community.

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland), who represents the community and sponsored the legislation, stated that the new five year community land use plan reflects the mission and vision of the chapter and addresses concerns that were not included in the previous approved plan.

"The new community land use plan will reflect community needs that were excluded in the previous plan. This plan includes new opportunities that the community can use to develop and succeed," stated Speaker Bates.

Newcomb Chapter vice president Irving Gleason, stated that the chapter's mission is to provide opportunities in infrastructure development, youth enrichment, enhance incentive values, self determination and to preserve culture and natural resources.

The comprehensive land use plan includes the community assessments, inventory of natural, cultural, human resources, land carrying capacity, infrastructure, open space plan for maintaining natural sites, sacred site, cemetery, and recreations purposes, establishing veterans and NHA housings, identifying commercial and industrial plans, road improvement, and identifying community facilities for recreation, schools, and libraries. The plan will improve the community, added Gleason.

"I support the community based land use plan for Newcomb chapter, but I think we need to change policy to make these plans for 10 years instead of five years. It takes a lot of planning and analysis to complete these plans," stated RDC vice chair Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill).

RDC member Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse'ii'ahi, Whiterock) also asked if the community land use planning committee works adjacently with the chapter administration.

“Does the CLUPC members work and collaborate with the chapter administrations. There are some CLUPCs that do not work well with the administration. The two entities must work together to improve the community,” stated Delegate Perry.

According to Gleason, the chapter administration and CLUPC work adjacently to prioritize goals and plans. They also work with neighboring chapters to push regionalized land use plans.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0195-16 with a vote of 3-0. The RDC serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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