



## Report to Navajo-Hopi Land Commission



### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update the members of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission (NHLC) on the progress of the Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan (NTIP).

On Monday, October 14, 2019, President Jonathan Nez was joined by Council Delegates Otto Tso and Paul Begay in announcing the Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan. Delegate Jimmy Yellowhair was also able to attend. Delegate Thomas Walker had a scheduling conflict.

The event was attended by over 80 individuals and represented the beginning of the collaboration between the Nez-Lizer Administration and the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council to finally provide major benefits and programming to the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA), now known as the Navajo Thaw Region.

### **Project Activity**

The NTIP is a three-phased project that will be implemented between now and December 2022:

- PHASE ONE: Chapter-based Recovery Plans
- PHASE TWO: Navajo Thaw Regional Plan
- PHASE THREE: Implementation Assistance through December 2022

Activity to implement the Chapter-based Recovery Plans is already underway, with meetings that have been completed at Leupp and Kaibeto. The completion of the Kaibeto Plan Week, the two-day intensive planning exercise, will result in a draft Plan to be completed by Monday, November 11, 2019.

Plan Week Activity will be very brisk over the next two weeks with planning sessions scheduled at Coppermine (November 11-12), Tolani Lake (November 14-15), Leupp (also November 14-15), Tonalea/Red Lake (November 17-18) and Coalmine Canyon (November 19-20).

Outreach activities are underway with the remaining three Chapters (Tuba City, Bodaway Gap and Cameron). It is anticipated that their planning sessions will all take place between December 9-19.

The objective is to have all Chapter Recovery Plans drafted by January 1, 2020 and hold the Navajo Thaw Summit in late January/early February 2020.

This effort is being led by Native Builders (Thomas Tso, President) with their subcontractor, Building Communities (Brian Cole, President).

I am finding our consultants to be highly responsive and I do expect that we will be successful in meeting a deadline set by Congressman Tom O'Halleran of March 1, 2020 for a comprehensive Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan to be presented before Congress.

### **Thank You**

I would like to thank the members of the NHLC in supporting this effort. I believe that, over time, the planning and results supporting the Navajo Thaw Region can be extended to support all the Chapters represented by the NHLC.