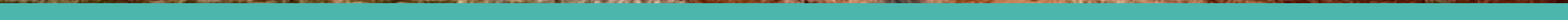

Building Regenerative Communities

**Testimony to the New Mexico State Legislature
Indian Affairs Committee**

— Percy B. Anderson & Stephen Silversmith —

Introduction

Challenges, recommendations, and opportunities for Navajo Chapter community based projects



Community Land Use Planning

Challenges

- Funding for data collection, mapping, and project management
- Climate change, soil impacts from minimal vegetation, aridity, wind erosion, sandstorms

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Certification through Navajo Nation Code Title 26 Local Governance Act
- Federal funding

Roads and Bridges

Challenges

- Requirement for right-of-way for continued County road maintenance and construction

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Hire local community members to obtain consent signatures to initiate right-of-way process for projects
- Funding opportunities

Housing

Challenges

- Land status
- Existing homes in critical need of repair
- Homelessness; migration to other areas
- Access roads to homes

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Homesite and Residential leasing is available for acreage
- Proposed housing development sites
- Transitional housing
- Home renovations and additions to existing homes
- Laying gravel to access roads
- Funding opportunities

Bathrooms, Electricity, Waterlines and Sewage

Challenges

- Land status
- ROW - consent signatures
- Local community project management

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Planning
- Communication
- Funding opportunities
- Efficient project management

Telecommunication

Challenges

- Dead to weak signal areas
- Community fixed wireless broadband service
- ROW - consent signatures

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Funding opportunities
- Fiber optic
- Emergency 911
- Public safety
- Health
- Virtual education and community libraries
- Remote employment opportunities

Rural Addressing

Challenges

- Emergency 911
- Jurisdictional issues
- Signages
- Mapping
- Census count

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Public safety
- Education
- Healthcare
- Employment
- Emergency assistance
- Shipping and delivery service
- Voting / redistricting

Personnel

Challenges

- Laborers
- Planners and project managers

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Community service learning internships
- Community based projects on land, water, food production, animal care, data collection, construction, managing, clearing of dead foliage and invasive plant species
- Partnerships with nonprofits, organizations, government offices, and educational institutions

Animal Care

Challenges

- Feral animals
- Domestic animal abandonment and neglect
- Pack dog attacks
- Limited response by animal control personnel

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Tougher animal control laws
- Vaccinations, spay & neutering, and mobile veterinary services
- Adoption and placement services
- Year long livestock feed production
- Wool production and sale

Regenerative Gardening and Farming

Challenges

- Soil regeneration
- Lack of water
- Land development

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Year long community gardening
- Community service learning internships
- Partnership with nonprofits, organizations, government offices, and educational institutions
- Regenerative agriculture plan

Alternative Renewable Energy

Challenges

- Consistent energy availability
- Transition from existing infrastructure investments
- Pollution
- Political will

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Alternatives for grid outages
- Cuts costs for other needs
- Solar street lights

Solid Waste

Challenges

- Community littering
- Trash dumping into arroyos

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Regional solid waste and recycling transfer stations

Mental and Behavioral Health

Challenges

- Personal, family, and public safety
- Homelessness
- Community education and activities
- Mentoring, role modeling

Recommendations and Opportunities

- Community based projects on land, water, food production, animal care, data collection, construction, managing, clearing of dead foliage and invasive plant species
- Educational presentations
- Walking, hiking, and biking trails
- Community activity sites

Conclusion

We believe that local input and planning is key to the vitality of communities.



Thanks!

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