

**RESOLUTION OF THE
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2026**

AN ACTION

**RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE PLAN
OF OPERATION FOR THE NORTHERN NAVAJO NATION FAIR BOARD**

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 500(A). The Committee exercises oversight over Chapter activities and economic and community development. 2 N.N.C. § 500(C).
- B. Section X of the Plan of Operation for the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board, as adopted and amended by Resolution RDCAU-81-12, provides that the Plan may be amended by the Resources and Development Committee upon the recommendation of the Fair Board

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Northern Navajo Nation Fair was started over one hundred years ago by the community people of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency and is the oldest Tribal fair within the Navajo Nation.
- B. The Advisory Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council confirmed the establishment of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board and adopted its Plan of Operation by Resolution ACMA-59-87 on March 10, 1987, seating one representative from each certified chapter of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency to govern the Fair on behalf of the communities that created it.
- C. The Resources and Development Committee amended the Plan of Operation by Resolution RDCAU-81-12 on August 21, 2012, updating the Board's governance structure while preserving the chapter-based representation established in 1987.
- D. On July 23, 2026, the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board passed Resolution NNNFB-07232026, attached as **Exhibit A**, recommending amendments to its Plan of Operation.

- E. Requiring that each chapter's representative to the Fair Board be an elected official furthers the governance purpose the Board has served since its creation. Elected officials are already accountable to their chapter membership, already owe fiduciary duties to the communities they represent, have demonstrated leadership through the electoral process, bring greater familiarity with governmental budgeting and planning, and provide a stronger communication channel between the Fair Board and the chapters they represent. This amendment is prospective in effect and applies uniformly to all constituent chapters without reference to any individual, chapter, or pending appointment.
- F. The Fair Board's Plan of Operation has not previously addressed meeting decorum, safety, or the Chairperson's authority to respond to safety concerns during Board meetings. The updated Plan of Operation within **Exhibit B** adds a new Section IX, *Meeting Conduct and Safety*, establishing standards of decorum, authorizing the Chairperson to maintain order, remove disruptive individuals, and postpone or reschedule a meeting when the safety of Board members or attendees is reasonably at issue, consistent with the Board's quarterly meeting requirement. Section IX further requires threats to personal safety to be referred to the Navajo Police Department and the Office of the Prosecutor in accordance with 17 N.N.C. §§ 310 and 483.

SECTION THREE. APPROVAL

The Resources and Development Committee hereby approves **Exhibit B**, the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board Plan of Operation.

SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVE

1. The Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board shall reestablish a bank account under the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board to restore credibility, respect, and dignity within the Northern Agency.
2. Current Board members that do not meet the qualifications as stated in this Resources and Development resolution shall be replaced pursuant to Chapter resolutions. All Board members are to possess the qualifications.

CERTIFICATION

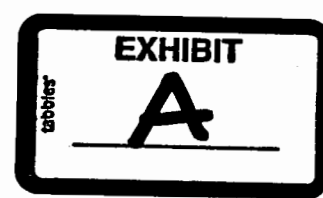
I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting held at Mentmore, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, this 10th day of August 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Casey Allen Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honorable Casey Allen Johnson, Vice Chairperson
Resources and Development Committee

Motion: Honorable Danny Simpson

Second: Honorable Brenda Jesus



Northern Navajo Fair
P.O. Box 2120, Shiprock, New Mexico 87420
"The Oldest and most Traditional since 1910"

NNNFB-07232026

**RESOLUTION OF THE
NORTHERN NAVAJO NATION FAIR BOARD**

**RECOMMENDING THAT THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 25TH
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AMEND THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NORTHERN
NAVAJO NATION FAIR BOARD**

WHEREAS:

- A. The Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board was established as an entity of the Navajo Nation and the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council by Resolution ACMA-59-87, adopted March 10, 1987, and its Plan of Operation was most recently amended by Resolution RDCAU-81-12, adopted August 21, 2012; and
- B. Section X of the Plan of Operation provides that the Plan may be amended from time to time by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council upon the recommendation of the Fair Board; and
- C. The Fair Board has reviewed its Plan of Operation and has determined that the Plan should be amended to require that each certified chapter's representative to the Fair Board be an elected official, consistent with the governance purpose the Board has served since its creation; and
- D. The Fair Board has further determined that its Plan of Operation should be amended to establish rules of order, meeting decorum, and safety procedures, including the Chairperson's authority to postpone or reschedule a meeting where the safety of Board members or other persons in attendance is reasonably at issue, the referral of threats to personal safety to the Navajo Police Department and the Office of the Prosecutor; and
- E. The Fair Board has reviewed the proposed amendments to its Plan of Operation, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and has determined that adoption of **Exhibit A** is in the best interest of the Fair Board and the communities it serves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board hereby recommends that the Resources and Development Committee of the 25th Navajo Nation Council amend the Plan of Operation for the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board consistent with **Exhibit A**, pursuant to Section X of the Plan of Operation.
- B. The Fair Board directs its Chairperson, or the Chairperson's designee, to transmit this recommendation and **Exhibit A** to the Resources and Development Committee for its consideration.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 5 opposed, and 2 abstained, this 23rd day of July, 2026. Motion: Louise Charley Second: Gabriel Smart


Russell Gould, Chairperson



**PLAN OF OPERATION
OF THE
NORTHERN NAVAJO NATION FAIR BOARD**

PREAMBLE

The Northern Navajo Nation Fair was started over 100 years ago by the community people of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Since its creation, it has operated within the Northern Navajo Nation Agency with the participation from all Navajo citizens of the Navajo Nation.

I. ESTABLISHMENT

The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, by adoption of this Plan of Operation, hereby establishes, creates and confirms the existence of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Fair Board"), as an entity of the Navajo Nation and Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council.

The Northern Navajo Nation Fair shall be managed as an operation within the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council.

II. PURPOSES

- A. The Fair Board is the only authorized entity to conduct and promote the Annual Northern Navajo Nation Fair and Rodeo held each year during the Fall season at Shiprock, Navajo Nation (New Mexico).
- B. The Fair Board shall provide for a viable Fair and Rodeo operation in an economical and feasible manner.
- C. The Fair Board shall be responsible for the improvements, upkeep and maintenance of the Northern Navajo Nation Fairgrounds and its building constructions and facilities.
- D. The Fair Board shall seek and ensure that sufficient revenues are realized to pay for the Fair operation and administration costs.
- E. The Fair Board shall adhere to sound management principles at all times to ensure that the revenues and resources are adequately maintained.
- F. The Fair Board is to immediately establish and maintain a proper financial accounting system.
- G. The Fair Board shall promote efficient utilization of Fairgrounds properties and its resources in a manner which is consistent with Navajo Social and environmental concerns.
- H. To provide a single administration department which addresses feasibility studies, planning and implementing of various Fair activities.

- I. In accomplishing its purposes, the Fair Board shall at all times work cooperatively with the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council, Navajo Tribal government, County, State, and Federal governments.
- J. To provide operation and financial activity reports to the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council and the Navajo Nation annually or when directed.
- K. Apply to the appropriate agencies of the State, County, Tribal, and Federal governments for funding or for any approval as it may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the Fair activities.

III. OPERATION

The Office of the Fair Board shall be located in Shiprock, Navajo Nation (New Mexico).

IV. BOARD MEMBERSHIP, SELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

- A. The Board shall consist of 19 registered members of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Chapters with one (1) Board Member from each Certified Chapter. Each certified chapter shall appoint one representative to the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board. The representative shall be a current elected official of that chapter, or a current elected official residing within that chapter, including but not limited to a current Chapter Official, Grazing Official, Grazing Committee member, School Board member, or other current elected public official meeting the qualifications established herein. The Northern Navajo Fair Board shall provide the Northern Navajo Agency Council with a copy of the chapters' approved resolutions for their selected representatives.
- B. The Fair Board members shall be appointed by their respective Chapters. The Chapters shall inform the President of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council with their appointments. The Board members shall serve four-year terms. The terms shall be concurrent with the Chapter election cycle. Board members shall not concurrently serve as officers of the Northern Navajo Agency Council.
- C. A Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board shall be elected at the first duly called meeting of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board.
- D. A Fair Board member shall hold a term of four years until his/her successor is appointed and qualified, or until the Fair Board members declares the seat vacant. Any Fair Board member may resign at any time upon written notice given to the Fair Board. Any Fair Board member that has been absent for three consecutive duly called meetings will be replaced by his/her respective chapter with a supporting chapter resolution.
- E. The Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council means Chapter Officials, Navajo Tribal Council Delegates, Grazing Committees and Land Board members from 19 Chapters of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency.

- F. The Fair Board shall meet at least once each quarter at a place and time designated by the Chairperson of the Fair Board. The Fair Board members may be paid a stipend for meetings at a nominal fee from Fair proceeds not to exceed \$150.00. The Fair Board members shall not be paid a stipend for meetings he or she does not physically attend.
- G. The current Fair Board shall function and continue to operate the Northern Navajo Nation Fair at Shiprock until a successor or successors are appointed and confirmed by the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council at its duly called meeting.

V. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FAIR BOARD MEMBERS

- A. The Chairperson of the Fair Board shall preside at all official meetings, have the power to call a meeting with the consultation of the Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. A majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum to do official business.
- B. The Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council shall serve as the oversight Council of the Board.
- C. The Chairperson of the Board shall direct and supervise the Fair Director, attend Tribal meetings, shall serve as the authorized representative to seek legal counsel on behalf of the Board and its members, and represent the Board as called upon to do so.
- D. The Vice Chairperson of the Board shall assist in carrying out the duties of the Chairperson as the Chairperson shall direct, and perform the duties of the Chairperson in their absence.
- E. The Secretary of the Board shall prepare written minutes or reports of every Board meeting and shall prepare resolutions with the assistance of other officers. The minutes of all meetings shall be kept and available to Board members. He or she shall send notices of meetings to the Board members.
- F. The Board shall have the duty to formulate and define the policies of the Fair operation with the guidance and direction of executive officers of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council.
- G. The Treasurer of the Board shall prepare financial statements and shall be the Treasurer of all Board funds. All monies received by the Board or on its behalf shall be paid to the Treasurer and Chairperson whom shall deposit all funds so received into a checking or savings account of a recognized Bank in the name of the Board. All Board business shall be done by issuance of checks. All checks shall be signed by the Chairperson, or Vice Chairperson and Treasurer of the Fair Board. The Fair Board shall keep full record of all monies received and paid out, showing the date, to whom it was paid or from whom it was received, stating the purpose of the payment or receipt and the amounts. The Treasurer shall perform the duties usually assigned to the office of Treasurer.

- H. The Fair Board shall only make payments for just bills and expenditures that are properly approved by the Board.
- I. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Fair Board shall have the authority to accept donations, gifts, and awards on behalf of the full Fair Board.
- J. The Fair Board shall have the authority to approve contracts and grants at its duly called meetings.
- K. The Fair Board members shall be appointed by their respective chapter of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency consisting of Sheep Springs, Newcomb, Two Grey Hills, Sanostee, Red Valley, Burnham, Upper Fruitland, Nenahnezad, San Juan, Shiprock, Hogback, Rock Point, Sweetwater, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, Aneth, Gadii'ahi, Teec Nos Pos, Beclabito, and Cove.
- L. Board members must recuse themselves from voting at an Agency meeting on a topic of Northern Navajo Fair Board discussions and matters where they have a conflict of interest.
- M. The Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board shall establish a bank account under the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board.

VI. THE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

- A. The Chairperson of the Fair Board shall select a Fair Committee for the following components: Admission, Grounds and Maintenance, Yei Bei Chei Ceremony, Safety, Concessions, Parade, Rodeo, Activities, Horse Racing, Publicity, Traditional Dances, Pow-Wow Dances, Feast, Exhibits, Miss Northern Navajo Pageant, 10-K Run, and Indian Market. The Exhibit Committee shall further be divided into the following subcommittees: Agriculture, Arts and Crafts, Livestock, School Display, 4-H Clubs, and Home Science. The Fair Board may consolidate any of these committees or add such other committees as it may be properly approved.
- B. All Committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board, subject to the concurrence of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board. All of the Committees shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board.

VII. FURTHER DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE FAIR BOARD

- A. The Fair Board shall be responsible and supervise all activities of the Fair and shall set suitable dates in the Fall of each year for the Fair.
- B. The Fair Board shall fix admission fees or charges to all Fair activities. The Fair Board is authorized to solicit prizes and other donations for the Fair and to expend monies for Fair purposes provided that the Fair Board is not authorized to spend any money or make any commitments for expenditures in excess of receipts by the Fair Board.

- C. The Fair Board shall control and be responsible for all dances and other Fair activities carried on at any time of the year on the regular Fairgrounds located southeast of Kentucky Fried Chicken and 7 to 11 Store in Shiprock, Navajo Nation (New Mexico). The Fair Board shall have the right and authority to grant, or without permission, use any of the Fairground facilities on such items as it may be determined.
- D. The Fair Board may conduct rodeos and dances thereon and set admission fees and other charges in connection therewith and make expenditures therefore not to exceed the receipt or estimated receipts thereof.
- E. The Fair Board shall keep full record of all activities and shall provide an Operation and Financial Report to the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council and the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council on or before the fifteenth day of January of each year showing in detail all monies received during the preceding year, all funds paid out, and cash balance on hand. Such report shall include the amount of expenditures for improvements to the Fairgrounds, the nature of such improvements, the general categories of receipts and expenditures, any bills or indebtedness remaining unpaid and such other information that may be necessary to explain to the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council and the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council the activities of the Fair Board for the year.

VIII. PERSONNEL

- A. The position of the Fair Director of the Fair Board, also known as the Shiprock Fair, is hereby established.
- B. The Director of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair shall be appointed annually by the Fair Board. The Director shall only be removed by a two-third majority vote of the Fair Board upon just cause with majority approval of the officers of the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council.
- C. The Fair Director may select such staff and personnel as may be necessary to carry out his/her duties, provided that the approval of the Fair Board of each selection shall be required. Any necessary employment of the staff and personnel shall only be made when there exists sufficient funds to defray the cost. The staff and personnel may work on a voluntary basis.
- D. The Fair Director may be compensated for his/her services upon the availability of funds. The Fair Director may serve voluntarily.
- E. The Board shall approve the compensation or salary for the Fair Director. The Fair Director and Chairperson of the Board shall set and approve compensation for the staff and personnel.

- F. The Fair Director, staff and personnel may be hired or funded under any Tribal, State, and Federal Public Employment Program.
- G. The Fair Director shall report and be responsible to the Board for the accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the Board.
- H. The Fair Director shall have supervisory control and direction of the staff and personnel and may delegate authority to other staff members.
- I. The Fair Director shall formulate overall administrative policies for effective and efficient operation of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair, and may take such lawful and appropriate action as he/she deems necessary for the accomplishment of the objective thereof.
- J. The Fair Director shall develop policies, rules and regulations relating to all Fairground buildings and facilities. The Director shall have the authority to control and maintain all the Fairground facilities.

IX. MEETING CONDUCT AND SAFETY

- A. Order of Business. Fair Board meetings shall be conducted in an orderly manner under the direction of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall recognize a member before that member addresses the Board, and only one member or other recognized speaker may have the floor at a time.
- B. Decorum. Members and other persons attending a Fair Board meeting shall conduct themselves respectfully toward the Board, its officers, and other persons present. No member or other person shall use profane, abusive, or threatening language, engage in disorderly conduct, or otherwise disrupt or prevent the transaction of Board business at a duly called meeting.
- C. Enforcement. The Chairperson may call a member or other person to order for conduct that violates subsection B. If the conduct continues after being called to order, the Chairperson may remove or exclude that person from the remainder of the meeting.
- D. Postponement for Safety. Where the Chairperson reasonably believes that convening or continuing a meeting would endanger the safety of Board members, Fair Board staff, or other persons in attendance, the Chairperson may postpone or reschedule the meeting to a later date. A meeting postponed under this subsection shall be rescheduled to a date consistent with the Fair Board's obligation under Section IV(F) to meet at least once each quarter, and the Chairperson shall notify the Board of the new meeting date as soon as practicable.
- E. Referral of Threats. Any threat to the personal safety of a Board member, the Fair Director, staff, or other person in connection with Fair Board business is a matter for referral to the Navajo Police Department and the Office of the Prosecutor, and is not a matter for

resolution by the Fair Board. Threatening and Disorderly Conduct are offenses under 17 N.N.C. §§ 310 and 483, and Disorderly Conduct under 17 N.N.C. § 483(A)(3) specifically reaches a protracted commotion or display made with intent to prevent the transaction of business at a lawful meeting.

X. AMENDMENT

This Plan of Operation may be amended from time to time as it deems necessary by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council upon the formal recommendation through resolution of the Fair Board or the Northern Agency Council. The Plan of Operation shall take effect upon approval and shall supersede any and all resolutions or plans of operation that are in conflict or inconsistent within this Plan of Operation.

**RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

FOURTH YEAR 2026

**ROLL CALL
VOTE TALLY SHEET**

LEGISLATION NO. 0186-26: AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NORTHERN NAVAJO NATION FAIR BOARD.
Sponsor: Honorable Rickie Nez; Co-Sponsor, Honorable Arbin Mitchel Council delegates

Date: August 10, 2026 – Regular Meeting (Mentmore, New Mexico)
Location: Navajo Division of Transportation – #16 Old Coalmine Road – Room 401, Mentmore, New Mexico 87319

Main Motion:

M: Danny Simpson S: Brenda Jesus Vote: 05 – 00 – 01
In Favor: Shawna Ann Claw; Brenda Jesus; Rickie Nez; Danny Simpson; Otto Tso
Opposition: None
Excused: None
Not Voting: Casey Allen Johnson, Vice Chairperson

Amendment #1:

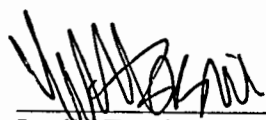
M: Danny Simpson S: Brenda Jesus Vote: 04 – 00 – 01
In Favor: Brenda Jesus; Danny Simpson; Otto Tso; Rickie Nez
Opposition: None
Excused: None
Not Voting: Casey Allen Johnson, Vice Chairperson; Shawan Ann Claw

Amendment #2:

M. Danny Simpson S: Brenda Jesus Vote: 05 – 00 – 01
In Favor: Shawna Ann Claw; Brenda Jesus; Rickie Nez; Otto Tso
Opposition: None
Excused: None
Not Voting: Casey Allen Johnson, Vice Chairperson



Honorable Casey Allen Johnson, *Vice Chairperson*
Resources and Development Committee



Leslie Tsosie, *Legislative Advisor*
Office of Legislative Services