

*Tsaile - Wheatfields Joint Farm Board and Water Users Association Meeting
Monday, February 4, 2013 @ 3pm
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ*

Meeting Minutes

- I. Order of Business
- a. Meeting called to order at 3:28pm.
 - b. Roll Called: Farm Board Members that were present were Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson. Water Users Officers: Aaron Begay present: Leslie Allen and Danny John Jr. were absent.
 - c. Invocation conducted by Franklyn Billie.
 - d. Reviewed agenda by Dorthea Litson. No questions or comments were made.
Agenda was accepted as it was read.
Motioned by Rita Jishie
Seconded by Aaron Begay
Voting: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained **Motion Carried**
 - e. Reading of last meeting Minutes, January 12, 2013 was read by Dorthea Litson. The following questions were asked:
 Franklyn Billie asked, "How the \$33,700 would be used by the Farm Board?"

Lorena Eldridge provided the outline of the budget to all.

Description		TOTAL
Water Masters	2 person x \$10 per hr x 600hrs	\$12,000
Irrigation Manager	1 person x \$10 per hr x 600hrs	\$ 6,000
Fringe Benefit		\$ 700
Conference		\$ 5,000
Supplies and Materials		\$10,000
	TOTAL COST:	\$33,700

Aaron Begay provided information that Kee White and Rita Jishis's reservoirs have been repaired. The catwalk is repaired. Water Resource Department staff took the initiative to inspect the outlet and found that the gates to release water are in good shape, and they were to remove sediments from the reservoir. To date, the only thing we are waiting for is to remove the sediments.

Franklyn Billie also requested to have the meeting minutes be given to farmers.

No changes or correction were made to the meeting minutes, but comments and questions were asked. To accept the meeting minutes:

Motioned by Kenneth Sorrell

Seconded by Franklyn Billie

Voting: 11 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained

Motion Carried

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f. Announcements

1. Chapter Planning Meeting, @ Wheatfields Chapter House, Friday, February 8, 2013 1pm
2. Food Sovereignty Workshop, @ Dine' College Campus, Thursday and Friday, February 7th and 8th, 2013
3. Chapter Work session, Wednesday to Friday, February 20 to 22, 2013
4. Water User and Farm Board Work Session @ Land Grant Office, Dine' College, Friday and Saturday, March 1 & 2, 2013 – Amendment to WUA By – law. Friday at 5pm and Saturday at 9am
5. Annual Water Use Meeting @ Wheatfields Chapter House, Saturday, March 16, 2013, 9am @ Wheatfields Chapter House.

II. Reports

a. Farm Board

1. Lorena Elbridge reported that all Farm Board members, Grazing Officials, and Eastern Land Board came together in Window Rock on January 29, 2013 for an orientation. There all officials were given copies of Laws and Policies and Procedures that they have to enforce with the people of their community. This also, provides information about what authorities each members have.
2. Lucinda Davis stated she has no report to share.
3. Dorthea Litson stated she has no report to share.

b. Water Users

Aaron Begay, Vice President, reported the following to the people:

Water Users Association is a nonprofit, but changed its mission to next level of overseeing not only irrigation water, but also to oversee other domestic and non-domestic water for our community in Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock Chapter. As a result, we are now amending the by – laws so it meet and to allow for implementing the mission.

Both Kenneth Sorrell and Franklyn Billy commented that the Water Users plan is a great idea.

c. Land Grant Office, Dine' College

1. Collected Surveys. Benita Litson, Director of Land Grant, reported that only 35 surveys were collected to date, and the goal is have 89 surveys to be collected.

Not action came out of the reports. It was accepted as it was reported;

Motioned by Dorthea Litson

Seconded by Addie Billie

Voting: 14 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained

Motion Carried

III. Old Business

a. First Nation Grant

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1. Identify and schedule – Facilitators for Conservation Plan and workshop
Dorthea Litson explained that within the First Nation grant we indicated we will need to schedule Conservation Planning Workshop for 5 farmers and other farmers within our community. The other is to hire a consultant to help teach and develop a conservation plan.

The action that came out of this dialogue was to move on hiring a consultant and schedule workshop for farmers.

Motioned by Rita Jishie

Seconded by Kenneth Sorrel

Voting: 12 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

2. Identify a Farmer to attend NM Organic Farming Conference in Albq on Feb 15 & 16, 2013
Dorthea Litson stated that under the First Nation we need identify a Farmer to attend this organic farming. She asked Kathy John and Patricia Morgan if they were interested but she has not heard anything from them. It is past due for registration. The question is to check if there is any body that might be interested.

Franklyn Billie stated that his son, Valentino Billie will be interested, and Rita Jishie stated her son might also be interested – more likely not.

It was advised to them to contact Dorthea Litson as soon as possible.

Put to action was for Dorthea to contact Kathy John and Patricia Morgan to see what they have to say, and will wait for Valentino response. Dorthea will need to work with Danny John to pay for registration and when return for hotel and mileage.

To accept decision:

Motioned by Franklyn Billie

Seconded by Aaron Begay

Voting: 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Motion Carried

IV. New Business

a. LUP – Transfer, Relinquishment, Sublease, Probate

1. Kenneth Sorrell

Mr. Sorrell shared with the audience that he is seeking for ½ acres of dry land farm land across the NHA housing areas in Tsaile, AZ. He planted vegetables, melons, and corn within his 1 acre homesite lease, but Mr. Leonard Becenti, BIA Homesite lease office, came to his home at one time to share with me that he CANNOT be planting within his homesite lease. Mr. Becenti and Harry Yazzie has advised him to move his garden outside of his homesite and to request for ½ acres on the southside of his current homesite lease (connect to each other).

Based on Mr. Becenti and Mr. Harry Yazzie's advised, he now is requesting for ½ acre of Land Use Permit and asked the people to approve his request.

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Lorena Eldridge stated "Farm Board members are advised NOT to separate the acres of a Farmland into smaller acres."

Aaron Begay asked, "Does the Farm Board oversee Dryland, he thought it belong to the Grazing Representative?"

Lorena Eldridge replied, "The dryland are sometimes taken care off by the Farm Board. In this case, if Mr. Sorrel wants to produce vegetables then he will be qualify."

PLEASE NOTE: Perhaps the comment she stated is based upon what is written in the guideline book of Farm Board. The section states the following:

The Farm Board is comprised of farm lands which meet one of the following projects:

- a. "Lake Projects" means that the farm lands are located near lake, man - made or natural reservoirs.
- b. "River Projects" means that Farm lands are located near rivers, or perennial streams.
- c. "Miscellaneous Projects" means that farm lands are located in area that receive high amounts of rain fall, from 0 - 8, more or less, inches per year, and have the capacity to sustain viable crops; or area that receive run- off water from mountain, i.e. intermittent streams, and have cap

Mr. Sorrel project fall under the category "c".

Furthermore, it was suggested that Mr. Sorrel increase his acres to One (1).

Action taken: Dorthe Litson will write resolution recommending Mr. Sorrel to receive one (1) acres dryland farm plot, so that can be submitted to Harry Yazzie, BIA Natural Resource Office. To accept the action:

Motioned by Dorthea Litson

Seconded by Lucinda Chee

Voting: 14 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained

Motion Carried.

2. Evelyn Litzin

Ms. Litzin explained to the audience that the farm land she is talking about is located in Tsaile Farm land. She subleased her land to Mr. Goodtooth for ten (10) years; however, he past away several years ago. Currently, this land has no water accessibility. Before subleasing, she made an effort to work with her neighboring farmer to create the irrigation system that was once there to use. The neighboring farmer indicated there is no irrigation that will be built in his farm land.

Lorinda Morgan explained the sublease of this land was conducted in the year 2000 for ten years. She asked, does this sublease normally cancel so it is return to her and aunt? She also stated, during a farm board meeting several years ago they attended a meeting where they asked of how to receive the pipe and water generate return to them since it was received for their farm land. Lyndon Chee at that time was present for the meeting. He indicated there

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were pipe and water pump delivered to Mr. Goldtooth. He suggested having the farm board check on the material and supply.

Lorena Eldridge replied "I don't think the Farm Board has not followed up to find where about for the materials." However, Dorthea Litson can write a letter to Lyndon Chee to find out the inventory.

Franklyn Billie mentioned the supplies were given to Mr. Goldtooth.

Lorena Eldridge asked, "What is the plan to bring water to your farm land?"

Lorinda D. Morgan stated that they want to settle all situations before they put all effort into it.

Dorthea Litson commented that "why do we allow one person to get in the way any progress. In their case they can install the irrigation system where it once exists." The Farm Board needs to be out there when the irrigation is being re-established to serve as a mediator.

Action taken: Dorthea Litson will write a letter to Lyndon Chee to request for inventory list regarding what was given to the late Mr. Goldtooth.

Motioned by Lorinda Davis Morgan

Seconded by Evelyn Litzin

Voting: 14 yes, 0 no; 0 abstained

Motion Carried

3. Lucinda Chee

Lucinda Chee introduced herself to note she is the daughter of Marie Kaye and the late Tom Kaye. She stated her father die in 2005, and she was able to work with the Grazing Rep to approve the Land Use Permit to be put into her name in Round Rock several years ago. She lost the resolution written by the grazing reps. indicating to move forth with her probate case. She finally found it not too long ago. Now, she asked the Farm Board to support to figure out what the next steps. She requested the Farm Board to write her another resolution to support her behalf.

Dorthea Litson asked, "Why are you asking the Farm Board for another resolution on your behalf? The grazing representative approved it for you already, so you need to take directly to Court to submit your paper work. These officials that approved your effort is worth a lot they were once elected officials who had the authority to do what they did. Who is the one to request to have another recommendation?"

Lucinda Chee replied, "Harry Yazzie is requesting for another recommendation."

Dorthea Litson stated, "She is not sure if Harry Yazzie would say that because at the time when the recommendation was written by the District Grazing Representatives it was your

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charge to move forth on the paperwork.” IMPORTANT note she explained to Lucinda Chee and the audience was as follow:

1. When a person that had name on the LUP decease the family is given FIVE (5) years to do something about it. During this time, the family DOES NOT have to hire a lawyer, but a lawyer has be involved- especially if it is not in dispute. This is considered PROBATE CASE.
2. When a person that had the name on the LUP decease, and the family DOES NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT WITHIN FIVE YEARS THEN IT IS CONSIDERED A QUITE Title which the family HAS to hire a Lawyer. The other thing to note is that anyone can request for this land if it is in this case.

Lucinda Chee finally stated that she wants to make changes to the Farm land. She wants to decrease her Farm land to make room for homesite lease for her children.

Lorena Eldridge request for her to write a letter stating the changes she is requesting. In the mean time Dorthea Litson will need to talk with Harry Yazzie and Leonard Becenti about the changes for the farm land to homesite lease.

ACTION: Lucinda Chee request was tabled to the next Farm Board meeting. She will need to write her request she is talking about. We will find out the procedure for home site lease request on Farm land.

To accept to table Lucinda Chee request to next meeting:

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Aaron Begay

Voting: 14 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Motion Carried

b. Priority List for next four years

- Share current Data and Goal -(Short and long)

Lorena Eldridge explained the work session for Farm Board and Water Users on January 26 & 28, 2013. They were able to develop a three plan. One was considered short term and the other as long term. The short term goals were:

1. Re-establish the 501c status
2. By - Laws amendment
3. Financial Policy
4. Liability Insurance
5. And 10 other ideas.

The long term goals are as follow:

1. Water Plan by February 2015
2. Sustainable Food System February 2017
3. Improve Range and crop land by 2023
4. Secure Resources

No action taken for this item,

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c. Office Space

Lorena Eldridge explained that the Farm Board and Water Users once had an office at the Chapter House, and was move to the gray building in the back. However, the Farm Board and Water Users would like to request for a written agreement from the Chapter. Further, she suggested to maybe request for the whole gray building where the partition between the meeting room and storage be taken out, for a bigger meeting space.

Franklyn Billie commented to check into the Metal building that sits on the south east side of the chapter house. What does the Chapter plan to do with it? The purpose of the building was to create office for all committee members.

Aaron Begay stated the Metal Building is now being renovated, but not sure what the chapter plans to do with it.

The action taken was to request for a written agreement between the Farm Board – Water Users and Chapter, and see the partition between the meeting room and storage is demolished. This was put to motioned by Franklyn Billie

Seconded by Lorinda Morgan

Voting: 11 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained

Motion Carried

d. Representative sent to Many Farm Board

Lorena Eldridge shared that the Farm Board members from Many Farm requested to see if a representative from our area could attend their Farm Board Meeting for the time being, until position is filled. She wanted to know if anyone was interested.

Dorthea Litson and Lucinda Davis both stated that they were not interested. Further the farmers of the Tsaile – Wheatfields opposed the idea of having one of their members attend. They stated, “Many Farms have tripled the amount of people someone should be able to step up. We voted for our own officers, and our areas have many needs.”

The action taken: NO Farm Board from Tsaile – Wheatfields will attend the Many Farms Board.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Addie Billie

Voting: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained

Motion Carried

V. Other

None listed

VI. Conclusion

a. Next agenda item

Lucinda Chee’s LUP

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Report – 5 Schedule workshops; Office Space, Inventory of material on Evelyn Litzin Farmland, update on WAU short term goal

b. Next meeting date

Sunday, February 17, 2013 @ 10 am Wheatfields Chapter House

c. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

To accept adjournment:

Motioned by Lorenda D. Morgan

Seconded by Addie Billie

Voting: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained

Motion Carried