

*Tsaile - Wheatfields - Blackrock Joint Farm Board and Water Users Meeting  
Sunday, March 23, 2014  
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ*

AGENDA

- I. ORDER OF BUSINESS
  - A. Meeting called to order
  - B. Invocation
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Overview
  - E. Last meeting minutes, March 5, 2014
  
- II. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Land Grant - Presentation on Research Project
  - B. Land Use Permit
  
- III. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Water Shed Study
  - B. Dryland Farming
  - C. Tsaile Health Clinic
  - D. Soil Studies
  - E. Outstanding late charges of Operation & Maintenance Fee
  
- IV. REPORT
  - A. Farm Board
  
- V. CONCLUSION
  - A. Schedule next agenda items
  - B. Schedule next meeting date
  - C. Adjournment

*Tsaile - Wheatfields - Blackrock Joint Farm Board and Water Users Meeting  
Sunday, March 23, 2014  
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ*

MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Meeting called to order 1:35 pm

B. Invocation conducted by Lucinda Davis

C. Roll Call: Farm Board – Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson present  
Water Users – Dorthea Litson, present, and absent are Aaron Begay, Lupita McClannahan, and Kathy Johns

D. Agenda reviewed by Dorthea Litson. No amendments or questions.

***Action: The agenda was accepted as it was read. No changes were made.***

***Motioned by Teresa Chee***

***Seconded by Calvin James***

***Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained***

***Motion Carried***

E. Last meeting minutes, March 5, 2014, was read by Dorthea Litson. No comments, questions, or amendments.

***Action: The last meeting minutes was accepted as it was read.***

***Motioned by Lucinda Davis***

***Seconded by Teresa Chee***

***Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained***

***Motion Carried***

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Grant – Presentation on Research Project

Mr. Bryan Neztosie, Staff of Land Grant Office, Dine' College, presented the result of the three research conducted. He explained the 12 plants being research and the methods used were presented.

Spring Plants were: (Alfalfa), {Oats, Barley, Foxtail Millet,} (Switch Grass), {Big Blue steam}, (Four wing saltbush), and (Teff).

Fall Plants were: {Beadless Wheat, Triticale}, (Orchard Grass), {Smooth Grass, and Smooth Brome Grass}.

() = perennial and { } = annual

From the research the following did good for growing: Oats, Triticale, and Teff. The Teff is very expensive and the seeds are very very small to plant.

*Tsaile - Wheatfields - Blackrock Joint Farm Board and Water Users Meeting*

*Sunday, March 23, 2014*

*Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ*

For the Green House the following vegetables to well: Lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage, spinach, onion, and beets.

***Action: Bryan would email copies of the power point to the Farm Board, so the Farm Board can provide for the farmers.***

***Motioned by Teresa Chee***

***Seconded by Evelyn Litzin***

***Voting: 15 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained***

***Motion Carried***

B. Land Use Permit

No Land Use permit issues presented.

***Action: No action taken***

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Water Shed Study

Mr. Mark Maryboy presented the following:

1950 to 1960 Buruea of Reclamation worked on Indian water issues regarding drinking water. Currently, NTUA takes care of all the drinking water. For reason, the structure is not design or set up for economic development. This identified problem has been a huge concern for all politicians. Other additional problem is that all the water is drawn out from the ground; and currently this is depleting. When ground water is depleting it brings about many concern for people's health.

The Navajo Nation Council has allocated 8.6 million dollars to conduct engineering study for how water can be diverted from the San Jaun River. Now, the plan is to bring water to Sweet Water Chapter, Rock Point Chapter, Round Rock Chapter, Lukachuakai Chapter, and Tsaile - Wheatfields Chapter. There are to diversion being worked on too that will serve other chapters.

These are all in the works now; therefore, the to start planning of the this water is to be used.

Questions, Comments, and suggestions:

Dorthea Litson explained that our chapter has a Water User non profit organization. The organization was in the process of writing a proposal to conduct a Water Shed Study and to hear that Navajo Nation Water Management has hired an engineering firm so we back of on submitting until we meet with engineering firm. The idea for our community is to develop a Water Plan for our community.

***Action: Mr. Maryboy advised we continue to establish a water plan and receive a copy of our preliminary plan.***

B. Old Farm Equipment

*Tsaile - Wheatfields - Blackrock Joint Farm Board and Water Users Meeting*

*Sunday, March 23, 2014*

*Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ*

- Lorena explained all of the necessary action we have taken on this matter thus far.
- Lucinda explained the process of going about sell the equipments. She learned that these equipments can be auction off and money made will return to the Navajo Nation General Funds. However, she was told to work with Peggy Sue Nez, Director of LGSC, Chinle Office.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

- Lorena asked Calvin James about the mower of where it is at and if it is working.
- Calvin James responded that it was in good condition, but it needs a PTO for it to work.

Additional information provided by Lorena is that the Farm Board and Water Users submitted a proposal to the Navajo Nation requesting for equipments. Now the proposal is ranks from number one then fall back to fifth. However, it time progress we might have a chance. If that were to ever happen the Water User will be the one to own the equipments.

Question, comment, suggestions:

- How were the prices of the equipments estimated?
- Lucinda replied, the estimate cost was based on the high cost of equipment. If funding does come through then we will use the 3 price quotes process to purchase equipments.

**Action: No action was taken.**

C. Dryland Farming

Lorena explained to the people that at one of the Reservation Joint Farm Board Meeting there were a group of people out of St. George, UT that were requesting to work with some farmers who had dry land farming. This was presented here at the meeting, and it was requested to bring those folks out to talk more about their project. As result she has been trying to contact them through phone calls and was not successful. As a result, we will no longer at that to the agenda.

**Action: This item will no longer be put on the agenda.**

D. Tsaile Health Clinic

Lorena explained that the Tsaile Health Clinic approached the Farm Board awhile back requesting how we can work together to provide the community people with fresh food. Currently, the patients they see for treatment is 60% are diagnose with diabetic and 40% with hypotension. Now, the question is "How can we partner with the clinic?"

*Tsaile - Wheatfields - Blackrock Joint Farm Board and Water Users Meeting  
Sunday, March 23, 2014  
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ*

Several farmers stated that is hard to do. We can't really tell what they can and can't eat. Each person has a responsibility for his or her own health.

**Action: Let the Health Clinic staff now that the health concern for people is really up the individual.**

E. Soil Studies

Lorena explained that a soil study was conduct by Land Grant two years ago for Lower Wheatfields. NRCS also conduct a study around the same time. NRCS currently input all the soil data on there websited.

She spoke with NRCS staff who was requesting what the next project were regarding Tsaile and Upper Wheatfields. It was shared with her that project application is a little different now, but the projects are tile to the soil types.

**Action: No action taken.**

F. Outstanding late charges of Operation & Maintenance Fee

Dorthea Litson reported that she submitted certified letters to 10 farmers who have major outstanding. These farmers have not paid for the past two years. This is based on the actions that was given from the February 23, 2014 Farm Board and Water User meeting. As of to date, we only have one person that have paid. Now, the question is what do we do with the other farmers?

The additional information provided was that the next round of invoices will be submitted to all Farmers and will be asked to pay to next Annual Operation and Maintenance fee, April 30, 2014 to April 30, 2015. Remember this is a one time fee. If not paid, then a \$10 late will begin to accumulate each month. To avoid late charges please pay in full.

Questions, comments, and suggestions:

Mr. Benally requested how to address people who bring in there sheep into people farm land?

Mr. Curely requested that it be report to the people of how the fees are being used.

Mrs. Silversmith stated that she will pay for her fee until next month.

Lorena replied that a complaint form can be written and given to grazing official to address the sheep issues. Also, the allocation of how the O&M fee is reported at meeting once a month, and a report is provide at Chapter Planning meeting and Chapter meeting too.

The issue of all these farmlands will be present to plan next step with a meeting that will be taking place in April 2014 with Sharon Pinto, Navajo Region Director, BIA.

*Tsaile - Wheatfields - Blackrock Joint Farm Board and Water Users Meeting  
Sunday, March 23, 2014  
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ*

Mrs. Wilson commented that she trying to straighten out the paperwork for he late mother farmland. One of things she was told is to pay for her own Archeological clearance at \$1500.00 before the probate case can be resolve.

Lorena comment that is something new for us as farm board members to hear. There are variations of policies and procedures provided we need to settle theses issues with BIA.

**Action: No action taken.**

IV. REPORT

A. Farm Board

Dorthea Litson reported on two items:

1. Workshop scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2014, 8am to 12pm @ Wheatfields Chapter House. Presented by University of Arizona. The Topic is on Plant, Water, and Soil relationships.
2. The additional workshop that she is working on is scheduled for Saturday, May 24, 2014. Topic is on Irrigation water use and measurement. For this we need to identify a farmer in Tsaile to work with. The farmer would have to irrigate prior to the workshop and that will determine the calculation of amount of water used.

**Action: To accept the report.**

**Motioned by Calvin James**

**Seconded by Teresa Chee**

**Voting: 13 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained**

**Motion Carried**

V. CONCLUSION

A. Schedule next agenda items

B. Schedule next meeting date to Sunday, April 6, 2014 @ 1pm

C. Adjournment

**Action: The meeting adjournment was accepted.**

**Motioned by Angie Wilson**

**Seconded by Teresa Chee**

**Voting: 15 yes, 0 no; 0 abstained**

**Motion Carried**