

TSAILE /WHEATFIELDS /BLACKROCK CHAPTER  
FARM BOARD AND WATER USERS JOINT MEETING  
SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2014 @ 10AM WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE

**AGENDA**

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Roll call
- c. Invocation
- d. Adapt agenda
- e. Reading last meeting minutes, May 30, 2014
- f. Announcements:
  - Chapter Meeting, Tuesday, June 17, 2014 @ 4pm

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. LUP- Transfer, Relinquishment, Probate, etc.
  - Harvey Kenny Jr. – Request for resurveying farmland
- B. Alternative Plan for Revitalizing Farmland Projects
- C. Tsaille Water Plan – Research
- D. Water Masters Request for materials and Materials

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Community Water Plan

**IV. CONCLUSION**

- A. Identify next agenda items
- B. Schedule next meeting date
- C. Adjournment

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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order at 11:10am
- b. Roll call  
Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson all present  
Water Users: Dorthea Litson present, and absent were Aaron Begay, Lupita McClannahan, and Kathy Johns.
- c. Invocation by Freddie Yazzie.
- d. Adapt agenda.  
Dorthea Litson reviewed the agenda. No questions or comments or amendments.  
*Action: The listed agenda was accepted as it was presented.*  
*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*  
*Seconded by Teresa Chee*  
*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained* *Motion Carried*
- e. Reading last meeting minutes, May 30, 2014  
Dorthea Litson read the last meeting minutes from, May 30, 2014. No questions, comments, or amendments.  
*Action: The meeting minutes was accepted as read.*  
*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*  
*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*  
*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained* *Motion Carried*
- f. Announcements:
  - Chapter Meeting, Tuesday, June 17, 2014 @ 4pm

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. LUP- Transfer, Relinquishment, Probate, etc.
  - Harvey Kenny Jr. – Request for resurveying farmland

Dorthea explained that Mr. Kenny Jr.'s sister stopped by her house to make an Operation and Maintenance fee payment on her brother's behalf. There she stated, she explained to her that there is a need to resurveying the farmland and he was up on the agenda on May 30, 2014, but he did not show. The Farm Board and other committee members are having a joint meeting today, and are unsure if his land use issue is on the agenda. However, on her way back from the meeting she would stop by their home to let them know about the agenda item and next meeting date.

*Action: Mr. Kenny Land Use permit to request for resurveying farmland be defer to next meeting date.*

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*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Freddie Yazzie*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

B. Alternative Plan for Revitalizing Farmland Projects

Lorena explained that this project is going to be an ongoing. At the last meeting, they developed steps for implementation. One of the questions was if the Farm Board oversees an estimate of 1,700 acres then how many acres are considered an idling farm land. Who Farm plot are idling? And there is a need to identify farmers.

Dorthea was asked to explain how the data was collected. Therefore, Dorthea shared the data, and stated that the data was collect with the Water Masters.

Furthermore, there she thank all for an outline for implementation. She shared, as farmer the number one priority is to SAVE THE SOIL. These soils are very bare, no ground overage, that when the wind blows it moves the dirt. Using that as an indicator she stated in "Tsaile area is Ida Mae Oliver farmland; Lower Wheatfields area are Phillip Benally, Noel Bikeddy, Marie Carroll, TC Tso, Matthew Benally, and Tony Yazzie; and Upper Wheatfields is none.

However, in Upper Wheatfield the criteria to use is the Number of year the land idling.

Under this indicator the following farmland owners: Frankie Descheenie, Paul Yoe, Jessie Tsosie, Bealah Blackrock, and Wallace Begay. **Please note:** To date, for Lower Wheatfields there were only two farmers were identified, and they are as follow: Noel Bikeddy and Marie Carroll.

It was considered to write to these farmers mention above, but Dorthea explained that it is necessary to inform BIA of the sublease we are doing. When they came April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, they were in agreement of the Revitalization of Farmland plan, but they asked to keep them in the loop. Then letter can be sent out to farmers.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

Freddie commented that after he reviewed the data that the idling farmlands has raise within the two years. He is very concern about it why? Are people not interested anymore? Maybe the farmers are not aware that if the farmland is idling then he/she is prone to losing their good soil for their farmland.

Freddie asked the following questions:

- "The Water Master is stating that only those who have paid their operation and maintenance fee are able to irrigate, and is that true?"
- "The Water Maser is stating that they are only responsible for the main irrigation line and not inside the farmland area; is that true?"

Dorthea responded to Freddie comment in the following ways:

One, yes, the water masters are only responsible for the main irrigation line. They are not responsible for irrigation inside the famer's farmland. That is the farmer's responsibility.

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Secondly, to date, we have NOT indicated that only those who have paid for the O&M fees are able to irrigate.

Lorena stated that the only a farmer is able to use the gated pipe is only if they pay for that up FRONT. The cost is \$70 per use.

*Action: Write a resolution to Chinle BIA office staff informing them of the subleases and revitalizing farmland project.*

*Motioned by Freddie Yazzie*

*Seconded by Teresa Chee*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

*Action: Write letters to Farmer identified above.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

C. Tsaille Water Plan – Research

Lucinda explained that she continues to work with the Director of Navajo Nation Water Resources. The Director, Mr. Tariq, is on travel out of town. The research is about what plans have been in place for Tsaille farmland as mentioned by one of the Tsaille Farmers. Apparently, there has been a plan to pump water out of Tsaille Lake, and push the water system above Tsaille Farmland so farmers are able to use for farming.

*Action: Defer research findings to next meeting.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Teresa Chee*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

D. Water Masters Request for equipment rental and materials.

At the last meeting, the water masters requested for materials for gated pipes that are rented to farmers for irrigation; equipment rental for backfill in Tsaille Farmland area. However, the water masters both did not show for the meeting. And no list has been created.

*Action: Defer to next meeting.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Teresa Chee*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Water Plan

The water plan pertains to all community committees, and this meeting was scheduled for joint meeting.

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*Action: Defer to next meeting or see if Lucinda can work with others to set up another joint meeting with CLUPS.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Dortha Litson*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

#### IV. CONCLUSION

##### A. Identify next agenda items

The next agenda items are as follow:

- LUP – Resurveying Harvey Kenny Jr. Farmland
- Tsaille Water Plan
- Revitalizing Farmland Project
- Water Masters Request
- Schedule Workshop – Gated pipe usage

Additional request: Concern for deer population as result to request for a representative to attend next Farm Board Meeting.

##### B. Schedule next meeting date

Next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2014. Unsure of time and this will depend on Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife representative availability.

##### C. Adjournment

*Action: The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Freddie Yazzie*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*