

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board Meeting and Dineh Water User
Joint Meeting
Sunday, August 9, 2015
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

AGENDA

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Roll Call:
- c. Invocation
- d. Adopt agenda
- e. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, July 27, 2015
- f. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Alternative Plan - Purpose is to overcome idling Farmlands

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 - 1. Lula Chee request Probate Land Use Permit – Late Father, Thomas James, Tsaile Farmland area.
- b. Request BIA for Technical Assistance: Weed Control & Management and Russian Olive
- c. Request Fish & Wildlife for prairie dog control

IV. Reports

- a. Farm Board
- b. Water User
- c. Water Masters
- d. Others

V. CONCLUSION

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

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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order at 12:50 pm
- b. Roll Call:
Farm Board – Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson all present
Water User – Dorthea Litson present. Aaron Begay and Kathy Johns absent.
- c. Invocation by Teres Chee
- d. Adopt agenda
Dorthea read the agenda.
Action: The agenda accepted as read. No amendments, questions, or comments.
Motioned by
Seconded by
Voting:
- e. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, July 27, 2015
Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from July 27, 2015.
Action: The last meeting minutes accepted as read. No amendments, questions, or comments.
Motioned by
Seconded by
Voting:
- f. Announcements:
Title: Tsaile Wheatfields Chapter Planning Meeting
Location: Wheatfields Chapter House
Time: 3pm
Date: Monday, August 10, 2015

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Alternative Plan - Purpose is to overcome idling Farmlands
Dorthea explained the Alternative Plan for Farm Land major purpose is to overcome the idling farmlands present. She shared the data for the last three year. The data indicated an increase in idling farmlands.

It is a ten year sublease, but the land owner is going to have to work closely with the Farm Board in planning what will be planted. See attached description below.

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FARMERS INVOLVEMENT:

	YEAR One to Three		YEAR Four to Six	YEAR Seven and Eight	YEAR Ten
	Farmer is given 2 year to fix their probate and quit title of farmland while working on the initiative below if this is what the currently owner is facing.				
Teaching & learning	Farmer must attend workshop on developing their conservation plan. Plus attend two addition workshops annually.	Farmer must attend workshop on developing their conservation plan. Plus attend two addition workshops annually.	Farmer must attend workshop on developing their conservation plan. Plus attend two addition workshops annually.	Farmer must attend workshop on developing their conservation plan. Plus attend two addition workshops annually.	Farmer must attend workshop on developing their conservation plan. Plus attend two addition workshops annually.
Planning	Farmer plans with Farm Board regarding planting, but must keep conservation in mind such as water, soil, etc.	Farmer plan with Farm Board regarding what you wish to plant, but must keep conservation in mind such as water, soil, etc.	Farmer plan with Farm Board regarding what you wish to plant, but must keep conservation in mind such as water, soil, etc.	Farmer plan with Farm Board regarding what you wish to plant, but must keep conservation in mind such as water, soil, etc.	Farmer plan with Farm Board regarding what you wish to plant, but must keep conservation in mind such as water, soil, etc.
Fencing	Farmer improves fence around his or her farmland.	Farmer completes 40% fence improvement around his or her farmland	Farmer completes 60% fence improvement around his or her farmland	Farmer completes 80% fence improvement around his or her farmland	Farmer completes 100% fence improvement around his or her farmland
Planting	Farmer participates in observation of planting methods.	Farmer participates in planting 25% of land acres.	Farmer participates in planting 50% of land acres	Farmer participates in planting 75% of land acres	Farmer participates in planting 100% of land acres
Irrigation	Farmer participates in observation of irrigation methods.	Farmer participates in irrigating 25% of land acres for however number of irrigation is needed.	Farmer participates in irrigating 50% of land acres for however number of irrigation is needed	Farmers participates in irrigating 75% of land acres for however number of irrigation is needed	Farmer participates in irrigating 100% of land acres for however number of irrigation is needed.

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Lorena explained the Alternative plan has been talked about several time, but not implemented. For implementation to begin, “How do we select the people for the project?”

Comments, suggestions, and questions:

There already has been a criterial established, and those are as follow: Soil Health, Probate cases, and 30 or greater years of not utilizing the land to farm. In addition, there were ten people already identified for the project.

During this meeting, we categorize farmers that fell into the three description:

Location	Soil Health	Probate	30 year or greater of Farm Land Idling
Lower Wheatfields	Tony Yazzie, Mathew Benally, TC Tso, Elizabeth Becenti, Marie Carroll, Noel Bikeddy, Phillip Benally, Paul C. Begay, Stanley Chee, Kee D. Chee, Emerson Chee	Wesley Begay, (IP) Phillip Benally, (IP) Rose Mary Arviso (Sublease) Louise Begay (Sublease) Charles Curley, (IP) Ned T. Tsosie Sr.	Laurina John, Melford White, Charles Curley, Curtis Benally, Sadie or TC Tso, Ned T. Tsosie, Marie Carroll, Lloyd James
Upper Wheatfields		Several probate cases	All, but the following farmers that DO NOT fall into this category are: Linda Staley, Rita Bahe (2 fields), Dan Y. Litzin (maintain by Merle Kedelty), Eva John (maintain by Curtis Begay), Peterson White, Arlene White, and Edward Litson Jr.
Tsaile		Several probate cases	Justin Tsosie, Samuel Yazzie, Henry Nez, Allan Hobbs, Arthur Allen, Harvey Kenny, Allen Begay, Margo Sorrell, Angela Kedelty, Ida M. Oliver, Evelyn Litzin, Rita Jishue, (majority of fields south of highway)

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The graph below indicate who will be receiving letter to request for them to participate in the Alternative Plan that has been proposal

Location	Write letter to following farmer to request their participation in the Alternative Plan
Lower Wheatfields	Tony Yazzie, Mathew Benally, TC Tso, Elsie Benally, Noel Bikeddy, Marie Carroll, Kee D. Chee, Stanley Chee, Paul C. Begay, Corwin Begay, Rydall Curley, Melford White, Laurine John, Ned T. Tsosie Jr.
Upper Wheatfields	Loren Davis, Emerson Chee/ Ambrose Chee, Paul Yoe, Manual Charley, and Don Jones
Tsaile	Justin Tsosie, Samuel Yazzie, Henry Nez, Allan Hobbs, Arthur Allen; Harvey Kenny, Allen Begay, Margo Sorrell, Angela Kedelty, Ida Mae Oliver, Rita Jishue, Evelyn Litzin

Action: To write letter to Farmers identified above, and request them to attend next meeting so we can inform them about the participating in the alternative plan.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Teres Chee

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 2. Lula Chee request Probate Land Use Permit – Late Father, Thomas James, Tsaile Farmland area.

No show, but referred to next meeting.

Action: Need to let Lula know that she will be on next Farm Board Meeting.

- b. Request BIA for Technical Assistance: Weed Control & Management and Russian Olive
Lorena explained that we have submitted resolution to BIA regarding treatment of Russian olive along Lower Wheatfields creek and Tsaile creek. However, that has not happen yet. As result, the Farm Board is requesting BIA to treat Russian olive plus other invasive plants.

The invasive plants that are located in all three area of the farm lands are:

- Russian- olive (Elaeagnaceae – Oleaster family)
- Salt cedar (Tamaricaceae – Tamarisk family)
- Russian Knapweed (Asteraceae – Sunflower family)
- Scotch Thistle (Asteraceae – Sunflower family) and types of thistles
- Field Bindweed (Convovulaceae -Morningglory family)

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We talked about the methods of control. The control are chemical, biological, and mechanical. The biological control seem to be a very great option, but several approval process has to happen; mechanical use is not the best option; and the chemical control method is a more likely option.

There was a question about when is the best time for treatment?

The best time for treatment is in the fall. It allows the treatment to work throughout the winter season. If the treatment is conducted during the summer then it will allow the farmer not to use that part of the farming for the entire summer.

Action: Write a resolution to BIA staff to request for their technical assistance to treat and control the above mentioned invasive plants. The alternative plan is that if BIA staff are not willing then write a letter to Dr. John Brock to request for his technical assistance, but will need to figure out his charges.

Motioned by Emerson Chee

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

c. Request Fish & Wildlife for prairie dog control

Lorena explained that the Farm Board plan to request the Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Department to do a presentation on prairie dog control. In addition, she pointed out the possible ways to control are: Rodex, Traps, Shooting contest, Chemical treatment, Flood, and Vacuum. "The Rodex machine is what we have."

The Rodex machine that the Farm Board and Water Use have need propane and saline.

People indicated that the prairie dog is the reason for not farming due to these rodent eating what they plant. The prairie dogs population is increasing, and it needs to be control.

Dorthea commented that she agrees the population of prairie dogs is increasing and needs to be control, but she disagrees with farmers who state that prairie dog are the reason that they DO NOT farm. Even when there are prairie dogs, why is it that people who are farming are still able to produce and cut their crops?

Action: If the budget permit to purchase propane and saline then the Rodex will be use where the population of prairie dogs have increase. A letter will be sent to Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife to conduct a present on prairie dog control methods.

Motioned by Emerson Chee

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board Meeting and Dineh Water User
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a. Farm Board

President: She reported the following:

- There is a mandatory Workshop for the Grazing members, Farm Board member, and Eastern Land Board member to attend in Albuquerque, NM on August 25 & 26, 2015. The member will need to request for travel from there Chapter.
- Central Executive Farm Board are requesting for re-election. (Not sure if that will happen; due to the Farm Board term being over next year).
- An email has been sent to Chapter official, Chapter staff, and Council Delegate to request for a status update on the \$2.9 million proposal written by the Tsaile / Wheatfields Farm Board.

Vice President: No report.

Secretary: She attended a meeting with Navajo Farmer and Rancher Congress. This organization is being established for Navajo Farmer and/or Rancher at the grass root level to support them in voicing their concerns and issues. The next meeting for the Navajo Farmer and Rancher Congress is Thursday, November 19, 2015 @ 9am Saba Dakai, AZ

b. Water User

Dorthea shared that she contacted Michael Patrick, New Mexico State University to have him help Water User identify Universities that can do Water Shed study including farming and ranching, and economic development area since Navajo Nation Water Management staff are working with Brown & Caldwell to do study on Drinking water only. She will be working with Michael Patrick in coming weeks. She will work on outlined the scope of work of how the \$50,000 from the chapter will be spent.

c. Water Masters

The water masters reported the following:

1. The irrigation canals are all being maintain is doing fair across the board.
2. There is an expose underground irrigation pipe line in Upper Wheatfields due to immediate attention needed.
3. Both earthen dams by Frankie Spencer home and the late Walter Begay's home are ready for repair in building Cat Walks. (The ensure water is received in those area will be another project of its own).
4. Tsaile Diversion Dam need immediate attention.

Materials and supplies for both earthen dams are needed so the work can be started.

Action: The reports from all were accepted. The materials and supplies for earthen dams need to be ordered.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Tyler L. Begay

Voting: 8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

d. Others

None

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V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

- Presentation of Fish & Wild Life
- Land Use Permit – Transfer, Probe, or Quite Title
- Alternative Plan – Meeting with Identified famers to participate

B. Scheduled next meeting date:

Friday, August 21, 2015 @ 10am only if the Regional Water Plan is cancel. The second alternative date is Monday, August 23, 2015 @ 10am Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfield, AZ

C. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

Motioned by Emerson Chee

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried