

Tsailé – Wheatfields Farm Board & Water Users Joint Meeting
Sunday, November 30, 2014
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 and adopt last meeting minutes, Nov. 9, 2014
- f. Announcements:
 - Chapter Planning Meeting, Monday, December 1, 2014 at 9am

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Proposal
- b. Community Water Plan

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 1. No Request at this time
- b. Financial Report – Water Users
- c. Outcome of Workshop
- d. Resolution
 - a. Request the Chapter for supporting Resolution - Proposals
 - b. Resolutions for Proposals
- e. Power Point for Budget & Finance, Dec. 2, 2014

IV. Reports

- A. Farm Board
- B. Water User

V. 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

Meeting called to order at 10:26 AM

b. Roll call

Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Liston all present

Water User: Present - Dorthea Liston. Absent – Aaron Begay and Kathy John

c. Invocation

Invocation by Dorthea Liston

d. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed the listed agenda. Amendments, questions, or suggestions made.

Action: The meeting agenda accepted as a read.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Second by Dorthea Liston

Voting: 3 yes: 0 no: 1 abstain

Motion carried

e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, Nov. 9, 2014

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from November 9, 2014. No amendments, questions, or suggestions made.

Action: The read meeting minutes was except as read.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Second by Dorthea Liston

Voting: 3 yes: 0 no: one abstain

motion carried

f. Announcements:

- Chapter Planning Meeting, Monday, December 1, 2014 at 9am

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Proposal

Lorena explained to the people that the Farm Board and Water Users are in the process of writing a proposal requesting for equipment and personnel to implement farm projects and increase water development. The requested amount is about \$2.5 million. The organizations have identified priorities in the following:

1. Equipment and personnel
2. Warehouse
3. Improve Irrigation canals and diversion dams for Upper Wheatfields and Tsaile Farmland area.
4. Tsaile water plan
5. Fence Boundaries for all three farmland area

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She read the data the organizations have for the last three years in terms of the number of percent of idling farmlands, and conducted a survey from 89 farmers to determine, “Why there is a large percent of Idling Farmland?” The results indicated lack of equipment and finance were the two primary reasons why the farmlands sit idling. All of these creates a problem statement for the proposal, and, at the same time, the goal of the Farm Board is by a 2015 100% of the farmlands will be in production.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

Freddie Yazzie encouraged the Farm Board and Water Users to continue the process of working on the proposal. He is glad to know that the organizations are working for the farmers and the people as much as they can. He certainly agrees that the outside boundary fence areas for the three farmland area is critically needed due to wildlife eating what the farmers are trying to produce. At the same time, he shared his concerns for the impact the new irrigation system might have for the Tsaile area.

Action: No action taken; it's for information.

b. Community Water Plan

Lorena explained that Dorthea requested 50,000 from the Tsaile – Wheatfields chapter to secure money to conduct a water plan study for the community. This community water plan is a continuous work effort to be made by the Farm Board, Water Users Board, Chapter Officials, and Community Land Use Committee members.

Action: No action taken; it's for information.

III. NEW BUSSINESS

a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.

1. No Request at this time

Dorthea explained there is no request of land-use permit transfers relinquishment or probate. However, the people at the meeting had questions on conservation plans. For example Rosita Benally explained that she needs soil map information about their farmland plus she was told the Farm Board has information about soil testing was conducted for Lower Wheatfields. In addition, the current farmland is all open with Noel and Rudy's farmland, and they are unsure where the mark should be placed to know the acreage of their farmland.

Dorthea explained she copies of the soil map, and they were presented a copy of the soil testing results conducted for Lower Wheatfields.

Lorena requested Rosita to make BIA staff to resurvey the farmland to identify the acreage for the farmland.

Action: No action taken; it's shared information.

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b. Financial Report – Water Users

Dorthea reported the beginning balance for the Water User accounts: \$30,353.94, and she deposit \$201 and the expenditure is about at Sam’s Club to purchase food for the November 12, 2014 Water Users meeting. By the end of November the balance should be \$30,554.94. Please note: This is an estimate she’s has not cross-reference all of these in the Water Users’ account accounting system on the computer.

Action: No action taken; it’s for information.

c. Outcome of Workshop

The following were comments of the workshop conducted at Dine’ College on November 17, 2014:

- Presenters were hard to understand, but their PowerPoint help to give an idea of what they were talking about.

Action: No action taken; it’s for information.

d. Resolution

a. Request the Chapter for supporting Resolution – Proposals

Lorena explained to the people that Tsaile – Wheatfields Chapter Officials needs to write a supporting resolution for the proposal being written for the equipment and personnel staff. This supporting resolution will be attached to the proposal.

Action: The Farm Board, Water Users, and members requested the Tsaile - Wheatfields Chapter Officials to write a supporting resolution and this resolution will be attached to the proposal.

Motion by Noel Bikeddy

Second by Freddie Yazzie

Voting: 9 yes: 0 no: 1 abstain

Motion carried

b. Resolution for Proposals

Lorena explained that a resolution from the Farm Board is needed for this proposal also.

Action: The Farm Board writes and submits the supporting resolution for the proposal it’s requesting. Motion by Lucinda Davis

Second by Noel Bikeddy

Voting: 9 yes: 0 no: 1 abstain

motion carried

e. Power Point for Budget & Finance, Dec. 2, 2014

Lorena explained to the people that the Farm Board and Water Users will be presenting before the Navajo Nation Budget and Finance committee to conduct a PowerPoint presentation about the work they have completed it, the current projects, and future projects. The presentation will be on December 2, 2014 in Window Rock, Arizona. Within the Navajo Nation, there are about four committees that the Navajo Nation Council Delegates have, and budget and finance is a committee that is composed of six Council delegates.

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Dorthea presented three different PowerPoint presentations that were conducted by the organizations in the past. Based on what was presented, there was a request that pictures and maps of the location needs to be added.

Action: Dorthea is to put two PowerPoint presentations together to make it as one. The PowerPoint that presents the success of Lower Wheatfields Irrigation project and the April 2014 workshop are to merge as one, and be presented to the Navajo Nation Budget and Finance Committee.

Motion by Noel Bikeddy

Second by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 9 yes: 0 no: 1 abstain

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

A. Farm Board

President reported of the following:

- She is working on the comment box
- She is working with Navajo Nation Land Administration staff regarding detail maps of the community
- She was approached by Fred Benally on November 17, 2014 where he indicated that he is losing interest in his farmland due to people cutting his fence. He is unsure of who to assign his farmland to. He does have one son, but knows that he is not able to work on the farmland. Lorena explained to him that he needs to write a complaint letter on the individual who is cutting his fence. She explained to the people that it is important to write the complaint and any questions they might have and be able to present that to the Farm Board members in order for them to take action on the requests.
- Lorena explained she received a letter from Allen Begay on November 10, 2014. The letter talks about the Tsaile water issue.
- She asked the question about who are the five farmers to take part in the Shiprock Farm to School Project.

The following are the five farmers to be part of the Farm to School Project: Noel

- Lucinda Davis
- Freddie Yazzie
- Joan Benally
- Dorthea Litson
- Lorena Eldridge
- Noel Bikeddy

Question, comments, or suggestions:

Dorthea commented on the letter received from Allen Begay. She was surprised to see a letter written for the Farm Board to consider. The reason for her surprise is that he, referring to Allen, has mentioned the Tsaile Water Plan has been in the plan for several years ago, and she thought he might have more documents to be used as evidence for the plan. This questions the validity of what he had presented to us, Farm Board.

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VP reported that she continues to work on providing the cost estimate for engineers to provide assessment on upper Wheatfields irrigation and Tsaile farmland area for irrigation system improvement.

Sec. reported that she does not have anything at this time cents we already talked about it, the Farm to School Project.

- B. Water User
No report from water users

Action: The reports provided by the Farm Boards and Water Users were accepted.

Motion by Lucinda Davis

Second by Noel by Kitty

Voting: 9 yes: 0 no: 1 abstain

Motion Carried

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items

The following are the next agenda item:

- Proposal
- Community water plan
- Financial report-water users Association
- Reports-now phonation budget and finance committee
- Plan upcoming workshops

- B. Schedule next meeting date

The schedule next meeting date is Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 4 PM Wheatfields Chapter House.

- C. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjournment at 2:12 PM

Motion by Noel Bikeddy

Second by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 9 yes: 0 no: 1 abstain

Motion Carried