

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 8, 2015 @ 1 pm**  
**Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

AGENDA

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Invocation
- c. Adopt agenda
- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2015
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. *Revitalization of Farm Land Project*
- c. Status of Irrigation Project

III. NEW BUSSINESS

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

IV. Reports

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

V. CONCLUSION

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

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Meeting Minute

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 2:06pm

b. Invocation by Lorena Eldridge

c. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No amendments or questions on the presented agenda.

*Action: The read agenda was accepted as read.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

*Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2015

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from October 28, 2015.

No questions or amendments.

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

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*

e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. *Revitalization of Farm Land Project*

Lorena explained 30 plus farmer were sent letters request them to attend Farm Board meeting so they can be part of the Revitalization of Farm land Project. The farmer were selected by using three criteria; Soil health, Probate Case, and 30 or more years of idling farm lands.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

Gale Davis asked, "What kind of help are you talking about?"

Dorthea explained the Revitalization of Farm Land Project. This project is a ten year project where the farm land is to be sublease to the Farm Board. The goal of the project: To rebuild and sustain the farm land of the community through land owner and owner's children and grandchildren involvement. From the get go of the project, the land owners has to be involve every step of the way partnering with the Farm Board. The Farm Board is to provide continuous workshop on farm management and operations, and the land owner are to attend the workshop. In addition, within the ten years the Farmer are to farm their land at 25% of it acreages over time. An example, if the farmer owns 16 acres then within the first three year the farmer will plant and irrigate 4 acres of his/her land; then within the second three years the farmer will plant and irrigate 8 acres of his/her farmland; then within the third three years the farmer will plant and irrigate 12 acres of his/her farmland; and within the last year the farmer is ready for full implementation of planting.

Mr. Gale Davis commented that Prairie Dogs is a huge problem, and this his reason for not farming.

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Lorena replied, "About 3 meetings ago we invited Fish & Wildlife to present, and Charles Blacksheep presented on treating prairie dog. He stated that Pesticide Certification is needed, Fish & Wildlife has no money, and EPA are against treating prairie dogs."

Others have reported that attending to farmland on regular base help with prairie dogs problem.

Farmers need to know that plowing their farmland and not putting anything into the ground is NOT good for the soil. The soil will be losing micro-organism.

Lorena asked, "We send out 30 plus letters to farmers, but only few has showed up to the meeting, so how many farmer do we work with, and what is the next scoop of work?"

Thomas commented that it very hard to work with the people and what implementing policies is hard due to not know where the support is from the staff of BIA Natural Resource Office and the staff of Navajo Nation Resource and Development Office or committee. For example, BIA is holding on to all of the transfer due to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). BIA is planning to cut the carrying capacity.

Dorthea stated, "It is true about what the next steps are to be. It even makes it complicated if the Farm Board is only a recommending body of the Navajo Nation Government system. It seems like what we recommend is no support by BIA. BIA will always state that it is up to the Navajo Nation Government. The Navajo Nation does has a policy in place regarding idling farm land, but if implemented BIA will not support it. Currently, it is very frustrating to be a Farm Board. It feels like we are stuck in a mud."

Dorthea stated further to just move with the project. It is supported by the chapter and grazing official, and verbally the BIA commented that it supports the project. However, at one time when we were doing the sublease of idling farmland in Lower Wheatfields the farmers said "No, I don't want to sublease my land, but I will plan on it next month in August, but that has not happen yet." "So how many chance do we give? However, we did receive a letter from Alvin Whitehair stating he is in support of subleasing farm land to the immediate relative of farmer, subleasing to educational institution like schools and Dine' College, and to Farm Board.

Lorena stated, "Since Navajo Nation Resource and Development Committee will be meeting here on November 24, 2015. Perhaps the Farm Board should present its projects and challenges and accomplishments."

*Action: Lorena will write and email to get on the agenda to present at the RDC meeting here at Wheatfields on the 24 of November 2015. The Farm Board now has estimate of 30 acres of farmland to start the Revitalization Project, and that should be added to next meeting agenda for more planning to occur.*

*Motioned by Dorthea Litson*

*Seconded by Thomas Litson*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

#### c. Status of Irrigation Project

Dorthea provided the following information:

- She worked with the Chapter staff to order the pipes needed for the irrigation pipe.

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- She and her children hauled in the pipes needed, and with the help of Emerson the pipes were delivered to job sites Sunday morning, November 8, 2015.
- The second load of pipe needs to be picked up, and those are the 21" pipe and 15" pipe. Two reducers, 24" pipe to 15" pipe will need to be picked up too.
- The Water Masters removed the dirt to expose the pipe to fix the problem area.
- At this time, majority of the materials and supplies are purchased.
- The Backhoe rental has been extended to November 24, 2015.

**III. NEW BUSSINESS**

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
- NONE LISTED

*Action: None*

**IV. Reports**

- a. Farm Board  
President reported she attended at Workshop in Gallup, NM. The title of the workshop was "Life in the Soil." She provided information about the importance of maintaining a health soil. She plans to write up her report.

Vice President

Secretary reported that she received messages on her phone from Mr. Jones, BIA office regarding the request for Weed control management. She has not return his call yet.

- b. Water User  
Please note Water User Report was provided under old business regarding status of Irrigation Project.
- c. Others  
No other report.

*Action: The reported was accepted as provided.*

*Motioned by Dorthea Litson*

*Seconded by Thomas Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*

**V. CONCLUSION**

- A. Identify next agenda items  
The following are next agenda items:
- Prepare for Navajo Nation Resources and Development Committee Meeting on November 24, 2015.
  - Prepare for Revitalization of Farm Land Project

- B. Scheduled next meeting date to Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 1pm

- C. Adjournment

*Action: Meeting adjourned at 4:52pm*

*Motioned by Thomas Litson*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*