

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Friday, January 14, 2019 @1:00 PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsalle/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: psb

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting called to order
- B. Invocation
- C. Roll Call
- D. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials
- E. Review and adoption of agenda
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes – 12/7/18 and 1/4/19

II. OLD BUSINESS

NNFB 2017 goals - Below are the Program Performance Criteria (PPC and Goal Statements for all Farm Boards) The Farm Board elected officials will be assigned 1 or 2 PPC, see below.

- A. Each FB will submit 12 crop inventory reports from their respective Agriculture Land Use Permittees (ALUP).

Goal Statement: Each FB will submit at least 3 respective crop inventory reports quarterly in table format (3CIR x 13 FBs).

1. Crop Inventory

- B. Facilitate farm improvement/outreach activities for farmers in collaboration with tribal, state and private sectors.

Goal Statement: Conduct 2 agricultural educational outreach/workshops for farmers per quarter per 13 FBs.

1. Wheatfields Agriculture Projects

- A. Project Update
- B.

- C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and the Navajo Nation.

Goal Statement: With farmer participation, implement conservation training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

1. Training

- D. Assist with farm area improvements such as land leveling, erosion control: with funding sources such as USDA.

Goal Statement: With farmer participation, each FB will implement 1 improvement per quarter according to conservation plan.

1. AIF Proposal

- E. Each FB member shall inventory at least 3 ALUP/Farm Permit within respective FB area.

Goal Statement: With BIA and Farmer participation, reconcile and inventory as to the status of each ALUP or Farm Permit. (3ALUP x each 13 FB member)

1.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Report
- B. Joint Meeting
- C.

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements
- C.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Next Agenda Items
- B. Next Meeting
- D. Adjournment

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Monday January 14, 2019 @ 1:00 PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

Minutes

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting called to order
Meeting was called to order at 2:15
- B. Invocation
Invocation was given by Charles Chee
- C. Roll Call
Lorena Eldridge, Emerson Chee, Lucinda Davis – Present
All members of the Water Users Association - Absent
- D. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials
All local farmers
- E. Review and adoption of agenda
Agenda read by Lucinda Davis
Motion to accept the agenda as is by James Becenti
Second by: Emerson Chee Votes: 6 – 0 - 1
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of 12/7/18 and 1/4/19
Minute read by Lucinda Davis Elizabeth Becenti
Second by: James Becenti
Votes: 6 – 0 - 1

II. OLD BUSINESS

NNFB 2017 goals - Below are the Program Performance Criteria (PPC and Goal Statements for all Farm Boards) The Farm Board elected officials will be assigned 1 or 2 PPC, see below.

- A. Each FB will submit 12 crop inventory reports from their respective Agriculture Land Use Permittees (ALUP).

Goal Statement: Each FB will submit at least 3 respective crop inventory reports quarterly in table format (3CIR x 13 FBs).

1. Crop Inventory

January to March will be the next quarter so we need to continue to collect crop inventory forms. We are supposed to submit crop inventory the first and third quarters, but we need to continue collecting them. There are four questions that we will be asking the farmers when we collect the forms.

- a. Does the Farmer have an ALUP – if yes where is it.
- b. Is it a transfer or probate
- c. Objectives – Conservation Plan
- d. Crop Inventory and this serves as the farmer contact information

This will be a continuing goal, 2nd Quarter we will take that extra effort.

Lorena reported on the Joint Farm Board meeting that took place on January 11, 2019 in Window Rock Museum. The first Quarter Goal was:

Goal 1 – 0

Goal 2 - 3

Goal 3 - 0

Goal 4 - 10

Goal 5 – 0

That was the First Quarter Reports that was reported, we submitted our report for this report.

Motion to accept the report: Evelyn Litzin

Second: Emerson Chee

Vote: 6 – 0 - 1

B. Facilitate farm improvement/outreach activities for farmers in collaboration with tribal, state and private sectors.

Goal Statement: Conduct 2 agricultural educational outreach/workshops for farmers per quarter per 13 FBs.

1. Wheatfields Agriculture Projects

A. Project Status Update

At the last meeting we developed a resolution to Division of Natural Resources to Vangie Curley-Thomas to come up with a working relationship with the Water Users Association and also to come up with a plan as to how the findings can be taken care of. This meeting will be with WUA, Farm Board, Grazing and Chapter Officials. As we discussed this at the last meeting, it was going to be closed to the public, that was the understanding.

Lorena talked to Vangie and the meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 17 2019 but Lucinda could not make that meeting and it was important that we all be there, so it was suggested for the 18th, but Vangie cannot make that date so she recommended January 22, 2019 at 9:00 since we do have a permittee meeting on that same day at 2:00. Vangie also said they won't know who the Executive Director and who the Budget & Finance will be until next week.

We don't know what the new Budget & Finance will say about the Audit Findings and recommendations by the Auditor General.

There are three individuals still working at the Water Users Associations, the Farm Manager, Office Specialist and the Grant Writer. Emerson is not working anymore, there is no more funds. There are also 2 individuals from Workforce who are working on the Rural Addressing.

Lorena wanted to know what was going on with the Rural Addressing, Lucinda commented that she does not know what is going on the Rural Addressing because it was supposed to be done by the CLUP Committee, but it has been assigned to different people and every time it is assigned to someone, they come up with different data and the CLUPC already have the data which just needs to be given to M.C. Baldwin to plot on the map, that is all that needs to be done. We have the data and the maps, but it is just that different people keep putting their hands in there which makes it hard to work on it.

Lorena brought the Audit Report and this is a Public Information now, but now the News Paper also reported in the paper about the Audit Report, front page on Tsaille/Wheatfields again. People are saying the Tsaille/Wheatfields Farm Board are in the paper, but we keep telling them that its not the Farm Board, it's the Water Users Association. Community members want Bennie's family to be part of this whole issue, but they are not coming in or writing it up, they just talk about it elsewhere. We won't know how this will be taken care of until January 22, 2019. Farmers are saying they don't want to pay the O & M because they don't know how it is being used or who is using it, but no one is writing it up or coming into the meetings to express this. Even though "we need to move forward in this new year" is brought up, but we cannot move forward until all the findings are taken care of, then I think we can move forward again. We as the Farm Board are saying we need a Tri Party Agreement, this is what the San Juan Water User and the Farm Board are working together. There was about five recommendations that were recommended by the Attorney for B & F. Was to just:

1. Dept of Ag
2. MOA amendment
3. Economic Development
4. Leave as is
5. Grant and give to WUA however way they want to use.

This will all depend on the new Budget & Finance Committee. Marie Carroll and Holgates and Dorothy Edisons in-law were talking about how the O & M money is being used, they would like to get a report from the Water Users Associations.

James thinks that the Tri Party Agreement would be good, it has to be someone that know how to be a Project Manager and check to see how the Project is going.

Lucinda told James that she understands what James is talking about, right now as it is, DNR is just the Oversight, but they are not out here checking on the project. A Project Manager has to be out in the field so they know what the status of the project is there should be a timeline and scope, right now it should be the Farm Manager, but I don't think he knows what a Project Manager is, so we all don't know what the status is. People ask us where ever we are about the Project but we don't know and that makes us look bad.

The next drawdown was over 600,000.00, there is two check that DNR is holding, one for 592,341.36 and the other is 86,000.00 plus. We don't know when this will be released to them.

James recommends that a percentage should be withheld like a retainage until the project is completed.

Lorena said this will be our recommendation, the Tri Party Agreement if they don't want that then, we can go for the MOA amendment. What are the Pros and Cons.

Pros will be:

Funding is there
Staff Positions
Equipments
Elected Officials

Cons:

Nepotism/Conflicts of Interest
Payroll Policy/Process
No segregation of duties
Proper tag of property

Board of Directors
By Laws/Articales of Incorporation

127 Farmers
1678 Acres

Equipment policy
Hourly rate over market base on qualification
No Joint effort between WUA and FB
Related member do not recuse themselves during hiring.
Low Farmers participation
Vehicle Policy
There is a loss

Charles recommends to cover the pros and cons according to the newspaper because It covers the findings the same as what the Auditor General's report.

- C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and the Navajo Nation

Goal Statement: With farmer participation, Implement conservation training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

1. Training
January 21, 2019 training at Dine College

- D. Assist with farm area improvements such as land leveling, erosion control: with funding sources such as USDA.

Goal Statement: With farmer participation, each FB will implement 1 improvement per quarter according to conservation plan.

1. AIF Proposal
There is work on whether any of our proposals have been awarded. Water Users are not here to give a report on the status.

- E. Each FB member shell inventory at leaLUP/Farm Permit within respective FB area.

Goal Statement: With BIA and Farmer participation, reconcile and inventory as to the status of each ALUP or Farm Permit. (3ALUP x each 13 FB member)

1. None

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Report
No one is here to give updates on the WUA

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
1. None, there will be more at the next meeting

- B. Announcements
1. None

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

Same as before

C. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on December 16, 2018 at 1:00 pm

D. Adjournment

Lorena adjourned with all in favor

Adjourned at 7:40