

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Tuesday May 1, 2018 @4:00 PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

RECEIVED

MAY 25 2018

Tsaile/Wheatfields  
Chapter BY: psb

1. 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 of April 15, 2018

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 Status Update

- 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.

- 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 Financial Report
- B. Agriculture Infrastructure Proposal
- C. Cattle Guard

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements

V. CONCLUSION

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

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Tuesday May 1, 2018 @4:00 PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

MINUTES

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting called to order  
Meeting call to order by Lorena Eldridge at 4:30 pm
- b. Invocation  
Invocation given by Lucinda Davis
- c. Roll Call  
Farm Board: Present - Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis  
Water User Associations: Present – Anelda Kedelty and Amelda Benally  
Absent – Ophelia Begay, Dorthene Edison and Weston Carroll
- d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials  
All local community member and farmers
- e. Review and adoption of agenda  
Agenda read by Lucinda Davis  
Motion to accept the agenda: Stanley Chee  
Second: James Becenti  
Votes: 7 – 0 - 1
- f. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of April 15, 2018  
Motion to defer minutes to the next meeting: James Becenti  
Second: Lorencita Jones  
Votes: 8 – 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

Crop Inventory needs to be turned in at the end of May, 2018. The Joint Farm Board members approved to two different forms to be turned in.

- 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**

Aaron updated the Wheatfields Agriculture Project. Tyson and Tino are out there ripping the fields then they will be disking, T-1 to T10 and they should have it done by next week. They went up one row then back down the second row. By the time they finish the second row they should have the laser level so they can do the leveling also. They met with the consultant and his recommendation is to wait on the planting because the weather is still cold. The soil has to be at least 50 degree for more in order for the hay grazer to grow. Their recommendation is to wait until the middle of May to plant.

On the equipment, the wind roller should have been here by now, but it is not here yet.

The fencing is still not finished yet, the fencing along the creek is the part that is not finished yet. BIA still needs to come out to make sure the fencing is in the right place. Teresa and Stanley's field has a fence over the Land User Permit. It's the same with Elsie Benally's field.

Lorena said to stay with what is on the Land Use Permit, the Farm Board is only responsible with what is within the Land Use Permit, anything outside is the responsibility of the Grazing Official. Still need to get together with Safety of Dam and the Water Users Association, to get trained on how to turn the water on and off at the lake. Safety of Dam also reverted the water back down the creek, Mr. James Benally met with Safety of Dam to let them know water is needed down the creek for the livestock down there, that is why the water go reverted. Part of the water is going into the dam by Kee White's place. Paul Long also told them to check with Chuck Nixon at BIA on the water. If Safety of Dam is not willing to train the WUA how to turn the water on and off at the lake, then he needs to write a letter to the Water Users Association.

A request has been sent to Fish & Wildlife for the Biological and Archeology clearance and BIA also requested the same to them, but they have not come out yet.

Aaron said it would be better if the Bio and Arch Clearance is done for the Lower Wheatfields and a conservation plan for the whole farm area all in one would be good, that way if one farmer within the Lower Wheatfields want to transfer their Land Use Permit to someone else, they don't have to do another Bio and Arch clearance and conservation plan for that one plot. The same with the Upper Wheatfields and Tsaille. Lorena is hoping we don't run into endangered species, like birds and others. Stanley will give a copy of his land use permit to Aaron so he can go off of that map. NEPA is also waiting on these clearing also.

Lorena asked for the lease agreements that were done from Dortha and she is to give it to Lucinda. We need those records for the Farm Board, people want to know how many years is left on their sublease.

Lorena also asked what the status is on the invoices for the drawdown.



Alvin said it has been returned due to more information, but Alvin has left messages for Vangie Thomas, but she has been out of the office. Vangie is asking for more information and the resolution to be revised. There is a meeting scheduled with Vangie on the 7<sup>th</sup> which is Monday.

Lorena said communication is very important in these situations, it should have been communicated with the Farm Board, but there is no communication.

Dorthea explained that there has to be a better communication not just one side, it has to be all individuals involved. The first invoice, it took a long time to process the invoices.

Marie White wanted land leveling in her son's farm. She wanted to know if you have an outstanding bill, are you not included with the planting assistance.

Motion: Dorthea Litson

Second: Elvira Litson

Vote: 14 – 0 - 1

- 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**

All the training is in the billing you were sent. Everyone should have a copy of the upcoming training. On May 5, 2018 training will be here at the Chapter starting at 9:00 to 12:00, which is Soil 2 training and also Pest Management. The next day on May 6, 2018 there will be training at Dine College.

Motion to accept the report Aaron Begay

Second by Weston Carroll

Vote: 13 – 0 - 1

- 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.

- E. Each FB member shell 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

There is no transfers, but the sublease that Rafaelita Benally and Sadie Neztosie were approved for have not been submitted yet. They are still working on the paper work. Dorthea sent Lorena the forms so that will be submitted once the forms are all filled out.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Financial Report

The annual invoices have been sent out to all the farmers, so send your payments to Tsaile/Wheatfields/Blackrock Dine Water Users, it use to be sent out in April, 2018 but this year it is late. The total amount of invoices for this year is 4,368.79. Lorena wanted to know who is collecting the fees and Alvin said he was. Make sure you send money orders or checks to Tsaile/Wheatfields/Blackrock Dine Water Users Associations. Lorena said to pay your fees right away so you won't get charges interest.

Alvin Johnson reported the financial report up to date. They hired 2 individual, one is the Office Specialist and that is Fred Jumbo, and Irrigation Technician is Emerson Chee. They also wrote a letter to Safety of Dams to give training to the WUA as to how to turn the water on and off. As far as the financial report it is attached.

The internet is working good so far, so they will be able to give review only to the Auditor General and also OOC.

They are using a lot of fuel for the equipment and also the truck. They are also ordering pipes for irrigation. There is a new schedule for planting, they can be picked up at the WUA/FB office. NTUA will be rerouting the service line, the wire is low, and so they will bring the line in from a different direction.

There will also be a training from the Auditor General's office once Emerson Chee get on board with the Farm Board. Dorthene is not issuing the receipts because she has not gotten all the documents. The Financial report is attached.

Motion: Dorthea Litson

Second: Aaron Begay

Vote: 10 – 0 - 1

**B. Agriculture Infrastructure Proposal**

We had a permittee meeting along with the Grazing Official and the Farm Board in April, 2018. There we talked about what our priorities are, so we identified the number one issue is water, then drought, forage, and enforcement. There are things that the grazing talk about and the Farm Board. They want culture values to be considered in project that are taking place.

Elvira Litson reported the proposal that she was working on for the Agriculture Infrastructure Project. WUA met to talk about the priorities of the Wheatfields Agriculture and the priority selected was the irrigation for Tsaile and Upper Wheatfields, so she started working on the proposal and she is almost finished, but different things keep coming up to make amendments on the proposal she is working on, so it is not complete. She is adding on the priorities that the community came up with. If the drought keeps going then there might be more funds coming out in the fall. There is a declaration drought that the President issued. She started working on the drought contingency and there is not much information she can find. There is a drought contingency plan that the Navajo Nation has, but it is out dated. She is working on research so it is like going backwards. There is an irrigation system on the east side of the highway in Tsaile and the lower side has not irrigation. The idea was to pump water back up from the Tsaile Lake into a tank to be set up by Angela Kedelty's field. It's the same for Upper Wheatfield. The east side has irrigation and the lower side does not have an irrigation system. She also put a bit of history into the proposal. The water supply is diminishing year after year for so we have to plan and this will help our proposal and since we already got 5 million dollars they might say we already got some money, but that money is already allocated. Our area is



like desert like climate but we are in a forest climate. We are trying to justify each area of the proposal. She took information from the Water Resources Department on snow survey and other information that is gathered each month. Dine College and U of A had be proactive in doing a water study and some information was put into this proposal also. There is 26 well in the area but only 16 are working. A study was also done on the water hauling point in and there is 60% of water hauled is for agriculture and 40% is for domestic use and 80% was community member and 20% is from other areas. She also put how much water runoff is going down the canyon which is lost from our community. This proposal will also help our economic development. This is an idea of what will be on the proposal and we also need to get a supporting resolutions to support this proposal. She also asked Chinle Water Resources how much it cost to repair a windmill and but he asked how many windmills don't work. She said Reggie White will be working with them on this project, and they are also working on a proposal there also. She also put range restoration in there too. She wants goals from the Farm Board and Grazing also.

Lorena said this is a massive undertake, and there is a lot of items in there. We need leverage, we need match, fund management plan and expenditure plan and this is to be completed within one year, so this is a huge project, we do have all these issues. We need to reserve water and we don't know how many proposals have been submitted. Lorena asked for a copy of the proposal and see if we can submit. It looks like we might to split them up in four proposals, we might have a better chance. We need to check to see how we can improve the watering point, we need more information on that well that can be the first one. This might be a proposal that would go through.

Dorthea wanted to make sure she understand and that is Lorena is saying the proposal is good but too expensive and that the watering point is number one and the next is water restoration.

Lorena said we should do four proposals which would be windmill, earth & dam, irrigation, and the watering point. The resolution will be done by Lucinda.

#### C. Cattle Guard

Lorena reported that Zane contact her on the cattle guard by Danny John's resident that Aaron had contact Zane about.

Aaron reported that he told Zane that the cattle guard by Danny John's resident, the cattle guard is too narrow for the equipment to go through. They opened the side fence to get the equipment through, it is the same further down the road where the range management ends. Aaron talked to Zane and he was going to talk to Marco Sells from NDOT to see if they can install two 12' cattle guards to make the width 24' instead of 12'. This would give more room for the equipment to go through so they don't have to open the fence on the side.

Lorena gave the assignment to Lucinda to do a resolution to widen the cattle guard. There is a lot of salvage cattle guard at Chinle Water Resources and the contact person would be Norton Emerson.

Motion to approve the discussion by Amelda Benally

Second by: Aaron Begay

Vote: 11 – 0 - 1

#### IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

##### A. Report

There is no reports from the President, just that the training will be when Emerson comes aboard as a farm board, and the Secretary had no report.

Anelda Kedelty's reported that the WUA meeting is on Sunday after the training that takes place the first Sunday of each month which is 9:00 to 12:00.

##### B. Announcements

Permittee meeting, we still need to talk with Charles Chee to see if we are going to put the Grazing and Farm Board permittee meeting together again. We will let everyone know when it will be.

The regular Farm Board meeting will be May 27, 2018 at 10:00

#### V. CONCLUSION

##### A. Next Agenda Items

Same as what is on the agenda, the regular items

##### C. Next Meeting

##### D. Adjournment

Adjourned at: 7:14 p.m.