

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

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, April 23, 2017

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).

- 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 Project**

- a. Update
- b. Employer Policy
- c. Lease Agreement – TW Chapter and TWB Dineh Water User
- d. Next Steps

- C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and the NN. **Goal Statement:** With farmer participation, implement conservation training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

- 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 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. **Land Used for Vernon Burbank**

III. New Business

- a. Land Grant presentation – *Corn Planting Project*
- b. Financial Report

IV. Receiving Reports

- a. Reports
- b. Announcements

V. Conclusion

- a. Next Agenda Item
- b. Schedule next meeting date
- c. Adjournment

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2017

Tsaile/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: PSB

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

MINUTES

I ORDER OF BUSNISS

- a. Meeting called to order at 10:38am.
- b. Invocation by Lorena Eldridge
- c. Roll Call: Lorena Eldridge and Dorthea Litson present for Farm Board. Aaron Begay, Anelda Kedelty, Dorthea Litson, and Amelda Benally were all present for Dineh Water Use.
Lorena explained that Lucinda Davis is the newly elected farm board official, and she will be taking her Oath on Monday, May 8, 2017, and will be at next meeting. At the next, the officers' positions will be re-elected.
- d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials -
 - Bryceson Pinto will be coming soon.
- e. Review and adoption of agenda
Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No amendments, questions, or suggestions.

Action: The agenda accepted as read.

Motioned by David M. Tsosie

Seconded by Anelda Kedelty

Voting: 20 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- f. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes, April 23, 2017
Dorthea reviewed the last meeting minutes from April 23, 2017. No amendments, questions, or suggestions.

Action: The read meeting minutes accepted as read.

Motioned by Bennie Litson

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 20 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

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).

Lorena explained that it is important of Farm Board to submit crop reporting to the Navajo Nation Government through Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture. The Navajo Nation program offices use that for planning purposes, allocation of funds, and present data for Water Rights issues.
Furthermore, she explained the crop reporting to all farmers, and indicated that there are only 3 farmers who have filled out the crop reporting form.

Questions, comments, and suggestions:

TJ Holgate asked the following questions:

- When will the form be turn in?
- How will it be used?
- What is the purpose of the report?

Lorena explained, "When the Navajo Nation programs staff are working on the budget, the staff from the programs or departments have to use the Form 2 to indicate the goal accomplishments that will result from the money being allocated. This shows if the goals are accomplished or not.

For example, currently, most Farm Board are NOT turning in Crop report, so it indicates that the goals are NOT being met. For this reason, the Farm Board are receiving less stipend, and the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and Water Resources are unable to identify any major and perhaps request more funding for that

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

project. The Navajo Nation Councils see this to say that the Farm Board nor Grazing are not working out there with their farmers or ranchers.

The time line for turning this crop report are as follow:

First Quarter for the Navajo Nation is Oct 1, to Dec 31; **Second Quarter** for Navajo Nation is Jan 1, to March 31; **Third Quarter** for the Navajo Nation is April 1 to June 30; and **Fourth Quarter** for the Navajo Nation is July 1 to Sept. 30.

Therefore, the Crop Reports are due on Dec 31, March 31; June 30, and Sept 30.

Action: *We will request for the Navajo Nation to come to our next meeting. The crop inventory is impacting the irrigation that is still ditch canals with result of too many prairie dogs in the fields.*

- 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 Project

a. Update

Lorena provided the following updates for the Farmers:

- On May 2, 2017, the paper work submitted to OMB now has a budget number assigned, and that is Number N01352; the title is *Wheatfields Agriculture Project*
- The budget submitted is for \$ 3,000,000.00
- The project year is October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2020.
- Please note: The budget for \$ 2,000,000 is be submitted before October 1, 2020.
- Currently, OMB staff ordered an Automatic Accounting Instruction (AAI), to be uploaded into the Financial Management Information System, (FMIS).
- From here the Office of the Controller will assign a Contract number.
- Finally, the Tsaille / Wheatfields / Blackrock Dineh Water User will submit a unique invoice numbers. There will be two invoices on for \$ 1,587,799.00 and the other for \$ 205,511.00.

Comments, suggestions, or questions:

Bryceson indicated the invoices are ready to go. "He needs to see if all information are correct."

Plus, he reported he is working on the Grant Tracker and is uploading into the Water User computer.

i. Employer Policy

Bryceson indicated the Employer Policy is near completion. He will need to add forms. There are other questions that has been asked, and those will be addressed.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

TJ Holgate – He indicated that he asked several question, and importantly, the employer policy has to adhere to the Navajo Nation Law and federal law, but not necessarily State laws.

Dorthea indicated the Tsaille / Wheatfields / Blackrock Water User is a small organization, and she thinks that that we need to grow with our policy and procedures as we move along. The organization is NOT BIG like the Navajo Nation, and we have to be mindful of that too. Importantly, it must meet the needs of the organization and the tribe law"

Action: To have a work session facilitated by Bryceson on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 9am Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ regarding the Employee Policy.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Amelda Benally

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

Voting: 20 yes; 0 no; 7 abstained

Motion Carried

ii. Lease Agreement – TW Chapter and TWB Dineh Water User

Dorthea explained that the lease agreement is completed, but she will only be adding the latitudes and longitude point for the GPS into site location descriptor. It can be approved by the Water User Board and have the Chapter President sign the agreement. Please note: "She indicated that she is unable to download the way point from the GPS on to Google Earth Pro. She wanted to include this as an exhibit to the agreement."

Action: *To include the lease agreement to the schedule work session to address this matter.*

No motion or seconded

b. Next Steps

Lorena explained the next step:

- Purchases of farm equipment, supplies, consultant, and construction. Reminder the goal are: 70% Hay crop; 20 % Vegetables; and 10 % Native Plants.

Dorthea explained we have 3 price quotes for the Farm Equipment completed. The equipment list were emailed out to three different Companies. Now, we need to look at the price to select which vender to go with. Here is the questions, "do the people want to be part of the decision making or leave it up to the Board to decide.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

What is inclusive of the bid?

What is warranty?

There is a need to consider, quality vs quantity.

The distance of where we purchase the material should be a Factor and the maintenance.

Aaron explained how he has gone through the process of listing the equipment need. He sat with a Salemen with Stoz in Phoenix to create the list of equipment needed. The price provide in 2014 changed, and there are some equipment are obsolete.

Danny John Sr asked, "What is met by we? And suggested to possible add 3 farmer to be part in purchasing the equipment."

David M. Tsosie asked, "Where will the equipment be housed?"

Lorena stated, "The equipment will be housed on the Southeast corner of the Wheatfields Chapter House with the Chapter compound."

Action: *To have the Tsaille / Wheatfields / Blackrock Water User Board to purchase the equipment, and to have them think of quality.*

Motioned by Amelda Benally

Seconded by David M. Tsosie

Voting: 15 yes; 0 no; 5 abstained

Motion Carried

TJ Holgate: "Did Danny John Sr. make the motion to have three farmers be present in purchasing the farm equipment?"

Lorena indicated, "He only did a suggestion, but if he wants to put in a motion then he can."

Danny John Sr. indicate he motion to have three farmers present in purchasing the farm equipment.

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

2nd Action: *To add three farmers to be present in purchasing the farm equipment along with the Water User Board.*

Motioned by Danny John Sr.

Seconded by TJ Holgate

Voting: 4 yes; 20 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and the NN. Goal Statement: With farmer participation, implement conservation training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

Lorena stated, "A work session to be conducted on May 11, 2017 at 9am on Employer Policy; to work with Bryceson Pinto, TW Dineh Water User Board, Farm Board, and Farmers."

- 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.

Lorena state, "She asked the farmers to begin thinking about how and what they want to improve within their farmland, and planting what and when."

- 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. Land Used for Vernon Burbank

Vernon Burbank explained that the Farmland he is requesting is located in the Tsaille farmland area at about 4.5 acres. This farmland belong to his great grandmother Jobah Benally then given to his grandmother. In 2004, he and his grandmother came before the Farm Board requesting for Land Use transfer, and submitted all permit and paper to Prephila Begay who was the secretary at the time. Today, I have not seen or don't know if the land use permit has been reissued. Now, my grandmother is no longer lives.

Lorena indicated to conduct a follow up of why the Land User Permit is not reissued.

Action: *If Vernon Land Use Permit is NOT reissued then the recommendation to approve his land application, without probate consideration.*

Motioned by Bennie Litson

Seconded by Yolinda Staley

Voting: 21 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

Freddie Sarrcinno requested to be added to the agenda for Land Use Permit Transfer.

Action: *To amend the agenda to add Freddie Sarrcinno Land Use Permit request.*

Motioned by Amelda Benally

Seconded by David M. Tsosie

Voting: 22 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

Freddie Sarrcinno explained that he is requesting for a Land Use Permit transfer. The farmland is located in Upper Wheatfields at about 4 acres. This came before the Farm Board about 15 years ago, but unsure of where the Land Use Permit is at.

Dorthea Litson question, "Is this the same farmland that Angelita Wilson pays the Operation & Maintenance fee? She is the one farmer who paid all the expenses in repair the main irrigation line several years ago. She spent about \$ 1,900.00 using her own money, and turned in all her receipt, and the Water User is now drawling from her expense. I am going to motion that ALL siblings together to talk about this matter, and defer to next Farm Board meeting."

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

Action: *To defer to next Farm Board meeting, and have ALL the siblings present at the next meeting.*

Motioned by *Dorthea Litson*

Seconded by *Julia Litson*

Voting: *20 yes, 0 no; 5 abstained*

Motion Carried

After the voting on Freddie Sarrcinno request, Marie White commented, "If all the siblings are asked to be present at the meeting then is going to become a dispute."

III. New Business

a. Land Grant presentation – *Corn Planting Project*

Dorthea explained. 'Land Grant staff, Felix Nez, from Diné College was to be here to explain the program, but he is not here, so I'll explain it. New Mexico State University staff from a certain department has written a proposal and was funded. In that grant, the staff will purchase corn for a farmer, and the farmer will plant the corn on a five (5) acres and take care of all summer, and at the end of harvest time the staff will buy the corn back from the farmer.' What kind of corn? That she did not know.

Now the question is, "Do we, Wheatfields & Tsaille Farmers, be interested in the project?"

Action: *The Tsaille / Wheatfields Farmers will participate in the project that NMSU is offering. Those farmers who are interested can write the name on the paper with contact information so, the Land Grant staff from Dine College can participate in the project.*

Motioned by *Anelda Kedelty*

Seconded by *Amelda Benally*

Voting: *15 yes; 0 no; 8 abstained*

Motion Carried

b. Financial Report

Dorthea provided the financial report as follows:

Beginning Balance as March 24, 2017		\$ 25,042.35
Revenue:		\$ 00.00
• Deposit	\$ 00.00	
Expenses:		\$ 1,341.63
• Ink	\$ 141.63	
• Bryceson Pinto – Consultant Fee	\$ 1,200.00	
Ending Balance:		\$ 23,700.72

Please note: *"I have not made a deposit for all the O&M fee paid thus far, and I have not compile information about the amount of paid O&M fee. This information has not put into SAGE 50 accounting system due to Bryceson having the computer to download grant tracker and other information."*

Action: *To accept the financial report provided.*

Motioned by *David M. Tsosie*

Seconded by *Bennie Litson*

Voting: *22 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained*

Motion Carried

IV. Receiving Reports

a. Reports

Lorena stated, "Rita Jishie request to refill the earthen dam located in the Tsaille Farmland area." Plus, she reminded the people of the Navajo Nation Budget & Finance Committee meeting on May 15, 2017 at 1pm in Window Rock, AZ.

Dorthea stated she has to reports to provide:

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

- Safety of Dams staff will be out at the site tomorrow, Monday, May 8, 2017 to release irrigation water into the irrigation system in Lower Wheatfield farmland.
- Prairie Dog issues was brought to my attention by my son who has conducted his research about Prairie Dogs. He explained that prairie dogs a very value critter to the ecosystem within the earth and atmosphere we live in. Farmers need to learn to live with the prairie dogs, and if you are trying to save the ecosystem for generation to come then one has to think twice about the prairie dog issues. As a result, this has given me a better perspective and understanding of prairie dogs.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

TJ Holgate: "The concern with prairie dogs are those with small acreage of farmland. The prairie dogs need to move elsewhere, and they are health hazard to human.

Lorena indicated that at the next meeting she'll invite Mr. Blacksheep from Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife to present on ways of treating prairie dogs.

Emerson Chee provided an update on the fencing materials assignment. He called Native Fencing and indicated that they do not sell fence material, but purchases material from American Fence Company. The staff from American Company are willing to help the organization.

It was indicated to Emerson that he will need to work with other vendor to receive price quotes.

Action: There were NO action plan put to motion or seconded.

b. Announcements

- Navajo Nation Election is sponsoring an Election Day on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at Chapter.
 - Lorena indicated that she spoke with Election office staff out of Chinle, and they indicated Eric Deschine is planning to withdraw his candidacy paper. There may be no election.
- Tsaille / Wheatfields/ Blackrock Veteran Meeting @ 6pm, Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 6pm
- Tsaille / Wheatfields Water User Work session, @ 9am Thursday, May 11, 2017 at Wheatfield Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
- Navajo Nation Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, May 15, 2017 at 1pm Window Rock, AZ
- Tsaille / Wheatfields Chapter Meeting, May 24, 2017, @ 1pm, Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

V. Conclusion

a. Next Agenda Item

- b. Scheduled next meeting date, Sunday, May 28, 2017 @ 10am, Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

c. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjourned at 2:56pm

Motioned by David M. Tsosie

Seconded by Anelda Kedelty

Voting: All in Favor