

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Sunday July 01, 2018 @1:00 PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsaile/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 of May 1 & 27, 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 (3 CIR 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
- B. Fencing

- 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 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)

- 1.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Financial Report
- B.

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
Sunday July 1, 2018 @1:00 PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting called to order
Meeting call to order at 1:45 by the President
- B. Invocation
Invocation was given by Lorena Eldridge
- C. Roll Call
Farm Board-Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis – Present and Emerson Chee Absent
WUA - Ophelia Begay, Anelda Kedelty, Dorthene Edison, Amelda Benally and Weston Carroll all absent
- D. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials
Fred Jumbo – WUA Office Specialist
- E. Review and adoption of agenda
Motion by Sam Chee to adopt agenda as is,
Second by Fred Jumbo
Votes: 8 – 0 - 1
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of June 3, 2018
Motion by Rosemary Upshaw to defer the minutes to the next meeting
Second: Marie Carroll
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

- Lorena went over the crop inventory form and gave the forms out to the Farmers to fill out and turn them in by the end of the meeting. We need to submit them to Department of Agriculture.

- 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

Lorena went over the amount of Farm Boards within the Nation. Within the Chinle Agency there are only two Farm Boards which are Many Farms and Tsaille/Wheatfields. Lorena told the Farmers to ask questions so we can have that as a discussion because we need to know what the Farmers know and what they don't know about the Project, it is a long story to cover but we want everyone to know what this Project is about. A small recap of what the project is all about. There is 127 Farmers within the Tsaille/Wheatfields area. There was a survey done to see why no one is farming, and the number one was they don't have any equipment to work on the farm and the second was no funds since most were on fix income. We decided to request for some funds from the Navajo Nation to see if we can help the Farmers go back into farming in our community. The Farm Board put a proposal together and went before the Navajo Nation subcommittees several times. We were approved for funding in the amount of 5 million. We had to do an expenditure plan together, then we were told to do a Fund Management Plan, did that, then we had to do an MOA, which was done and it went through the Navajo Nation Process and was signed by the President. On July, 2017 we received the first amount of 1.7 million. On year 2 we were to submit an invoice to receive an addition amount to make up to 3 million. With the first fund we purchased all the equipment. This is what the Farmers did not have. With the funding received the fencing project was to be completed and planted in Lower Wheatfields. This area was to be completed first and WUA came up with a timeline of completion. On May 1 they were to begin Tsaille and on May 14 they were to begin Upper Wheatfields. Lorena received the document that has how many Farmers have been assisted with the funding. Update on the water usage from the lake. There are a lot of farms that were planted and there is not enough water to irrigate. Many of the farms that were planted have not been irrigated yet. There are 14 farmers that have not irrigated yet, but DWR already said we have to shut off the water and Fish and wildlife is in charge of the water again. What needs to happen is you have to get yourself on the waiting list for water. Lorena went over the laterals in Lower Wheatfields. Some of the Farmers have their own pipes, the water users have some pipes and Land Grant has some to. There is also a binding agreement that the Water Users have come up with that says the Farmers are to pay for the use of the Equipment and to have someone irrigate for you, this is an agreement that the WUA came up with which the Farm Board did not approve. She also went over the percentage of the farmer participation. Part of this project is the farmers are to attend the training that are provided. In order to keep most of your produce you have to participate in the training and be part of the irrigation and working on the farm.

Shiprock WUA and Farm Board have an agreement and that is how they work together. The Farm Board are on the WUA Board. According to Fred a Government entity cannot oversee a non-profit organization. All the operation in Title 3 and the Farm Board is an elected official.

B. Fencing

Fencing has been done in Lower Wheatfields, just the outside fencing. The fencing should have been done first, then planting. Right now the project just started going all over the place. The FB is in charge of the LUP. The only ones that are almost done is Lower Wheatfields, about 95% complete. The Upper Wheatfields is in the second draw down. That is why the Upper has not started.

Lorena also mentioned that we are not in calibration with the WUA.

Motion to accept the report and update by: Miranda DeChee and Second by: Rosemary Upshaw

Vote: 8 – 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

7/8/18 – Conservation Plan

7/7/18 – Harvesting at Dine College Student Bldg

8/12/18 – Conservation Plan

9/9/18 – Conservation Plan

Motion to accept the report by: Sam Chee

Second by: Marie Carroll

Votes: 8 – 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.

1. AIF Proposal

17.3 million was received and none have been disbursed. No proposal have been submitted and awarded yet.

The proposal has to be 5 page, and has to be completed in one year and has to be shovel ready. The Grant Writer, Elvira Litson is working on a proposal, we have not received an update on whether it is complete and submitted yet.

Motion to accept the report: Miranda DeChee

Second: Elizabeth Becenti

Vote: 8-0-1

- 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)

1. BIA

Dorthea was the secretary so she had all the copies of LUP, forms and the sublease that were done during her time as secretary, but she has not turned all the documents over to Lucinda who is now the secretary for the Farm Board. She only sent the blank forms for

the sublease agreements. Due to the privacy act, no one should have copies of the LUP if you are not an official, then you have no business having a copy. Second request to Dortehea to return all copies of the LUP will be submitted and a letter to BIA to have Dortehea return all the LUP and Sublease. Lucinda will write to Dortehea again and copy BIA to return all documents that belong to the Farm Board.

Motion to take this action by Marie Carroll

Second by Elibabeth Becenti

Vote: 8 – 0 – 2

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. WUA Financial Report

No draw down yet per Vangie Thomas, she said to do one invoice at a time and to modify then the draw down.

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

None

B. Announcements

Chapter Planning Meeting 7/2/18 at 10:00

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

Same agenda items at the next meeting

C. Next Meeting

July 22, 2018 at 10:00

D. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – James Becenti

Second by – Rosemary Upshaw

All in favor said I