

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Sunday July 14, 2019 @ 1:00 PM
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 – 6/30/19

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsalle/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: psb

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. Tri-Party Agreement
- 2. Agreement with Marquel Begay

- 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. Mae Chee/Bennie Chee
 - 2.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements
- C.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Next Agenda Items
 - 1. Same items as before
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B. Next Meeting
- D. Adjournment

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Monday July 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 1:25 pm by the President.
- B. Invocation
Lorena Eldridge
- C. Roll Call
Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis and Emerson Chee present
Water Users Association – All 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: Emerson Chee
Second by: Allen Begay
Votes: 4 – 0 - 2
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes
Minute for 6/9/19 read by Lucinda Davis
Motion to accept the minutes as read by Emerson Chee
Second by: Charles Chee
Votes: 6 – 0 – 2
We need to get the meeting over right away because of a family gathering at 4:00pm.

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 reported that she turned in the Quarterly Report on July 3rd although there is not enough crop inventory, she only turned in 4, to Department of Agriculture. She has blank forms that can be filled out by the Farmers which will be turned in and included on the next Quarter, which is September, 2019. This is just information

- 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

Lorena gave the project update that the Farm Board took part in getting funding for, now what we look forward to is that all the farmers will get some assistance in getting their farm back into production. Then she went over the report that Dine Water Users Association reported to Budget & Finance Committee on July 10, 2019. Budget & Finance wanted to know what the status was for each project that got funds from the Sihasin and Permanent Trust Fund Income. Many Farms and Northern reported that the project was going but they are going at a very slow progress. Wheatfields Dine Water Users reported that there is progress and the project was going and some farms already had the first cut and they are working with the second year funding. Aaron and Fred Jumbo were there that gave the progress report and there was a lot of questions from the Budget & Finance Committee. They question the audit report and why the B & F Committee did not take action instead they were given more money. They were given more money because they were almost out of money, they were running on forum, so they were given the remaining year two funds. WUA are behind on their reporting, first, second and third quarterly progress reports are behind so they were given up to July 12, 2019 to turn in their reports. At the last Farm Board meeting we passed a resolution to amend the MOA between the Navajo Nation and the Water Users Association to include the Farm Board and the resolution was given to Dr. Rudy Shebala and Vangie Curley-Thomas. Funds are from the Navajo Nation which is the people's money and the Water Users Association are a non-profit organization, so the Farm Board work under title 3 of the Navajo Nation, they should be on the agreement, that way we as the Farm Board will have a say so and to know what the status of the project is. All we want is all the Farmers get some assistance to get their farm land back in projection. Right now the Farm Board are not given reports or updates of what is going on, Lorena's farm has been planted but no one informed her that they will be working on her farm. She asked for water but she was told that there are 4 farmers ahead of her which will take another month or so before she get the water to her farm, by then the Safety of Dams will probably tell us to shut of the water. Dr. Shebala and Vangie Curley-Thomas said they would help us get the project back on track. Dr. Shebala always tells Lorena that he has not forgotten the project, it's still one of his priority to get this project back on track. Many Farms is not really going the way it should be, the Chapter, Farm Board and Community are not getting the project going, and there was a Project Manager that was hired but he already left and that was Kee Allen Begay's report. He even wanted to know what the Department of Agriculture's responsibility is, should they have a bigger role in Farming and maybe they should be the ones that oversee these farm project since they are called "Agriculture". He also said the B&F should really re-evaluate these projects.

Lucinda reported that the new B & F Committee asked about the findings and that this should be addressed and the response from the WUA was it's just a review according to the Water Users, but it was a finding then it should have been taken care of. A directive will be made for Auditor General to work with the Division on this and put before the B & F again. In Lucinda's opinion is that when you give a report, it should only be on the

funding that is in question. The report that was given by the WUA was including other funding that they got and other projects that they are starting on, like the Water Shed and other conservation and how much money they got from other funding, so she didn't think they gave a good report. Any funding you get you have to report back to the funding source of the progress and is it according to the scope of work, is it by the timeline that was set forth. This is what our department does that's how I know what is expected. Lorena said we can fix this but we are not getting together to fix this, it's like saying who is right and who has authority.

Allen Begay wants copies of the minutes and a copy of the resolution so they can talk to the farmers and update them. He also wanted to know if we were talking about the MOA or the tri-party agreement.

Lorena responded to his question and Allen did motion to amend the MOA which is going to be like a tri-party agreement and it was second by Bennie Chee. We were working on the tri-party agreement but you all said that will just be another agreement on the shelf. According to Marquel is we just amend the MOA, then once the agreement is up then the problem will still be there, but if we do a tri-party agreement then it will continue from there. We can still do the tri-party agreement.

Allen wants to know how many farms are worked on and Lorena said we don't have a report to say how many, but we just go by visual. Mr. Begay also talked about the water issues, we don't have enough water for all the farmers to irrigate and also the irrigation systems are old, there should be some money somewhere to fix the irrigation. Maybe there is money left in the PTF that we can use to fix that, but Lorena told him the whole 5 million is budgeted already.

James Becenti talked about horses in the farmland and it could become an issue if these horses can't get water. I could become the responsibility of the farmer. Lorena said it was the responsibility of the horse owners, they could be taking care of their animals. As far as the people that are working putting the green house together, we don't know what money they are using to pay them, it is possible that they are using the PTF that was supposed to be used for labor to put a building together. If we get the report then we can say where the money was used. Restructuring the organization is something the Division is talking about, that is the only way everything will go back in place. Water Users are non-profit and the farm board are to work with the farmers and listen to them.

Lucinda read the title of the resolution and in the where-as it states where the farm board fit into the farming. Dr. Shebala asked us where we were on the organizational chart, we were not where on the chart. She also said not all the farmers are getting the assistant they should be getting. When you look around, it's the same people that already got the assistant, and the employees of the Water Users, when are they going to get to the other farmers. For instant, last year my aunt went over there to the office asking to get her farm level and have it planted and she was told yeah we will do that for you, but to this day she has not gotten the services she asked for. By the time they get to these elders, what are they going to be told, there is no more money sorry we could not get services to you. Is that what they will be told?

Emerson said it's got to be the farmers that come in to as for services and Lucinda told him she did come in last year and she talked to you.

Emerson also said if you have livestock then take care of them, that's all there is to it. He said that Aaron plowed at T.C. Tso's field and he left it open that is where the horses came in. T5, 4 and 3 are not done. They don't have a welder that is why it is slow.

Motion to approve the report by: Emerson Chee

Second by: Charles Chee

Vote: 7 - 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

This coming Friday on July 19, 2019 we are having a Joint Farm Board meeting in Window Rock. Standard Operation Procedures will be covered and we will report at the next meeting and this will be for information only.

- 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. Tri-Party Agreement

Will be on hold until further notice. We will wait until the MOA resolution is discussed with the Division. The Farm Board is in agreement.

2. Agreement with Marquel Begay

No show so we will talk about it until she comes in again.

- 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. Mae Chee/Bennie Chee

No show – this is the last time it will be on the agenda. Mae Chee is the legal beneficiary of the late Kee Chee so she has the say in this.

2. Lucinda Chee

Her goal is to use the Farmland that was used by her father. She realized that it takes a lot to get the permit into her name from her late father Tome Kaye. She has all the paper that was requested of her to bring in, in order to get it approved through the Farm Board. It needs to be re-survey to a smaller portion because of the homes that went up around it and the waterline that was installed through the farm. One thing that Lucinda Chee needs to know is the Fish & Wildlife, but this is a resurvey. It took Weston Carroll 12 years to get his land use permit back. Charles said there is a check list. He also went over how it use to be when the grazing officials use to do transfers and how it is now. He went over the process and the conservation plan for the land.

Lorena also said the home site lease is one of the real big issue of the nation now days. It is not really one story, Grazing has a different story from the Land Department and other

department. Some of the farms have powerline through the farm and farmers don't know that this powerline has a rights of way through that piece of land. BIA will be here on Tuesday at the permittee meeting. We will go over the conservation plan and all the documents, if everything is in place then we will approve the documents at the next meeting. Herb Jones should be here on Tuesday.

Charles talked about the BIA staff, Dean Gamble is not really working with us as grazing and we need to do something about this. Farmers need to come to the meetings in order to do something about getting back in order. Allen Begay, Patricia Morgan and Danny John had voluntary to work with the farmers to get them into the meeting.

Motion to accept the documents that Lucinda Chee Brought in: Emerson Chee

Second: Evelyn Litzin

Vote: 5 – 0 – 2

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. WUA Report

No one showed, but we put this on our agenda at each meeting. This shows that we are trying a working relationship but no one shows.

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

Lorena – Already gave her report. The only question she has is to Emerson. Is he still interested in his position, the last time he mentioned resignation, but he said he is still interested in serving as a Farm Board. He just needs to get some sort of notification of the meetings. Emerson told Lorena that he box blade her field and they have not planted for her yet.

B. Announcements

1. Chapter Meeting 7/15/2019 @9:00
2. Permittee Meeting 7/23/19 @2:00
3. Farm Board Meeting 7/28/2019 @1:00

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

1. Same as usual
2. Lucinda Chee

B. Next Meeting

July 28, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Motion: Emerson Chee

Second: Lucinda Chee

All in favor

Adjourned – 3:37 pm

