

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Tuesday August 14, 2018 @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

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsaille/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: PAB

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. BIA

- 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. Joint Meeting-Nelson James
- B. Technical Assistance-FB/BIA

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements

V. CONCLUSION

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

TSAIL/WEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING

Tuesday August 14, 2018 @1:00 PM

WEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WEATFIELDS, AZ

MINUTES

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting called to order
Meeting was called to order at 1:45
- B. Invocation
Invocation by Anelda Kedelty
- C. Roll Call
Farm Board: Lorena Chee, Emerson Chee and Lucinda Davis Present
WUA: Anelda Kedelty, Amelda Benally and Weston Carroll Present, Absent: Ophelia Begay
- D. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials
Herbert Jones from BIA
- E. Review and adoption of agenda
Motion to adopt the agenda: Elvira Litson, second by: Yolinda Staley
Votes: 8 – 0 - 2
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes
Accept minutes as is by: James Becenti, Second by: Anelda Kedelty
Votes: 8 – 0 - 2

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 was just for information, no motion just explained again what the crop inventory is for.

- 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

Plowing and planting completed and irrigation is also completed. One Farmer cut and bailed.

- B. Fencing

Fencing in Lower Wheatfields is almost complete, there is just a small area that needs to be completed.

- 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. BIA

Herb Jones

- a. What needs to happen in order for the Farm Board and Water Users to work together is to reorganize at the central level. There has to be an Organizational Chart to show how everyone fits into the program to get the project done.
- b. Range Management Units, you have to work with the District Grazing Officials. There are disputes even in the Range Management Units.
- c. Title 3 and the CFR also has an outline of the position responsibilities.
- d. The Grazing Officials and the Farm Board Members have the authority to request for information to BIA.
- e. The Farm Board will work with the Water Users Association and request for information to BIA, without an organizational chart BIA cannot provide any information.

Elvira said that the Farm Board are the Technical Assistant to the Water Users Association, they had asked for assistance but are not getting any assistance. Maps that were provided to WUA are all out dated.

Lorena – Agrees with BIA and WUA. Our Plan of Operations indicates we oversee the ALUP. Money changes people which is what happened here. Once we got the money the organization changes and there was separation. How will we be able to work together to complete the project. There are 127 farmers and these people are the ones that we are to assist and that is how we got the funds. If the farmers would come to the meetings to give ideas that would help. The Farm Board were told to step back and we don't have a say over the funds, that is why we have not been helping the WUA and there is no drawdown. Shiprock has a Water Users Association and they work with the Farm Board very well, but they have an agreement between the two organizations and we are thinking this will help. Lorena say she thinks we need to do that and I am sure the 127 Farmers have a say in that too. We need to get together draft an agreement so we can all work together. We have not received any request for assistance from the WUA.

Anelda – says we need to put a work session together on Saturday and Sunday and she says the Farm Board are not helping them. The Farm Board are supposed to be the WUA technical assistance not the oversight to the WUA. Farm Board knows where the money is because they work with the Controller. She said the Farm Board are the ones that put the problems in place and the Farm Board are the problem. She was told by Lorena to lower her voice, she does not need to yell and Anelda said that is how she talks.

Elvira said the bottom line is the Farmers need to be here.

Anelda is saying that the Farmers are going to TJ Holgate with their problems and complaints.

Lorena said we need to come up with the agreement and we also need a motion on the BIA report as action items.

Motion by Elvira Litson, and second by: Anelda Kedelty

Votes: 9 – 0 - 2

- 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

The office to the Agriculture Infrastructure Funds is in Navajo. There was supposed to be a review team put together to go over the proposals that have been received.

Elvira said she submitted on June 29, 2018 and it was a little over 1 million.

- a. Water Management Plan
- b. Windmills
- c. 42 Proposals
- d. Earth & Dams
- e. Rangeland restoration – will be submitting another one.

- 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. ALUP

There was one sublease but that documents have not been submitted yet. We have not gotten it back from the individuals.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. MIFB Joint Meeting

Nelson James had put fence post outside the fenced area which is considered illegal fencing, a letter needs to be written to him.

There will be a Joint Farm Board meeting on August 8, 2018.

The Quarterly Reports:

1 st Qtr.	115%
2 nd Qtr.	72%
3 rd Qtr.	61%

This is going off the report that Fred and Emerson gave as an update for the planting that has been done.

FY'2019 The Grazing, Eastern Land Board and the Farm Board will be attending Chapter Planning and regular meeting and will be getting paid for it along with the regular meeting that have. This has not been approved yet.

There are a lot of land disputes, some don't respect the laws and don't abide by them. The Joint Farm Board are working on the process of canceling the permits. Roland Tso, Steven Kee and Tyrone Chee have cancelled some so they do have a process. There will be some funds for inventory. From our side, we want to work with the Farmers by helping them. We don't want to start cancelling permits. That would be the last option.

- B. BIA would like to see us to the inventory to see if there are houses, corrals anything aside from planting in each plot. Their recommendation is to do one conservation plan for Upper Wheatfields, one for Lower Wheatfields and one for Tsaille, rather than doing one for each farm. They also recommend drip irrigation which is the best for drought.
Motion on the action items which will be a letter to Nelson James by Ambrose Chee, second by: Anelda Keldelty.
Vote: 9 – 0 - 2

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports - None
- B. Announcements - None

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Next Agenda Items
Same as before
- C. Next Meeting
August 30, 2018 at 4:00 PM
- D. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn: Amelda Benally
Second by: Yolinda Staley
All in favor