

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Monday, February 16, 2015

AGENDA

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Roll call
- c. Invocation
- d. Adopt agenda
- e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, January 29, 2015
- f. Announcements:
 - Title: Farm to School
 - Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015
 - Time: 3pm
 - Place: Red Valley School, Red Valley, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Community Water Plan
- b. Irrigation Projects for Upper Wheatfields and Tsaile Farmland Area
- c. Proposal – Beginning Rancher and Farmers

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 1. No Request at this time
- b. Water User – Financial Report
- c. Establish Indirect Cost – Water Users
- d. Clarification on the Process of Supplemental Funding between Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and Chapter

IV. Reports

- A. Farm Board
- B. Water User

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
- B. Schedule next meeting date
- C. Adjournment

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Meeting Minutes

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting called to order at 10:41am
- b. Roll call
Farm Board members, Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, & Dorthea Litson were all present.
Water Users: Dorthea Litson present; absent were Aaron Begay and Kathy Johns
- c. Invocation conducted by Lucinda Davis
- d. Adopt agenda
Dorthea Litson reviewed the agenda. One amendment, Clarification on the Process of Supplemental between the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and Chapter.
Action: The agenda was amended to add one item mentioned above.
Motioned by Lucinda Davis
Seconded by Teresa Chee
Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained *Motion Carried*
- e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, January 29, 2015
Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. No amendments, but questions and comments were made. Duns number and SAM registration and conservation plan are not added to the agenda. However, these can be added to next agenda.
Action: The read meeting minutes was accepted as read.
Motioned by Lucinda Davis
Seconded by Teresa Chee
Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained *Motion Carried*
- f. Announcements:
 - Title: Farm to School
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Additional announcements were as follow:

Chapter Meeting, February 16, 2014 @ 2pm Wheatfields Chapter House

Tsaille – Wheatfields – Community Land Use Planners Meeting, March 16, 2014 at 3pm Wheatfields Chapter House.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Community Water Plan
Dorthea explained that the Chapter officials did meet with Bohannon Huston, an engineering firm out of Albuquerque, NM. At the meeting, they created the scope of work. She was aware of the meeting, but was unable to go nor participate in the conference call. She also knew about the Navajo Nation Regional Water Plan, but was unable to attend that meeting too.
She hand out the scope of work to all who were attending the meeting. All took the time to read it.

Questions, comments, and suggestions:

Lucinda commented that the Brown & Caldwell, engineer hired to do the Navajo Nation Regional Water Plan, are doing the exact same study that Bohannon Huston are asked to do by the Chapter. Currently, Brown &

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Caldwell is conducting the Water Study in Tsaille – Wheatfields – Blackrock area. She also explained she was the only one at the meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2015. Some of the data sets the engineers want from the community are as follow:

- Number of grazing permittees
- Number of acres of Farmland and Dryland farming
- Number of Windmills
- Number of earthen dams

Other important sharing of the meeting were as follow:

- It is **NOT FEASIBLE** for the Rock Point Community to receive water from Sweetwater; but what is **REALISTIC** for that community is to receive water from Wheatfields. (For Many Farms community it is feasible to receive water from Chinle not from water line between Rock Point and Round Round).
- The engineers are struggling to receive data from Indian Health Service and NTUA. Indian Health Service is not releasing information of Residential Drinking water and NTUA's maps are all hand written, not digital. As a result, the engineering firm, Brown and Codwell, is requesting for more money from Navajo Nation Water Management Department, and \$28,000 was given to them with an extension as of March 31, 2015 in their contract.

If the scope of work developed for Bohannon Huston is the same as what Brown & Caldwell is doing then will we be wasting money?

Something don't add up; usually OEH and the Indian Health Service are good about delivering the data if needed. The community people also past a supporting resolution requesting the Health Service to release data.

Two people at the meeting indicated that they worked with NTUA in the pass; and they have great maps available and if requested they normally provide.

Dorthea commented and suggested on several things:

1. At the first meeting with Brown & Caldwell in October 2014, when they delivered their messages they indicated that their study was strictly on drinking water. Now, they are wanting to do the study more than drinking water. (The engineers need to deliver accurate information.)
2. Brown & Caldwell Engineering staff really need to do a better in delivering their communication about the meeting. At the last meeting in January, 12, 2015, there were no audience. When she got there the group commented that they rescheduled the meeting to February 12, 2015 at 10am at the next Farm Board Meeting, and that is when the Farm Board will be hosting he meeting. Therefore, I figured this group must have already made arrangement with Lorena or Lucinda. They need to talk with the group to plan their meeting collaboratively.
3. She suggested maybe to have Bohannon Huston to help us with identifying and developing water restorations, earthen dams, structures, and prepare for economic. (To help more in the area of water conservation and use.)
4. Suggested to host the meeting, but this time invite all committees, chapter officials, Water Resource Department, Water Management Department, Public Health – Indian Health Service and Office of Environmental Health Department.

Action: Water Users and Farm Board of the Tsaille – Wheatfields – Blackrock community can host the meeting on, March 12, 2015, at 10am Wheatfields Chapter House. We write letters to the following 11 entities, committees, departments, and engineers to request them all to come together in a collaborative matter.

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis
Seconded by Dorthea Litson
Voting: 5yes; 0no; 1 abstained*

Motion Carried

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- b. Irrigation Projects for Upper Wheatfields and Tsaile Farmland Area
Lorena explained the Farm Board invited NRCS – USDA and BIA Chinle Office to the last meeting to talk about the possibility of using the NRCS funding to improve the irrigation system for Upper Wheatfields and Tsaile area. We learned that it will not be an easy task due the changes in laws. There are more restrictions. An entity applying will have to apply for DUNS number and register for SAM. However, we were told the farmers have to be very involved. So now the question is, “How do we get the Farmers all involved?” In addition, BIA shared the Farm Boards members of Many Farms have cancel all the idling farmlands and is now on the desk of the BIA manager in Gallup New Mexico for her to sign. BIA recommended the Farm Board to cancel all idling farmlands instead of subleasing.

Lucinda indicated that the new director, Virginia, commented that she will return all cancelation of farmlands at one of the meeting that was conduct with Navajo Nation Departments.

Action: Continue to work with the Conservation Plan, and the Revitalization Project.

Motioned by Dorthea Litson

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- c. Proposal – Beginning Rancher and Farmers
We decided to continue to work on submitting the proposal.
Lorena mentioned that for today chapter meeting we will be showing a video clip when presenting to request the people to support us with a supporting resolution. The only concern she has is how many people are wonder why the Farm Board is requesting for money, and when will they ever be successful to receive money.
Action: Water Users to apply the DUNS number and SAM numbers.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
2. No Request at this time

Action: No action due to no request.

- b. Water User – Financial Report
The beginning balance as of 12/31/2014 was \$ 29,481.93 and ending balance as of 1/31/2015 was \$ 30,537.74.
Deposit \$ 1260.00 (Payment received from Land Grant for land leveling and farmers O&M fee in amount of \$60.00)
Expense: \$ 204.39 (Purchased ink cartridges and binders)
For February 2015 the follow are purchases made: \$ 175.53 for boxes envelops and mailing stamps 3 roles.
Spent about \$60.00 on ordering check books. Please note: The February expense has not been reported to the financial system. In addition, Dorthea have not submitted an invoice for purchasing money order in amount of \$ 25.00 to pay to Navajo Nation Business Regulatory fee, but will submit later this week.

Action: The financial report provided was accepted.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- c. Establish Indirect Cost – Water Users

Commented [DL1]:

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Dorthea stated she emailed Bryson Pinto, but his email returned indicating not delivered. She tried calling his phone, but there was no confirmation that was his phone number. Her next step is to contact Jackie, First Nations staff, to search for his contact information.

Action: Defer to next meeting minutes.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 1 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- d. Clarification on Supplemental Process between Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and Chapter Lorena explained that within the 2015 Navajo Nation Budget the Farm Boards, Eastern Land Boards, & Grazing members across the nation received a supplemental for stipend, travel, and office materials. However, the monies are all housed with the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture. The requirement is that all information has to be typed. Kim Johnson from the Department of Agriculture wrote letter to the chapter indicating that all stipend that were paid from the Chapter will now longer be processed by them instead it will be processed by the Department of Agriculture staff. Now, the question is, "The balance for the Farm Board Stipends is less than \$2,000 here at the Chapter. What do we do with that balance? Does the Department of Agriculture payment start with this month, February 2015?"

Lucinda explained that the Farm Board has to exhaust the balance with the chapter first before Farm Board starts requesting stipend payment from Department of Agriculture. She shared that the Grazing Officials from Chinle Agency will be requesting in a resolution to house the supplement at the Chapter level.

Lorena commented, "So what are we will to accept here as Farm Board members?"

Dorthea stated she prefers to have the chapter pay the stipend. It is less hassle.

Lucinda and Lorena both comment to have the chapter pay the stipend to Farm Board. As result, we made a decision to request the Chapter to help us with a Supporting Resolution. In that resolution it should have some clarity or direction.

Action: Request the Chapter to help us with a Supporting Resolution. In the resolution it should clarify stating the following:

- *Direct supplement to the chapter, and have the chapter pay the stipend to Farm Board and Grazing*
- *Have the Department of Agriculture be responsible to pay the mileage and materials.*
- *Request Department of Agriculture to combine the three Farm Board allocated materials cost, so it can be used to purchase the necessary materials that we need which are Printer Ink Cartridges and printing papers.*
- *Have the Department of Agriculture handle the money for the training, but request for Farm Board member to use to other training they feel is necessary.*

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

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IV. Reports

A. Farm Board

President – No Report

Vice President – No Report

Secretary - No report

B. Water User

Secretary – She reported the organization received a letter for Navajo Nation Business Regulatory indicated that we were recertified. Now, she will be working on filling out the 990 for Internal Revenue Service. The 990 form will be submitted by May 15, 2015.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

There was a question about, “How can we fill the two vacant positions, Vice President and member?”

Action: To post the position on Chapter Website and around the community.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Dortehea Litson

Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

The following were the next agenda items:

- Indirect Cost
- Community Water Plan
- Conservation Plan
- Continuous work with NRCS

B. Scheduled next meeting date, Monday, February 23, 2015 @ 4pm Wheatfields Chapter House.

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 2pm.

Motioned by Rachel Eldridge

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried