

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Thursday, March 12, 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, February 23, 2015
- f. Announcements:
 - **Title:** Community Use Planning Meeting
Date: Monday, March 16th, 2015
Time: 3 pm
Place: Wheatfields Chapter House
 - **Title:** Chapter Meeting
Date: Monday, March 16th, 2015
Time: 9 am
Place: Wheatfields Chapter House

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock Community Water Plan
 1. Report from Brown & Caldwell – Navajo Nation Regional Water Plan Current Water Study
 - Currently
 - Positive
 - Challenges
 - Next Steps

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 1. No Request at this time
- b. Conservation Plan
 - Determine Date and Time to work on the development

IV. Reports

- A. Farm Board
- B. Water User

V. CONCLUSION

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

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Thursday, March 12, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 10:15 am.

b. Roll call

Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dortha Litson were all present.
Water Users: Dortha Litson present. Aaron Begay and Kathy John were absent

In addition, all visitors had a chance to introduce themselves.

c. Invocation conducted by Lucinda Davis.

d. Adopt agenda

The agenda read by Dortha Litson. No amendments, questions, or corrections.

Action: The reviewed agenda was accepted as read.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Dortha Litson

Voting: 2 yes; 0 no; 5 abstained

Motion Carried

e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, February 23, 2015

Dortha read the last meeting minutes from February 23, 2015. No amendments, questions, or corrections.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Dortha Litson

Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

f. Announcements:

- **Title:** Community Use Planning Meeting
Date: Monday, March 16th, 2015
Time: 3 pm
Place: Wheatfields Chapter House
- **Title:** Chapter Meeting
Date: Monday, March 16th, 2015
Time: 9 am
Place: Wheatfields Chapter House

Additional announcements were as follow:

- **Title:** Navajo Nation Reservation Wide Joint Farm Board Meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Time: 8am
Place: Shiprock, New Mexico
- **Title:** Workshop Series – Caring of Pruning Trees
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015
Time: 6pm
Place: Navajo Nation Fair Grounds, Window Rock, AZ

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
 Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
 Thursday, March 12, 2015

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock Community Water Plan
 - 1. Report from Brown & Caldwell – Navajo Nation Regional Water Plan Current Water Study
 - Currently
 - Positive
 - Challenges
 - Next Steps

Lorena explained the Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock community have been planning to conduct water study so the people can create a water plan for the people.

Dorthea stated, “As Lorena mentioned the community has been talking about water plan for its community. Water is very important to people here within the community. We are aware of the Navajo Nation Regional Water Plan; and know that the last time it had its meeting was late September 2014. From there the group, Brown & Caldwell has been scheduling meeting twice, but not successful. Within our community, the Farm Board and Water User have been instrumental in planning for water. As a result, we have invited you, as staff of Brown & Caldwell, and other programs to hear an update on the study you have conducted.”

Mr. Mark Maryboy commented on the following:

- History:
 - This Regional Water Plan evolved from three communities, Kayenta, Chilchinbeto, and Rough Rock, trying to address the water problems they were dealing with about two or three years ago. Out of this concern, the Navajo Nation Council Delegate passed a legislation with funding in amount of 8.5 million dollars to higher Engineers to conduct five regional water studies.
- One of the Regional Water Study is coming from Sweetwater, AZ to Wheatfields, AZ.
- Out of these Regional Water Studies evolved

Short Term Goal	Medium Term Goals	Long Term Goals
<p><i>Rough Rock Community</i> requested for Water well, so part of the study completed by Brown & Caldwell. As a result, the scope of work and price inventory were collected and this helped for the water well to be conducted for the community.</p> <p><i>Denehotso Community</i> needed more water line to home, so Brow & Caldwell helped Indian Health Service with the study. As a result, more people will be receiving water line to their home.</p>		

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Thursday, March 12, 2015

- Mr. Maryboy has been frequently traveling to talk with the Chapter Manager, community members, and elderlies at senior citizen center about their water concerns within the Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock community.
- Currently:
 - Brown & Caldwell has been working with Mr. Peter Littlehat, OEH Many Farms Office about Round Rock and Lukachukai Communities. They are now requesting money for these community to get more waterline to homes. (This is another short term Goal)

Lorena asked, “Where is the funding coming from to do the short term goal projects?”

Mr. Maryboy replied, “The funding is coming from Mismanagement Settlement, and Public Hearing has been conducted.”

Reginald Shirley, Engineer of Brown & Caldwell, conducted the following report pertaining to the Sweetwater to Wheatfields water pipeline:

- The process of studying the Regional Water Plan are:
 - ✓ Study the current water sources that exist within each community
 - ✓ Provide alternative
 - ✓ Provide cost for upgrades and alternatives
- The Shiprock to Sweetwater water project is currently in the work, and the pipeline are 10 to 14 inches. The alternative is to increase the pipe size, so it is able to serve more water to more people.
- For each water study, the engineers are studying surface and underground water by calibrating module at water tanks. The modules are used to study the water projection for 20 to 50 years.

The Master Public Water System Plan from Sweetwater to Wheatfields that has been currently completed at this time:

Rock Point:

- Evaluation
 - High Pressure is 150psi and above
 - Medium Pressure is 149 psi and below
 - Low Pressure is 20ps and below
- There are two water tanks
- The pump stations are studied for storage; supply; equalized storage
- Fire hydrate is being studies too. The Fire hydrates belong to NTUA

Wheatfields:

- There is one water well that serves high pressure to the water Tank. However, from the water tank it service Lower Wheatfields homes and Upper Wheatfields homes, and there are two low pressure point for this waterline.
- Alternative is to install Boosters are several point to increase the water pressure

Tsaile:

- There are 8 water wells, but 4 of them are not operating at this time. All current wells are serving as low pressure.

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Thursday, March 12, 2015

- One of the water well service the Lukachukai Community.
- The pipes with this community are not conducive for economic develop. The pipe are all less than 12 inches in diameter.
- Alternative plan for now in Tsaile area are to, (currently being studies):
 - Create a Well Field in Tsaile area, and gravity flow it down to Round Rock.
 - Increase the pipe size for economic development, and change out all the old pipes

Important finding thus far: ALL WATERLINES IN PLACE WITH THESE COMMUNITIES ARE NOT DESIGNED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; THE WATER LINES NEED TO BE INCREASE IN ORDER TO SERVE MORE PEOPLE PLUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE EXISTING FIRE HYDRATES ARE NOT WORKING.

Challenges:

- Getting the awareness out there to the people about their water study be conducted in their community.
- Working with other programs to release data from them such as Indian Health Service, NTUA, and information on non-portable water. (IHS director, Roger Slick, need work with us.)
- Working on data for non-portable water such as number of Farmland acres; what is being planted, and number of permittees with animal capacity.

Next Steps:

- Brown & Caldwell will continue to do the water study which will include geological information of underwater source using the depth of water well and windmill drillings within the area, create more alternatives, and as time goes on they will have included the prices of the alternatives.
- Increase the awareness for people to understand the Regional Water Study being conducted, so they can become increase their involved.
- Continue to invite Brown & Caldwell engineers and staff to the Joint Farm Board & Water User meeting every other month. (*Example request for them to attend the next meeting is in May 2015*)
- The plans for using farming and ranching as mean for economic development for the community needs to be written into the Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock Community Land Use Planning Committees plan.
- Chapter officials and its people of each communities have substantial POWER.
- Chapters of each communities can access Tribal Funds at any time.

Other comments, suggestions, and questions being mentioned before next steps were created:

The Tsaile/ Wheatfields/ Blackrock Community explained their needs:

- The Tsaile/ Wheatfields/ Blackrock community wants all people within the community to have access to running water in their home. (All the people living in Blackrock area, in West of Dine' College on Rt 64, Gray Cactus Road; and Upper Wheatfields at foothill of mountain have no running water).
- The Tsaile/ Wheatfields/ Blackrock community has only one source of water hauling for those who don't have running water, and want to improve the system for the people.
- The Tsaile/ Wheatfields/ Blackrock community want farming and ranching as mean of economic development for its people.
- The Tsaile/ Wheatfields/ Blackrock community has three major stream of water running from the mountain region and want them to be assess, so more plan can be create to increase the water flow again; likewise to revitalize the many natural spring areas; revitalize all 30 earthen dams within the community and increase more earthen dams development.

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Thursday, March 12, 2015

Robert Kirk, Navajo Nation Water Management, explained:

- Involvement of the Regional Water Study
- The Navajo Nation Water Resource has three branches and Water Code has move under Natural Resource Department. The three branches are Water Management Branch (Director is Jason John), Water Resource Branch (Director is Nihjam Tariq), Safety of Dams (Director is Brenda Hatathlie), and the overall Director is Raymond Benally.

Action: Request Brown & Caldwell to write a letter to Farm Board and Grazing to request Data on Farmland acres and Permittees Grazing permits on animal capacity. Farm Board and Grazing can release that data information.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

Additional, we referred back to an item that Mr. Maryboy brought to our attention.

The Navajo Nation Department of Water Management and Brown & Caldwell are in the process of submitting a proposal, *Navajo Nation Wide Municipal Water Development under Settlement*, to Navajo Nation Council Delegate. When reading this proposal there is nothing in there written for Tsaile-Wheatfields-Blackrock community. As a result, Lucinda stated the Chapter allocate \$50,000 to conduct a water study for it community, but Brown & Caldwell determine to conduct the study needed is going to cost \$150,000.

Action: Request Mr. Maryboy and Department of Water Management to write the Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock community for funding \$250,000 to conduct its Water Study even it was estimated to do the water study at \$150,000. If funding the balance of the funding can be used for the second phase of the projects.

Motioned by Dorthea Litson

Seconded by Thomas Litson

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

III. NEW BUSSINESS

a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.

1. No Request at this time

No request at this time, but the following information and question:

- Thomas Litson inform the Farm Board that the late Leslie Tsosie' grazing permit, and land use permit were in probate. His son Emery Tsosie has come before the grazing official to request for his late father's grazing permit and the land use permit, but the grazing official told him he needs to take his land use permit before the farm board.
- Lorena asked if the paper work has been submitted to BIA office regarding following on all cases that has gone before farm board?
- Dorthea informed that it has been given to BIA office.

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Thursday, March 12, 2015

- b. Conservation Plan
 - Determine Date and Time to work on the development
The date and time were set to develop a conservation plan to Sunday, March 29, 2015 @ 10 am at Chapter House.

IV. Reports

- A. Farm Board
No report from Farm Board members

- B. Water User
Dorthea reported that WUA was unable to submit due to no assigned Duns number.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
Conservation Plan only

- B. Schedule next meeting date
Sunday, March 29, 2015 @ 10 am Wheatfields Chapter House

C. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 4yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried