

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Wednesday, May 13, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 5:20pm

b. Roll call

Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson were all present

Water User: Dorthea Litson was present. Aaron Begay and Kathy John were absent

c. Invocation conducted by Lorena Eldridge

d. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed agenda. No questions, but amendment made. Fitzgerald S. Yazzie requested to be added to the agenda, and to add a date for Annual Water User Meeting.

Action: To add two agenda items as mentioned above.

Motioned by Emma M. Yazzie

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

e. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, April 29, 2015

Dorthea read last meeting minutes. No amendments, questions, or suggestion.

Action: The last meeting minutes was accepted as read.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Julia M. Yazzie

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

f. Announcements:

Title: Chapter Meeting

Time: 3pm

Date: Monday, May 18, 2015

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House

Title: Community Land Use Planning Meeting

Time: 9 am

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2015

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House

Title: Farm Board Meeting – Conservation Plan

Time: 1 pm

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2015

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House

Title: Regional Water Plan

Time: 9am

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House

II. OLD BUSINESS

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Wednesday, May 13, 2015

a. None

III. NEW BUSSINESS

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

- Emma Yazzie relinquishes Farm Land to her daughter, Julia M. Yazzie.

Lorena explained to the people that the Farm Board is responsibility, as a recommending body of government, for any changes made regarding irrigatable farmlands before it is submitted to BIA. One of the major requirements is to have a conservation plan attached to the application and a copy of the original farmland permit.

Emma M. Yazzie was given the floor to speak, and she spoke of the following;

- Her late brother, Dan Allen gave his 9.55 acres of farm plot to her several years ago. This farm plot is located on the northeast side of the Tsaile Lake.
- In the past, they irrigated the farmland using the stream water where they place water pump to pump out water to the farmland. This farmland was utilized to produce crops and vegetables for her family, but now she is at the age of Not Being able to farm.
- This farmland has several problems. It does not have access to the irrigation from the earthen dam that is located in Rita Jishie's farmland. There is huge gully located in the middle of the farmland. The fence to her farmland needs major repair. The other problem it has is with the fence line. It also has a big goalie in the middle of the farmland.
- Finally, again she asked the audience to accept her request to give her daughter, Julia M. Yazzie, the farmland. She is at the age of unable to work on her farmland.

Julia M. Yazzie was given an opportunity to speak about her plans for the farmlands that will be relinquished to her. The following are what she talked to the people about;

- She and her older brother talked about taking care of the land
- She and her brother plan to repair the outside fence
- It's been awhile since there were any type of crops or vegetables growing in the farmland, but the plan is to revitalize the farmland for her family.
- She's thankful for the opportunity that is given to her by her mother to care for the land.
- She asked the people to accept the relinquishment of the farmland to be given to her.

Action: The people accepted Emma M. Yazzie to relinquish her 9.55 acres of farmland to her daughter, Julia M. Yazzie.

Motion by Teresa Chee

Second by Freddie Yazzie

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

- Fitzgerald S. Yazzie requests to approve Conservation Plan – for his Farmland plot he is in the process of accruing.
 - Fitzgerald explained to the people that the farm plot that he is requesting belonged to his late grandfather William Yazzie in Tsaile. This farmland is located above the north side of the Tsaile Bridge. His grandfather passed away several years ago but always spoke of giving his farmland to him. Currently, he submitted his paperwork to the Navajo Tribal court due to this case being considered as probate. It is now in the hands of the court, and the judge in the court requested for a conservation plan. As a result, he has been working on the conservation plan with the BIA manager Leonard Notah. They developed a conservation plan and it needs to be signed by the farm board then returned to BIA, Natural Resources Office and the court to proceed.

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Lorena reviewed all of the court documents, and the conservation plan. She explained the meeting minutes will be submitted to BIA with a letter attached indicating that the conservation plan has been approved.

Action: The conservation plan established and submitted by Fitzgerald S. Yazzie was approved by the people, and the conservation plan signed by farm board president Lorena Eldridge. A letter and the farm board meeting minutes will be forward to BIA.

Motion by Emma M. Yazzie

Second by Teresa Chee

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain

Motion Carried

Additional comments provided for Julia M. Yazzie and Fitzgerald S. Yazzie as new Land Use owners were as follow:

- Lorena indicated that it is great to see young people interested in farmland, but it is important that it's maintain to ensure the farmland is being utilize as it was intended. Need to make sure it's use to plant crops or vegetables.
- Dorthea stated that it is important to maintain a healthy soil. She attended several workshops over the years, and one of the critical factors to having a successful for farmland is to have a healthy soil. Currently, the biggest mistake she observe with farmers is that they plow their farmland, but DO NOT put anything into the soil. The Farmer has to put something into the soil to ensure the top soil are not damage or blown away by the wind. Please DO NOT plow the farmland if NO crops or vegetables will be planted. Make sure the soil is covered. Leave about 6inches of plant when harvest as suggested by NRCS.

b. Annual Water User Meeting

Lorena explained that at the last farm board meeting there were a lot of questions about the annual operation and maintenance fee that are to be paid by the farmers. As a result, we had suggested scheduling an annual meeting where the Bylaws, Article of Incorporation, Financial Management policies, and other policies and procedures be reviewed by the people. The amendments can be made.

Action: the people decided to have the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 26, 2015 at 9 am at Wheatfields Chapter House

Motioned by Maureena Yazzie

Seconded by Julia M. Yazzie

Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

A. Farm Board

President reported on the outcome of the meeting from May 7, 2015 regarding Route 12 Highway Construction. There are three phases to this project. Phase I is from Wheatfields Branding Coral to the new built LDS Church in Tsaile. Phase 2 is from the new LDS church in Tsaile to Lukachukai Junction.

The Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board submitted a resolution to the chapter several months ago requesting to consider three areas of irrigation Colbert that needs to be considered in highway construction. The three mentioned in the resolution are; ¼ mile east of the Wheatfields Chapter, near the Catholic Church in Tsaile, and the farmland near Clay Spring Well between Angela Kedelty and Ida Mae Oliver's farmland.

The map is in the office here at Wheatfields Chapter House. The other question they had was about the turn off to Freddie Yazzie farmland before the Tsaile Bridge.

The following work questions comments and suggestions:

- Ben Curly suggested to have a copy of the map and to share with people that will be effective it by the road construction.

Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Vice President reported that Brown and Caldwell requested to have the Regional Water Plan meeting be moved to June 2015.

The following were questions comments and suggestions:

Having a meeting in June 2015 might be too late to ask for any changes that needs attention before the engineers project is over at the end of June 30, 2015'

Lucinda comment that that would not be a problem because the engineers project is technically over June 30, 2015, but they have until September 31, 2015 to ensure all changes are made and reports are completed. Therefore, if there is anything that needs to be addressed by the engineers then they have to time to follow up.

B. Water User

Secretary explained that the advertisement for the Water Master positions are now posted, and will be posted for the next two weeks. The closing date is May 22, 2015. However, she has a problem in to do the interview if the starting date is going to be May 26, 2015. The selection needs to be made before May 26, 2015.

Action: All farm board members agreed to have the selection and interview on Monday, May 25, 2015 even though that day is a holiday.

V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

- Planning for Agency Council Meeting, July 11, 2015
- Upper Wheatfields irrigation canal
- Conservation Plan

B. Schedule next meeting date

Next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2015 at 1 pm Wheatfields Chapter House

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM

Motioned by Julia M. Yazzie

Seconded by Maureen Yazzie

Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried