

Tsaile Wheatfields Joint Farm Board and Dineh Water User  
Wednesday, July 15, 2015  
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

AGENDA

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Roll Call:
- c. Invocation
- d. Adopt agenda
- e. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, June 24, 2015 and June 10, 2015
- f. Announcements:

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Conservation Plan
- b. Regional Water Plan

**III. NEW BUSSINESS**

- a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
  - 1. NONE

**IV. Reports**

- a. Farm Board
- b. Water User
- c. Water Masters
- d. Others

**V. CONCLUSION**

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

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**Meeting Minutes**

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

a. Meeting call to order at 4:30pm

b. Roll Call:

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

Water User – Aaron Begay, Dorthea Litson and Kathy Johns all present

c. Invocation conducted by Lucinda Davis

d. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No amendments and questions.

*Action: The agenda accepted as read.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*

*Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

e. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, June 24, 2015 and June 10, 2015

Dorthea Litson read both last meeting minutes. No amendments, questions, or comments.

*Action: Both meeting minutes were accepted as read.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*

*Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

f. Announcements:

The following announcements:

- Chapter Meeting, Monday, July 20, 2015 @ 8am Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
- Tsaile Wheatfields Community Land Use Planning Meeting, Sunday, July 19, 2015 @ 10am Wheatfields Chapter House.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Conservation Plan

Lorena explained to the audience that the Farm Board are in the process of writing a conservation plan for all three areas of the farm land within Tsaile and Wheatfields areas. The originally deadline set was June 30, 2015, but that deadline is past. She asked Dorthea and Lucinda to forward their assignment to her when completed.

The Farm Board share extensively on the Resource Concerns particular in the area of identified weeds problems that farmers are experiences. The follow are the identified weed problems:

- Russian Knapweed (Asteraceae – Sunflower family)
- Russian- olive (Elaeagnaceae – Oleaster family)
- Scotch Thistle (Asteraceae – Sunflower family)
- Saltcedar (Tamaricaceae – Tamarisk family)
- Field Bindweed (Convovulaceae -Morningglory family)

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*Action: A new deadline has been set to July 31, 2015 to have all of the conservation plan written.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Kathy Johns*

*Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

b. Regional Water Plan

Lorena asked if the Engineers, Brown and Caldwell, have met their deadline, June 30, 2015.

Lucinda explained the status on the progress that the engineers have been making on the regional water plan. The deadline is extended to September 30, 2015. Thus far the findings are as follows:

- Wheatfields have high aquifer
- Due to high aquifer in Wheatfields area, the engineers are suggesting to use this to serve other communities.
- The engineers are totally studying the water quality for domestic use only (drinking water). This is what the Navajo Nation Council Delegates totally funding the project.
- The engineers are not wanting to attend meeting after meeting with the communities due to the taking away from their study and cost to the project. Particularly know that very few people attend the meeting. For example, there were two meetings at Wheatfields Chapter and only one audience at one time; and five audience at one time.

The following are comments, questions, and suggestions:

Lorena, "If water right is a concern then why is domestic use the only issue?"

Dorthea, "I am not understanding why domestic use was the only concern for the Navajo Nation Council Delegates in these regional water study. The outside people look at five major areas as part of their water study to help them determine the Water Rights. The five major areas are Domestic use, Farming use, Ranching use, wildlife use, and economic development use."

What will it take to establish another meeting for the people?

Someone who is aggressive needs to take the lead in planning another meeting. So who is aggressive? Maybe, Round Rock chapter should be the one to host the meeting since that is the middle point of destination. It seems that even the chapter staff and the people in general don't really care about water issues. It might be the Tsaile & Wheatfields Farm Board and Water User officers have this concern.

Rock Point community are talking about having a meeting sometimes this month in July. How can we work them too?

*Action: The Tsaile and Wheatfields Farm Board and Water User decided to take the lead in organizing and host a meeting on Friday, August 21, 2015 at 9 am. They work on inviting the neighboring chapters, Lukachuka, Round Rock, Rock Point, and Sweetwater, and the people in general.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Kathy Johns*

*Voting: 8 yes; 0 non; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

### III. NEW BUSINESS

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

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2. NONE

IV. Reports

a. Farm Board

President reported on the result of Chinle Agency Council that was assigned to Farm Board to coordinate. The following were comments:

- The people of Chinle Agency Council lack the use of using technology when present issues at hand. There was a computer present for them to project their resolution, but was never used. If when the Farm Board requested for that to happen.
- The people enjoyed the food.
- The event was different. There was a fun walk and run.
- The cost – Event Tent = \$ 1720.00 and Lunch = \$ 450.00 (paid by the Chapter)

Vice President reported the following:

- The Navajo Nation Joint Farm Board Meeting was scheduled for July 9, 2015; however, the meeting never took place.
- In June 2015, the Joint Farm Board meeting was conducted, and at that time Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture staff indicated that the Farm Board need to use the form provide to make report. The Quarterly Reports need to be submitted by them.

Secretary: No Report to provide.

b. Water User

President - No report

Secretary - Provided brief report on topic presented the Annual Water User Meeting on June 29, 2015.

- Reviewed the Mission and Vision statement
- Reviewed the Article of Incorporation and Bylaws (no amendments to both documents)
- Reviewed the History of the Organization
- Reviewed the Financial reports
- Reviewed the status of the Operation and Maintenance Fee. (Across the board there are 40% of farmers paying, and 60% not paying).
- Reviewed the cost of Operation and Maintenance Fee - Leave the cost as it is. (The price of the materials for repair the high; and there are 40% of the people who pay on time – that is not fair to them)
- Reviewed the strategic plan (The Farm Board and other committees need to meet to review and update the strategic plan)

Questions and comments:

Lorena: “Has the officers of the organization look into the options of collecting the fees through a small claim?”

Dorthea: “No, that has not been done yet. The idea that is on the Table to meet with DNA attorney to figure out what the legal options are for them to collect from the farmers.”

*Action: To accept the both reports provided by the Farm Board and Water User; and for the all committees to meet on Monday, July 27, 2015 at 4pm to review only the strategic plan.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Kathy Johns*

*Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

c. Water Masters

Both Water Masters did not show up. Therefore no reports provided.

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d. Others

Freddie Yazzie

He reported, "On June 28, 2015, he traveled to the water masters to figure out the problem of why he was not receiving the water to his farm land. He knew the water masters were fixing the problem, but he is unsure if they released the water to his farm land. The water must have been released, because it has damage his soil in his farm land in two areas. There were deep sink holes. Who is going to fix the sink hole in his field?"

Patricia Morgan

She explained that the old irrigation system that went into her fields is closed, and was asked to share with her irrigation system with Marvin Johnny. Currently, the irrigation system does not work well. Therefore, she requested she needs someone to examine the system to figure out the problems.

Paul Yoe

He indicated that he needs his farm land to recalculate his acres to fix the operation and maintenance fee.

*Action: To assigned Water Masters to do an assessment of the two areas in Tsaile Farm Land.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Kathy Johns*

*Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

- Strategic Planning Meeting

B. Scheduled next meeting date is Monday, July 27, 2015 @ 4pm Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

C. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Kathy Johns

Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried