

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting  
Friday, September 18, 2015 @ 10 am  
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, August 29, 2015
- f. Announcements:

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
  - Lula Chee request Probate Land Use Permit – Late Father, Thomas James, Tsaile Farmland area.
  - Rita Jishie request to transfer her Land Use Permit to her son, Mr. Freeman Jishie.
- b. Presentations:
  1. Fish and Wildlife – Prairie Dog Control
  2. Robin Jackson, Tsaile – Wheatfields Community Member –
    - Water Rights – Understanding the laws
    - Navajo Nation Resources Development Committees – Tentative plans regarding natural resources.

**III. NEW BUSSINESS**

- a. *Revitalization of Farm Land Project*

**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

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting  
Friday, September 18, 2015 @ 10 am  
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

a. Meeting called to order at 10:40am

b. Roll Call:

c. Invocation by Frank Billy

d. Adopt agenda

The agenda reviewed by Dorthea Litson. The questions, comments, or suggestions.

*Action: The agenda was except as read.*

*Motioned by James Becenit*

*Seconded by Adale Begay*

*Voting: 13 yes; 0 no; 4abstained*

*Motion Carried*

e. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, August 29, 2015

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from August 29, 2015. The following question asked: what are the priority list before the 9<sup>th</sup> priority?

Lorena replied, "The Navajo Naton's three branch government agreed on some priorities to work on together, and at this time she does not have a copy of the list at hand, but anything to do with Natural Resources are listed as the 9<sup>th</sup> priority." She suggested to possibly wright a resolution to the Navajo nation president to request revise the priority list.

*Action: The last meeting minutes read was accepted as read.*

*Motioned by Adale Begay*

*Seconded by Robin Jackson*

*Voting: 14 yes; 0 no; 5 abstained*

*Motion carried*

f. Announcements:

The following announcements were provided;

**Title: Chapter Meeting of Tsaile Wheatfields Blackrock**

**Date: Friday, September 18, 2015**

**Time: 3pm**

**Location: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

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

- Lula Chee request Probate Land Use Permit – Late Father, Thomas James, Tsaile Farmland area.

Lula Chee did not attend the meeting. However, her brother Nelson James provided an update of the Land Use Permit request. He provided a history of the land. Indicated that the entire farmland plot belong to his father he gave a portion to his brother the late Allen James, nephew Andrew John and Marie Kay's late father. At some point, his father, the late Thomas James stated that he switch farmland with his brother, Allen James. He is not sure if that has been put in writing nor if it was approved by BIA natural resources office staff. Currently he is receiving the operation to make the in the mail regarding his late father's land 15.5 acres.

He was approached by his sisters, Lula and Julia, to possibly change the name into either one

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of them to now hold their late father's Land Use Permit. He thought they would be here today the meeting to see what they have decided. Finally, he learned that there is a septic tank and leach fill built in the Farm Land.

Lorene explained that if there is to be any changed made to the farm land it need to go before the Farm Board members to approve the changes. Currently, according the Navajo Nation Law there should be NO type of structure not home built in the farmland area.

*Action: To put the Land Use permit request by Lula be deferred to next Farm Board meeting. Nelson will inform his sisters.*

*Motioned by Nelson James*

*Seconded by James Becenti*

*Voting: 13 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

- Rita Jishie request to transfer her Land Use Permit to her son, Mr. Freeman Jishie. Amended the agenda to add Rita Jishie's request. Rita Jishie stated, "She and her son, Freeman traveled to Chinle BIA Natural Resources Office where they were told to come before the Farm Board meeting to request Land Use Permit Transfer. As result, they are here. Now, I want the Farm Board and people in the audience to be my witness that I will be giving my Land Use Permit to my son, Freeman Jishie. He currently lives in Sawmill with his children, but he has been working on the fence to the Farm Plot. He is aware that that this land will be his responsibility from here forward, and later in life if he choose to relinquish this farm land to his children or someone within is his clan system of his biological mother side would be approved for him." Freeman spoke, "I am fully aware of my responsibilities regarding this farm land. I have been working on re-establishing the fence line around the farm plot."

*Action: The people approved Rita Jishie request to transfer her Farm Land to her son, Freeman Jishie.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Frank Billy*

*Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

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## b. Presentations:

### 1. Fish and Wildlife – Prairie Dog Control

Charles Blacksheep, from Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife field staff presented the following:

- He has been working for 24 years
- He is a field staff of two, who takes care of Red Mesa, AZ to the Chusk Mountain to Zuni New Mexico and to the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. He treats prairie dog and oversees all wildlife. He is currently dealing with many Mountain Lions in the Black Mesa Region.
- To treat prairie dogs two tables of fumigant phosphorus are placed in the hole with a PVC pipe. The holes are plugged with newspaper.
- In order to work with fumigant pesticides, one must be licenses to do this. He recently past his test to apply pesticide, but is still working on passing his test to become certified in Fumigant pesticide. The only person to have this certification in the office is Gloria.
- However, currently, EPA is telling the Fish and Wildlife to stop using pesticide.
- He is unable to give the farm board an exact date of when he can treat prairie dogs due to taking his test until Feb 2016 and MUST past the test.
- The other important to notice is that when pesticide are used to treat prairie dogs it can contaminate the soil which will make the food source unproduceable to grow.

### 2. Robin Jackson, Tsaile – Wheatfields Community Member –

- Water Rights – Understanding the laws
  - ✓ Indian water rights are complex
  - ✓ Winters Doctrine (1908) - this doctrine secures water rights where it provides sufficient water is reserved to fulfill the purpose of which the reservation was established
  - ✓ However in a water settlement, it puts the tribal nations in the position to negotiate its aboriginal water right which often puts the tribal nations to give up its full rights to water.
  - ✓ It's found that all Indian Water Rights Settlement is statute the same. Each water right settlement should be statute differently based on the different needs of the Tribes, Land Base, and Population, but that is not the case.
  - ✓ Normally the settlement come with funding attached but the funding are normally limited, and majority is only used for drink water only not for economic development.
  - ✓ It's very important to understand that a settlement involves the Indians to waiver it water use at full capacity as it was once stated by the Winter Doctrine of 1908.
  - ✓ For example, in SB 2109 – Navajo and Hopi Water Settlement; (Thank goodness it was not passed; but we know it will come before us at some point again.)

### Comments and Questions:

Dorthea Litson – She commented, “The Navajo Nation Council Delegate approved the 8.6 million dollars to do five major water studies across the Navajo Nation. The Sweetwater to Tsaile – Wheatfields is one of the project, but come to find out this study is ONLY for Drinking Water. It is not for quantified for Farming, Livestock, marketing, water banking, and future generation. **This is WHAT WORRIES me. I HOPE THE COUNCIL**

# **Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting**

## **Friday, September 18, 2015 @ 10 am**

### **Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

**DELEGATES IN THE FUTURE DOES NOT USE THIS STUDY TO REACH A WATER SETTLEMENT!** Because it is not the true picture. Instead it should be used to figure out as solid plan in place. To possible develop more of an environmental sound economic opportunities in the area of restoration projects!

Navajo Nation Resources Development Committees – Tentative plans regarding natural resources.

Robin Jackson, Tsaile - Wheatfields community member, presented the tentative plans that the Natural Resource and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The plans are to:

- ✚ Restart the commercial logging
- ✚ Expand the oil and gas on Chuska Mountain to the communities of Tsé eł nastí', New Mexico to To holean, New Mexico
- ✚ Open Sand and Gravel Operation in Pine Springs, AZ

The commercial logging on the Navajo Nation stopped in 1993 due to over cutting of Pine Trees. Now, if it is restarted, then the old big Pine trees needs to be SAVE. Instead, a restoration plan is needed to be in place before reopening the logging!  
Expansion of Oil and Gas needs to be stopped. Water contaminations is HIGH RISK. Sand and Gravel used High level of water to run a project.

Comments or Questions:

It very important to share the concerns to your COUNCEL DELIGATEs regarding this matters!

Art Allen shared, “**Elders had a vision, but always tied the teaching to it. The Dine’ People creates their own problems. Finally, the Navajo Nation Presidents and Council Delegates DON’T LISTEN TO THE GRASS ROOT PEOPLE instead THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT IS FAST AND EASY TO MAKE MONEY OF OFF!**”

*Action: To accept the insightful presentations provided.*

*Motioned by Arthur Allen*

*Seconded by Adale Begay*

*Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### *a. Revitalization of Farm Land Project*

Dorthea explained the revitalization of farmland project to the audience. She stated that letters were written to at least 30 farmers requesting them to be present at this meeting. The project is where the farm land is subleased to the Farm Board for 10 years, but the landowner and his or her family members (youth) MUST work with the farm board. The family have to be involve in the planting, irrigating and harvesting of the land. The Farm Board provides the education workshops to help the farmer improve their farmland over time. However, if the land owners gives up on the project the farm board will carried out the project to full term of the project.

The major focus to the project is to REVITALIZE THE FARM LAND TO ITS FULL USE AND TO WORK WITH THE YOUTH OF THE FAMILY TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLITLY.

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Questions and comments:

Frank Billie – “The Project sound good, but is it possible? Where are all the farmers?”

Adale Begay – “The Project is very nice. Food is very important for all of us. At some point, the people will have to divert back to farming.”

Art Allen – “He told Dorthea that he is very interested in the project, and is willing to participate in the project.”

*Action: Deferred to next meeting.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Rita Jishie*

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

*Motion Carried*

**IV. Reports**

- a. Farm Board  
No Reports
- b. Water User  
No Reports
- c. Water Masters  
No Reports
- d. Others

**V. CONCLUSION**

- A. Identify next agenda items
  - Revitalization Project of Farm Land
  - LUP Transfer, Probate - Lula Chee
- B. Scheduled next meeting date, Wednesday, September 30, 2015 @ 6pm Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
- C. Adjournment
  - Action: Adjourned meeting at 2:40pm*
  - Motioned by Lucinda Davis*
  - Seconded by Frank Billy*
  - Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion carried*