

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 21, 2016 @ 3:00pm**  
**Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

AGENDA

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Invocation
- c. Adopt agenda
- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2016
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Financial Report - Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User
- b. 2016 Annual Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User Meeting
- c. Report for acquiring lawyer
- d. Collaboration with other Resources

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
- b. Junk Food Sales Tax
- c. Seek to acquire lawyer

IV. REPORTS

- a. Farm Board
- b. Water User
- c. 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 called to order at 3:22pm

b. Invocation by Lorena Eldridge

c. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No Amendments or questions.

*Action: The agenda accepted as read.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

*Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2016

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from Feb. 15, 2016. No amendments, questions, or comments.

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

*Motioned by Aaron Begay*

*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

e. Announcements:

TITLE: Navajo Nation Reservation Joint Farm Board and Grazing Meeting

TIME: 8 am

WHEN: Friday, February 26, 2016

LOCATION: Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock, AZ

TITLE: Chapter Planning Meeting

TIME: 1 pm

WHEN: Tuesday, March 1, 2016

LOCATION: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Financial Report - Tsaile – Wheatfields Dineh Water User

At the last Farm Board Meeting, Dorthea provided the financial report for the Water User for financial year, January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Budget carry over from 2014: \$ 30,681.93

Revenue Received in 2015: \$ 3548.53

Total expense in 2015: \$ 7,786.19

Ending Balance: \$ 26,444.27

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

The budget needs to be presented in the following matter:

Beginning Balance

Total Revenue

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Total Expense  
Ending Balance

A suggestion made to budget out the forwarding balance.

*Action: Please note: this budget was already presented and approved at the last Farm Board Meeting, February 15, 2016, but it was approved again for the second time.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Aaron Begay*

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

*Motion Carried*

b. 2016 Annual Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User Meeting

The following were plan:

Task	Who is responsible	When -task completion
Identified Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Peshlakai</li> <li>• Avery Denny</li> <li>• Wilson Aronilth</li> <li>• Johnson Dennis</li> <li>• Otto Tso</li> </ul>	Dorthea has James Peshlakai, but has not contact him.  Kathy contact Johnson Dennis Lucinda contact Otto Tso When reaching out to them let them know of topics to cover; how much will they charge; and if March 19 is open for them.	During the week of Feb. 22 to March 1, 2016.
Topics for the presenter to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Season and planting</li> <li>• Stories and Teaching related to planting</li> <li>• Gish – tradition planting stick</li> <li>• Planting in relation to stars</li> <li>• Seeds preparation, prayers, &amp; song</li> </ul>		
Meals: Lunch – Soup and Drinks Green Chile Stew w/ case water Menudo Soup w/ case water Fry Bread w/ case water Bowls Cups	Lorena Lucinda Dorthea	March 19, 2016
Meal Dinner – BBQ Beef or pork Salad Corn Drinks – Water or coffee	Dorthea work with Kim Martinz to see if she can sponsor the Dinner for us (looking at 60 people to serve).	March 4, 2016

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting  
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<p>Agenda        8am to 9am – Overview of Water User Organization &amp; history of it establishment.        9am to 12pm – Presentation        12 to 12:30pm – Lunch        12:30 to 2:30 – Presentation        2:30 – 3:30 – Water User short Meeting        3:30 to 5pm – Dinner &amp; Awards        (Build in Social time into the presentation)</p>		
<p>Awards        What to categories to award?        Farmer of the year from all three farmland areas are:        Lower Wheatfields – Sadie Neztosie        Upper Wheatfields –        Tsaile – Freddie Yazzie</p> <p>Youth award        Consistently involved in developing a conservation plan with parents or grandparents        Design LOGO for Water User</p> <p>Partnership Award        Tsaile Wheatfields Chapter</p> <p>Land Grant Office, Dine’ College</p> <p>Who do we award?        Frame Certificate</p>	<p>Dorthea needs to identify which youth has been involved in developing conservation plan with family.</p>	<p>March 4, 2016</p>
<p>Door Prize</p>		

Action: To add to next agenda item to finalize plan for the Annual Meeting.  
 Motioned by Dorthea Litson  
 Seconded by Lucinda Davis  
 Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained Motion Carried

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- c. Report for acquiring lawyer

Dorthea stated that she did not have to time this week to look into it.

Other comment made, "Really, it is a responsibility of the Water User to seek how the farmer are to pay."

*Action: Defer to next meeting.*

*Motioned by Aaron Begay*

*Seconded by Kathy Johns*

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

*Motion Carried*

- d. Collaboration with other Resources

Lorena explained that BIA has the absolute authority to approve the Land Use Permit issues; Resource and Development Committee are planning to consolidate the Farm Board member: and Tsaile – Wheatfeilds planned a Revitalization Plan – to date only have two people who are interested.

Lorena stated, How do we overcome the high number of idling farmland we have? We had suggested to move this to the next Navajo Nation Joint Farm Board Meeting in March 17, 2016. Maybe the can give a directive of how it can be overcome.

Lucinda suggested to have a written resolution to the officers of the Reservation Wide farm board members.

Lorena commented, "We have presented to Resource & Development Committee, but they told us to have outside Corporation take over the idling farmland."

Kathy suggested to inform the people the about the future plan that the Nation is talking about. She does not appreciate what the RDC members had to say.

Aaron commented that politicians are can be very cruel people. Often they make decision NOT in the BEST interest of what is RIGHT for their people. "If the Council Delegate who sit on Resources and Development Committee are say to give all the idling farmlands to outside Corporation might be something they are really looking to do. It is so Hard to Tell!" The outside Corporations might be giving them offers to make this type of comment. For example, Senator John McCain and Jeff Flake were influence by outside Mining Corporations from oversea to open a Mining on the Apache Reservation in Payson, AZ, and they created legislation without letting the Tribes know. The same is going on with the Utah Water Rights. Our Council Delegates never involve the people who will be effected by this legislation. He does not think the Navajo Nation Resource and Development Committee will not share a directive on dealing with Probate Cases or any Idling Farm Land.

Lorena commented that the Navajo Nation Farm Board have policies and procedures to follow and recommend that, but we are not sure if it will be supported. We have been asking for support and that has NOT happen to date.

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*Action: To write a resolution to Navajo Nation Joint Farm Board member to request to take up this concern.*

*Motioned by Kathy Johns*

*Seconded by Aaron Begay*

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

*Motion Carried*

**III. NEW BUSSINESS**

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

*No Action due to no request.*

- b. Junk Food Sales Tax

Lorena explained that at the last Chapter meeting on February 16, 2016, a resolution was pass requesting the Farm Board to take the lead in creating a plan for Junk Food Sale Tax. The Farm Board will need to start doing their research.

Dorthea commented that she attended several meeting with Native Food Alliance. The group have indicated that Junk Food tax can be used for: Recreation Center, Bike Trail or any type of trail, gardening, Farmer Market, Health Food

The research that needs to be done are to find out the guidelines to the proposal, how much money is allocated to the chapter, and it's now known for 1 year.

There was one comment, "The Farm Board did get the planning for one year, but it would be nice for us to work with youth to see what they would like to see, and perhaps build a 5 year plan instead."

*Action: To add to next meeting agenda to do more planning; to provide an update of what we plan to do at the next Chapter Planning meeting on March 1, 2016; and Lorena is to contact Brenda Holgate while other can search for more information.*

*Motioned by Aaron Begay*

*Seconded by Kathy Johns*

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

*Motion Carried*

**IV. REPORTS**

- a. Farm Board

President reported that she attended the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference in Albuquerque, NM. She learned the following:

- Soil health is very crucial to growing plant. No tillage is an important practice.
- Important to start small and make it better when it comes to farming
- There are many challenges to farming. The best way to learn is through trial and error.
- The goal of farming is "Preservation, and make it better for the next generation."
- Other topics were on Retail and Whole Sale; Grass Fed Beef; and Ice Cream

Vice President – No Report

Secretary reported she attended the Southwest Grass – Fed Conference in Albuquerque, NM. She learned the following:

- Soil health is very important.

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- Holistic Range Management is important. Fencing is very important and to include smaller cross fences.
  - Very important to work with Educational Institution
  - Very important to tell your story for marketing purposes.
- b. Water User  
President – no report  
Secretary/ Treasurer – no report  
Member – no report
- c. Others – no additional report.  
*Action: To accept all reports given.*  
*Motioned by Kathy John*  
*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*  
*Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained* *Motion Carried*

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
- Plan 2016 Annual Water User Meeting
  - Junk Food Sale Tax
  - Report of seeking a Lawyer for Water User
- B. Scheduled next meeting date, Sunday, March 6, 2016 @ 10am Wheatfields Chapter House Wheatfields, AZ.
- C. Adjournment  
*Action: Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm*  
*Motioned by Kathy Johns*  
*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*  
*Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained* *Motion Carried*