

Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Sunday, March 6, 2016 @ 10:00 am
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 21, 2016
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 2016 Annual Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User Meeting
- b. Junk Food Sales Tax
- c. Revitalization of Farmland Project

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 - ✓ None listed at time.

IV. REPORTS

- a. Farm Board
- b. Water User
- c. 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
Sunday, March 6, 2016 @ 10:00 am
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order at 10:30 am

- b. Invocation by Dorthea Litson

- c. Adopt agenda
Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No questions, comments, or amendments.
Action: The read agenda accepted as read.
Motioned by Lucinda Davis
Seconded by Dorthea Litson
Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained *Motion Carried*

- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2016
Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. There was a request to make an amendments to the meeting minutes. "Need to change Jimmie to Jimmy."
Action: Make the correction to the read meeting minutes, and accepted the meeting minutes with the one correction.
Motion by Ophelia R. Begay
Seconded by Lucinda Davis
Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained *Motion Carried*

- e. Announcements:
 - Title: Fruit Tree Pruning

 - Title: Chapter Meeting
Time: 1pm
Date: March 15, 2016
Location: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

 - Title: Navajo Nation Joint Farm Board Meeting
Time: 8am
Date: March 17, 2016
Location: Kayenta Chapter House, Kayenta, AZ

 - Title: Farm to School presented by Dine' College Land Grant Office
Time: 6am (Van leaves from Dine' College; and is an overnight trip)
Date: March 18 to 19, 2016
Location: Durango, CO

 - Title: Tsaile / Wheatfields Annual Water User Meeting
Time: 7:30am to 5pm
Date: March 19, 2016
Location: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

 - Title: Navajo Nation Natural Resources Summit
Time: 8am to 4pm

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Sunday, March 6, 2016 @ 10:00 am

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Date: March 29 to March 31, 2016
Location: Twin Arrows Casino, Flagstaff, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2016 Annual Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User Meeting

Lorena explained the following before talking about the 2016 Annual Tsaile/ Wheatfields Dineh Water User Meeting:

- The Farm Board and Water User has invited many Workshop presenters.
- The Farm Board and Water User wrote several proposal to fix irrigation. USDA Natural Resources & Conservation Service has changed. BIA Natural Resources Office staff request that each farmer and rancher who holds Land Use Permit or Grazing Permit must have a written Conservation Plan. The Conservation Plan must be attached to any requested changes on permit.
- Today, BIA Natural Resources staff are trying to figure out a plan to ensure they follow the NEPA, National Environmental Protection Act. As result, they are putting the requested Land User Permit and Grazing Permit changes on hold. This act also gives authority to the Fish and Wildlife.

Further, she explained the draft agenda for the scheduled Water User Meeting on March 19, 2016, and asked the farmers for any feedback. The vacant positions for the Water User Board is Vice President and member.

Comments, suggestions, or question regarding the agenda for the Annual Meeting:
Farmers all comment that the agenda is good.

The next topic was focus on the other necessary actions to consider for the schedule meeting to move smoothly:

The voting for the vacant position will need to be added to agenda

Create a Ballot Box

Cost of Presentation:

- Hotel is paid for already. The cost is \$89.00, but not sure of the tax.
- Pay his mileage. The round trip is about 400 miles @ .54 Or .57
- Per Diem Rate is \$46.00 per day:
- Three consultant fee given were: \$500 this includes per diem and travel, \$350.00 consultant fee plus travel & per diem, and \$500.00 consultant fee plus travel & per diem.
 - Freddie Yazzie commented, "What fir there is a few farmers and we pay him a lot.
 - There was another suggestion to buy him a blanket.
 - Let just put it to a vote of what to pay him, but the President might over right the vote, he is not here.
 - Voting results were 5 people voted to pay \$500 only; 4 people voted to pay \$350.00 plus travel and per diem; and 1 person voted \$500.00 plus travel and per diem.
- Award that will be given are: 2 youths – One worked with her mother on Conservation Plan, and another drew the Water User Logo; 2 – partnership of the year – Dine' College Land Grant Office and Tsaile / Wheatfields Chapter; and 3 – Farmer of the Year, one for Tsaile Farmland area, Upper Wheatfields area, and Lower Wheatfields area. The Tsaile area is

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selected, Freddie Yazzie, Lower Wheatfields is selected, Sadie Neztzosie, but Upper Wheatfields is NOT selected.

- Decided to vote for several people in Upper Wheatfields to be selected as Farmer of the Year, and they were as follow; Arlene White, Peterson White, Merle Kedelty, Yolinda Staley, and Edward Litson Jr.
 - Voting results – 2 votes for Arlene, 6 votes for Peterson, 0 votes for Merle, 1 vote for Yolinda, and 1 vote for Edward Litson Jr. Peterson White selected for Farmer of the Year in Upper Wheatfeilds.
- Lunch and Dinner is already planned, but donation of food is welcome.

Action: The people accepted the final decision made for the upcoming scheduled 2016 Annual Water User Meeting, March 19, 2016.

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Ophelia R. Begay

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

b. Junk Food Sales Tax

Lorena explained the Farm Board was given the project, as requested by Dorthea and supporting resolution by the Chapter, to develop a plan for using the Junk Food Sales tax dollars that the Chapters across the Navajo Nation will be receiving some funds.

Currently Lorena checked in to the guide of how the money is to be spent. She found that the guide line is now being developed.

Action: Request to defer to next meeting

Motioned by Lucinda Davis

Seconded by Stanley Chee

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

c. Revitalization of Farmland Project

Lorena explained the Data regarding the number of farmers, acres, production, and idling farmlands. The data present gather since the year summer of 2012 to 2014.

Dorthea explained the Revitalization of Farmland Project, and the implementation of how Farm Board and Land Owner will work together. Importantly, in this project the farmer has to do the work.

Action: Requested to keep adding to next meeting.

Motioned by Rita Bahe

Seconded by Ophelia R. Begay

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 - ✓ None listed at time.

Action: No action taken

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IV. Reports

a. Farm Board

President: She reported that the supplemental money is for the Permittee meeting. She announced, anyone who wants to run for Farm Board and Chapter Official can submit their paper to the Navajo Election Office starting March 3, 2016.

Vice President: She had no report.

Secretary: She had no report.

b. Water User

President: No report

Secretary: No report

Member: No report

c. Others

No reports

Action: The reports were accepted as provided.

Motioned by Ophelia R. Begay

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

- Junk Food Sales Tax
- Farm Board/ Water User Proposal
- Revitalization of Farmland Project

B. Scheduled next meeting date, *Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 10am, Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ.*

C. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm

Motioned by Sam Chee Jr.

Seconded by Ophelia R. Begay

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried