

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting**  
**Monday, October 12, 2015 @ 3 pm**  
**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, September 30, 2015
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Stanley Kedelty – Proposal of using his Backhole tractor for the irrigation repair projects.
- b. *Revitalization of Farm Land Project*

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Lula Kenny
- b. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
  - Sublease Farmland – Angela Kedelty to Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board

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 call to order called to order at 3:30pm
- b. Invocation conducted by Dorthea Litson
- c. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. Lorene requested to amend the agenda to put report before old business. However, others request to leave the agenda as read.

*Action: The agenda was accepted as read; no amendments were made or questions.*

*Motioned by Stanley Kedelty*

*Seconded by Sarah James*

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

*Motion Carried*

- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, September 30, 2015

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from Sept. 30, 2015. No questions, comments, or amendments.

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

*Motioned by Nelson James*

*Seconded by Stanley Kedelty*

*Voting: 11 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

- e. Announcements:

Title: Chapter Meeting

When: Monday, October 19, 2015

Time: 3pm

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House Wheatfields, AZ

Title: Farm to School – Farm Board attending this farm to school program

When: Thursday and Friday, October 15 & 16, 2015

Time: 8am to 5pm daily

Location: Albuquerque, NM – Traveling to visit various farmers who are part of Farm to School.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Stanley Kedelty – Proposal of using his Backhoe tractor for the irrigation repair projects.  
Lorena asked Lucinda to explain what was stated at the Chapter Planning Meeting since she was the one to attend the meeting.

Lucinda explained, “When she attend the Chapter Planning Meeting, the people requested for the following: Operator License to Operate due to Liability issue; and (3) three bids for backhoe operator need to be made for the project.”

Dorthea explained that she met with the Chapter staff, and they stated bases on what was said at the chapter planning meeting, the Farm Board will need find 2 more people to bid on the backhoe operator; Mr. Kedelty needs to provide a liability insurance, and Mr. Kedelty needs to submit the price of the work proposal as a ONE Lump sum not with a break down – if a break down is submitted then the chapter has to put him on payroll which will cost the project more and more hurdles to jump.

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Stanley Kedelty explained what each side of the three project look like, and he suggested the Farm Board to write a scope of work for each of the three project. Use the developed scope of work to outsource the bidding process to have all three (3) bidders to use.

Lucinda stated, "Contracting the job through the Chapter and Navajo Nation is long process."

Dorthea suggested to return to the original plan, and that is to rent the backhoe and have the Water Masters fix the identify problems in all three areas.

Lorena explained the budget for the Fiscal Year 2016 line out by the Tsaile – Wheatfield Chapter:

# 23 Water Master -	\$15,000
#27 Irrigation _____ -	\$30,000
Total	\$ 45,000.00

The Water User, nonprofit organization, has \$ 2,000.00 to spend for renting a backhoe equipment.

She also commented that if the Farm Board follows through using the procurement process for the chapter it will take longer. This process must have a final approval by Mr. Joe, Community Development. The project will not start until next year sometimes.

Nelson asked, "Is it possible to transfer the Chapter's Money to the Water User account?"

Lorena explained the Chapter is UNABLE to that. Chapter works with title 26 under the Navajo Nation Tribal Code and Water User is a nonprofit origination.

Nelson asked, "For Upper Wheatfields diversion dam, why use the concrete slab?"

Stanley K. explained it might be designed for water pressure. He suggested to have the Navajo Nation provide some sort of technical assistance.

Lorena suggested that it might be for water pressure due to depth of the pipe located by Lucinda's farmland.

Sarah commented the irrigation project really need to be fixed the right way the first time, so no repeat of work will be necessary.

Lorena shared that the Farm Board has tried asking the Upper Wheatfields farmers to come together to submit for a proposal to do more water development for improve irrigation system, but the farmers have NOT come together.

Nelson suggested to have engineers take a look at the sight of the projects.

Lorena suggested to have Lucinda check into the drawing or blueprint of the Upper Wheatfields irrigation project that Teresa Showa has at the Navajo Nation Water Management Branch Office.

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*Action: To return to the original plan of renting a backhoe from the Franks Rental and Supplies, and have the Water Masters work on the identified Irrigation projects.*

*Motioned by Dorthea Litson*

*Seconded by Melinda Kenny*

*Voting: 9 yes; 2 no; 3 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

b. *Revitalization of Farm Land Project*

Before explaining the revitalization of farmland Project, Lorena explained the (O&M) operation and maintenance fee to the people. The invoice is sent to farmers to request them to pay their O&M, and it is an annual fee priced at \$3.00 per acres. If the farmer does not pay the fee then a \$10.00 charge is added to invoice monthly until the payment is fully paid. On the Land Use Permit that farmers sign already states, if an operation and maintenance fee is ever attached to the land then I'll pay the fee as part of his or her responsibility as a land owner.

Lorena explained that the Farm Board written letters to about thirty (30) farmers requesting them to attend the meeting to share the projects that the Farm Board has put together. Three criteria were used to select the farmers to be part of the project, and they were as follow:

1. Soil Health
2. 30 years or more of farmland idling (one that have access to water)
3. Probate cases

The intent of this project is to revitalize the farmland with the help of the farmers. A farmer MUST involve their children, or grandchildren to work on their farmland to sustain the learning, so better management can be practice.

The Farm Board can use forceful measure to ensure the farmland are being utilized, and that is to recommend to BIA staff to cancel a Land Use Permits that have been idling for two years or more, but they have decided to try the project to see who is interested in the idea.

Questions, suggestions, or comments:

Nelson commented that only 3 acres of his farmland is usable and the rest is not.

Lorena explained to Nelson that he can request BIA Natural Resource staff in Chinle to conduct a resurvey of his Farmland in Upper Wheatfields.

Lula Chee asked, "Has the Farm Board examine to check if the Septic Tank has been place in her requested Farmland transfer? What is process of doing a resurvey the Farm land?"

Lorena explained the Farm Board has not checked the location of the Septic Tank, and the request to resurvey the farmland can be added to resolution of Farmland Transfer.

Angela Kedelty commented that she is unable to work on her farmland due to her age and health condition. She is also having a hard time asking her children to take over the farmland. Of all her children, there is only one that is interested, but he currently works in the state of Colorado. However, she is interested in the Revitalization Project to sublease her Farmland to the Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board while she works on the paper for transferring her Land Use Permit to her son, Bob.

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Lucinda explained to Angela the back side of her current Land Use Permit has a provide space that can be filled out by her before a NOTARY. There she can input her son's name. Finally, she can write a letter to the Farm Board requesting them to sublease her farmland. (*Angela request for subleasing her farmland has been move under Land Use Permit transfer, Probate, etc.*).

Laurinda Moore shared an update on the Farmland located in Tsaile. She wrote a letter BIA staff, Ben Begay, requesting to resurvey the Farmland. This letter was written back in May 2013.

Lorena suggested to have a copy of the letter written to BIA staff in Chinle from Laurinda Moore.

*Action: To Deferred the Revitalization of Farmland Project to next meeting.*

**III. NEW BUSSINESS**

a. Lula Kenny

Lula Kenny request to have her original Land Use Permit returned to her.

Dorthea let her the people know she was approached by Mrs. Kenny during the August 2015 Chapter meeting where she indicated that I still have a copy of the original Land Permit was told by BIA Chinle Resource staff.

Dorthea told her, "She returned it with the land resurvey application request to BIA, but will check for the original copy. She searched for it, and found it, so she turn that in to BIA staff, Ben Begay."

In addition, "At the last Farm Board Meeting, Lula Chee and her siblings stated that they have completed the Land Use Permit transfer with the District II Grazing Committee. As a result, she check with BIA staff, and learned NO Transfer has been done. She explained to Lula Chee that the Land Use transfer of her late father's farmland in Tsaile area never took place." "She now received the original copy from Lula Chee, so she will turn in the paper work to the BIA office along with the applications, meeting minutes, and resolution recommendation."

Action: No action was taken.

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

At the time of the meeting started there was none listed, but after taking about the revitalization project. Ms. Angela Kedelty request that her land be sublease to the Farm Board while she takes care of the Transferring her Land Use Permit to her biological son, Bob Evans.

Ms. Angela Kedelty stated that she has health problems, and is unable to work on her farmland. She has been thinking along time of what she will to with the Farm land. Her son Bob now is working in the state of Colorado who has an interest in the Farmland. She plans to give that to Bob, but she has made the decided to sublease her farmland to the Farm Board for the next ten year, so they can use that as part of the Revitalization Project. In the mean time she will work on putting her Farmland's Land Use Permit to her son, Bob Evans.

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*Action: Approved the sublease for ten years to the farm board to be use for the revitalization of Farmland. At the next Farm Board meeting she will sign the sublease agreement with Farm Board.*

*Motioned by Sarah James*

*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*

*Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

**IV. Reports**

a. Farm Board

President: She explained that we deferred the report several time due to time issues. Today, the each of the farm board officers will conduct a report on the Workshop they have attended in August 2015 in Albuquerque, NM. Lorena, reported she attended a session that explained NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1966).

The Navajo Nation may have won the 554 million dollar settlement due to BIA not doing their job well in implementing the NEPA. She feels BIA continues NOT to do their Trust responsibility. The Farm Board will attend a reservation wide strategic meeting scheduled for October 23, 2015 at Fire Rock Casino, Gallup, NM.

Vice President: She explained she attended sessions covering topics on Conservation Plan and Tax Filing.

Secretary: She explained she attended a session covering the topic on GPS. She learned how to use a GPS devise and upload that information to google earth pro. The GPS she used was great for identifying location, but not using it for identify the correct acreage of farmland. GPS stands for Global Positioning System.

b. Water User

No report provided.

c. Others

**V. CONCLUSION**

A. Identify next agenda items

- Status of Irrigation Project
- Revitalization of Farmland Project
- Results of Reservation Farm Board Meeting

B. Scheduled next meeting date to Wednesday, October 28, 2015 @ 3pm Wheatfields Chapter House

C. Adjournment

*Action: Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm*

*Motioned by Lucinda Chee*

*Seconded by Michael Chee*

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

*Motion Carried*