

**Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 23, 2016 @ 10am**  
**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, January 18, 2016
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Proposal Update
- b. Annual Planning

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
- b. Revitalization Project
  - Identify New Farmers to participate
- c. Plan Annual Water User Meeting
- d. Financial report

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**  
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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 12:50pm

b. Invocation by Dorthea Litson.

c. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed listed agenda items. No amendments, questions.

*Action: The reviewed agenda items accepted as read.*

*Motioned by Lorena Eldridge*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*

d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2016

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. Dorthea had some questions about the meeting minutes she typed. She requested for some clarification and changes if needed. One she has a question on NRCS Report, "Did Lucinda say \$400 million had to be returned by Navajo Nation." Secondly her question was regarding the Annual 2016 Planning "She has Categories and handout next to planning, so were we to categories the planning and create handouts."

Lorena replied, "Just put million on NRCS report; and the annual 2016 Planning should only have been put into a timeline, but it has been done."

*Action: Amendments are to be made.*

*Motioned by Lorena Eldridge*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*

e. Announcements:

Title: Chapter Planning Meeting

Time: 8am

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

Title: District II Grazing Meeting

Time: 9am

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Proposal Update

Lorena and Dorthea shared current the proposal writing they are doing and to be submitted to funders with the First Nation.

Lorena committed that the one she is writing indicated the organization must be a 501 c3, so she is unsure if Water User can apply.

Dorthea stated, "The one she is writing indicate that the organization must be a 501 c3 too, but is submitting any ways."

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As results of our comments, we talked about the different 501 c that are out there. Dorthea explained that she attended an online workshop with First Nation Development Grant regarding the different types of 501 c nonprofit status that exist out there. The 501 c3 are for Education and Religion status and this nonprofit are the one to have access to many grant opportunities, and all the other nonprofit statuses rely more on their memberships.

Further, we talked about the concerns we had regarding the work that we are a trying to do, and roles and responsibilities of the Farm Board. The biggest concern it ways of trying to overcome the amount of idling farmland the communities have. There are laws and statues that we can take as recommending body of government, but the recommendation we are to make means nothing to BIA Natural Resource staff and the oversite committee, Navajo Nation Resources and Development Committee. They are not will to implement the law that are written. (We reviewed the policies and procedures of the Navajo Nation and BIA). The other problem is farmers not pay their Operation and Maintenance Fee.

There is a continuous need for us to advocate of ways to overcome the idling farmlands. We need to plan on work with Navajo Nation RDC and BIA plus other entities and resources. The other possibility is to seek for a lawyer to help us with enforcement and measure that can be taken if all remedies has been exhausted. (Currently, we feel we have exhausted all remedies.)

*Action: To go ahead to submit the proposal were are writing to funders. To plan for ways to work with other entities and resources, and to plan for acquiring a lawyer.*

*Motioned by Dorthea Litson*

*Seconded by Lorena Eldridge*

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

*Motion Carried*

b. Annual Planning

The 2016 Annual Plan put together at the last meeting was reviewed. The minor corrections were made. The major issues that came up were regarding the current irrigation project. There is a need to check on personnel status and project.

Suggested to update the Water User and Farm Board Brochure.

*Action: Dorthea is to check on Irrigation project regarding the budget and personnel status. And to add to the agenda is update Water User and Farm Board Brochure for next meeting.*

*Motioned by Lorena Eldridge*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*

III. NEW BUSSINESS

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

*No request relate to Land Use Permit.*

*Action: No action taken.*

b. Revitalization Project

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- Identify New Farmers to participate  
 We talked about ways to identify farmers to participate in the Revitalization Project at the last meeting, but how we can disseminate information about the project to the farmers who might be interested.  
 The suggestions were as follow:  
 Submit letter to farmers when the invoices are be sent out in February on the 19<sup>th</sup> and another letter to go out to all farmers when invoices are to be submitted to all farmers in April when being reminded to pay their annual operation and maintenance fee. The letter is to be drafted before the next meeting date for editing. The reason for this suggestion is the stamps are costing a lot.

*Action: Dorthea prepare a written letter to be disseminated with invoice on February 19 and April 19, 2016. The written letter is to be shared at next meeting for editing.*

*Motioned by Dorthea Litson*

*Seconded by Lorena Eldridge*

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

*Motion Carried*

c. Plan Annual Water User Meeting

Lorena and Dorthea shared their experiences of attending annual meetings of various organizations. We shared the structure of the conferences. As result, we brain stormed on the possible agenda of the Annual Water User Meeting on March 19, 2015. The follow is the agenda put together:

Presentation on the structure of the Tsaile Wheatfields Dineh Water User and provide the annual report including the financial expenses.	Create a ballot form with box where people can nominate for Open Positions, Vice President and member. (Nomination of position will be put in nomination box and counted later. The person nominated the most for the given position will filled that. (The winner of the position will be announce during Lunch time)
Two addition presenters	Identify topics to be presented, and presenters.
Lunch	Identify what to serve for lunch.
Conduct short meeting – to accept the new officers.	
Social Time	
Dinner with Awards Presentation	Identify who to be awarded; what to server for dinner The goal is to end the meeting at or before 5pm.

In addition, we talked about ways to possible advertise the Annual Meeting. The following were what we talked about:

Newspaper – Navajo Time, Gallup Independent, Farmington Daily Suns

Flyers –

Media Announcements – KTNN, FM station – Dine College, 94.5 KYOT, and other stations

Mail out flyers to members – Farmers and Ranchers

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*Action: To put the planning of 2016 Annual Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User meeting on next meeting agenda item. Need to revisit the agenda, identify presenters and topic, etc and advertisement.*

*Motioned by Lorena Eldridge*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*

d. Financial report

*Action: Deferred the Financial Report to next meeting.*

*Motioned by Lorena Eldridge*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*

IV. Reports

a. Farm Board

No report provided by officers.

b. Water User

No report provided by officers

c. Others

No item listed

*Action: No action taken due to no provided reports.*

V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

The following are next agenda item:

- Revitalization Project - Letter
- Annual Water Meeting in March 19, 2016
- Financial Report by Water User
- Planning to work other entities and resources
- Planning to acquire a lawyer

B. Scheduled next meeting date Monday, February 15, 2015 @ 3pm Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

C. Adjournment

*Action: Accepted meeting adjournment at 3:45pm*

*Motioned by Lorena Eldridge*

*Seconded by Dorthea Litson*

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

*Motion Carried*