

**Tsaile/Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting  
Sunday, March 5, 2017 @ 1pm  
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 26, 2017
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSSINESS

- a. Wheatfields Agriculture Project
- b. Annual Tsaile / Wheatfields Water User Meeting
- c. Junk Food Sales Tax
- d. SWOT Analysis

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit:
  - Leslie Allen relinquish his LUP to Milford White

IV. REPORTS

- Farm Board
- Water User
- 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 5, 2017 @ 1pm  
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Meeting called to order at 1:18pm
- b. Invocation conducted by Leslie Allen
- c. Adopt Agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. The questions asked was to how do we include the conversation about conservation plan?

*Action: An amendment to the agenda was to include the conservation plan for farmland when talking about Land Permit transfer.*

*Motioned by Teresa Chee*

*Seconded by Lorrain Sorrel*

*Voting: 15 yes; 0 no; 7 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, February 26, 2017

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from February 26, 2017. No amendments, but a question asked. The questions, "What is met by 50% when talking about farmer's participation to the revitalization project? What does the organization plan to do with their 50%?"

Dorthea explained that the farmer's participation in the revitalization is an idea, but never voted in motion. The organization will use the 50% to support it employers' continuous employment to maintain the operation.

*Action: To accept the last meeting minutes read.*

*Motioned by Bennie Litson*

*Seconded by Amelda Benally*

*Voting: 27 yes, 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

- e. Announcements:

- Navajo Nation Budget & Finance Meeting in Window Rock, AZ at 1pm, Monday March 6, 2017
- Chapter Planning Meeting in Wheatfields, AZ at 10am, Monday, March 6, 2017
- Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User Annual Meeting in Wheatfields at 9am, Sunday, March 19, 2017
- Navajo Nation Special Election in Wheatfields, AZ, All day, Tuesday, March 14, 2017

**II. OLD BUSSINESS**

- a. Wheatfields Agriculture Project

Lorena provided the update of the Agriculture Project. The paperwork is sitting on the Navajo Nation President office awaiting for him to sign. March 6, 2017 is when we have a meeting with the Navajo Nation Budget & Finance Committee.

Lorena asked, "We have been talking about the Wheatfields Agriculture Project, this anybody have an questions, so we are able to answer them instead of doing a review about it from the start."

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Here is as questions:

What is met by 50% when talking about farmer's participation to the revitalization project? What does the organization plan to do with their 50%?

*Dorthea explained that the farmer's participation in the revitalization is an idea, but never voted in motion. The organization will use the 50% to support it employers' continuous employment to maintain the operation.*

There were question about farm maps – if there were any map at all?

“Who are you counting on the map? I am still in probate so will I still be included.”

*Lorena indicated there is a map for the all three farmlands, but the information is not correct, and we need the history of your farmland.*

Is the fencing only for a certain farmland area, it sounds like the fencing is all for Lower Wheatfields, but not Tsaile?

*The fencing is that is being talked about it for all farmland area, Lower Wheatfields, Upper Wheatfields, and Tsaile area.*

Comments, suggestions, & questions:

Lorena Eldridge – “The project will bring up probate and dispute issues.”

Bennie Litson – “Farmers from each Farmland area should plan for their own area.”

Emerson Chee – “The canals need upgraded.”

Linda Staley– “In or by her field, there is a big concrete that is crack.”

Kee Chee – “Worried about the erosions of the current outer fence area.”

Lorraine Sorrel – “Prairie Dog is a huge issue.”

Genova Davis – “As part of a land sublease, I arranged to plant, but I don't know how to plant. We purchased seeds, but only sunflower seed came out. She and her family took a trip to Guatemala several years ago – the people had farmers market on every corner – all is organic. Sharing all crops, they can exchange produce, they witness that people were not wearing eye glasses.”

Lorena Eldridge – “Greenhouse can keep the prairie dogs out.”

Kee Chee – “Erosion is going to be a huge problem for fencing the perimeter of the farmland. We will need to create a small right of way.”

Bennie Litson – “Erosion protection, who is going to pay for that and how do we find the funding”

Merle Kedelty – Are we planning to fence the wash or not?

Lorena – “We are only fencing in the farmland land area not the fence within the wash. That is considered dryland farming.”

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Dorthea – “At the next meeting will need to talk about and be clear about the participants of the revitalization project. We need to agree on what the percentage would be on the produce crops, vegetables for a Farmer and Water User to split.”

The people spoke about what the perimeter fence should look like for Upper Wheatfields. It was decided that Upper Wheatfields will need two sections of the perimeter fence. The dividing section is the major road that runs through the farmland.

*Action: To approve the two sections of perimeter fencing will be needed for Upper Wheatfields. To put on next Meeting agenda is to become clear about the participation of Farmers in the Revitalization project – around the production that will be split in percentage for participants and Water User.*

*Motioned by Merle Kedelty*

*Seconded by Westin Carol*

*Voting: 35 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

b. Annual Tsaile / Wheatfields Water User Meeting

Meeting turned over to Aaron Begay. He spoke of the following:

- The Annual Tsaile / Wheatfields Water User Meeting is schedule on March 16, but if March 16 fall during the weekday, then the meeting will be schedule to whatever day it is on Saturday following March 16.
- The organization has an Article of Incorporation and By – laws
- The organization conducts it meeting as a Joint Meeting with the Farm Board due to serving the same people or member.
- The organization last year brought in the late James Peshlakai. He spoke about the Traditional farming methods with prayers and songs that we used as Dine People.
- The organization current Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 9 am Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ.
  - o The focus of the workshop are on Revitalization, Sustainability, & Self Reliance

Dorthea reviewed the Agenda for the Annual Water User meeting, and indicated that we need to identify the farmer of year for Upper Wheatfields. As a result, the people identified the three possible candidates for Farm of the Year for Upper Wheatfields and they were as follow with the votes:

- Yolinda Staley, a vote of 15
- Arlene White, a vote of 0
- Merle Kedelty, a vote of 5
- Emerson Chee, a vote of 6

The Three Farmer of the Year are Genevieve & Robert Yazzie, Lower Wheatfields, Fertzgerald Yazzie, Tsaile, and Yolinda Staley, Upper Wheatfields.

Food for Annual Water User Meeting: Potluck style.

- o Chile Bean – Lorraine Sorrel
- o Chile Bean – Marie White
- o Hotdogs w/ buns – Bonita Begay
- o Fry Bread – Joann Benally and Rita Bahe
- o Corn Mush- Yolinda Staley

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- o Chips – Genova Davis
- o Salad – Anelda Kedelty and Emerson Chee
- o Case water and Ice Tea – Bennie and Julia Litson
- o Navajo Tea – Mildred Allen
- o Soda – Kee D. Chee

The meeting will be announce from KTNN

- c. Junk Food Sales Tax  
Lorena explained the Junk Food sales tax budget that the Farm Board and Farmers put together has been approved by the Chapter  
Now a timeline will be create for the project by the Chapter.

*Action: No action taken. It was an update provided to the people.*

- d. SWOT Analysis:  
Lorena explained the Farm Board create a SWOT Analysis for the organization back in November, and it's been on the agenda during the month of December and January.

*Action: Defer to next meeting*  
*Motioned by Yolinda Staley*  
*Seconded by Merle Kedelty*  
*Voting: 32 yes; 0 no 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Land Use Permit:

- Leslie Allen relinquish his LUP to Milford White

Leslie Allen spoke to state that he plans to pass on his Land Use Permit to his nephew Milford White. In order to do so, what are the necessary paper work that needs to be filled out, and what is the process for relinquishing the Land Use Permit?

Lorena explained the following to transfer or relinquish a Land Use Permit for irrigated farmland:

1. An application will need to be fill out plus have a conservation plan written along with it.
2. Bring to the meeting
3. The application for requesting the transfer, relinquish, probate is approved by the people at the Farm Board Meeting
4. The approved application, copy of original Land Use Permit, and resolution for transfer are submitted to Land Use Department

Other information:

At the BIE, Navajo Nation, and USDA – NRCS each have its own conservation.

The Land Use Permit submitted by other farmers has NOT BEEN reissued to day. This is due to BIE conducting it survey for land forage so they can run their final analysis of the forage for animals, and compare that to amount of animal the land can hold.

Dorthea commented, “It is hard to say when BIE will complete the study and reissue the Land Use Permit to the people.”

*Action: Defer to next meeting or until the farmers are ready with application and conservation plan to submit then they can return to Farm Board Meeting for discussion and approval.*

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*Motioned by Anelda Kedelty*

*Seconded by Teresa Chee*

*Voting: 27yes; 0 no; 3 abstained*

*Motion Carried.*

**IV. REPORTS**

- Farm Board

Lorena shared the information that were shared in February 27 – 28, 2017 Agriculture Summit. The following are what were shared:

- A map was develop for the Navajo Nation. On that map it has Red and Blue color identified. The red colored area are identified as High Sensitive area, and the Blue is Low Sensitive area.
- BIA conducted an inventory of amount of forage, and compared to animals
- BIA conducted an inventory of Wild Horses on Navajo Nation using the Chopper. They found about 32,000 plus Wild horsed on Navajo Nation. Now the question is, “What are we to do with the Wild horses?”
- USDA indicated that they have money
- Navajo Nation have limited funds
- Farm Board work chapter
- Fish and Wildlife Department staff spoke of wild live.
- Home Site Lease were talked about - \$1.00 per month and \$12 per year

- Water User

- Aaron, Water User President, shared the following to the people:
- The goal of the Wheatfields Agriculture Project is to revitalize the farmlands within our community.
- Operation and Maintenance needs to be paid by the farmer in order for the organization to fix many issues that we have with irrigation system.
- Other farmers outside of the Navajo Nation pays \$50 per cubic feet of acres.
- For the Agriculture Project:
  - We will need to work together to see something good for ourselves and community.
  - Farmer have many options within the project such as subleasing farmland 10 years, or give to children or grandchildren.
  - Probate Cases and Quit Titles are hard issue, but the Farm Board are asked to work issue.
  - Participation will be good for us
- Annual Water User meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 19, 2017 at Wheatfields Chapter House.
- Need volunteer to bring food

- Others

None

*Action: No Action taken.*

**V. CONCLUSION**

A. Identify next agenda items

- Wheatfields Agriculture Project
  - Farmer participating in the Revitalization Project

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

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

- Report from Brycson Pinto – Employment Policy and Procedure
- Report from Brycson – Grant Tracker
- Next steps for the project
- SWOT Analysis

B. Scheduled next meeting date, Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 10 am, Wheatfields Chapter House.  
Wheatfields, AZ

C. Adjournment

*Action: The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm*

*Motioned by Westin Carrol*

*Seconded by Merle Kedelty*

*Voting: All in favor*

*Motion Carried*