

**Tsaile - Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Users Joint Meeting**  
**Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**  
**Sunday, January 11, 2015**

AGENDA

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Roll call
- c. Invocation
- d. Adopt agenda
- e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, December 28, 2014
- f. Announcements:
  - **Title:** Record Keeping for Schedule F Tax Workshop for Farmers and Ranchers;  
**Date:** Monday, January 19, 2015  
**Time:** 10am to 3pm  
**Place:** Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
  - **Title:** Chapter Meeting, Tuesday,  
**Date:** January 20, 2015  
**Time:** 4pm  
**Place:** Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
  - **Title:** Farm to School Workshop  
**Date:** Thursday, January 22, 2015  
**Time:** 3pm to 6pm  
**Place:** Dine' College, North Campus, 1228 Yucca Street, Shiprock, NM (Behind the Hospital)

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Community Water Plan

**III. NEW BUSSINESS**

- a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
  1. No Request at this time
- b. Financial Report – Water Users
- c. Reports to Navajo Nation Business Regulatory and Internal Revenue Service, and Resolution- Requesting to accept the Article of Incorporation.
- d. Next Proposal
- e. Comment Box

**IV. Reports**

- A. Farm Board
- B. Water User

**V. CONCLUSION**

- A. Identify next agenda items
- B. Schedule next meeting date
- C. Adjournment

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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 12:55 PM

b. Roll call

Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson were present.

Water User: Aaron Begay and Dorthea Litson present. Kathy John absent.

c. Invocation by Dorthea Litson

d. Adopt agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No questions, or comments, but one amendment.

The amendment was to add comment box under new business.

*Action: The agenda was accepted as read with one item added under new business, comment box.*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Aaron Begay*

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

*Motion Carried*

e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, December 28, 2014

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. No amendments, comments or questions.

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

*Motioned by Aaron Begay*

*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*

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

*Motion Carried*

f. Announcements:

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**Additional information:**

- Central Dine' Water User meeting – Wednesday, January 14, 2015 @ Wheatfields Chapter House @ 10am to 1pm
- Joint Navajo Nation Farm Board Meeting, Friday, January 16, 2015 at Sanostee Chapter House @
- 9am to 3pm
- Open house – Navajo Nation Administration Building, Monday, January 12, 2015
- Navajo Nation Council Inauguration, Tuesday, Jan 13, 2015 at Fighting Scout Event Center, Fort Defiance, AZ, time – 10am to 1pm.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Community Water Plan

Dorthea reported that she talked with Zane about setting a date for meeting with Bohannon and Houston, engineers firm from Albuquerque, NM. He wants to travel to Albuquerque to meet with the engineers to review the work they do, and develop a scoop of work with them. Based on this information, we can set a date for all the committee to come together, so we can share the scoop of work and the type of work that the engineers do. The visit will happen sometimes this month, January 2015.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

- The committees need to develop and be ready to share what they want.
- Research on Data Warehouse
- Research on how the chapter store the electronic data
- Data collector for 3 month; but this is an intern at the graduate level.

*Action: We will continue to work; Dorthea is asked to continue to work with Zane and Paula; and the following are assignments:*

- *Lorena – Cost of software, Global Information system*
- *Dorthea - Gather maps of area; Farmland and Data Warehouse*
- *Lucinda – Budget – create a budget (using the Navajo Nation Budget & Finance Form)*

*Motioned by Aaron Begay*

*Seconded by Lucinda Davis*

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

*Motion Carried*

**III. NEW BUSSINESS**

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
2. No Request at this time

*Action: None. There is no request regarding Land Use Permit.*

- b. Financial Report – Water Users

Dorthea provided the financial reported. She stated, the beginning and ending balance; the expenditure and deposit are the same. There has been no type of transactions since last meeting. She has not cross reference the financial report between the December bank statements to the Peachtree software.

*Action: The balance is \$29,481.93*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded Aaron Begay*

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

*Motion Carried*

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- c. Reports to Navajo Nation Business Regulatory and Internal Revenue Service, and Resolution Requesting Business Regulatory to accept the Article of Incorporation.

*Lorena turned the meeting over to Aaron Begay, Water User President, to run the meeting*

Dorthea explained that the Tsaile – Wheatfields Dineh Water Users organization needs to do annual financial report and Article of Incorporation to keep the nonprofit organization status. Once the certificate is issued then it's attached to the 990 form that will be submitted to IRS. There are prices to encounter when the paperwork is submitted. The Navajo Nation Business Regulatory for sure will cost \$25 plus; and IRS will cost about \$800.

*Action: To accept all of the necessary documents needed for the organization to keep its status to function as nonprofit. These documents will be submitted to Navajo Business Regulatory and IRS, and pay for all the necessary fees that are attached to it.*

*Motion by Lucinda*

*Seconded by Lorena*

*Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

- d. Next Proposal

Lorena explained the Farm Board and Water Users submitted a proposal for 2.9 million dollars for Equipment, Personnel for nonprofit, and warehouse. The next proposal to work on is the (2) Irrigation project for Tsaile and Upper Wheatfields farmlands. To improve the (2) irrigation projects, we are seeking more funding from NRCS. The NRCS application are due in February and October annually. However, it has been so long since we worked with NRCS. She is unsure of what the guidelines are and the amount of funding they can give. In order to do this well, we need farmers from these two areas.

Questions, comments, or suggestion:

- Linda Staley – NRCS project had asked her to do more testing on the irrigation line. This will be done this coming spring in 2015.
- Lorena replied to Linda comment, “Thank you for informing us. When the water is release this coming Spring that when the test can be conducted.”
- Dorthea suggested, “To set a goal for when we plan to submit to NRCS, then talk about what are the necessary actions to take to get prepared for submitting.” In addition, she shared her thoughts about the possibility of submitting sooner – “We need in writing from BIA that they grant our recommendation to sublease all the idling farmlands for the Revitalization of Farmland Project (Currently now, BIA approved it verbally) then if the sublease is approved by BIA for this project then it will allow us to move forth with the NRCS project much sooner than we think.”
- Lorena explained the following that will need to happen, and that become the action items:
  1. Write a letter to BIA requesting the status of all transfers that were recommended by the Farm Board.
  2. Write a letter to BIA requesting their support and approval of the farm board to sublease for 10 year of all idling farmlands.
  3. Write a letter to NRCS to request for technical support in developing next irrigation project for Upper Wheatfields and Tsaile Farmlands. Need an update of their guideline and asked the NRCS staff to attend next meeting.

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**Action:**

*Write a letters to BIA, Chinle Natural Resource Office staff requesting status of transfer;*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Aaron Begay*

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

*Motion Carried*

*Write letter to NRCS to ask for guideline of requesting money; criteria for eligibility; and request them attend next meeting.*

*Motioned by Aaron Begay*

*Seconded by Linda Staley*

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

*Motion Carried*

*Write letter to BIA Chinle Natural Resource Office staff requesting them to write us a supporting letter on the Farm Board subleasing the idling farmlands to conduct the Revitalizing Farmland Project.*

*Motion: Aaron Begay*

*Seconded Mildred Silversmith*

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

*Motion Carried*

e. **Comment Box**

Lorena explained that we talked about developing at comment box several meeting ago. This idea developed base on this question, "Why is there not enough farmers attending the Farm Board meeting?" The comment box will allow us to hear the pro and cons which is what is need to improve the outreach of working with farmers within the community. She draw the three dimensional comment box.

*Action: Assigned to Aaron to build a comment box*

*Motioned by Lucinda Davis*

*Seconded by Linda Staley*

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

*Motion Carried*

**IV. Reports**

A. **Farm Board**

President - no report

Vice President - She was told the amendments of the Farm Board Plan of Operation and Supplement for the Farm Board, Eastern Land Board was signed by the Navajo Nation President

Secretary - no reports

B. **Water User**

No reports

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V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

- Water Plan
- The three resolutions for proposal.
- Financial Report

B. Schedule next meeting date

The next joint meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2015 @ 10am Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ.

C. Adjournment

*Action: Meeting adjourned at 3:14pm*

*Motioned by Linda Staley*

*Seconded by Dorthea*

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

*Motion Carried*