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TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Sunday, January 28, 2018 @10:00 AM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

Tsaile/Wheatfields  
Chapter BY: psb

AGENDA

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting called to order
- b. Invocation
- c. Roll Call
- d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials
- e. Review and adoption of agenda
- f. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of January 7, 2018

II. OLD BUSINESS

NNFB 2017 goals - Below are the Program Performance Criteria (PPC and Goal Statements for all Farm Boards) The Farm Board elected officials will be assigned 1 or 2 PPC, see below.

- A. Each FB will submit 12 crop inventory reports from their respective Agriculture Land Use Permittees (ALUP).

**Goal Statement:** Each FB will submit at least 3 respective crop inventory reports quarterly in table format (3CIR x 13 FBs).

- B. Facilitate farm improvement/outreach activities for farmers in collaboration with tribal, state and private sectors.

**Goal Statement:** Conduct 2 agricultural educational outreach/workshops for farmers per quarter per 13 FBs.

**1. Wheatfields Agriculture Projects**

- A. Perimeter Fencing Update

- C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and the Navajo Nation.

**Goal Statement:** With farmer participation, implement conservation training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

**1. Training**

- D. Assist with farm area improvements such as land leveling, erosion control: with funding sources such as USDA.

**Goal Statement:** With farmer participation, each FB will implement 1 improvement per quarter according to conservation plan.

1.

- E. Each FB member shell inventory at least 3 ALUP/Farm Permit within respective FB area.

Goal Statement: With BIA and Farmer participation, reconcile and inventory as to the status of each ALUP or Farm Permit. (3ALUP x each 13 FB member)

1.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Financial Report
- B. Agriculture Census 2018

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Next Agenda Items
- C. Next Meeting
- D. Adjournment

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Sunday, January 28, 2018 @10:00 AM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

MINUTES

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order

Meeting was called to order at by Lorena Eldridge at 10:30

b. Invocation

Invocation was given by Danny John

c. Roll Call

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

Water Users Association: Anelda Kedelty, Dorthea Litson and Amelda Benally, Weston Carroll – present. Ophelia Begay - absent

d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials

Gloria Todacheenie and Gloria Hardy of USDA

e. Review and adoption Agenda

Agenda was read by Lucinda Davis

Motion to accept agenda by: Aaron Begay

Second by: Dorthea Litson

Votes: 13 – 0 - 9

f. Accept last meeting minutes of January 7, 2018

Minutes were read by Lucinda Davis

Motion to accept the minutes as is by: Weston Carroll

Second by: Danny John Jr.

Votes: 18 – 0 – 6

II. OLD BUSINESS

NNFB 2017 goals - Below are the Program Performance Criteria (PPC and Goal Statements for all Farm Boards) The Farm Board elected officials will be assigned 1 or 2 PPC, see below.

A. Each FB will submit 12 crop inventory reports from their respective Agriculture Land Use Permittees (ALUP).

**Goal Statement:** Each FB will submit at least 3 respective crop inventory reports quarterly in table format (3CIR x 13 FBs).

Lorena explain the crop inventory report and that we have been explaining it at every meeting. The farmers have submitted their reports before. We are to turn in the crop inventory twice a year and it is in the revised Plan of Operation for the Farm Board. It will be submitted in the spring during planting and also in the fall during harvesting. According to Department of Agriculture, we should submit quarterly so we won't fall behind and that is according the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year, which is October to September. October to December is 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, January to March is 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter that was when Tsaile/Wheatfields turned in a report that was more then what was required. April to June is 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and this is when planting will be and it all depends on the weather, so we will most likely set May as

our goal to submit our crop reports. Benita Litson had talked about planting at the last meeting. July to September is 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. We will be setting October as our goal to submit our second crop report, and this will be falling in Fiscal Year 2019. This is just planning and the Wheatfields Agriculture Project will also have an effect on this also, but this is to let you all know what we will be planning for. The Farm Board Officials are talking about changing the crop inventory forms. There is going to be a joint meeting on February 13, 2017 and most likely that is when the Farm Board will be working on changing the forms.

B. Facilitate farm improvement/outreach activities for farmers in collaboration with tribal, state and private sectors.

**Goal Statement:** Conduct 2 agricultural educational outreach/workshops for farmers per quarter per 13 FBs.

**1. Wheatfields Agriculture Projects**

We were asked to do quarterly reports and this is going by the same Fiscal Year quarters. Back on September 30, 2017 is when we submitted our report. The report is how much money we received, how much was spent and what was accomplished. Now we are a little behind, but they just want to know how the money is spent. The report has to comply with the MOA that is in place, this same report goes to the Budget & Finance Committee and they to want to know how the money was spent. The Memorandum of Agreement has an outlines how the money will be spent and this is what they look at. On January 30, 2018 is when we were supposed to report to B & F again, but the meeting has not taken place yet. They are also looking at the five year plan. Year 1 funds have been distributed, Year 2 is 2017, that has also been distributed and Year 3 is 2018, but this is where some of the Programs are having problems with their projects going. This is where the concentration is, to get these project up to date. After working with the Year 3 then they will be going back to Year 2 so B & F will be meeting sometimes in February. This is the information that was received from the staff from B & F Committee. Lorena asked if the reports have been submitted.

Dorthea reported that it was finalized it Friday. Division of Natural Resources was asking for a report, which was given to them along with the President. The packages are ready, just waiting for the Water Users Association President to sign and it will be delivered to all nine departments plus each B & F Committee member to receive one. Lorena said once we find out when the B & F meeting will be, we will let you all know and it's nice when some of you come to the meeting to support our project.

**2. Fencing**

Aaron reported on the fencing project at Lower Wheatfields is ongoing, during the Christmas break they got some help from Land Grant Office. We got some snow since so it was muddy for a white so they did not work on the fencing until Wednesday. The H Brace and C Brace were set for one field, the Land Grant help again and set more H & C Braces, now we they are ready to set the T Post. They need Farmer to help with the fencing. There are some soil testing done. They will be working with the consultant KB Wakoma from Durango, Basin Coop who sell seeds. They will be meeting with the consultant tomorrow to determine what will grow on each farm going by the soil test.

Another problem is the drought, what if we plant and don't get any moisture, we will lose. It might be a good idea to get crop insurance, this is something that will be discussed with the consultant too. Because we are not getting any rain or snow it might be a good idea for the Farm Board to write a letter to have Safety of Dams divert the water into the lake now. We need to fill the reservoirs so we can fall back on. We also need to work with BIA and let them know what we are doing because someone came around trying to stop the fencing. We need to make sure we know where the LUP lines are and where the grazing fences are ahead of time so when the fencing project gets there everyone will know where the fence will go.

Dorthera said we need to figure out how to do a crop insurance, what will FSA say or how do we go about this. Can a Non-Profit seek crop insurance or does each individual get a crop insurance for their own farm. We need to check into this. As a recap we are working with 30 farmers and Land Grant has 30 producers they are working with. All producers are supposed to attend workshops. If all the producers agree on the crop insurance then it would be easier to work on this.

An individual from Sawmill attend the meeting, she is working on a farm on her own so she started attending workshop at the Land Grant Office.

Question was asked if BIA is willing to help with the LUP. Dorthera wrote a letter to BIA for technical assistance. How are we going to work with the farmers, should we just plant in the farms even if the producers are not coming forward? We need to find out if we can do this with BIA.

Danny John said he has land in Lower Wheatfields, Fred Descheenie transfer his farm to Danny, but Mary Yazzie and Katherine Benally are the ones that are giving him a hard time when he tries to work on the farm. Although the transfer is complete legally transferred back in 2008. Danny tried to work with them but to this day the kids are the ones that are harassing them. He even brought it up at the Chapter meeting, but it is still going on. Lorena said BIA will most likely give it back to the Farm Board to take care of it since this is LUP that has been approved in 2008 and the Benally family is outside the RMU. There has to be a complaint form filled out in order to do something about any issues that come up. We need to finish the Lower Wheatfields, Upper and Tsaille are asking why all the work is being done in Lower Wheatfields. In the Upper Wheatfields we don't know all the farmers for each farm, that is where we need the BIA's help, the same with Tsaille. The consultant that we are talking about is supposed to produce maps, and this aerial mapping. We said all the farmland were going to be back in production so we all need to remember that. Some of these farms have not been used over 30 years. Many Farms is like that, they are having problems so they now only have one farm board and that is jeopardizing the funding that they were supposed to receive. There is a statement on our permits but we don't pay attention to it. The Farm Board member received additional funding, including the Grazing and Eastern Land Board. We are to start permittee meetings again so we can get BIA to come out and explain these issues again. We work against each other, but we really listen to white people or others. Police can be utilized again, but we try not to get there. There permittee meetings have to be during the week days. We would have to schedule one here in February. On February 13, we are having a joint meeting. Right now fencing is at Robert and Genevieve Yazzie's fence. Fencing

along the wash is where we need help, but they should have maps of their land. We should schedule a meeting on February 20, 2018 which will be a permittee meeting. BIA will be invited and this is an education meeting. We need the complaint forms explained. Lucinda will write a letter to Safety of Dams. Who is responsible to fill the reservoirs, Aaron will be given the responsibility, only the ones that are fixed. Lorena ask the staff to check all the reservoirs. We will need to check on the insurance, the Nation has insurance also we would need to check on this. From Department of Justice looks at all land as Fee land and also the non- profit. We can see if we can get someone here.

Emerson made a statement on the fencing and he is glad the fencing is fixed. There is always problems in whatever you do and we just need to plant in each farm. We do have at least 60 plots that can be planted, and the same within Tsaille. We can just fix the fencing in these areas and wait on the ones that don't have water to the field can wait on the fencing since we are short on fencing materials. We can just continue move forward. Lorena reported that some came to her asking how to get a farmland that was in her aunt's name. Her aunt owes too much so she does not go to the meetings. She explained to her you can work to reduce what you owe. If someone puts into motion to continue working on the fencing regardless of the complaints and it is voted on that can be documented.

Bennie Litson wanted to state that he is in support of the fencing project. If you get a piece of land then it was given to you to use and you would be fortunate. He wanted to motion the fencing to continue regardless of what others say and Emerson Chee second the motion. Vote: 20 – 0 - 5

C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and the Navajo Nation.

**Goal Statement:** With farmer participation, implement conservation training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

1. Training

Lorena-On January 15, 2018 the training was on Schedule F which is on tax and that was at Dine College. The second Sunday of each month the training is at the Chapter House for those that missed the training at Dine College. On February 2, 2018 the training will be on Gap and Cash Crop and that will be at Dine College.

Dorthea-We are working with Land Grant Office and they are the ones that provide the training. On February 2 the training will be on Gap and Cash Crop, then on February 11 the training will be at the Chapter at 9 am. The main assignment we have is a conservation plan. The next thing is a plan, what are you planning to plant. They go over lots of good topics, example on the last training if you plant one row of squash, you can get 80 squash. Schedule as to when on calendar are you going to plant, that is one of the discussion. It is hard to miss a class. If you miss too many training you would have to be on your own by going to Dine College and have them go over the training.

Lorena asked if the meeting with the consultant will be going by what the soil test showed or can we plant what we had talked about before, like planting potatoes.

Aaron explained that they will be going by the soil testing, potatoes grows good in sandy soil, and the potatoes will be nice and round then. If it clay the potatoes will not be round.

21 acres is the amount farmers want to plant potatoes. Growing and planting potatoes is hard work, it is easier if you have a planter, then you need a machine that will pick the potatoes again. The machine is 60,000.00 and that is just the planter. Even beans, there are so many different types of beans. It would be better to plant 3 different types of beans, 3 different types of squash, it would be easier to do that. This is what Dine College is going to do, so we would like to do the same.

Lorena what is cash crop. Land Grant Office staff explained that cash crop is like native food like corn, squash. Alfalfa is another cash crop, it whatever is planted most, but for the alfalfa, is there enough water to sustain the crop, that's question we have to look at. Cash crop is just a discussion before the training for information.

Lorena - An individual from Shiprock Farm Board wants to plant hemp, he went over what it was and how it is used. It can be used in many ways including medicine for cancer patients. The 43 Farm Board members were asked what they thought, and some of them said they want to see what it is and if it will really be good to plant here. Some of the farm board have question about it because it is in the family of marijuana. This is just for your information. Land Grant Office might be looking at that also.

Aaron said Land Grant told him that Dine Benally wanted to talk to him and he talked with him and he said even if you smoke it, it will not get you high. The oil from it can be used for lotion, shampoo and nail polish and even medicine. If you can plant 1 acres of hemp you can get 10,000.00. He said he will supply the seeds and you just provide the land and when you plant it then irrigate it then harvest it, then there will be a processing center somewhere on the reservation, you would take it there, they will weigh it and you get paid. Dine Benally said if you plant it he will provide security to watch so no one will try taking the hemp and that is not going to be through the Navajo Nation, it will be private company.

Lorena – We don't know what kind of soil is good for it. This is just information.

Weston – There is a lot of weeds in all the farmland that are not being used. Maybe we should clear the weeds before planting anything, and he has attended all the training.

Emerson – We need to stay away from alfalfa. We need to plant things that have nitrates in it. We do have planters for small seeds and large seeds and it can also gap it. We have to use these equipment.

- D. Assist with farm area improvements such as land leveling, erosion control: with funding sources such as USDA.

**Goal Statement:** With farmer participation, each FB will implement 1 improvement per quarter according to conservation plan.

1. Emerson Chee has not completed his conservation plan so he will come in until he is finish with it. We will put him on the next meeting.

- E. Each FB member shell inventory at least 3 ALUP/Farm Permit within respective FB area.

**Goal Statement:** With BIA and Farmer participation, reconcile and inventory as to the status of each ALUP or Farm Permit. (3ALUP x each 13 FB members.

We just need to motion and second all the reports for old business.

Motion: Anelda Kedelty

Second: Emerson Chee

Votes: 20 – 0 - 5

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. WUA Financial Report

Report was given by Alvin Johnson – Accountant

There was a meeting held with the Farm Board and the Water User Association to discuss how the Financial Report should be done and there was an agreement on how it was going to be done. WUA will be putting the report together and submitting to the Farm Board. There are several reports that will be done. The staff there have been working with the Farm Board and also Land Grant Office on certain things. The summary of the budget going by the drawdowns is what he will be reporting. WUA is also applying for other grants, they are working on the budget for that, then meeting with the consultant and how much seeds will be bought. They are also looking into fertilizers also. They have to report to B & F also, so they are working on the reports for those. There are nine departments that they have to do reports for. We also have to do the reports to Business Regulatory and also IRS.

The report is attached.

Motion: To accept the report – Merle Kedelty

Second: Yolinda Staley

Votes: 18 0- 0 7

#### USDA – 2018 Agriculture Census

Gloria Todacheenie – She takes care of Oak Springs, Chambers and Ganado that area. It is nice to use the 501C3, it's an advantage for tax break for farmers if you buy seeds and whatever you want to buy and the Farm Board is really helping the farmers. There is an insurance available. It is better that the Farm Board members get insurance, if you try getting the insurance on your own it will cost you more. Census of Agriculture is due 2/2/2018. If you don't fill out the form out by them, then there are staff that were assigned to this area that will help you. This is not a threat and it is going to be sent out every five years. The last one was 2012. At that time it was not clear then, but now if you had sent out the form then this time you will get one. The main reason is to find out who has livestock and who has farmers. Right now when they submit for funding for different items, it has not been clear. Now you will be able to put your say so on paper for future assistance. From the Agriculture Census 2012 the report of all the data collected is available, these are some of the report: 14,456 people have livestock, overall Land in farms and ranches, acres is 16,971,989. This is all by agency. 3150 farmer/ranchers is reported in Chinle Agency. This is a data that is needed for funding. This is also operators by age. The male farmers/ranchers is just a few over the ladies. Even if you did not farm within the 5 years you still need to submit the form. I don't get anyone to help you at the end of the survey then you need to contract someone so they can help you. It is not just the natives, but every farmers. Please submit the farms it is your voice that is needed, even include gas or whatever you spent. Gloria Hardy – 928-349-7578. Janie Henderson 928-349-5377, the website is: [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) and phone number is 1-800-645-7286. At the end of February they will be visiting homes. It will be on the Farm Bill

February, 2019. Lorena explained that she called around to USDA programs and no one knew how to fill this out. Which was in Chinle and St. Johns, then Benita is the one that gave the information of who can do this training.

Dorthea suggested that we set one day aside for the training for just this Agriculture Census for our community and maybe some others will come if we advertise it. According to Gloria, March would be a good time to do this, just let Janie or Gloria Hardy. Maybe March 11, 2018 along with the training at the Chapter. Will start from 9:00 or whenever they get to the Chapter.

Motion: Weston Carroll

Second: Merle Kedelty

Vote: 23 – 0 -3

#### IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

##### A. Reports

Lorena gave all the report

Dorthea none

Lucinda none

WUA – Dorthea is working on the lease agreement that was Apache County use to use. It is all put together and it will be going before the Chapter on January 31, 2018. WUA want to move in on 2/5/18. Also working on the Business Regulatory, report to them. Dorthea will be stepping down on 2/1/18 from the Farm Board and stepping down on 2/16/18 from the WUA. She is willing to work with whoever will be stepping in to those positions. Farm Board needs all the letters sent out, the reports and resignation letters. This will be on the next agenda item. On business regulatory, we will need someone to be the registered agent. This need to be on the next meeting.

Motion: Bennie Litson

Second: Treva Carroll

Vote: 15 - 0 – 7

##### B. Announcements

B & F No meeting until February

February 2 – workshop

February 11 – workshop at the Chapter

February 13 – Reservation Wide Meeting

February 20 Permittee Meeting.

#### V. CONCLUSION

##### A. Next Agenda Items

Crop Inventory

Wheatfields Project

WUA Financial Report

WUA Vacant Position

BRD Registered Agent Position

- C. Next Meeting  
February 8, 2018 at 3:00pm
  
- D. Adjournment  
Motion to adjourn: Bennie Litson  
Second by: Treva Carroll  
Vote: All  
Time: 2:23 p.m.