

MAR 27 2018

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING

Thursday February 22, 2018 @1:00 PM

WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

Tsaile/Wheatfields

Chapter

BY: DB

AGENDA

I. 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 February 8, 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 (3 CIR x 13 FBs).

1. Crop Inventory

- 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. Project Status 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. None

- 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. Junk Food Tax

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

Thursday February 22, 2018 @1:00 PM

WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

MINUTES

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order

Meeting call to order by Lorena Eldridge at 1:24 pm

b. Invocation

Invocation given by Anelda Kedelty

c. Roll Call

Farm Board: Present - Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis

Water User Associations: Present – Anelda Kedelty, Amelda Benally

Absent – Ophelia Begay, Weston Carroll, Dorthene Edison

d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials

All local farmers and WUA Official Specialist and Grant Writer

e. Review and adoption of agenda

Agenda read by Lucinda Davis

Motion to accept the agenda: Bennie Litson

Second: Lucinda Davis

Votes: 7 – 0 - 1

f. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of February 8, 2018

Minutes read by Lucinda Davis

Motion to accept the minutes: Bennie Litson

Second: Anelda Kedelty

Votes: 9 – 0 - 1

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).

1. Crop Inventory

Lorena went over the change that is in the new Plan of Operation for the Farm Board. We are to submit a crop inventory twice a year, one in the spring and another one in the fall. There is going to be a Joint Farm Board meeting on March 7 & 8, 2018 in Chinle BIA/BLO conference room. There are a lot of items that will be discussed and forms to be worked on in those two days. We will know more on the changes of forms and other area after that meeting. This is just for your information.

- 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. Project Status Update

This item will be on the Farm Board agenda at every meeting. The Project pertains to the Farm Board as much as the Water Users Association. The report has to be updated since the Water Users and Farm Board are working on this together. Some people in here know about this project and some don't know much about the project. The project fencing started from the south through the east side and toward the north by the late Wesley Begay and on to the west side, but have not gotten to Paul Chee Begay. Within the grant, there is a budget and the fencing is part of the budget. Once the Lower Wheatfields is done, then the Upper Wheatfields will start, after that it will be Tsaille. This is only the outside perimeter. The inside fencing is up to the farmers themselves. At the last meeting Marie had mentioned that Milford's farm is there and Marie's daughter wanted to use the land. Milford can lease the field to his sister if he wanted to. They just need to come in to request this.

Aaron- finished the T-Post, from Wesley Begay's field to Danny John's field and now they are waiting for BIA to tell them where the fence should be at. They were at the diversion where the water goes into the Lake. They had to clean it out because it was filled with dirt so the water was just going back into the creek. Aaron spoke with Paul Long, Jr. from Safety of Dams and tried to work with him on putting more water into the lake, but Mr. Long says the lake is full. Aaron also asked him if they can work together since we are in a drought, maybe Safety of Dams can open the valve in the morning and shut it off in the evening to save water, but Mr. Long said they don't have funds to come out in the morning and in the evening every day to turn the water on and off. Mr. Long also said to work with BIA since their funding comes from BIA, but when WUA met with BIA yesterday, BIA said they have nothing to do with the water. Aaron asked Lucinda and Lorena since they are in the Window Rock area to work with Safety of Dams on this issue. If Safety of Dams can give us the key, we can turn the water on and off ourselves. Aaron also wants to know how much water are we entitled to from the lake. The farmers are worried that they won't have enough water. We know we can only use so much of the water then it is up to Fish and Wildlife.

Lorena said BIA does not have anything to do with the water, but Bureau of Reclamation does. We also need to do a contingency plan in order to go forward with this. We can also see what we can plan with SOD on getting a key so we can turn the water on and off. Water Users and Farm Board have a water permit and that is what we use to get water to the farms, but it's about 2' of water we are allowed, then it belongs to the fish. There use to be a measurement that showed how high the water was and that determines the amount we could use. Lucinda will write a letter to Paul Long, Jr. from SOD since she works with them. Ben Begay from BIA was supposed to be here, but he was on his way to Gallup for other matters.

Lorena also asked if the insurance we talked about at the last meeting has been worked on. Aaron said they have been working on it. Lorena went to Organic Farming in Albuquerque on Friday and Saturday and she talked to Farm Bureau Insurance and she got the brochures. Aaron said they did talk to them, but it did not go through. Insurance company are willing to work with them, but once they get to the third party, which is the Navajo Nation, then they say they can't. Navajo Nation has insurance but they cannot cover private entity which the WUA.

Lorena also asked about the invoice the Water Users were supposed to do, and Aaron said they turned it in at DNR on February 20, 2018. Lorena asked for a copy of the invoice. This should be for year one \$168,606.18 and year two should be for quarter one, two, three and four in the amount of \$511,541.96, a total of \$680,148.14.

One thing that everyone needs to understand is the all 127 farmers are to be part of the funding that was received. That is how the grant was submitted, which we all put our input in to come up with this proposal. There is an outline of what is to be used in revitalization is number one, which is to get all the farms back in use, second is reliability, which is what you use it for and third is sustainability which is how you will be using it for future use. We all put a lot of work put into this proposal, we even had to do presentation at different times and places. We were asked how we were going to revitalize the farms and in there we said there are 127 permits and 70% will plant forage, 20% vegetable and 10% will be native food and this is in the proposal. How will the 127 permittee going to want to be part of this, some farms have not been used for over 30 years and some are in probate, some are re-fenced at the wrong place. There was also a survey that was done that asked why the farmer are not farming and the outcome was they have no equipment and no money to buy seeds and no one to help them. So in the proposal, we requested for farm equipment, and they were bought, it also included is seeds, land leveling, and fencing. Some of the farmers don't want to be part of the plan and some are in favor of it. We cannot satisfy all the farmers, some are not interested or they want to go back to farming. This project has been in the plans for so many years. Then there is training that is provided, Dine College, this is also part of the proposal. There is also soil testing that has been done. We cannot really grow alfalfa because of the drought. There are other crop that you can plant, even planning potatoes. This was put in place for all the farmers that are within our area. This is a five year plan. There is also staff that are here to help with this project. There is project manager, accountant, grant writer and office specialist, this way we can continue to have this project going. There will also be irrigation technician that will be starting in the spring. There will also be helpers for fencing who will be hired soon and this is an overview of the project so those that have been to our meeting.

Marie White has a question, she wants to know if this has to do with the grazing permit or is it the land use permit. There are people that don't come to the meetings and maybe they are waiting to see if the project will succeed. Maybe if it succeeds they will be coming around. We are all different people.

Lorena explain this is just land use permit and the main purpose is to utilize all the farmland again. On the grazing permits, that is used in the range management units. Everyone needs to do the conservation plan. She also said her daughter wants to plant so she called her brother, but he has not responded to her yet.

Adella asked when the next education session is. Lorena explained that the next training is on April 6, 2018 which will be soil and irrigation. Schedules are given out so everyone will know the training sessions. Is the contingency plan going to be for whole community, although we say it's for the farmland and range management, but we cannot separate it so we can just say the whole community. There is assignment given for Lucinda to write a letter to SOD, Insurance needs to be done, and drought contingency plan needs to be developed. Annual fee dues are coming up in April, 2018. There is also in-kind services so you can work off you dues also.

Motion: Bennie Litson

Second: Emerson Chee

Vote: 12 – 0 – 1

- 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

Schedule is given out so you can go by that. Soil have been tested and some area have sand and some just have clay. There are different types of PH balance in the soil. This training covers soil testing also. There are different nutrients in the soil and certain crop replenishes the nutrients. If there is no nitrogen and when you plant beans that will replenish that. There is a consultant that is working on the soil testing.

- 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. None

- 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. In this area you can sublease a certain farmland and an agreement can be drawn from one farmer to another. You can also give your farmland to someone else if you cannot work on it. We have more idling farmland that we need to replant. In the future there will be food policy that will be put in place, this something we are working toward. Statistical data from the invoices and crop inventory reports are compiled every year to see who planted and what they planted, how many bales did they get and so forth to determine the trend of our productivity.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. WUA Financial Report

Financial report is to be on the agenda each Farm Board meeting, this to let everyone know how the funds are being use and how much money was received. Financial report is the same as before according to Aaron. Even though there is no change, we still need to report to those that were not here the last time.

Alvin reported an overview of the project and they have submitted the reports to Business Regulatory Department and also IRS. He reported the drawdown amount and the expense and the balance. Adella asked how current the report is because it says October, 2017. Alvin explained the report date is at the bottom, the top is the drawdown dates. Discussion was to change the date on top.

Emerson Chee just mentioned that the conservation plan is done for T5 and T6. Land Grant Office is still working on the T18.

Alvin reported they have not spend any money yet, but the next meeting there will be more expenses. The got the propane filled, water needs to be turned back on and electric back on. The electric line needs to be re-routed and new connection to the new storage building. Telephone will be hooked up too. The chapter will be helping with part of the expenses since this is their property.

Motion: Anelda Kedelty
Second: Emerson Chee
Vote: 10 – 0 – 1

B. Junk Food Tax

There is 21,265.00 available and this is the Junk Food Tax from the Chapter house which is for 2018. There is 19,000.00 in the proposal. The quote that Water Users got is 26,280.00 from Basin Coop, so we can use the 21,265.00 from the Junk Food Tax and the remaining can be from 19,000.00. We should be getting three quotes, not just one.

Motion was made to defer to the next meeting by Bennie Litson
Second: Amelda Benally
Vote: 12 – 0 – 4

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

Lorena – She attended the organic farming in Albuquerque, NM on Friday and Saturday. There were so many information, she brought some brochures on insurance, fertilizers, western soil, strengthening the local food system, compose, bird, sheep and cattle in the farm benefits, food labels, upcoming training, radish put nutrients back into the soil, grants available, water analyst, soil test annually, organic matter for gardening soil and all these brochures were given to the Water Users Association. Election Administration met today, so we will know when the farm board position will be open and eligibility says you don't have to have a land use permit as long as you have knowledge in farming. Anelda Kedelty wanted the letter of interest that Dorthene had submitted for their record.

Lucinda – No report

Today Election administration met to discuss open position of the Tsaille/Wheatfields Farm Board Vice President. We need someone, you don't have to have an ALUP as long as you have an idea of the farming.

B. Announcements

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

Same items and maybe Marie

C. Next Meeting

March 11, 2018 at 1:30

D. Adjournment

Adjourned at 3:45