

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Sunday March 3, 2019 @1:00 PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

**RECEIVED**

SEP 16 2019

Tsaile/Wheatfields  
Chapter BY: PB

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 – 1/14/19, 2/19/19, 2/24/19

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

- 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 Update
  - B.

- 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 shall 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 Report
- B.
- C.

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements
- C.

V. CONCLUSION

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

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Monday March 3, 2019 @ 1:00 PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

**Minutes**

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Meeting called to order

Meeting was called to order at 1:20

B. Invocation

Invocation was given by Lucinda G. Davis

C. Roll Call

Lorena Eldridge and Lucinda Davis – Present, Emerson Chee - Absent

Water Users Association – Weston Carroll and Anelda Kedelty – Present, Ophelia Begay, Amelda Benally - Absent

D. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials

All local farmers

E. Review and adoption of agenda

Agenda read by Lucinda Davis

Motion to accept the agenda as is by Bennie Litson

Second by: Lucinda Davis Votes: 7 – 0 - 2

F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of 1/14/19, 2/3/19 – Defer 2/24/19

Minute read by Lucinda Davis

Motion to accept the minutes and defer 2/24/19 minutes by: Bennie Litson

Second by: Evelyn Litzin

Votes: 4 – 0 - 3

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

We go a lot of snow this year and the roads are muddy so we have not met with any of the farmers. We wanted to do the inventory before the end of February. Back in January and prior, our Vice President Emerson Chee said he would do the inventory but he only turned in 10 and since then he has not come to any of our meetings, we are thinking he has another job to do. Lorena texted him today, but he never returned the text. Election office does not have any policy to say how many meetings you can miss to be removed, its only School Board. We will be doing the inventory beginning some times in March. Everyone know why we have to collect crop inventory, on our Form 2 it requires the Farm

Board to collect 30 crop inventory, so we will be submitting one for the end of March for the next quarter.

- 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

Planting session is here so planning for planting is starting. Aaron text Lorena asking what she will be planting this year. He said they are getting quotes for seeds. That is all Lorena knows, the Water Users met this morning, if there is any more information the Water Users would like to share that would be good, if not then we will be going on to the next item on the agenda.

B. Tri-Party Agreement

We had talked about a tri-party agreement here but that is still on the table, we are still working on it. San Juan Farm Board and Water Users have that agreement and they are doing well with that agreement. They also put funding together to work together, that is what we need to do is work together. We wanted to put it on the screen to work on this agreement and the Chapter did say they have the projector, but never said here it is. At the last Chapter meeting, Fred Jumbo reported that the Water Users were thinking of going into a Coop, we don't know how that will work.

- 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**

Training is still going on with the Dine College, they are going through the same training that was presented last year that is why Lorena has not gone so far, but Lucinda and Emerson have not gone.

There was also New Mexico Organic Farming Conference that took place in Albuquerque on February 15 and 16 that some of us went to and there they main topic is Hemp. There are lots of people that had interest in growing Hemp. There is a lot of licensing that you need to have to grow Hemp, license to transport it, harvesting you have to have license. New Mexico already have an agreement through the Farm Bill. There are people already growing it. The Navajo Nation is still questioning the Hemp business. With the new Council it will probably be coming on the agenda soon. Dine Benally is really promoting this and he is already growing it since he is in New Mexico. He grew corn the hemp then corn in different rows and he said there are no more prairie dogs in his field. Emerson said he already went to training on how to grow hemp.

In June, 2019 there is the Division of Natural Resources Summit, and Department of Agriculture is suggesting that the Farm Board go to this summit. Last year the Council approved funding for the Farm Board and Grazing to attend two training, but now



Department of Agriculture is making it difficult for us to go to the training that we would like to attend. They want to say what training we can go to. We don't know if the new Division Director of Natural Resources, Rudy Shebala is still for having a Summit, the Summit was the planning that Bidtah Becker was planning.

We are also having a Joint Farm Board meeting in Tuba City on April 12, 2019, we will have more information after that meeting. We will most likely hear more from Dine Benally.

- 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. AIF Proposal

There is work on whether any of our proposals have been awarded. Water Users are not here to give a report on the status.

- 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. None

A little information, permits that were submitted to BIA have not been processed. The Grazing Officials had a meeting recently on this issue and this relates to Land Use Permit and Grazing Permit. We have been checking on the permits with BIA, but we have not gotten any answers. The NEPA, EPA are holding up a lot these issues.

If there are not questions, or comments we need a motion to approve A, B, C, D, and E, all combine.

Motion by: Lucinda Davis

Second by: Bennie Litson

Votes: 4 – 0 - 3

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. WUA Report

There was a WUA meeting this morning, but there is not report given to us as Farm Board. There is a lot of Farmers that are questioning how much money is there for the O & M funds and how was it used. We don't get reports from the Water Users so we don't know. The office is there but they don't go there to ask questions, they ask us as Farm Board members. The Water Users were present but no one gave a report, so we will just put no response in the minutes. We will go to the next item on the agenda.

B. Standard Operating Procedures

This is the Farm Board procedures, this has come up at the Joint Farm Board meetings. Some Farm Board are in favor and some not. These Standard Operating Procedures are very old and we are still working on this. This will be coming on our meeting each time until it is completed. This will be with the tri-party agreement.

C. Plan of Operation

This was established way back when the elders were on the Farm Committee. Harley Chee, Ben Allen and Leslie Allen. This needs to be amended, we out grew the policy. In Window Rock they are also working on the Title 3 Plan of Operations. They are kind of the same, but this applies to certain areas and not some areas. This includes Dry Land Farming which will be under the Grazing Officials. Some areas on the reservation have water and some don't and this will be discussed at the Joint Meeting also. It will be on our next meeting agenda also.

Motion put on the agenda for the next meeting: Lucinda Davis

Second: Bennie Litson

There was a meeting this morning and we have a lot of issues and questions in our community we have. Last year there was not water, this year we got snow and rain so we have water but we were not ready for it so water is just bypassing us. Department of Agriculture got some money, so we submitted proposals to have our earth dams fixed, but there is nothing, when are we going to get some help with the issues we have, we all have wishful thinking. We still have hope in the officials. He had asked Lorena to run for the Farm Board again last time because he had faith in her. He still has faith in the elected officials to help and plan for the community. BIA is the same way, they tell you to go here and there. There was training yesterday on Ke' teaching, working together as a community, as a group that is the only way we can resolve the issues we have in the community. We need to overcome the problems we have, we are not working together by ignoring one another and this does not look right in the eyes of our children. How can we come back together and planning for our community. There is not very many people that show up for the Farm Board meetings and the same with the Water Users meetings. When you come to the Chapter meeting it's usually the same people that show up, where is everyone else, why do they not come to the meetings. This is a concern as a member of the community and as a registered voter. On March 17, 2019 is the annual Water Users meeting and that is where they will be talking about what seeds to purchase. There is miscommunication within the government, BIA and the Nation. We have hope that the new administration will be better. Water is just by passing but no one is doing anything about it. He would like to see something going on that will be good for our community and our farmland.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 2

Before we go on, Lorena responded back on the Funds that Department of Agriculture has, from Wheatfields the proposal was submitted for 1,225,000.00 but it came down to 302,000.00 and the reason is we already have the 5 million allocated to Wheatfields. Just a quick rundown on the breakdown on the Funds.

Department of Water Resources	3,900,000.00
Contract Service Earth Dam Repair	1,200,000.00
DWR Projects	1,024,000.00
Department of Agriculture	8,989,000.00
Department of Fish & Wildlife	854,000.00
Premium Reserve Setaside	2,833,000.00
NEPA Clearances for AIF	250,000.00
Forestry Drought Mitigation	225,000.00
Unallocated Amount Carry Forward	1,361.00

A total of

19,277,820.00

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

1. None

B. Announcements

Chapter Meeting 3/5/19

Permittee Meeting 3/19/19

Quarterly Reports due 3/19 – We will be asking for Crop Inventory

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

Same as before and we will add Tri-Party Agreement, Training, Standard Operating Procedure and Local Plan of Operations

C. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on March 24, 2019

D. Adjournment

Motion: Lucinda Davis

Second: Charles Chee

Adjourned at 3:00