

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Sunday April 14, 2019 @ 3:00 PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

**RECEIVED**

**SEP 16 2019**

Tsaille/Wheatfields  
Chapter BY: psb

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 – 4/7/19

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 (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 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. Tri-Party Agreement

- 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 Report
- B. Water Shed Support

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 April 14, 2019 @ 3:00 PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

**Minutes**

**1. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. Meeting called to order  
Meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m.
- B. Invocation  
Invocation was given by Emerson Chee
- C. Roll Call  
Lorena Eldridge and Emerson Chee – Present, Lucinda Davis – Arriving Late  
Water Users Association – All Absent
- D. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials  
Marquel Begay with U of A
- E. Review and adoption of agenda  
Motion to accept the agenda as is by: Emerson Chee  
Second by: Lorena Eldridge  
Votes: 2 – 0 - 1
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of 4/7/2019  
Since Lucinda is not here and coming in late, minutes will be read when she arrives or defer to the next meeting.

**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**

Emerson is still willing to do more home visits, reiterate the 4 questions developed by the Farm Board in prior meetings. These questions will be categorized each ALUP which will determine if the Farm Board will consider it valid or not. It was stressed to stick to the questions and report only the facts. No ji'ni' therefore we will ask the farmer if they are acceptable to voice recording. Emerson is now the equipment operator with the WUA as of 3/4/2019 and part-time irrigation technician until such time the position is filled. The position as a Farm Board Official was reminded to Emerson of missed meetings and not claiming mileage will be an impact to the Tsaille/Wheatfields/Blackrock Farm Board of what is unspent allocation for FY'2019, therefore he needs to work this out with his supervisor.

- 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

Update was not available

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

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

**1. Training**

The Farm Board members are encouraged to attend the Davison of Natural Resources Summit from June 19 to 21, 2019 at Twin Arrows Resorts. Marqual is on the agenda to present at this summit and the Farm Board offered to be available should she need any assistant. The Farm Board has 484.52 x 2 allocated for each member in the FY'19 and again if we do not use the funds the Navajo Nation Council will determine the funds are not needed if we close the fiscal year with a balance unused. For Tsaile/Wheatfields/Blackrock Farm Board has some meeting claims that are not used so Emerson needs to submit mileage claims from October to March. We have attended the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference back in February and there are a lot of training we can put out there for our community, like the veterans could work on a farm land to overcome their syndrome as a healing remedies. We are aware of the statistics of suicide on the Navajo Nation and this would also be away to educate the youth for the whole Tsaile/Wheatfields/Blackrock community. Some of these training could be part of the Permittee meeting agenda. Some other alternative is to reconnect with the Chapter to explore the Junk Food tax initiatives as we have surveys from the community for some type of excising regiment.

- 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. Tri-Party Agreement**

We had this topic on our agenda for a while now due to lack of complete copy, equipment and arrangement with Paula to present to the farmers. The reason we are introducing this is because the farmers are asking us to fix the problem of the divided organizations. We need the farmers to benefit from this funding in a positive outcome therefore we need the farmers to be involved with this agreement. The Farm Board will provide the written document replicate from the San Juan River Farm Board as they have an effective tri-party agreement (Navajo Nation Water Management, Farm Board and Water User) and present at a called meeting for all to farmers to participate. This document will not solely be by the Farm Board. At this point; Emerson stated the



Tsaile/Wheatfields/Blackrock Chapter will ensure Chapter Facility Usage should have insurance coverage a ji'ni' as there are not written documents and no one has heard anything yet, however will request clarity at the Chapter meeting. We went back to our agenda item, Marquel wants to be involved in this process. She suggested to invite the San Juan River Farm Board, maybe Dine Benally to report what is working for them and what pit fall to avoid. Libby Becenti supports this process. James Becenti asked about the audit report why the four findings are not addressed. Response was the new B & F Committee have not announce if they will revisit the audit findings. Mr. Allen Begay mentions there is a letter to the council. Farm Board is not aware but will check with the Office of the Auditor General tomorrow. As soon as the tri-party agreement is complete it will be emailed to Emerson to disseminate to Libby Becenti, Patricia Morgan and Allen Begay.

Motion to accept this by Emerson Chee

Second by: Patricia Morgan

Votes: 9 – 0 - 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. Clementine Adhidley

He will be put on the next meeting agenda

- F. Water Shed Supporting Resolution

Marquel Begay of University of Arizona gave a presentation on the Water Shed Project she is working on in the Tsaile Creek, Wheatfields Creek and Whiskey Creek. She would like to select areas to put text areas, fencing along the river. She wants to know who she would be working with grazing or permit holders. There is a lot of illegal trash dumping in the area also, this summer she will be working on cleaning some of the areas. This is not good for our water quality. She also wants to come with the Farm Board home visits to see if she can record information from the farmers for documentation. She will be around all summer so she will be attending some of the meetings. She would like the supporting resolution to be signed by the Farm Board. The questions is, does she have a resolution or template for the resolution or is the Farm Board going to do one. She has one that she can email to Lucinda so she can review and get signatures.

Motion to accept all the old business that have not been approved yet.

Motion by: Emerson Chee

Second by: Evelyn Litzin

Votes: 9 – 0 - 1

### III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Report

No one showed up to report

#### IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

##### A. Reports

1. Lorena reported that we attend the Joint Farm Board meeting in Cameron Chapter on April 12, 2019. The discussion was the Plan of Operation under Title 3, it does not really look like it will move forward.

There was also a presentation on How to Preserve the Soil. The old way of planting was better for the soil when they just used a planting stick and plowing the field every time they planted. This is not good for the soil.

Another item was the Statutes of the Role and Responsibility of the Farm Board, which is not much authority.

##### B. Announcements

4/15/19 - Introduction to Water Shed

4/18/19 – Regular Chapter Meeting at 1pm

4/29/19 – Permittee Meeting at 1pm

4/30/19 – Special Election

#### V. CONCLUSION

##### A. Next Agenda Items

Same as before and add the Adhidleys to the agenda and the Tri-Party Agreement

Next Meeting

May 3, 2019 at 4:00pm

Adjourned at 6:02 pm