

TSAILE /WHEATFIELDS /BLACKROCK CHAPTER  
FARM BOARD AND WATER USERS JOINT MEETING  
WED., APRIL 23, 2014 @ LAND GRANT OFFICE, DINE' COLLEGE, TSAILE, AZ

**AGENDA**

**I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Roll call
- c. Invocation
- d. Adapt agenda
- e. Reading last meeting minutes, April 6, 2014
- f. Announcements:
  - Workshop – Irrigation Management and Water Measurement, Saturday, May 24, 2014 @ Wheatfields Chapter House and out at Farm Fields from 8:30am to 3 pm conducted by University of Arizona
  - INVOICES FOR 2014 ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTANENCE FEE WILL BE MAILED OUT TO ALL FARMERS

**II. REPORTS**

- A. Farm Board
- B. Water Users
- C. Water Masters

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Schedule Meeting with Dine' Policy Institute

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. LUP Issues- Transfer, Relinquish, etc

**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 to order at 5pm.
- b. Roll call- Farm Boards present were Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson. Water Users officers present were Lupita McClannahan and Dorthea Litson. Absent – Aaron Begay and Kathy Johns.
- c. Invocation by Teresa Chee
- d. Agenda reviewed by Dorthea Litson. No amendments were made.  
Action: The agenda was accepted as it was presented.  
Motioned by Mildred Silversmith  
Seconded by Teresa Chee  
Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained Motion Carried
- e. Reading last meeting minutes, April 6, 2014, read by Dorthea Litson. No questions, amendments.  
Action: The read meeting minutes from April 6, 2014 was accepted as read. No amendments ware.  
Motioned by Merle Kedelty  
Seconded by Calvin James  
Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained Motion Carried
- f. Announcements:
  - Workshop – Irrigation Management and Water Measurement, Saturday, May 24, 2014 @ Wheatfields Chapter House and out at Farm Fields from 8:30am to 3 pm conducted by University of Arizona
  - INVOICES FOR 2014 ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTANENCE FEE WILL BE MAILED OUT TO ALL FARMERSAdditional announcements presented were as follow:
  - April 29 & 30, 2014 is the Annual Conference sponsored by Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture at Nakai Hall.
  - April 23, 2014 District II Grazing Assembly topic will cover Homesite leases. This is the last day of the Assembly.

**II. REPORTS**

- A. Farm Board  
President reported that at the last Chapter Meeting the US Postal Service worker reported that the Post Office at Dine' College will be closing soon for auditing purpose. For that reason they plan to put about 900 mail boxes at the Chapter House.

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Vice President reported under Water Users. Her report deals with Water Users.

Secretary had no report.

B. Water Users

Lupita reported that she and Kathy attend the Central Dine Water User Association meeting in Many Farms. It was the group's first meeting. They are now trying to establish the association. At the meeting, she and Kathy hand out Tsaille - Wheatfields - Blackrock Water Users brochures. However, she understand that after they left the meeting, T-W-B Water User are assigned to host the next meeting on July 16, 2014 @ Wheatfields Chapter House.

Lucinda reported that the Central Dine' Water Users Association is now establishing. Currently, Roland Tso was the temporary President along with Virginia Deswood as Vice President. The meeting was conducted by Mr. Mark Maryboy. The purpose for the association is to take part in the planning process of the water plan development. She reiterated that this is only the beginning planning stage of bigger water project that the Navajo Nation Department of Water Management is responsible. The department was allocated 8.6 million dollars by the Navajo Nation Council. The purpose is to work with five (5) regions across the Navajo Nation; this does not include the Gallup project. Currently, some of these projects are given to Brown & Caldwell Engineering firm to conduct research on water assessment within each community.

Questions:

Dorthea asked," so why did Mr. Maryboy request us to write for a proposal to request \$500,000 to do more water studies within our community? Where is the money coming from? Is the funding coming from Navajo Nation Water Management?"

Lucinda commented that she is not sure why is requested for more funding, and is not sure what money he is requesting for. The departed already allocated it money to the five regions.

*Action: The group talked furthermore, and stated that at the next meeting the group needs to figure out how to design the big ideas for creating the water plan for the community, Tsaille-Wheatfields-Blackrock area. It sounds like CLUPC has a lot of Data on water within our community. However, once we figure out a design then we can search for money to do that.*

C. Water Masters reported the following:

Tsaile Farmland area

- They are near completion with repairing the underground irrigation. This week they completed reducing a raiser from 14in to 10inches. However, they need more dirt to

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use as backfill over the underground irrigation system. It will need equipment with frontend loader.

- The main irrigation line is flushed out.
- The reservoir is refilled with water.

**Upper Wheatfields Farmland area**

- The irrigation line and reservoir are filled with water. No Farmer is ready for irrigation.

**Lower Wheatfields Farmland area:**

- Water Masters are waiting for water to be released.
- Emerson Chee is the only one is ready to irrigate, but needs to pay his O&M fee. Plus pipe rental needs to be paid up front.
- Dorthea pointed out that Sadie Neztosie is ready to irrigate too.

**D. Grazing Representative**

He reported that the major concern that people have is the 2014 Grazing Reform Act. The first draft was developed, and this is considered the second draft, but it really is the first draft with minimal changes..

Historically, when Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture were planning for this reform they had asked the grazing official from each agency create a list of concern with current grazing and make recommendation to those concern. As a result, Shiprock agency developed and submitted a 15 paged filled with concerns and recommendation; Fort Defiance submitted a 1 pager; Central Agency submitted 52 pages; and Western Agency submitted one too. The one that was selected was the Fort Defiance Agency.

Currently, it is very hard for the Grazing officials to work with the Navajo Nation Department of Agricultural.

*Action: There is a need to set up some dates to read the 2014 Grazing Reform with our community people.*

The other concern was that Mr. Tso acting for Round Rock grazing is terminated. This creates many problems for our community. One there is no quorum to conduct monthly meeting. If someone new is assigned to our area then they have to start all over in planning to know the Round Rock Community and event for District II.

*Action: The reports from Farm Board, Water Users, Water Masters, and Grazing Representative were all accepted with the two actions that evolved from the reports.*

*Motioned by Merle Kedelty*

*Seconded by Teresa Chee*

*Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*

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III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Schedule Meeting with Dine' Policy Institute

Dorthea explained the staff will not be here for meeting. They are scheduled to attend at Lukachukai Chapter House this evening.

*Action: Need to contact the staff at DPI, and asked the staff to present at next meeting.  
This item was not put to a vote.*

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. LUP Issues- Transfer, Relinquish, etc

No LUP issues or related activities on this listed matter.

*Action: No action taken.*

V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items. The following were identified for topics or issues to talk about at next joint meeting:

- Result of BIA meeting with Farm Board members in Many Farms, AZ
- Creating a timeline for proposal to be used as a mean to develop time in meeting the goals of establishing a water plan for our community.
- Inviting Dine' Policy Institute staff, Dine' College, to conduct the result of their research report

B. Schedule next meeting date for Monday, May 12, 2014 at 5pm Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ.

C. Adjournment

*Action: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.*

*Motioned by Thomas Litson*

*Seconded by Merle Kedelty*

*Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained*

*Motion Carried*