**MEETING MINUTES**

1. Order of Business
2. Meeting called to order at 3:30pm.

Roll Call: Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge and Dorthea Litson n were present. Lucinda Davis absent, and she attended NN Dept. of Agricultural Conference. Water User Board: Dorthea Litson present, and all others absent.

1. Invocation conducted by Mildred Silversmith.
2. Reviewed agenda by Dorthea Litson. Not questions or comments.

***Action: The agenda was accepted as it was presented.***

***Motioned by Yolinda Staley***

***Seconded by Weston Carroll***

***Voting: 12 yes, 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. Reading of last meeting Minutes, April 14, 2013 conducted by Dorthea Litson. No questions or comment.

***Action: The read meeting minutes was accepted as it was read.***

***Motion: Kenneth Sorrell***

***Seconded by Mildred Silversmith***

***Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. Announcements
2. Chapter Planning Meeting, Wednesday, May 1, 2013 @ 1pm
3. Conservation Plan Workshop, Friday and Saturday, May 17 & 18, 2013 @ 9 to 3:30pm Daily Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
4. Reports
5. Farm Board
6. President, Lorena Eldridge: She commented she received to articles and has not read them. However, when she does she will present that information.
7. Vice President, Lucinda Davis: she did not attend meeting.
8. Secretary, Dorthea Litson: She shared she mailed out invoices and letter to majority of the farmers to collect the O & M fee, and the rate is at $3.00 per acres. This is now sent to Upper Wheatfields, and Tsaile, and will be the third year for Lower Wheatfields. She also wrote letter to AZ Acting State Conservationist to request for partnership on the upcoming work shop on writing a conservation plan, and she learned today that it has been approved.

Questions, comments, and suggestions:

Lorena Eldridge: Some farmers have not paid their operation and maintenance fee from last year. If the O & M fee is not paid, $10 late charges are added. She encouraged farmers to farm their farmland. She suggested if it is impossible to do then sublease your farmland. Water rights are coming our way very soon and we need to be prepared for it. For example, the Navajo Nation Council Delegates’ are trying to terminate the Navajo Nation Attorney General for not doing his job.

Jessie Tsosie: How do we work with people who don’t speak English or write?

Lorena Eldridge: She explained there are ways to find a solution. Your children can read you the information.

Jessie Tsosie: Liz Thompson is the only person who read all her paper work that she receives in the mail to her.

Lorena Eldridge: She explained how the Operation and Maintenance fee work using a car as metaphor.

Jessie Tsosie commented that she has a 24 acres field in Upper Wheatfields.

Michael Lee: He asked if his farmland was included in the O & M fee.

Dorthea Litson stated that he was included.

Weston Carroll: Who received the O & M fee letter?

Dorthea Litson replied, “Everyone, including some who were deceased.”

Mildred Silversmith: We planted, but there is a huge problem with deer, elk, and prairie dogs.

Lorena Eldridge: Almost all programs support Wildlife. This issue was brought up at the time the chapter was talking about horse roundups.

Dorthea Litson: The reality is that it the responsibility of the farmers. If you know deer is a problem one can plan for how to deer is unable to enter the fence line. If you know people are herding their sheep in your farmland then you can round them, and have it impounded.

She explained that it is important for famers to keep records with evidence, and submit to Fish and Wildlife to request for reimbursement. Reporting the work one does if very important.

Lorena Eldridge: Yield report is very important.

***Action: No action came out of the report, but it was accepted as it was dialoged.***

***Motioned by Dorthea Litson***

***Seconded by Weston Carroll***

***Voting: 8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. Water Users
2. President
3. Vice President
4. Secretary
5. Treasure: Dorthea Litson stated she needs mailing address from the president, secretary, and one of the member, so that can be written in the Article of Incorporation. The Article of Incorporation, bylaws, and meeting minutes need to be attached to request for changes in the account name change and submitted to others.

James Becenti asked who the contact person is for any dollars need for materials and supplies.

Dorthea Litson: It would be here, but she needs the changes first.

***Action: No action out of this report, but was accepted the reported as it was dialogued.***

***Motioned by Weston Carroll***

***Seconded by James Becenti***

***Voting: 11 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. Land Grant Office, Dine’ College

Benita Litson, Director of Land Grant, reported on the following;

* **Planting Conference is completed**
* **Planting with Senior Citizen at Tsaile – Wheatfield Senior Citizen Center.** She and her staff will be planting with the seniors on Friday, May 3, 2013 from 9am to 2pm.
* **Research of 12 plant species**: The 12 plant species were planted in all three areas of Tsaile – Wheatfield plus Many Farms and Tec Nos Pos. Based on last year plant, the found the plant Tridecillie is doing will in all area. Tridecillie is a winter crop and is harvest in July. Peterson White irrigated over the plant as it was stated in the contract, and he received all 12 species. However, this year four interns will be hired to work only on the research plots. They will be planting next week on Monday, April 19, to May 3, 2013. (Please Note: All 12 plant species are great for livestock).
* **WORKSHOP on PESTICIDE** exam. **This is scheduled for May 14, 2013.**
* **WORKSHO ON BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE scheduled for May 22, 2013**

1. SWCD

Benita Litson reported on the following:

1. USDA – Strike Force Meeting in Durango, CO on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at USDA Forest Service, San Juan National Forestry, 15 Burnett Court. And will be meeting at Dine’ College in Shiprock. The meeting is a Listening session for Indian country to learn what is working and what is Not working.
2. AZ state Conservationist, PHX office staff request to meet with people at Lower Wheatfields on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 9AM in Wheatfields.

***Action: No action taken. It was accepted as it was dialogues.***

***Motioned by Weston Carroll***

***Seconded by Trivia Carroll***

***Voting: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. Old Business
   1. LUP – Transfer, Relinquishment, Sublease, Probate (FB)
2. Late Homer Nez family request for research on plot.

Lorena Eldridge reported that she wrote a letter to late wife and children of Homer indicating that they need to write to Daniel Largo, and she mailed it off on Monday. The mailing address is PO BOX 1732 Chinle, AZ 86556

**This item was deferred to next meeting.**

* 1. Select One Board Position for Water Users (WU)

No selection was made.

**Action: Defer to next Farm Board meeting.**

* 1. Logo for Water User (WU)

There were no Logos submitted. Lorena Eldridge explained that the Logo should have the following:

Tsaile – Wheatfields – Blackrock

Water

Agriculture

It is open to youth, and at the last meeting Lucinda and Lupita commented that they have youth to draw.

**Action: Please have youth draw and submitted. This will be deferred to next meeting**.

* 1. Agriculture Day (BOTH)

This Agriculture Day is a workshop for the community, and at the last meeting the people were thinking of doing this workshop in October. However, we turn this over to Benita Litson, Land Grant Director, and staff and intern to design the workshop. It can be conducted in August during the first scheduled Farmers Market. The workshop should be hands on.

***Action: Turn the Workshop to Land Grant Office Staff. They will continuously report on the designed as they move with the project.***

***Motioned by Weston Carroll***

***Seconded by James Becenti***

***Voting: 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

Otis Benally suggested receiving fence for 30 feet by 30 feet for a garden plot in the chapter house acres area. Churches provide seeds as well.

1. New Business
2. Re-establish irrigation to Evelyn Litzin Farmland (Tsaile Farm land) (FB)

Evelyn Litzin requested to re-establish the irrigation system to her farmland in Tsaile a while back, but she was not present at this meeting.

Lorena Eldridge explained the request to all.

Weston Carroll explained the other farmland is his and his brother Greg. However, they both approve to re – establish the irrigation system that once existed. This irrigation system is in their farmland. (He provided a drawing of where the old system was.)

***Action: Evelyn Litzin can re-establish the irrigation system to her farmland and can fix her fence as soon as possible.***

***Motioned by Dorthea Litson***

***Seconded by Yolinda Staley***

***Voting: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. Re-establish entrance to Gale Davis and sublease field to Farm Board (FB)

Dorthea Litson explained the entrance to Gale Davis and the subleased land to Farm Board needs to have an entrance. This topic we talked about at one time, but nothing has been decided. At that time Lloyd James indicated that he does not want the entrance in his farmland.

The entrance to Gale farmland was from Lloyd James farmland. Gale will need to move his entrance to the south. Subleased land entrance was from Albert Allen field, but there is now a riser there.

***Action: Write letter to all famers to let them know the entrance needs to be settled at next Farm Board meeting. If not coming to a consensus then it will be the farm board decision.***

***Motioned by Kenneth Sorrell***

***Seconded by Mildred Silversmith***

***Voting: 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. LUP – Transfer, Relinquishment, Sublease, Probate (FB)
2. Miranda Carroll

Lorena Eldridge explained that Louis Begay farmland has been subleased to Farm Board, and now Miranda D. Chee wants to sublease it. She is not here to talk about her request.

Questions, Comments, and Suggested:

Otis Benally: He asked Louise Begay to sublease and she stated it was okay. Is the sublease known to the owner of the farmland? He also asked about the Operation and Maintenance fee and Pipe Rental.

Dorthea Litson explained the family members and Louis Begay should all know that there farmland is subleased. We wrote many letters to let farmers know, and many have came before the farm board stating they DO NOT want their farmland subleased.

Lorena Eldridge: She responded there are many idle lands within our area:

Tsaile is at 81%; Upper Wheatfields at 85%; and Lower Wheatfields at 36.5%

The goal of the Farm Board is to have 100% of the Farmland be in production.

The Chapter expressed interest in subleasing the Farmland. The farm Equipments belong to the chapter.

Many Workshops has been conducted for famers.

Soil is in the need of re-established.

The pipe rental is at $70 for another year.

The Operation and Maintenance fee is at $3.00 an acre, and letters has been sent to all farmers.

**Action: No action has been taken.**

1. Other

Yolinda Staley – Request for letter to approve changes in her irrigation system.

Yolinda Staley shared that she has an EQIP project with NRCS. One the work that needs to be change is the irrigation systems that she currently uses. She always used the irrigation from David M. Tsosie farmland. Now the change is going to be move toward Jessie Tsosie side of the farmland. The pipe will connect to the inlet box sit out her farmland. This will not impact the other farmers’ irrigation system.

***Action: Farm Board will need to write a letter to NRCS to regarding the approval for Yolinda Staley’s irrigation system.***

***Motioned by Mildred Silversmith***

***Seconded by Weston Carroll***

***Voting: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motion Carried***

1. Conclusion
2. Next agenda item

* Water User – Signature Change
* Board Position
* LOGO
* LUP – entrance
* Sublease

1. Next meeting date scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2013 at 3pm.
2. ***Adjournment at 7:00 pm.***

***Motioned by Yolinda Staley***

***Seconded by Jessie Tsosie***

***Voting 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained Motioned Carried***