

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Sunday May 27, 2018 @1:00 PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsaile/Wheatfields
Chapter *[Signature]*

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 April 15 and May 1, 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
 - B. Fencing

- 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 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. Agriculture Infrastructure Proposal
- C. Planting Ceremony
- D. B & F Meeting

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements

V. CONCLUSION

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

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Sunday May 27, 2018 @1:00 PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting called to order
Meeting call to order at 1:20 by the President
- B. Invocation
Invocation was given by Elizabeth Becenti
- C. Roll Call
FB-Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis and Emerson Chee Present
WUA-Anelda Kedelty, Dorthene Edison, Amelda Benally Present
Ophelia Begay, Weston Carroll absent
- D. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials
None
- E. Review and adoption of agenda
Motion by Bennie Litson to adopt agenda as is,
Second by Amelda Benally
Votes: 10 – 0 - 1
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes of April 15 and May 1, 2018
Motion by Dorthene Edison to defer the minutes to the next meeting
Second: Elizabeth Becenti
Votes: 10 – 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.

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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 crop inventory and we will be submitting the crop inventory forms in June. There will be forms available on June 18, 2018.

- 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

Wheatfields project update was given by the Water Users as to the status of the project. The Project is ongoing, plowing is being done in some of the farmland and planting will be done. A schedule timeline has been created for the Project.

B. Fencing

Alvin gave the report on the fencing project is ongoing, the demo fields in Tsaile, Lower Wheatfields they are setting some more C-brace. BIA finally brought maps on where the fence should be and survey has been done.

Question-what is the timeline for the fencing to be completed in Lower Wheatfields? The response is on June 15th the fencing should be completed, since Dine College students will be starting again.

Next will be Tsaile, then Upper Wheatfields, but not very many supplies left for Tsaile. Year two drawdown includes more fencing supplies, that should finish Tsaile fencing. Question by TJ Holgate-Where is the fencing being put up.

Alvin explained that they are going by the maps that BIA gave them and the survey they did. They are trying to stay with the old fence that is there, but some areas are over the permitted fence. On June 15th, fencing will begin in Tsaile area.

Bennie-Fencing is going real slow due to no labors, farmers are not out there to help. Land Grant students have been helping, but not under Water Users or Farm Board.

Question by TJ- If someone gets hurt, who is responsible.

Alvin responded that they go over safety with them on weeds, barbwire, prairie dogs and other factors and they do have them sign a waiver.

Lorena said the key is the revitalization, the organization and the equipment are covered under the insurance. The farmers are responsible for their farmland.

TJ-Operating & Maintenance is not being clear and who is responsible.

Danny John-Put it in writing, safety is involved in so many ways and there are many risk out there where kids are involved.

Response was insurance is aware of the type of work that is being done.

Lorena – Safety Officer, Just a hear say there was a safety officer, but never met him and still need an equipment safety. WUA still working on that.

Bennie – brought up no labors, the farmers need to be out there and help on their own.

Lorena – There are 127 farmers, should have the safety policy and this should be provided.

TJ – had lots of question and concerns on the liability insurance and the wavier. Everyone needs to know about the policy, it might help to have a comment box.

Alvin said it was very hard to get insurance. He also requested for a copy of the policies, but to this day have not received yet, what kind of changes were made with the Water Users. It seems like the Water Users and the Farm Board are not working together.

Bennie says it was made clear to them.

TJ – Policies are public information. Financial Policy includes Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, General Ledger, etc. Then there should be an equipment policy,

Personnel Policy, Procurement Policy, Travel Policy, Safety Policy, Vehicle Policy and Insurances.

Emerson – Need to get together to collaborate together. Need to go over the safety issues before going out to the field. He is still learning.

Esther – Mr. Litson said there are no labors, maybe hiring is the only way, Land Grant Response was they are covered under the Land Grant Office.

Back to Project Update by Aaron Begay – Started with Lower Wheatfields T12-T18. Tsaille some have been disked. Upper Wheatfields T-1 has been prepped and planted and now irrigating. Going by whoever wants their fields done. The fields that are flat can be prepped. Some farmers are coming in to have their farm worked on.

Question – are you consulting with the farmers before you go into their farm? WUA should be the ones to go out there and talk to the farmers.

Dori – What timeline is in place and when will you be out there and where.

Lorena – Conservation Plan, is that completed. Make sure you make everything clear, training, etc. There is not enough public information. Felix is the only one that response when asked a question. We really need to get back together and work together. Budget and Finance is on June 15th.

TJ – Finding ways to get farmers to come in, go out there to the people, go the the Senior Citizin Center, talk to them so you can get the word out there. There is no cost for public announce in the radio, newspaper, flyers, announcement at the stores, post office, where ever you can get information out. Suggestions have been presented at the Chapter Meeting to put a sign out at the road with information on what meetings are coming up, nothing is being done on that.

C. Invoices

Invoice was submitted to Division of Natural Resources, but it needs corrections.

Alvin said the corrections were made and resubmitted. Meeting took place and the Navajo Nation forms and formats were to be used and a resolution is needed. Invoices are broken out by Year 1, Quarter 4 which will be the first invoice to submit with a resolution, per meeting with Vangie Thomas on May 9th. We are behind for Year 1, 2 & 3. Next will be to reclassify the left over funds.

Dori – Asked to work on the reclassifying the line items.

Lorena – There is no communication with the Water Users and Aaron say there is no communication from the Farm Board.

Lorena went over the budget on object codes.

TJ wanted to know if WUA was going by the Navajo Nation policies now, and how much saving is in operations, maybe that can be transferred to temporary positions. Dorthea-Back in February 14th a budget transfer of 80,000.00 was submitted which was for laborers, along with Year 2-Quarter 1-4. On February 20th it was submitted to Division of Natural Resources. On March 11th corrections was requested and the corrections have been made with justification. It was then given the Water Users President to get together with the Farm Board and work with them on April 9th.

Lorena – There are also deficits, which are:

Personnel	-12,181.38
Consultants	-12,521.38
Insurance	-12,312.00
Vehicle	-12,121.06
TOTAL	-49,135.82

TJ asked from what date to current is this deficit? Is it from July, 2017 to current?

What are the current consultants doing and for how long?

Water Users justification was the Grant Writer was hired early, there was also soil testing, software which are part of the over expenditure.

What needs to happen is to clear the over expenditure before do a budget transfer and the resolution. We also need an organization chart, on the one the WUA has, nowhere on there is the Farm Board and who the oversight of the Water Users.

Bennie recapped how the funds were used and how the money was received. Funds were received late last year. Fix the over expenditure now and why that happened. The problems and issues need to be fix now.

TJ – Law in relationship, Navajo Preference Act, he had put this law in the policy. The invoicing needs to be tabled before we can go on, the problems need to be fixed.

Water Users explained that the insurance has been paid off, on the truck they went over, and that is one of the over expenditure which was because they needed a big truck that can pull the heavy equipment which was more then what was budgeted for. On Personnel, Alvin advertised for a Grant Writer before the budget was set for that position. As far as the consultant, they had a lot of problems with the software that was being used and the consultant had to keep coming in the fix the problem, that is the reason for the over expenditure.

Another question was if the Farm Board are not the oversight, then why do you need an approval.

Motion was made by James Becenti to table the invoice

Second: TC Tso

Vote: 20 – 0 - 2

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

Decision was to do the training when the new Farm Board member comes aboard. The training will be given by the Auditor General. This will include the Farm Board, Water Users Association, WUA Staff, Chapter, and Grazing. The training will be on:

Internal Control

Audit & Planning

Risk

Fraud

Communication Results

Alfreda Lee will be doing the training.

There will also be an Audit Review for WUA.

Oversight (legal Advisory/Opinion)

Level of Authority

Articles of Incorporation

TC Tso thinks the Chapter should be the over sight. Simular issue happen with the Veterans in Lukachukai and jail was involved, he does not want to see that here.

Motion to approve by TJ Holgate

Second: Elizabeth Becenti

Votes: 19 – 0 - 3

- 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 shell inventory at least 3 ALUP/Farm Permit within respective FB area.

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1. Danny John

The north end of Lower Wheatfields plot T-2 belong to the late Fred Descheenie, then it was given to Frederick Descheenie and then the Danny John in 2008. He checked the map that BIA gave to WUA and saw that the plot was smaller then what the actual was on the permit. Fish & Wildlife already cleared the north end so he wanted to know what the Farm Board would say about the difference in size that the BIA provided. Most likely it would need to go back to BIA for correction. The permit measurement on Plot 11-3-346 has 26.19 acres. The decision is to go with the permit.

Motion to keep what is on the permit by Sam Chee

Second: Ben Curley

Vote: 16 – 0 - 2

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Financial Report

Most of it has already been discussed and a written report is given. Other items that fell into this area was Dine College, Drought Contingency-now proposing, reconciliation and vehicle discussion. The vehicle should be at the WUA yard when not in use, not going back to the Farm Manager's place of residence. There is liability issues involved in take a vehicle home. Justification from Aaron was he used his own tools and welding machine, etc. that are on the trailer which he takes back and forth. Using your own tools and equipment is at your own risk. The liability is what the concern is.

Motion to accept the financial report and discussions: Sam Chee

Second: TJ Holgate

Votes: 13 – 0 – 4

B. Agriculture Infrastructure Proposal

Four (4) Proposals will be submitted

Earth & Dam

Watering Point

Windmills & Wells

Tsaile/Upper Wheatfields Irrigation – These were put in place around 1986.

The Grant Writer is working on these proposals.

The AIF Guidelines is:

Has to be 5 pages or less to go through the board. There should be 4 small proposals, but to this day we have not received anything. Within the Department of Water Resources there is no list of Tsaile/Wheatfields earth & dam and windmills. According to Aaron, Elvira said she was working on the proposals. How many proposals with Land Grant, now working on the 4 proposals. Follow up with DUNS#.

C. Planting Ceremony

Rex Lee Jim will be conducting the Planting Ceremony with the seeds that have been purchased. The Chapter will come up with the money for the ceremony since the discussion has taken place with Zane James, Chapter President and this will be approved at the Chapter Meeting. They were thinking of Avery Denny, but could not locate him. Traditional food is needed, if everyone can volunteer to bring some of the traditional food that would be great.

Paperware – Fred

Water – Alvin

Blue Corn Mush – Yolinda

Squash – Lorena

Mutton Stew – Lorena

Pea Salad – Dori

Need basket and materials

Materials – Anelda

Basket - Aaron

D. B & F Meeting

B & F Regular meeting will be on June 15, 2018

E. Ben Curley

Grazing Permit he is using is Bessie Yazzie, but that is a grazing issue.

The Land Use Permit he gave to his son Jerome Curley, they went to the grazing meeting and requested for a transfer but has not received it yet. He wants someone to check on it for him. Check on both the grazing and land use permits for him.

F. Sam Tsosie

His uncle had a farm in Upper Wheatfields that he had plowed several years ago, last year he wanted Edward Litson to plow it again, but the fence was locked, but still got it plowed. He was told there were seeds available, but he does not know where the permit is. He was told Leslie Tsosie had the permit and he gave it to Emory Tsosie. That farm land is divided into three. The way they made the entrance is really hard to get into. It even affects TJ and his

family. They have to go through that entrance to get to their area. TJ will write a letter to David Tsosie to change the entrance.

Motion by Stanley Chee

Second by Ben Curley

Vote: 10 – 0 - 1

B & F Regular meeting will be June 15, 2018

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

None

B. Announcements

5/29 Ceremony 10:00

5/30 B & F

6/4 Chapter Planning

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

Same items

C. Next Meeting

June 3, 2018 at 10:00

D. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:29