

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Sunday June 9, 2019 @ 1:00 PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

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 –

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsailo/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: psb

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. Tri-Party Agreement

- 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. Lucinda Chee
2. Elfreda Begody

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
- B. Announcements
- C.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Next Agenda Items
 1. Same items as before
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B. Next Meeting
- D. Adjournment

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Monday June 9, 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 1:15 pm by the President.
- B. Invocation
Lorena Eldridge
- C. Roll Call
Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis-Present and Emerson Chee – Absent
Water Users Association – All 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: Emerson Chee
Second by: Lucinda Davis
Votes: 4 – 0 - 1
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes
Minute for 5/3/19 and 5/19/19 read by Lucinda Davis
Motion to accept the minutes as read by Charles Chee
Second by: Evelyn Litzin
Votes: 6 – 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.

- 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
- 2. There is only one crop inventory, which is Alfreda Begody. We will continue to collect the forms to the end of this month, if there is no additional, this will be for information.

- 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

There is no one here to give an update on this item, however, we get information from Navajo Times from time to time. Navajo Times for June 6, it says Branch Chief expecting scale down funding, budget for 2021 there will not be enough funds. Budget will be reviewed according to the B & F. The five year funding that was given which includes the 1.7 million, there was 150 million was allocated to various projects, some projects have not been completed. The unexpended funds will go back into the funds for the Nation. When the PTF five year started, it went to projects first then to funding for the Nation, but now whatever in the budget it will go to the Nation budget and whatever is left will go to projects. Wheatfields has drawn down about 2.2 and still have about 3 million plus that has not been drawn down. From what we can see, the late Angela Kedelty's field is the only one that they are working and Upper Wheatfield is irrigating. We don't know how many feet the increase was on the first field in upper Wheatfield. Charles checked on that farm. Within this subject, there are two issues, which is the illegal fencing and the same farms that are worked on again. We will go to the farm to see how much feet the difference is that was increased. WUA is continuing the fencing in the Spencer's field.

Nelson and Sarah James said that Emerson came to get the Crop Inventory, but the more he talked it did not sound right so they did not sign the forms. Emerson is supposed to ask four questions, but he is going beyond that. There is also illegal fencing in the James field and Charles already talked to them about that but it is still there. There was a lot of discussion on illegal fencing and some of the issues, Charles also said the Water Users are not the boss it should be the Farm Board since they are elected. Emerson has conflict of interest. He is working as WUA instead of the Farm Board, Lorena checked to see if he has conflict, but there is no law that says he is in conflict. The only place might be ethics, we already knew this was going to happen, he can change his hat anytime. Whatever we say no to, he can say yes to as a Farm Board.

Alfreda also brought up some of the issues she has with the Descheenie, and she is going to go forward and continue working on their field. She has plowed and seeded, but nothing has come up. Even as far as sublease, it has to go before the Farm Board meeting and they have to approve the sublease.

Water Users started working closely with Water Management Branch on the water shed. June 25th there will be a meeting at Dine College with the Water Users, Water Management, Forestry and Fish and Wildlife. The Farm Board provides their own resolutions and Lorena has sent it to Lucinda to finalize it. It seems like the Water Users are going toward the Water Shed now instead of the Farm Land. We don't know how the WUA have their budgets set now, it was broken down very clear when it started. Charles will not support the water shed of fencing areas for buffers. And that other thing was illegal dumping, but Charles will not support and they will not do a resolution for this. Marquel is just being used by other parties have her do what they want.

The Farm Board has approved and has a resolution to support the Water Shed. Two individuals, Bennie Chee and his wife came in to see what they can do to get Kee Chee's farm land.

Lorena told them to check with his spouse and his granddaughter to see if they can get the farm land. They are also inquiring on Rose Mary Arviso's permit. BIA needs the original permit to get it transferred. We don't know who has the permits.

There are 127 permits that are in the revitalization of the farms.

Motion to approve the report by -Alfreda Begody

Second by-Cindy Davis

Vote: 8 – 0 - 1

C. Farmer participation, Implement conservation training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

1. Training

Lucinda report that at the Planning meeting, the Chapter will provide funding for the Farm Board to attend the DNR Summit on June 19-21. Farm Board and Grazing are required to attend this training, but we don't know if Emerson is going, he has not been attending the Farm Board meetings. Final approval will be at the next Chapter Meeting. This will just be for information.

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. There are training for Farmers that want to participate in the program that the Water Users are working with. They have training and soil testing and other things that you can participate in. There is a schedule at the Water Users office.

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. Tri-Party Agreement

Lorena went over the tri-party agreement and why we think we need the agreement, but we were asking the San Juan Water Users or San Juan Farm Board to give us a report on how they are using the agreement. We have not gotten together on this yet.

We got the funding we, but could not get direct funding unless our chapter was certified. Our chapter is not certified so we had to go with the WUA to put money in their account. There was a survey that we did and that was how we applied for a grant. We went through presentations. On 2016 our council put it through the council and we go approved for the PTFI for a 5 year plan. In the proposal we put staffing to oversee the project and other things like equipment. We were to have policies in place like the Nation. When the hiring was done, only one family got in there as employed so the Farm Board and Water Users are not working together again. This is why we said we need a tri party agreement.

We met with Dr. Rudy Shebala on May 23, 2019 to discuss the issues we are having with the Water Users. We also showed him the article in the News Paper for April 18, 2019

and he did not know that so he read it. He said he would talk with Vangie Curley Thomas then he will let us know about their discussion, but he has not gotten back to us yet. Lorena is asking do we still want the Tri-Party agreement or do we want to modify the MOA.

Allen Begay is saying the Tri Party agreement is just another document, BIA recognized the Farm Board under Title 3. The authority is already there. The Farm Board needs to step up to spell out the authority. If we continue it just hurts the farmers.

Lorena agreed with Allen on the Title Three and there is policies but no enforcements in there. It might be better to amend the MOA. All sub-lease needs to go through Farm Board.

Allen Begay to motion to amend the MOA to include the Farm Board who has the authority to oversee the Land Use Permits. He wants this in a resolution.

Second: Bennie Chee

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WUA Report
No show

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

- A. Reports
None
- B. Announcements
 1. Planning Meeting. 7/1/19 @ 1:00
 2. Permittee Meeting. 6/14/19 @2:00
 3. DNR Summit 6/19-21/19

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Next Agenda Items
 1. Same as usual
 2. MOA under B
 3. Bennie Chee/Mae Chee
 4. Emerson Chee
- B. Next Meeting
June 30, 2019 @1:00

Adjourned – 4:48

Motion to adjourn by: Patricia Morgan

Second by: Bennie Chee

All in favor

