

TSAILE /WHEATFIELDS /BLACKROCK CHAPTER
FARM BOARD AND WATER USERS JOINT MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 @ 6PM WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE

AGENDA

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Roll call
- c. Invocation
- d. Adopt agenda
- e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, June 8, 2014
- f. Announcements:
 - Chapter Planning Meeting, Tuesday, July 1, 2014 @ 3 pm Wheatfields Chapter House.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. LUP- Transfer, Relinquishment, Probate, etc.
 - Harvey Kenny Jr. – Request for resurveying farmland
- B. Alternative Plan for Revitalizing Farmland Projects
- C. Tsaille Water Plan – Research
- D. Water Masters Request for materials and supplies

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Water Master (Re-hiring)
- B. Community Water Plan
- C. Water Users Financial Report

IV. Reports

- A. Farm Board
- B. Water User
 - a. Update on O&M fee
 - b. Purchased of slider gates & gaskets for irrigation rental

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
- B. Schedule next meeting date
- C. Adjournment

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FARM BOARD AND WATER USERS JOINT MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 @ 6PM WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE

MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting called to order @ 6:30pm.
- b. Roll call
Farm Board: Present – Lorena Eldridge and Dorthea Litson; Absent – Lucinda Davis
Water Users: Present – Aaron Begay and Dorthea Litson: Absent – Lupita McClannahan and Kathy Johns
- c. Invocation by Aaron Begay
- d. Adopt agenda
Dorthea read the agenda. No questions, comments or amendments.

Action: The agenda was accepted has read.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Natlie James

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, June 8, 2014
Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. No questions, comments, or amendments.

Action: The read meeting was accepted as read.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Aaron Begay

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- f. Announcements:
 - Chapter Planning Meeting, Tuesday, July 1, 2014 @ 3 pm Wheatfields Chapter House.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. LUP- Transfer, Relinquishment, Probate, etc.
 - Harvey Kenny Jr. – Request for resurveying farmland
Lorena explained that LUP issue is always posted on the agenda. Mr. Kenny land use issue was on the agenda at the last farm board meeting and has been move to today again. She explained the Operation and Maintenance fee is collected and it purpose. It started at \$1.50 per acres then the farmer increased it to \$3.00 an acres. Mr. Kennys farm land is about 80 + acres and the intend is for farming purposed, but with this land there are houses that sit with the Farm land area. She asked Mr. Kenny to explain is land use concern.

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Mr. Kenny explained that that his farmland was assigned to him by his fathers. Today, he shares that with his siblings. There are housing on the farmland, and a place where his sibling sheep roams. Now, he would like for this farmland to be re – survey to identify the housing area and farming area.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

Lorena asked, “How many homes is there, and do they have homesite lease?”

Crystal explained that currently there are 8 homes on the Farmland. She stated that the operation and maintenance fee is understandable. The people who live there will have to come together to figure out a way to pay the O&M fee.

Lorena asked, “How many siblings are you talking about?”

Mr. Kenny explained that his sisters the live on the farmland area are Mae, Emma, Jessie, Lula, and Lillie. Emma, Lula, and Emma are the one who have sheep.

Action: This item will be put on next meeting agenda. However, Mr. Kenny was told to bring his original Land Use Permit, and all the siblings will need to come to next meeting to state their approval or the siblings can write a letter of approval for Mr. Kenny’s request to resurvey the Farmland to determine what will be use for farming and to identify the acres used for housing.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

B. Alternative Plan for Revitalizing Farmland Projects

Lorena explained the Revitalization farmland project. She stated that this project is to sublease all of the idling farmlands over the next ten years. The following are what has happen:

Farm Board wrote a letter to Mrs. Sharon Pinto to invite her to the meeting to plan how we can handle these idling farmlands, but she told the farm boar to work with the Chinle BIA office. As result, on April 6, 2014, the BIA staff from Chinle attended the Farm Board meeting. There we explained the alternative plan we have in mind to work with the farmers who have idling farmlands. He approved the idea to move forward with it. Next, we put that before the Chapter, and the people approved our plan.

At the last meeting we identified the farmers that we will start with.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

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Dorthea explained that yes we have identified farmers to work with at the last meeting, but she if soil is the number one priority to save then we need to rethink the farmers that we need to start with:

6 farmers in Lower Wheatfields – Tony Yazzie, Matthew Benally, TC Tso, Phillip Benally, Noel Bikeddy, and Marie Carroll. (These farmers in Lower Wheatfields have the best soil yet it is being lost)

2 farmers in Tsaille – Ida Mae Oliver and Westin Carroll

2 farmers in Upper Wheatfields – Frankie Descheene and Beulah Blackrock

Total is 10 farmers to work with plus one that is already subleased to Farm Board.

Action: To accept the changes of Farmers to the one mentioned above. The 10 farmers are the one the Farm Board will start working with.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

C. Tsaille Water Plan – Research

Lorena explained Lucinda is assigned to conduct research of previous plans for Tsaille Lake to be use for farming in Tsaille area. She continues to do the research. She is current not here to speak about her findings. Therefore, this needs to be deferred to next meeting.

Action: Defer this item to next Farm Board Meeting.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Harvey Kenny Jr

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

D. Water Masters Request for materials and supplies

Lorena explained the Water Masters were requesting for materials and supplies that they needed to do more work on Main irrigation line. They were to submit a list. However, at this time we DON'T have Water Masters.

Action: No action was taken.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Water Master (Re-hiring)

Lorena explained that we had two Water Masters. One was dismissed from his work due to abandon his job; and the other put his resignation letter in on June 13, 2014. As of the today, we DON'T have any Water Masters.

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Questions, comments, or suggestions:
What are they responsible for?

The water masters are responsible to work with the farmers to schedule irrigation dates.
Rent irrigation pipes to farmers if requested. Repair main irrigation line if needed.

Action: To advertise for two positions. Then they will go through the hiring process.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Harvey Kenny Jr

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

B. Community Water Plan

Lorena explained that the water plan is an issue that involves other committees within the Tsaille – Wheatfields- Blacrock Chapter.

Action: No action was taken, but other committee members need to be involved of setting the date to meet.

C. Water Users Financial Report

Dorthea provided the financial report to the people. She explained all the transaction and deposits information goes into the financial software, sage peach tree.

Action: The financial report was accepted.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Harvey Kenny Jr

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried.

IV. Reports

A. Farm Board

President: She stated she had no report.

Secretary: She is revising the proposal that was written to request for Farm equipments and cost of labor. The proposal is to submit.

Lorena explained this proposal was written for it to be submitted for the Narbona Growth Funds, but end up as number one priority list for CIP last year, but is now mark in lower end of the Chapter's CIP priority list. The proposal was at the Community Project Development Office.

Action: Lorena stated she would contact Mr. Notah to see if he has a copy of the proposal.

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B. Water User

a. Update on O&M fee

Dorthea provided update information about farmers who have paid and have not paid for their Operation and Maintenance fee as of June 19, 2014. The results were as follow:

FARMERS	PAID O&M FEE	UNPAID O&M FEE
ALL FARMERS	37%	63%
LOWER WHEATFIELDS FARMERS	47%	53%
UPPER WHEATFIELDS FARMERS	32%	68%
TSAILE FARMERS	33%	67%

b. Purchased of slider gates & gaskets for irrigation rental

Aaron explained that sliders gates and gaskets for the irrigation pipe rental. He shared his concern for the need to find a secure storage to store the materials and supplies purchased by the Farm Board and Water Users. When Calvin James, water master, explained that it was his last day on June 13, 2014 he stated that Albert Allen rent a set of irrigation pipe, and he this week he checked to see where the 6in pipes were he could not find them. When he was looking for the pipes, he found that the materials and supplies were exposed in an open area. He also noticed that the 2 – gates for an inlet were missing. This item was left over from Lower Wheatfields irrigation projects and these item cost about \$1,200 a piece. If these materials a exposed to an open area any can walk off with these materials and supplies.

Action: Request the Chapter to provide the Farm Board a secure place for materials and supplies purchased. Example of materials and supplies are irrigation pipes, bonnets, gates to inlets, etc. Aaron is assigned to collect current inventory list of what we have and compare that to the old inventory list. This data will help when asking for storage.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

Action: To accept the reports given by Farm Board and Water Users.

Motion by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Natilie James

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

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V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

- LUP- Transfer, Relinquishment, Probate, etc.
 - Harvey Kenny Jr. – Request for resurveying farmland
- Alternative Plan for Revitalizing Farmland Projects
- Tsaile Water Plan – Research
- Water Master Re-hiring

B. Schedule next meeting date

Action: The next meeting date is schedule for Sunday, July 6, 3014 @ 9am Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ.

C. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Motioned by Natalie James

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motioned Carried