

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER
Farm Board/Water Users Joint Meeting
Wednesday - June 24, 2015

AGENDA

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Meeting to Order

B. Roll Call

	Lorena Eldridge		Lucinda Davis		Dortehea Litson
	Aaron Begay		Kathy Johns		

C. Invocation

D. Adoption of Agenda

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 10, 2015

F. Announcements

Chapter Planning Meeting July 2, 2015 @8:00

Chinle Agency Council Meeting July 11, 2015

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Conservation Plan

B. Land Use Permit

Wallace Begay

C. Chinle Agency Council

D. Upper Wheatfields Irrigation Canel

E. Annual Water Users Association Meeting

F. Regional Water Plan

G. Proposal

3. NEW BUSINESS

4. REPORTS

A. Farm Board

B. Water Users

5. CONCLUSION

A. Conservation Plan

C. Regional Water Plan

NEXT FARM BOARD MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Minutes

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting was called to order by Farm Board President, Lorena Eldridge at 5:00
- B. Roll Call
Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis-Present
Dorthea Litson-absent
Water Users: Kathy John, Aaron Begay, Dorthea Litson-absent
- C. Invocation
Teresa Chee gave the invocation.
- D. Adoption of Agenda
Agenda was read by Lorena Eldridge and no addition was made
Motion by Teresa Chee, second by Emerson Chee to approve the agenda as is. Agenda was adopted with Votes of 7 - 0 - 2
- E. Approval of Minutes:
Minutes for June 10, 2015 was not available so motion made by Charlotte Begay and second by Emerson Chee to defer to the next meeting. Votes: 8 - 0 - 1
- F. Announcements
 - 1. Chapter Planning Meeting - July 2, 2015 @ 8:00
 - 2. Chinle Agency Council Meeting - July 11, 2015
 - 3. Annual Water User Association meeting - June 29, 2015 @9:00

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Plan
Lorena explained the Conservation Plan and how the Farm Board is putting the Plan together. The Farm Board is putting the NRCS, BIA and Navajo Nation plan all together to come up with a Conservation Plan for Tsaile, Lower Wheatfields and Upper Wheatfields, a plan for each area. Dorthea is working on one section, Lucinda is working on another

section and Lorena a different section of the plan. We set a deadline as June 30, 2015 to complete the plan. We will continue to work on this until finished, then we will the next meeting again. There was discussions on the history part of the plan. Marie White wanted to know if the names for the farmlands were updated, mainly the land that relate to her family. The Saricinos, the late Jonah Descheenie. She also wanted to know what happens to the farms that still has a deceased person's name on it and who will be getting their name on those farms. How do we bring the people in to say whose name is going to be on the permit. Were the names changed on these farmland? She gave a little history on who were supposed to have their names on those farms. Ben Curley said he and his son are working on fencing that are down which is Taylor Allen's area. Emerson Chee suggest that we start work on these farms and see who says the farm is theirs.

B. Land Use Permit

Wallace Begay - Mr. Begay explain that he is giving his Land Use Permit to his niece Charlotte Begay. He said that he had given it to his nephew, Tommy Begay, but the permit was never changed and he talked to Tommy, and it okay with Tommy to give the permit to Charlotte Begay. He went to Chinle BIA and got a copy of the permit# 11-3-379 and it is 14.3 acres.

Charlotte Begay said she will be working on the Farm that is given to her with her family. The history was it was used to plant corn and other vegetable in the pass according to her mother. The fencing needs a lot of work. Motion was made by Teresa Chee, second by Ryan James to approve the Land Use Permit transfer. Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

C. Chinle Agency Council

Chinle Agency Council meeting will be on July 11, 2015. The Farm Board were given the assignment to plan for this meeting. It will be going before the Chapter Planning meeting on July 2, 2015. No action on this, it was just information.

D. Upper Wheatfields Irrigation Canal

There was a lot discussion on this issue. Lorena explained what was happening there. There was a water break several years ago and it has been fixed many times. According to Ben Curley, the leak is still there. There is also another problem by Emerson Chee's field. The suggestion was to take out the irrigation pipe from the first control box back up to the

inlet from the diversion. Just put in a surface irrigation, the way it was before. The other suggestion was to take the pipes out from the first control box to the second one and put in the surface irrigation. The Water Masters said they would check it when the current farmer finishes irrigating. We will know soon whether there is a leak and when closed at the first box, will it back fill for the water to come out at the gate valves. Motion was made by Jerome Curley and second by Ben Curley to give the assignment to the Water Masters to check the system to see what need to be done so everyone can use the irrigation. Vote: 6 – 0 – 1

E. Annual Water Users Association Meeting

The Annual Water Users Association meeting will be on Monday, June 29, 2015 at 9:00 am. Please all farmers attend this meeting, it is very important to each of the farmers. The By Laws and even your O&M will be discussed. A lot of Farmers complain about the Operation and Maintenance fee, so they need to be there to express their thoughts. No action, just information.

F. Regional Water Plan

Lucinda reported that the Regional Water Plan will be done by June 30, 2015, so our meeting will be in some time July, 2015. We will be getting a report on what the short, middle and long term plans will be. No action, just information.

G. Proposal

Lorena reported that we do have a proposal in place to get 2.9 million for the Farm Board, to purchase farm equipment, storage building and staff. This will be out of the 554 million settlement. The Council are starting to look at proposal and to start spending it. This proposal is part of the revitalization of the farm land. No action just a report.

2. NEW BUSINESS

3. REPORTS

A Farm Board

Lorena No report

Lucinda Recap on the Agriculture Conference at Twin Arrows on June 16-18, 2015. Training was given on the GPS that was

purchased for all Elected Officials. Discussion were all mainly on grazing, but some on farming. We also had a Joint Farm Board meeting after the conference. The discussion was on the resolution on the stipend on recurring cost and to increase the 113.37 to 250.00 along with the mileage. It was passed, we will see where it goes. There will be another Joint Farm Board meeting on July 9, 2015 in Tohatchi at 10:00am.

B. Water Users Associations

C. Water Masters

The reported provided as follow:

Emerson and Ryan reported they are focusing on the Frankie Spencer reservoir and cleaned out the catwalk structure. They will need supplies to continue the restoration. They had assessed the Walter Begay reservoir too. This one will take more work to start due to collection of water in it. The delivery system that feed to this reservoir is a concern too from the run off may need to use PVC.

Irrigation schedule are as follow:

Upper Wheatfields – Linda Saliley is now using the water. There is a waterline breakage by Emerson/Ambrose Chee’s farmland. The main gate at Kee White reservoirs is leaking too and water is running toward Peterson farmland and Edward Litson Jr. but they are fine with the water going into their fields. The next farmer request for water is Curtis Begay.

Lower Wheatfields – Sadie Neztosie is now using the water. Robert & Genevieve Yazzie are also using the water. The next scheduled is Sarah Deschine. Dine College is requesting too but has issues. Lorena Eldridge request for water too.

Tsaile- no one is irrigating now. The inlet structure needs some attention.

4. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

1. Conservation Plan
2. Regional Water Plan

5. Schedule Next Meeting

Next Farm Board Meeting will be July 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Emerson Chee and second by Ryan James. All in favor. Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.