

TSAILE – WHEATFIELDS – BLACKROCK FARM BOARD AND DINEH WATER USERS
JOINT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014 @ 6PM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

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 19, 2014 and July 6, 2014
- f. Announcements:
 - Chapter Planning Meeting, August 4, 2014 @ 1 pm @ Senior Citizen Center, Tsaille, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Tsaille Water Plan – Research
- B. Revitalization of Farmland Project
- C. Inventory for Storage
- D. Community Water Plan

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Identify who is to attend Workshop with Fish and Wildlife
- B. Resignation of Water User Vice President

IV. Reports

- A. Farm Board
- B. Water User

V. CONCLUSION

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

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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Meeting called to order at 6pm

B. Roll call:

Farm Board – Lorena Eldridge and Dorthea Litson were present. Lucinda Davis was absent.

Water Users: Lupita McClanahan and Dorthea Litson were present. Aaron Begay and Kathy Johns were absent.

C. Invocation conducted by Dorthea Litson

D. Adoption of Agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda.

Action: The agenda was adopted by as it was read.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 2 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

E. Reading of Last Meeting Minutes, June 19, 2014 and July 6, 2014

Dorthea read the last two meeting minutes.

Action: The two meeting minutes was accepted as they were read. No questions, comments, or amendments made.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 2 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

F. Announcements

Chapter Planning meeting on Monday, August 4, 2014 @ 1pm Senior Citizen Center, Tsaille Junction, Tsaille, AZ.

Additional announcement was as follow:

Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Conference on August 5 & 6, 2014 @ Twin Arrows, Flagstaff, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Tsaille Water Plan Research

Lorena explained Lucinda was assigned to do the research regarding the Tsaille Water Plan that was once proposed.

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Action: Remove this topic from the agenda in future. This has been on the agenda for 3 consecutive scheduled meeting.

B. Revitalization for Idling Farmlands

Lorena explained how the revitalization for idling farmlands came about, and what process was taken. The following took place:

1. Wrote letter to BIA Chinle office and Gallup Office; Navajo Nation Department of Agricultural, Council Delegate, and Resource Development Committee.
2. Sublease – Requesting farmers to sublease there farmland only one was approved. Farmers at the time stated that they are not interested in sublease, and work on their farmland, but has not happen to date. However, Mr. Alvin Whitehair wrote a letter to Farm Board requesting his support to sublease to Farm Board, Educational Institution, or family member of the land owner.
3. Wrote letter to Sharon Pinto, BIA Gallup office, but it requested that the we work with Chinle office
4. Attend meeting was Ben Begay from Chinle BIA office who was assigned to attend Farm Board meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2014. At that time, the revitalization plan was presented to him.
5. Submitted a resolution to Chapter requesting support from the chapter officials and the people and was approved. (Prior the grazing wrote a supporting resolution as well)
6. Identified which farmers to work with. These were determined two criteria: 1. soil conditions and 2. Idling farmland for 30 years or more. There are six farmers identified from Lower Wheatfields and 2 farmers from Tsaille (soil conditions were determine factors) The other 2 were from Upper Wheatfield using the 30yrs or more idling farmland.

Now, we are moving with it the plan. The following needs clarity:

10 year plan	Assessment	Budget	Identify Workers	Notification
Teaching /Learning Planning Fencing Planting Irrigation	Pictures Soil testing Survey Recommended plants Condition of fence.	Create a budget	Identify workers	Write and sent notification to farmers.

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Action: The Farm Board and Water Users will identify a date to conduct a work session to lay out a plan for working with the farmers.

Motioned by Dorthea Litson

Seconded by Matthew Benally

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

C. Inventory for Storage

Lorena explained that the Farm Board members presented to the Chapter meeting requesting storage, so the irrigation pipes and other supplies be stored there. Three options were presented to the Chapter official, staff, and people during the Chapter Planning meeting. The three options were as follow:

1. Renovation of metal building located south of Chapter House
2. Purchase and place Chain Link fence in Hay Barn
3. Purchase a metal Storage Unit

It was decided to go with option ONE during the chapter planning meeting. As a result, it was present at Chapter Meeting and was approve. To do the renovation: 4 Labors; 1 supervisor; and materials (listed provided by Farm Board and Water User)

In addition, Dorthea reviewed the inventory of equipment's and materials that was purchased. She explained that these were purchased with the balance of Lower Wheatfields Irrigation Project.

However, Lorena explained the storage that we requested has unclear terms such as for how long we use the storage.

QUESTIONS; COMMITS: OR SUGGESTIONS:

Who is paying the labor and materials for the renovation?

Will the renovated metal building be rented or assigned to the Farm Board?

Lorena explained the labors and materials are being purchased by the Chapter. The Metal Building regarding the rent or assign is unclear. This is what we were talking about we are unclear about the long term agreement. So what do we request?

Action: Request for the storage from the Chapter.

Motioned by Lupita McClanahan

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

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D. Community Water Plan

Dorthea explained what we are talking about in terms of Community Water Plan. For our community, it is critical for us to think about how we can sustain our water source for next 100 year so there will be enough for our children. We need to collect data then develop a plan for Domestic use; Ranching and farming use.

Lorena explained that we have Water Code covered for Lower Wheatfields, Upper Wheatfields, and Tsaille. We worked with Mr. Jack Utter on the receiving the Water Code coverage for all three farmland area. In addition, due to water rights, the Navajo Nation Water Management has been working on creating a plan of how water can be delivered to communities throughout the Navajo Nation. For example, in our area there is a plan for piping the water from the Colorado River to Sweetwater; Rock Point; Round Rock; Lukachukai; and Tsaille – Wheatfields-Blackrock.

Action: Request for a Joint Meeting with CLUPS on September 14, 2014 for the second time.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Identify a person to attend Fish and Wildlife Conference on August 5 & 6, 2014.

Lorena explained at the Chapter meeting the Farm Board was assigned to identify a person to attend the Fish and Wildlife conference on August 5 & 6, 2014. In June, one of our farmers was concern about wildlife, and he requested that we invite the Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife to take about some their plan for dealing with wildlife being in farmlands.

Action: Asked Freddie Yazzie to attend the conference.

Motioned by Lupita McClanahan

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

B. Resignation of Vice President for Tsaille – Wheatfields – Blackrock Dineh Water Users

Lupita requested to amend the agenda to add her request her resignation. The motioning parties who have approved the agenda approved to amend the agenda.

As a result, Lupita submitted her resignation letter and explained her reasoning.

Lorena commented, “Thank you for helping us out thus far and it has been a pleasure to work with you.”

Dorthea commented, “Thank you for helping out the Water Users.”

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Action: Lupita's request to resign from the Water Users position as Vice President was approved.

Motioned by Dorthea Litson

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

REPORT

A. Farm Board

Lorena reported the Farm Board submitted a proposal last year for 1.2 million dollars requesting for farm equipment and personal. The proposal was submitted for the Narbona Growth Funds, but end up on the Chapter's priority list as number one. The Chapter commented that their priority was Wheatfields Lake Development.

In past Farm Board meeting, we talked about finding that proposal, so it can be refined, and be ready to submit to another source of funding. The proposal has been found.

Dorthea reported she learned the proposal written with Dine' Policy Institute and Land Grant Office of Dine' College to develop food policy for our community farmers and ranchers was NOT funded. She continue to feel that is very important to develop, so she will be in process of going back to the drawing board with the Program offices of Dine' College to search for funding.

B. Water Users

Dorthea explained that the Water User worked with Chapter to rehire two Water Masters. The two are Matthew Benally and Chester Silver. Orientation has been conducted by Dorthea with the two already. Matthew started on Monday, July 21, 2014 and Chester will start Monday, July 28, 2014.

Matthew Benally reported the following are irrigating:

Tsaile – Freddie Yazzie baled his hay. Anthony Brown is currently irrigating.

Upper Wheatfields – No farmer is irrigating at this time.

Lower Wheatfields – Sadie Neztosie baled her hay. Emerson has about three more days of irrigation; Leslie Allen finished his irrigation.

Dorthea also reported that she started irrigating last week when she took leave for it, but Leslie was asking for water so I turn off on line of irrigation. Currently, she continues to irrigate the fields which are a total of 50 acres.

Actions: To put the two proposals on next agenda item, and accept the reports.

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IV. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Item

2 – Proposals;

B. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date scheduled, Thursday, August 14, 2014 @ 9am Wheatfields
Chapter House.

C. Adjourn Meeting

Action: Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Michael Lee

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried