

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
Sunday July 28, 2019 @ 1:00 PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsaile/Wheatfields  
Chapter BY: FSB

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 – 7/14/19

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. Agreement with Marquel Begay

- 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. Lucinda Chee
- 2.

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 July 28, 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 1:20 pm by the President.
- B. Invocation:  
Lorena Eldridge
- C. Roll Call  
Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis – present, 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 Lorena Eldridge  
Motion to accept the agenda as is by: Evelyn Litzin  
Second by: John Chee  
Votes: 5 – 0 - 2
- F. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes  
Minute for 7/14/19 read by Lucinda Davis  
Motion to accept the minutes as read by: John Chee  
Second by: Evelyn Litzin  
Votes: 4 – 0 - 3

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

We have forms that need to be filled out by all farmers that tells what you planted and how much you got from the farm. Even if you don't plant or if you planted but did not get anything from the farm you still need to fill out the crop inventory form. This is very important when you have a farm. It is required by the Navajo Nation and BIA, and this is also used for the Water Rights. We submit reports quarterly but the crop inventory is required twice a year. There are 13 chapters that have farm boards out of 110 chapters, with 43 members. At this chapter there are three of us that are elected, Lorena, Emerson and Lucinda. We really need the report more reports in September, as many as we can collect. This will just be information, no action taken.

- 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

Lorena went over what this is since there were some new people in the meeting. Lorena is trying to irrigate and there is not enough water for all the farmers. Since we don't have a report from the Water Users, there is not really much to report.

Lucinda reported the status of her farm in Upper Wheatfields. The Water Users did put up the fence, but the gate is already wide, but they extended the gate several feet more and left that part open now the cows are going into the fence. I think they should let the farmers know when they leave the fence open. WUA know where to get hold of me and it is curtesy to let people know when you work on their farmland. Lorena explained the purpose of the WAP, we want to get back into production for all the farmland, if we can do that then we can ask NRCS to assist us with a new irrigation system for the whole Upper Wheatfields. The key is the two year production to all the resources. There is also funding under USDA called beginners farmers. It's good to get a plan together to start. The farm board from here went to farm to school training where you can sell your products to a school. There is a lot of policies with that, but we attended that and got certificates.

Motion to approve the report by: John Chee

Second by: Patricia Morgan

Vote: 7 – 0 – 3

- 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

The training has been going on since 2018 for all the farmers and this is put on by Land Grant Office at Dine College and the Water Users Association. This is 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.** Agreement with Marquel Begay

She explained her project and how she wants to help grazing and the farm board. She wants to know how the farm board wants the maps done. The farm board want to check all the farms to see if any of them have changed. What we need is to have it GPS maps. Marquel said she only has about two weeks to work before going back to school. The Farm Board said we need to have an MOU to have her help us with maps. Lucinda will

draw up an MOU tomorrow and see if it's agreeable with both sides. This has to be for the Farm Board's use only.

Motion: John Chee

Second: Evelyn Litzin

Vote: 5 – 0 - 3

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. Lucinda Chee

She did not show, but we will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion: Patricia Morgan

Second: Evelyn Litzin

Vote: 4 – 0 - 4

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. WUA Report

No one showed, but we put this on our agenda at each meeting.

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

Lorena reported on the special meeting the Chapter had on the resignation of Nelson Begaye stepping down from the Council. There were several people that want replace Nelson and those names went into Window Rock, but to date we have not heard anything back. That same afternoon there was a joint farm board meeting in Window Rock. There was a resolution that was put before the farm board regarding planting Hemp. Right now, NAPI and NMSU have the approval to plant hemp. This is just a study to see how will it is going to work. Farm Board approved the resolution. It has not been approved on the Navajo Nation so the people that were planting hemp are in violation. Some people were already planting hemp and they were caught and have to face jail time. Dine Benally was told not to plant it because it is not approved by the Nation.

The second resolution was on Navajo Nation General Leasing Act, land leasing policy has regulation and procedures, home site lease, business lease, etc. What about leasing of farmland, how can we lease farmland. The issue is BIA still has control of the farm permits, because the agreement is between BIA and the Farmer, nowhere does it include the Farm Board or the Navajo Nation. Navajo Nation want to take that over instead of BIA just like home site lease. There was a lot of discussion, but at the end the farm board approved to have it transferred to the nation.

The third resolution was on standard operating procedures, the changes have been made without putting it before the farm board. A substitute motion was made to take it back to the chapters and will be put on the next joint farm board meeting.

Tyrone Chee said Gilbert Harrison does not put the items on the agenda, but just bring it up and wants it approved without letting Farm Board really think it through and just puts it to a vote, which is not the right way to do things. Plan of Operations, to Title 3 of Navajo Nation

Code, has moved forward and now it needs a sponsor to put it before the council. There were 3 resolutions that were put before the farm board.

B. Announcements

1. Chapter Meeting 8/5/2019 @1:00
2. Farm Board Meeting 8/11/19 @10:00
3. Farm Board Meeting 8/25/2019 @1:00
4. Permittee Meeting 8/27/19 @2:00

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

1. Same as usual
2. Lucinda Chee

B. Next Meeting

August 11, 2019 at 10:00 am

Lorena adjourned the meeting

All in favor

Adjourned at 3:37 pm