

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
Sunday August 14, 2019 @ 10:00 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

AGENDA

I. 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 – 7/28/19

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2019

Tsalle/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: PA

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 August 14, 2019 @ 10:00 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

Minutes

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting called to order
Meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by the President.
- B. Invocation:
Charles Chee
- C. Roll Call
Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, Emerson Chee – present
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: James Becenti
Second by: Elizabeth Becenti
Votes: 7 – 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: James Becenti
Second by: Elizabeth Becenti
Votes: 7 – 0 - 2

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 will be setting a deadline for crop inventory on September 20, 2019 so we can submit with the quarterly report to Department of Agriculture. September is the deadline for quarterly reports.

Elizabeth Becenti is asking for the forms, and she wants to know where to get the forms, so Lorena will send one to the Chapter so they can print some so they can be available to the Farmers. Make sure you turn the forms back in to the Farm Board meeting, not the Chapter.

James Becenti wants to know how to enter crops at the Window Rock Fair. He is asking Lorena to check into that for him. Lucinda said Ivan should know, but he is more into the rodeo section.

Lorena said she will check but Parks and Recreation has all the money for the fair but it is given to Department of Agriculture, but they don't have money.

We would like for everyone to write your name and phone number and email so we can let you know of the meetings.

This will be a report.

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

There is no updates on the project. We did a resolution back several meetings ago and we still have concerns on the project. The resolution is to amend the MOA, we would like the Farm Board to be added on the MOA. Allen Begay motion and Bennie Chee second on July 11, 2019. We submitted the resolution to Rudy Shebala, the Division of Natural Resources and he want to do something about it. B & F members have lots of questions. As far as water, there is not enough for all the Farmers. Lorena was told July 22 it would be her turn to irrigate and she put the pipes out there but it is almost the end of August, but she has not irrigated. The scheduling is real bad, the same people are irrigating over and over. Last year she got more, abut this year it is already starting to get cold. The dams should have been fixed by now, instead all the water just by passed and on to Many Farms.

Angela Kedelty subleased her farmland and that is the only farm that is getting irrigated and that is the only place the grass is green.

The outside fencing is supposed to be the same as what the BIA has on their records, but that is not happening in some places. The Lower Wheatfields is not completed and Upper Wheatfields and Tsaille have not been completed. That is all the information we have.

James asked if it is possible to have one of the Farm Board member to go with Aaron out in the field to make sure we get the update status with the whole project. The only thing is he does not respond to text for email so it is hard to work with him.

James wants to know how many irrigation tech are there, but Lorena told him we don't know and but we use to have two position, but not this year.

The Farmer from Tsaille asked for water and they just got water for half a day and then they turned it off. They had planted alfalfa and she planted but it cannot be watered, now it is just dry. They even have to haul water to their fields.

Lorena said they told Herman Largo about the water issues, if he wins the council. The others that are running have not visited us, only Herman. Others have not asked how we are working and what we need help with. We will go through all the old businesses before we do the approval. The younger generation study the planting and irrigation, it is not the same as the way the elderlies use to plant and farm back in the days.

- 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

All this training is going by the modern ways by those that are educated. Right now we have prairie dogs that are a problems and if you irrigate with lots of water but we don't have enough water.

- 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

Marquel texted Lorena this morning and said she will not be able to come to this meeting so we will defer to the next meeting.

- 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

We will put her on the next meeting on August 25, 2019. Ben Begay came from BIA so he was informed on what is needed on this farmland. It was 20 acres but it will be a smaller part that will be farmland and the other part will be homesite.

Now that we covered all the old business motion was made by Teresa Chee and second by Elizabeth Becenti Vote: 10 – 0 - 1

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. WUA Report

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

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

1. Ben Begay – BIA

Email: benjamin.begay@bia.gov

There is a back log on reissue of permits for grazing and farmland. What is holding up the issuing of the permit is the conservation plan. BIA can help the individuals with this then we can help the individual then it goes back before the farm board. These have to be signed by the manager. It will be good to email the conservation to BIA, that way it can be completed with the help of the technician. The main problem that is holding up the process is BRC, vegetation, wildlife, endangered species. All this is by the Fish & Wildlife. Fish and Wildlife is saying the land is in poor condition so why do you want animals with a permit. The only way is to defer having permits. They want plans, what is your plan to

fix the poor condition. The red book has that in it. If you have a farm land that had never been planted then it need an arch clearance. Upper, Lower, Tsaile don't need an ach clearance, but if it has no permit then it needs an arch clearance.
Fish & Wildlife in 1969

B. Announcements

1. Chapter Meeting 8/19/2019 @1:00
2. Farm Board Meeting 8/25/19 @1:00
3. Grazing Meeting 8/21/2019 @9:00
4. Permittee Meeting 8/27/19 @2:00

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

1. Same as usual
2. Marquel Begay
3. Lucinda Chee
4. Forms

B. Next Meeting

August 25, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Motion to adjourn Teresa, second Kathy Benally

Adjourned at 1:10 pm