

Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Friday, August 21, 2015
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 Last Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2015
- f. Announcements:
 - Chapter Planning Meeting, Tuesday, September 1, 2015 @ 3pm Wheatfields Chapter Hse
 - Regional Water Plan Meeting, Wednesday September 2, 2015 @ 9am Wheatfields Chapter Hse.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fish and Wildlife – Prairie Dog Control
- b. Alternative Plan -
- c. Hosting of Regional Water Plan

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 1. Lula Chee request Probate Land Use Permit – Late Father, Thomas James, Tsaile Farmland area.

IV. Reports

- a. Farm Board
- b. Water User
- c. Water Masters
- d. Others

V. CONCLUSION

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

Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Friday, August 21, 2015
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

Meeting Minutes

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 10:30 pm

b. Roll Call:

Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge and Dorthea Litson present. Lucinda Davis absent.

Water User: Dorthea Litson present. Aaron Begay and Kathy Johns absent

c. Invocation provided by Adele Begay

d. Adopt agenda

Dorthea read list agenda items. No amendments, or questions.

Action: The reviewed agenda accepted as read.

Motioned by Adela Begay

Seconded by Robin Jackson

Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

e. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2015

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes from August 9, 2015 meeting. No amendments. The questions and comments were as follow:

What are the nine priorities the Navajo Nation?

Lorena indicated that the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches of the Navajo Nation met and developed a priorities list that all can work toward. The Farming and Ranching is listed at the 9th priority list. She does have a copy but not at the moment.

The farm board conducted survey to figure out why farmers don't farm. A large percentage, indicated that they have no equipment. As a result, the Farm Board submitted a \$2.9 million proposal to request for farm equipment and man power.

Action: The read meeting minutes accepted as read.

Motioned by Adela Begay

Motioned by Robin Jackson

Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

f. Announcements:

- Chapter Planning Meeting, Tuesday, September 1, 2015 @ 3pm Wheatfields Chapter Hse
- Regional Water Plan Meeting, Wednesday September 2, 2015 @ 9am Wheatfields Chapter Hse.

Additional announcement – Farm Board, Grazing, & Eastern Land Board Workshop, August 24 to August 26, 2015 in Albq. NM. Focus on Conservation Plan.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Fish and Wildlife – Prairie Dog Control

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Lorena explained that at the last meeting, the farmers have been concern about the prairie dog. Due to the growing population, the farmers are unable to plant. As a result, we decided to request Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife staff to present information on the latest effective treatment today at 10am. However, they are not present today. They might be very busy with Shiprock area.

Action: Write a letter to Navajo Fish and Wildlife to request for presentation from them at next meeting.

Motioned by Mrs. Sandoval

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

b. Alternative Plan -

Lorena explained that within Tsaile – Wheatfields Chapter there are 127 farmers who utilizes irrigation water to farm their land. However, there are many idling farmlands in all three areas. Three years ago when the Farm Board came into office they established a goal. The goal statement, “By summer 2015, 100% of the farmland will be a productive farmland.” The Farm Board conducted surveys to figure out why people have idling farmland, and many indicated it was to lack of equipment. This alternative plan has been in the works for several years. Several farmers were selected to be a part of the project and three criteria was used, Soil health; probate cases; or idling land for 30 years or more.

Dorthea comment that she has not written to the selected farmer, but she will do that.

Action: Write and submit letter to identified farmers to let them know that the Farm Board is requesting for their participations in the project. Ask the identified farmer to attend next Farm Board meeting on Friday, September 18, 2015. This already put to motion at last meeting on August 9, 2015.

c. Hosting of Regional Water Plan

Lorena explained that the Tsaile – Wheatfields Chapter is hosting the Regional Water Plan meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 9am Wheatfields Chapter House.

All are encourage to attend. Engineers will report on research study regarding drinking water availability.

Action: To accept the flyer for the Region Water Meeting.

Motioned by Robin Jackson

Seconded by Adale Begay

Voting 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

III. NEW BUSSINESS

a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.

2. Lula Chee request Probate Land Use Permit – Late Father, Thomas James, Tsaile Farmland area. The family members are continuing their talk about this matter.

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Action: Defer to next meeting.
Motioned by Dorthea Litson
Seconded by Robin Jackson
Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

- a. Farm Board
No report provided.
- b. Water User
No report provided.
- c. Water Masters
No report. No show.
- d. Others
How do we educate our community people about so many major concerns and issues that they will be face with in the near future?

For example, my farmer have their farmland idling for this long, and when the farm board tells them that it ties to the Water Rights, and they seem Not To have the concern for it.

Robin indicated that is true? But community education and outreach has to be conducted continuously to bring the issue to light for them.

Lorena asked Adele about, "How much do you know about the Water Rights and other resources concern that the Navajo Nation will be dealing with?"

Adele indicated that she is aware of and is involve with so many? She suggested to have Robin do a presentation to the people.

Robin reported that she attended a Resource Development Committee Meeting. The members of RDC are developing an Integrated Resource Plan, and plan to go public with it at a later date. The plan outlines:

- 1. Restart timber cutting for commercial use
- 2. Sand Gravel Operation
- 3. Gas and Oil drilling

The concerns are to DO MORE resource extraction, and NO PLAN for RESTORATION or other sustainable solution.

Dorthea suggested to have a one day workshop for people to attend. The presenters of the workshop need to develop scenarios for situation in order for attendees to really understand.

Action: To have Robin Jackson to do a presentation on Very Concern Issues that the Navajo Nation will be challenge with in near future - Water Rights Issue; the impact the Integrated Resource Plan that the Navajo Nation is developing.

Motioned Dorthea Litson
Seconded by Adele Begay
Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

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V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items (Please note: it was mentioned to only have two item on the agenda, but when reviewing the report two additional items need to be added.)

- Robin Jackson presentation
- Fish & Wildlife presentation
- LUP – Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc. – Lula Chee
- Alternative Plan - Participants

B. Scheduled next meeting date to Friday, September 18, 2015 @ 10am Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

C. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjourned at 12: 25pm.

Motioned by Robin Jackson

Seconded by Adale Begay

Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried