

**TSAILE – WHEATFIELDS FARM BOARD AND DINEH WATER USERS JOINT MEETING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014
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, September 21, 2014
- f. Announcements:
 - Chapter Meeting, October 20, 2014 @ 4pm Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
 - Water User Meeting with Navajo Nation Water Project, November 12, 2014 @ 10 am to 3:30pm
 - Work Session – Community Water Plan, Wed. Oct. 22, 2014 @ Chapter House 9:30am

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Tsaile Water Plan
- b. Proposal
- c. Reservation Wide Farm Board Workshop
- d. Financial Report – Water Users
- e. Report on Paid and unpaid Operation and Maintenance fee
- f. Community Water Plan

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land User Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 1. Phillip Benally Sr.
- b. Farm to School

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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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014
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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting called to order @ 10:55am
- b. Roll call
Farm Board: Lorena Eldridge, Lucinda Davis, and Dorthea Litson were all present.
Water Users: Dorthea Litson present; Aaron Begay and Kathy Johns absent.
- c. Invocation conducted by Lucinda Davis
- d. Adopt agenda
Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No questions, comments, or amendments.
Action: The agenda was accepted as read.
Motioned by Lucinda Davis
Seconded by Teresa Chee
Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained *Motion Carried*
- e. Reading and adopt last meeting minutes, September 21, 2014
Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. One amendment made.
Action: The amendment that needs to be changed by Dorthea is on page 5. The number where it states 554 million needs to be changed to 554 billion. The rest seems fine.
Motioned by Teresa Chee
Seconded by: Lucinda Davis
Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained *Motion Carried*
- f. Announcements:
 - Chapter Meeting, October 20, 2014 @ 4pm Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
 - Water User Meeting with Navajo Nation Water Project, November 12, 2014 @ 10 am to 3:30pm
 - Work Session – Community Water Plan, Wed. Oct. 22, 2014 @ Chapter House 9:30amNo additional announcements.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Tsaille Water Plan
Lorena explained that Mr. Allen Begay, Tsaille farmer, reported that at one time there was a plan for the Tsaille farmlands where the Tsaille Lake will be pumped back up above the farmlands, so it can be used for irrigation. Lucinda was assigned to conduct a research.

Lucinda stated, “She looked into this matter. According to Navajo Nation Department of Water Resource Director, Tsaille Lake was planned to be pumped back up above the farmlands. The staff help provide ideas to the plan it at one time, but the office has no copy of the actual plan.”

A question was asked, “So is there a developed plan for the Tsaille Lake?”

Yes, there is a plan out there, and we need to figure out who might have the plan or just add to the proposal.

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Action: Develop a plan and write into an official proposal.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 11 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

b. Proposal

Lorena explained the farm board and water users conducted a work session on October 12, 2014 to identify potential funding sources to request for money, and we identify projects into categories.

Dorthea shared the following information as mention above with the farmers:

Potential funders under the Navajo Nation:	Water Users and Farm Board’s wish list:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UUFB 2. CIP (Capital Improvement Project) 3. Narbona Growth Fund 4. \$554 billion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farm Equipment (based on survey conducted with 89 farmers) 2. Personnel – (6) staff positons 3. Warehouse and office 4. Infrastructure Improvement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Upper Wheatfields Irrigation system including diversion Dam b. Tsaile Irrigation System including diversion Dam c. Fence for outside boundaries of farmland in all three areas 5. Tsaile Water Plan
<p>Currently, the two organization has a written proposal requesting for Farm Equipment and Personnel. However, it need minor adjustments. Such create role and responsibilities for the personnel positions that were identified.</p>	

Action: The Farm Board and Water Users created a deadline, Friday October 24, 2014, to finalize the proposal and all assignment be gathered to one central location.

- *Lorena is assigned to develop the roles and responsibilities for Farm Manager, Accountant, Office Specialist, and Irrigation Technician.*
- *Dorthea is assigned to develop the roles and responsibilities for the Grant Writer.*
- *Lucinda is assigned to research the cost for conducting a feasibility study for working on Upper Wheatfields and Tsaile Farmlands.*

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Noel Bikeddy

Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

c. Reservation Wide Farm Board Workshop

Lorena explained that Land Grant Office of Dine’ College asked this Farm Board to work with other farm board across the Navajo Nation. At the last meeting we talked about this. Now, we need an

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update of the plan. In addition, she reported that there are 43 farm board members under 13 chapters across the Navajo Nation. The farm board works with Navajo Tribal Code Title 3.

Dorthea explained that the survey was not sent out to the Farm Board across the Navajo Nation, but based on what was presented at the last meeting it narrowed down to four area of need: Water, Soil, Plant, and Weed controlled. She is working with Land Grant Office staff in identifying presenters. The Land Grant office will take care of the paying the presenters, and food for the two day workshop. However, at this time we need to identify dates for the two day workshop.

Action: The workshop dates selected were as follow: November 18 & 17, 2014 @ Dine' College. Dorthea is assigned to work with Land Grant office to create the agenda and area of need for help. The people requested to provide an update on the plan at next meeting.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 11 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

d. Financial Report – Water Users

Dorthea reported the current balance in the Water Users Association account. In that report she shared current expense and deposits made.

e. Report on Paid and unpaid Operation and Maintenance fee

Dorthea reported that 36% of farmers paid the operation and maintenance fee, and 64% of farmers have NOT PAID the operation and maintenance fee. Please note this data shows the 36% are farmers who paid in full; and there are farmers making partial payment; they are still counted in the 64%.

Questions; comments, or suggestions were as follow:

Noel commented that she is aware of not paying her operation and maintenance fee. She and her nephew, Rudy Begay, owns the farmland. She notified that we have been sending invoices to Rody Begay, but requested the name change to Rudy Begay. She provided her address; and is unsure of Rudy Begay's. Finally, she commented that she was UNAWARE that she can make partial payment.

Action: The financial report and operation and maintenance fee report were accepted, and request to possibly let farmers know that they can make partial payment to paying for their operation and maintenance fee.

Motioned by Noel Bikeddy

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 11 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

f. Community Water Plan

Dorthea explained the Tsaille – Wheatfields Dineh Water Users, Farm Board, Community Land Use Planners, and Grazing Representative have been meeting about how they can work together develop a community water plan for our Tsaille – Wheatfields – Blacrock community. The plan will have data about the water resources and identify needs for domestic use, Farming and Ranching use, and

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Economic development. Also, identify ways we can conserve water for future use; and bring about water shed and water restoration project.

Action: No action taken. It was more of an information for the people. However, the Chapter official and Water Users and hopefully other committee will be meeting on this matter on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 9:30 am at Wheatfields Chapter House.

III. NEW BUSSINESS

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

2. Phillip Benally Sr.

Mr. Phillip Benally Sr. and several of his daughters were present. The family came before the Farm Board members and people requesting land use transfer to their young sister Elsie Benally. Phillip Benally Sr. has been requesting the transfer for some time now, but the children are finally in the process doing transfer.

The following daughters all spoke:

1. Noel explained that her father has been inquiring of when his Land Use permit for his farmland be transferred to his youngest daughter Elsie Benally. She informed the people that her father's grazing permit was transferred on October 2014. And as siblings they have come together to ensure the permit is passed on their sister, Elsie Benally.
2. Joanne explained that her father is in his 90's, and very humble to be with him thus far. He has been inquiring about the Land Use transfer to be conducted soon. Today, is the day that we come before the Farm Board, and now asked all the Farm Board members and people to accept the request to transfer the Land Use Permit to her sister Elsie. Her sister has been involved in the farm work in her lifetime. She helped their father for all time he was able to work the land.
3. Rosita explained to the people and Farm Board that she is grateful to be part of the Farm Board meeting today. She encouraged the Farm Board for their courageous efforts for planning great projects for the farmers and the people within the community. Again, she iterated to the people and farm board to grant her families' wish to transfer her father's Land Use Permit to her sister.

Comments, suggestions, and questions:

Lorena encouraged the family, Phillip Sr. and his daughter, for coming to the farm board meeting to request the Land Use transfer. It is a great decision that the siblings and Mr. Benally have made to give the Farmland –Land Use Permit to Elsie. She has witness Elsie working the farmland with her father as she was growing up. Today, she is able and competent to work the land.

Dorthea explained the following process that will take place for this Land Use Permit to be transferred to Elsie' name:

- Paper work will be filled out to declare the transfer.
- Farm Board resolution and copy of the meeting minutes will be attached to the paper work, and Land Use Permit.
- Elsie will need to write a conservation plan for the farmland, and once this is completed it will be attached to all documents.

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- Once the entire documents are gathered then Dorthea will submit the paper work to the staff of the BIA Natural Resource Office in Chinle, AZ.

Dorthea let the family know that they can receive technical assistant in writing their conservation plan from Land Grant Office staff, Dine' College, Tsaile, AZ.

Action: The people and Farm Board approved the Land Use Permit of Phillip Benally Sr.'s farmland in Lower Wheatfields will be transferred to his daughter Elsie Benally. Elsie will complete the conservation plan for the farmland and give to Dorthea, so she can attached that to all of the documents and submit to the staff of BIA Natural Resources in Chinle, AZ.

Motioned by Joanne Benally

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 12 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

b. Farm to School

Dorthea explained the following:

- Land Grant Office staff, New Mexico State University, University of Arizona, and New Mexico state Extension Agent, Aztec Office, have work in collaboration with Shiprock, NM farmers in developing a grant which has been funded.
- The purpose of the project is to certify farmers, so they can sell their produce to local schools.
- The proposal outlines 10 workshops that farmers have to attend to get certified.
- These workshops are open to other farmers to attend.
- Now, the Tsaile – Wheatfields Farm Board is searching for five farmers that will be committed to attending the workshops so they can also be certified.
- The workshops start January 2015 and forward, one workshop per month.

Action: No action taken, but a requested made to disseminating the information to community.

IV. Reports

A. Farm Board

No reports by President, Vice President, or Secretary.

B. Water User

No reports

C. Water Masters

Not Reports

Action: No action were taken.

V. CONCLUSION

A. Identify next agenda items

The following were the next agenda items:

- Financial Report
- Community Plan
- Proposal

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- Reservation Wide Farm Board Workshop
- Planning for the Annual Water Users Meeting

B. Scheduled next meeting date for Sunday, November 9, 2014 @ 1pm

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 1:20pm

Motioned by Noel Bikeddy

Seconded by Joanne Benally

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried