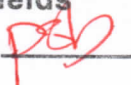


Agenda

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DEC 20 2017

Tsaile/Wheatfields  
Chapter BY: 

- I. Order of Business
  - a. Meeting called
  - b. Invocation
  - c. Roll Call
  - d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials
  - e. Review and Adoption of Agenda
  - f. Read last meeting minutes, November 26, 2017

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).
- B. Facilitate farm improvement/outreach activities for farmers in collaborations with tribal, state and private sectors.  
**Goal Statement:** Conduct 2 agricultural educational outreach / workshops for famers per quarter per 13 FBs.
  - 1. Wheatfields Agriculture Project
    - a.
    - b.
- C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and Navajo Nation.  
**Goal Statement:** With farmer participation, implement conservation plan 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 plan per quarter according to conservation plan.
  - 1. None
- 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 of Farm Permit. (3 ALUP x each 13 FB member).
  - 1. BIA

TSAILE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017 @ 1PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

2. Emerson Chee

- III. New Business
  - A. WUA Financial Report
  - B. Inside Fencing
  - C. Apache County Yard within Chapter Compound (*added to the agenda*)
  
- IV. Receiving Reports
  - A. Reports
  - B. Announcements
  
- V. Conclusion
  - A. Next Agenda items
  - B. Next Meeting
  - C. Adjournment

MEETING MINUTES

I. Order of Business

a. Meeting called to order at 1:40pm

b. Invocation by Sadie Neztosie

c. Roll Call

- **Farm Board** - Lorena Eldridge and Dorthea Litson present. Lucinda Davis absent.
- **Water User** – Anelda Kedely, Dorthea Litson, and Amelda Benally present.

d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials

Lorena asked all of the Water Staff come before the people to introduce themselves.

Aaron Begay – Farm Manager

Alvin Johnson – Accountant

Ruby Ramirez – Office Specialist

In addition, she thank all of the Dine College Land staff for their partnership. Being able to run the workshops for the farmers.

e. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Dorthea Litson reviewed the agenda. An amendment made, to add the Apache County yard to be leased to Tsaille Wheatfields Blackrock Dineh Water User.

**Action: To add the amendment, Lease the Apache County Facility to Water User.**

**Motioned by Bennie Litson**

**Seconded by Amelda Benally**

**Voting: 27 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained**

**Motion Carried**

f. Read last meeting minutes, November 26, 2017

Lorena or Dorthea did not have copy of the November 26, 2017 meeting minutes. The November 9, 2017 meeting needs to read as well.

**Action: To defer the November 26, 2017 meeting minutes. Also to add the November 9, 2017 meeting too.**

**Motioned by Amelda Benally**

**Seconded by Teresa Chee**

**Voting: 27 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained**

**Motion Carried**

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).

Lorena explained, "This 2017 funding season, the Farm Board are required to submit the crop report twice a year, one in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and the other in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, but they have to submit the conservation plan twice a year." 60 producers participating that are developing conservation plan will be submitted, and pictures included in the plan.

- B. Facilitate farm improvement/outreach activities for farmers in collaborations with tribal, state and private sectors.

**Goal Statement:** Conduct 2 agricultural educational outreach / workshops for famers per quarter per 13 FBs.

**1. Wheatfields Agriculture Project**

The Farm Manager gave the following report on Wheatfields Agriculture Project:

The goal is put all the Land User Permit to use that by April 2018 we meaning Farmers should have confirmed idea of what to plan, based on their conservation plan.

Equipment purchased

22 Farmlands have been soil sample

Work with consultants in planning what to plant, and how to market.

Work with Dine College Land Grant staff in all aspect of the project; looking to for their expertise and knowledge.

Working on perimeter fencing in Lower Wheatfields; "H" braces, T-post, and barbwire will be placed.

*Questions, comments, or suggestions:*

A comment made, "There are 127 farmers, but where are they today. There are only less than 30 farmers participating today."

- C. Provide training and assist farmers in updating or developing a conservation plan as required by BIA and Navajo Nation.

**Goal Statement:** With farmer participation, implement conservation plan training and develop 2 or more plans per quarter per FB review.

1. Training

Lorena asked Dortehea to explain the difference between the supports regarding the training. Dortehea stated, really there is NOT Difference between the two support for farmers:

<b>Wheatfields Agriculture</b>	<b>Dine College Land Grant</b>
Funded through the Navajo Nation Permanent Trust.	Funded through a grant that they have written, and this is the last year of their funding.
Seeds can be purchased with the funding, and Farmer has to go to workshops provided.	Seeds can be purchase with the funding, and each Farmer has to go to workshops
It does not provide the PH meter or the Irrigation progress	Provides PH Meter and Irrigation progress.
Serve 30 farmers.	Serve 30 farmers.

TSAILLE / WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017 @ 1PM  
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

*Comments, suggestions, or questions:*

James Becenti asked, "Does Dine College Land Grant Office have enough money to cover the 30 farmers in their Fund?"

Lorena explained that both programs have enough money.

**Action: To accept reports and discussion from item A, B, & C.**

**Motioned by Anelda Kedelty**

**Seconded by Sadie Neztosie**

**Voting: 27 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained**

**Motion Carried**

- 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 plan per quarter according to conservation plan.

1. None

- 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 of Farm Permit. (3 ALUP x each 13 FB member).

1. BIA

BIA staff from Chinle office had a NO show.

2. Emerson Chee

Emerson requested to be on agenda to report on his conservation plan, but the conservation plan continues to be worked on. He requested to defer him to next meeting.

**Action: To defer Emerson's conservation plan to next meeting.**

**Motioned by Ambrose Chee**

**Seconded by Teresa Chee**

**Voting: 27 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained**

**Motion Carried**

III. New Business

- A. WUA Financial Report

Dorthea stated she is only reporting on the expenses without the balance. She has not met with the accountant due to her job requirements, but will at the next meeting. The following is the expenses:

Storage Building	\$ 121,195.44
Fence materials	\$ 17,129.00
F-550 Ford Truck with Flatbed and 100gallon fuel tank	\$ 55,121.00
Safety Kit and Fire Extinguisher	\$ 376.78
Goose neck flatbed trailer is still coming.	

**Action: To accept the expense report provided.**

**Motioned by Sadie Neztosie**

**Seconded by Amelda Benally**

**Voting: 27 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained**

B. Inside Fencing

Lorena explained, "I am not sure what Lucinda means by inside fencing, but the inside fencing belongs to individual farmers to fix and maintain. Currently, we are working on the perimeter fence improvement only."

*Questions, comments, or suggestions*

Dorthea explained, "The Lower Wheatfields perimeter fencing will start tomorrow December 11 to 19, 2017 with the help of Dine College Land Grant staff and interns. At the same time, we have the in-kind service agreement that farmers with outstanding O&M fee can use to work off their balance. This can range from helping with the fence improvement; cutting logs for "H" braces; and cooking food for the workers."

Jessie Tsosie asked, "Who is going to be able to help me fix my fence?"

Dorthea responded to Jessie question, "This fencing is only for the Perimeter Fence, but you sublease the farmland to the Farm Board as result that will be completed by the Farm Board."

Danny John commented, "I am concern that I will not receive the full help on my fencing in Lower Wheatfields. The Land Use permit assigned has the fencing that runs down into the ditch. Now, the Water Users staff are telling me that the fence will only run along the ditch line."

Lorena responded, "There is a lot of farmers who added fence into the ditches which are not part the assigned Land Use area that they receive for farming. The fence improvement for the perimeter is only for where the Land Use for farming as indicated on Land User permit for farming only."

Dorthea stated, "The TWB Water User Staff will need to work with the Farmers. Each Farmer should have received a copy of their Land User Permit along with map. This is what the farmer need to share with the staff."

Bennie Litson commented, "The perimeter fence improve will need to stay within the existing fencing line as it show according to the map to avoid dispute."

***Action: To approve the perimeter fencing project for all three farmland area; and for the fence line to stay within the existing fence line area use for the Farming or as stated on the Land Use permit.***

***Motioned by Bennie Litson***

***Seconded by Emerson Chee***

***Voting: 23 yes; 0 no; 6 abstained***

***Motion Carried***

C. Apache County Yard within Chapter Compound (*added to the agenda*)

Lorena explained, "The Tsaile / Wheatfields Chapter officials had an agreement with the Apache County, but the lease agreement has completed. The Navajo Nation Department of Transportation is now using the yard, but there is NO lease agreement signed. The Chapter officials would like for us, TWB Dineh Water Users to use the yard and lease that to us. It will be a cost savings for us. The perimeter fence is there. However, now I don't know what you all think about leasing that piece of land to us?"

*Questions, comments, or suggestions:*

Kee Chee commented, “The Apache County staff did work for the community people at one time, but the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation is not working on any road for the community people He requested that the TWB Dineh Water Users and Farm Board to move and utilize the space.” He agreed for leasing it the organization.

Bennie Litson commented, “Thanks and willing to help the people; and now the Wheatfields Agriculture is moving forward. We all know it took time to receiving the money for this project, July 2017. However, the equipment is here and storage building is on is way. We are now preparing for Spring planting. The workshop is provided the Dine College Land Grant staff. We as a community are so fortune to have a college within our community. Now, we really need to find a safe place to store the equipment. The Apache County Yard is great move for us to take as lease purposed by the Chapter Officials.”

***Action: To accept the lease agreement between the Chapter and TWB Dineh Water Users for obtaining the land once known as the Apache County Yard located within the Chapter Compound.***

***Motioned by Bennie Litson***

***Seconded by Kee Chee***

***Voting: 25 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained***

***Motion Carried***

IV. Receiving Reports

A. Reports

Lorena reported she attended the Navajo Nation Joint Farm Board meeting on December 5, 2017. This is where 43 farm board members across the Navajo Nation come together to plan or discuss item pertaining to the direction of Farm Boards work. What was discussed were the New revised and approved Farm Board Plan of Operation and Form 2. Form 2 state that the Farm Board are to submit crop report twice a year in quarter 2 and quarter 4; and conservation plan will be submitted on quarterly bases.

At this meeting, Lorena conduct a report on the Wheatfields Agriculture Project. People had many questions such as what was done to receive the PTF. She responded that, “we wrote our own grant.”

She reported, “the Permanent Trust Fund for the other agriculture project is NOT funded yet, and the president is want a report on the two agriculture projects; and Division of Natural Resources is requesting a meeting with the Tsaile / Wheatfields / Blackrock Dineh Water Users staff, board, and Farm Board.”

Finally, the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture will be conducting a workshop on Conservation Plan at a later time in 2018.

Dorthea reported, “The Tsaile/ Wheatfields/ Blackrock Dineh Water User organization is struggling to receive insurance for Bonding. However, the organization is currently working with another insurance company to cover bonding, liability and workmen compensation insurance.”

***Action: To accept the reported provided.***

***Motioned by Teresa Chee***

**Seconded by Aaron Begay**  
**Voting: 25 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained**

**Motion Carried**

B. Announcements

- Tsaille / Wheatfields Chapter meeting, December 18, 2017 at 12pm, Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfeilds, AZ

Dorthea announced that her concern about the farmers participation in the Wheatfields Agriculture Project. Currently, we have 30 farmers participating in the project, but we need the additional 30 to make the 60 participants. What will the Navajo Nation Council say to us at the next Navajo Nation Budget and Finance meeting? Will the Council request the Farm Board to enforce it policy on idling farmland even if they want to work with it farmers gently.

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

Emerson commented, "Upper Wheatfields have about 31 farmland plots ready to be farmed; Lower Wheatfields have ALL 33 farmland plot ready to be farmed; and Tsaille have 9 farmland plot ready to be farmed." In addition, we talked about it several times in the pass where a criteria was created for whom to work with: Idling farmland for the last 19 to 30 years, and idling farmland that have gave great soil."

Bennie commented, "In the Spring of 2017, he volunteered to visit farmer door to door to invite to the meeting where I explained that the funding will be coming soon, but waited until July receive the funding. However, if someone is going to volunteer to visit farmers then he suggested to deliver letters to them about the project and seeking farmers to participate."

Lorena made a directive to write letter to ALL the farmers, and mail them out when Invoice will be mailed out.

**Action: A directive to write and mail letter to ALL Farmers.**

V. Conclusion

A. Next Agenda items

- Farm Board current Plan of Operation
- Training
- Emerson Chee Conservation Plan
- Report on Perimeter Fence Project
- Water User Financial Report

B. Next Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 10 am Wheatfields Chapter House.

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm

Motioned by Amelda Benally

Seconded by Sadie Neztosie

Voting: All in favor