

Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Monday, February 15, 2016 @ 3:00pm
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

AGENDA

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting call to order
- b. Invocation
- c. Adopt agenda
- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2016
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 2016 Annual Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User Meeting
- b. Financial Report - Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc.
 - Jimmie Deschine Jr. Request for Land Use Permit - Probate
- b. Develop Plans to Collaborate with other entities and resources
- c. Seek to acquire lawyer

IV. Reports

- a. Farm Board
- b. Water User
- c. 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
Monday, February 15, 2016 @ 3:00pm
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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting called to order @ 3:05pm
- b. Invocation by Lucinda Davis
- c. Adopt agenda
Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No amendments or questions.

Action: Agenda accepted as read.

Motion: Lucinda Davis

Seconded Aaron Begay

Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2016
Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. No amendments or questions.

Action: The last read meeting minutes was accepted as read.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 3yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- e. Announcements:
The following are the announcements:
Title: Tsaile – Wheatfields Chapter Meeting
Time: 1pm
Location: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

Title: Tsaile – Wheatfields Community Land Use Planning Meeting

Time: 10am

Location: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 2016 Annual Tsaile - Wheatfields Dineh Water User Meeting
Lorena explained that at the last meeting a draft agenda has been outline. We need to figure out who are presenters might be.
The following were what we talked about:
What time should we talk?
 - Decided to start at 8am and the goal is to end at 5pmStart with a brief information about, “Water User Association establishment and purpose of the organization.” This will include the financial report.

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- Create a newsletter. The newsletter will include Welcome letter from the Chapter President, Water User President, information of nonprofit organization, the organization goals and accomplishments, current projects, and Annual Financial Report.

What kind of presentation do we want? There are two presenters (Please note: It does not have to be two presenters).

- One idea of presentation is on the topic, Traditional way of farming. The second presentation is on the topic- Importance of Soil.
- As a result, we listed who the possible presenters might be. Perhaps if the farmers and community people hear about the Traditional Way of Farming will inspire the farmers to think about their Farmland.
- The traditional way of farming might be the only focus instead of two presentation.
- The presentation could be from 9am to 2pm.

A short Water User meeting to accept the new officers, Vice president and member position. This meeting is to be conducted for an hour or less.

Lunch might be for 45minutes

Lite lunch – Soup & salad

- Potluck style

Dinner with awards from 4 to 5:50pm

- Dorthea is to work with Kim Martinez, Basin Pump, to see if she sponsor Dinner (60 people)

Awards/Recognition

- We need to identify categories, etc.

b. Financial Report - Tsaile – Wheatfields Dineh Water User

Dorthea reported the financial for Water User. The report was for January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 year. The following was reported:

Budget carry over from 2014:	\$ 30,681.93
Revenue Received in 2015:	\$ 3548.53
Total expense in 2015:	\$ 7,786.19
Ending Balance:	\$ 26,444.27

Action: To accept the financial report, and to ensure to put on next agenda, so we can plan for spending the forwarding balance.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

III. NEW BUSSINESS

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

- Jimmie Deschine Jr. Request for Land Use Permit – Probate
Jimmie Deschine Jr. spoke. He explained, “He is requesting for his late aunt Hazel Sandoval’s farmland which is located in Upper Wheatfields Farmland area.” This farmland was given his late brother Edison. Hazel wrote a will to state that all her property will go to her son, Edison Deschine. His brother, Edison, is the one who ask Jimmie to be the next caretaker of the Land Use and Grazing permits. Edison asked Jimmie to take care of all the transfer of the Land Use

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Permit and Grazing while he was still alive, but Jimmie stated that he waiting too long. Now, he is realizing the process is harder, and the process of his paper work will be longer. Finally, he paid for the Annual Operation and Maintenance fee in the amount of \$ 300.00 on this farmland.

Attach to his Land Use application were the original Land Use Permit and a conservation plan. The conservation plan was combine with his Range Management.

Questions, comments, and suggestions:

Lorena explained that the probate is a hug problem for the Tsaile & Wheatfields Farmland area. In addition, she asked Jimmie if this Land Use Permit transfer is agreed by all his siblings.

Jimmie responded, “All his siblings are aware that their brother, Edison, made it known that he was going to be next caretaker of the Land Use Permit and Grazing Permit. His siblings all know that he is in process of transferring all the permits to his name. His two older brothers were to be here at the meeting to witness, but he know his brothers Larry has no transportation and Frankie has knee problem. He is not too sure where they are at.”

Dorthea explained the next steps of the process to Jimmie. She will attached the agenda, meeting minutes, and resolution to the Land Use application and Original Land Use Permit. In the meantime he has to do the same for his grazing permit. He would have to work with Thomas Litson, and the next Grazing Meeting is March 7, 2016 at Round Rock. Once that is all completed he should be able to combine all his paper work, and he will need to find himself a lawyer to submit for his probate case to the Navajo Nation Court System.

Action: To approve Jimmie Deschine request for his late aunt’s, Hazel Sandoval, farmland.

Motioned by Dorthea Litson

Secoded by Aaron Begay

Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

- b. Develop Plans to Collaborate with other entities and resources

Lorena asked, “Why do you think there is a large percentage of idling farmland?”

Jimmie commented, “Not enough water and prairie dogs are a problem.”

Lorena stated, “We asked Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife to provide us an update regarding prairie dogs issue. Charles Blacksheep came and explained that Fish & Wildlife has no money to treat prairie dogs, and one must have pesticide training and certification to treat that. So far, no one at the department is certified to treat prairie dogs.”

Dorthea stated, “The Tsaile Wheatfields Farm Board has exhausted all there remedies for dealing with the idling farmlands. 1 – We wrote letters to all major departments, BIA staff at Chinle office and Gallup office, Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture, Navajo Nation Resources & Development Committee members, and Council Delegate from our area in Spring 2010; 2 – Wrote letters to farmers regarding their idling farmland requesting them to sublease the land, and they all commented they will work on their farmland, and that has not happen; 3 – We wrote letters to BIA Regional Office in Gallup and Chinle again to see if they might support us to the revitalization project; 4 – Recently, Farm Board went before the Resource and Development Committee.”

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Dorthea explained, "It seems the Farm Boards hands are tied at this point." We have about 90% of idling farmlands, and we oversee about 1, 685 acres. The goal is to ensure all farmlands be utilized. The 90% idling farmlands creates a huge problem to seek for money. NRCS might be willing to help, but it require the farmland to be in use for at least 2 years. We put the probate issue before Navajo Nation Resources and Development committee, but they never gave us a directive of what the possibly might be out there for solutions. As a result, we requested for a directive, and they stated that we would meet with them in January 2016. What we are very shocked by is the fact that the Council Delegates stated, "as a solution, get give it the Corporates."

Action: Farm Board will take the idling farmland issue to Navajo Nation Joint Farm Board Meeting on March 17, 2016. There is a need to exhaust all remedies before seeking a lawyer.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Jared Begay

Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

c. Seek to acquire lawyer

Dorthea explained there are numerous farmers not paying their Operation & Maintenance fee. The questions are "How do we get them to pay? Is it possible to work with a lawyer? At the same time, how can we handle the idling farmlands?"

Lorena commented, "The Farm Board has a policies and procedures to follow as statue in the Navajo Nation Law, and we are just a recommending body of government. If we were to make recommendation to follow the law, will BIA and RDCS support it? As mentioned, we tried inviting the upper administrators numerous times and they never sat at the table hear their full support or not.

Action: Water User Association will seek for options to search for a lawyer.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Dorthea Litson

Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

a. Farm Board

President reported, "The Farm Board and Grazing Member supplement funding has been approved by the Navajo Nation Council during the Winter Session of 2016. One of the requirement for the supplement funding is to ensure the Farm Board has work directly with farmers." Working with farmers directly might be a challenge due to farmers not coming to the meetings.

Secretary commented, "She has no report to provide."

b. Water User

President commented, "He has no report to provide."

Secretary commented, "The paper work has been submitted to Navajo Nation Business Regulatory, however, she has not reported anything to IRS yet, and there was no form 1099 to give in the fiscal year 2015."

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- c. Others
No other report.

Action: The reports provided by Farm Board and Water User Officers were accepted.
Motioned by Aaron Begay
Seconded by Jared Begay
Voting: 3 yea; 0 no; 1 abstained *Motion Carried*

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
- Financial Report
 - 2016 Annual Water User (Planning for the meeting.)
 - Joint Farm Board Meeting, March 17, 2016 – included to the agenda)
 - Report from DNA
- B. Scheduled next meeting date to Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3pm Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ
- C. Adjournment
Action: Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm
Motioned by Jared Begay
Seconded by Dorthea Litson
Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained *Motion Carried*