

Tsaile/Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Sunday, February 26, 2017 @ 10am
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, February 12, 2017
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSSINESS

- a. Wheatfields Agriculture Project
- b. Participant of Farmers in the Wheatfields Agriculture Project

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Planning Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 18, 2017

IV. REPORTS

- Grant Tracker
- Employer Policy
- Junk food Sales Tax

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
- b. Create Annual Plan – Farm Board
 - i. Strategic Plan with SWOT Analysis
- B. Scheduled next meeting date
- C. Adjournment

**Tsaile/Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Sunday, February 26, 2017 @ 10am
Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ**

MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order @ 10:23 am

b. Invocation by Ken Natani

c. Adopt Agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. No amendments, questions, or comments.

Action: The agenda accepted as read with no amendments.

Motioned by James Becenti

Seconded by JoAnn Benally

Voting: 17 yes; 0 no; 6 abstained

Motion Carried

d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2017

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes. No amendments, questions, or comments.

Action: The last meeting minutes accepted as read with no amendments.

Motioned by Bennie Litson

Seconded by Yolinda Staley

Voting: 15 yes; 0 no 18 abstained

Motion Carried

e. Announcements:

Title: Chapter Planning Meeting

Date: Monday, March 6, 2017

Place: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

Time: 10am

Title: Navajo Nation Elected Office Training

Date: Monday – Wednesday, February 27, 2017 to March 1, 2017

Place: Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, AZ

Time: 8am to 5pm daily

Title: Tsaile / Wheatfields / Blacrock Dineh Water User Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2017

Place: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

Time: 9am

II. OLD BUSSINESS

a. Wheatfields Agriculture Project

- Participant of Farmers in the Wheatfields Agriculture Project

Lorena explained the following:

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- the proposal was submitted to the Sihasin fund at 3million, but our Navajo Naito Council Delegated fund the project at 5 million through the Permanent Trust Fund in two phases: Phase one at 3million and Phase two at 2million.
- We had several meetings with the Navajo Nation Council Budget & Finance Committee. We are now waiting for the Navajo Nation President sign the Memorandum of Agreement which will be between the Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User and Navajo Nation. The MOA now sits on the Navajo Nation President desk.
- The proposal it for purchasing farm equipment and personnel. The budget is created in details by quarters and by years.
- Finally, this proposal was developed base on the survey we collected from 89 of the 127 farmers, and in that survey it was indicated:
 - Lack of Equipment; and
 - Lack of financial; and
 - Lack of labor.

These were the cause of the NOT farming.

- Now, the main purpose is the *REVITALIZE FARMLAND, SO OUR PEOPLE CAN BE SELF-RELIANCE AND TO SUSTAIN IT FOR GENERATION TO COME.*

Dorthea explained the following:

- The proposal is written to help 100 % of the Farmers and Rangers who have Range Management Unit with the community.
- The goal of the Farmland production to grow:
 - 60% forage corps – hay
 - 30% vegetables
 - 10% traditional food
- The design of the proposal is work with 30 farmers in year one; 60 farmers in year two; 90 farmers in year three; 120 farmers in year four; and 127 farmers in year five. HOWEVER, it does not have to be this way.
- At the same time, we, Farm Board and Water User, created a ten year plan for how the Farm Board and Water Use will provide technical support to farmer, and what and how the farmers will contribute. (She explained this by using a 16 acres plot as an example for planting and irrigating by percentage of acres.

Farm Board / Water User Responsibilities and Roles	Farmers role and responsibilities	Harvesting contribution as payment
Personnel Farm Equipment Workshop Seeds Engineering: Technical Assistant, Maps, soil interpretation, Irrigation,	Planning Irrigation Required to work with children, grandchildren on the farm.	Example. If a farmer plant corn, and he does his part to irrigate, and at harvest time the farmer would take 50% of crop and Water User takes 50%.

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planting suggestion base on soil.		(The 50% the Water User takes is to sustain their project over time.)
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- We are aware that many farmers have not paid their Operation & Maintenance fee, but there are ways that they can contribute to make payment on their Balance. This is with specific work.

Questions, comments, & suggestions;
 The equipment will belong to whom?

Lorena explained, the equipment will belong to Water User.

Leslie Allen: “Let all farmers participate, but I am not sure if all will have children or grandchildren to help. Some of us encourage are children to educate themselves, and that is what they have done, and now they don’t want to farm.”

James Becenti: “Operation & Maintenance fee are only for fixing the main line, but other farmers are told to fix that themselves, and that is not fair. I suggest you work with the Water Masters not say that to Farmers.”

Emerson Chee: “We need to look at our farmland as an investment. He recently traveled to Salinas, CA where he witness small farmers competing with large Corporations. The small farmers start with one acres farm, but have to take classes; and whatever is learn is implement in farming. They have a kitchen set for farmers to use as a mean to clean and prepare their harvest for marketing it at farmers market, grocery store, etc.” “At these farmland, the farmer use solar panel and wind turbines to pump water for irrigation. The only way for us to be successful is to collaborate with one another as we move forward with this project.” “At this workshop, there are translator for people who don’t understand English language using ear phone with them at workshops.” “Finally, as a water master working for several summer, I know there are many areas of work that are need to fix the problems. I’ll comment on James Becenti comment – That farmer volunteer to fix the main irrigation valve that he drove over himself, but to date that farmer has NOT come forth to fixing the problem.”

Bennie Litson: “Thank all the people. The Farm Board wrote the proposal, and funded. I am thankful for their efforts and work. We talked about how to get all farmer to come to meeting; as a result, I volunteered to visit the farmers to deliver the mailing. It makes logical sense for ALL Farmer to participate and NOT wait. He suggested that for all those farmers’ of age to give them to their children or grandchildren, and if they don’t have help then sublease it the Farm Board.” “He stated that is what he did, and now he sees his grandchildren farming and irrigation the farmlands.” “The biggest encourage I can give is “let’s work together to revitalize our farmland land, and make this community a successful where we can produce healthy food.”

Anthony Brown: “How are you planning to help those farmers who are active farmers? We plant an continue to work on the farmland that were given to us.

Lorena explained to Anthony’s questions: we can help you with workshops, and rotational crop rotation.

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In addition, Lorena explained, “the council deligate were not all supportive of providing money to us. There was one, Leonard Tsosie who gave us such a hard time. The USDA have standard for the fencing.

Kee D. Chee indicated that he wants to continue to farm even if he is of age. He suggest to fix the outer fence line.

Lorena indicated that is part of the budget.

Aaron comment that their all possible for revitalizing the farmland, and the farm equipment we will be purchasing is the big equipment that it can do the job fast. We will need to think about the fence line differently in the future with perhaps GPS.

Jessie comment that she pays her O & M fee. I pay in April or May.

Finally, some suggested for the outer fence:

Chain link fence

10 feet fence line

We have to consider NRCS requirement if we are wanting support from them as a future project.

Leslie Allen: He summarized the entire project of Wheatfields Agriculture to the people.

Action: To start all farmers as participants. Important to create an agreement form. Plus will start with the Outer Fence for all three farmland area.

Motioned by Leslie Allen

Seconded by Loriane Sorrell

Voting: 49 yes; 0 no; 4 abstained

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Planning Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 18, 2017
Dorthea explained the Annual Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User is scheduled **March or** the third weekend of March as stated in the By Laws. Last year, we had the annual meeting where we brought in the late James Peshlakai who told us about all the tradition stories pertaining to farming. Dorthea stated, “I am forever grateful for Mr. Peshlakai for his wonderful stories, songs, and prayers; I know that open up more door and now it allows us to approve this fund that were embarking for so long with written proposal.”
Now, what is it that the farmers what to learn about?

Lorena indicated the Title of the Proposal is *Nurturing Healthy & Happy Families*.

The following were proposed topics for workshop:

Sadie Neztosie, *To explained to people the meaning of Revitalization, Sustainability, & Self – Reliance in the context of using Farming and Ranching.*

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Julia Litson, *To explained personal health; the different types of food that are necessary to be part of one's diet to be healthy; why they are important; how to read labels.*

Emerson Chee, *To explained how to plant vegetables, to care for vegetables, to market the vegetables."*

Action: Dorthea search for presenter for the three topic mentioned above.

Motioned by Emerson Chee

Seconded by Westin Carrol

Voting: 34 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

Report on following:

- **Grant Tracker**
Dorthea explained that the Grant Tracker is a software that will be used by the Dineh Water User. The detail budget will be uploaded into the system, and will be used to keep track of the overall budget. Finally, the Navajo Nation Budget and Finance Committee requested that we work with the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller and Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General were they have access to the Grant Tracker at view only. The software is developed by Bryceson Pinto, and he has been working with us from Re - establishment of reorganization of the Dineh Water User in 2010.
- **Employer Policy**
Dorthea explained the Employer Policy is being developed by Bryceson Pinto for the Dineh Water User due to personnel to be hired for the organization.
- **Junk food Sales Tax**
Dorthea explained the Junk Food Sales tax is a revenue that comes into Tsaile / Wheatfields Chapter which is collected in a 50/50 formula distribution. A year ago, the Farm Board took it upon themselves to develop a budget. At the last meeting Farm Board meeting, we developed the following, and submitted to the Chapter meeting where the budget was pass by the community people:

The Tsaile / Wheatfields Farm Board developed the following budget for the Junk Food Sales Tax dollars allocated to the Tsaile / Wheatfields Chapter.

The Farm Board conducted and collected surveys:

The top four request that people indicated:

- *Walking Trail*
- *Park*
- *Indoor Facilities*
- *Gardening*

However, all of the top four mention above requires land allocation, and need other CLUPC to be involve.

The allocation amount is \$25, 459.00

Fiscal Year 2015 \$ 2,963.00

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Fiscal Year 2016 \$ 22,496.00
Total: \$ 25,459.00

Budget for Junk Food Sale Tax:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Health Educator	Salary at \$20,000.00 as a part-time position
Materials and Supplies need to carry out the work.	\$ 5,459.00
Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials and supplies • Presenters 	
Green House: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials and supplies • Seeds 	
Walking Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials and supplies 	

Questions, comments, or suggestions:

Lorine Sorrel: How was the funding decided to be received within the Chapter organization?

Lorena explained that the Junk Food tax is collected throughout the Navajo Nation by the Tax Commission staff. The staff then reallocated those money using the 50/50 formula to each of the 110 chapters.

Action: To accept the reports provided.

Motioned by Lorine Sorrel

Seconded by Anelda Kedelty

Voting: 35 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
- Create Annual Plan – Farm Board
 - Strategic Plan with SWOT Analysis
 - Wheatfield Agriculture Project
 - Annual Water User Meeting

B. Scheduled next meeting date, Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 1pm.

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- C. Adjournment
 - Action: Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm
 - Motioned by Amelda Benally
 - Seconded by Bennie Litson
 - Voting: All in Favor.