

Tsaile/Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Sunday, January 8, 2017 @ 12pm
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, Dec. 18, 2016
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Wheatfields Agriculture Project

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Agreement between Tsaile / Wheatfields Farm Board and Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User

IV. Reports

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

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
 - a. Lease Agreement between Tsaile / Wheatfields Chapter & Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User
 - b. Resolution – Lease Agreement
 - c. 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, January 8, 2017 @ 12pm
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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 12:16pm

b. Invocation by Dorthea Litson

c. Adopt agenda

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

Action: The agenda accepted as read.

Motioned by Kathy Johns

Seconded by Anelda Kedelty

Voting: 8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, Dec. 18, 2016

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

Action: The read last meeting minutes from Dec. 18, 2016 accepted as read.

Motioned by Frank Kedelty

Seconded by Bennie Litson

Voting: 8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

e. Announcements:

The following were announced:

Title: Tsaile / Wheatfields Community Land Use Planning Committee Meeting

When: Sunday, January 8, 2017

Time: 1pm

Place: Wheatfields Chapter, Wheatfields, AZ

Title: Tsaile / Wheatfields Permitte Meeting

When: Monday, January 9, 2017

Time: 9am

Place: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

Title: Chinle Agency Grazing Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Time: 10 am

Place: Student Union Building, Diné College, Tsaile, AZ

Title: Chinle Agency – Navajo Nation Inauguration

When: Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Time: 9am

Place: Pinion Community School, Pinion, AZ

Title: Navajo Nation Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Tsaile/Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting Sunday, January 8, 2017 @ 12pm Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

Time: 9am
Place Window Rock, AZ at head quarters

Title: Tsaile / Wheatfields Chapter Meeting
When: Tuesday, January 17, 2017
Time: 1pm
Place: Wheatfields Chapter House, Wheatfields, AZ

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Wheatfields Agriculture Project

Lorena explained to the people the timeline of the project and work that has been conducted over time.

The Permit Trust Fund from the Navajo Nation was announced back in May 2015 that it was approved by the Navajo Nation Council. Since that time we learned the Wheatfields Agriculture has been funded at 5 million dollars; 3 million dollars allocated for year 2 and 2 million dollars allocated in year 4.

As a result, we worked hard on developing a Fund Management Plan, and presented that the Navajo Nation Budget & Finance in September, but requested an MOA. With the help of Ed McCool, Navajo Nation Lawyer, we developed a Memorandum of Agreement, but was requested for revision it and develop an expenditure plan by quarters over three years at the December Navajo Nation Budget & Finance Committee. We re-drafted the MOA, with the help of Division of Natural Resources Office Director, Bitah Becker. At the same time, the Expenditure Plan was developed in quarters over 5 years. Now, were are waiting approval of MOA and Expenditure Plan on January 17, 2017 to have meeting with the Navajo Nation Budget and Finance Committee.

On January 3, 2017, Lorena attended the Budget and Finance Meeting to explain that she wants the Wheatfields Agriculture on the agenda on January 17, 2017 due to MOA not ready and Ed McCool is not working today. While presenting of the Wheatfields Agriculture, there were many Council Delegate on the Committee commenting that this project will not success, it is failure project. An example, Leonard Tsosie, "Why is the Tsaile / Wheatfields Agriculture Project being treated differently than the Many Farm and Northern Agriculture Project? Besides, if we give the money to Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User and Farm Board, they are going to fail." Mr. Tashoni Slim said, "All should be treated the same. Marketing and taxing for the Navajo Nation is revenue to be seen, possible."

However, Lorena told them, "She accept their negative committee as challenge, and will use that to our advantage to prove that we will be successful. Besides, the plan that the Tsaile / Wheatfields Farm Board and Water Use propose are to help the Nation with the Water Rights issues, and we are pushing ourselves to be self - determine, and have worked with Natural Resources and Conservation District in the past."

On January 6, 2017, Lorena, Bitah Becker, and Teresa Showa, and Dorthea (on phone), revised the MOA. The MOA will be signed between the Tsaile / Wheatfields / Blackrock Dineh Water User and Navajo Nation President. The TWB Dineh Water User will work with TW Farm Board to request for technical assistance if necessary and will report them as well.

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Lorena read line by line to people of what is revised in the MOA, and corrected EQIP. Needs to clearly spell out, “How BIA supporting the revitalization project?; How farmer will repay his /her O&M Fee? – In Kind service also needs to be spell out.”

In the MOA, it state that Water User will report annual to several program, and Division of Natural Resources, Office of Controller, Budget & Finance, TW Farm Board, etc.

The exhibit the MOA are Exhibit A – Proposal; Exhibit B – Year II Expenditure Plan for the 3 million dollars; Exhibit C – Year IV Expenditure Plan for the 2 million dollars; Exhibit D – Performance Criteria.

In the MOA, the equipment purchase will be the property of the TW Dineh Water User.

In the MOA, the signature is the Navajo Nation President and TWB Dineh Water User President.

Lorena asked, “Is our goal to have 80% of farmers farming to high? If so, we need to change to a realistic number, and add to MOA.”

Comments, suggestions, and questions:

Lucinda commented that her office can help with the 164 process.

Aaron Begay stated, “80% is a doable goal.”

Emerson Chee agreed with Aaron.

Frank Kedelty stated, “80% is too high due to several issues – Some land are in probate, the owner to land are not to be found, some land have two people owning the land, some land owner will not want to sublease, and not all farmland have access to water for irrigation.”

Bennie Litson stated, “Farm Board completed a lot of work in the past, and his concern is how hard it will be to work with the people of our community.” Why are the Council Delegates of Budget and Finance being so unsupportive or making negative comments about the work we are trying to do? I thought the voting for the position in office is to help the people. So does our votes count as people What it looks like now is that we not Matter as People.” At the end of his commit, he encouraged the Farm Board and Water User to work hard and was thankful for the work we they do.”

Emerson Chee, “Lower Wheatfields is totally a ready project. When the project starts going if we rely on the people it will not move forth. Instead, we have the move with the project and figure out a way for them to become part of the project.”

Lorena explained the revitalization project has criteria. On the other hand, the MOA is sign then there will be a conflict of interest on Farm Board side. We will need to look for a new secretary and treasurer officers for the Dineh Water User.

Action: To accept and keep the goal at 80 % of farmland be productive in the Year 2020.

Motioned by Frank Kedelty

Seconded by Bennie Litson

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried

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III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Agreement between Tsaile / Wheatfields Farm Board and Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User
Lorena explained that the Tsaile / Wheatfields Farm Board is part of the Navajo Nation, so they will be the one to requesting for technical assistance from other Navajo Nation Program or Department if necessary with the Wheatfields Agriculture Project. For this reason, we will need to write an agreement of how the Tsaile / Wheatfields / Blackrock Dineh Water User will work with the Tsaile / Wheatfields Farm Board.

The agreement should have the purpose, responsibilities, etc. from both entities.

Action: To have Dorthea write the agreement for Tsaile /. Wheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User, and accept the agreement, but will need to read the language and share with others are the next meeting agenda.

Motioned by Bennie Litson

Secoded by Frank Kedelty

Voting: 9 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

- a. Farm Board members had no reports
- b. Water User Board Of Directors no reports
- c. Others

Emerson Chee provided information on irrigation repairs that will be needed, and committed that Educational Workshop are very important to do for farmers and ranchers.

Action: No action taken. This was for information only.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
 - a. Lease Agreement between Tsaile / Wheatfields Chapter & Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User
 - b. Resolution – Lease Agreement
 - c. Create Annual Plan – Farm Board
 - i. Strategic Plan with SWOT Analysis

- B. Scheduled next meeting date to Sunday, January 29, 2017 at noon, **BUT CHANGE THE TIME TO 9 AM DUE TO INVITE WITH ONE OF CONSULTANT.**

- C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 3:38pm

Motioned by Bennie Litson

Secoded by Anelda Kedelty

Voting: 10 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried