

TsaileWheatfields Farm Board and Dineh Water User Joint Meeting
Monday, September 5, 2016 @ 1pm
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, August 7, 2016 and August 15, 2016
- e. Announcements:

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Junk Food Sales Tax
- b. Audit Review for Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User
- c. Fund Management Plan
 1. Upload of Grant Tracker
 2. Report from Honorable Council Delegate, Nelson Begaye, Attorney office
- d. Facility for Storage - Update
- e. Water Usage Planning – Work session

III. NEW BUSSINESS

- a. Land Use Permit- Transfer, Relinquish, Probate, etc
 - David M. Tsosie request Farm Land from late Julia Hobbs farmland
- b. Financial Report
- c. Operation and Maintenance – Outstanding charges

IV. Reports

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

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Identify next agenda items
- B. Scheduled next meeting date
- C. Adjournment

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MEETING MINUTES

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting called to order @ 1:45pm
- b. Invocation by Dorthea Litson
- c. Adopt agenda
Dorthea reviewed the agenda. Amendments were made to agenda. Two items were added.
 - a. Progress report for Wheatfields Agriculture Project to added to Nelson Begaye presentation of Fund Management Plan.
 - b. Under operation and maintenance – outstanding payment specifically add Emerson Chee request for wavier for his outstanding payment.

Action: Add the two item to agenda.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 4 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

- d. Reading Last Meeting Minutes, August 7, 2016 and August 15, 2016
Dorthea read the two last meeting minutes. No amendments, questions, or comments.
Action: The two read meeting minutes were accepted as read.
Motioned by Aaron Begay
Seconded by Teresa Chee
Voting: 5 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

- e. Announcements:
Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – Presenting before Budget & Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation.
 - Saturday, September 17 and 24, 2016 – Famers Market at Tsaile Junction plus a Water Usage Meeting with community form 12 to 2pm. Please know the Farmers will take place all day.
 - Thursday, September 22, 2016 Permittee meeting at Wheatfields Chapter House from 10 am to 3pm
 - Monday, September 26, 2016 Navajo Joint Farm Board Meeting or Worksession at Wheatfields Chapter House, host by Wheatfield Chapter.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Junk Food Sales Tax
Reported the updates that the goal is for us to collect at least 600 surveys.
Dorthea reported, “Anelda and Amelda are unable to attend meeting, but they have about 75 more surveys collect.”

Lorena explained the Legislation is passed by the Navajo Nation Council Delegate, but unsure of the funding amount that this Chapter will be receiving. Identifying land for building is the toughest issues especially if there is no plan. It is possible to make a trail. This is already listed in the strategic planning.

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Dorthea suggested, perhaps we might want to use the funding for creating a stronger farmers market opportunity for our people; along with workshops of creating healthier community and business marketing on food sovereignty. All of this can be attached to the revitalization of farmland projects.

Lucinda reported that Kathy Johns collected more surveys and put with the chapter staff.

Action: Continue to collect data and put on a data system. Put on agenda continuously.

b. **Audit Review for Tsaile / Wheatfields Dineh Water User**

Dorthea reported that she and Bryceson have been busy with the Grant Tracker Development.

Bryceson stated, "There is a template available to write an RFP. There are some information to consider such as: What is the annual income? What it volunteer contribution? When does the meeting take place? Or how is it conducted? What is the size of the Board? What income is used to support the organization? Does the organization have insurance? For what period of time will the audit cover?"

Lorena explained that the Farm Board and Water User always run their meeting as a Joint Meeting. The Board are Aaron Begay, President, Anelda Kedely, Vice President, Dorthea Litson, Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Johns and Amelda Benally are members. Only income received is for the Operation and Maintenance fee that farmers pay.

Action: Use the template that is available to write up the RFP. When all prepared it will be presented to the Board for approval.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

c. **Fund Management Plan**

3. **Upload of Grant Tracker**

Bryceson explained the following:

- Final Management Plan has been revised. The biggest thing written is that this is a Shovel Ready Project.
 - The final Management Plan and the power point presentation is uploaded into the Water User's computer.
 - The Grant Tracker is uploading into Water User's computer.
 - When funding is approve; that will need to be uploaded into the grant tracker, and any new line item will be added to the Sage software too.
 - He worked on the one item journal entry to be corrected. The outstanding bill indicated is for \$19.00, and that has been reversed.
 - When the funding is approved there will need to be training conducted for new personnel staff and Boards for Grant Tracker and Sage 50 software.
 - A quick Demo will be presented at the time of presentation for Budget & Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
4. **Report from Honorable Council Delegate, Nelson Begaye, Attorney office**
Honorable Nelson Begaye, Tsaile / Wheatfields Council Delegation DID NOT show up for the meeting.

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Lorena explained that she spoke with Peggy Nakai, the Advisor to the Navajo Nation Budget & Finance committee about the Wheatfield Agriculture Project. She indicated that there needs to be a Progress Report status to be written to Seth Daman and this is due on September 6th, 2016. The Progress Report has to be cc – to Peggy Nakai, and Nelson Begaye. The letter has to state the Project status and timeline; Project Summary; and we are ready for the project. The timeline needs to include the planning for funding @ \$3,000,000 and @ \$2,000,000. September 14, 2016 is when we do the presentation, but that might change due the other mandatory meeting the Navajo Nation Council have to attend. Final comment by Lorena, “I think the Nelson wanted to talk about his conversation with attorney, Dana Barber, about the Proposal submitted to Siihastin Funds.”

Action: To put all information of all proposal information on a Jump Drive for Nelson.

d. Facility for Storage – Update

Lorena explained, “ In the request for the funding on equipment there is a 200ft by 80ft storage facility to be built. We are in the process of trying to figure out where that can be built with the Chapter Compound. Do date, we have learned that there is no Master Plan for the Chapter Compound.”

Suggestion:

- To put ourselves on the CLUPC agenda to figure out how a land can be withdrawn within the Chapter compound.
- Have a meeting to Chapter officials.
- San Juan Chapter has a very nice to chapter house, and one might talk with that chapter to see the necessary steps taken to make that happen.

Action: To find land within the Chapter Compound for Storage Facility be request by the Water User and Farm Board, and request CLUPC to add to agenda at their next meeting on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 2pm Wheatfields Chapter House.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

e. Water Usage Planning – Work session

Dorthea explained that the Land Grant Director has come before our meeting that the office is partnering with University of Nevada and University of Arizona to do a Water Usage Plan for a community. As a result, the Tsaile/ Wheatfields Dineh Water User and Farm Board accepted this project. The planning thus far is to work with Karlatta Chief, and to do meet with community people on September 17 and 24, 2016 to conduct a meeting with the people to share their concern about the water with the community. This will take place at Tsaile Junction during the Farmer Market.

From there we can meet with Benita Litson, Director of Land Grant, Dine’ College, to more planning. One is to identify data collectors and take inventories of water wells, springs, windmill, etc. The one people to do this job is current Water Masters.

Lucinda shared that the Chapter should have received report from the Water Regional Plan.

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Action: Write a letter to Chapter Officials and staff to request for the Report receive regarding the Regional Water Plan, and to put this on the agenda for the October meeting to do more planning with Dine' College Land Grant Director.

Motioned by Aaron Begay

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

III. NEW BUSSINESS

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

- David M. Tsosie request Farm Land from late Julia Hobbs farmland

David M. Tsosie not present at meeting.

Action: Let Mr. David M. Tsosie know that he can let us know if he can be put on the agenda at next meeting.

Motioned by Dortehea Litson

Seconded by Aaron Begay

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

b. Financial Report

Dortehea reported she has not spend any money or not deposit made since the last Farm Board and Water User Meeting. The Balance remain the same at \$ 25,569.13. The only thing she needs to do is reconciled the account to August 2016 bank statement.

Action: Accept the financial report.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Rachelle Eldridge

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

c. Operation and Maintenance – Outstanding charges

Lorena explained, “The outstanding charges are \$ 20,087.00. We have been talking about how to collect the debt, - Through small claim or court? Definitely, will have to be though about when doing the revitalization project.”

Emerson Chee explained that he has an outstanding Bill for both Farmlands in Upper Wheatfields and Lower Wheatfields is about \$900 he is requesting to see if all the late charges can be waived, so he can only pay the principal. His other questions were:

How do I go about subleasing another land?

How can the farm equipment that is place on the southside of the orange metal building on the Chapter Compound be restored? Some look like minor problem?

Lorena stated, “ There is a sublease form that the Farm Board have. The land owner and sublesor has to come before the Farm Board to make that know; and for the equipment within the Chapter Compound belongs to the Chapter.”

Suggestion, comments, and questions about Emerson Chee Request:

Teresa – At one time there was a person that requested to waive his O&M fee too, and there I commit that he just needs to pay. He a job. Here, I know Emerson works hard, but does not have fulltime job.

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Dorthea – That would be hard to approve your request. The only way I see that happening is to actual do some work on the main line of the irrigation. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. The requestor has to do some of the work, and pay for some of the material cost. The project can be identify so an agreement can be develop through a request form. The form will indicate what he farmer will do and what he will contribute. It has been done with another farmer. It would not be right to approve to waive your late fee when we already indicated to others to just pay their fees in full amount.

Aaron – This is a hard and touchy conversation. If we approve your request than others are going to say that is not right. For many they pay on time; there are other who pay increments. Identifying a project for a Farmer work would be the route to go with an agreement form to be filled out.

Lucinda – This is hard to say. It is just best to pay.

Action: Need to develop a pay back policy for how a very late Operation & Maintenance fee can be paid. Plus, development an agreement form of project that a farmer can do to reduce the fee. To also include in the Revitalization Project such as take 5% of the production be given to farmers the other is to pay the O&M Fee and portion to the Revitalization Project itself.

Motion: Dorthea Litson

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 3 abstained

Motion Carried

d. Prairie Dogs – Farmers’ Concern

There are several ways to treat Prairie Dogs infestation, and that is the Pesticide Chemical or more biologically.

Lorena has requested Charles Blacksheep to conduct a presentation at next permittee meeting. Including to request Mr. Jeff Bikeddy, Navajo EPA, to conduct a presentation.

Dorthea suggested to more of a Biological event with the community. On October 8 & 9, 2016, we can do community activity and release water to irrigation land, so the prairie dogs can be flooded. We can pilot this project with Lower Wheatfields.

Action: To do a Community activity on October 8 & 9, 2016, and put on next agenda item to do more planning for it.

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Rachelle Eldridge

Voting: 6 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained

Motion Carried

IV. Reports

- a. Farm Board - No report
- b. Water User – No report
- c. Others – No Report

Action: No action taken.

V. CONCLUSION

- D. Identify next agenda items
 - Junk Food Sales Tax

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- Chapter Facility
- Financial Report
- Outstanding Operation and Maintenance Fee agreement form with policy and procedures
- Prairie Dogs – Fun & Learning Activity – Planning Event for October 8 & 9, 2016

E. Scheduled next meeting date Monday, September 12, 2016 at 4pm or after CLUPC Meeting.

F. Adjournment

Action: Meeting adjourned at 5:53pm

Motioned by Teresa Chee

Seconded by Lucinda Davis

Voting: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained

Motion Carried