

TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS JOINT FARM BOARD AND WATER USER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017 @10 AM
WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER HOUSE, WHEATFIELDS, AZ

RECEIVED

AGENDA

JUN 08 2017

Tsaile/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: 

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Meeting called to order at 10:41 am

b. Invocation by Anelda Kedelty

c. Roll Call: Lorena Eldridge, Dorthea Litson and Lucinda Davis present for Farm Board. Anelda Kedelty, Dorthea Litson and Amelda Benally present and Kathy John and Aaron Begay were absent for the Dineh Water Users.

d. Recognition of guest(s) and visiting officials: No special guest, all community members.

e. Review and adoption of agenda

Dorthea reviewed the agenda. There was one addition, which was the re-election of the Farm Board Officials. TJ Holgate wanted to know if it was right to re-elect officers with a few members present, there were discussions but at the end, the decision was to re-elect the officers. Dorthea said she did not want to be secretary, but wants to be vice president.

Action: The agenda accepted as read with one addition.

Motioned by Emerson Chee

Seconded by Bennie Litson

Votes: 9 yes, 0 no, 4 abstained

Motion Carried

f. Review and adoption of last meeting minutes, May 7, 2017

Dorthea read the last meeting minutes of May 7, 2017 as read with no changes.

Action: Last meeting minutes read and accepted as read

Motioned by Emerson Chee

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Votes: 9 yes, 0 no, 4 abstained

Motion Carried

g. Re-election of Farm Board Officials

Nominations for President was opened and Lorena was nominated.

Motioned by Julia Litson

Seconded by Bennie Litson

Nomination was closed by Julia Litson, Seconded by Amelda Benally

Votes: 9 yes, 0 no, 4 abstained

Motion Carried

Nominations for Vice President was opened and Dorthea was nominated.

Motioned by Anelda Kedelty

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Votes: 10 yes, 0 no, 3 abstained

Motion Carried

Nominations for Secretary was opened and Lucinda was nominated.

Motioned by Bennie Litson

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Votes: 11 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 reported that some crop reports came in and some were turned into Department of Agriculture. Reports will be at the end of June. Lorena explained to Jessie Tsosie about the crop reports for all permit holders. The reports will show zero all the way down because there is no planting at this time. We need to collect more reports. There will not be any action at this time.

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

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

1. Wheatfields Agriculture Projects

Jessie Tsosie paid her fee and Lorena also paid. Lorena told Jessie, maybe she can relay the information to her sister Vera and TJ Holgate told the Farm Board that it is their job to give information to the Farmers themselves, not giving it to someone else to relay the information. Farm Board took their oath of office that they will be working with the people. Lorena responded to TJ that people have get together and at those time they talk about what in going on in the community or even meetings and at that time they talk about what was discussed. This is when people can tell each other about the meetings. We also put the announcements is the radio, posters at the Chapter, at the store so people will see what is going on with the Farm Board. There were even times when we went home to home. Dorthea said, yes we made that choice of being in office and we work together to give out information. Back to B. MOA is in place, the President signed it on March 6, 2017. In April, NN OMB set up the funds and gave it an account number. Budget was submitted using the Navajo Nation Budget Forms. The Project summary was also done. DNR is to oversee this MOA, Bidtah assigned it to Vangie Curley-Thomas, what was to happen is once the MOA is finalized, then there will be draw-downs per quarter, as of Friday, the MOA was still at OMB, DNR is not really getting the whole concept of how this is suppose to work. We should have received the first draw down. Dorthea has been submitting the invoice but DNR has been telling her the invoice is wrong. Lucinda explained that if the MOA is still at OMB, then why are is DNR asking for an invoice. The MOA is not complete, it does not have a contract number yet. Once the MOA get a contract number assigned to it, then WUA will be sending an invoice for a draw down. TJ

said we should have a paper trail on what is being done. Lorena has asked for a flow chart on the process, but no one has given her one. The question was whether we should pass a resolution or write a letter to DNR and ask if this should be assigned to another department instead of DNR, maybe Water Resources.

Action: Motion was made to write a letter to DNR

Motion made by Amelda Benally

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Vote: 16 yes, 0 no, 3 abstained

Motion Carried

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

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

- 1.** Fish & Wildlife – prairie dog treatment

Charles Blacksheep was to attend our meeting, but he cancelled on us, not until the next meeting. Jeff Cole said there is another way to work on the prairie dogs which does not require license. We also talked about deer fencing, how high should the fence be. We did talk about the fencing and labor which would be part of the funds coming. There are also battery or solar operated electric fencing.

- 2.** Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture – Crop collection

We would like Department of Agriculture to come out and explain the crop inventory. Roxie June said she does not go to Chapters for meetings. Lorena wanted to know why but no response, so now she will be contacting Leo Watchman.

- 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 per quarter according to conservation plan.

We wrote to BIA on erosion and Russian olives tamarisk, but never heard back from them. Lower Wheatfields had some and Land Grant Office treated them. Jessie asked about the fencing, are the farmers going to pay, Lorena explained that we will be using PTF for the outside fencing which will include fencing and labor, the inside fence will be on your own. If anyone want give their time in helping they can work off what they owe on their fees. That would be a way for some people. TJ wanted to know how we are going to handle maintenance on the fencing, people like to damage other people's fencing, what if that happens. He also asked how we are going to use the USDA erosion control, when will that be used and could it be use with the PTF. Lorena explained the 2 year production. TJ wanted to know if he can go on his own to improve his field and if that will not interfere with the FB project. His problem will be irrigation. May Chee talked about her mother's farm that she had given to her but it was never changed to her name. Lorena told her that if all the family members are in agreement, then it can be changed to her name.

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

May Chee wants to be on the agenda at the next meeting and Ambrose/Emerson Chee also want to be on the next meeting agenda.

1. Land Use Permit – Freddie Sarracino

Freddie Sarracino did not show for the meeting. Will be deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Defer to the next meeting

Motioned by Emerson Chee

Seconded by Teresa Chee

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstained

Motion Carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Partnership Grant on Food Policy and GAP Certification

Dorthea explained on the Food Allowance – GAP Certification. This is about selling your produce to schools and getting yourself certified to sell your produce. She was asked if we would be interested.

Action: To participate in this program

Motioned by Julia Litson

Seconded by Anelda Kedelty

Votes: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstained

Motion carried

IV. RECEIVING REPORTS

A. Reports

Lorena had no reports

Dorthea is donating time as water master since we don't have one. Lucinda Kay will be irrigating soon. For Tsaille Fitzgerald Yazzie irrigating but someone keep turning off the water. Lower Wheatfields Sadie is the only one irrigating. Emerson wants to use the water to irrigate also.

B. Announcements

Dorthea has not sent anymore statements since Bryson Pinto is working our computer, we need our own internet, but have not check to see what the cost will be. Sage needs to be set up but we need the internet.

Planning the appreciation event for funding coming in, but maybe we should wait until we really get the money.

V. CONCLUSION

A. Next Agenda Items

1. Freddie Sarracino
2. Mae Chee
3. Emerson/Ambrose Chee
4. Wheatfields Project
5. Prairie Dogs & Fencing
6. Department of Agriculture
7. Strategic Plan-WUA

C. Next Meeting

June 6, 2017 at 9:00 am

D. Adjournment
Adjourned at 3:04 pm
Motioned by Bennie Litson
Seconded by Amelda Benally
Votes: All yes