

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 15, Tuesday, October 16, and Wednesday, October 17, 2012
Lac du Flambeau

Monday, October 15th

Meeting called to order at 1:05PM by Pat Pelky.

1. Roll Call:

Present: Bad River (Lacey Hill), Ho-Chunk (Randy P.), Menominee (Doug Cox), Mole Lake (Tina V. and Roman), Oneida (Pat Pelky), St. Croix (Katie Stariha), Lac Courte Oreilles (Brett McConnell.)

Others Present: Dr. Deveau (APHIS), Mike Connor (Forest Service), Audra Hubbell (NASS), Matthew Peplinski (FSA), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Tom Melnarik (NRCS), Chris Borden (NRCS), Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Jim Thannum (GLIFWC), Eric Allness (WI NRCS), Pat Leavenworth (NRCS), Joann Cruse (APHIS), John Keckhaver (WI Assoc. of Lakes), Barb Tormoehlen (Forest Service).

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Bad River. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

August 8th and 9th Agenda-correction Page 8. Heading #10 "Wisconsin Wetland Association" should be changed to "NRCS Update". MOTION to approve minutes. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Bad River. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. NRCS Update

Pat Leavenworth-Pat wanted to thank Tina and her family for all their hard work putting together the Harmony Training. Sounds like the conference got rave reviews. No Farm Bill at this time. Congress has not renewed the 2008 Farm Bill-waiting until after the election. NRCS is functioning on a continued resolution until March 27th.

Secretary Vilsack came to visit WI-Randy Gilbertson was there on behalf of WTCAC talking about Tribal input to Farm Bill. Colleen Oestruich (Minnesota) will be acting State Conservation when Pat leaves Oct. 31st, until someone new is hired. In closing, Pat stated to everyone that in all her years of service, WTCAC has been the best group she's ever worked with.

Eric Allness-record year for NRCS for financial assistance programs. All initiatives from 2012 will also be available in 2013. There will not be a WHIP Program in Wisconsin for 2013. Eric anticipates Mid-January cut-off sign up period for EQIP-could be delayed though. Still have to come up with sign-up date for Conservation Stewardship Program...NRCS welcomes more tribal enrollment in this

program. Payment schedules continue to be worked on and most all info is being finalized...this will be talked about in length tomorrow.

5. **FSA UPDATE**-(Matt) No farm bill-working under continuing resolution as well until late March. Crop insurance Program along with a few other insurance programs still up and running. A hand out was given explaining these programs as well as a map of 2011 secretarial disaster designations (most mainly found in the North).
6. **APHIS**-(Dr. Deveau) There's going to be a new veterinarian in Wisconsin on Nov. 5th-her name is Dr. Cheryl Shaw.
Rabies vaccination clinics were held at Ho-Chunk, LDF and LCO.
There is a lot less funding for APHIS right now; operating budgets are small.
EHD in deer continues to be a growing problem in the Midwest. EHD is a viral disease spread by biting midges. This disease is very prevalent in the Southern states and scientists are finding more cases spreading north. Randy P. from Ho-Chunk explained how they found a dead mature whitetail buck in Sauk County recently that died from EHD.
Joanne-APHIS has tentative budget...but, do not know if there will be cuts. EAB budgets/staff have already been cut. APHIS continues to find new populations of EAB in the Midwest. NO NEW county finds in Wisconsin. All trap records from tribes need to be turned in ASAP.
Gypsy Moth numbers appear to be higher this year. Menominee hosted full ICS exercise recently which was attended by 6 tribes-the training received good reviews.
7. **Rural Development**-Donna could not make it but she sent an email which Jerry read to us. On the 17th there will be a Tribal webinar on up-coming changes to Rural Development Programs. There will also be a seminar in Mole Lake on the 17th & 18th put on by the WI Dept. of Financial. Inst. explaining tribal social economics.
8. **Forest Service**-(Mike Connor)-Explained Forest Service Health Program Mandates-Forest Service has to provide insect and disease assistance/training for WI Tribes. Technical training is available at no cost. Specialized training for tribal specific issues is available. Recently provided funding to Menominee to prevent/control oak wilt. They will also do site visits to assess infestations of pests-all available at no cost. Mike also mentioned that the Forest Service routinely flies over tribal lands doing aerial surveys for pests/infestations. All data collected can be found @ www.na.fs.fed.us. Mike is looking into getting a webinar set up for tribal staff to look over their data and do query searches in this program, etc.
9. **NASS**-(Audra H)-Looking to collect info on all tribal farms that generate more than \$1,000 worth of produce annually. Provided the 2007 Census of Agriculture for American Indian Reservations. Described the process of reporting individual farms on tribal lands.
10. **Wisconsin Lakes**-(John K)-Lobbyist for Wisconsin Lakes. This is a membership organization of about 1000 members. He explained the mission of the group, gave a handout of a budget proposal for control of aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin.
11. **2013 Stewardship Report**-Jerry handed out last year's stewardship report to the agency heads. We will be putting out a new report this Spring/Summer for FY 11 and FY 12. Asked agency head's at meeting if they'd like to have a half page or so in the upcoming report to tell their story, possibly educate people on their programs. Roman brought up a point that maybe we

need to discuss changing the format and possibly talk more about WTCAC vs. just the EQIP/WHIP projects like the past. The Student Internship Program, new tribal projects, and some of our outreach efforts definitely should be included in the next report. Everyone needs to get their "drafts" into Jerry by the end of the year. Jerry will be going to FAC Meeting October 24th in Stevens Point to hand out current Stewardship Report.

MOTION to recess. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by St. croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Tuesday, October 16th

1. Roll Call

Present: Bad River (Lacey), Ho-Chunk (Randy), Mole Lake (Tina and Roman), Menominee (Doug), Oneida (Pat), LCO (Brett), St. Croix (Katie), Stockbridge-Munsee (Luke).

Others Present: Joann Cruse (APHIS), Barb Tormoehlen (Forest Service), Mike Conner (Forest Service), Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Dan Cornelius (Inter-tribal Ag. Council), Jim Thannum (GLIFWC), Chris Borden (NRCS), Pat Leavenworth (NRCS), Eric Allness (NRCS), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Mary ? (Forest Service), Frank Shepard (FCPC)

Motion to come back into session at 8:02 AM. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Bad River. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

2. WTCAC Summer Internship Program

We had to take out \$100,000 from our current grant due to funding cuts. The Student Internship Program was taken out because we had to keep the outreach budget intact to meet grant objectives. Jerry applied to a DNR Forestry Program grant and also to the Forest County Potawatomi to cover 10 intern positions just like last year. We will not find out until next Spring if we get awarded funding for Internship Program. If we do get funded, it sounds like most agencies/locations that had interns in 2012 are interested again for 2013. A total of 15 potential positions/locations were identified. Tina, Katie and Lacey agreed to work with Jerry to improve Internship Program in a WTCAC Student Internship Sub-Group.

Greg Yakle gave a presentation on the structure of the new NRCS Internship Program. He discussed the Pathways Program for USDA Interns. All potential positions for 2013 need to be posted on USA Jobs. Greg and Jerry are going to contact all 2012 interns and gauge their interest in applying for this Program. If some are interested, they agreed to help them with the process.

3. WTCAC Outreach Efforts

Discussion was held with the WTCAC group and other Agency Representatives as to priorities and targeted audiences. Some that were identified were the Brotherton Tribe near Stockbridge,

and tribal members with off-reservation farms. Pat Pelky brought up an idea that there should be a “starter kit” of some kind put together for tribal members interested in potentially farming. There was discussion about trying to identify tribal people interested and providing scholarships with WTCAC dollars to send people to training or farming programs/education, etc. April 15th-18th in Oneida The First Nations and Inter-tribal Ag. Council are hosting a Fruit Sovereignty Summit.

WTCAC proposed putting a work group together with Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC Outreach Specialist), Dan Cornelius (Inter-tribal Ag. Council), and Roman from Mole Lake to fine tune farming outreach. They will bring something back in draft form to group in future meeting.

4. **IAC Update**-Dan Cornelius Discussed Fruit Sovereignty Summit and passed out flyer with contact information.

IAC Cargo van is going around region to tribal farmers to help expand their markets, also looking for partnerships with tribal casinos and other tribal entities. Annual IAC Conference is in planning stages-December 10th-14th in Las Vegas. WTCAC will be put on that agenda for a breakout session.

5. **WTCAC Tribal Hoop-House (High Tunnel) Practice**-Keith had a conference call with NRCS National staff to discuss High Tunnel technical standard. The current National technical standard requires a hoop house to be a manufactured project. This poses problems for rural tribes/villages with shipping costs. They came up with an agreement for Keith to develop an instructional manual using Red Cliff’s High tunnel Project which will utilize local building materials and shift the “manufacturer” title over to the individual tribe. This will also shift the liability and maintenance over to each individual tribe-they become the commercial vendors. National proposed to WTCAC to sponsor TWO high tunnel projects for two different remote Alaskan villages, using the new instructional manual, to determine project costs. Tina requested offering the construction project to Marvin from Red Cliff who helped build the Red Cliff Hoop House. Keith will be working on the Manual which needs to get approved by National. This will be completed by Spring.

6. **Section 106 Cultural Resources Protocol & Procedures**-Pat Leavenworth brought up the need to renew discussion about 106 MOU agreements with NRCS and individual tribes. Back in 2006 Jerry had developed a 106 MOU boiler plate and handed them out to each tribe in Wisconsin. FCPC and Mole Lake currently have signed 106 MOU’s with NRCS-both tribes MOU’s are quite different. NRCS is requesting each tribe to work on developing their own 106 MOU’s with NRCS. Pat Murphy will probably be leading the 106 effort on NRCS’ end. Jerry agreed to find old boiler plate, send to NRCS for review, and then send out to each tribe to look over.

7. **NRCS Tri-State Payment Schedule Discussion**-Wisconsin is grouped together with Minnesota & Michigan-called the “Great Lakes Region”. All payment schedules/scenarios, etc. are currently being compiled and are going thru the quality assurance process. It looks like Wisconsin Tribes will retain nearly all practices developed thru WTCAC.

Retained practices unique to Tribal Cookbook (not all listed):

-Aquatic Organism Passage-bottomless culverts

- Beaver Dam Removal
- Earthen Dam Removal
- Fish Ladders
- Access Road-paved surface access points will now be under “heavy use area protection”-rates about the same.
- Stream crossing-nearly identical
- Seasonal High tunnel
- Aquaculture Pond Practices-components associated with aquaculture ponds (fences, fish kettles, pumps, lining, piping) are all separate practices now.
- Mechanical control of aquatic invasives (hand-pulling or machine)
- Still waiting on Chemical control of aquatic invasives
- Restoration of management of declining habitats-Fish Cribs. Only scenario will be bat boxes. Fish cribs are problematic right now. They want to move it to Fish Pond Management which is currently not a practice in Wisconsin. Fish Cribs will not be available for 2013.
- wild rice seeding
- loon nesting platforms
- osprey platforms
- wood duck boxes
- tree drops on/off sites
- Upland Wildlife Management

Discussion was held on the omitting of Fish cribs, and potentially chemical aquatic invasives treatment for 2013. We will have to bring our concerns to technical meeting in Madison in February with State Conservationist.

8. Status of NRCS Training on Practice Resource Concerns for Planning & Contracting

Randy and Keith stated that by the December training we should be able to do some training. We don't know if there will be any changes yet in the EQIP rules. Nobody has seen the new cookbook yet-it should be ready by December. Training should be put on the December agenda.

9. 2013 WTCAC Ranking Tool Changes

Tony needs to get feedback on proposed ranking tool changes SOON. Chris passed out some information explaining the rationale for some changes with our ranking tool. The consensus of the group was that there wasn't a problem with the changes made by Tony.

MOTION: Motion to accept Tony's changes to WTCAC Ranking tool. Motion by LCO, Seconded by Stock Bridge. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

10. INCA Vote for Board Member

Jonathan Pyatskowitz's name is on ballot as a board member for upcoming election. There are 3 people up for re-election. WTCAC has one vote as an organization for this election. INCA has been using a lot of our by-laws, administrative duties in the on-going development of their

organization. Jonathan has played a big role in guiding that group. There are 45 total ballots given out to TCAC's and Conservation Districts in the Country.

MOTION: Motion to accept the 3 names on the current INCA ballot. Motion by Stockbridge, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, Menominee abstains, motion carried.

11. Louisiana Outreach Report-Tina-Very surprised at how little the Louisiana tribal villages had for resources. She gave a speech at a tribal feast the first night explaining WTCAC and relationships with USDA. The following day she gave a presentation at the USDA field office to local tribes. She received a lot of good feedback from everyone attending. People attending seemed impressed by how well the tribes in Wisconsin have worked together for a common goal.

12. 2012 Special Project Reports-LCO reported that their raceway project is not entirely completed because they cannot find the right type of barrels for a decent price. The project also fell about \$2,000 short of what was granted (\$17,500). To date, \$17,080.73 worth of receipts have been submitted. The LCO Raceway Project was never going to be ready to be used until mid-summer 2013 at the hatchery for rearing of juvenile walleyes/musky. All the dock complexes have been constructed, all the supplies including the blower, piping and fasteners have also been purchased and the system will be constructed on top of the ice at Mud Lake at the LCO Hatchery in early Spring 2013. LCO will also be requesting \$2,000 in the future to help pay for the remaining barrels, Cable, metal strapping and other items to complete the construction.

MOTION: Motion to approve payment for LCO Fish Raceway Special Project once it gets in WTCAC format for payment of \$17,080.73 (cost to date of LCO Raceway Project). Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge-All ayes, zero opposed, LCO abstains. Motion Carried.

Bad River Special Project-Bad River Natural Resource Dept. took part in a Wild Rice Monitoring Project. The project will help Bad River identify restoration opportunities and gather wild rice data that could be used in applying for other NRCS programs. Density counts were conducted, harvester surveys were done, and some lacustrine core analysis was completed under this project.

MOTION: to approve reimbursement of Bad River Special Project of \$20,868. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, Bad River abstains. Motion carried.

Stockbridge Special Project Report-Stockbridge is doing a remote-site floating raceway project using solar power. The project is not completely finished but very close and will be used this Winter for experimentation.

MOTION: to approve reimbursement of Stockbridge for \$25,066.78 (cost to date of Raceway Project) once it gets in WTCAC format. Motion by LCO, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, Stockbridge abstains-motion carried.

13. TRAVEL Requests

MOTION: to approve travel for Jerry to California in January for Outreach to 16 California Tribes. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve travel for Jerry and Menominee board member to attend IAC Conference in Las Vegas in December. Motion by Stockbridge, seconded by Ho Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve travel for Jerry to attend Louisiana follow up State-recognized Tribal meeting in November. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

14. Election of President

Mole Lake nominates Patrick Pelky as President of WTCAC for a two year term starting Oct. 16th, 2012. There were no other nominations.

MOTION: to elect Patrick Pelky as President of WTCAC. Motion by Stockbridge, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, Oneida abstains.

15. Executive Session

MOTION: Motion to go into Executive Session. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge, All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to leave Executive Session. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to extend Randy Gilbertson's Contract to August 30th, 2013, retro to October 1st, 2012; and direct Program Manager to re-negotiate Randy's wage not to exceed \$25.00/hr. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve travel for Jerry and Randy to GLRI Conference in Chicago on Dec. 4th-6th. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Bad River. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn (4:55 PM). Motion by Mole Lake, Seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Next meeting Dec. 18th Stockbridge

Wednesday, October 17th

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Menominee (Doug Cox), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile & Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), LCO (Brett McConnell), Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC). Meeting Commenced at 8AM.

2. **Non-profit Insurance**

Jerry handed out some materials associated with non-profit insurance for everyone to look over. There was a 9:00 AM Conference call with RJF Insurance Agency out of Minneapolis, MN. They outlined some of the coverage. WTCAC Board asked for more info on certain policies and RJF will be getting that to Jerry soon. Randy agreed to talk to River Country RC &D about their non-profit coverage and get back to us.

3. **EPA GLRI Grant**

Jerry handed out the notice of award for the EPA GLRI Grant for Exotic/Invasive Species. There was discussion about the Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP). WTCAC members have a lot of experience in developing QAPPS for EPA grants and the work required can become quite daunting. We need to ask EPA up front about the QAPP and all tasks/methods conducted that need to be addressed.

A 10AM conference call was conducted with EPA/GLRI Program staff. Tina Davis is the programmatic person from EPA who reviews progress reports. Robert Fields handles the administrative component of the grant, and deals with access to the funds for the grant. Jerry became familiar with the on-line fund transfer thru Las Vegas. Progress Report timelines were clarified. Semi-annual reports have to be submitted to Tina, and Quarterly reports need to be reported to GLRI thru GLAS Program. Lou Blume will be the EPA QAPP contact for this grant. Tina is going to send a similar project QAPP from Northwest Indiana to Jerry along with Lou Blume's contact information. **We found out that WTCAC needs to do the hiring and NOT EACH INDIVIDUAL TRIBE.** We need to have further discussion with each of the seven tribes on how we're going to handle this, or whether all of the 7 tribes identified want to take part in this Project. Roles/responsibilities need to be clearly defined. A Conference call needs to be set up with all 7 potential tribes who qualify for this grant. Tentative Conference call date of Monday, October 22nd at 9AM has been set.

4. **Meeting with Randy G. and Keith S.**

We asked both Randy and Keith if there were any issues/requests concerning their employment with WTCAC. Keith brought up the idea of possibly meeting more Program Directors of different departments on each Reservation (i.e. forestry, fisheries, water, agriculture, etc.). This would potentially get more projects on the ground. There was a lot of discussion about potential new roles and responsibilities for both Keith and Randy. We went thru a list of current duties/responsibilities both Keith and Randy currently have.

Went thru Strategic Plan Implementation and addressed tasks associated with Randy and Keith.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15PM

EMAIL MINUTES 9/12/2012

MOTION: Motion to authorize Jerry Thompson to sign the APHIS grant documents. Motion by Red Cliff, seconded by FCPC. Seven ayes (LCO, Stockbridge-Munsee, Mole Lake, St. Croix, Menominee, FCPC, Red Cliff), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MINUTES 10/22/2012

MOTION: Motion to authorize Jerry Thompson to sign the EPA GLRI Grant for addressing Invasive Species for the Seven (7) Tribes of the Great Lakes. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Red Cliff. Seven ayes (Stockbridge-Munsee, Mole Lake, St. Croix, Menominee, FCPC, Red Cliff, Bad River), zero opposed, motion carried.



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Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
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Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – October 15, 2012

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison, (608) 742-5361 ext 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

November 20th Deadline to Obtain Loss Coverage Policies on Perennial Fruit and Other Crops

FSA offers loss coverage policies on crops not covered by Federal Crop insurance through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). This program is designed to cover losses in excess of 50% caused by damaging weather conditions for non-insurable crops. Eligible production losses are paid at 55 percent of the established value for the crop. November 20th is the deadline to obtain a 2013 policy on perennial crops such as apples, raspberries, blueberries, grapes, strawberries, blackberries and asparagus, along with honey and maple sap. These crops must be raised and harvested for commercial use/sale. Call the local FSA office for more details.

SURE Disaster Program for 2011 Crop Losses: Sign-up October 22, 2012 – June 7, 2013

FSA's SURE crop disaster program that provides direct revenue loss payments for crop losses is automatically available to producers in counties with a secretarial loss designation in 2011, or are contiguous to a county with a designation (see attached map). Many counties **did not** have a loss designation in 2011 so producers in those counties must have had greater than a 50% overall loss on ALL their crops in ALL counties to be eligible to apply. In all cases, producers either had to have ALL their significant crops covered by loss policies in 2011 or were considered socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmers in 2011.

Farm Loans – October Interest Rate: Producers and landowners are eligible for low fixed-interest operating and ownership loans through FSA. These loans are available to those that are unable to obtain loans with their local lenders. Interest rates in effect the month the loan is approved or disbursed remain in effect for the life of the loan. Funds for ownership loans are limited and there is currently a waiting list for these loans to be funded.

- 1 year annual and 7-year operating loans – 1.125%
- 40 year ownership loans – 3.00%

Emergency Loans Available due to Drought: All producers who suffered 2012 crop losses due to drought in counties that received emergency designations in 2012 (most all counties) are eligible to apply for low interest (2.125% in October) emergency loans to cover their crop and other losses. These loans are only available to those who are unable to get loans through local lenders.

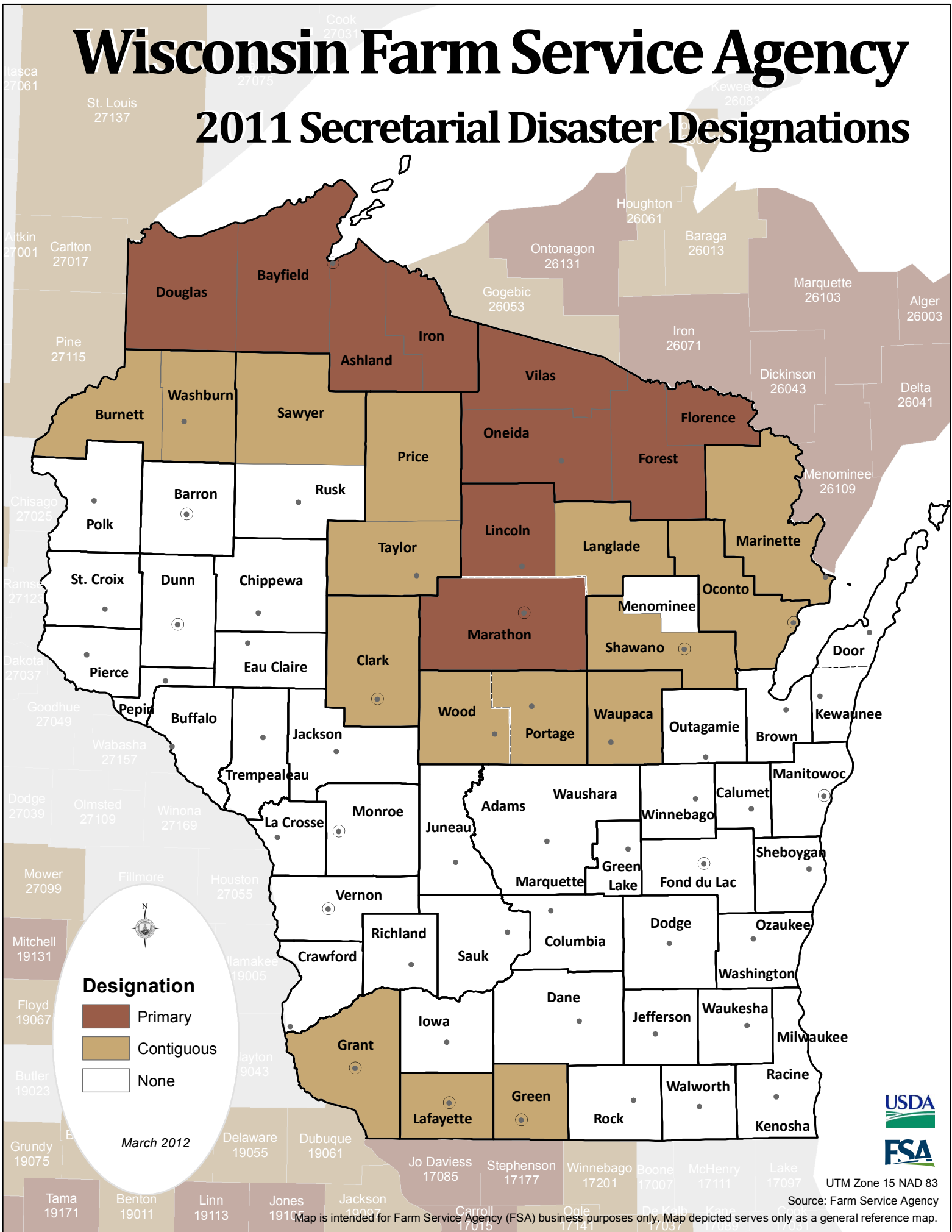
Compensation for Women and Hispanic Farmers – Claims of Past Discrimination: Hispanic and women farmers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013. Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Call Center: 1-888-508-4429

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

2011 Secretarial Disaster Designations



UTM Zone 15 NAD 83

Source: Farm Service Agency

Map is intended for Farm Service Agency (FSA) business purposes only. Map depicted serves only as a general reference map.