

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) Meeting December 13, 2001

Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Chair Jean Buffalo-Reyes (Red Cliff). Roll call, sign up sheet attached.

Jean Buffalo-Reyes welcomed everyone, asked if any questions or changes to the minutes of Oct 15, 2001, and any changes to the agenda. Jerry Thompson (Oneida) asked everyone to check their email addresses.

Introduction of WTCAC representatives and NRCS representatives.

Update on Farm Bill initiatives presented by Jean Buffalo-Reyes (Red Cliff). Asked by Doug Cox (Menominee) if there were any other states that had an Advisory Council, we are not aware of any other state that has an a similar advisory council. The Chair expressed desire to involve Michigan and Minnesota.

Pat Leavenworth (NRCS) updated advisory council on the Farm Bill which is currently on the Senate floor. Noted that Senator Dassel's amendment to Senate amendment 2511 made provisions in the Senate version would be beneficial to tribes in EQIP monies. The senate monies would begin with fiscal year 2002. Update on soil survey and conservation update was also made available.

Farm Bill Lobbyist Update: A major problem with regard to participation in lobbying efforts are that tribal budgets are being cut, asked if the advisory council could do correspondence to support lobbying activities to tribal leaderships.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association, representative discussed support to restore wetlands by farmers and other private landowners. A suggested target audience for a pilot workshop was Native American tribes; the WWA received a 2001 Multi-Agency Land and Water Education Grant. Suggested getting together with tribes to find out what types of programs that have already been tried and are currently being undertaken, in order to create a forum from the tribes, and other organizations such as NRCS. Also suggested working with the local community colleges such as the Menominee College. A stumbling block is also the financial aspect, representative sometime depends on whether there is financial assistance to tribes in attending and participating in these programs. (Derek ?)

Indian Agricultural Council Meeting Report: Jerry Thompson (Oneida) reported on his attendance at the Indian Agricultural Council Meeting in Florida at the Miccosukee Tribe. Discussed agriculture programs that are currently being instituted by the tribe, such as raising beef. Also discussed programs being instigated by Haskell University for Native American students for summer employment; information on export seminars for tribes also discussed MAP (Market Assistance Program) also geared to assist tribes in exportation in an international level; another discussion item was the Farm Bill.

Jean Buffalo-Reyes (Red Cliff) acknowledged the efforts of the Oneida representatives in putting together a tribal initiative.

Update on NRCS Farm Bill Tribal Conservation Title Activities: Tom Cogger (NCRS) updated WTCAC on the efforts of agriculture project information being conducted by the various tribes.

Conservation Forum Update: Pat Leavenworth (NRCS) discussed recent visit with the newly appointed Under Secretary to meet with the Chief of NRCS. This forum was a good opportunity to

Beth (St. Croix) representative, discussed a grant that was received to do an assessment of wild rice beds, all rice beds are located off reservation.

Great Lakes Non-Point Abatement Coalition: This has been designated as a standing agenda item, Jerry Thompson (Oneida) reported on recent efforts by GLNPA.

WTCAC Administrative Costs and Funding Sources: Discussed possible membership dues to off set costs for administrative costs, i.e., mailing, supplies, travel expenses, and costs in dealing with lobbying efforts; a suggested source was USDA or possibly in conjunction with the State Technical Committee through NRCS. Oneida representative made a motion to set the membership fee at \$50.00 per year, starting January 2002. Seconded by St. Croix representative. Dues will be mailed to Doug Cox, Menominee representative as Treasurer..

Menominee will host the next meeting, February 14th or 15th, 2002. Tentatively.

Motion to adjourned by Oneida, seconded by Menominee at 12:02.

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