

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes for August 25, 2008 Meeting

Location: Mole Lake

Quorum: No quorum

Member Present: Roman Ferdinand, SCC; Jonathan Pyatskowitz, Menominee; Brett Mc Connell, LCO; Tony Havranek, St. Croix; Pat Pelky, Oneida

Other Present: Jerry Thompson, NRCS; Chris Bordon, NRCS; David Armstrong, Judicare

Agenda Minutes:

I. Announcements:

- Program Evaluation Workshop on the Oneida Reservation for September 3 & 4, 2008 in the Radisson Hotel. All are welcome.
- American Indian & Alaskan Native Employee Association will be having their annual conference in Oneida on July 13 – 17, 2009. Excellent opportunity to showcase WTCAC and tour some of the projects we are working on.
- **Action Item:** share with Jerry any issues or problems the Tribes are experiencing during the 106 process with NRCS
- Pat Leavensworth is planning on attending the October 7, 2008 Meeting.
- **Action Item:** Roman will scan past reports.
- **Action Item:** Jonathan will put Annual Report on the October Agenda. NRCS may assist with the report – maybe Renée Anderson
- **Action Item:** Jonathan will contact Bad River for official REP.
- EQIP – NRCS is trying to get rules done by September 15, 2008.
- 106 MOU Update: Forest County is done. Mole Lake is near completion. The rest of the Tribes are in progress.

II. Strategic Planning Session facilitated by Chris Bordon

Brainstorm the single most important thing WTCAC does:

- To be the Tribal Advisory Council to the State Conservationist.
- Fill gaps for funding projects that do not fall under NRCS programming.
- Develop more flexibility to meet the Tribes' conservation needs (resources concerns).
- Seek future funding to meet the needs of the mission of WTCAC.

The next thing we need to do is review the work plans to make sure we have alignment with the direction of WTCAC.

Direction: draft (revised) Goal Summary: Could be in order of priority –

- #1. Provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how conservation programs can work better from a technical standpoint on Tribal lands – (serving as the Tribal Conservation Advisory Council to the State Conservationist).
- #2. Provide policy assistance to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how programs, especially conservation programs can work better from a policy standpoint on Tribal lands.
- #3. Serve as a conduit of information between individual Tribal Governments & their agencies, Federal Government agencies, and Tribal General Public in order to improve outcomes.
- #4. Development of strong organizational structure.
- #5. Secure the funding needed to continue the mission of WTCAC.

Brainstorm a list of activities from workplan Contract # ...044:

- Develop an acceptance letter for small projects.
- Develop “boiler reporting format” report for small projects.
- Develop an Annual Report.
- Conduct/ partner/co-sponsor Workshop
- Continue to work toward becoming a 501 C (3).
- Develop Event Planning SOP

Action Item: Talk to Jim Thannun, GLIFWC, on how to conduct workshop or conferences as co-sponsors.

Action Item: Brainstorm and rank or prioritize some possible workshops.

Action Item: Jonathan put on contracting services for specific initiatives on October’s WTCAC meeting

Action Item: Bring your ideas to the October’s meeting on possible contractors or people that we can send out RFP.

Action Item: Work on activities for workplan contract #...036.

Action Item: Look at earmarks funding benefits of pass through funding with NRCS versus funds coming directly to WTCAC.

III. JUDICARE with David Armstrong, Legal Assistant, assign to our case. Association of Tribes can be formed under Incorporated with the State of Wisconsin or Unincorporated under our own sovereignty.

INCORPORATED:

- Federal process is simpler for the paperwork

- Lost corporate status under the State because we did not file – may take a couple of months to get it back.
- Charter is on file with the State.
- Less likely to be personal liable.

UNINCORPORATED:

- More paperwork and more complicated.
- Form under Tribal Sovereignty.
- More as a Partnership
- More personal liable.

Information still needed:

- David will check to see if each representative needs a resume submitted or just the officers.
- Need to know all the monies that came in as revenue and all the monies that were expensed. Need a Revenue and Expense Sheet.
- Project description of all project approved by WTCAC.
- Need to get a certified person who is eligible for the Judicare card for the legal fees to be free.
- WTCAC should purchase Insurance for all the board members. Chris will get us some information on this.
- Develop a set of operating procedures to include contract writing, conflict of interest and others to minimize risks.

IV. Parking Lot

- Look into a Web page for WTCAC to get more information out.
- Develop telecommunication conferencing capabilities.
- Organize Harmony Training for the American Indian & Alaskan Native Employee Association

