

Meeting called to order at 8:06.

Roll Call: FCPC, Ho-Chunk, LCO, Mole Lake, Oneida, St. Croix, Stockbridge-Munsee.

Motion to approve agenda. Need to move approval of minutes to the afternoon.

Motion to approve agenda with one change by Ho-Chunk, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SBM, all in favor, motion approved.

#### APHIS Update

Chris Deagan – EAB Update – the statewide quarantine went into effect the end of March, they are trying to replicate that on the federal side but it hasn't happened yet. The statewide quarantine expires on August 17<sup>th</sup> so they want to have the federal quarantine in place by then. If you have forest product companies they want to continue to work with them to assist. They just had an EAB detection in Hudson, Wisconsin (St. Croix County). New proposal period for Farm Bill Suggestions just opened, ends August 17<sup>th</sup>. EAB projects can be funded with this. APHIS Native American Working Group is meeting in Oneida the week of August 6<sup>th</sup>.

FSA – Kim – Busy time of year as farmers have to report their crop acreage. Discussed County Committees. They are looking for members. Representatives of a tribe could serve as a County Committee Advisor. Can only have one advisor from a Tribe. Passed out the nomination form, you can sign it and nominate themselves or have someone else nominate them. She thinks a Tribal representative could nominate the person. She discussed SCORE – they are an organization that is partially funded through small business administration. Mostly volunteer organization that can assist with agricultural activities. USDA signed an agreement with them last year. This is assistance for any type of business, does not have to be agricultural. Kim will send all the info to Alan.

Forest Service – Dennis – State and private Forestry – Pesticide training is being held next week here in Menominee. Their forest health group annually conducts aerial pest detection surveys – in Wisconsin, this also includes Tribal lands. They are going to begin next week and those results will be available in the future. They only fly Tribal lands that are imbedded in the National Forest, but there is an interest in having them fly Oneida and Ho-Chunk as well. He will look into it.

NRCS – Ryan – Angela sends her regards, she has been all over the state this week. They also have an area review right now and Chris is in South Dakota. A letter went to each Tribe's Chairman, with a draft agreement between NRCS and the SHPO. Seeking consultation on this agreement. It would not change any other agreements they have with the Tribes. They are winding down there contracting for the year, just funded 3 more WTCAC projects. Total is just under \$400,000 and had 12 total contracts.

#### FCPC – Access Road Project

Motion to rank the FCPC Access Road Project as high by LCO, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SBM. All in favor, FCPC abstains. Motion carries.

Ho-Chunk – Cover crop-planting project. Rolling Thunder Property.

Motion to rank the Ho-Chunk cover crop planting project as high by SBM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LCO. All in favor, Ho-Chunk abstains, motion carries.

Mole Lake – Forest Stand Improvement Project

Motion to rank Mole Lake Forest Stand Improvement Project as high, by SBM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LCO. All in favor, Mole Lake Abstains, motion carries.

There are 2 conservation stewardship applications that they are working on. LCO project would be about 50,000 acres and one for Mole Lake for about 6,000 acres.

Looking to combine EQIP and CSP into one program in the new Farm Bill.

There hiring freeze was lifted, they did select a new State Resource Conservationist – Eric Hurley. Coming from Iowa where he was the nutrient management specialist. Also filled Assistant State Con for Management and Strategies – Robert Lawson and he is coming from Indiana where he is an Assistant State Con. Both start July 23.

RD – Mike Daniels – Frank sends his regards, wasn't able to attend today. Met at FCPC on their VAPG for their farm. First VAPG for working capital awarded to a Tribe. He got a tour of the farm yesterday. They awarded 10 VAPG so far this year and expect to award a couple of more this week. Frank wanted him to highlight that the water and sewer program (loans and grants) increased about 3 times so they are looking for applications. They have been able to advertise for a couple of positions but it is all internal hiring at this point. Interested to see where the Farm Bill takes them. Look at drafting a technical recommendation to include provisions for VAPG on "revenue streams".

RTCAC- they are trying to get all the RTCAC together next year for a meeting. Their next meeting is in October at Sioux Nation in Nebraska.

Motion to invite Susan Hunter to a future WTCAC meeting and approve up to \$250 to purchase her a gift by FCPC, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ho-Chunk, all in favor, motion carries.

NRCS EQIP, GLRI, CAPs – Ryan – A TSP would run the same type of plan as an NRCS employee only you would get paid to hire that position. There are some EQIP practices that require a Forest Management Plan. An FMP can be done to go through a TSP and write a CAP. Grazing plans are required before they do any type of pasture work. Any type of energy work require an energy plan.

They want to get GLRI contracts obligated soon. Next Friday is the EQIP obligation deadline. October 19<sup>th</sup> application deadline for EQIP, screening deadline is December 7.

Farm Bill Capacity – Jerry Thompson – Fond du Lac got a grant to try and develop an RTCAC in Minnesota. Jerry finished the report and encompassed everything they have been working on since day 1. He decided to make it a separate report from the model. The model itself is the deliverable which is more than an agenda, how, why, what you are presenting, etc. He established a model as 5 different addendums. Passed out Addendums A – C.

Farm Bill Suggestion Board – Alan – We have one more APHIS sponsored board meeting. Would need to have it before September 14 or we would need a no cost extension. Alan will work with Chris to develop a ½ day agenda for APHIS at the next meeting. USDA One after the Farm Bill to get an update on the changes. Recommended to invite national staff to provide updates.

Next Meeting September 5 at SBM, backup date of September 11.

