

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2006

Hosted at: UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) was called to order by Ritchie Brown, Executive Director at 3:00 pm. on August 14, 2006 at the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.

II. Roll Call

Present: Stockbridge-Munsee (Bert Davids)
Oneida Nation (Jennifer Hill-Kelley)
Menominee Nation (Doug Cox)

Absent:	Lac Courte Oreilles	Lac Du Flambeau
	Ho-Chunk Nation	Sokaogon
	St. Croix	Red Cliff
	Forest County Potawatomi	Bad River
	GLIFWC	

Other Attendees: Pat Leavenworth, State Conservationist, NRCS; Jerry Thompson, ASTC-FO NRCS; Lori Van Hule, NRCS-CRS; Tom Cogger, NRCS Liaison; Tony Bush, NRCS Liaison; Sherrie Zenk-Reed, NRCS Liaison; Julie Malvitz, NRCS Liaison; Greg Yakle, NRCS Liaison; Bert Davids, Stockbridge-Munsee; Chad Miller, Stockbridge-Munsee; JoAnn Cruse, USDA-APHIS-PPQ; Kevin Connors, USDA-PPQ; Philip Bell, USDA-PPQ; Ritchie Brown, WTCAC Executive Director; Sylvia Redschlag, WTCAC Consultant.; David Olson, WTCAC Consultant.

Quorum: X **No** **Yes** 3 **Tribes Represented**

III. Approval of Minutes.

Deferred until next scheduled meeting due to lack of quorum.

IV. Revisions to Agenda.

Jean Buffalo-Reyes is unable to attend this meeting. Ritchie Brown will facilitate.

V. Reports

NRCS Update

Pat Leavenworth, State Conservationist NRCS reported the Senate voted to confirm NRCS Chief Bruce I. Knight to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Sara Braasch, has been named Associate Chief for the Agency.

Pat Leavenworth commented on the new agency strategic plan that was recently unveiled which establishes long-term goals, objectives and strategies, and outlines the agency's vision of productive lands and a3 healthy environment. It describes agency activities that will contribute to sustaining natural resources in the coming decades. This plan provides measurable objectives associated with each goal and outcome. NRCS remains committed to high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; and healthy plant and animal communities through its Foundation Goals. However, it also introduced emerging natural resource concerns in the form of Venture Goals for air quality, an adequate energy supply, and working farms and ranch lands. NRCS plans to expand its role in these areas under the new plan. NRCS activities will be guided by three overarching strategies—the watershed approach, a market-based approach and cooperative conservation—as the agency works to achieve the six goals.

APHIS Update

JoAnn Cruse, USDA-APHIS introduced Kevin Connors USDA-APHIS (MN) and Philip Bell from USDA-APHIS EAB Coordinator. JoAnn Cruse reported Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in Wilmette, Illinois in July. That now makes 3 sites in Illinois just south of the Wisconsin state line where EAB has been found: Lily Lake (Kane County, IL), Evanston (Cook County, IL) and Wilmette (Cook County, IL). JoAnn also reported no budget is back yet for upcoming fiscal year.

WTCAC Update

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Project Status Report: Ritchie Brown reported on the progress of EAB survey activities during late July and early August. Trap trees were set up at Menominee, Forest County Potawatomi and Lac Du Flambeau, while authorizations for some of the other Tribes were still proceeding through the staffing chain to various Tribal deciding officials. Ritchie discussed EAB Clinic he attended in Brighton, Michigan July 25-26 that included a tour of the EAB lab and research facility and site tours of EAB damage in the metro of area of Detroit to show effects of EAB in urban areas, commercial and residential. Doug Cox (Menominee) inquired if funding would be available for seed collection. Kevin Connors discussed the agency's budget focusing on survey and control, accelerated research initiatives, development of treatment options, and preservation efforts, and in considering the apportionment of dollars for WI and IL, the bulk went to IL. Bert Davids, (Stockbridge-Munsee) discussed commercial thinnings to retain ash. Rae Ann Maday (Bad River) inquired if there were any stop gap measures available to treat for EAB. Kevin Connors responded regarding on-going research in treatment options and talked about various injection treatments such as use of Imidicloprid which has controlled other native flat-headed borers of *Agrylis* beetles for years which are in the same family as this exotic beetle (EAB). He also talked about Spinosad, an insecticide made from the fermentation of a naturally occurring soil microbe, *Saccharopolyspora spinosa*. Because of its low toxicity and low impact on the environment, EPA registered spinosad as a reduced-risk pesticide, and is considered safe for forest use. Researchers are testing aerial applications of spinosad to woodlots for EAB. Use of a naturally occurring toxin like spinosad (found in soil), is similar to the aerial application of B.t.k (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*) used in the gypsy moth program. Btk is practically non-toxic to mammals and other non-target organisms, with the only concern being other *Lepidoptera* larvae in the area being sprayed. They haven't found a Btk type product that can be used for treatment of the emerald ash borer yet.

Section 106 Project Status Report: Ritchie Brown, reported on the status of the project and outlined the Tribal Summit and Workshop being held over the course of the next two days at UW-Stevens Point. Ritchie briefly summarized goals and objectives of the Tribal Summit & Workshop and reiterated the importance of Tribal participation in the consultation and the project review process and impact to Tribal resources. He discussed the turnaround time for project reviews being 30-60 days, and whether that was realistic given current workload of THPO's and strapped resources of the Tribes.

Forestry Committee Update

No report from forestry committee.

Technical Committee

Jerry Thompson discussed the list of projects considered "non-undertakings" with regard to Section 106, which are exempt conservation practices that do not disturb soil or typically only disturb the surface layer. He also identified projects considered categorically excluded, on sites that are already disturbed and gave examples of projects like repairing tile breaks, ditch plugs, seed bed preparation, tree removal and fencing. Tom Fredrickson, NRCS Liaison added sloughs used for wild rice beds and food plots could also be considered a "non-undertaking" under the WHIP program. Access roads to a project site on the other hand are considered within the area of potential effect for the purposes of Section 106 consultation.

Discussion continued about WHIP program and invasive species/noxious weed control and that the user must maintain certain practices under managed intensive grazing programs. Commodity programs under FSA and set aside acres under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) should be considered whether or not it's excluded as a non-undertaking. Traditional wild rice beds and known fisheries were discussed. Other examples of types of projects where Tribal consultation under Section 106 were key in the project planning process. A shoreline stabilization project at Skull Island was discussed, where erosion control practices were needed and installed to dissipate the energy of wave action along the flowage where burial sites were being exposed, and the remains were repatriated.

VI. Other Business

Ritchie Brown reported he is still working with Oneida on transfer of the WTCAC bank account. He is also working with an attorney on the WTCAC application for recognition as tax exempt organization under 501(3)(c) designation.

VII. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting was scheduled for September 28, 2006 (9:00-2:30). Bert Davids and Chad Miller suggested the next monthly meeting be held at Stockbridge-Munsee.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Sylvia Redschlag

Minutes approved by: Ritchie Brown, Executive Director