

Meeting called to order at 8:05 am

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

Approval of Agenda

Add EPA to updates on the agenda.

Motion to approve agenda with addition of EPA by Ho-Chunk, 2nd by LCO. Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve February 12, 2018 WTCAC Meeting Minutes by LCO, 2nd by Stockbridge, motion carries.

Motion to approve April 11, 2018 WTCAC Meeting Minutes by Stockbridge, 2nd by Mole Lake, motion carries.

Motion to approve July 12, 2018 WTCAC Meeting Minutes by Stockbridge, 2nd by Ho-Chunk, motion carries.

APHIS

Chris Deegan – Busy with spotted lantern fly in Pennsylvania and European Cherry Fruit Fly in New York. No detections of either of these species in WI. WI PPQ – Gypsy moth trapping continues. A crop pest for corn came up, Bacterial Leaf Streak, bacterial disease, first found in US in 2016, 1st detection in WI was in a research plot, only other place in the world is in South Africa. Not necessarily a large commercial concern, but being it is new they are keeping an eye on it. Native American Working Group – APHIS, met in Green Bay a month ago. It was eye opening and educational for Chris, toured Oneida orchards and farm operations and a tour of the Menominee forest. They attended the logging congress in Oshkosh last week and had folks in attendance to discuss gypsy moth and EAB. Attending ginseng festival in Wausau this upcoming weekend.

EPA – Darrel Harmon – He will continue to try and maintain their involvement. The acting administrator was at the region a couple of weeks ago; he stated that climate change is actually happening. Water of US Rule which essential expanded the CWA into smaller bodies of water with the goal to protect them, current Administration has moved to repeal this rule, a court blocked the appeal of the rule putting it back into effect. However, rulings in other states have enforced it so the rule will go into effect in only 26 of the 50 states. They just announced a major reorganization internally. All of the regions are reorganization so that each Region structure will be the same as headquarters.

FSA – Tyler – Usually this is the slow time of year, but with the flooding events in the state, they have had a lot of extra activity. Market facilitation program was started in response to the retaliatory tariffs. This is a way to make direct payments to farmers offsetting the tariffs to farmers. Dairy, soybeans, and corn are effected in WI. Soybean payments are the most effected and payments will be higher for soybeans. www.score.org if interested in help in starting a small business. Farmers.gov was created

earlier this year as a 1 stop shop for farmers. They have a lot of hiring opportunities right now as the hiring freeze has been lifted. They are all posted on usajobs.gov.

USFS

GLRI Wetlands – discussion on funding – no one from USFS was present. Is anyone in the wetlands or forestry committee interested in pursuing these opportunities, please let Alan know.

IAC

Dan – Guide to Reservation Cooperative Development – Alan has copy. Certified trademark produced by American Indians. Keepseagle – the fast track funding is in the process of going out. WTCAC should keep the foundation in mind as over the next 20 years the foundation will be putting out a bunch of money. Get comments back to Dan by the middle of October at the latest, Alan sent out the draft to WTCAC reps.

Midwest Environmental Advocates – Jacklyn Velasquez – her focus is on the intersection between Indian Law and Environmental Law. Trying to figure out the needs she can fill for Tribes that are dealing with clean water issues. Looking at continuing the project for another 2 years after her 2 years ends in 2019. Her goal for being here is to understand what is happening in the room. Their goal is to make sure Tribes have access to all the correct information.

NASS

Greg Bussler – Census of Ag – wanted to thank the tribes for their participation, all the tribes filled out the forms. Currently analyzing the data at the state and county levels and so on. Planned to release in mid-February. Tomorrow they will release the September crop production report, WI Corn is at 177 bushels/ acre this year, soybeans at 50 bushels/acre. They are about 1 week ahead in maturity for corn and soybeans. County Ag practices survey on small grains and row crops coming up soon. Also an AG resource management survey in October – November. Find out chemicals applied to corn and soybeans.

NRCS

Chris – handed out the new 3-year agreement. Seeking approval on it today. Changing name of aquaculture subcommittee to fisheries subcommittee.

Motion to approve NRCS Cooperative agreement for 9/24/2018 – 6/1/2022 by Ho-Chunk, 2nd by Stockbridge. All in favor, motions carries.

Next WTCAC report is coming out so Chris will send out a request for new write ups. If we can include projects that are USDA related, but not necessarily NRCS specific, would be great. Hoping to publish this winter.

They had a nice opportunity to work with Bad River on a Tribal weather station. It was funded through NRCS.

Janice – NRCS is hoping to announce some open positions this fall. She will be attending the LCO college career fair. Trying to get other NRCS to other college career fairs. November is American Indian

Heritage month so they are working on the posters. They are beginning to change all of their email addresses. Janice's term in this position was only a 3 year term, there was a replacement for her, but now that person took a job in another state. She is unsure if she will be at a future meeting or not.

RD – Mike

They are working on an internal reorganization. This past year the only new hires they have been able to work with in WI was through pathways. The FY19 budget is up in the air right now. Probably will be under a continuing resolution starting October 1. Senate has passed a Farm Bill. Need to reconcile the House and Senate Bill. If not passed by October 1, probably an extension on the current Farm Bill is coming. They are going to more electronic files in the new fiscal year. Can sell products under a VAPG to internal departments as long as cash change hands.

RTCAC

Pat – They are in Sioux Nation Nebraska in October, no other update.

NRCS – EQIP – Chris – NRCS partners with EPA and a non-profit on a grant program called the healthy watersheds consortium. He handed out a copy of the RFP.

There are a number of Tribes that participated in the American Bird Conservancy work for golden-winged warbler habitat. This will be the last year they have funds available for that. The practices will still be available as regular EQIP practices.

EQIP sign up (applications) was pushed by to early November.

CSP – LCO likely signed their CSP agreement today.

Farm Bill Suggestions – Alan

The suggestion for this year was submitted with an emphasis on the pest symposium we attended in Madison last year as well as another meeting for 2019. We also put in a suggestion to fund an intern in FY2019. Chris Deegan – in FY18, WTCAC put in an internship suggestion, it was approved but has been held up at the Department level. Seems that USDA is putting a hold on anything that has the term internship in it. FY18 was for 3 internships and FY19 was for 6 internships. FY19 comments have gone to the review teams.

CAPS Tribal Pest Survey Coordinator

Alan – Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Tribal Pest Survey Coordinator – we would be hiring a ¾ time Tribal Pest Survey Coordinator, working initially from April – November and then part time in late winter/early spring in order to pull together the data they have originally found. Currently talking about not only looking for anticipated pests, but also pests that are on the national pest survey program as well as pests that are of significance to each tribe. Objectives are conducting pest surveys, reporting of results, ensuring collection of valid and high quality DATA, NOTIFICATION OF finds, comprehensive survey of Tribal lands in Wisconsin. Prevent the entry and spread of pests and diseases. Would like to have all of the Tribes participate it at all possible. First years budget is \$103,860 and \$93,000 for 2nd year and \$89,000 for 3rd year. Would need to be resubmitted each year.

Motion to approve the cooperative agreement with APHIS for the CAPS Tribal Pest Survey Coordinator by Stockbridge, 2nd by Mole Lake. All in favor, motion carries.

GLRI 2017-2019

Keith – Report is due at the end of September so he needs them by the end of the month so Erin can consolidate them and send them to EPA. Please send to Keith, Alan, and Erin.

Aquaculture

Jeremy – Met 2 weeks ago at Red Cliff. There is no longer the older style membrane for the ponds. No longer being manufactured. The new liners are a laminated material and is more rigid. Entirely different seaming process, fused by some type of machine. Not yet sure if this will change some of the pricing of the liner. NRCS is currently working on a new spec for this.

Wetlands

Randy – Wisconsin Wetlands Association Conference will be in Madison in February. The WI Wetlands Association will be submitting a grant proposal to the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation to fund one rep from each Tribe. If anyone is interested on presenting, call for presentations is out right now and are due by November 15.

We did receive the EPA grant for the Tribal Wetland Working Group. The final award should occur this week. It is \$25,000 total and can be used for a Tribal Meeting in 2019 which would include field trips with the intention of learning about the restorations or if a Tribe has a proposed site they would like other peoples in put on that would work as well. Also would fund floristic quality and functional values wetland testing for 2 people from each Tribe.

Randy and Alan will meet and talk about the long-term goals of the wetland subcommittee.

Forestry

Paul – Had a meeting last month in Bad River. Met with John Kotar and NRCS folks. Went through the melding of the habitat types and soil survey. Applied for another BIA grant similar to the one they are running off of this year, James Jacobs from USFS applied for funding through the USFS for the subcommittee as well. Another meeting coming up likely in either in December or January.

Director Report

Alan – NRCS Agreement – 2 aquaculture meetings and 7 prep meetings for aquaculture and forestry still in the grant, how best to handle taking care of these items. Chris and Alan will discuss how to spend the rest of the current agreement. Preps could be turned into regular meetings.

Motion to go into Executive Session by Mole Lake, 2nd by St. Croix, all in favor, motion carries.

Motion to leave Executive Session by LCO, 2nd by Stockbridge, all in favor. Motions carries.

Motion to amend the Innovative Funding LLC contract to increase the hourly rate to \$55 an hour from October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 and then increase to \$60 an hour from January 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020 contingent on Innovative Funding LLC agreeing to remove the Non-Compete Agreement Section from the contract by LCO, 2nd by Mole Lake. 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstained, motion carries.

Motion to direct the Executive Director to email all WTCAC Policies, Procedures, and By-laws to all WTCAC Representatives and put on the agenda at the next available meeting by FCPC, 2nd by Ho-Chunk. All in favor, motions carries.

Next Meeting

October 29, 9am start in Red Cliff

Motion to adjourn the meeting LCO, 2nd by St. Croix. All in favor, motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.