

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 4, 2008
Lac Courte Oreilles

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldán), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), LCO (Brett McConnell), St. Croix (Katie Stariha), Mole Lake (Roman Ferdinand), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall)

Others Present: Jim Thannum (GLIFWC), Jerry Thompson (NRCS), Chris Borden (Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D)

MOTION: Motion to send award letter to Bad River for their Graveyard Creek Brook Trout Behavior Study and Evaluation Project and their Culvert Assessment and Remediation Project. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

2. Strategic Plan Workshop

There was a discussion about the Introduction, Vision Statement, Mission Statement and the Goals. These items were all revised.

The following is the current things we need to be work on:

1. Annual Report
 - a. By Nov. 21 send to Jerry your best 2 projects with summaries and pictures for 2007 and 2008 (special projects, EQIP, WHIP). They have a 10MB limit on email, so do not send too many pictures at once.
 - b. Also provide a list of everything done in 2007 and 2008 with amounts of money listed.
2. Brochure for Congress
 - a. By Nov 21 send to Jerry your best 2 projects with summaries and pictures for all years (special projects, EQIP, WHIP, etc)
3. Congressional Earmark Strategy (a list of things to prepare for)
 - a. We need to make sure we get Executive Council Support
 - b. Promulgating the model
 - c. Energy (where are Tribe's at, demonstration project, energy conference)
 - d. Invasives (small projects)
 - e. Meeting expenses (8 meetings a year, \$16k – \$30k in previous years)
4. 501(c)3
 - a. Tax forms (Nate will set up a meeting with Judicare to fill out forms)
 - b. Resumes for members (if you have not sent your resume to Pat, please do)
5. Process for EQIP and WHIP allocations
 - a. Ranking sheet for projects
 - b. Start working with liaisons to start getting projects together.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2 and 3 at FCPC in Carter, Wisconsin. We are planning to have full day meetings both days. A room block will be set aside for the nights of December 1 and 2, information will follow.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Draft Strategic Plan November 2008

INTRODUCTION:

Established in ____, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council is a (Insert organizational structure here) that (Insert a short, we do what for whom where statement here)

VISION:

MISSION:

Make Federal conservation programs work on Tribal Lands through government to government education and demonstration.

WTCAC Goal Summary

Goal 1. Technical Recommendations

Provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

Goal 2. Policy Assistance

Provide policy assistance to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how USDA programs can work better from a policy standpoint on tribal lands.

Goal 3. Facilitate Information Sharing Between Governments

Serve as a conduit of information between individual Tribal Governments, Federal Government agencies, and Tribal General Public in order to improve outcomes.

Goal 4. Organizational Development

Establish a strong organizational structure and develop organizational capacities.

Goal 5. Sustainable Funding

Secure the funding needed to continue the mission of WTCAC

WTCAC Goals and Objectives

(Note: details regarding assignment of responsibility and timelines for specific tasks are outlined in the WTCAC Plan of Work)

Goal 1. Technical Recommendations

Provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

Objective 1. Track, implement, and document the successes of all special project efforts.

Objective 2. Implement procedures to provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

Objective 3. Improve intergovernmental communications to assure access, and fairness of access, to technical assistance to the Tribal Nation Governments from the Federal Government.

Goal 2. Policy Assistance

Provide policy assistance to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how USDA programs can work better from a policy standpoint on tribal lands

Objective 1. Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

Objective 2. Open up communications with other Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils and INCA in order to improve outcomes nationally.

Goal 3. Facilitate Information Sharing Between Governments

Serve as a conduit of information between individual Tribal Governments, Federal Government agencies, and Tribal General Public in order to improve outcomes. *(Note this as a two way conduit. Tribes should know about Federal opportunities and Federal agencies should know about opportunities to further their missions through working with tribes.)*

Objective 1. Plan and implement FY 2009 educational and demonstration workshops

Objective 2. Develop and implement a public relations plan in order to promote regionally and nationally, the Council's ability to implement cutting edge projects

Goal 4. Organizational Development

Establish a strong organizational structure and develop organizational capacities.

Objective 1. Establish the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council as a legal entity

Objective 2. Establish WTCAC Operational Standards (contract writing procedures, special project procedures, 106 MOU Development, board member indemnification, conflict of interest policy, project ranking procedures for EQIP and WHIP, meeting procedures, fiscal control and employment policies, and tax reporting obligation procedures)

Goal 5. Sustainable Funding

Secure the funding needed to continue the mission of WTCAC (continuation of earmark or creation of a funding mechanism that will result in a similar outcome)

Objective 1. Develop a Funding Plan that addresses: financial assistance for projects i.e., EQIP and WHIP set asides and special project funding, funds to run the meetings to keep the organization functioning, and securing future earmarks.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Strengths:

1. WTCAC was the first in the Nation
2. Pat Leavenworth's strong commitment to making things work
3. WTCAC members became a good team through a bit of a trial by fire, so should be able to function even better now that the wrinkles are ironed out
4. WTCAC provides the WI NRCS with high quality opportunities for outreach
5. WTCAC makes possible a higher level of Farm Bill program usage on Tribal Lands
6. WTCAC gives the NRCS State Conservationist and the Tribal Liaison's a few less things to worry about.
7. WTCAC allows tribes better access to Farm Bill funds and allows the tribes to influence technical standards and policy issues.
8. Funding necessary for the functioning of WTCAC came from congressional earmarks. Pursuit of future earmarks is planned in order to continue the work of WTCAC.
9. WTCAC members are skilled planners with practical knowledge of technical natural resource issues on tribal lands. This perspective is one of the key things that WTCAC brings to the table from a technical standpoint. This perspective can also help formulate practical policy.
10. WTCAC is seen as working well on a State Level. The Council's role from a regional or national perspective is not currently defined
11. Signs of improvement include specific mention of tribal concern in the Farm Bill, FSA recognizing wild rice and sugar bush as a crop, inclusion of Wetland Restorations in EQIP Docket.
12. Liaison relations work very well, access is really facilitated
13. NRCS engineering assistance works well to limit project costs
14. In the 2000 Farm Bill tribes were specifically mentioned in the legislation for the first time.
15. Commitment on the part of tribes and tribal reps to WTCAC strong
16. Tribal resource managers provide stability in an environment of rapidly changing Tribal Council make up.
17. WTCAC council Member commitment is strong
18. Council has strong abilities to get projects done
19. WTCAC successful in getting cutting edge projects approved and completed
20. There are a lot of committed members therefore new responsibilities can be assigned without an overwhelming extra commitment on anyone's part.
21. Tribes' relationship with NRCS is newer than their relationships with the BIA etc.

WTCAC STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL 4: Organizational Development

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council as a legal entity.

STRATEGY 1: Resolve issues related to establishing organizational structure

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Council needs to discuss and come to a decision regarding what type of organizational structure is appropriate for the WTCAC			
2	Roman will ask GLIFWC about the benefits of their organizational structure			
3	Need biographical information, including address and contact information, from everyone including tribal reps			
4	Jonathan will obtain needed census data from all tribes			
5	Brett will obtain spreadsheets for all three earmarks			
6	Need to get Vision Quest and Ritchie Brown's Employer Identification Numbers (EIN's) or equivalent information			
7	Need clarification from David regarding differences between an Association versus a corporate structure			
8	Brett will get bank records			
9	Develop policy regarding contract development			
10	Develop conflict of interest policy and dissolution policy, Chris Borden will provide examples			
11	Provide Judicare with project descriptions for each small project (Pat will get these from Jerry			
12	Research insurance for members (will need a decision on organizational type)			
13	Brett will get copies of all the Agreements to Judicare			

October 23, 2008

WTCAC STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL 4: Organizational Development

OBJECTIVE 2: Establish WTCAC Operational Standards.

STRATEGY :

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Contract Writing Procedures – Jerry will research the bidding requirements			
2	Small Project Standard Operating Procedures			
3	106 MOU Development (only 2 of 11 are presently completed) Status of the remaining nine need to be addresses at the October 7 meeting			
4	Member indemnification (Insurance) needs to be discussed			
5	Conflict of Interest policy			
6	Project ranking SOP for EQIP and WHIP			
7	Develop SOP on how WTCAC holds and publicizes public meetings			
8	Develop generalized meeting schedule and hosting order			
9	Consider Fiscal Control and Employment Policies (Chris Borden will provide examples)			
10	Discuss incorporation of remote meeting technologies into the WTCAC bylaws			
11	Assign responsibility for preparing 990 tax forms to the treasurer in the WTCAC bylaws			

October 23, 2008

