

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 23, 2008
Wisconsin NRCS State Office, Madison, WI

Pat Pelky, volunteers to chair the meeting

Roll Call:

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldán), LCO (Bret McConnell), Mole Lake (Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Menomonie (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), Red Cliff (Melonee Montano), St. Croix (Tony Havranek), GLIFWC (Miles Falck)

Quorum Present

Others present: Tony Bush (NRCS), Julie Malvitz (NRCS), Keith Sengbusch (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), Jerry Thompson (NRCS), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Meghan Merryfield (Oneida), Tony Kuchma (Oneida), Loretta Metoxen (Oneida).

Strategic Planning

Can Chris Borden develop our strategic plan? Jerry Thompson went over Pri-Ru-Ta's strategic planning process.

- Do we want to work towards things other than NRCS?
- We need outline of NRCS deadlines and other things that need to be done such as how many meetings WTCAC plans on having, etc.
- Do we want to hire Executive Director? Doug Cox would be available.
- Need to develop SOP's for things such as awarding NRCS money.
- Do we want to be more than just working with NRCS? If so, we need to hire an Executive Director.
- Things WTCAC has already achieved are the awarding of grants, trainings (provided educational opportunities), conferences, technical advisory committee to NRCS, brought Tribe's together more, opened up opportunities with APHIS, NRCS, starting to with USFS
- Who are we right now?????????
- WTCAC needs to think about how the trust responsibility affects WTCAC's relationship with NRCS
- Need SOPs for small grant project reporting

Chris Borden on conference call. Pat gave Chris an overview of what we discussed above. We asked Chris if he could assist us in this process and he said he could work with us to develop a plan. We are going to try and have at least a strong direction by September 30. We perhaps need 2 meetings in August and 2 meetings in September. The August meetings were scheduled for August 12 at 9am in Mole Lake and August 25 at 10am in Mole Lake.

Invasive Species (IS) Subcommittee Update

*There is a need for rapid response to invasive species, want to include right of way and other adjacent lands that are considered agriculture. NRCS rules don't follow National

Invasive Species Plan. National Invasive Species Council (NISC) established by Executive Order in 1998. Miles Falck from GLIFWC holds a seat on the Council. Thought it would be a good thing for Miles to be more involved with us so he can take things back to the Council. **WTCAC SHOULD BRING THIS ISSUE TO PAT LEAVENWORTH TO MAKE CHANGES FOR A MORE PROACTIVE APPROACH TO FIGHTING INVASIVES THROUGH EQIP.** Push NRCS to allow land adjacent to ag land to be included in EQIP and push DOT to get funding for Right of Ways treatment.

WTCAC get 501c3 then we would be eligible to apply for grants for treatment of invasive species in right a way's. Funding trough USFS.

Talk to NRCS directly to see if this stuff can be handled by EQIP. Directed the IS subcommittee to draft letter to NISC and then WTCAC will approve it and sign it.

*Need to talk about treating the same area more than 1 time. Example was EWM, may need to be treated every so many years. Garlic mustard needs to be treated for at least 5 years, phragmites every 3 years.

*Workshop potential for having a rep from an online database and have them come and train the Tribes and have each the Environmental Department of each Tribe get access to online databases. The online databases have over 600 journals and they can be searched by topic and the scientific papers can be read directly from these databases. Jerry said that there is potential to have this covered by earmark money.

MOTION: Motion to take recommendation of IS subcommittee to expand the EQIP definition of where we can apply treatment for Invasive Species to lands adjacent to agricultural lands and to allow for mutli-year treatments on the same land and incase of reestablishments. Motion by LCO, seconded by Mole Lake. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to direct IS subcommittee to develop a letter to the NISC to request what funding is available to treat travel and utility right a ways. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Menomonie. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to accept recommendation of IS subcommittee to see if WTCAC can establish access to an online database for professional journals for each WTCAC member Tribe. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Menomonie. Motion carried unanimously.

NRCS/WTCAC Agreement Financial Update

Jerry gave an update on NRCS/WTCAC Agreements and Financial Tracking
Need to address the issue about \$15,000 given to Bad River for Garden/Well project out of 2004 funds and it was never done, need to get money back. Need to find out if project was done or plans to be done. Need to contact Rae Ann or Naomi and does Bad River still need money for the culvert project.

Need to ask for status reports as small projects go along to see if all the money will be spent.

Preparation to Public Meeting with State Conservationist

We are going to propose to the State Conservationist that flat rates should be 75% -90%. State that Tribes should be considered socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher which allows for 75% - 90% flat rates.

Presentation of Small Project Proposals

- 1) Tony presented the project for St. Croix titled "Regional Wild Rice Assessment." Deliverables will be final reports and summary. Work will be done by August 2008 and report by November 2008. **MOTION:** Motion to approve by FCPC, 2nd by LCO. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Mile presented GLIFWC project titled "GLIFWC Invasive Plant Risk Assessment Prioritization Model." Phase 1 done by Sept. 30, 2009, phase 2 by Sep. 30, 2010. We are interpreting that GLIFWC cannot take part in EQIP and WHIP programs but can apply for small grant money. **MOTION:** Motion to approve by LCO, 2nd by Mole Lake. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Tony presented Oneida's proposal entitled "Cost Determination for Phragmites australis and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) Control." **MOTION:** Motion to approve by Mole Lake, 2nd by LCO. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Roman proposed Mole Lake's project entitled "Terrestrial Invasive Species Assessment." Final outcome will be GIS layer documenting the occurrence of invasives on the Reservation. Motion to approve by FCPC, 2nd by LCO. All eyes, zero opposed, Mole Lake abstained, motion carried.

State Conservationist NRCS Update

Jerry introduced Tom Krapf as acting state conservationist. Farm bill has been approved. Congress put intent into Farm Bill, but it doesn't tell agency details so up to Rule Making process. Farm Bill is worked on by different agencies work to put in details and definitions. There is a 90 day period to do this, which is why Pat Leavenworth is in D.C. 30 days into rule making process, state has not seen any details. Certain programs will be implemented by Oct 1.

WTCAC Technical Meeting Presentation

Pat Pelky proceeded with requests to state conservationist. Outlined the fact that the Tribes need the 90% match. We have turned over \$670,000 back in EQIP over the last 3 years. It was also requested that certain practices be added to EQIP that are either currently WHIP practices or not on the state docket. Nate Guldan talked about the need for invasive species treatment in right-a-ways and the need for multi-year treatment.

Tom Krapf indicated that he will need time to look into 90% rate but will get back to us shortly on the other items. The 90% issue is a national issue because it is on a nation to nation basis and should be considered nationally.

Tom Krapf requested that we put these requests in writing to the State Conservationist.
*Roman was tasked to do this.

Jan Whitcomb indicated that he can't envision being able to use NRCS money on state highway right-a-ways. Tom said that maybe we can work with NRCS through other avenues other than EQIP to get help with issues such as invasive species in road ditches.

Farm Bill Update

Tom Krapf gave a highlight of 2008 Farm Bill.

NRCS Presentation

Matt Otto talked about CSP program. Tribes may be able to get money for conservation on forest lands.

Matt Otto talked about Rapid Watershed Assessment. NRCS pulls together all available info on a watershed and puts it all in a report with GIS maps. Funding is internal NRCS money. Could request that the state NRCS works on a certain watershed that is of Tribal concern.

USFS Update

Jerry gave the USFS update because they are all in CA to fight forest fires. He distributed a hand out on Ecological Forestry Workshop.

APHIS Update

Jerry gave the APHIS update. He distributed an email on EAB from JoAnn Cruse.

NRCS Update

Jerry passed out a hand out on WDNR Brownfield grants.

*Need to keep pushing Section 106 MOUs.

Discussion of Talking Point for Loretta Metoxen

Loretta talked about the conference she will be attending. The elders have to say a prayer at the conference. AIANEA (American Indian/Native Alaskan Employee Association) She is a Tribal elder consultant. The conference is from August 11 – 15 in Spokane, Washington and she will be taken WTCAC's message to the conference.

TALKING POINTS

- Reiterate that over and over even though the Tribe's have made progress they still are an underserved group and therefore the Tribe's need a 90% flat rate
- Need to expand the EQIP definition of where we can apply treatment for invasive species to lands adjacent to agricultural land and to allow for mutli year treatments on the same land and incase of reestablishments.
- What is the intent of Chapter 4 Sec. 1240B, item (g) in the new Farm Bill? What are the alternative funding arrangements for Tribes?
- Are Tribes considered an individual entity with the payment limitations i.e. \$50K for Whip and \$300K for EQIP?

WTCAC Elections

FCPC Nominates Rae Ann Maday as Treasurer. All where in favor, Rae Ann is elected Treasurer.

LCO nominated Nate Guldan as Vice-President. All in favor, Nate Guldan abstained, Nate Guldan is elected Vice-President.

St. Croix nominated Jonathan Pyatskowit as President. All in favor, Jonathan abstained, Jonathon is elected President.

Tasks

Jonathan is going to contact Bad River on missing \$15,000 and whether they still need funding for culvert project after the settlement, Pat will finish small project form, Roman will draft formal requests to Pat Leavenworth and CC Tom Krapf. Nate will draft talking points for Loretta and contact Jean Buffalo and Rae Ann for all files (minutes, resolutions, etc) and will develop binders of all files.

Next Meetings

Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for August 12 at 9 am Mole Lake. Pat will invite Judicare attorney to afternoon part of the meeting with Chris Borden at the morning session for strategic planning. The 2nd strategic planning meeting will be held on August 25 from 10am – 2pm in Mole Lake.

MOTION: Motion by Mole Lake to adjourn, 2nd by LCO. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.