

Meeting called to order at 1:17 hosted by Ho-Chunk Nation at Baraboo Gaming on February 12.

Roll Call: FCPC, LCO, Menominee, Mole Lake, Oneida, St. Croix, Stockbridge, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff.

Motion to approve agenda by Mole Lake, 2nd by Stockbridge. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion to approve December 5&6, 2017 WTCAC meeting minutes by Mole Lake, 2nd by Menominee. All in favor, motion carries.

Army Corps of Engineers – ACOE gave a presentation of programs they have to offer. Their agreements no longer require a waiver of sovereign immunity. Alan will attach presentation to minutes.

APHIS – Nick – JoAnn was called away on a detail. She should be back by March 9. Did 3 table top exercises in January/February. Scheduling for 2nd of 3 Tribal PPQ meeting. JoAnn will be sending out info on it. Still figuring out the next steps with statewide EAB quarantine. Forest, Lincoln, and Florence counties will likely be added to quarantine because of proximity of find as well as the 5 counties with finds. EAB deregulation call tomorrow. There will not be a nationally funded EAB trapping overlay in WI, they will supply traps to any Tribes that are interested. Gypsy moth – for 2018 there will not be any additional quarantines. Capacity building exercise in MN, Jerry and Erin will be working on those details and will be in April sometime.

FSA – Kim – Farm Loan Chief (Tom) was also here with Kim. Sandy Chalmers is the new State Director. They also have new state committee members. Reorganization – Farm Production and Conservation – FSA, NRCS, and Risk Management are put under one umbrella. Latest thing on this is they unveiled is farmers.gov. The goal is that in May there will be some basic structure to the website and will then continue to build on it. Tom – one of the big things they do is Farm Loans. They loan to farm operators that can't get financing elsewhere. They only loan to the person that is going to operate the farm. The only program they can loan to someone that is not actually farming is the highly fractionated land acquisition program. Conservation Loan Program – Congress has not appropriated any funding for this over the last couple of years. So right now all FSA can do is guarantee the loan with a bank. \$300,000 loan limits, bills have been introduced that would increase these limits. Tribes as an organization are not eligible for loans but individual Tribal members would be. FSA will determine if a bank would determine them ineligible. If anyone has a scenario you were wondering would qualify, please pass them on to Kim and she will get them to Tom.

IAC – Dan – Farm Bill – Hearing potentially that Senate may have their Farm Bill Draft done by March, House is basically done. Native Farm Bill Coalition – the more Tribes that sign up the better. IAC is hosting this year’s intertribal foods submit May 9 – 13 in Iowa. They will have a youth summit at the same time. Applications should be sent out by next week. Working on additional projects such as Co-op development. Seed keeper’s network – they are working with seed saves exchange and have many seeds in their collection that came from Tribal sources. Seed training at Bay Mills at end of February and talking to Oneida about hosting one. Bad River is potentially interested in hosting a food summit likely late summer/Fall.

NASS – Greg – March Ag survey coming up soon. Maple survey ongoing in Wisconsin. Census is currently ongoing. 41% of farmers in WI have turned them in. Results will be made available in early 2019. Used to determine funding.

NRCS – Chris Borden – they have a 2nd EQIP batching period coming up. They should be able to pick up a couple extra projects. The deadline is May 18. Working Effectively with American Indians will be held at Red Cliff in April. Looking at assisting WTCAC with another annual report. They could work on developing request for info from each Tribe. Janice Kelly – Still looking for Tribal contacts to send job announcement information to.

RTCAC – Pat Pelky – Meeting held in December just before IAC in Las Vegas. The biggest thing that he got out of it was “why are we coming together?” What is being done with the info they are providing, how are changes being made, etc. Angela was also on the Council. Pat will share his notes with all of us.

Motion to go into Executive Session by Stockbridge Munsee, 2nd by Red Cliff. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion to exit Executive Session by Mole Lake, 2nd by Menominee, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion to recess until tomorrow morning by Menominee, 2nd by Stockbridge, all in favor, motion carries. Meeting recessed at 4:50 pm.

February 13, 2018

Motion to come out of recess by Mole Lake, 2nd by LCO, all in favor, motion carries. Meeting in order at 8:10am.

Roll Call: FCPC, LCO, LDF, Menominee, Mole Lake, Oneida, Red Cliff, St. Croix, Stockbridge.

NRCS – Angela Biggs – They are working on a 2nd WTCAC report and they are looking at updating that. NRCS is going to have a larger presence at IAC next year and are going to have a larger presence for Tribal liaisons across the country. Looking at doing more with the youth that are also attending the conference. There is an opportunity for a joint pilot project between BIA and NRCS on a partnership on Tribal weather stations. If Tribes are interested, please let Angela know. This would be to fill in a gap in weather station coverage. Tom Krapf – the second batching date in May for WTCAC, about \$163,000 available to WTCAC. Work with NRCS contacts to get estimates in, 2 tribes are potentially interested. They have a very good signup in all pools, so there is not a 2nd sign up for other groups. There will be a soil health signup statewide this spring. They don't have any information on the new Farm Bill yet. Angela – the reorganization is moving forward. FSA, NRCS, RMA will be together under FPAC. A Business Center is being established under the new FPAC mission area; the Business Center will coordinate business services for all three agencies in FPAC. While NRCS is still under a hiring freeze, we did receive approval to announce 150 positions across the country. Some of these positions will be entry level and others are for internal promotion opportunities. In addition, there will be another round of Pathways Intern Program vacancy announcements for around 200 positions across the country. Attended the Central Region TCAC, along with Pat; NRCS is working on the action items from the meeting. Tom – NRCS/WTCAC agreement- recommended that we begin the process of developing a new agreement soon. They are interested in a 3 year agreement again.

Technical Recommendations Letter – Attach handout. They are already looking into solving the cost issue with wells in arsenic prone areas. Can get 50% upfront payment within 90 days of completion of anticipating practice completion. Can we help quantify the need for NRCS assistance? They really need to know the needs we have that are not being met to come up with a plan to try and assist. They could look at setting aside some time for a couple of hours on trainings for various topics. This could be done online so we wouldn't have to get together for a training. NRCS would need approval from EPA to allow GLRI funds to be used outside the Great Lakes Basin.

Strategic Planning – Alan went through a strategic planning session.

Financial Report – Motion to table the financial report until the next meeting by FCPC, 2nd by Mole Lake, all in favor, motion carries.

Farm Bill 2018 – Distributed a hand out on the committee that met on it. Alan will send out to the WTCAC Board for comment. Looking to have this completed in March.

Aquaculture – Nothing more to add.

APHIS Capacity – Jerry – Been trying to move forward with a MN training session, has not been getting a response from Michigan. Looking at end of April, beginning of May for the MN training but now there is a concern from MN that they may not have the staff to assist with this. Jerry is making up booklets on the 2018 – 10007 Farm Bill Projects. Goals and objectives have changed some. JoAnn has suggested that maybe the WI APHIS folks would help put the MN session on. Jerry will bring copies of the booklet to the next meeting.

Next Meeting – April 16 and 17 in ST Croix is first choice, April 11 and 12 would be the backup dates.

APHIS Prep – talked about it a bunch yesterday. Will be looking at a half day in April for APHIS.

Forestry – Paul – Had a meeting last month. Covered fire stuff down at Black River Falls. It went really well. If any staff that wasn't there wants info on BIA or NRCS fire programs let him know. Next meeting is May 15 at FCPC talking about wetlands and road locations.

Interns – 2 interns – USFS – APHIS is holding back until they know about budget, he also spoke to ACOE about sponsoring as well.

Motion to adjourn by Menominee, 2nd by LCO. Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.