

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 6, 2007**

*Hosted at: Lac Courte Oreilles – Hayward, Wisconsin*

**I. Call to Order** (Ritchie Brown, Executive Director)

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:** Bad River, Forest County Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee, Oneida, St Croix.

**Absent:** Red Cliff, Sokaogon, Stockbridge-Munsee, GLIFWC

**Others in Attendance:** Pat Leavenworth, Keith Sengbusch, Randy Gilbertson, Julie Malvitz, Chris Borden, Tom Fredrickson, Mike Koehler, Sylvia Redschlag.

**Quorum:**   X   Yes        No

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- Motion was made by Bad River to approve the December 11, 2006 meeting minutes and seconded by Oneida. All Yes   0   No   0   Abstain. Motion carried.
- Motion was made by St. Croix to approve the January 24, 2007 meeting minutes and seconded by Lac du Flambeau. Question from Oneida on second page change special allocations to next line. All Yes (w/ correction)   0   No   0   Abstain. Motion carried.

**IV. Revisions to Agenda**

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

**V. Reports**

**NRCS Update (Pat Leavenworth)**

Pat discussed the continuing resolution which was finally passed by Congress at last year's funding level, and all earmarks have been removed from the 2007 budget, which means no new money for WTCAC this fiscal year. Pat is meeting with congressional staffers and Senator Kohl next week to report on earmarks. Minutes, deliverables, and recent financial report of WTCAC would be useful to provide to Kohl's staff reviewing progress on earmarks. No watershed funds were appropriated therefore, other all states are having difficulty paying employees that worked in those programs. Pat handed out a copy of the "Title II Conservation" proposal for the new Farm Bill. This is the bridge year for Farm Bills with the current one expiring in September. Ten percent (10%) is being proposed for disadvantaged farmers. Pat also reported on some of the changes happening, political appointees are leaving due to the election next year. Pat reported she also has a new boss, Christina Muedeking has been named Regional Assistant Chief for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Ms. Muedeking will serve as Regional Assistant Chief for the NRCS Central Region. NRCS is organized into three regions—East, Central and West with each region headed by a Regional Assistant Chief. Regional Assistant Chiefs are management representatives of the Chief and are responsible for providing overall direction of NRCS programs and activities consistent with the Chief's guidance and overseeing NRCS State Conservationists. Ms. Muedeking, a native of Minnesota, grew up on a family farm outside Tracy, Minnesota.

Upcoming Workshops: "The Future of Farming and Rural Life" May 14-15, 2007 at Monona Terrace in Madison. There will also be an Earth Day Conference on Alternative Energy-Bio fuels in Madison on April 20, 2007. Pat will send more information for distribution regarding registration via email.

**APHIS UPDATE (JoAnn Cruse)**

JoAnn is not present, she had to attend a meeting elsewhere. Ritchie/Sylvia reported on EAB below.

**WTCAC UPDATE (Ritchie Brown)**

Ritchie updated the group on his brief meeting with Jean last month following the meeting in Bad River and learned she was hospitalized with the flu at the time in Ashland, but is back at home. He reported he has a meeting scheduled with Jean to pick up the file box with the remaining WTCAC budget information and other relevant documentation to proceed forward with the non-profit designation and other reports that are coming due. The contract for the Executive Director position is expiring at the end of the month. The contract period runs on a one-year renewal cycle and may be extended by letter each year.

**EAB Survey Update (Sylvia Redschnag)**

The WTCAC EAB survey team conducted detection sampling at Oneida and cross-training foresters. The team also is currently compiling the third quarter report due to USDA-APHIS in March on current accomplishments and budget status for this quarter for the EAB project. USDA-APHIS is working on a target area in southeastern Wisconsin conducting a more intensive EAB survey and is done with the coordination with the Tribes for Section 106 consultation on the non-Tribal lands covered in the survey area. They are primarily locating trap tree sites for this study in highway right-of-ways. The protocol the agency is currently following is that if a cultural site is encountered on any of the proposed site(s) that are on non-Tribal lands in the survey area, the trap tree location will be moved. The agency is trying to do only trees located in the highway right of ways. A map of the target sampling area in southeastern Wisconsin was brought up on power point for the group to view. An EAB workshop is being scheduled for the first week in April in conjunction with Illinois Department of Ag and USDA-APHIS office in Des Plaines, Illinois for detection sampling and bark peeling demonstration workshop in Evanston (Cook County), Illinois. More information on the workshop will be sent out via email announcement within the week. We viewed a power point presentation on the EAB survey and cross-training with Oneida forestry staff peeling trees.

**Section 106 Update (Sylvia Redschnag)**

The Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Tribes and USDA-NRCS was completed and staffed for initial review and comment to all of the Tribal THPO's as they requested in the January 2007 at Lac du Flambeau with the WITRC. Three sample copies of the MOU were passed around at the meeting for WTCAC members to view. Pat Leavenworth commented that it was the consensus of the Tribal THPO's at the meeting with WITRC in January 2007, that individual MOU's be entered into with each Tribe as opposed to one umbrella agreement covering all Tribes, because of unique needs of the Tribes, and some are dealing with the consultation issue differently than others.

**Forestry Committee Update** - Tabled. No report from forestry committee.

**EQIP & WHIP Update**

Applications have been reviewed by Tribal Liaisons and sent on to Madison. No Tony Bush. FCPC changed their application regarding the sediment removal portion of their EQIP proposal. Not necessary for committee to approve the change. WHIP applications have been reviewed by Tribal liaisons and sent on to Madison.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

Strategic plan update from last meeting was handed out. A suggestion was made to appoint persons from here to work with NRCs program staff to develop processes. Question, what is the route we take to have influence on areas of concern for Tribal practices? Randy Gilbertson replied Jan Whitcomb is the expert and we need him to lay out the process for WHIP and EQIP program priorities for WTCAC. Consensus was to invite Jan Whitcomb to the next meeting to provide some guidance. Ritchie brought up a need to update resolutions for all Tribes to review/revise as needed, their designations of appointed member and alternate member as that represent the Tribe on the WTCAC. The template resolution form is in Jean's files and has not as yet been forwarded to Ritchie from Jean Buffalo.

### **VI. New Business**

Special Projects: Oneida - last year at this time we did a call for special projects. Last year there were 8 tribes that got funding for special projects. Need financial information to determine what we have to give out for special projects. Much discussion about it. Suggestion was made to spend all of our funds this year and be done with it.

Motion made to present special projects at next meeting by Bad River and seconded by LCO.

All Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Ritchie will send out WTCAC Special Project Application and Project Certification forms via email to all Tribes. Project proposals are due back to Ritchie by April 2, 2007. Status report from those that received funding for their special projects last year will be given at next meeting. Ritchie will send out status of funding by next week by email to everyone.

### **VII. Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be at Menominee on Thursday, April 19, 2007.

### **VIII. Executive Session**

Tribal members/representatives went into executive session to continue work on strategic plan initiatives.

### **IX. Meeting Adjourned (2:30 p.m.)**

Approved as to form by: Ritchie Brown, Executive Director

