

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2010**  
**Mole Lake**

Meeting called to order at 9:10 am by Jonathan Pyatskowitz.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Ho-Chunk (Sara Schmidt), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Bad River (Pam Roberts), St. Croix (Katie Stariha), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Stockbridge-Munsee (Luke Hennigan), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), LCO (Brett McConnell), Mole Lake (Roman Ferdinand), FCPC (Nate Guldan)

Others Present: Jerry Thompson (WTCAC Program Manager), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Keith Sengbusch (NRCS), Julie Malvitz (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), Tom Melnarik (NRCS), Tom Cogger (NRCS), Dr. Tim Deveau (APHIS-VS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Tony Bush (NRCS), Don Baloun (NRCS), Brad Pfaff (FSA)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Need to add FSA as Item #4 and add an item for Website/Logo Development.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve agenda with additions. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the January 5, 2010 minutes. Motion by LCO, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**4. NRCS Update**

Don Baloun gave the NRCS update. He wanted to complement all the Tribes on what they have done for sign up this year. Tribes have come a long way and it has been a pleasure, he hopes they can keep it going. Pat Leavenworth sends her wishes. Don't be surprised if we get a phone call from her, so is starting from scratch this new program and she is looking to set up an advocacy and outreach branch. Julie Malvitz is leaving and Pat and NRCS staff would like to say that she has been an outstanding friend and everyone will miss her. Don thanked her for what she did and the door is always open for her to come back. Don introduced Brad Pfaff from FSA. Brad thinks it is a new day for the Tribes and he is looking for new ways to reach out to Tribes and he sees this as a great opportunity. His wife has been hospitalized so they need to leave right away (Update - everything with his wife turned out fine).

**5. Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

FSA is a sister agency to NRCS. They have 57 offices including 56 field offices throughout the state. They have a number of different programs, when it comes to Conservation, we are likely familiar for CRP. Biomass Crop assistance program is new. He really just wanted to say hello and introduce himself to us. He thinks the best

government is one that works together and he wants to collaborate as much as he can. He was appointed by President Obama on August 17. So he is very new. He hopes over the next 7 years that he can come up often and meet with us and talk about various issues and do a better job of outreach with us. They have a Rhinelander office. They would be willing to talk to us and give us a presentation on things they could do for us. He served on staff of Rep Ron Kind in western Wisconsin was also on the staff of Senator Herb Kohl. He wants to see how NRCS and FSA can work together. Susan Hunter would be the main point of contact. We should put him and Susan on the email list.

Jonathan indicated that we would like to have them come back and give us a presentation on their programs. He will pull that together for us.

General sign up will likely be in June for CRP.

## **6. APHIS Update**

Dr. Deveau gave an update. Right now with VHS there have been proposals from WTCAC and individual Tribes. Dr. Dutcher apologized for not being able to attend. There was a VHS case he worked on out of UWSP aquaculture facility, they had collected eggs from herring from Lake Superior and one lot came back positive for VHS. The eggs had been through a treatment protocol, they were being reared in the incubators when the results came back. No risk to any other fish in that facility.

Premise ID system - In WI any livestock facility has to register as a premise, could be backyard chickens or 5000 cow dairy. In WI it has been in the books about 4 years. There is lawsuit in Clark County challenging that, still up in the air. If you have any livestock you need to register. Big concern in lawsuit is on religious ground (Amish) if you use a number system it is the mark of the beast. The signup in WI is through livestock consortium on web. This is funded by USDA. Big push to go to a national ID, some states said they would not support with new administration it is being canned as a national program. Individual states can drop this now if they want. This will be a problem with the ability to trace animals with disease. In WI they can usually trace animals back when a disease is found. You do not have to register individual animals; just have to say where they live and the types of animals. This helped with the pseudorabies outbreak. Now that the national program is going to be looked at, trying to trace in individual states is going to be difficult. WI does not allow animals to come into the state with TB documentation without testing. May say that in order to bring animals into this state they need to be traceable. This also applies to fish hatcheries and bait farms. Questions - How are they getting the word out, beginning farmers do not know about this? This is a state law so it is not required on trust lands, but it would be beneficial.

JoAnn Cruse gave an update. Since the last meeting, the BIA held regional fire and forestry conference at FCPC. Part of it was an EAB clinic, talked about rural types of response plans. One of the key things they were trying to dispel is that they are not going to remove all trees in an area if it is found. If a tribe were to find it on their property, the state is not going to come and tell the Tribe that they have to remove all the

trees. They are not removing trees in the areas of the other finds in Wisconsin. A woman from one of the tribes in MI had a basket making work shop and talked about the impacts of EAB on their culture. Oneida is dealing with some quarantine issues, they were not at the table when the quarantine was developed and they were not in the consultation process. They should have been at the table. JoAnn will CC us on letters that will go out offering to sit down and discuss EAB quarantines before they happen. Oneida could have imposed their own quarantine on the Reservation.

They have not found any new EAB but she thinks they will find more this season. She hopes to have the traps and lures with her at the next meeting, they need to be out by the end of May. She would like everyone to give her contact persons via email, they will send out updates when it is a good time to start trapping, etc.

APHIS has an Ag Discovery Camp at 8 different Universities for ages 12 – 16. It is a 10 day to 3 week camp; participants don't pay for anything (except transportation to the site). They have to apply and they get screened. Iowa State University is the closest one and it is geared towards animal health and diseases. They would like to set one up at the Tribal colleges here in WI. The college would need to have dorms available.

They will have an opening for a Native American Program Coordinator on the national level; it will be open inside and outside of government. This person is used to help with the government to government process and making sure they are doing outreach to Tribes. Once that comes out she will send a notice.

She has heard people talking about leafy spurge biocontrol. If anyone is interested let her know because she has connections with folks where she can get the insects. Let her know, they can get them for free.

Questions - Is there any pretreatment you can do for EAB (timber removal, etc) question? The state DNR just posted silvicultural guidelines, there is a meeting coming up in MN in May that is a Black Ash Conference (Bemidji). USFS or BIA may have more info, APHIS deals more with treating the insect.

#### **7. WTCAC – APHIS VHS Agreement Update**

Jerry indicated that 3 Tribes are participating with the agreement (FCPC, St. Croix, Stockbridge-Munsee). He has had to redo it a number of times. Friday he was contacted and he had to redo it again Monday to move the start date back to March 1 because we need to order nets to get them here for April sampling. Dr. Dutcher thinks he now has everything the way they want it. We got approved for about \$67,000. The protocol indicates that we need to collect 150 fish/lake but we were able to get it down to 60 fish/lake.

## **8. EQIP/WHIP Project Approval**

The total Tribal EQIP request this year was \$432, 948.88, which was just under WTCAC's total allocation of \$440,000. Tony handed out a spreadsheet with projects and rankings.

The funds need to be obligated into ProTracts by April 1 and contracts need to be signed by May 5 or 15 (this may change).

We used state WHIP rankings this year so some Tribes benefit from their location. We may want to rank WTCAC's projects together so all questions are answered the same way. WHIP is ranked higher to address endangered species so depending on where you are you got more points. We need to do our own ranking for WHIP next year as well.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve all 2010 EQIP applications. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

The total Tribal WHIP request this year was \$54,948, which was just \$52 under WTCAC's total allocation of \$55,000.

There was a discussion about removing cattails for wild rice with machinery, Roman will send Jonathan pictures and he will send them out to everyone.

Greg Yakle will track down if we got a waiver to do treatment; we need to figure this out.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve all 2010 WHIP applications. Motion by Lac du Flambeau, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

## **9. Technical Recommendations**

Keith met with Katie a couple weeks ago about 3 different standards, 399 - Fish Pond Management (there is a WI Standard), 398-Fish Raceway and Tank (National standard but no WI Standard), and 378 - Pond (there is a WI standard). Keith is going to do some research from other states to see if criteria exist that they could possibly use. He is hopeful that it could be added for 2011. Other possible technical recommendations include: fish cribs, invasive species, larger culverts, access Control (Ho-Chunk).

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is at FCPC on May 11, 2010.

Everyone but WTCAC representatives and the WTCAC Program Manager were excused at this point.

### **11. Logo Development**

We all voted for our favorites. We selected a simple logo to go with for now. We are going to try and develop the idea of the hands logo. We are going to send the logo to a few people and see what they can develop.

### **12. WTCAC Website**

The website developer needs people to think about the navigation points of the website. We discussed that the minutes should be located in the members only section. We will request that Rising Flame come to a future meeting to show us how importing stuff to the website will work.

### **13. Future Funding**

Honoring Nations is a program promoted by Harvard looking for unique things that tribes are doing that could possibly be a technology transfer to give to another tribe. Jerry talked to them and they thought it would be something we should submit for. We could get up to \$20,000. This could possible support website, education materials, presentations to other Tribes, and working with INCA. They allowed him to submit it late. They will be reviewing the applications in mid March. First place is \$20,000 and a couple of second places are \$10,000. If we were selected we would then have to go the National Congress of American Indians and make a presentation. UPDATE – Jerry received notice that WTCAC did not receive an award from this program.

Jerry also submitted an application for a 2501 Grant through USDA. If our proposal is funded, WTCAC will be completely funded for the next 3 years. The applications were handed out. He had to get us a DUNNS number and get us registered in CCR. They will make the initial decisions in July. UPDATE – Jerry received notice that the notification of awards will be around May 5.

Nate and Jonathan went to Kohl's and Feingold's offices in Milwaukee. One of Kohl's staffers was planning on forwarding us information. Jonathan will talk to them.

### **14. Outreach to Other Tribes**

Nate will be at US EPA GAP conference to give a presentation on WTCAC late this month.

### **15. WTCAC Program Manager Update**

If we need to contact Jerry in the next couple of weeks, email him. No cell phone coverage down there.

Jerry handed out the timesheets he is using.

Jonathan put a request into Dave (Judicare) about Jerry's status. Dave's initial response was a contractor and Dave needs to send Jonathan a template contract. He thinks next year he would have to be an employee.

He has been contacted by Pat Leavenworth to potentially help her set up this new agency in DC so he may be gone in May and June.

**MOTION:** Motion to increase Jerry's wage from \$30/hour to \$35/hour. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

### **16. Small Projects**

Nate asked if FCPC could withdraw their small project because of concerns with vandalism. Nate will get something to WTCAC in writing from FCPC Executive Council indicating that FCPC would like to withdraw the project.

### **17. Financial Report**

It was decided that we should add a budget item to WTCAC's agreement with NRCS for materials/supplies. Nate will add this to the proposed agreement amendment.

Brett handed out the check register. Everything is up to date. \$2635.93 is WTCAC's own money. We will have to have money for 501(c)3 and managing corporation now so we should hold on to it.

### **18. Other Issues**

WTCAC needs to amend the bylaws to include a provision about email motions. The notice to amend the bylaws needs to be sent out at least 30 days before meeting. Nate will make the changes and email to everyone.

Announcement for intern to work at Badger Army Ammunition area to soil sample and determine metals that may be present that are up taken by plants and then eaten by bison was emailed to everyone. This would be a good opportunity for someone.

We need to get subcommittees going to work on technical recommendations.

UPDATE – There is an Invasive Species Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for May 10.

We need to bring up with Don that we need to have someone overlap with Keith when he retires. It takes engineering job approval to do this; it will not be good when Keith is gone. We need to start making a push to Pat and Don that we would like Keith's position filled. He will likely be gone in January. The question is who will do I & E when he is gone. We need to get a letter to Pat and Don now to push to fill this position. Ask Don to come to the next meeting to discuss it.

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.