

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 1, 2013
FCPC

Meeting called to order at 8:07am by Pat Pelky.

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldán), Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Jeremy Pyatskowitz), Red Cliff (Nathan Gordon), Oneida (Pat Pelky), St. Croix (Tony Havranek), Bad River (Lacey Hill), Stockbridge-Munsee (Luke Hennigan), Mole Lake (Roman Ferdinand)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Shelly Allness (WDNR)

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda. Motion by Menominee, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the August 5 and 6, 2013 WTCAC Meeting minutes. Motion by Menominee, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. NRCS Update

- a) One USDA Training - Jerry wants himself and Randy to attend. They need travel approval. Funds for 1 WTCAC member to attend and 3 other people. Please make sure to get information to leadership, please work with the leadership to make sure we have people signed up and ready for their presentation. The meeting is October 30 and 31 at Mole Lake. It is a chance to meet agency heads and express how we would like access to their programs.
- b) EQIP applications due November 15 – CSP we think at the end of the year. A lot of upfront work to get things in place for CSP, but it works for them at Lac du Flambeau. Pretty much what they were doing anyway but it put it under contract. Five year contracts. Push to put more practices back into CSP.
- c) Harmony Training – No more info – Nathan Gordon hasn't heard anything even though Red Cliff committed to hosting it.

5. FSA Update

The report is attached.

6. RD Update

Tabled

7. Forest Service Update

- a) We are going to have the Northern Research Station come and speak; they were supposed to come today.
- b) Meeting Update – Fred Clark – Director of Office of Tribal Relations – He waived the 50% match, we just need to get a letter to Barb. Land exchange with USFS – we need to learn more about this. They can only act within their authorities, if they are administrative rules they can change it, but we would have to help them change regulations through Congress.
 - Research staff to come to WTCAC
 - National Forestry Exchange
 - Talk more about their conflicting authorities – regulations versus administration
 - More info about MOU
 - Forest Service Advisory Council – Need to learn more – regional or national?

8. IAC Update

Beginning farmer outreach – one in Oneida (October 14 and 15: seed selection, corn harvesting, high tunnels, farm to school possibilities), Ho-Chunk, and Red Cliff, need to happen before the middle of November. There may be another one at LCO at Tribal Community Gardens, trying to coordinate them with Extension.

9. INCA Update

Tabled

10. Alaska Update

Keith – Tionek in Alaska – they took the traditional framed high tunnel manual and implemented it at a village. Rained for 5 days when he got there. Miscommunication, they cut birch trees ahead of time, so they had to harvest the correct trees the first day. They put it up in about 3 days, waiting until spring to put the cover on. There was a lot of interest in the Tribe about putting these up in their fish camps. A lot of places they don't have trees, talk about turning this into a business by cutting trees and selling them to other villages. Keith is working on the manual right now. He is working with the state engineer in Wisconsin to develop a calculation that is easier to do. He suggested taking trees early in spring. He is going to add a page based on recommendations of where you are at. NRCS has accepted the manual and they will be able to be funded nationwide. The standard says the high house needs to be manufactured by a

company that guarantees the structure. There will be statements saying the Tribe will accept the responsibility for the structural integrity, they would have to rebuild it if it collapses. Manual should be done next week; it is much cheaper to do it this way. The cost is a little over \$4/sq. ft. for traditional versus \$15/sq. ft. for commercial.

11. Wisconsin DNR Update

Shelly Allness - The Governor's budget was passed last July and it included the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative – a lot of it is focused on hatcheries but it also includes a Tribal Youth program. The last couple of years they worked with some of the Chippewa Tribes on summer youth programs. Students worked with some of their staff over the summer mostly in fisheries. They pursued funds to continue the program going forward. They have \$250K annually and it is in statute so it will be available every year and is available to all 11 Tribes in the state. She has talked with Jerry about our program and the goals are very similar. Not too particular as long as it relates to natural resources. Hopefully once they get a taste for some of the different areas, their thought is hoping they would go on for some schooling. They are in the process of building the program right now, she has reached out to the majority of Tribes to try and set up meetings. Group is mostly DNR folks and they have some DOA folks involved, not a grant program, but they are working with grant staff as they have experience putting applications together. They will be coming to meet with each of the Tribes now through the end of November; the applications will be up and available in January. February 8 would be deadline; March 31 would be deadline for agreements to be mailed to each Tribe. The deadline would be mid-April for the Tribes to returned signed agreements to them. They are proposing to split the \$250K evenly amongst each Tribe. They are focusing on either high school students or early college. They would come up with 50% of the cost; they are working on creative ways for the Tribes to come up with the match instead of dollars. This could cover sampling equipment, youth's salaries, maps, copies, etc. It cannot be spent on other Tribal employees.

Another thing on Governor's budget is that the state is required to sell 10,000 acres of state land. End of December all of this goes to the Natural Resources Board, transactions will start happening in 2014. Tribes need to start working with them on this early on.

11. Elections

MOTION: Motion to open nominations for Vice President. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Nate Guldán (FCPC) is nominated by Stockbridge-Munsee.

Nate accepts the nomination.

MOTION: Motion to close nominations for Vice President. Motion by Bad River, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Unanimous vote for Nate Guldan as Vice President. Nate is re-elected Vice President.

MOTION: Motion to open nominations for Treasurer. Motion by Bad River, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Brett McConnell (LCO) is nominated and accepts the nomination.

MOTION: Motion to close nominations for Treasurer. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Unanimous vote for Brett McConnell as Treasurer. Brett is re-elected Treasurer.

12. NRCS Job Approvals

Engineering Job Approval (EJA), all engineering staff are required to have EJA which is giving by John Ramsden and everyone is working under his engineering license. This way the liability is on NRCS, not the individual. Keith's EJA expired last January so he currently doesn't have any job approval. We need to sit down and talk about it with NRCS. Pat will follow up with Jimmy on it.

13. FAC Meeting

An update meeting, the facilitator switched to Brad Pfaff. He would like to bring in more guest speakers to trigger people's thought processes. Pat and Jerry were there, we are on it for technical support.

14. RTCAC

They had a meeting a couple weeks ago in Oneida, the next meeting will be at Fond du Lac. The meeting was very informal, they just went around the table to find out what Tribes are most concerned about, and they talked about sovereignty, where they weren't getting services, Minnesota talked about their failed attempt at a TCAC. WTCAC is doing some more than technical standard development. Minnesota proposed a sub-regional TCAC.

15. Procurement Procedures

Review these procedures and get comments back to Jerry by October 15.

16. Staff Reports

Randy - GLRI and Outreach activities – Jerry is in Maine right now, GLRI has closed up shop for this fall. Randy was very pleased with GLRI. Issues with hiring and retaining staff and the window we needed to work within. Pretty well established list of what species will be worked on. We will have to agree on the time window next year, we will have to compromise. We will be able to apply again in a year, subcontract to Tribes next time around. Jerry wants to know if the Tribes have excess money. Jerry and/or Randy will send out an email and then call their contacts with each Tribe. The OAO grant is pretty much done otherwise. We have a balance of \$26,000.

Keith - \$75K AmeriCorps planning grant – Keith and Jerry spent a week in DC at an AmeriCorps conference. Most of the individuals there already had grants so they spent a lot of time talking with these folks about the AmeriCorps grants, they were told by most people they spoke with is that it is the most complicated grant to manage, paperwork, tracking, personnel issues, etc. Proposing to construct aquaponics systems on a number of Reservations in Wisconsin and through that process hiring about 4 AmeriCorps staff per site to construct it and run it. They work about 1700 hours/year. They also need to research and come up with funding to pay for the structures themselves. AmeriCorps will only pay for operating funds. The initial proposal has to be submitted in January for next year's grant proposal, number of sites, staff, a budget, etc. and present to AmeriCorps DC staff. Then later in the year they will actually make the selection. You need at least 12 AmeriCorps staff to make the grant worthwhile to spend time and effort on it. Mole Lake and Red Cliff are interested. They are looking for anyone that has interest.

17. Aquaculture Subcommittee

Tony Havranek – The date is set for the next meeting on October 23 at the library in Tomahawk from 12 – 2. They are going to try and set up a call in for the meeting.

- 1) Background on EQIP – Matt Otto
- 2) Resource Concern Proposals from WTCAC – Tony Havranek
- 3) Here is what we are asking for laid out like tech recommends
- 4) Funding for aquaculture should be left up to WTCAC

18. Interns

Need to do actual technical presentation and not just a presentation on what they did during summer. Randy and Keith will bring it back to Jerry to make sure it is clearer next year. Need to limit it to 18 or older.

19. Task List

We need to have WI Tribal Caucus as standing agenda item.

Chuck Traxler at USFWS – contact about attending WTCAC meeting.

Get grant reports etc. up on the website, develop an online data base of all reports, establish members only portion of website.

MOTION: Motion to approve travel for Nate, Brett, and Pat to meet with Jerry to train on WTCAC SOPs. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

20. RENEW Wisconsin

Did we want to support their efforts to support the clean energy initiative? We decided not to sign on. We felt it was up to each Tribe to make that decision.

MOTION: Motion to not sign on to the RENEW Clean Energy Choice initiative and defer the decision of support to each individual Tribe. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

21. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 20th at St. Croix at 8 am however a meeting room was not available so the meeting location was moved to Ho-Chunk.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.

EMAIL MINUTES 10/24/2013

MOTION: Motion to approve Jerry to travel to the IAC Annual Conference in Las Vegas for the week of December 8, 2013 in support of the work plan for APHIS. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Red Cliff. Seven ayes (Lac Du Flambeau, Mole Lake, LCO, St. Croix, FCPC, Red Cliff and Menominee), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MINUTES 10/28/2013

MOTION: Motion to travel that includes airfare and car rental for Randy and Jerry to Ft. Collins, Colorado from November 4th to 7th to work with APHIS Management and Training staff to begin the development of an APHIS Tribal Training Plan. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Seven ayes (FCPC, LCO, Mole Lake, Red Cliff, St. Croix, Stockbridge-Munsee, and Menominee), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MINUTES 11/5/2013

MOTION: Motion to approve contract with Bauman Associates, Ltd not to exceed \$4,500 for our audit. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by FCPC. Eight ayes (LCO, Mole Lake, FCPC, Menominee, Red Cliff, St. Croix, Stockbridge-Munsee, and Lac du Flambeau), zero opposed, motion carried.

ATTACHMENTS



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
Agency

Columbia County FSA Office
2912 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 608-742-5361
Fax: 608-742-0194

Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – October 3, 2013

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison, (608) 742-5361 ext 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov
Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

One USDA Session with Tribes – FSA will be participating in this event on October 30-31st at Mole Lake.

2013 Farm Bill – Shutdown until further notice. All FSA employees are on furlough as of October 1, 2013.

Sign Up for FSA e-Newsletters – All program and other announcements from FSA office will be done via email now or through news releases to the media. We no longer send out a paper newsletter. If you would like to receive all announcements from the local or state FSA office, you need to provide the local office with your email address and fill out form AD-2047 (attached). If you want to sign up yourself online, go to the Wisconsin FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/wi and choose **Subscribe to Wisconsin FSA E-mail News** in the upper right hand corner of the page under “I Want To. . . .”

CRP Signup #45 – FSA offices are working with NRCS and the FS to complete work on conservation plans for the newly accepted contracts. Annual 2013 payments for CRP will be issued after October 1st.

Continuous CRP #44: May 13 - September 30th: FSA offices can still accept offers and approve contracts for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), and SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement).

FSA Farm Loan Funding & Interest Rates: Loan funds are not tied to the Farm Bill. Wisconsin is hoping to get approximately 5.5 million in loan funds in August to take care of the Farm Ownership Loans that have been approved and have been waiting for funding. FSA anticipates a big lending year in 2014. We hope to get our 2014 funding soon after October 1, which is when our fiscal year starts.

- 1 year annual and 7-year operating & MICROLOANS – 1.875% (3-week wait unless SDA)
- 40 year ownership loans – 4.125% (National waiting list – hope to fund all soon)
- Emergency loans - 2.875%