

Meeting called to order at 9:05.

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

Approval of Agenda

Move board election to afternoon and change to President Election, not Treasurer and Vice President and add accomplishment report.

Motion to approve the agenda with changes by Menominee, 2nd by SBM, motion carries.

Approval of Minutes

Add the meeting date, September 11, 2018 to the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes with the addition of the meeting date, 9/11/18, by SBM, 2nd by LCO. Motion carries.

APHIS Update

Christopher Deagan – Finished seasonal trapping, nothing new. Watching velvet long horn beetle. Imported furniture coming from China and marketed as rustic with bark. There were some retailers in Wisconsin. They have been trapping in the Milwaukee area and are finding there. They want to start trapping more high-risk locations in Wisconsin. It attacks orchard trees, previous problems have been in peach orchards in Georgia. May have a negative economic impact. European cherry fruit fly fighting in New York and spotted lantern fly in Pennsylvania are things they are watching. National announcement to proposed deregulation of EAB. Comment period is open until December 19. This will not change anything for Wisconsin. Even though they are deregulation EAB, there are still supporting EAB efforts. Parasitoids only work if you already have EAB. Farm Bill Suggestions – it is in the hands of the review panel, guessing February or March announcement of awards. FY18 request for 3 seasonal staff was approved, waiting on new request.

Seasonal workers – they would be working June – August. They would work on EAB and educate tribal communities regarding EAB through the harvest of ash and basket weaving as a story-telling project.

Army Corps of Engineers – Jeremy (St. Croix) – First site visit tomorrow with ACOE. Issues with getting things changed in their documents, not an easy task. Oneida and LCO are also currently working with ACOE on projects. Red Cliff also has a project with them replacing a bunch of leaky sewer lines. Also helping design an expansion to the commercial fishing dock. FCPC is working with them on a stormwater management project.

DATCP – Oneida has been working with them on Industrial Hemp. Oneida registered through the state, but in talking to DEA, it was not legal yet until about 3 weeks ago so they did not move forward last year.

EPA – GLRI – Alan

Alan distributed a handout.

FSA Update – Kim – They are restructuring were they fit in USDA and are grouped with NRCS and RMA. Could look at including SCORE in the 2501 grant. SCORE – volunteer organization and has history with the small business administration but they are stand-alone. Offers mentorship to businesses getting

started. Could be a great opportunity to incorporate into the education aspect of the grant. They have been hiring a few staff. Within the next month or 2 they are opening up a County Operators Training Program, this is the training to be a manager of an office (County Executive Director). Kim will look into how they can collaborate on the 2501 grant.

USFS Update – Dennis - Introduced new USFS staff member, Sunny. Recently their administration (State and Private Forestry) merged with Region 9. Their area office that was in Pennsylvania now moved to Milwaukee. All of staff have chosen to retire instead of relocate. There will be a little be closer engaged with between State and Private Forestry and Region 9. An early outcome of this is the fact that there is a new initiative (Shared Stewardship) just means the National Forest will be more engaged with surrounding communities. Landscape Scale Restoration Program (annual competitive grant) Proposals were due earlier in October. They conducted areal pest surveys, but they were unable to fly everything due to aircraft availability. They really did not find anything other than an extremely high water table. They saw a really early leaf dropping in black ash swamps and they think this was moisture related. Oak wilt is really beginning to rear its head in the north where they have not seen it. They were also involved in the pesticide training this past year and are committed to being engaged in this process moving forward.

Landscape Scale Restoration Grants – primary customer considered to be the WDNR State Forester and therefore the State Forester needs to approve any projects in the state. States can submit up to 5 proposals, in WI they don't submit their own proposals very often. Very likely, they would approve a proposal if WTCAC or Tribes were to develop one. They are able to fund about 20 or the average 60 proposals submitted each year. Pat thought that it had been decided that these projects could go through Tribal Forester, not state forester. Dennis will look into it.

Alan questioned the status of the MOU between WTCAC and National Forest. Really an issue for the Forest, not State and Private Forestry.

USFS GLRI – 1) tree planting and 2) reducing runoff by green infrastructure. Basically looking to restore riparian areas in more rural areas. 3) Enhancing wetland infiltration. RSA should be coming out very shortly and the 2019 program should look very similar to past years. Funding is to establish and maintain CWMAs within the Great Lakes watershed.

USFS Land Acquisition – Community Forest Program – Competitive grant program for which Tribes are eligible. The grant would go to the Tribe to acquire forested lands to own don't need easements or anything else. The purpose of owning the forests is to protect the forests for community benefits. Community is not defined. Can only receive 50% of the cost of the project. They have had 2 Tribal entities received funding. A handout was distributed with FAQs about the program. He will be at Forestry Subcommittee meeting in December, he is located in New Hampshire. He thinks the land would need to be open to the general public for "Something", not necessarily open the entire parcel all the time. Open to the public could be an "Event" open to the public. Cannot close on a property prior to receiving the grant. Application needs to be specific to a specific tract of land. Land cannot be put into trust, must maintain its fee status. Will look into the requirement that the parcel is open to the public as long as they are with a Tribal member. The land has to be at least 75% forested eventually, can be bare and open as long as plan exists to reforest it.

NRCS – Chris Borden – Handed out seeds to the kakai pumpkin. They are 100 day growing season. 2019 EQIP \$500,000 was set aside for WTCAC. They will have an opportunity for a second sign up as well. Unless WTCAC wants, they don't plan to change the ranking and screening procedure. WTCAC rose now issues, so they will use the same procedure. Working on pulling the WTCAC accomplishment report. Looking at 2 pages per Tribe in Wisconsin. Looking to have info on the USDA agencies, we work with as well as well as maybe DATCP and Army Corps of Engineers. Get info in by the end of the year to Alan. Chris is happy to help Tribes with any info they need as well. NRCS picks up the cost of the report.

Rural Development – Frank – They are trying to focus on where they need to be in the future, not where they were in the past. If they can't meet our needs because of choke points in their programs, they want to try and fix it. They have been working on the substance abuse problems through rural America. Looking at creative approaches to help the needs of the communities when it comes to substance misuse and abuse. Pat asked about the possibility of going back to more grants for Tribes because Tribes were left behind. Frank has not heard of a shift towards it. There are general capacity building conversations going on. Frank will look into it and get back to him.

RTCAC – Pat just got back on Friday from the meeting. The Tribes met the day before the meeting with the Regional Conservationist. He brought more state cons there at the request of the Tribes last time. They were wondering why they were actually meeting, so they outlined what the Tribes thought it was “an opportunity for NRCS at the Regional Level to have meaningful conversations and consultations”. Shared that we are really seeing a shortage of staff. Discussed engineering shortages. Asked him what the benefit of them meeting was and challenged the team to provide responses at the next meeting? Pathways looks like it is coming back. The BIA/NRCS MOU is expired so they are trying to redraft that. Discussed a lot about the restructuring. Really emphasized how different the Tribes are. Pat pushed that state liaisons should be 100% as liaisons. Chris is at about 50%.

President Elections

Motion to open nominations by Mole Lake, 2nd by SBM. All in favor, Oneida abstains. Motion carries.

Mole Lake nominates Pat Pelky as President and he accepts.

Motion to close nominations by Mole Lake, 2nd by SBM. All in favor, Oneida abstains. Motion carries.

Pat received a unanimous vote from the WTCAC Board, Pat did not vote.

GLRI 2017-2019 – Keith – report is due to EPA by the end of the week, waiting on one more Tribal report before he can file the report. Erin will pull the report together for us.

Fisheries Subcommittee – Jeremy – working on final agenda for the next meeting on November 5 at LCO. New loner is verbally approved by NRCS, but not yet in writing. NRCS is trying to hit about 90% cost share with Tribes, aquaculture is coming in below 50%.

Forestry Subcommittee – Paul – Meeting coming up in December at LDF. Mostly going over management plans. They got funded through the BIA again, if staff want to go to the meetings, they have enough money so send them. Would make sense to send Wildlife Staff as well.

Procurement and Personnel Policy - Alan – He sent them out for review. He suggested a subcommittee to review it. Nate and Tina volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Add by-laws to this subcommittee.

WTCAC Staff – Alan – once the USDA budget is put together we can start looking at the ¾ time CAPS Position, looking for start time in April. The job description is ready. Need to look into federal guidelines for hiring. EPA QAPP position for 2 years, \$7,000 per year. May need to be a contractor. Keith and Alan are coming up with a transition plan for Keith's pending retirement target date of March 1.

Motion to approve up to \$15/hr. for interns by Menominee, 2nd by SBM. Motion carries.

Alan reached out to Tony Havranek about his company subsidizing an intern position.

Still looking into WTCAC being a 3rd party provider for Pathways.

Advertising for interns will be out no later than mid-November. We have funding for potentially up to 5 interns for the upcoming year.

Motion to move into Executive Session by Mole Lake, 2nd by FCPC. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion to leave Executive Session by Mole Lake, 2nd by Menominee. All in favor motion carries.

Motion to approve financial report by Mole Lake, 2nd by SBM. All in favor, motion carries.

Next meeting is at Bad River. Alan will do a doodle poll for the last couple weeks in January to establish a meeting date.

Motion to adjourn by Mole Lake, 2nd by SBM. All in favor, motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm.