

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2013
Oneida

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by Pat Pelky.

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldán, Ashley Fehrenbach, Allison Shaw), Menominee (Jeremy Pyatskowitz), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile, Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Chad Abel), Stockbridge-Munsee (Randall Wollenhaup), Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Jerry Thompson (WTCAC), Chris Borden (NRCS), Tom Krapf (NRCS), Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS), Barb Tormoehlen (USFS), Greg Bussler (NASS), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Dr. Tim Deveau (APHIS VS), Susan Hunter (FSA), Tony Bush (NRCS), Matt Otto (NRCS), Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS PPQ), Stan Gruszynski (Rural Development)

2. Approval of Agenda

Need to add approval of higher room rate above government rate and some travel approval to the agenda.

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda with additions. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the March 27, 2013 WTCAC Meeting Minutes. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. NRCS Update

Jimmy Bramblett – he has asked Chris Borden to be the statewide Tribal liaison for NRCS. Chris will be responsible for program coordination. The Tribal liaisons will only come to local meetings. It also gives them the chance to do updates similar to other agencies. They hope to set up subcommittees to work on specific issues instead of getting in depth at each WTCAC meeting. The results of the group efforts will be presented. May 23 will be the first of several meetings that Chris will hold with the Tribal Liaisons. Tom Krapf – we are not going to have fewer meetings, but actually more targeted meetings. Jimmy – They were told they would have a budget today. They took an 8% budget cut which equates to 20 FTEs, it affects their ability to reach out to other people. Nate and Jerry will be the main contact with Chris on liaisons duties and responsibilities.

Every state has a food and agriculture council. The FAC is a representation of all the USDA agencies in each state; the chair rotates between NRCS, FSA, and RD. They are interested in having a representative of WTCAC participate in these meetings as well. This would be another way to expand the relationship between USDA and WTCAC. June 11 is next meeting in Ashland, they meet once a quarter. Pat Pelky thinks it is important to be part of this group.

MOTION: Motion to nominate Nate Guldan to the State Food and Agriculture Council with Pat Pelky as the alternate. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, FCPC abstains, motion carried.

5. FSA Update

Susan Hunter – her handout is attached.

Brad Pffaf – Food hub – has storage space and refrigeration and works with restaurants and grocery stores for distribution. In Madison, you have one staff person that is the coordinator and you have a number of producers out there.

6. APHIS Update

JoAnn Cruse – They haven't seen their budget yet, but are hoping for a fairly minimal impact. They do have some cuts to cooperative agreements but no one in the room will be affected. WTCAC received a project award through Farm Bill funding. This funding will not take any hits. They are all behind in EAB for emergence, but she did bring up supplies today for everyone. They have a contractor that is going to trap most of the state based on a model. They will not trap on Tribal lands except Bad River asked them to trap on their lands. 5 new EAB locations were found in the southern part of the state, not in a new county (probably just natural movement). Gypsy moth, no activity at this point and time, spray program in the state is delayed with the weather.

Tim Deveau – He has rabies clinics scheduled in June for Ho-Chunk – if any other Tribes what rabies clinics please let him know. They have a few interns they will try to bring in to help.

7. Forest Service Update

Barb Tormoehlen – It looks like they will be getting an 8% reduction. With state and private forestry, they will try to fund the core program as much as they can but this affects the competitive allocation. Once the budget comes in, they will provide funding to the extent they are able too. For FY14, they are beginning the competitive part, moving forward the new competitive process will roll all programs together into landscape restoration and will combine all the authorities as people consider projects. The implications for the Tribes are that these are still funds through the Farm Bill assigned to the State Forester so the State Forester will invite the Tribes in. The GLRI goes directly to the tribes to invite participation. Good news is that EPA is reauthorizing GLRI for the next 3 years (2015-2018). Their national office is working on a grant handbook for Tribes specifically and they have focus groups that are working on this effort. Pokagon (Mark Parrish) is involved with this. As that gets close to final she will

share with Pat and he will send out to all of us. Looking at opportunities from a Tribal perspective, what is available to whom, water land ownership and under what authorities? Pat proposed a subcommittee to work with them so we can start trying to understand it better. Pat, Jerry, Al Murray, maybe Jeremy Pyatskowitz? Mike Dockery is the liaison with FS to the College of Menominee Nation; he is likely leaving that position to work with FS in a different capacity. This position will then be open and they will replace that position. She was in touch with Fred Clark (Director of Office of Tribal Relations) and he is meeting with more staff at the end of this week. Funding likely too late for this year, but granting this out to WTCAC for a 2 year period so that funding would be in place as we look at next year. Mike Conner had mentioned that there would be opportunities for Forest Health training for the interns. Likely they will have an insect and disease workshop.

8. NASS Update

Greg Bussler – He thanked the Tribes for helping them complete the Census of Agriculture. They are still working with 2 Tribes and they will have a 100% participation rate. The results will be released early next year in a special booklet that contains all Reservations throughout the US. They will be doing their June Ag Survey and from which they come up with planted acres for major crops. Their agency is going through a major reorganization right now. Wisconsin staff will be getting reassignment letters, and will be reassigned to Des Moines and other places; by the end only 2 employees will be left in Madison.

9. EPA Update

We said we would try and reengage the team as to what would be the best way to serve as the WI Tribal Caucus Committee. Tina was going to work with that group, but she hasn't gotten to it. Roman will take it over from Tina. Please provide an update in August.

10. Internship Update

At the present time, he is still waiting on the OAO for the budget modification to fund the interns. It sounded positive but now it went to someone else for approval. OAO has come under extreme scrutiny with their grants and programs and they are actually not funded for this year. They are constantly trying to justify their existence, Jerry had to do the last 2 quarters reports and send them back in. All the students had been dropped, so we need to add them all back in. Lawrence Shorty called him a couple of weeks ago and he wants to talk to us about the new scholar program. They used to have a program, where they would take a tribal student and fund them for 4 years of college and then they had to work for them for 4 years to pay it back. That program disappeared. Lawrence is asking WTCAC to give to him some of our best and brightest students. Lawrence would like to use them for his new scholars program. All students plan to start on June 3 in Medford. They are going to be sent to a few things for training: Farm Technology Days, July 9 – 11. The Spooner rodeo is also that weekend. He is hoping to take them to an Aquaponics Conference and Training Session in Stevens Point on June 19 – 23 as group training.

Lawrence Shorty Conference Call – He is the Program Director for the 1994 programs. He has been in the position since 2008, since then they developed a tribal scholars program. All the scholarship programs were suspended and they recently got permission to have a modified scholars program this year. It is modified because they will be able to recruit and hire new scholars this year; however they will not have the option to convert them to permanent USDA positions after graduation. They will be able to provide opportunities to be appointed and gain work experience through the fellowship program. These appointments could be extended for up to 4 years. This year they are looking at the 3rd party internships as a pipeline for those to be selected as this year's scholars. They would pay for tuition, fees, and use of a computer. The program is now one year to one year for up to 4 years. They have an open period for selection but they would like to move on the selections that are available somewhat quickly. They would need a recommendation from WTCAC and the agency that would be willing to host them as an intern. They would also like us to work with the students to get current transcripts. They are looking to award scholarships beginning in August. He needs recommendations from last year's cohorts by May 17 and will try to extend the recruitment until the middle of August for this year's students. Students need to have attended a 1994 school.

Wendy and Jacqueline – They are still in the review process of the MOU and they are hoping to send to management by next week. We wanted the students to be able to get credit for pathways internship program – if they get accepted to a pathways program after our internships then the hours they worked for us would count as credits for them. We need to address the use of government vehicles in the MOU and she needs to research it more. She will get back to Jerry.

11. RD Update

Stan Gruszynski – They are dealing with sequester and the potential for furloughs, severe budget limitations. They are down to 83.5 full time positions down from 116 since he came on in 2009, although he feels they are pretty strong as an agency. They are trying to look for ways to make their work have an impact without waiting for employees to come back and a way to do that is work with other USDA agencies as well as organizations outside USDA that have similar missions. They are using the FAC as an opportunity to talk about whom they are individually as agencies, how they work together, what their visions are for the areas they service, and to see what they can do to have a greater impact.

Pat asked for information on the funds Tribes received from RD throughout the years.

12. Food Sovereignty Summit

Jeff Metoxen - he hopes to establish a food network with Tribes in Wisconsin. He is interested in programs with other Tribes that are looking at food sovereignty and security. He is not here to tell us how to garden, etc., they are hoping that they can take their knowledge they gain together and use it. They had over 250 people attend the summit to share information.

13. Stewardship Report

We went through Stewardship Report.

14. Red Cliff CIG Project

Red Cliff is requesting that we provide a support letter for their CIG Project. Their preproposal was accepted and the final is due next Friday.

15. Beginning Farmer Workshop

There will be one in the Ashland Area and maybe one by Spooner. They thought this would be a good use for the rest of the OAO money. They could look at any type of agriculture.

16. GLRI Grant

Randy handed out the draft QAPP and went through it.

17. Training and Travel Approval

MOTION: Motion to increase the room rate by \$2.00. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve travel for Nate, Jerry, and possibly the alternate for the FAC Meeting in Ashland. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve travel to a Forestry Subcommittee Meeting for all Forestry Subcommittee Members. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve Jerry and Keith to travel to Alaska, Randy to travel to Montana on May 22 – 25, Jerry to travel to Alabama and to rent a car if needed, and Jerry to travel to Maine. Motion by Red Cliff, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

18. Aquaponics Conference

Jerry has the students in the budget to attend an aquaponics conference. He needs us to approve Keith and Randy for this conference as well.

MOTION: Motion to approve travel Randy and Keith for the Aquaponics Conference. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

19. AmeriCorps Grant

MOTION: Motion to approve the AmeriCorps grant application if WTCAC can get a waiver for the match requirement. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

20. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 5 and 6 at LCO.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn out of session because of a loss of quorum. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.

EMAIL MINUTES 5/14/2013

MOTION: Motion to purchase Liability Insurance Option 2 at a cost of \$1,346 per year. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Six ayes (Stockbridge-Munsee, FCPC, LCO, St. Croix, Mole Lake, Menominee), zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to allow Randy to exceed the per diem rate for his trip to Montana by \$23/night for 3 nights. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Six ayes (Stockbridge-Munsee, FCPC, LCO, St. Croix, Mole Lake, Menominee), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MINUTES 6/12/2013

MOTION: Motion to purchase a memorial brick at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Jean Buffalo's honor. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Seven ayes (Ho-Chunk, Stockbridge-Munsee, FCPC, LCO, St. Croix, Red Cliff, Menominee), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MINUTES 6/12/2013

MOTION: Motion to authorize Pat to sign the MOU between WTCAC and FCPC in relation to the GLRI employees. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Menominee. Seven ayes (Stockbridge-Munsee, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, St. Croix, Mole Lake, Red Cliff, Lac du Flambeau), zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve Jerry to travel to the National Plant Board Meeting. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Menominee. Seven ayes (Stockbridge-Munsee, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, St. Croix, Mole Lake, Red Cliff, Lac du Flambeau), zero opposed, motion carried.

ATTACHMENTS



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
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Columbia County FSA Office
2912 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901
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Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – May 8, 2013

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

Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

2013 Budget – We are now under a continuing resolution through September 30th. At this time we still don't know exactly on how it will affect FSA staff and programs. There are no planned office closings or consolidations. Hiring freeze remains in effect.

Continuous CRP #44: May 13 - September 30th: FSA offices can now 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)

45th General CRP Signup: May 20 – June 14: FSA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) from May 20 to June 14. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Additional sign-ups for continuous CRP programs such as Highly Erodible Land Initiative and Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands and Wildlife will be announced in spring 2013.

Crop Reporting: FSA is now accepting 2013 reports for crop planted, existing crops growing, bee operations, maple sap operation, aquaculture operations, etc. The deadline to report is July 15th. This data is used for CRP, DCP and other current programs and to build histories for possible future programs

Microloans: The Microloan (ML) program was developed for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers, fishing operations, maple sap, honey, timber operations and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). These smaller farms and operations, including non-traditional farm operations, often face limited financing options. Maximum loan amount is \$35,000 and can be a one-year annual loan for inputs or a 2-5 year term loan. Applicants must not be able to get funding elsewhere to be eligible. Operating loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises, including earthworms, exotic birds, tropical fish, dogs or horses used for non-farm purposes (racing, pleasure, show and boarding). **May Interest Rates:** 1 year annual and 7-year operating loans – 1.375%



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From: [Pat Pelky](#)
To: [Larry Wawronowicz](#); [Cyrus Hester](#); [Erv Soulier](#); [Lacey Hill](#); [Randy Gilbertson](#); [Brett McConnell](#); [Dan Tyrolt](#); [Frank Shepard](#); [Lawrence Daniels](#); [Nate Guldán](#); [Jim Thannum](#); [Gretchen Watkins](#); [Jerry Thompson](#); [Bettina G. Warner](#); [Randy Poelma](#); [Sara M. Hattell](#); [Keith Sengbusch](#); [ScottMcDougall](#); [Douglas G. Cox](#); [Jeremy Pyatskowitz](#); [Luke Hennigan](#); [Randall Wollenhaupt](#); [Tina Van Zile](#); [Jeff Mears](#); [Michael Finney](#); [Chad Abel](#); [Gary Defoe](#); [Nathan Gordon](#); [Roman Ferdinand](#); [Anthony Havranek](#); [Katie Stariha](#)
Subject: RE: WTCAC Follow-up Action Items
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 2:34:57 PM

Shekoli,

Both Motions passes with the following:

"For the Record"

FCPC made the motion to purchase Liability Insurance Option 2 at a cost of \$1,346 per year and seconded by Stockbridge: FCPC, Stockbridge, Menominee, St. Croix, LCO, Mole Lake all approved the motion.

FCPC made the motion to allow Randy to exceed the per diem rate for his trip to Montana by \$23/night for 3 nights and seconded by Stockbridge: FCPC, Stockbridge, Menominee, St. Croix, LCO, Mole Lake all approved the motion.

Yaw^ko and enjoy this Spring-Like weather while it last.

Sawehnihsliy%hak (You have a good Day)

Check out our new web page: <http://www.oneidanation.org/environment/>

Patrick J. Pelky
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>>> Nate Guldán <Nate.Guldán@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov> 5/13/2013 4:15 PM >>>

I make a motion to purchase Liability Insurance Option 2 at a cost of \$1,346 per year. I also vote to approve this motion.

I also make a motion to allow Randy to exceed the per diem rate for his trip to Montana by \$23/night for 3 nights. I also vote to approve this motion.

Nate Guldán

Nate Guldán
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From: Pat Pelky [mailto:PPELKY1@oneidanation.org]
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 4:13 PM
To: Larry Wawronowicz; Cyrus Hester; Erv Soulier; Lacey Hill; Randy Gilbertson; Brett McConnell; Dan Tyrolt; Frank Shepard; Lawrence Daniels; Nate Guldan; Jim Thannum; Gretchen Watkins; Jerry Thompson; Bettina G. Warner; Randy Poelma; Sara M. Hatleli; Keith Sengbusch; Scott McDougall; Douglas G. Cox; Jeremy Pyatskowitz; Luke Hennigan; Randall Wollenhaupt; Tina Van Zile; Jeff Mears; Michael Finney; Chad Abel; Gary Defoe; Nathan Gordon; Roman Ferdinand; Anthony Havranek; Katie Stariha
Subject: WTCAC Follow-up Action Items
Importance: High

Shekoli,

We need to address a couple of action items. Someone needs to make "motions to approve", "second to the motion" and for all to "approve the motion" for the items below:

1. Attached is the Directors and Employees Liability Insurance quote. Jerry is recommending that we to approve to purchase the Option #2. [Annual Premium cost will be \\$1,346 per year.](#)
2. Randy's travel approval for next week needs to be amended to pay for room costs exceeding the per diem rate due to INCA booking a Conference rate in excess of per diem. [The regular rate is \\$82/night and the conference reserved rate is \\$105/night. And he is staying three nights.](#)

Yaw^ko

Sawehnihsliy%hak (You have a good Day)

Check out our new web page: <http://www.oneidanation.org/environment/>

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