

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes - January 24, 2007
Hosted by Bad River at Bad River Lodge & Convention Center

I. Welcome and Call to Order (09:00 a.m.)

II. Roll Call

Present: Bad River, Red Cliff, Oneida, Ho-Chunk, Lac Courte Oreilles, Stockbridge, Menominee, Forest County Potawatomi, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission.

Absent: St. Croix, Mole Lake, Lac du Flambeau.

Quorum: ___ No ___ X Yes ___ 8 Tribes Represented

We went around the room and introduced ourselves for those new to us.

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from December 2006 meeting tabled till next meeting.

IV. Revisions to Agenda.

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

V. Reports

NRCS Update

Pat Leavenworth - Staff is working on “continuous resolution” because the budget has not been approved. There is talk of continuing in this mode until end of fiscal year. Farm bill-is being worked on. Everything is in flux now, due to budget not being passed but most programs will continue. According to President Bush, there will be increased federal oversight on earmarks. It has not been determined how congress deals with this. Budgets are going to be more performance based, and must be tied to strategic plan/goals.

Jerry Thompson - Policy level-guidance documents handed out by Jerry Thompson on General Manual 410-part 405. Establishes state tribal conservation as stand alone Committee, we are now separate from State technical committee. Discussed meeting with state technical committee meeting at least annually. Add to meeting agenda tomorrow. Suggest inviting other agencies to attend, congressional staff, forest service, FSA, etc. MOU handout-does not pertain to us,...so much. Big picture, some programs are funding some of the kind of work such as BIA, Farm Service agencies. Will not affect how funding is used ie. Pat will leave a copy of her strategic plan for us to see how we fit into it.About website being more user friendly. Met with THPO’s yesterday in Lac du Flambeau on the 106 process. Suggestion was to meet with each THPO to establish what their parameters are.

APHIS Update – (JoAnn Cruse)

Working off of 2006 levels because budget has not been approved. Asking for increase in EAB funds to finish the projects that we started. In Illinois they are still finding more infected in county nearest us. Illinois, Indiana and Michigan have been quarantined as far as movement of firewood and nursery stock. Would like to speak with each Tribal Chair and THPO to find out what they would do if they find EAB on their lands. Each rep was asked to talk to these people to give them a heads up on this meeting. Tim Debot of Veterinary Services was introduced by JoAnn. He told us about some top level changes in

Oneida. Also involved in a lecture series on disease prevention for agriculture classes for high school students.

WTCAC Update (Ritchie Brown)

Section 106 Project. Met with 7 THPO's in Lac du Flambeau yesterday. THPO's do not want to be compared to the Michigan process anymore. Each tribe wants their own agreement. Ritchie has met with all Wisconsin THPO's through several different meetings. There is useful information that we have to respond to. All comments from each tribe have been recorded.

EAB Project. Putting together a list of Tribes interested in participating in destructive sampling training. Will work on a training session in Illinois to peel/sample etc of affected trees for those Tribes that are interested this spring. Grant ends in May. Budgets are not formally approved to continue but are not cut either.

Forestry Committee Update (Absent)

Committee update was tabled because foresters are not present.

EQIP Update (Tony Bush)

Tony Bush handed out info of each Tribe's projects.

- **Stockbridge Project** - Motion to Approve by Oneida, LCO seconded. Funding level of \$ 1,812.00
- **Menominee Project** - Motion to Approve by Stockbridge, Bad River, seconded. Funding level \$30,702.
- **Lac du Flambeau Project** - Motion to Approve by Oneida, Stockbridge seconded. Funding level \$35,560.
- **FC Potawatomi Project** - Motion to Approve by Oneida, Stockbridge seconded. Funding level \$75,716.
- **Lac Courte Oreilles Project** - Motion to Approve by Bad River, Oneida seconded. Funding level \$2,325.80.
- **Oneida Project** - Motion to Approve by Bad River, Stockbridge seconded. Funding level \$25,446.
- **HCN Project** - Motion to Approve by Stockbridge, FC Potawatomi seconded. Funding level \$28,969.50

Total for all projects \$200,531.30, leaving a balance of \$239,468.70

WHIP Update (Tom Cogger)

Tom Cogger handed out sheet on whip funds. Only four Tribes submitted proposals but total requested was over the allocated amount. Much discussion on how to approve the proposals.

LUNCH BREAK

Returned to discussion. Potawatomi has volunteered to drop one of their dams, down \$20,000. Motion to Approve by Oneida, Ho-Chunk seconded. Approved for the amount of \$54,594.

Applications are due to NRCS by mid March. Special projects allocation is \$145,000.

VI. Budget Update (Ritchie Brown)

Ritchie requested records from Oneida but has not received records so there is nothing to report.

VII. New Business (Ritchie Brown)

Strategic Plan. We act as an Advisory Council to Pat Leavenworth. Suggestions for meeting for tomorrow, heads up, we are the first State Advisory Council, and Minnesota is in the process of setting up their own advisory council and asked for help from us. Ritchie will be attending. Pat Leavenworth suggested ways to market ourselves as leading force in natural resource conservation. She offered help with informational materials. Suggested widening the circle to make us all better informed. Think about our resource needs, they are different than regular agriculture. See her strategic plan. How to best deal with cultural resources. Future steps in revising future farm bills that can help to address our resource needs. Congressional delegation, Ag committee, Tom Cogger, talks about self-sustaining instead of depending on earmarks. Questions: How does state technical committee function as far as funds??? What about national conservation committee???

WTCAC has asked Chris Borden to work with us on strategic planning. Chris works for pi-ruta. We need a facilitator to help keep us on track. Suggestions: Think about what we want out of this plan. Who the audience is for plan. What do we need to do within the next six months to affect change? What other partners do we need? Who is responsible for what and how are they going to do that? Design a plan that is a living document. Any suggestions? Pat Leavenworth, broader scope for operating procedures? New faces could bring suggestions??? How can we measure our success???

Election of Officers - Should be held in March at our next meeting.

Took picture of group.

IX. Next Meeting - Lac Courte Oreilles - March 7, 2007 (Rescheduled to March 6, 2007)

X. Meeting Adjourned (2:45 p.m.)

Minutes Prepared by: Rae Ann Maday

Approved as to form by: Ritchie Brown