

WTCAC Meeting
May 20, 2003

**Session opened at 6:55 p.m. Welcome by Chairman Jean Buffalo-Reyes.
Introductions of participants.**

WTCAC

Jean Buffalo-Reyes, Red Cliff
Doug Cox, Menominee
Richie Brown, Ho-Chunk
Rae Ann Maday, Bad River
Jim Thannum, GLIFWC

NRCS

Pat Leavenworth
Jan Whitcomb
Jerry Thompson
Jim Radke
Tony Bush
Tom Cogger
Tom Fredrickson

Roll Call: Red Cliff, Ho-Chunk, Bad River, Menominee. No quare present.

Jan & Pat reviewed the EQIP Final Rules. The wording about Tribes submitting social security numbers still remains, but now will allow tribes to substitute census numbers. However, it still requires tribes to identify each person who receives a pro-rated payment and submit this information to NRCS. This does not relate to WTCAC membership concerns, as payments don't go to individuals but instead into the Tribal general funds. Wisconsin's situation, where the EQIP contracts are directly with each Tribe, is not covered clearly with this language.

Tom Cogger reviewed the WTCAC Tribal EQIP Program flow chart and the Tribal EQIP Project Background Data Summary Sheet. Under the project description give details as to what natural resource is being protected or improved upon. Question regarding an area on the application to include a section that identifies a contract approval number. Another issue discussed regarding state rates which are determined by county which focuses around the state. Rates are identified by county labor rate was discussed by state technical committee. The local rate in counties for labor is \$12.00 and we will go with this established rate in our process. Project cannot be started before the contract is signed.

WTCAC needs to meet the week of July 1st. Applications needs to be submitted by the week of June 30th 2003 to be identified and ranked. The following week of July 1st and 2nd a meeting of WTCAC remember this will be a two (2) day meeting. The scheduled meeting suggested will be in Wausau centrally located at UW Marathon is the tentative site for the meeting to review the applications submitted. We will notify all WTCAC members and Tribal Liaisons on these specifics. If all the money is not obligated then we will meet at the end of August to re-pool the funds for reallocation to other tribes with additional projects. The first meeting scheduled in July is to make sure that the applications submitted are in compliance with the regulations. **This meeting will be extremely important for tribes to attend.** By the July 31st August 1st meeting to be

held in Menominee we will know what funds are left to be re-pooled. We discussed an opportunity for training on this process but because of the short time frame this year in the obligation of funds that we hope to have it planned for the following year.

WHIP Tribal Program

\$33,000 will be set aside for Tribes for this year. Each Tribe will have an initial allocation of \$3,000. The same process will be used for WHIP as for EQIP. The WHIP plans and deadlines will be utilized the same. Format will remain the same throughout the application process. If there are projects identified within the time frames specified on the EQIP program we can also review those applications submitted within the time frames identified. A separate data sheet and flow chart will be identified for WHIP

SECTION 106

Section 106 policy to meet and review with the tribal governmental chairs to discuss the Cultural Resource Preservation Act. A policy was developed for the Midwest areas based off of the Section 106 policy adopted by NRCS in the government to government consultation process. NEPA forms are used for guidance and compliance issues. SHIPO has come up with some exemptions which need to be incorporated into the process.

Agriculture Budget still has the strong support it carried through the farm bill process.