

## Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes – [DATE]

5/24/07

Hosted by Forest County Potawatomi Community at  
Indian Springs Lodge – Wabeno, WI

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

#### II. Roll Call

**Present:** Oneida Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles, Ho-Chunk Nation, Forest County Potawatomi, Bad River, Sokaogon,

**Absent:** . St. Croix, Menominee, Red Cliff, Stockbridge- Munsee, Lac du Flambeau

**Quorum:** \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ X \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_ Tribes Represented

#### III. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Lac Courte Oreille and Seconded by FCPC to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2007 meeting at Menominee in Keshena, WI. Unanimous.

#### IV. Revisions to Agenda. None

#### V. Reports

##### **NRCS Update**

Jerry Thompson – Presented an update on the Farm Bill. No additional funds have been approved. He also reported that the Tribal Title was not addressed in the Farm Bill and that there has been no push in Washington for a Tribal Title in the new Farm Bill. Jerry reported that EQIP funds may be doubled from 1-2 billion in program funding. In Wisconsin, all EQIP and WHIP projects need to be signed, sealed and delivered by 1 June 2007 to meet the 4 June 2007 deadline otherwise the national office will sweep all funds for redistribution if not obligated. Jerry also introduced Don Baloun and Warren Jensen with the agency's resource management and contracting division. Jerry provided a handout to the council on NCAI regarding recommendations for input on the Farm Bill. Discussion ensued on the Commodity & Food Safety Programs regarding locally produced foods which supplements several items into the package.

##### **APHIS Update**

JoAnn Cruse – JoAnn gave an update on the Asian Gypsy Moth monitoring. She also stated that she is setting up a schedule and plans on visiting all the Tribes this summer to conduct a needs assessment. JoAnn introduced Dr. Timothy Deveax, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services. Dr. Deveax reported the agency has a new incoming Director, Mike Dutcher. He also discussed the development of a liaison position. Dr. Deveax reported on a major incidence reported in Clark County of pseudo rabies in swine on a small Amish farm which surfaced as a result of a slaughterhouse survey. Pseudo rabies can be transmitted to domestic cats, dogs and cattle. He also reported septicemia in fish found in Lake Winnebago.

##### **WTCAC Update (Ritchie Brown)**

Ritchie Brown – Ritchie reported on the status of the EAB project. Since the last meeting trap trees were set up at Stockbridge-Munsee. Peeling was done at Menominee along with the EAB survey team participating in a workshop hosted by the Menominee Tribe. Linda Williams, WDNR Forest Health

Specialist; Kyoko Scanion, WDNR Pathologist; Jane Cummings-Carlson, WDNR Forest Health Coordinator; Steve Katovich, USFS St. Paul Regional; David Olson & Sylvia Redschlag, WTCAC EAB Survey team were among the presenters at the workshop.

#### **Forestry Committee Update**

Motion was made by Lac Courte Oreille to remove the Forestry Committee update from the agenda. Three tribes voted yeah, Oneida Opposed the motion.

#### **EQIP/WHIP Update (Tony Bush/Tom Cogger)**

NRCS reported \$251,000 in NRCS funds were pulled back and redistributed statewide in Wisconsin. Discussion ensued about invasive species management for narrow leaf cattail and purple loose strife. Invasive species management has been funded through EQIP and WHIP for FY 2007-2008. WDNR is also funding aquatic invasive species grant program for any tribes that might be interested in applying for grant funds. Sokaogon (Fred Ackley) discussed concerns about inland wild rice lakes regarding consumption of food base vs. preservation of the resource and the money value vs. health value of the wild rice commodity. Fred also discussed wild ricing is a year round process and the council should look into alternatives for storing wild rice reserve supplies and re-seeding. Tom Cogger reported that HCN was unable to do the small project they applied for under the small project grant so that funding should be re-distributed to FCPC.

#### **Small Grant Project Proposals**

NRCS reported earmarks are being heavily scrutinized by the agency and that all proposals should be tied back to the resource concern. LCO (Dan Tyrolt) discussed the drawback of funding the LCO small project proposal because some of that work is also covered under larger EQIP project. Discussion ensued about advance reimbursements and partial payments on small grant projects. Letters should be issued to the tribes awarding the grants so that work could get started. FCPC (Nate Gulden) inquired if 3 bids from contractors are required before funding would be released. NRCS (Don Baloun) responded no, its grant ~~is~~ <sup>not</sup> money so independent contractor bids are not required to initiate the project work. NRCS suggested Jan Whitcomb come to the next meeting to address 2008 project funding rates and identify projects/practices that don't work with conventional agricultural practices. Chris Borden, Pri Ru Ta RC&D spoke on Rural Development Grant programs (point of contract for the program Tom Kraft, RC&D) and Community Action Program (CAP) grants for repair and replacement type projects.

#### **VI. New Business**

Work is progressing on an interim Technical Guide on the EQIP/WHIP structure. The agency is awaiting any recommendations from WTCAC for the July 12, 2007 deadline. Discussion ensued on whether fish cribs are considered agronomic practice vs. engineering practices. Jerry suggested the WTCAC draft a letter to Pat Leavenworth on recommendations from WTCAC on cost sharing and raising fish for aquaculture. Carrie Schneider, Agricultural Statistician, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) was introduced and gave a presentation to the WTCAC about the function of USDA NASS and how that branch of the agency relates to NRCS.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

Next Meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2007 for St. Croix at Turtle Lake.

#### **VIII. Meeting Adjourned (2:45)**

Minutes Prepared by: SR. Approved as to form by: RB