

WTCAC Meeting, Thursday, April 17, 2003, Norbert Hill Center, Oneida Wisconsin

Meeting called to order at: 6:15 p.m.

Welcome and prayer by Paul Ninham, Oneida Councilman and representative.

Introduction by participants: See sign in sheet attached (15 participants)

Guest: Harlan Beaulieu & Carol

Roll Call: Red Cliff, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee, Ho-chunk, Oneida, GLIFWC.

Approval of minutes of Feb.; 21, 2003. Motion by Ho-chunk to approve minutes, seconded by Oneida. Motion carried.

Administrative of EQIP responsibilities: Jim Thannum (via telephone) gave brief update regarding comments and concerns regarding the NRCS WHIP program. Discussed a concern in providing social security number for members, because many feel that this information is very confidential; and in providing this information, will be have an input in determining these programs. Pat Leavenworth commented on Proposed Conversation Practice Standards drafted by NRCS. Concern regarding tribes that might have trouble providing 50 percent base funding for EQIP. Chair Buffalo-Reyes discussed upcoming meetings with state representatives to discuss these concerns, correspondence has already been sent addressing these issues with the Farm Bill. Asked to help establish guidelines to determine percentages and needs due to the diversity and uniqueness of each tribe and their cultural and income factors. One suggestion was to set up a subcommittee to work with NRCS. May 13, 2003 is when EQIP monies will be dispersed. Suggested that a resolution be drafted and passed opposing efforts to provide NRCS with Social Security number information in order to participate in programs. Passed and submitted to the chief of NRCS. Question whether or not NCAI is aware of these concerns, and possibly working with them in addressing this issue. Ms. Leavenworth mentioned a study that was to be conducted to determine if tribal needs were being met by 2002 Farm Bill, within a year of distribution of monies. Another suggestion was to contact legal counsel to determine the legalities of providing social security information.

Administrative of EQIP responsibilities by WTCAC: Three issues presented were 1) Base percentage funding of EQIP for each tribe, balance of funds use determined by WTCAC committee; 2) Base equal funding for each tribe; 3) All funds administered by WTCAC (Competitive projects only.). Possible 4th issue is to return monies back to WTCAC and allow them to reallocate those dollars. Back up proposal for additional monies, because some tribes may need more funding. Overall opinion of those present were in favor of base funding. Questions whether or not in-kind, 638 or even state dollars can be used to match the 50 percent base match. EQIP dollars. (LCO, Mole

Lake, Forest County and Bad River) Motion by Ho-Chunk, to go with base funding, seconded by LDF, motion carried.

Review Status of Proposed Tribal EQIP Conservation Practices and Narrative – Tom Cogger: Mr. Cogger presented draft conservation practices and a Tribal EQIP Project Background Data Summary Sheet. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Oneida to approve current practices and to include 3 new practices and to set rate, motion carried.

Comments and Concerns regarding the NRCS WHIP Program – Jim Thannum (GLIFWC): Overview of pertaining to new WHIP ranking system. Also mentioned that the Circle of Flight program was cut from the president's 2004 budget.

NRCS provided a progress report pertaining to American Indian Outreach Efforts from April 2002 to April 3003.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: