

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
St. Croix

1. Roll Call

Present: Bad River (Pam Roberts), FCPC (Nate Guldán), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), Mole Lake (Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), St. Croix (Katie Stariha), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall)

Others Present: Jerry Thompson (Retired)

2. American Indian - Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANE) conference

The conference is July 13 - 17, 2009. The registration for the conference is \$400. Students are not charged.

Monday

Arrival day. Special emphasis program training for NRCS and the elder committee meets. Welcome reception from 7pm – 10pm.

Tuesday

8 am - Opening ceremony with the presentation of colors and a drum group. Loretta Metoxin will probably lead the prayer.

8:30 – 9:30 - Welcome remarks

9:30 – 10 - NRCS chief will speak.

10:20 – 11:00 - New USDA tribal consultation guidance. National Tribal liaison will present this.

11 – 12 - WTCAC presentation, Jerry is putting this together for us.

1 – 2 - How the new farm bill will affect Tribal agriculture and conservation programs. Someone from National HQ will present.

2 – 3:15 - Concurrent session - Section 106 Cultural Resources Responsibilities and Tribal Liaison issues and Career Development.

3:45 – 5 - Tribal elders talk about agriculture in Indian Country from their point of view and as to how NRCS should be taking care of the land and water.

There is a banquet in the evening with entertainment.

Wednesday

7:45 – 5 - Tours: 1) Oneida sights 2) Forestry practices at Menominee and Stockbridge

Thursday

8 – 9:30 - NRCS leadership panel with NRCS higher ups

9:30 – 10 - An attorney on retainer for the National Congress of American Indians will talk about what the Obama administration means for Tribes.

**There are many more training sessions, but they have not been established yet.

MOTION: Motion to give \$10,000 for the American Indian - Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA) Conference being held in Green Bay, Wisconsin from July 13 - 17, 2009. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, zero abstentions, motion carried.

Tribal representatives on WTCAC and any other Tribal employees will receive free registration for the conference and WTCAC will be listed as a co-sponsor.

3. Student Internships

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) will advertise with all Wisconsin colleges, this includes all Tribal Colleges.

4. Small Projects

We need to make sure that the small projects that are slated to be finished in the summer of 2009 are still on schedule. If not, we will need to reallocate the funds. Jonathan will be sending a letter to the contacts for each of the projects requesting an update on the status of the projects.

5. Strategic Plan

Jerry Thompson and Pat Pelky will work to pull together the introduction for the strategic plan and then we will send out the plan for comment. Roman Ferdinand will then work with Chris Borden to pull together comments to come up with a final draft.

For the record, Jerry Thompson noted that October 15, 2001 was when WTCAC was officially formed and officers were elected.

Nate will send out the task list and we will discuss at the next meeting.

Nate will call Renee Anderson (608-662-4422 ext 227) to see what Tribes she has not received information from for our annual report and educational materials.

We will talk about our efforts to secure future earmarks on the conference call on February 3. There are four main areas we should think about for the earmark – student interns, meeting expenses, small projects, workshops/trainings.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Lac du Flambeau, seconded by FCPC. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.