

WTCAC Meeting
February 15, 2002

Meeting called to order at 10:24 a.m. by Vice-President Paul Ninham, Oneida representative.

Welcome by Doug Cox, Menominee representative and WTCAC Treasurer.

Roll Call: Menominee, Oneida, St. Croix, Stockbridge-Munsee, and Red Cliff (by teleconference)

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Approved.

Review of Agenda: Susan Hunter from FSA added to agenda. Jerry Thompson from NRCS added to agenda. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee to approve agenda, 2nd by Menominee. Approved.

Introductions of WTCAC Members and Advisors:

Jean Buffalo-Reyes, Red Cliff Representative and WTCAC President: buffalo-reyes@charter.net

Paul Ninham, Oneida Representative and WTCAC Vice-President: pninham@oneidanation.org

Doug Cox, Menominee Representative and WTCAC Treasurer: dcox@itol.com

Steve Jensen, St. Croix Representative: stejen@stcroixtribalcenter.com

Greg Bunker, Stockbridge-Munsee Representative: gbunker@frontiernet.net

Pat Pelky, Oneida Nation: ppelky1@oneidanation.org

Pat Cornelius, Oneida Nation: FARMS@oneidanation.org

Tana Archiquette, Oneida Nation: tarchiqu@oneidanation.org

Pat Leavenworth, NRCS: pat.leavenworth@wi.usda.gov

Dave Burgdorf, NRCS Plant Materials Center: dave.burgdorf@mi.usda.gov

Susan Hunter, FSA: susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

Tom Ward, GLNAC: TomWard@co.manitowoc.wi.us

Mike Koehler, NRCS: mike.koehler@wi.usda.gov

Gerald Krause, NRCS: gerald.krause@wi.usda.gov

Jerry Thompson, NRCS: jerry.thompson@wi.usda.gov

Tom Cogger, NRCS: tom.cogger@wi.usda.gov

Pete Lindgren, NRCS: pete.lindgren@wi.usda.gov

Sherrie Zenk-Reed, NRCS: slznrncs@yahoo.com

Diana Cornelius, NRCS Student: dcornel2@oneidanation.org

Review of Draft Request to NRCS for Administrative Assistance

Discussion as to how financial support could be provided to the WTCAC. Potential for 501© (3) status.

Handout of proposed costs was discussed. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee to accept proposed budget. 2nd by Menominee. Passed

Farm Bill and NRCS Programs Update

Pat Leavenworth passed out comparison of the Senate and House versions of the Farm Bill. Page 8 – bottom of page; **Administrative requirement, requires that the Secretary of Agriculture insures that Tribes be treated equally in all USDA programs.** Page 9 – reform and assessment of conservation, approve inventory. Page 14 – EQIP at top of 1731 allowing cost share rate up to 90% for Limited Resource Participants. **Page 15 - Conservation Innovation Grant program within EQIP.** Now the two bills have to go to conference for negotiations for passage on to the President. Anticipated that by beginning of March there may be an approved Farm Bill. Motion to approve and support report. Approved.

A GLITC meeting will be held on March 5th, at the Concourse Hotel in Madison. Pat Leavenworth will be making the NRCS report at 10:30 a.m. There is a NRCS "Consultation with American Indian Government" training course scheduled for March 5 to 7th in Madison. Pat Cornelius and Jean Buffalo-Reyes will be speaking at the training course.

Jean Buffalo-Reyes reported that she accepted the position as the IAC Outreach Specialist for the Great Lakes Region. She will coordinate USDA outreach and educational efforts in the States of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, New York and Maine south to Washington DC.

NRCS Plant Materials Program

Presented by Dave Burgdorf. Plants are reproduced to vegetative areas that address resource problems within Tribes Nations or States. Have 26 centers across the US. East Lansing Center provides assistance to most of WI, MI, NE IL, north Indiana and Ohio. Each center is basically a farm where plant materials are grown and kept separated. Purpose is to develop technology for effective vegetative solutions for identified needs and to release plants for conservation purposes, and commercial increase in species. Propagate tribal plants, produce fact sheets about the plants, and develop a release plan. Motion to accept presentation, approved.

Great Lakes Non-Point Abatement Coalition (GLNAC)

Presented by Tom Ward. GLNAC promotes networking between County, State, Federal, private, and Tribal entities to focus interest in watershed management in relation to water quality concerns pertaining to the Great Lakes. Conduct research projects for cleaning water from agricultural and urban sites before discharge into the Lakes. Conduct business through watershed basins, which form the GLNAC Board. GLNAC asks that Great Lakes Tribes consider joining their association. Presentation approved by Motion.

Informational report by Susan Hunter, Farm Service Agency. There is a National FSA American Indian initiative. Will be hiring American Indian coordinators to promote FSA programs through out the Region in this year (2002). Have a Youth loan program for youths 10 to 20 years old to establish youth businesses. Don't have to be an agricultural related project. Have a videotape that explains the program. Can provide loans up to \$5000 per year, and have 7 years to pay back. FSA is going to be pushing Farm Loan and Youth Loan program. Any type of money making program that gives the youth the chance to establish a business, manage money, run a business, and establish a credit history. Four videotapes were given to the four Tribes in attendance. If the other Tribes want a copy of the videotape they can call Susan at 715-362-5941. Presentation accepted by Motion.

Informational Report by Jerry Thompson, Natural Resources Conservation Service. No longer the Oneida Tribal Liaison, as recently accepted the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC-FO) position in Eau Claire. Will still serve as a State Tribal Liaison. Was just elected as the Regional Representative to the American Indian / Alaska Native Employee Association (AIANEA). The AIANEA is a coalition of USDA and Tribal employees that promote educational opportunities for the members in relation to conservation needs in Indian Country. Membership is open to everyone. More information can be found at their website at "aianea.com". The WI State Technical Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on a Sub-committee to develop a new WHIP program for the State. Currently do not have Tribal representation. With the new Farm Bill about to be approved, Tribes need to be pro-active in establishing the EQIP practices they would like to see adopted in this State. Report approved.

WTCAC Actions

Motion made and approved to have Jim Thannum and one Oneida Representative appointed to the WI STC WHIP Sub-committee to represent Tribal interests in the development of the new WHIP program. Motion made and approved to develop a "Congressional Tribal Presentation" to educate our Congressional Delegates and their staff on Tribal conservation, environmental and rural development issues. WTCAC

representatives will work with their respective NRCS Tribal Liaison to update their Tribal Conservation Plan. Jerry Thompson will email to each WTCAC representative, and each NRCS Tribal Liaison, a PowerPoint presentation that was developed to educate people about WTCAC and the needs of Wisconsin Tribes. Each WTCAC member and NRCS Tribal Liaison will be responsible for providing updated information, to include pictures and more current resource needs, to Renae Anderson at NRCS. Email updated information to renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov. Renae will incorporate the additions for WTCAC review by March 20th. **All WTCAC Representatives will meet on March 21st at the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation to preview, and review the PowerPoint presentation and to consolidate material for the Congressional Delegates.** The Congressional Presentation will occur one month later. The WTCAC Chairman will personally contact each Tribe to guarantee each has Tribal representation at the Congressional meeting. This is an opportunity to establish Government-to-Government relations at a critical time in the development of the Farm Bill.

WTCAC Bylaws and Membership Form.

Proposed that the officers meet within the next couple of weeks and work up the final draft of the Bylaws for full committee consideration. Current draft was passed out. Motion that WTCAC officers convene a meeting in Red Cliff in two weeks to final Bylaws draft. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, 2nd by St. Croix. Motion approved.

Meeting dates: Congressional Presentation review on March 21st on the Stockbridge-Munsee Nation. Meeting location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn by Stockbridge-Munsee, 2nd by St. Croix. Approved.