

Joint Wisconsin State Technical Committee (WSTC)/
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)
Meeting

October 27, 2005
Madigan Room
Bad River Casino
Bad River Reservation

Opening remarks by Pat Leavenworth, State Conservationist NRCS

Welcome by Ervin Soulier, Director, Bad River Natural Resources Department.

Roll Call: Present: Red Cliff
Menominee
Ho-Chunk
Bad River
GLIFWC
Lac Courte Oreilles
Stockbridge-Munsee
Forest County
Oneida
Sokagon (Mole Lake)

Approval Minutes July 27, 2005 motion by Ho-Chunk to approve minutes, seconded by Bad River All ayes 0 opposed 0 abstentions motion carried

EQIP: Add pond 378 practice presentation by Tony Bush: discussion also Dry hydrant standard engineering practices added to web site, cost sharable, standard. Explanation of ranking process can be found on the web for projects for EQIP. November 1, through December 8, application ranking sheet and job applications, Counties dates differ as follows November 1, through Dec 30 to be completed

Change in process of sign offs, and allocation of funds this year

December 8, 2005, in Bowler Wisconsin for next WTCAC meeting.

Technical Note Tree Drops for fish habitat Reference Code 644- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management:

Added to Whip Docket, technology \$100, flat rate per tree drop to improve fish habitat in lakes and waters. LCO had requested this be added to our Technical note as a practice..

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Dry Hydrant (each) Code432:
Standard designed to provide all weather access to an available water source for fire suppression.

Global Environmental Management Program:

Discussion regarding a agreement between NRCS and the UW-Stevens Point through the GEM Program. GEM students from Stevens Point had the opportunity to work with tribes

and the NRCS field offices this summer. Some of the activities include the following: community garden activities, traditional conservation work, Green Thumb project associated with the city of Ashland, Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center garden, planting weeding and harvesting of vegetables and selling, compost demonstration, assisted field office staff. Received a lot of positive feedback. Graduate student from GEM program will be assigned to this area.

NRCS Position: Discussion on draft of a Tribal Liaison position, which would increase technical assistance with NRCS. An anticipated 60% of the position would be spent on non-engineering projects on the reservation, providing program assistance, basic soil services on reservations; inventory and evaluation; interest in working with native plant; culture resource evaluation, and state tribal liaison contact. Suggested Spooner as a central location for the office. Will review and support at next meeting in December.

Section 106 Cultural Resources RFP: Discussion regarding 106 process; so that time frame requirements can be met for proposal submission. Asking for a group or organization to contract with WTCAC in working through the consultation process and keeping in compliance with 106 in working with NRCS. Some of the concerns were regarding consultation with Tribes during conservation contracts which would identify areas of cultural significance when discovered on tribal and non-tribal lands, do we involve that non-native entities in that particular issue and include in the consultation process. Also suggested that the tribes have some sort of infrastructure in place in dealing with cultural issues or remains of cultural significance. Time frame for the consultation process is September 2006. RFP will be worked on so project can move forward.

Small Project Proposal Process: In 2005, a 10% in-kind match, tribal signature, budget up to \$15,000 for initial pilot project, discussed application sheet. Suggested a one-sheet application form with identification of goals, objectives and tasks to be achieved through the project. These suggestions will be incorporated and resubmitted to committee members. Looking at project approval process at December meeting for final approval.

Indigenous Farming Conference: Date set for February 3-5, 2006 in Oneida, Wisconsin at the Radisson. Presently looking at providing scholarships to tribal communities so that they can participate. Also, letters out to tribes to help sponsor these scholarships. The timeframe is to have printed and sent out, a small postcard that to those tribes that would be interested in attending, by November. These would go to tribes in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota by December, these forms that need to be filled out and an idea on how many people want to attend; also looking at speakers and conference particulars. The budget for this conference is \$20,000. Sponsorship, agenda, contact details are currently being worked out.

WTCAC Report: Budget \$15,000 to put report together. Asking for comments from tribes for the year-end report, the deadline will be December meeting; final report provided by January 2006. Tribal quarterly reports will be incorporated in the annual report. Report will consist of projects in 2004 and 2005.

WTCAC Coordinator Position: No applications received. Suggested state posting and universities/colleges and private organizations, also newspaper, such as Indian Country. Suggested that it be posted until filled. Also suggested the NRCS website and state websites. Monies available for year one of position, part of the position goals would be to find funding for monies for additional years; also looking to get monies earmarked though state programs.

Tribes have been provided with current budget and expenses for WTCAC, third draw should be processed sometime in November. Should receive reimbursement sometime in December.

APHIS Update: High protection and quarantine - emerald ash board information provided. Question asked regarding emerald ash board and tribal campgrounds, how are they being protected from emerald ash?

On November 15, 2005, Menominee College and USDA will be hosting a one-day conference to discuss and deal with emerald ash board. Input and participation from tribes are being requested. The registration cut-off was noted as November 8 for the conference.

Three Sisters Community Garden Awards presented to Jean Buffalo-Reyes, Judy Pratt-Shelley of Red Cliff; Becky Lemieux, and Luis Salas from Bad River; these awards were presented from NRCS for their efforts in their respective community garden projects.

Lunch provided by Bad River.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Bad River, meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.