

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 5, 2010**  
**LCO**

Meeting called to order at 9:35 am by Jonathan Pyatskowitz.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldán), Ho-Chunk (Sara Schmidt), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), Oneida (Pat Pelky), St. Croix (Katie Stariha, Tony Havranek, Don Taylor)

Others Present: Tom Cogger (NRCS), Gary Haughn (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Tony Bush (NRCS), Jerry Thompson (volunteer), Mike Koehler (NRCS)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve agenda. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the October 20, 2009 minutes. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the November 4, 2009 conference call minutes. Motion by LCO, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

In the December 1, 2009 minutes on Page 4 in 5) Small project update it should read SF-270 not 720, on Page 6 in 6b) Website Quote Discussion “Rinising Flame” should read “Rising Flame”, the spelling of Jonathan’s name needs to be corrected throughout the minutes, and on Page 7 in Other “Adjudicare” should read “Judicare.”

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the December 1, 2009 minutes with corrections. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**4. NRCS Update**

Tony Bush passed around the list of FY2010 practices for WHIP with cost share rates; he indicated that WTCAC should be getting about \$55,000 this year. EQIP and WHIP signup runs for 1 month from January 19 to February 19. The unit costs are listed at the 90% rate.

**5. APHIS Update**

JoAnn Cruse gave the update. APHIS is planning to put up approximately 8,700 EAB traps statewide. She is working with FCPC and BIA and they are trying to put an EAB clinic together that would be open for Tribes. They are trying to schedule a speaker from Michigan to speak about basket making and EAB effects on it. This will be part of the annual forestry meeting at FCPC.

## **6. VHS Update**

There was a conference call with APHIS in December. They thought that WTCAC could get funds and funnel them down to the Tribes. There is a minimum amount of fish that we need to sample per lake. There are likely actual requirements when testing aquaculture facilities. Jonathan will send an email out to everybody. There is a deadline of Tuesday, January 12. A letter from each Tribe stating that we want money funded through WTCAC needs to be sent to APHIS. There was a question as to whether or not some Tribes can turn in workplans to start in spring and then amend it to add those Tribes that want to sample in fall.

## **7. Small Projects**

Mole Lake submitted a final report for their Beaver Dam Creek Culvert Replacement Project. The match they listed was only 5%, not the 10% required by WTCAC. Mole Lake was not present so we could not get our questions answered.

**MOTION:** Motion to table the approval of Mole Lake's Beaver Dam Creek Culvert Replacement Project until we can clarify the Tribal match and indicate to Mole Lake that an itemized bill is needed that shows a breakdown of the different costs so that payment rates can be determined for a potential NRCS Practice Scenario. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

## **8. EQIP/WHIP Project Proposals**

Tony Bush handed out the ranking tool that was developed by the work group. 1000 pts on ranking tool – 25% national questions (set in stone), WTCAC wrote own questions for the “State Questions” and there are 400 pts on this section. 25% is for local issues, we will use the same format used last year based on response to resource concerns the Tribes have. A multiplier will need to be added to get to 250 points because we only have 160 - 170 right now. The rest is the efficiency score (10%). This is different than other years because there is less emphasis on efficiency. Efficiency is the cost of putting in the practice versus the benefit you get from it. It was discussed that we need to modify #2 in the “WTCAC” section to indicate that this would not apply to situations that were beyond the control of the Tribe. We will need to have a meeting on what resources concerns actually mean by the time the ranking is developed for next year.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the local ranking questions and the WTCAC ranking questions with modification to include a clause in #2 that indicates that this would not apply to situations that were beyond the control of the Tribe. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Tony will send out tool and process to everyone.

Brett indicated that it was his understanding that any Tribe that is planning on doing any Forestry practices through EQIP need to have a forestry plan.

## **9. Logo Update**

Luke isn't at the meeting so we do not have an update on the logo development.

## **10. Future Funding**

Jonathan talked to Jim Thannum and in January we need to have everything ready to go. Nate and Jonathan will set up a time to go meet with Senator Kohl's and Senator Feingold's staff. Jonathan will send out a form letter to everyone so that we can all try and get letters of support in.

There is some Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) money for invasive species. Maybe WTCAC could get a part of this money to distribute to the Tribes. Pat Pelky will talk to Tony Kuchma to see if he can pull something together for it.

Nate indicated that U.S. EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) funds could possibly be used to fund WTCAC. In 40 CFR Parts 31 and 35 it indicates that GAP funds can be used to fund Tribal consortia. This is probably something worth looking into more.

## **11. Technical Recommendations**

Please make sure recommendations are being worked on based off of the demonstration projects.

## **12. WTCAC Program Manager**

What would we like a Program Manager to do:

- 1) Find more funding
  - VHS Agreement with APHIS – We could get admin costs from VHS agreement to help with salary
  - GLRI
  - GAP
- 2) 501(c)(3) reports and taxes
- 3) Any grant reporting
- 4) WTCAC Annual Report
- 5) Calculate tax withholdings for salary
- 6) Bring in other agencies
- 7) Monthly report on activities

We will need to run this by Dave from Judicare. Is an employee for a 501(c)(3) any different than one working for a different business? Are our books open to the public?

About 14% on top of salary will be needed for social security, Workman's comp, unemployment, etc....

We will need to talk to Pat Leavenworth about adding a Program Manager back into the NRCS workplan.

We are interested in hiring Jerry Thompson for this position and he is also interested in it.

**MOTION:** Motion to hire Jerry Thompson as WTCAC Program Manager with the approval of Pat Leavenworth in accordance with 501(c)3 guidelines at the rate of \$30 per

hour plus travel not to exceed 720 hours until the end of fiscal year 2010 based on available funding. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Jerry accepted the position. Jerry's phone number is (715) 821-0555 and his email is general1956@centurytel.net.

Jonathan will be Jerry's main point of contact. Jonathan will check with Pat Leavenworth to make sure that she approves of hiring Jerry.

### **13. Website Development**

Brett met with Rising Flame and he was given a bunch of website skins to look at. We need to check with NRCS to see if we need to modify the workplan to include the website development or if we can pay for it out of meeting costs.

### **14. Financial Update**

Brett handed out copies of the checking register and Nate handed out final accounting spreadsheet for 2005 earmark. Brett made an upfront payment of \$902.43 to Rising Flame for the development of the website.

### **15. WTCAC Contact List**

We need to update the WTCAC contacts listed on NRCS website, Sarah will contact the administrator of the website to try and get the information updated. Nate will send Sarah and Jerry the most up to date WTCAC contact list. Sheena Schoen is no longer a Ho-Chunk representative so she needs to be removed from the WTCAC contact list.

### **16. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 8 at Mole Lake; however, this meeting was later rescheduled for Thursday, March 4 at Mole Lake.

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn. Motion by FCPC, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.

### **EMAIL MINUTES 1/25/10**

In order to approve the final payment to Mole Lake for their Beaver Dam Creek Culvert Replacement Project a motion and vote were taken via email on January 25, 2010.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve final payment of \$13,154.40 to Mole Lake for their Beaver Dam Creek Culvert Replacement Project. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Oneida. Six ayes (FCPC, Ho-Chunk, St. Croix, Red Cliff, Oneida, Stockbridge), zero opposed, motion carried.