

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2005
Mole Lake Wisconsin

Welcome

Roll Call: Red Cliff, Sokaogon, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac Du Flambeau, Menominee, Stockbridge Munsee, St. Croix, Ho-Chunk, Forest Cty Potawatomi, Bad River, Oneida, GLIFWC.

Quorum Present: 11 tribes

Introduction of WTCAC Members and Advisors

Approval of minutes March 24, 2005: Menominee motions to table the minutes of March 24, 2005 seconded by: Bad River. Motion carried

Animal Plant Health Inspection Service APHIS update:

Joann Cruse:
Vet Service Dr Wilber
Emerald Ash Bore information handed out. Would like to work closer with the Tribes regarding this outbreak in Wisconsin

Dr. Wilber presentation
Three tribes and NAFWS hired tribal biologist to assist tribal personnel for emergency: Animal identification in November 2005 registration system will be mandatory, right now it is voluntary. Includes all farms and on a mandatory premises (7,000 premises already registered) also can register at USDA offices

Increase servliance for animal disease

Rabies clinic provide vetermarians for vaccinations. Licensed and accredited vetermarians provide vaccinations for domesticated and farm animals.

Don Boloun NRCS update:

Conservation Program, Oneida Nation is involved with this program. EQIP redesign program National ranking system more consistent across the country on how we rank. Consistency and fairness across the states. Significance cranberry and orchard growers initiative. Develop ranking systems. State-wide programs, orchard and cranberry production. Migrate to other priority items.

Animal waste will stay as state-wide. Composting methane digesters. Forming cooperatives across the state. % of funds for alternative handling systems cattle and bison operations.

WHIP has been a very successful in looking at habitat and critical on the declining species.

Tribal WHIP Program: Contracts \$32,741.00 to date. We have \$55,000 available for WTCAC

(See WHIP chart exhibit 1)

LCO: Stream; \$7,500.00

Menominee: Lake habitat; \$4,350.00

Oneida: Stream; \$9,451.00

Sokaogon: Wild rice; \$5,010.00

St. Croix: Pine Barrens; \$3,430.00

Stockbridge Munsee: Nest Boxes; \$3,420.00

Recommendation on changing grossly underestimating cost practices for WHIP Program. WTCAC came forward #644 wild rice seeding of \$400.00 acre flat rate. Give recommendations to State Technical Committee in July 2005. Looking at something similar to the Eurasian Milfoil standard. Jim Thanuum has some significant numbers on wild rice reseeding in various areas of the state. Sign up as close to November as we can. Tree drops for habitat. Discussion of fish structures on lakes that have a tribal interest which then may become properties of owners if tribe owns a portion of the lake in which is being treated. Identify habitat or fish locating areas. Will discuss at the next WHIP meeting. Fish crib habitat is on the lakes that are most remote and doing assessments that receive attention from other agencies like the DNR. What are the relative benefits of this type of habitat? What are the chances in getting this established soon?

Tree drops criteria are being collected for lakes. Streams can be accommodated now. Add it to the green sheets and establish a process.

Lamprey barriers: Lamprey barriers in streams. Can we add this to the WHIP Program. Quite an expensive process and will look into this. Can feasibility study be done through WHIP? Right now it is not allowed due to the definitions of WHIP for habitat improvement.

Special Tribal Projects for larger projects that exceed the state allocation. Won't know at the end of the fiscal year due to dollars being turned back and could be available. Army Corp has monies under 206 for feasibility studies.

Tribal EQIP Program:

(See exhibit 1 & 2)

Bad River: No project planned for FY 2005

Forest County Potawatomi: Access road near Rat River; \$80,000.00 \$40,000.00 cost share

Ho Chunk: No project planned FY 2005

La Courte Orielles: Practices 561; 595; 645; 560; \$41,326.00 cost share \$26,913.00

Lac Du Flambeau: Forestry Proposal, Sugar bush Access Roads; Prescribed burning; Duck Lake CAP; \$124,448.00, \$63,545.00 project cost share

Menominee: Sand Lake Boat landing, Little Sand Lake Boat landing, Landfill restoration; \$7,368.00, \$3,684.00 cost share

Oneida: Closure of waste impoundment, waterway & shoreline protection, Duck creek stream bank stabilization, grassed waterway, WASCOB (2), Access road & grassed waterway, Closure of waste impoundment (2) \$93,252.00, \$57,564.00 cost share.

Red Cliff: No project planned FY 2005.

Sokaogon: Beaver Dam removal on Beaver Dam Creek, Swamp Creek landing site improvement, structure for water control

St. Croix: Big Round Lake Curlyleaf Pondweed Erad. \$42,000.00, \$17,500.0 cost share

Stockbridge Munsee: Forest Road Stream crossing (4), Firebreak Construction, Forest Road planting. \$15,085.08, \$7,688.08 cost share

Sites and accesses for gathering of subsistence foods from the tribal nations.

Motion by LCO seconded by St. Croix to approve the WHIP and EQIP proposals as submitted and to include other proposals identified that will be submitted by Forest County Potawatomi and Sokaogon for final funds requested. The tribes will have some time from now until July 27th to get their final contract applications submitted. Motion Carried.

NRCS Plant materials Info Dave Burgdorf: Teleconference

MOU/MOA:

Tribes in certain areas that the Rose Plant Materials Center will engage in with Tribal Governments on requested projects.
Community Garden Guides:

Handouts were given on Community garden guides and Tom Cogger NRCS will be working on more guides in the near future.

Ash Seed Collection Project/Agreement:

Working with Oneida on ash seed collection project due to the invasion from an emerald ash bore species. Will ask for assistance from tribes in collection of the ash seed. Get information out to the public and collecting the seed to be stored for future requests. Black ash sets seed for 7 to 8 years. So that is why it is important to collect seed and save it for future use. If the bug gets to the seeds then there will not be seeds to utilize for future planting. Lots of agencies are coming together and trying to have some ash for the future. Tribes that donate the seed will be used for tribal purposes. It will be stored in a climate control environment.

Stockbridge motions to post the Executive Director position for WTCAC seconded by Menominee. Motion Carried.

Invite Senator Kohl to the Indigenous Conference in 2006 to be held in Oneida.

Menominee motioned to adjourn seconded by Stockbridge Munsee. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

WTCAC Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2005

Lake of the Torches Casino & Convention Center

Sokagon Meeting Room

Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by committee President Jean Buffalo-Reyes, who welcomed members and other participants. President Buffalo-Reyes also expressed condolences to the Red Lake Tribe of Minnesota who recently experienced a tragedy on their reservation and asked for a moment of silence and prayer.

Roll call: by President Buffalo-Reyes:

Present: Red Cliff, Sokagon, Lac Courte Orielles, Lac Du Flambeau, Menominee, Stockbridge Munsee, St. Croix, Ho Chunk, Forest County Potawatomi, Bad River, Oneida

Absent: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Approval of minutes for December 9, 2004, motion by Oneida, seconded by Menominee, motion carried.

Biomass Project: Presenters were: Steve Kluess of Laurentian RC&D and John Howard, Gene Zentz Indigenous Energy Partners. Indigenous Energy Partners LLC's Mission Statement: Developing joint venture relationships between the American Indian Community and the American Business Community. The presentation discussed alternative sources to incinerators and alternate uses and production of energy, to help provide sustainable green energy; also to provide businesses on tribal lands.

MACPRA 106 Process: Cecil Pavlat, MACPRA Chair, the presenter, stated that this is a spiritual task. Formed in 2000, this committee consists of 14 tribes in Michigan, and are empowered to speak on their behalf regarding issues pertaining to repatriation. Also, to aid in the repatriation of those who have or will have issues. One of their goals is to establish a working relationship with local and state governments.

Pat Leavenworth introduced Merlin Bartz, who is NRCS Regional Assistant Chief. Mr. Bartz gave a brief overview of his history in working with the Native American community before coming to NRCS. Mr. Bartz oversees the area on federal biomass research and demonstration; noted that there is 75 million available for federal biomass and demonstration funds. NEPA (National Environmental Protection Agency) is also looking to work in collaboration with the American Indian Communities.

Pat Leavenworth acknowledged Pete Lindgren who will be retiring as of April 1, 2005. Mr. Lindgren was presented with a plaque and the thanks of NRCS for all his work.

WHIP FY2005:

Motion by Menominee to accept ranking sheets, seconded by Mole Lake. Comment: Can't spend EQIP monies on Stockbridge-Munsee private land – easement knapweed, medicinal plants. WHIP is small money, may not help much, EQIP maybe used for pest management funding at \$4/acre. Need to talk to state technical committee regarding aquatic invasive. Motion passed unanimously.

FY2005 WHIP project summary: Correction to Mole Lake, \$6667 total of \$5000 cost share, discussions by tribes.

Bad River: No projects planned for FY2005.

Forest County Potawatomi: Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 644; Wildlife Upland Habitat Management 645; Pond restoration; WHIP funds will be used to enhance nesting opportunities by a wide variety of species. These nesting areas for the various species will need to develop technical notes, just like for wild rice; \$5,000.00

Ho-Chunk Nation: No projects planned for FY2005.

Lac Du Flambeau: No projects planned for FY2005

Menominee: Stream habitat Improvement & Management 395; Placing 700 ft of underwater structure for fish; \$4,350.00

Oneida: Stream habitat Improvement & Management 395; Silver creek, Restore the natural stream morphology and reestablish the riparian wetlands in what is now an excavated pond constructed within the original stream channel total cost \$12,600; funds \$6,300 and BIA contribution \$6,300.

Red Cliff: No projects planned for FY2005

Sokaogon: Wetland development or restoration 597; The ongoing wild rice restoration in Rice Lake has focused on (1) removing flow obstructions on tributaries to Rice Lake. (2) removing competing plant species of lilies and cattails. (3) planting wild rice. This whip project will under take steps two and three on 11.1 acres of wild rice wetland restoration in the southeastern part of Rice Lake.

LCO: requesting money to help improve brook trout fishing also to help with beaver trapping; \$7,500.00

St. Croix: brush management 314; prescribed burning 338; The project consists of restoring 11.9 acres of Jack/White Pine/Native grasses back to a pine barren habitat. These practices will also reinvigorate berry production with the prescribed burning; \$4,573.00

Stockbridge Munsee: Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 644; Building and placing 100 wood duck nest boxes along the Red River; \$4,000.00. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management 645; planting 10 acre of cool season grasses for wildlife forage; \$850.00

Tom Cogger gave a presentation regarding the 3 options for potential ways for WHIP sign-up. Suggested sending options to tribes and have comments available for next meeting.

So far there are \$19,250 in uncommitted funds as of March 23, 2005. Motion to pass with noted changes by Bad River, Ho-Chunk seconded, motion carried.

EQIP Program 2005:

Tony Bush of NRCS discussed ranking sheet for EQIP 2005 program. Also asked liaisons to come up with new ideas for projects. Some of those projects included:

Bad River: Nothing at this time.

Forest County Potawatomi: Forest access road

Ho-Chunk: Inventory of land

Lac Courte Oreilles: 5 boat landings, pest management on Chippewa Flowage, shaping and seeking

Lac Du Flambeau: Road improvement, prescribed burn, timber stand improvement

Menominee: Eurasian mill foil, EQIP cost-share; seeding project for landfill, boat landing improvements

Red Cliff: Nothing at this time.

St. Croix: Pest management of aquatic plants

Sokagon: Construction for new fish hatchery

Stockbridge Munsee: forest road planting, black locust logging road project/plant management; firebreak in white pine growth; water control project; forest road stream crossing

Oneida: ATV access road; closure wasteland

Timeframe for putting ranking sheets together, projects information should be done in time for the next WTCAC meeting. Discussion also led to adding ponds to EQIP list; a letter will be drafted and sent to NRCS regarding this addition; another letter regarding controlling pest plant management to include private land to help with invasive projects.

Discussion regarding WTCAC and NRCS agreement:

1. WTCAC will assist tribes with pilot conservation projects not authorized by WHIP or EQIP
2. Assist tribes in organizing and sponsoring an indigenous farming conference in 2006, suggested that it be held at Oneida because of the centralization and amenities.
3. Implement tribal cultural resource for Section 106 Consultation Process by Sept. 30, 2006 in cooperation with NRCS Cultural Resources Specialist
4. Organize and sponsor four (4) workshops addressing unique tribal conservation needs
5. Request reimbursement no more than quarterly by submitting a completed form SF-270. Request for Advance or Reimbursement with supporting documentation to NRCS. Advance payments may be made available for anticipated costs for the next 30-calendar day period by submitting a completed SF-270. Requests will include a certification that the funds requested are necessary to meet planned activities and will be utilized within 30-calendar days as well as a certification that there is an adequate system in place to track the used advanced funds. It is further understood that NRCS will not be charged any overhead expenditures relative to the agreement.
6. Organize and sponsor five (5) pilot projects

Date set for next Executive Board meeting to discuss the agreement for April 19, 2006 in Wausau Wisconsin.

Suggestions for the next meeting will be at Mole Lake on June 23, 2005 or plan b) Stockbridge Munsee with a confirmation of meeting date and time.

Motion to adjourn by Oneida seconded by Ho-Chunk. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.