

WTCAC Meeting
July 1, 2003

**Session opened at 1:10 p.m. Welcome by Vice-Chairman Paul Ninham.
Introductions of participants.**

WTCAC

Paul Ninham, Oneida
Doug Cox, Menominee
Ritchie Brown, Ho-Chunk
Rae Ann Maday, Bad River
Jim Thannum, GLIFWC
Pat Pelky, Oneida
Dick Hartmann, St. Croix
Martin Shutt, St. Croix
Brett McConnell, LCO
Kelly Jacobs, Stockbridge-Munsee
John Koss, Lac du Flambeau
Roman Ferdinand, Sokaogan

NRCS

Gerry Krause
Jan Whitcomb
Jerry Thompson
Jim Radke
Tony Bush
Tom Cogger
Tom Fredrickson
Pete Lindgren
Mike Koehler
Sherrie Zenk-Reed

Roll Call: Oneida, Ho-Chunk, Bad River, Menominee, Oneida, St. Croix, Lac Courte Oreilles, Stockbridge-Munsee, Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogan

Lac du Flambeau motion to accept minutes of April 17, 2nd by Ho-Chunk. Approved.

Minutes of May 20th were reviewed and discussion ensued about the use of a unique identifier number for EQIP contracts. Final decision is still unclear.

Menominee motion to approve minutes of May 20th, 2nd by Ho-Chunk. Approved.

Tom Cogger went through the Wisconsin Tribal EQIP Program flowchart and explained the process. Each Tribe presented an overview of their EQIP Projects for discussion, comment and approval by WTCAC to submit to the State Program Manager for the State Conservationists approval.

Ho-Chunk EQIP project: Two creeks, Billings Creek and the Kickapoo River have erosion problems. Propose 910 feet of streambank erosion control through Streambank Stabilization (580) at a cost of \$40,800; 3100 feet of Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395) at a cost of \$7,733; access road at a cost of \$2400; a crossing at \$2400, and a hill road to get to bottom of creek at \$2400. Total cost of \$53,333 with an EQIP cost share of \$40,000

Lac du Flambeau made motion to submit to State Program Manager. 2nd by Menominee. Approved.

Menomonee EQIP project: Due to short time frame, do not have Tribal resolutions yet supporting projects. Cost estimates will be fairly close. 1) Garlic mustard control project. 5 acres of herbicide control done under Forest stand improvement (666). Total project cost \$845, with EQIP at \$549. 2) Through Conservation Dept. do a Little West Branch Creek improvement project on approximately 10,000 linear feet of stream bank. Propose to hand brush 7 feet on each side of creek to re-establish grass. Debris will also be removed from stream. Stream Habitat Improvement & Management (395) to address water quality and animal habitat improvement. Total cost \$15,000 with EQIP @ \$11,250. 3) Menomonee Tribal Enterprise: Three forest crossings to be installed. Spring fed lake blocked by a beaver dam that was built across road culvert which blown out and took out road. Steep slope to road and lake. Obstruction removal of dam (500), access road to properly handle logging traffic (560), and diversions (362) to route water away from crossing. Other two crossing projects are too properly install crossings at steep areas that are constantly washing out and depositing large sediment loads into trout streams. Surface water quality primary resource concern. Have 814 feet of crossing for \$19,536 with EQIP @ \$14,652. Have about 300 ft of diversions for \$1500 with EQIP @ \$1125. \$1000 estimated cost for obstruction removal with EQIP @ \$750. \$16,527 Total cost. Have \$11,089 left over from the \$40,000 allocation. \$28,411 for all three projects.

Ho-Chunk made motion to submit to State Program Manager. St. Croix 2nd. Approved.

Stockbridge-Munsee EQIP project. Has acquired open farmland that has 2 to 4 times the permissible nitrate limits on the cropland. Cropland farmed within the last three years. Tribal long range plans is to use a small portion of these properties for housing, with the vast majority remaining in conserving use as a “Commons Area”. However, the nitrate levels observed through monitoring wells suggest housing will not happen for quite some time (5 to 10 years, or longer). These fields are quite sandy and are groundwater recharge areas. Would use Wildlife Habitat Management (645) to address water quality concerns and establish nesting cover for bob-o-links and other song birds. Propose to plant 221 acres to a warm season grass / forb mixture @ \$200/acre. \$44,200 total cost with EQIP cost at \$33,150.

Motion from Ho-Chunk to submit to State Program Manager, with provision of long term delay in housing development being part of the Tribal resolution. 2nd by LCO. Approved.

Oneida EQIP Project: 1) Propose 28.65 acres of Nutrient & Pest Management on Tsyunhehkw[^] organic farm. Also to establish 30 acres of Prescribed Grazing to rejuvenate the pastureland. Water quality is the primary concern. Cost is \$2,585.55. 2) Nutrient management plan for the Oneida Farm of 1,322 acres. Cost is \$27,762. 3) Convert 92 acres of cropland to pasture under Prescribed Grazing at the Tribal Farm Headquarters. Estimated total cost of \$26,000. EQIP fixed rate is \$9,660.

Motion from Ho-Chunk to submit to State Program Manager. 2nd by LCO. Approved.

LCO EQIP project: Chippewa Flowage Eurasian Milfoil Management Plan. Proposal is to use mechanical and biological control to restore wetlands surrounding and within the Chippewa Flowage. If the Tribal Council approves, they also may consider chemical control as an alternative. Project not completely flushed out. Is considering a small scale project and will present it at the next WTCAC meeting.

Lac du Flambeau EQIP project: Proposal to do shore land erosion control, heavy use plantings, and shore land stabilization areas with threatened cultural resource sites. Huge 75 x 75 gully forming and dropping sediment into a lake. Water Quality, soil quality and habitat concerns are the primary resource concerns. Main project is to address shore land stabilization on three separate sites. Also have at least 5 wells to be decommissioned. Will cost at least the EQIP \$40,000. Final costs and plans will be sent to Tom Cogger.

Motion by Menomonee to submit to State Program Manager, 2nd by Ho-Chunk.
Approved.

St. Croix EQIP Project: 1) Drilling well under the 642 standard for production of fish. \$2,000 maximum cost. 2) Grade stabilization project (410) on Yellow River. Large gully and runoff eroding into a wild rice bed. \$25,000 total cost with \$18,750 EQIP funds. 3) Manure storage facility (313) for existing aqua-culture effluent treatment. Grows yellow perch. Effluent will be emptied twice a year and spread on farmer's fields. Use the balance of \$19,250. If storage facility is approved by State Engineer then the entire \$40,000 would go to waste storage facility. The well drilling will be dropped altogether and Grade stabilization project would be considered as an extra EQIP project to be funded with any excess Tribal funds.

Motion by Ho-Chunk to submit to State Program Manager, 2nd by Stockbridge.
Approved.

Bad River EQIP Project: Forestry restoration project to restore conifers to their historical sites to increase biodiversity and eradicate the aspen that keeps regenerating. Areas have been identified through the Bad River Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) where old growth forests existed prior to European settlement. This project would utilize a "Forestry Brush Mower" to establish 6' to 10' strips within recently harvested monoculture aspen groves whereby white pine, red pine, balsam fir, and white spruce will be planted, either as seedlings and/or as seed if available. Approximately 388 acres will be site prepped and planted. Total cost is \$58,484 with EQIP cost share at \$40,007.

Motion by Lac du Flambeau to submit to State Program Manager. 2nd by Sokaogan.
Approved

Sokaogan EQIP Project: Physical removal of invasive plants (cattails and lilies) from rice beds. Removal of concrete weir from a stream that has adversely affected the hydrology of the stream, as well as removal of a couple of beaver dams. Needs an access road to the site in order to remove the concrete weir. Then plan to restore stream bank, and restore access road to native vegetation. Upon removal of invasive plants then rice

will be seeded into the historical rice beds. Practices used will be wetland restoration, obstruction removal and streambank restoration. Will cost at least the \$40,000. Final project proposal and costs will be sent to Tom Cogger.

Motion by Oneida to submit to State Program Manager. 2nd by Ho-Chunk. Approved.

Forest County Potawatomi: Are working on developing a proposal for erosion control at two access roads to a couple lakes. Also an erosion site near solid waste facility. Unknown costs at this time. Approximately \$20,000. Possible additional project on a cold water trout stream with a beaver dam problem. No action taken until project gets presented at the next WTCAC meeting.

Red Cliff: No EQIP project for this year. Their \$40,000 is available for the other Tribes to use.

Discussed the need for a statement in relation to payment limitations. Consensus was that the statement could be part of the EQIP contract that the Tribal Chairman would sign. Jan Whitcomb will provide the proper language prior to contracts being finalized.

Motion by Ho-chunk to adjourn, 2nd by Menomonee. Approved.

WTCAC Meeting **July 2, 2003**

Opened by Doug Cox at 8:15 a.m.

Roll Call: Lac Courte Oreilles, Stockbridge-Munsee, St Croix, Ho-chuck, Bad River, Menominee, Lac du Flambeau

Call for extra EQIP proposals to use the remaining EQIP funds.

Ho-Chunk: Native Grass Planting (645) \$27,540 total cost \$20,655 EQIP
Two Grade Stab & Critical Area Seedings \$25,500 total \$19,125 EQIP
Two critical area seedings \$5,600 total \$4,200 EQIP
Potential 30 acres of Native Grass planting. \$6,000 total \$4,500 EQIP

Oneida: 1,936 acres for Nutrient Management on Oneida Farm. \$40,656 incentive

St. Croix: Large gully eroding into a wild rice bed. \$25,000 total \$18,750 EQIP
(From project above. Would be additional if waste storage approved.)

Bad River: Well decommissioning of seven wells: \$5,550 EQIP

Consensus to hold the extra funds until the August 1st WTCAC meeting.

WHIP Projects: Each Tribe has \$3,000 cost share available.

Ho-Chunk: Native grass planting on contour strip field: \$4,000 total \$3,000 WHIP
Have additional plantings of \$30,171 which is a duplicate of one
submitted for EQIP. Has also been submitted to State signup.

Lac du Flambeau motion to approve, 2nd by Bad River, Approved

St. Croix: Walleye spawning reef. Total cost of \$13,333 Need \$10,000 and has
submitted the excess to the State signup. Total WHIP cost of \$3000

Ho-chunk motion to approve, 2nd by Lac du Flambeau. Approved.

LCO: Wild rice collection and seeding on the Chippewa flowage of 12 acres.
Total cost of \$4800 \$3600 WHIP funds.

St. Croix motioned to approve at \$3000, 2nd by Bad River. Upon further discussion St.
Croix motion to amend motion to increase cost share to \$3600. Approved.

Lac du Flambeau: Convert 5 acres of upland that is forested with pine and cedar to
harvest and clear, improve access to site, and seed to native species.
Located in the midst of Powell Marsh and nesting site will be suitable for
sharp tail and waterfowl nesting. Will be seeded to warm season grasses
in the suitable areas, and cool season grasses in other spots. Joint Circle of
Flight, Tribal and Whip project with access off Hwy 43 and then a railroad
abandoned spur. Total cost of \$10,000 with \$3,000 whip funds.

LCO motion to approve, 2nd by Ho-Chunk, Approved.

Stockbridge-Munsee: Develop a corridor of Native grasses of about 9 acres
between two wetlands and a lake for nesting cover and wildlife travel.
Total cost of \$2,511 \$1,986.75 Whip funds

Bad River motion to approve, 2nd by Ho-chunk, Approved.

Oneida: Streambank stabilization and Habitat Improvement on South Branch of
Trout Creek. Trout Creek is the only cold water trout stream in Brown
County. Joint project with BIA to do 500 feet of meanders and habitat
improvement to include streambank stabilization and placement of woody
structures. Total WHIP cost of \$3,300

Lac du Flambeau motion to approve, 2nd by Bad River. Approved.

Red Cliff: Replace rock rip-rap that Tribe, on their own, had improperly placed a couple years ago. Rock is unstable and is sloughing into stream creating large sediment loads. \$1,800 total cost. \$1,350 WHIP funds.

Bad River motion to approve, 2nd by St. Croix. Approved.

GLIFWC: Jackson Box flowage; Seeding 40 to 50 lbs of rice per acre on three 4 acre sites for a total of 12 acres. Total cost \$4,800, \$3600 whip. Already approved by multiple Tribes who are affected by this seeded area. (GLIFWC was left out of consideration when the initial Tribal allocation was made. If there are not enough left over Tribal funds, may need to make a special request for a few extra dollars.)

Ho-Chunk motion to approve, 2nd by Bad River. Approved.

Sokaogan: Still under development but feel that they will use the \$3,000 in conjunction with the EQIP project.

Ho-Chunk motion to approve, 2nd by Bad River. Approved.

Forest County Potawatomi: Cold water Colburn Creek project under development. Will possibly consist of obstruction removal and stream improvement. Expect to use the \$3000. Act on it when presented at the next meeting.

Menominee: Don't have one ready at this time, but hope to have one ready by the August 1st meeting.

Motion by St. Croix to address the excess WHIP funds at the August 1st meeting, 2nd by Bad River. Approved.

Each Tribal Liaison needs to ensure that they have the 1026 filed with FSA updated with most recent information.

Other Items

Next meeting will be at the Menominee Nation on July 31st and August 1st. Joint WTCAC meeting and State Technical Committee Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on July 31st in Keshena. There will be a tour of Menominee projects in the afternoon. Recommend that all committee members stay and attend the Menominee Pow Wow ceremonies that begin on Friday August 1st. WTCAC will then meet at 8:00 a.m. to Noon on Friday to finalize EQIP and WHIP applications.

Ho-Chunk suggests that future meetings be held at all the different reservations so that tours can be held to look at some of these projects. Lac du Flambeau offered thanks to NRCS for their assistance and patience with working with the Tribes.

Bad River motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Ho-Chunk. Approved to adjourn at 10:56 a.m.