



August 27th, 2020 WTCAC Board Meeting Minutes

*Bad River Band
of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians*

*Forest County
Potawatomi
Community*

Ho-Chunk Nation

*Lac Courte Oreilles
Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa
Indians*

*Lac Du Flambeau
Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa
Indians*

*Menominee Tribe
of Wisconsin*

*Mole Lake Band
of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians*

*Oneida Tribe of
Indians of
Wisconsin*

*Red Cliff Band of
Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians*

*St Croix Chippewa
Indians of
Wisconsin*

*Stockbridge-
Munsee Indian
Community*

1. **Call to Order** 9:04 am

2. **Roll Call**

a. **Tribal Representatives:**

- Bad River - Jessica Strand (all day) and Loretta Livingston (morning)
- FCPC - no
- Ho Chunk - Randy Poelma (all day) and Tina Brown (morning)
- LCO - Brett McConnell (all day)
- LdF - Ethan Sennett (morning)
- Menominee - No
- Mole Lake - Tina Van Zile (all day) and Nathan Podony (all day)
- Oneida - Pat Pelky in the morning
- Red Cliff - No
- St. Croix - Jeremy Bloomquist (Secretary Election)
- Stockbridge - Kellie Zahn and Paul Koll (afternoon)

b. **WTCAC Staff:** Jeff Mears, Lacey Hill, Tom Melnarik, Jon Pruitt, Jerry Thompson, Keith Sengbusch

c. **Partners:** Greg Bussler, NASS; Christopher Deegan, APHIS-PPQ; Sharon Riley, GLITC; Chris Borden, NRCS; Pam Engstrom, APHIS-WS (Audio issues); Kara Klein, FSA; Katie Demrow, FSA; John Palmer, FSA; Albany Jakobson Eckert, BIA; Ashley Andre DATCP; Kira Kauffman, USFS; Angela Biggs, NRCS; Eric Oliphant, BIA; John Palmer, FSA; Shelly Allness, WDNR; Carleen Yocum, USFS; Dan Cornelius, IAC; Pat Goggin, Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Mole Lake (Tina) made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Ho Chunk (Randy). Motion carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** Tina pointed out that Nathan Podany is missing from the minutes. Would like first last names and where people are from included in minutes. Tina (Mole Lake) motion to approve the minutes. Second by Jessica (Bad River). Motion carried.

5. **Agency Updates**

a. **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

- i. Katie Klein: Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for Maple Sap Presentation - Jan 18 to April 18 in 2020. CARES Act and CCC Charter Act provide direct assistance to agriculture producers impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. Maple Sap was not added until August 17, 2020. Kara is sending Jeff a copy of her presentation. **Application deadline is 9/11/20.**



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- ii. John Palmer also provided an update. We are almost in a drought year. Jerry requested information from FSA for the WTCAC facebook page. John Palmer recommended farmers.gov as a great resource.
- b. **Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC)**
 - i. Sharon Riley, GLITC grant writer provided a powerpoint presentation about GLITC. Economic Development Administration - comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) report to the EDA and also provide a SBA technical assistance program.
 - ii. Want to know WTCAC's perspective on what GLITC's role is promoting food sovereignty and agriculture for Tribes?
- c. **Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS-PPQ)**: Christopher Deegan update. Nation foreign seed issue. 1500 reports in Wisconsin. Samples sent to Madison office. 550 packets sent to Madison office for identification. 5-6,000 national. Most of the seeds are fruits and vegetables (tomatoes, squash, etc.). APHIS PPQ is working with Amazon and China to stop these shipments from occurring. No longer in the news so PPQ is no longer receiving many reports hopefully that means this has slowed down. Planned a presentation for CMN and there were some logistical issues. Planning for September 25 presenting to Junior high students about APHIS PPQ. FY21 funding proposals, three were submitted. Pest survey proposal, investing in our future seasonal worker program (4th year project), Rapid response training, emergency preparedness, and MOUs would include all APHIS agencies. Jerry has been working with Carl Ettisey on this.
- d. **Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)**: No representative present
- e. **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)**: Albany has GLRI program updates.
 - i. Started a distinct tribal program in 2020 increasing the amount of funding for tribes and removed limits for focus areas between the Tribes. An annual RFP for GLRI and Circle of Flight, ESA, Youth, Noxious Weeds, Invasive Species, Fish Hatchery will be released in October/November with due dates in January/February.
 - ii. **Upcoming Tribal consultation on draft invasive species plan on September 17th**. There will be a link sent out from Albany to access this webinar.
 - iii. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Task Team working on a guidance document that has been a longtime coming. Final editing stages. There will be a webinar for that and Albany will send out the link this fall.



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- iv. Transition will be to annual GLRI reporting (from semi-annual) and Jessica Koski will be sending memo out on reporting guidance when this change takes effect; Tribes can send request to change reporting sooner
- v. **Eric Oliphant** - Matt Anderson regional forester sent out a request for proposal for any Tribes interested in getting some forestry project completed. Eric read off Matt's email about requests and provided email to send proposals too.
MidwestForestryProjectProposals@bia.gov and eric.oliphant@bia.gov
- f. **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S)**: No representative present
- g. **Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**: Ashley Andre, Gypsy moth treatment concluded in July. Gypsy moth catch numbers doubled this year. Announcement just released that EAB was found in four additional counties in Wisconsin. Tribes were contacted about this. State pest rules published on Monday. Adding quarantine for spotted lanternfly. Having a meeting in September to discuss these revisions more.
 - i. Emerald Ash Borer Detection
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDATCP/bulletins/2968983>
 - ii. ATCAP 21 was published in Federal Register on Monday
 - 1. DATCP Board Meeting on 9/24/20 will discuss comment opportunities on new rule on spotted fly (?)
 - 2. Chapter ATCP 21
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/scope_statements/all/115_20
 - iii. DATCP is working on controlling state hemp plan
 - iv. DATCP submitted 2 funding proposals related to CWA to Feds, if funded they will share more information at future WTCAC meeting
 - v. DATCP is working on finalizing funding for infrastructure improvements for food banks and non-profits in response to changes related to pandemic
 - 1. Award notifications will be going out in next couple of weeks
 - vi. Farm to School Advisory Council is looking for nominations
 - 1. Wisconsin Farm to School Advisory Council
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/FarmtoSchoolAdvisoryCouncilNominations.aspx



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- [ning-aug-31/](#)
- vii. Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access - opportunity for participation in October
 - 1. Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access
<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/BroadbandGovernorsTaskForce.aspx>
 - viii. Blue Ribbon on Rural Prosperity - tap ideas from rural communities on the economy, virtual listening session on Monday
 - 1. Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity
<https://wedc.org/blog/governors-blue-ribbon-commission-on-rural-prosperity-to-hold-first-of-three-listening-sessions-beginning-aug-31/>
 - h. **US Forest Service (FS):** Kira provided an update on information being sent out on programmatic agreements with NEPA process. New process for tribal consultation. National Historic Preservation Act 120 day comment period minimum. Carleen also had an update to provide. Competitive grant program Community Forest Fee Simple Acquisition proposal sent out. 50% match requirement. Jenn Youngblood is in detail but Carleen and Kira can also answer any questions. FS is interesting on working with WTCAC about hiring student interns for next year and they want to start talking with WTCAC staff now
 - i. **Community and Open Space Conservation Program - due January 11th, 50% cost share**
 - ii. **Landscape-Scale Restoration Proposal Deadline - September 8th in grants.gov**
 - i. **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS):** Greg Bussler is asking for new Tribal farmers to sign up on the website so they can be sent a questionnaire for the next CENSUS of Agriculture. It is important to make sure that the native american community is being accurately accounted for. This data is used for federal funding, etc. 72% of soybean are rated good to excellent and are 4 days ahead of average for harvest. NASS.usda.gov go to the make sure I counted tab on that website. This fall will be the County Agricultural Practices Survey that will be used to base crop insurance programs, etc. Also doing two additional surveys this fall of farmers
 - j. **Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS):** Get NRCS staff in the field right now to look around and we can come up with some project ideas. Paul Johnson is retiring this week. Ken Dickerson hired is state archaeologist for NRCS so they will no longer be contracting this work



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out. NRCS part of BIA PIA meeting this year, and Chris says thanks. Jonathan has been working with Chris to move tribal CIP applications forward. Working on other analysis needed to support Tom and Jonathan's positions

- k. **Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE):** No representative present
- l. **Rural Development (RD):** Frank from RD is not available for today's meeting but he did send this: This link, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus> , is a good one for all your members to have in their favorites column because it is updated regularly and informs RD stakeholders of the efforts we're taking to assist in any way.
- m. **Central REgional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (CRTAC):** Pat Pelky
 - i. Fairly quiet for a while but meeting setup for Monday, August 31st with co-leads for three regions for the Tribes
 - ii. Better update expected next month
- n. **Risk Management Agency (RMA):** No representative present
- o. **United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):** No representative present
- p. **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR):**
 - i. Shelly Allness provided an update. She appreciates the online forums that WTCAC is providing via Zoom. Shout out to Oneida and Menominee PCB clean up on the Fox River. There will be a virtual celebration. Congratulations on these efforts. WDNR offered to do a PFAS 101 presentation. Great participation back in February. How do we engage the Tribes on this emerging contaminant. WDNR is the lead agency working on clean-up. DHS tribal liaison, Gail, is also involved in the efforts. Enbridge Line 5 reroute, very early stages of an environmental impact statement. Asked for comments on scope back in July and DNR staff are working through those comments. CWD - coming up on state hunting season. The Secretary's office released a plan for this upcoming season. Would like to see the Tribes engaged and partnering with WDNR. Ho Chunk submitted a lot of samples last year. Hitting the North and NorthEast portions of the state this year. Have a strategic plan for focusing on different areas of the state during different hunting seasons. WDNR has updated their website to be more user friendly. One of the subheadings is climate change because it is important to the WDNR. The Tribes are further ahead then the state because the state hit the pause



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- ii. button under previous administration. Reforestation funding opportunity email yesterday.
 - q. **Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA)**: No representative present
 - r. **Wisconsin Lakes Partnership (WLP)**: Pat Goggin, Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. Sent out Lake Tides Newsletter. UW Lakes also started a youtube page. A Lot of educational resources on their page. There was also a trout habitat restoration workshop last week. Jeff will send these resources to the board.
 - s. **IAC**: Dan Cornelius update on food box program. Tribal members don't need a semi load of milk and dairy. Trying to update it to include corn, fish, etc. Partnered with LCO Tribal College and Native american food sovereignty alliance, CMN, and UW Madison. Application went in yesterday. Building more videos and curriculum. Talking to Jerry about building a processing kitchen. IAC's annual meeting will be virtual this year.
 - t. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - Paul Winters (actually present after lunch). Update from Paul: Still in Phase 1 of pandemic return. **RTOC Meeting on October 14 2-5 pm (central)**; still building agenda with Tribal Caucus.
 - u. Next meeting agency updates: Army Corps of Engineers presentation, NRCS has more updates.
- 6. Lunch Break 11:45 - 13:00**
- a. **Tina will be chairing the meeting for the rest of the day.**
- 7. WTCAC Business Meeting**
- a. **NRCS Updates and EQIP** - Angela Biggs:
 - i. In the process of putting together vacancy announcement for pathways interns for next summer - announcement will be released September/October; will be entry level opportunities for college students; there will be several positions across the country and the state
 - ii. Looking at changes in processing annual CSP payments; existing contracts paid in October/November, newer contracts will be in October, older in November
 - iii. EQIP:
 - 1. Staff is working on getting final contracts obligated for this FY
 - 2. Working with those applying for FY21; can apply at any time of year to be evaluated in batched for next year
 - a. First batching date for FY21 will be in November



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3. IF there are any changes that need to be made for FY21 we need to get them in before the end of September so they can be finalized before the start of next FY

- b. **Conservation Collaboration** - Tom provided an update on training he is providing. Can help Tribes learn how to use laser level. He is also participating in other training. Just participated in trout stream restoration training. Jonathon is working on mapping parcels for Tribes for future enrollment in EQIP projects. Working on mapping out how to complete conservation collaborative deliverables. Next month's board meeting Jonathon would like the board members to bring some ideas to the meeting on what kind of inventories and training board members would like.
- c. **Tracking Matrix** - Jeff sent out to everyone last night including NRCS to get some input on it. Angela said at quick glance it looks like a useful tool. Chris has some recommendations for what WTCAC should also include. This will be a part of the agenda in the future. A simple tool to utilize moving forward.
- d. **WTCAC SubCommittees**
 - i. **Agriculture** - Kellie Zahn hopped on for the update. She provided an update on plans for virtual training
 - ii. **Fisheries** - Tom provided an update for Jeremy. Trying to schedule a meeting coming up and having the army corps present at it.
 - iii. **Forestry**- EAB planning meeting scheduled for September 10th at 9AM. Virtual meeting probably to be held in November.
 - iv. **Wetlands** - Randy happy to announce that RAMSAR designation happened yesterday for the lower Wisconsin River. Continues to sit on the planning committee for the Wisconsin Wetland Committee. Virtually Feb 16-19 four half days planned for meeting. Software company will be providing the virtual platform for the meeting. There will be a tribal wetland working group virtually at that meeting. WWA is applying for FCPC funds to pay for tribal representatives to attend virtually. Wetland delineation training planned for next year in 2021.

8. Other Opportunities

- a. **USDA APHIS FAD/EP Training** - Jerry was just notified this week that the pre award has been awarded by APHIS and it is being put into EZfedGrants this week. Almost \$100,000 for emergency preparedness funds.



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- b. **USDA OPPE 2501 Funding opportunities** - It was just submitted yesterday. Releasing another application in October for 2021. We are supposed to find out rather quickly about the 2020 funds. There will be a change from 1 to 3 year funding timespan.
9. **Wetlands Video Project** - Jonathan: Recently reached out to Katie from WWA. Has a shoottime schedule for November with Oneida.
10. **FY21 PPA 7721 Proposals & Pest Surveys** - Lacey: Submitted 3 proposals: one for survey and seasonal workers (increased time to 16 hours per week), one for seasonal workers conducting education and outreach (reduced to 24 hours per week), and one for the board to discuss MOU's and response plans at board meetings.
11. **CAPS** - Lacey: work plan due September 11th. Workplans due September 11th; award received already but Lacey is still finalizing work plan. The last round of funding was closed out last week with all documents submitted by Erin and Lacey
12. **WTCAC Newsletter** - Lacey: Sent out at the end of July. Going to target another one to be sent out at the end of November. Please feel free to send content ideas. We want to highlight the apprentice program. We also want to have a conservation spotlight on each issue that rotates around the Tribes. This next issue introduces the executive board? - Chris NRCS Partner Spotlight. Tribal Conservation Spotlight. Tina recommended for two tribes to submit articles. Randy expressed interest. October 31st article deadline.
13. **WTCAC Facebook page** - Jerry provided an update and overview. NRCS is linking their account with WTCAC.
14. **Strategic Plan Update** - Picking up efforts this fall. Working with Chris and Jonathan on this. Will bring more refined version back to Board for review
15. **WTCAC/NRCS Report** - This is a work in progress and wants to make it more regular. Hasn't been done since 2013. Jonathan, Chris, and Jeff are leading the effort.
16. **WTCAC Employment Manual** - Work in progress.
17. **Executive Board Member Election for Secretary - Tina**
- Verifying quorum: Bad River (Jess), Mole Lake (Nathan & Tina), LCO (Brett), Stockbridge (Kellie & Paul), HoChunk (Randy), St. Croix (Jeremy)
 - Motion to open nominations by Randy, Paul will second
 - Randy nominated Jessica from Bad River, St. Croix will second
 - Jessica accepts pending approval from her supervisor
 - Ho chunk (Randy Poelma) - Aye, LCO (Brett McConnell) - Aye, Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile) - Aye, St. Croix (Jeremy Bloomquest) - Aye, Stockbridge (Paul Koll) - Aye, Bad River (Jessica Strand) - abstains.
 - Term for 1 year and 1 month; so until September 2021



18. Director Tasks - President election update in September, election in October.

Add John Palmer to distribution list

19. OPPE - Jerry/Jeff/Angela

- a. Jerry and Jeff got contracted by OPPE Ex. Director to do USDA virtual summit with all the Tribes in Wisconsin; pushing centers for Community Prosperity; previously decided it was outside of WTCAC's scope; OPPE wants WTCAC to help reach Tribe's Economic Development Councils for this summit
- b. Sounds like too big of a task to pull off in next 30 days like OPPE wants
- c. Angela is willing to carry WTCAC's message back to Jackie @ OPPE; Food an Agricultural Council hasn't even been notified of this idea so she will talk to Sandy and Frank
 - i. Willing to bring it back to propose waiting until next year
- d. Jeff thinks WTCAC could help with a component of it

20. Executive Session

- a. Present: Jeff Mears, Randy Poelma, Tina Van Zile, Nathan Podany, Brett McConnell, Erin Hoffman, Paul Koll, Jessica Strand
- b. Stockbridge (Paul) motions, and HoChunk (Randy) seconds for entering executive session
- c. **Financials**
- d. Stockbridge (Paul) motions to leave executive, Bad River (Jess) seconds, no opposition

21. Motion to accept financial report by Bad River (Jess), LCO (Brett) seconds, no opposition

22. Motion to adjourn by Bad River (Jessica), Stockbridge (Paul) seconds

23. Ended @ 3:08 pm

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:00 - 3:00

Minutes submitted by Jessica Strand, WTCAC Secretary on 2020-09-04 - Updated 9/23/20

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