



*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
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*Stockbridge-
Munsee Indian
Community*

January 28th, 2021 WTCAC Board Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** At 9:02 AM

2. **Roll Call**

a. **Tribal Representatives**

- i. **Bad River** - Jessica Strand
- ii. **FCPC** - Ben Koski
- iii. **Ho-Chunk** - Randy Poelma (*on the call until 10:00*)
- iv. **LCO** - Brett McConnell
- v. **LdF** - Ethan Sennett
- vi. **Menominee** - Jeremy Pyaskowit
- vii. **Mole Lake**- Tina VanZile, Nathan Podany
- viii. **Oneida** - Pat Pelky
- ix. **Red Cliff** - Alissa Stutte
- x. **St. Croix** - Jeremy Bloomquist (*joined at 9:45 AM*)
- xi. **Stockbridge** - Paul Koll, Kellie Zahn (*joined at 10:30*)

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

c. **Partners:** Christopher Deegan (APHIS), Chris Borden (NRCS), Tracy Hames (WWA), Katie Beilfuss (WWA), Kira Kaufmann (USFS), Brenda Stuart Luke (IRS), Arlene Good (IRS), Jacqueline Slay-Davis (OPPE), Shahla Werner (DATCP), William Barker (CALs), Ashley Andre (DATCP), Georgia Thomas (IRS), Sharon Reiley (GLITC), Eric Oliphant (BIA), Brian Hudson (USDA RD), Eric Oliphant (BIA), Katie Demrow (FSA), Sunny Lucas (USFS), Dan Cornelius (IAC), Melinda Danforth (Oneida), Brian Kuhn (DATCP), Ian Krauss (FSA), Melissa Bartz (NRCS), Ryan Gerlich (NRCS - *joined at 11:03*)

d. **Approval of the Agenda:** Menominee (Jeremy Pyaskowit) made a motion to approve, Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma) seconds. All in favor.

- i. Tina commented that we are combining today's meeting with the EAB webinar this afternoon, so we might fall short on time for agency updates. Those who do not have the time this month will be first at the next meeting for updates.

e. **Approval of the Minutes:** Oneida (Pat Pelky) made a motion to approve with changes noted below, Menominee (Jeremy Pyaskowit) seconds. All in favor.

- i. Tina comments that "not" needs to change to "now" in the sentence about Pat being VP.



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- ii. P.7, Section 4: tribal food safety should be back.
- iii. Typo on “Annual”
- iv. P.11 “recap” in section 2
- v. P.13 it’s supposed to be Vanessa instead of Angela.
- vi. p. 13 typo for Daniel

3. Wisconsin Wetlands Association - Katie Beilfuss

- a. WWA started collaborating with WTCAC two years ago on a series of videos on wetland work and conservation. They shared the first two videos today. Hoping that there will be more videos in the future.
 - i. Oneida wetland restoration video
 - ii. Oneida healthy lands video
 - iii. Would like to collaborate with more WI tribes and like to work with partners to develop an outreach plan for these videos.
 - iv. Production cost: approximately \$10K plus additional cost for staff time and management; funding came from multiple sources.
 - v. Pat adds that Katie, Tracey, and the production company (Cloud North Company) were great to work with, they made it easy.

4. COVID 19 Economic Impact Statements - Jacqueline, Brenda, Georgia, and Arlene

- a. Want to talk about a partnership with USDA-OPPE and IRS to get information out across the country about Economic Impact payments
 - i. IRS has opportunities and resources for citizens of the US.
 - 1. IRS will start accepting tax returns on February 12th; want to articulate how the EIS and how to claim any outstanding EIS; also, information on unemployment and how it needs to be claimed on tax returns.
 - a. IRS.gov has a lot of information about this.
 - 2. US citizens and resident aliens were eligible to receive EI payments; talked about income thresholds; even those who didn’t file tax returns but has a SSN# were eligible; 1st round in March and 2nd round in December 2020
 - 3. Need to include information on EIP on line 30 of the tax return, notice 144 form for amount issued for 1st payment, notice 144B form issued for 2nd payment--need to include this on form 1040 or 1040SR but there is also a free file on the IRS.gov website that walks you through the process of filing.



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4. IRS wants us to share information on FB, Twitter, and other social media to ensure people who are eligible can access the funds; interested in doing virtual workshops in the future
 5. Warning that if a tax preparer sounds like they are guaranteeing you a refund to good to be true, then it likely is
 6. Earned Income Credit Awareness week starts tomorrow
- b. Tina asks for FAQ Sheet with contact information
 - c. Jerry asks for information in the form of a press release for the WTCAC Facebook page; Brenda says she will send it right away.
 - d. Brenda.E.Stuart-Luke4@irs.gov
 - e. www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment
 - f. USDA, Director of Tribal Relations. HeatherDawn.Thompson@usda.gov
- 5. ATCP 21 Plant Inspection and Pest Control Rule - Shahla Werner**
- a. Powerpoint located in meeting folder on Google Drive
 - b. Proposed Rule Changes - there are 10 FTE plant specialists, 3 LTE that inspect different areas of the plant industry
 - c. Invasive species are outcompeting our native species
 - d. ATCP 21 includes plant protection rules related to Wis. Stat. 94 and sometimes connected to APHIS
 - e. Proposed changes are: adding exterior quarantines for the spotted lanternfly, elongate hemlock scale, and balsam woolly adelgid; rescinding quarantines for PSB, EA, and TCD; and adding Alaska to the infested area for HWA and updating the host list for *P. remorum*
 - i. The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is very fast-moving, has cost major damage to grapevines and vineyards out east; feeds on maple, roses, hops, and other ornamentals; might not be able to survive cold temperatures in northern 3rd of Wisconsin; proposing exterior boundary quarantine for WI for SLF; monitoring with traps and doing social outreach
 - ii. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - an aphid-like insect that sucks fluid from the base of hemlock needs; found on east and west coast (but there might be resistance in western hemlock that means they live through infestation); not found in WI yet; ONLY infests hemlocks
 - iii. Elongate Hemlock Scale - sucks fluids from the underside of hemlock, spruce, and fir needles; certain pesticides don't control the pest at all; can combine with other stressors/pests that result in



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- tree death; inspectors have intercepted this pest during inspections; want a specific quarantine for this pest at this time
- iv. Balsam Woolly Adelgid - BWA has destroyed 95% of Fraser firs in GSMNP; can cause branch deformities and tree mortalities; want to add exterior quarantine for BWA
- v. *Phytophthora ramorum* leaf blight (Sudden Oak Death) - causes oak mortality and leaf blight in 70 other plant genera; found once in WI at nursery but seemed to have successfully prevented infestation at that time in 2019;
- vi. Removal of EAB quarantine due to the extensive spread; Pine Shoot Beetle has not observed to cause major forest health impacts so quarantine will be lifted; expecting to lift Thousand Cankers Disease quarantine due to lack of predicted impacts
- f. WTCAC (Lacey) has been asked to be one of the organizations for the Ad-Hoc Advisory Council and act as a liaison back to its member Tribes (though not speak for them); Tribes can comment on ATCP 21 during comment periods but there will be no formal consultation

6. Agency Updates:

a. Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) -

i. PPQ - Christopher Deegan

- 1. deregulate EAB on 1/14/21 and have sent out updated memos on shipping ash products out of state; will provide information to Lacey to forward along
- 2. Will be continuing to do EAB trapping in Douglas County in 2021; will send an announcement for hiring seasonal position in Douglas County for Lacey to distribute

ii. WS - no one present

iii. VS - no one present

b. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) - Ashley Andre

- i. DTCP 21 rule update (above)
- ii. Thanks to WTCAC Agriculture Subcommittee Meeting Invitation- staff enjoyed the meeting
- iii. Ashley shared links to four news releases:
 - 1. USGS Partnership of NE WI Bedrock Survey - knowing how deep the soil is before bedrock is key for knowing how to protect from pollutants; Tina shared that Tribes are very sensitive to aerial surveys and want contact ahead of time



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- a. Do not believe that they will be going over any tribal nation. For the depth to bedrock survey, the helicopter will fly over the following counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan, when weather and flight conditions allow.
- b. Depth to bedrock survey:
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/20210106AEMSurvey.aspx
2. Announced More Agriculture Enterprise Areas in the State
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/20210107AEADesignations.aspx
3. Producer-led watershed protection grants:
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/20210112ProduceLedGrants.aspx
4. WI Farm Center Virtual Support Groups - starting in February
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/20200108FCSupportGroups.aspx
5. Contact: Ashley Andre, ashley.andre@wisconsin.gov, (608) 224-5002
- c. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - Paul Winters (joined at 10:30)
 - i. Working on getting a new regional administrator and starting on new executive orders
 1. EPA has to review the new regulations for the last four years and see if they match new executive orders to see if the two match
 2. EPA will have to follow consultation policies and will need to submit a plan to do so up the chain for approval
 - ii. Calendar Notices
 1. TEPM - virtual, week of March 15th
 2. RTOC - virtual, on March 18th
 3. Paul will send information to Tina and Jeff about consultation
 - iii. **Farm Service Agency (FSA)** - **Katie Demrow**



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- iv. USDA is temporarily suspending debt collection on farm loans, etc.
- v. Ian Krauss: Ag Program Specialist
 - 1. ARC PLC deadline is March 15th; UWEX has a recommendation for producers
 - 2. Dairy Margin Protection Program
 - 3. Underway for sign-up for Quality Loss Sign-Up Program - sign-up ends on March 5th
 - 4. Accepting applications for CFAP Round 2 for updated crop eligibility
 - 5. Updates to CRP - general sign-up until February 12th for traditional prairie practices, rare and declining habitats, etc.
- d. **Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) - Sharon Reilly**
 - i. liked the WWA videos because GLITC also wants to promote all the accomplishments that are being made, and likes that these videos do this
 - 1. she adds that the landscape scale viewpoint is similar to concepts seen for restoration in Hawaii
 - ii. received a grant to assist tribal ag enterprises and cultural tourism
 - iii. working on a new initiative to expand food sovereignty in light of the pandemic, to promote healthy foods, and return to cultural wellness
- e. **Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - no one present**
- f. **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - Eric Oliphant**
 - i. Not much of an update just that they did receive some direction on executive order 3395, that the temporary suspension of federal actions does not apply to their work with Tribal nations.
- g. **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) - Bill Barker**
 - i. They started rolling out that students need to take a COVID test (and provide evidence) before entering the building for in-person classes
 - ii. Started planning for next field season but there will be some travel restrictions and social distancing requirements
- h. **Forest Service (FS) - Keira Kaufmann & Sunny Lucas**
 - i. no updates from Ottawa Forest
 - ii. missed updates here
 - iii. currently reviewing GLRI CWMA proposals per Sunny



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- iv. Tina brings up the letter received for consultation for 106 out of the Eagle River/Florence River district; Chequamegon Nicolet sent out a planned activity letter. Combination of NEPA and 106 consultations being requested. Kira can provide more information if needed. will share it during the business session
- i. **Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) - Dan Cornelius**
 - i. Virtual workshop March 24th and 25th in coordination with Menominee, Oneida, WTCAC, and possibly others.
 - ii. Hopefully will be hosting an in-person food sovereignty festival in September at KBIC in Marquette, MI.
 - iii. Colby Duren is the new policy director for IAC
 - iv. Lots of big developments will be occurring over the next couple of weeks.
 - v. 638 Tribal Food program call for proposals is open right now. Dan is working with others for a regional cooperative.
 - vi. Value-added producer grant is open and IAC does have a small number of funds available for a cash match.
- j. **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) - Not present**
- k. **Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) - Spoke earlier**
- l. **Ruffed Grouse Society - Not present.**
- m. **Rural Development (RD) - Brian Hudson**
 - i. Filling in for acting state director until the transition occurs.
 - ii. Value-added producer grant application deadline of February 26th Kristin.peterson@usda.gov can help out with any questions.
 - iii. Staff is continuing to work virtual but are available and the virtual transition has gone well and staff is available for any questions and to help with your needs.
 - iv. Jerry is hosting a virtual online training for the value-added producer grant next Tuesday and will be sending information out tomorrow.
- n. **Central Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (CRTCAC) - Pat Pelky**
 - i. Not too much activity
 - ii. Barry Hamilton passed away over the holidays, and he had a lot of the next steps for setting up the next Councils; Pat wants to talk to Angela on moving forward with sensitivity with these next steps
- o. **Risk Management Agency (RMA) - no one present**
- p. **United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) - no one present**



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- q. **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)** - no one present
- r. **Wisconsin Lakes Partnership** - no one present
- s. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** - will address during the business section

7. WTCAC Business Meeting 11:30 – 12:00

a. NRCS Updates and EQIP - Melissa Bartz & Chris Borden

- i. Heather Dawn Thompson is the new Director of the USDA Office of Tribal Relations
- ii. There are soil conservationist and soil tech positions advertised; closed once filled
 - 1. There are over 1000 jobs posted across multiple states; so it is the best time for those who are interested in joining the NRCS.
- iii. Congratulated WTCAC on excellent EAB web series
- iv. EQIP Update: WTCAC pot of \$; just finished rankings for 1st WTCAC sign-ups and there is still money left in the pool for other WTCAC projects; encourage additional applications
 - 1. a good year for larger project proposals
- v. There may be an additional opportunity to sign up for forest management plan money
- vi. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is going to be announced at the end of March/beginning of April as the possible application deadline
 - 1. if Tribes are thinking about CSP we should let NRCS staff know so they can start discussing
 - 2. Also, Jon P. could help prep potential contract

b. Conservation Collaboration - Tom Melnarik

- i. Tom
 - 1. wants to help with engineering projects for the Tribe, so wants to know what's going on there
 - 2. is helping Lacey with internship prep
 - 3. has been taking more engineering and AutoCAD training
 - 4. always available to come around to look at different things for the Tribes
- ii. Jonathan
 - 1. working on 2020 WTCAC Report - wants feedback from Tribes to get report finalized in next month or so; **get comments to Jon by end of February**



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- a. Tina will email comments to Jon
 - b. Tina suggests a group photo for the inside of the cover; Lacey suggests a screenshot of Zoom
 - c. Lacey has been updating the WTCAC website. Prior reports are still there.
 - d. NRCS will have public affairs specialist do formatting and printing some hardcopies; Chris will confirm this is still okay with Angela
 - i. Tina wants to see a copy in the final format for commenting before printing; Chris thinks this is possible
 - ii. Chris suggests a meeting between Jon and Tivoli now
2. Conservation Planner Apprentice Certification - hoping to finish virtual training soon and then do live training as soon as they resume (due to COVID)
- c. Tracking Matrix - Tom Melnarik**
- i. Doesn't have a lot of updates, though Jerry added some updates prior to Christmas.
 1. A goal for a bigger sugarbush operation in Menominee; wants a more modern sugar shack (similar to the one Red Cliff got grant-funded through Farm to School Grant)
 - a. <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/acer>
 - b. \$500,000 grants for maple syrup education and research
 2. Value-Added Production Grant training coming up on Tuesday, February 2nd
 3. Discussed moving the latest version to Google WTCAC Board shared drive so individual Tribes can review and add to it
 4. Chris suggests a meeting to figure out certain matrix items now; Tom asks him to set up a Teams meeting.
- d. WTCAC 2020 report - Jonathan Pruitt**
- i. see discussion above (8.b.ii)
- e. Request for Lacey to participate in Ad-HOC Committee for ATCP 21**
- i. Lacey would be bringing information back and forth between Committee and forestry staff she works with, can share deadlines with Tribe's for tribal participation.



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- ii. Jeff supports Lacey's participating.
- iii. Oneida (Pat Pelky) moves to approve Lacey's participation, Stockbridge (Paul Koll) seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

8. **Executive Session** - Bad River (Jessica Strand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile & Nathan Podany), Stockbridge (Paul Koll & Kellie Zahn), Lac Courte Oreilles (Brett McConnell), Menominee (Jeremy Pyastskowit), Red Cliff (Alissa Stutte), St. Croix (Jeremy Bloomquist)

- a. Oneida (Pat Pelky) motions to enter the executive session, Bad River (Jessica Strand) seconds. All in favor.
9. Oneida (Pat Pelky) motions to leave the executive session, Stockbridge (Paul Koll) seconds. All in favor.
10. Menominee (Jeremy Pyaskowit) moves to accept the financial report, Stockbridge (Paul Koll) seconds. All in favor.
11. Oneida (Pat Pelky) motions to give Jeff authorization to open WTCAC internship opportunities in MN and MI to tribal members in those states. Menominee (Jeremy Pyaskowit) seconds. All in favor.
12. Menominee (Jeremy Pyaskowit) moves to adjourn, Stockbridge (Paul Koll) seconds. All in favor.

Adjourned at 12:06 PM

Next Meeting: February 25th, 2021 9 AM - 12 PM Combined with EAB WebSeries from 1-3 PM

Minutes submitted by Jessica Strand, WTCAC Secretary on January 29th, 2021

Additional information provided after the meeting from FSA and EPA.

FSA

- ARC/PLC
 - Deadline is March 15th and UW-Extension has again provided recommendations for producers.
- Dairy Margin Coverage Program
 - Information forthcoming regarding the DMC Supplemental Production History increase that was recently passed as part of the last stimulus bill.
- Quality Loss Adjustment Program
 - FSA is under way with signup for the QLA. This program is intended to cover quality losses, more than 5%, due to qualifying disaster events such as excessive moisture, flooding, and tornadoes, in calendar years 2018 and 2019. Payments will be based upon nutrient values for forage crops such as alfalfa, mixed forage, and corn silage. Payments for grain crops will be based upon verifiable documentation of grading factors. Producers will be required to submit documentation to prove nutrient



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values, grading factors, and affected production. Signup ends on March 5, 2021.

- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
 - The FSA is accepting new or modified applications from January 19 through February 26, 2021 for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, to clarify this is not CFAP 3, just expanded eligibility for CFAP 2. Livestock by contract growers, pullets and turfgrass sod are now eligible for CFAP 2 payments. The specialty crop and livestock calculation for specialty crops now accounts for crop insurance indemnities and payments through the NAP and WHIP+. This more accurately represents what a producer would have marketed if not for a cause of loss.
- Conservation Reserve Program
 - General Signup 56
 - Started January 4th and goes until February 12th. Consists of prairie (introduced and native grass plantings; rare and declining habitat) and tree (hardwood, softwood, and wildlife habitat) practices. This signup required a substantial reduction to Wisconsin's Conservation Priority Area, as well as Water Quality and Wildlife Priority Zones. Along with Ownership and Cropland eligibility, General Signup offers must meet one of three eligibility criteria; be an expiring CRP, located in a CPA, or have an Erodibility Index score of 8 or greater. Offers are ranked and accepted nationwide according to their Environmental Benefits Index score.
 - Continuous and CREP Signup 55
 - Active through September 30th. These practices are focused more specifically on solving targeted resource needs and acceptance is based on having and solving a specific resource concern. These are the filter strips, scrapes, wetland restorations, riparian buffers, grass waterways, among others.
 - New contracts no longer receive C/S for management and not all practices require mid management moving forward. There is still cost share for practice establishment.
 - Forest Management Incentive
 - National Office recently announced the Forest Management Incentive for CRP to replace the Tree Thinning Incentive. This program will provide financial assistance to CRP participants wanting to do forest stand improvements. Practices will include CP3, CP3A, CP4D, CP11, and CP22. Contracts in the final two years will not be eligible. More information on this is forthcoming.

EPA



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Biden Administration Executive Orders and Memoranda:

- Revocation of previous Orders concerning the regulatory process: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-revocation-of-certain-executive-orders-concerning-federal-regulation/>
- Protecting public health and environmental and using science to tackle the climate crisis: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>
- Memorandum on tribal consultation: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/26/memorandum-on-tribal-consultation-and-strengthening-nation-to-nation-relationships/>
- News about upcoming climate action from President Biden: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/01/26/biden-environmental-justice-climate/>
- March 15-17, and 19th is the Tribal Environmental Program Managers (TEPM) Virtual Conference. Save the Date email below.
- March 18th is the virtual RTOC (9-11am Central and 1-3pm Central). Draft agenda attached. I'll let Jim do the outreach on the "Taking Stock" agenda item. All are encouraged to attend and participate in RTOC.
- Clean Water Act Section 106 Handbook revisions consultation and informational webinars. Please note that the first of two opportunities to participate in an informational webinar is **February 2nd**. Additional information in the attachments and the text below the TEPM Save the Date item.
- MNTEC's website: <https://mntechomepage.wixsite.com/mysite/about>. I could see if someone from MNTEC and MTEG would speak to WISTEM about their format and what has worked well for them. Let me or Linda know what you think.