Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 4, 2008 Lac Courte Oreilles

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldan), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowit), LCO (Brett McConnell), St. Croix (Katie Stariha), Mole Lake (Roman Ferdinand), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall)

Others Present: Jim Thannum (GLIFWC), Jerry Thompson (NRCS), Chris Borden (Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D)

MOTION: Motion to send award letter to Bad River for their Graveyard Creek Brook Trout Behavior Study and Evaluation Project and their Culvert Assessment and Remediation Project. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

2. Strategic Plan Workshop

There was a discussion about the Introduction, Vision Statement, Mission Statement and the Goals. These items were all revised.

The following is the current things we need to be work on:

- 1. Annual Report
 - a. By Nov. 21 send to Jerry your best 2 projects with summaries and pictures for 2007 and 2008 (special projects, EQIP, WHIP). They have a 10MB limit on email, so do not send too many pictures at once.
 - b. Also provide a list of everything done in 2007 and 2008 with amounts of money listed.
- 2. Brochure for Congress
 - a. By Nov 21 send to Jerry your best 2 projects with summaries and pictures for all years (special projects, EQIP, WHIP, etc)
- 3. Congressional Earmark Strategy (a list of things to prepare for)
 - a. We need to make sure we get Executive Council Support
 - b. Promulgating the model
 - c. Energy (where are Tribe's at, demonstration project, energy conference)
 - d. Invasives (small projects)
 - e. Meeting expenses (8 meetings a year, \$16k \$30k in previous years)
- 4. 501(c)3
 - a. Tax forms (Nate will set up a meeting with Judicare to fill out forms)
 - b. Resumes for members (if you have not sent your resume to Pat, please do)
- 5. Process for EQIP and WHIP allocations
 - a. Ranking sheet for projects
 - b. Start working with liaisons to start getting projects together.

<u>3. Next Meeting</u>

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2 and 3 at FCPC in Carter, Wisconsin. We are planning to have full day meetings both days. A room block will be set aside for the nights of December 1 and 2, information will follow.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Draft Strategic Plan November 2008

INTRODUCTION:

Established in ____, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council is a (Insert organizational structure here) that (Insert a short, we do what for whom where statement here)

VISION:

MISSION:

Make Federal conservation programs work on Tribal Lands through government to government education and demonstration.

WTCAC Goal Summary

Goal 1. Technical Recommendations

Provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

Goal 2. Policy Assistance

Provide policy assistance to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how USDA programs can work better from a policy standpoint on tribal lands.

Goal 3. Facilitate Information Sharing Between Governments

Serve as a conduit of information between individual Tribal Governments, Federal Government agencies, and Tribal General Public in order to improve outcomes.

Goal 4. Organizational Development

Establish a strong organizational structure and develop organizational capacities. **Goal 5. Sustainable Funding**

Secure the funding needed to continue the mission of WTCAC

WTCAC Goals and Objectives

(Note: details regarding assignment of responsibility and timelines for specific tasks are outlined in the WTCAC Plan of Work)

Goal 1. Technical Recommendations

Provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

Objective 1. Track, implement, and document the successes of all special project efforts.

Objective 2. Implement procedures to provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

Objective 3. Improve intergovernmental communications to assure access, and fairness of access, to technical assistance to the Tribal Nation Governments from the Federal Government.

Goal 2. Policy Assistance

Provide policy assistance to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how USDA programs can work better from a policy standpoint on tribal lands

Objective 1. Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

Objective 2. Open up communications with other Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils and INCA in order to improve outcomes nationally.

Goal 3. Facilitate Information Sharing Between Governments

Serve as a conduit of information between individual Tribal Governments, Federal Government agencies, and Tribal General Public in order to improve outcomes. (*Note this as a two way conduit. Tribes should know about Federal opportunities and Federal agencies should know about opportunities to further their missions through working with tribes.*)

Objective 1. Plan and implement FY 2009 educational and demonstration workshops

Objective 2. Develop and implement a public relations plan in order to promote regionally and nationally, the Council's ability to implement cutting edge projects

Goal 4. Organizational Development

Establish a strong organizational structure and develop organizational capacities.

Objective 1. Establish the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council as a legal entity

Objective 2. Establish WTCAC Operational Standards (contract writing procedures, special project procedures, 106 MOU Development, board member indemnification, conflict of interest policy, project ranking procedures for EQIP and WHIP, meeting procedures, fiscal control and employment policies, and tax reporting obligation procedures)

Goal 5. Sustainable Funding

Secure the funding needed to continue the mission of WTCAC (continuation of earmark or creation of a funding mechanism that will result in a similar outcome)

Objective 1. Develop a Funding Plan that addresses: financial assistance for projects i.e., EQIP and WHIP set asides and special project funding, funds to run the meetings to keep the organization functioning, and securing future earmarks.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Strengths:

- 1. WTCAC was the first in the Nation
- 2. Pat Leavenworth's strong commitment to making things work
- 3. WTCAC members became a good team through a bit of a trial by fire, so should be able to function even better now that the wrinkles are ironed out
- 4. WTCAC provides the WI NRCS with high quality opportunities for outreach
- 5. WTCAC makes possible a higher level of Farm Bill program usage on Tribal Lands
- 6. WTCAC gives the NRCS State Conservationist and the Tribal Liaison's a few less things to worry about.
- 7. WTCAC allows tribes better access to Farm Bill funds and allows the tribes to influence technical standards and policy issues.
- 8. Funding necessary for the functioning of WTCAC came from congressional earmarks. Pursuit of future earmarks is planned in order to continue the work of WTCAC.
- 9. WTCAC members are skilled planners with practical knowledge of technical natural resource issues on tribal lands. This perspective is one of the key things that WTCAC brings to the table from a technical standpoint. This perspective can also help formulate practical policy.
- 10. WTCAC is seen as working well on a State Level. The Council's role form a regional or national perspective is not currently defined
- 11. Signs of improvement include specific mention of tribal concern in the Farm Bill, FSA recognizing wild rice and sugar bush as a crop, inclusion of Wetland Restorations in EQIP Docket.
- 12. Liaison relations work very well, access is really facilitated
- 13. NRCS engineering assistance works well to limit project costs
- 14. In the 2000 Farm Bill tribes were specifically mentioned in the legislation for the first time.
- 15. Commitment on the part of tribes and tribal reps to WTCAC strong
- 16. Tribal resource managers provide stability in an environment of rapidly changing Tribal Council make up.
- 17. WTCAC council Member commitment is strong
- 18. Council has strong abilities to get projects done
- 19. WTCAC successful in getting cutting edge projects approved and completed
- 20. There are a lot of committed members therefore new responsibilities can be assigned without an overwhelming extra commitment on anyone's part.
- 21. Tribes' relationship with NRCS is newer than their relationships with the BIA etc.

WTCAC PLAN OF WORK - STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (November 2008)

GOAL 1: Technical Recommendations

OBJECTIVE 1: Track, implement, and document the successes of all small project efforts

STRATEGY 1: Track status of each Tribe's small projects

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Jerry Thompson will identify all by contract number			
2	Will need a hard copy report on each project			
3	Develop boilerplate for these reports to get a common look and feel			
4	Create 2008 Annual Report – solicit Renae Anderson's help			
5	Evaluate available funds for small reports based on small project status and October 7 th Treasurer's report			
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GOAL 1: Technical Recommendations

OBJECTIVE 2: Implement procedures to provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs, especially EQIP and WHIP, can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

STRATEGY 1: WTCAC will design a system to handle cases when requests exceed available funding. Diversity of projects makes prioritization difficult

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
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GOAL 1: Technical Recommendations

OBJECTIVE 2: Implement procedures to provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs, especially EQIP and WHIP, can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

STRATEGY 2: WTCAC will create a system for collating cost data

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END

GOAL 1: Technical Recommendations

OBJECTIVE 2: Implement procedures to provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs, especially EQIP and WHIP, can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

STRATEGY 3: WTCAC will begin working with other States to share thoughts on technical, funding, and efficiency issues

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END

GOAL 1: Technical Recommendations

OBJECTIVE 2: Implement procedures to provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs, especially EQIP and WHIP, can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

STRATEGY 4: WTCAC will implement a system for sharing strategies regarding securing matching funding

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END

GOAL 1: Technical Recommendations

OBJECTIVE 2: Implement procedures to provide technical recommendation to the NRCS State Conservationist and others regarding how Federal programs, especially EQIP and WHIP, can work better from a technical standpoint on tribal lands.

STRATEGY 5: WTCAC will survey its membership to determine reasons for the variability in the level of participation in WTCAC among the tribes, and develop strategies lessening the variability

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END

GOAL 1: Technical Recommendations

OBJECTIVE 3: Improve intergovernmental communications to assure access, and fairness of access, to technical assistance to the Tribal Nation Governments from the Federal Government.

STRATEGY 1: WTCAC talk with NRCS representatives to develop an understanding of:

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Establish base level of support to expect from the liaisons regarding program application paperwork			
2	Establish base level of Engineer, Civil Engineering Technician (CET) and Soil Conservation Technician (SCT) assistance available in the different acres of the State			
3	Establish whether there are opportunities to improve WTCACs internal capacity through earning Job Approval Authority, and other technical certifications			
4	Determine how much time the Liaison's CETs, SCTs, and Engineers have committed to tribal projects as a part of their official job duties			
5	Discuss the administrative process for programs with NRCS representatives in order to identify opportunities for efficiencies			
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	ar 23, 2008			

GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

STRATEGY 1: Establish a Spring Program Process Review to formulate and communicate the changes WTCAC would like to see

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END

GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

STRATEGY 2: Provide periodic and standardized feedback regarding what works to the NRCS

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
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GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

STRATEGY 3: WTCAC talks with NRCS representatives to develop an understanding of:

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
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GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

STRATEGY 4: WTCAC will present cogent, science based documentation regarding the validity of specific new approaches to the NRCS in order to affect *two* changes to the EQIP and or WHIP Docket by 1-08. As an example, documentation regarding the relative value of fish cribs, in comparison to half log structures, as spawning and nursery areas

NO.
TASKS
WHO
START
END

Image: Start start

TASKS

GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

STRATEGY 5: WTCAC will develop a plan that results in better utilization of EQIP dollars by Oct. 2008

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
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GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish procedures for; influencing Technical Standards and Program Dockets, and improving the efficiency of financial assistance disbursement.

STRATEGY 6: WTCAC will develop a system for assuring that when surplus funds are projected to be available there is a timely system for encourage use of the funds

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
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GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 2: Open up communications with other Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils and INCA in order to improve outcomes nationally.

STRATEGY 1: Check with the other 14 Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils to see what types of strategic priorities they have developed.

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END

GOAL 2: Policy Assistance

OBJECTIVE 2: Open up communications with other Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils and INCA in order to improve outcomes nationally.

STRATEGY 2: Communicate with INCA regarding their plans for Farm Bill feedback and determine whether there are opportunities to provide them with additional thoughts from WTCAC

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END

GOAL 3: Facilitate Information Sharing Between Governments

OBJECTIVE 1: Plan and implement FY 2009 Educational and Demonstration Workshops.

STRATEGY 1: Implement FY 2009 workshops presently funded under existing agreements

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Discuss the potential for hiring a conference organizer. GLIFWC has been identified as a			
	potential contractor. Co-sponsoring conferences with other organizations should also be			
	discussed			
2	Brainstorm, prioritize and make decisions at October 7 th meeting			
3	Assign responsibilities for planning events			
4	Notes on five opportunities the Planning Committee identified to date			

GOAL 3: Facilitate Information Sharing Between Governments

OBJECTIVE 2: Develop and implement a public relations plan in order to promote regionally and nationally, the Council's ability to implement cutting edge projects.

STRATEGY 1: Develop WTCAC Website

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Discuss Website development			
2	Establish objectives			
3	Assign responsibilities			
4	Develop content			
5	Launch site			
6	Update site			

GOAL 4: Organizational Development

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council as a legal entity.

STRATEGY 1: Resolve issues related to establishing organizational structure

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Council needs to discuss and come to a decision regarding what type of organizational structure is appropriate for the WTCAC			
2	Roman will ask GLIFWC about the benefits of their organizational structure			+
3	Need biographical information, including address and contact information, from everyone including tribal reps			
4	Jonathan will obtain needed census data from all tribes			
5	Brett will obtain spreadsheets for all three earmarks			
6	Need to get Vision Quest and Ritchie Brown's Employer Identification Numbers (EIN's) or equivalent information			
7	Need clarification from David regarding differences between an Association versus a corporate structure			
8	Brett will get bank records			
9	Develop policy regarding contract development			
10	Develop conflict of interest policy and dissolution policy, Chris Borden will provide examples			
11	Provide Judicare with project descriptions for each small project (Pat will get these from Jerry			
12	Research insurance for members (will need a decision on organizational type)			
13	Brett will get copies of all the Agreements to Judicare			
				<u> </u>
	or 22, 2008			

GOAL 4: Organizational Development

OBJECTIVE 2: Establish WTCAC Operational Standards.

STRATEGY :

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	Contract Writing Procedures – Jerry will research the bidding requirements			
2	Small Project Standard Operating Procedures			
3	106 MOU Development (only 2 of 11 are presently completed) Status of the remaining nine need to be addresses at the October 7 meeting			
4	Member indemnification (Insurance) needs to be discussed			
5	Conflict of Interest policy			
6	Project ranking SOP for EQIP and WHIP			
7	Develop SOP on how WTCAC holds and publicizes public meetings			
8	Develop generalized meeting schedule and hosting order			
9	Consider Fiscal Control and Employment Policies (Chris Borden will provide examples)			
10	Discuss incorporation of remote meeting technologies into the WTCAC bylaws			
11	Assign responsibility for preparing 990 tax forms to the treasurer in the WTCAC bylaws			

GOAL 5: Sustainable Funding

OBJECTIVE 1: Develop a Funding Plan that addresses; financial assistance for projects, funding required toi keep the Council operating, and issues regarding securing future earmarks.

STRATEGY 1: Take steps to secure additional earmark fund for FY 2009

TASKS

NO.	TASKS	WHO	START	END
1	After consultation with Judicare and others, decide on an organizational structure and become recognized as said structure			
2	Have a conversation with Jim Thannum (jthannum@glifwc.org 715-682-6619 ext. 137) to help determine the best approach			
3	Get letters of support from Tribal Chairs			
4	Develop justification document based on past accomplishment			
5	Present the benefit of the existing approach to legislative aides, ask for the desired level of assistance, and follow up with the contacts			