

September 27th, 2020 WTCAC Board Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order: 9:00**
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Tribal Representatives**
 - i. **Bad River** - Jessica Strand
 - ii. **FCPC - Not present**
 - iii. **Ho-Chunk** - Randy Poelma - Needs to step out from 10-10:30
 - iv. **LCO** - Brett McConnell
 - v. **LdF** - Ethan Sennett
 - vi. **Menominee** - Jeremy Pyaskowet
 - vii. **Mole Lake**- Nathan Podany
 - viii. **Oneida** - Pat Pelky
 - ix. **Red Cliff - Not present**
 - x. **St. Croix** - Jeremy Bloomquist
 - xi. **Stockbridge** - Paul Koll
 - b. **WTCAC Staff:** Jeff Mears, Lacey Hill Kastern, Jon Pruitt, Tom Melnarik, Keith Sengbusch, Jerry Thompson
 - c. **Partners:** Christopher Deegan (APHIS PPQ), Chris Borden (NRCS), Dan Cornelius (IAC), Callie Bartch (ABC), Katie Demrow (FSA), Nancy K___ (ACOE St. Paul), Albany Jacobson-Eckert (BIA), Bill Barker (College of Life Sciences), Ashley Andre (DTCAP), Rita Mills (FS). Kiera Kauffman (FS), Melissa Bartz (NRCS), Pat Pelky (CRTAC), Carleen Yocum (USFS), Pat Goggin (UWSP-WLP)- connection issues, Katie Beilfuss (WWA), Sharmin Syed (EPA) - connection issues; Ryan Gerlich (NRCS)
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Stockbridge (Paul K.) motions, Ho-Chunk (Randy P.) seconds, 6 ayes, no objections
4. **Approval of the Minutes:** Mole Lake (Nathan) motions, Menominee (Jeremy) seconds, 6 ayes, no objections
5. **Agency Updates:**
 - a. **American Bird Conservancy - Callie Bertsch**
 - i. Update on Golden-Winged Warbler RCPP (previously under EQIP), will end in 2021 when all deliverables are met; created habitat on may acres to benefit golden warblers directly; found 80% occupancy at their sites where habitats were created; golden wing warblers next close to the ground so the density of woody species and wet ground conditions can affect them;
 - ii. Just found out that the renewal of this RCPP is approved; the same activities are approved but they also added in habitat for Kirkland's Warbler (recently on T&E list, but recently came off); will be targeting sand barrens with Jack Pine for Kirkland's Warbler habitat; they have been approaching Counties already, want to do 2000 acres worth of work
 - iii. If any Tribes are interested in participating, reach out to Callie

- iv. Chris asks about 20% that wasn't occupied; Callie says there was a longitudinal and elevational difference seen in occupancy; Callie thinks they want to publish before she shares research papers

b. Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) - Katie Beilfuss

- i. Going to be filming these projects the first week of October in Oneida nation: one to focus on the watershed approach, the other will focus on why the watershed approach is important from an ecological and cultural perspective; interviews are lined up with key people; the video will be produced this fall (3-4 minutes apiece)
- ii. Lower Wisconsin Riverway was recently designated a Ramsar site, including Ho-Chunk lands
- iii. Wants to feature all the WI Ramsar sites in a future presentation in November
- iv. Wetland Science Conference will be hosted virtually in February 2021; still want tribes to participate and hope to provide funding to more staff from each Tribe since no travel is needed
- v. Here's a link to media coverage of the designation of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway as a Wetland of International Importance. Ho-Chunk Nation is one of the landowners at this site and was instrumental in the nomination.

https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/sandbars-swamps-and-cactus-leads-to-international-recognition-for-the-lower-wisconsin-state-riverway/article_967d2470-4204-5b22-bd37-35b601ae9211.html

c. Farm Services Agency (FSA) - Katie Damrow

- i. New Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) kicked off this week; new eligible products and payment rate (maple sap, aquaculture, wild rice, and other specialty crops are included in CFAP 2), Katie will share links; application deadline December 11, 2020, but contact local county office sooner rather than later;
- ii. Daniel C. asked about wild rice details: who could be reimbursed? Ricers, processors, sellers? Katie says it is paid out by the acreage, but she has to ask others about how this will work, and she will have a coworker followup with Daniel.
- iii. Jerry Thompson says that he got an email with bison and hemp listed in CFAP2, and asks if this is correct; Katie says yes, that both bison and hemp are eligible; Jerry asks for more information on this
- iv. Katie says that she could have Kara either present at the October meeting or separate webinar; Pat asks for information to prepare the board for the October meeting

d. Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) - no one present

e. Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) - Christopher Deegan

- i. Wrapping up field season, pretty standard year so far

- ii. Gearing up for outreach and emergency response training that they are working with WTCAC on; EAB workshop planned for late winter
- iii. Chirs sent out information to Tribal partners and FdL about the biocontrol program in Douglas County; need more outreach on the community side when it comes to biocontrol; would like to discuss community and public knowledge improvement at future EAB workshop
- iv. 6 new counties with positive EAB detections (Dunn, Oconto, **Shawano**, Pierce, Pepin, and Florence); going to be working on new EAB Response Plans in 2021; have been working on MOUs with Lacey and WI Tribes

f. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - Nancy K-D

- i. Nancy is regulatory Tribal Liaison and Cultural Resource
- ii. Nancy is on call to address mitigation banking interest that the Tribes might have, they have a mitigation banking coordinator (Leslie) and she would love to give a presentation next month tailored to our needs, so Nancy would like to hear questions today or by email
- iii. Tom asks Nancy to describe mitigation banking; Nancy says that the MN tribe wanted to create a mitigated bank; Jess asks how banking acres of preserves wetlands might differ from banking acres of restored/rehabilitated wetlands; Tom would be interested in knowing the list of exemptions for forested and agricultural lands and what might be required in regards to a stream crossing and wetland areas (which is more a regulatory overview as compared to mitigation)

g. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - Albany Jacobson-Eckert

- i. Wrapping up year-end processes;
- ii. will be doing a data call for EAGLE soon; expect RFPs in November/December with applications for the GLRI program due around February;
- iii. Annex 10 TEK task team has been working on a document and they just finished a draft of the guidance document that they are circulating internally, but will circulate it out to Tribes via webinar in November(ish), but will send letters to Tribal leaders about webinar targeting NR and THPO programs
- iv. Will be having annual program meetings virtually in the spring
- v. GLRI bulletin will be circulated very soon on training for the new EAGLE 2 system; right now BIA will be taking data from standard excel sheets and input the data into the new system
- vi. Tribal Forum focused on the Distinct Tribal Program will be scheduled soon

h. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) - Bill Barker

- i. The main focus was trying to keep the research going in light of COVID-19; we're able to keep the research going at all UW farms and individual farms across the state but with social distancing in place

- ii. New major focusing on organic agriculture in CALS now and some new grant funding was brought in for this; focused on improving soil health and runoff, and animal health; USDA is doubling research funding for developing certified organic lands; trying to increase pollinator health and bird habitat on the research farms which is a big change in the recent past
 - iii. New interstate research committee on CWD; just approved by USDA for the next 5 years--would like to include Tribe and US Researchers across the states
- i. Dept. of Ag, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) - Ashley**
- i. Hemp sampling is in full swing, preparing rules for a new federal program
 - ii. Rural ATCP 21 changes are being requested internally, so possible public input and updates might be coming soon
 - iii. THE next DATCP Board is Tuesday, October 27th
 - iv. New EAB detections do not change DATCP quarantines because the entire state is quarantined; many of the new detections are thought to be of infestations many years old
 - 1. Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Detections and Quarantine Look-Up Tool - <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=25> - and PDF map - <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=25>
 - v. Want to remind people that EPA has a list of all products that are thought to kill COVID-19, and encourage people who are completing cleaning to ensure their cleaning products are on this list so that there is not a false sense of security;
 - 1. AgriChemical Management Bureau - EPA Update: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-encourages-schools-and-universities-use-epa-approved-products-and-disinfectants>
 - vi. Organic Food Processors and Producers have until to apply for reimbursement of certification of organic status; more information on the DATCP website
 - 1. Organic Cost Share Reimbursement - https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/OCSReimbursement2020PressRelease.aspx
 - vii. September 20-26 is National Farm Safety & Health Week
 - viii. DATCP Contact: Mark McCloskey, AgriChemical Management Bureau, (608) 224-4530, Mark.Mccloskey@wisconsin.gov
- j. The US Forest Service (USFS) - Carleen Yocum**
- i. Carleen's updates: New entomologist is onboard in St. Paul (Patrick E.) did his masters work on EAB, so he is the main POC for Slow the Spread Program; GLRI FY21 funded projects list is going to be published soon; LSR FY21 proposals are being tallied and evaluated soon

1. The new entomologist does not replace the pathologist (James Jacobs) but is replacing Laurel (previous entomologist)
 - ii. Rita Mills updates: She said that she sent Daniel C. a link as a follow-up on questions; she is creating maps of birch stands for distribution
 - iii. Kiera Kaufmann updates from Cheq. Nicolet & Ottawa: Rhinelander office just closed due to a positive COVID case; campgrounds in Cheq. Nicolet is staying open longer than usual due to increased interest; always call before trying to visit to find out open status; starting hiring for the summer intern program for next summer; 2 consultations: phasing programmatic agreement to cultural resources, and changes to oil and gas rules in the forest; working on infrastructure fixes and land acquisition projects; Community and Open Space Grant applications are still due 1/11/21; Cheq. Nicolet staff are interested in partnering with stream crossing fixes and removals and Tribes should contact Kiera if interested
- k. Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) - Daniel Cornelius**
- i. IAC Annual Meeting will be virtually this year; pre-recorded and live sessions
 - ii. Working in understanding how CFAP 2 might be covering products in this region
 - iii. Through work with UW Madison and grant agreement he is building more outreach and online curriculum and hopefully will be able to formally announce soon
 - iv. Working with the College of Menominee Nation to do a series of virtual workshop throughout the fall starting next month
- l. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) - no one present**
- m. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Melissa Bartz**
- i. MELissa's update: Wrapping up EQIP and Stewardship contracts; spent over \$500K on projects under EQIP this year, mostly forestry-related; next month they will be presenting to WTCAC on NRCS interacts with Tribes; looking forward of continuing work with ABC on RCPP; very interested in stream crossing collaboration with USFS, Trout Unlimited, and Tribes;
 - ii. Chris's update: very excited about RCPP for Golden-winged warbler and the updates of that program; excited about the continuation of this program; talks about how alder stands to need a hardwood component, focus on diversifying age classes of aspen and alder which also see an increase of woodcock and grouse numbers in these habitat areas
- n. Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) - no one present**
- i. Note from Chris Borden: Lawrence Shorty has offered to share his experience with the recruitment of NA students and wants to share that with other USDA agencies to effectively focus on the recruitment of these individuals; Chris will be reaching out to other USDA partners to schedule a Zoom/Teams meeting with Lawrence Shorty
- o. Rural Development (RD) - not present**

p. Central Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (CRTCAC) - Pat Pelky

- i. They recently got together nationally to talk about updates to MOU and liaison positions for each of the regions, hoping to get feedback on this soon
- ii. They then had a second meeting within each region; going over applications of returning members and they are at 13 members for this region; will have 4 state conservationists as members too, most likely; Pat has the first term as co-lead but might need someone from WTCAC to replace him

q. Risk Management Agency (RMA) - no one present

r. US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) - no one present

s. WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) - no one present

t. Wisconsin Lakes Partnerships (WLP) - no one present

15 Minute Break until 10:45 - confirmed quorum after the break

u. US Environmental Protection Agency - Sharim Syed had connection issues

6. WTCAC Business Meeting

a. NRCS Updates & EQIP: Angela Biggs unavailable

b. Stream Crossing Inventory - Chris Borden with Keith & Tom

- i. WTCAC has asked NRCS to assist in AOP for several years; now there are two proposed demo sites at LCO
- ii. NRCS has been having conversations with other states to get insight on how they work through EQIP to get crossings implemented; have a basis of doing these projects in WI
- iii. When the agreement was developed to support Tom & Jon's positions there was a commitment to carry out stream inventories; so they have to do stream inventory in specific Tribes for a specific # of miles, but additional Tribes could ask for Tom & Jonathan's help on inventory
- iv. Talked about the standardized protocol for road/stream crossing inventory; conversation with USFS Chris E. to see what protocol is all about; meeting on Monday with Jeff, Chris, Chris E., and Jon
 1. Chris E. sent Chris B. a copy of the protocol; training is held for this by USFS; Chris E. and members of the collaborative can also help with the design
 2. Chris B., Keith, Jonathan, and Tom need to get together and review the inventory system to see how it will work going forward and getting out to look at sites
 3. Tom is looking at putting together a list of sites at which to implement new tools; elevation surveys in October is good timing; will use Survey 123 for quick assessments (linked to Great Lakes Stream Crossing Survey)
 - a. Chris B. says the GLSCS can be kept private too

amendment to the agreement to include new outreach efforts (though deliverables don't change); Jerry will work on that with NAAF POC

3. GLITC just got a NAAF grant and they requested WTCAC's assistance to do USDA training with GLITC staff; their deliverables match some of WTCAC's; no one appears opposed to Jerry working with GLITC
 - a. Pat suggests that Ag Subcommittee help Jerry out with this
4. Jerry is posting information from USDA and other groups on the WTCAC FB page, and asks if Tribe's have something they would like to post? Asks that Tribe send him information about ag projects, etc. either past or future. Pat brings up an award on the conservation easement program, and Jerry likes that and other CSPs--different opportunities for Tribes can learn about things from those who have done it.
5. OPE 2501 will be closed out in December; Jerry will be distributing amendments to specific Tribes today so that this close-out can happen
6. DATCP Request for WTCAC staff or a member if the board to be on Produce Safety Advisory Council; meet 4 times a year virtually, it would be a 2-year appointment; WTCAC has worked with them currently and in the past to develop training
 - a. Jeff will circulate notice from DATCP
7. Jerry also got an email from Sarah's Greenhouse Solutions about working with Tribe's on four-season greenhouses and asked if WTCAC could distribute information about their company to the Tribes
 - a. Discussion: Pat likes having information available to Tribe's but not showing favoritism; Jess suggests a list; Tom says NRCS used to provide lists of contractors for applicants that were interested; Chris says NRCS field offices usually don't maintain this list anymore because it takes a lot of maintenance; don't want to show favoritism or be liable
 - b. Final decision: tell this company to reach out to Tribe's individually
8. Haven't heard back yet about the APHIS Animal and Plant disease grant that is supposed to be coming.
9. EPA GLRI grant that WTCAC has and will be reaching out to those Tribes who have sub-awards to get information and close this out in December
 - a. Pat asks if there is a possibility of recurring funds here; Jerry says he is not sure; Jeff asks that we let EPA know

we are interested in this funding again; Jerry said there might be an update in the future but it is under development

ii. Fisheries - Jeremy Bloomquist

1. Tom was getting ahold of ACOE about the possibility of iron removal systems for aquaculture ponds that have wells with iron issues; Jeremy recently met with Nathan Campbell on a different project and Nathan C. suggested a date a month out (end of October) to set up a meeting on this issue
2. Would still like to have a meeting/site visit on stream crossing but it is difficult with all the travel restrictions on the Tribe
3. St. Croix delivered extended growth fingerlings to Oneida; Oneida says that the fish look great and they really appreciate it
4. Tom Melnarik doesn't have anything to add other than they are excited about the first harvest at LCO's new ponds
5. Keith S. doesn't have anything else

Lunch break 12:00-1:00 (Quorum confirmed)

iii. Forestry - Paul Koll

1. Paul has been working with Lacey on the upcoming EAB web seminar series; it will probably be a 4 part series in either January/February with a field component after traveling is allowed again; the goal/theme for each week is going to be different
 - a. Planning calls are every two weeks, next is October 6th @ 9 AM; anyone interested is welcome

iv. Wetlands - Randy Poelma

1. WWA wetlands conference will be February 16-19th; the call for presentation is out and abstracts are due October 15th
 - a. Forest County Potawatomi is planning on providing registration for 35 tribal staff; still awaiting official notice of fundings
 - b. Recordings will be available after the fact
 - c. Looking for recommendations for a speaker for a Tribal Working Group
 - d. Aquatic Plant ID Workshop and two other workshops will be available as part of the conference

v. Wildlife - Lacey

1. This is not an official subcommittee, but have thought about it over the years, especially with big issues that are arising right now; Lacey will be sending out Doodle to Tribal Wildlife staff to see if there is interest
2. Blg upcoming issues: Wolf Delisting, CWD, and RAWRA
3. Tribal Directory bookmarked by Lacey in our computers Google Chrome browsers

- a. Pat says that Shad from Oneida (the Director) would sit in place of the Wildlife Specialist

f. Notification for WTCAC Board President - Pat Pelky

- i. Next month is the presidential election for WTCAC Board
- ii. Pat Pelky said he would not be accepting any nomination because of changes at Oneida; he was honored to do it for so long
- iii. Pat says that Tina is interested in being nominated, and he would be interested in stepping down to be VP

g. Internship/Seasonal Worker Update - Lacey

- i. 1 seasonal worker still on board, her tenure will end next week
- ii. There is a lot of interest from partners for seasonal workers; are working on an announcement advertising opportunity and the potential career stepping stone it would be; this is a different approach than last year
 - 1. The goal is to fit applicants to positions available
 - 2. Want to follow-up with the previous 60 students to find out where they are now to be able to advertise the success
- iii. One Tribe is interested in pulling on a seasonal worker for this fall, this student would help with EAB outreach and upcoming meeting
- iv. RANDY said that UW just sent out a request for presenters for internship opportunities, so he will send an announcement to Lacey, but Randy would be happy to present if Lacey is busy
 - 1. Jerry asks for Randy to send it to him as well
- v. Ryan Gerlich (NRCS) mentions that they still want to be a part of the internship program this year
 - 1. He will be talking to UW Green Bay students about internship opportunities next year
 - 2. Encourages that we point people to NRCS Pathways internship opportunities
- vi. 2501 OPPE Grant Application was awarded to WTCAC which has an extensive youth pathways internship opportunity as part of it

h. WTCAC Computer Use - Jeff Mears

- i. The computer use policy is unknown. Jeff would like them to be used more than once per month, but wondering if the board wants a computer policy?
 - 1. Pat does like the idea that the board should be able to use the laptop for outside of WTCAC meetings; Pat says that at Oneida they can use theirs for personal as long as it fits within good computer use
 - 2. Jeff thinks that policy should follow each Tribe's policy
 - 3. Erin wants the board to keep in mind about the funding used to purchase these and we are a grant-funded organization.
 - 4. Randy, what measures do we have in place if something were to happen to it? Need a liability policy in place. Randy suggests that

the people who received them should sign something acknowledging they have the responsibility to return it in working order and undamaged. Jeff said they could develop something and get it out for Board members to sign.

5. Jeff will get a draft for review to Pat and then get it out for signature

i. Strategic Plan Update - Jeff Mears

- i. Started working on this but have to take breaks as other things ramp up; plan on something for the board to react to in October

j. WTCAC/NRCS Report - Jeff Mears

- i. Information is on Google Drive, are working on drafting a report
- ii. Chris says some of the agency reports are up to two years old and that a specific ask should go out to partners for an updated report to fill in the holes; Chris says just let him know how he can help
- iii. Might also be looking for updates fro Tribes too
- iv. Will strive for a mock-up for the October meeting
- v. Lacey to double-check on agency updates and forward to Jonathan;
many of them were sent to Alan with her cc'd
 1. Jonathan has FSA, USFS, and RD reports but that's it

k. WTCAC Employment Manual - Jeff Mears

- i. Started working on this but have to take breaks as other things ramp up; plan on something for the board to react to in October

- l. Random:** Chris B. asks Jeff and Erin to get together with him and Eric to have a meeting next Tuesday to discuss programmatic agreement; 9/29 @ 2:30 PM Central

m. Director Tasks - Jeff Mears

- i. WTCAC Report, Employee Policy, Strategic Planning, and Computer Use Policy will be brought back to the Board for the October meeting

- n. Random:** Jerry asks Brett for an end date for his seasonal staff; will make it the end of November so grant can't successfully close out in December

o. Executive Session

- i. Motion to enter executive session made by Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma), seconded by Bad River (Jessica Strand), 7 ayes, no objections
 - ii. Motion to come out of executive session by Menominee (Jeremy Pyaskowet), second by HoChunk (Randy Poelma), 7 ayes, no objections
- p.** Motion by Menominee (Jeremy Pyaskowet) to accept financials as FYI, seconded by Stockbridge (Paul Koll), 7 ayes, no objections
- q.** Motion to adjourn made by HoChunk (Randy Poelma), seconded by St. Croix (Jeremy Bloomquist), 7 ayes, no objections

Adjourned at 2:00 PM Central

Next Meeting: October 29th, 2020 9 AM