Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
Ho-Chunk

Meeting called to order at 9:00 by Jonathan Pyatskowit.

1. Roll Call

Present: Bad River (Pam Roberts), Forest County Potawatomi Community (Nate Guldan), Ho-Chunk Nation (Greg Blackdeer, Sheena Schoen, Bill Hopinkah), LCO (Brett McConnell), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowit), Oneida (Pat Pelky), St. Croix, (Katie Stariha), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile, Roman Ferdinand), Stockbridge-Munsee (Luke Hennigan, represented the Tribe but did not vote as he has not been appointed an official representative)

Others Present: Jerry Thompson (Earth Team Volunteer), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Tony Bush (NRCS), David Armstrong (Judicare), Julie Malvitz (NRCS), Keith Sengbusch (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), Ton Cogger (NRCS), Mike Koehler (NRCS), Tom Krapf (NRCS), Pat Leavenworth (NRCS), Greg Yakle (NRCS)

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve January 13, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

The January 14, 2009 minutes need to be amended to strike the part indicating that Pat Pelky will pull together information on the next steps to secure future earmarks (attached).

MOTION: Motion to approve January 14, 2009 meeting minutes with amendments. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve February 3, 2009 conference call meeting minutes. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, Ho-Chunk and Oneida abstained, motion carried.

3. NRCS UPDATE

Pat Leavenworth gave the NRCS update. NRCS was occupied the last 2 months of last calendar year involved in an agency wide audit revisit. This process brought them awareness that the farm bill contracts are contracts and need to be managed in a fiscal way so they have account balances, are properly managed, and have correct signatures. All inherited from sister agencies years ago and they have been supporting the programs with technical folks, so they all needed training in contracting. The auditors will be with them for a couple of years.

Most of the Farm Bill rules are up in the federal register. Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) has been held back. They are currently looking for comment by Tribes. There is emphasis in this farm bill on beginning farmers and socially disadvantage farmers and ranchers. Tribes are included in this group which is the reason they are eligible for the 90% cost share rate.

NRCS will be holding internal training on statutory changes and program opportunities starting in March. There will be 3 trainings in total and the last one will be specifically on Tribes.

Tom Vilsack is the new head of USDA. He was the former governor of Iowa. New deputy secretary was a professor at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. They want to put more emphasis on sustainable agriculture. The 3 regional assistant chiefs that are political appointees have not been selected. Acting regional chiefs are in these positions right now; they are still collecting info on people interested. They have to be recommended by a member of Congress and vetted through a process at the White House (this position is just above Pat Leavenworth).

NRCS has stimulus dollars in 3 areas. Watershed Operations (flood control flood prevention), Watershed Rehabilitation (structures that need to be brought up to current standards), Floodplain Easements (they have a current backlog because of flooding last summer). Through the Floodplain Easements they can make an offer to landowners to obtain permanent easement on the land so structures can't be built and the land would remain undeveloped flood plain.

Pat Leavenworth was contacted by Dave Wise who is head of the American Indian - Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA) and he expressed his appreciation from the support he is seeing from Wisconsin. Pat thinks we have done so much and that WTCAC is heading in a wonderful direction. The brochure that NRCS is putting together for us will be wonderful to have at this conference. National leadership attends this meeting and will be able to see what we have accomplished here in Wisconsin.

Pat Leavenworth gave Jerry Thompson a certificate that is given to federal employees recognizing their service. Jerry had over 30 years of service in so the certificate is gold. Pat thanked Jerry for his years of service. For his work with WTCAC and the Marshfield operation he was given a cash award and certificate of merit. Jerry also led the audit at the field level and Pat gave him note from the former NRCS Chief recognizing Jerry's work on the audit. Pat also thanked Jerry for his dedication working on the audit.

Tom Krapf spoke on EQIP and WHIP. He is now responsible for EQIP and WHIP programs. Now, because of audit, they have to do business differently. They need to cancel old contracts that are hanging around. There may be contracts in the near future that may need to be terminated. The Tribes will not have to pay liquidated damages and can apply for these projects on new contracts.

They are still working on the new 90% cost share rates. They cannot pay over 100% of the cost. At 50% they are never going to come close to paying 100%, but at 90% they are close. They will work with us to be aware of it and will look at costs that go into it. They will probably be audited on a fairly regular basis. He does not want to move to having to collect invoices for the practices. The Tribes may have to sign a self certification that cost does not exceed 100%.

They are just getting things cleaned up on the Farm Bill. They have no authorities to enter into a contract yet which is why they set April 17 as the new deadline for EQIP and WHIP applications. A few things will have to happen before they can actually rank the proposals. They may not have authority to enter into contracts until late spring.

Tom mentioned that when we met this past summer we introduced new forestry practices. He noted that forestry is a big new part of Farm Bill and will allow more things in forestry then were allowed before. One of these things is the development of Forestry Activity Plans which will specifically look at non-industrial forest lands and the resources on them. They will be able to cost share these efforts. This will allow up to 10 additional activity plans, states will pilot some plans this year. A Forestry Activity Plan (FAP) will look at soil, water, air, plant and animals, erosion issues, invasive species issues, etc. This is not geared as much to forest production. They would develop a cost per acre to fund and will need to determine who is eligible to do the plan. A Tribe could apply for a FAP and hire a contractor or they could pay a Tribal forester to do the plan. No details have been developed yet such as what are the planning criteria and what has to be in the plan.

NRCS has developed an area level position that deals with programs. These people are to be kept well up to speed on the programs and will have a deep understanding of them. They should know as much as anyone in the state office. NRCS needs one person that works with all the Tribes and NRCS and will need to be brought up to speed on exactly how the programs work.

NRCS is looking at practices, scenarios, and payment schedules for next year's sign up. The overall protocol will have more input at the local level to ID practices and practice scenarios. The local group will spend the time and identify what they need. Keith Sengbusch will talk to Randy Gilbertson (who retired a few weeks ago) about adding new practices or cost share rates. WTCAC needs to understand the process for requesting new practices etc to make recommendations to state conservationist. Pat Leavenworth thought it would be a good time to make an official process to get new standards. They will identify the NRCS structure for who the contacts will be for implementing new practices or standards.

When the administration changed they could call back any rules. All of the new Farm Bill rules went forward except for CCPI – it is not out for public comment, no manuals being worked on, so it is being delayed. CCPI may come out this summer and could possibly have a late sign up. They need to set aside about $1 million for CCPI.

There are some worries about WHIP not being allowed to be used on public lands in the new Farm Bill as far as lakes and streams are concerned. Wisconsin NRCS will be submitting comments to headquarters with these concerns. Will lakes on fee land be considered public, what about in the ceded territories, streams, etc? A long discussion ensued about different scenarios and water ownerships. Julie and Jerry will pull together some language arguing why WHIP funds should be able to be used in waterbodies with Tribal ownership or Tribal rights attached to them.

4. Presentation to Jerry from Ho-Chunk

The Tribal Chief from Ho-Chunk presented Jerry Thompson with a blanket and pipe to thank him for all Jerry has done for Ho-Chunk and WTCAC. This was suggested to him by Bill Hopinkah who thought that something special should be done for Jerry.

5. Judicare

Jonathan has some forms to sign for WTCAC's incorporation. David needed a check made out to the WI Department of Financial Institutions for $40 for state incorporation fees (Brett cut a check). He still needs bios from Red Cliff, Ho-Chunk, and LDF to complete the 501(c)(3) application. He also needs a copy of newly amended and approved by-laws (Nate will send the by-laws to him). He had to include in the 501(c)(3) application the hours that each of the board members puts in during a year for WTCAC. He got the hours from Jonathan, Nate, Brett, and Pat Pelky and is using an average of 150 hours for everyone. We are not eligible for government entity tax exemption. The user fee is $750 for 501(c)(3) application. He will circulate the 501(c)(3) application for all to review. He also needs congressional appropriation language for taxes and Jerry will be getting this to him.

6. WTCAC Brochure

Renae Anderson from NRCS discussed the brochure. She indicated that Barb Jansen of their staff did the graphic design. The thought was that we would get 50 copies per Tribe, 50 for WTCAC, 50 for NRCS, and 150 for the AIANEA Conference. We are planning to order 800 copies which will give us a few extras. The cost estimates range from $3.30 - $3.50 per book so the total cost with tax will be around $3,000. If anyone has a picture of Jean Buffalo let her know because we want to include it in the brochure. Also, please get any final comments you may have to her by Friday, March 13. Everyone thought the brochure looked great!

MOTION: Motion to fund 800 copies of the WTCAC brochure. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, zero abstentions, motion carried.

6. Intern Contract

The contract with the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) was handed out. We will need to amend out agreement with NRCS to include funding internships. Jerry will put an amendment together and send to Jonathon and Pat for signatures.

Jerry Thompson is currently listed as the WTCAC liaison to the WLWCA however he is not sure he will be able to continue to volunteer. It was decided that he would be the liaison as long as he was able to, but that we would change the contract to include a stipulation that WTCAC may designate someone else as the liaison if Jerry was unable to continue in that capacity.

MOTION: Motion to amend Item #8 in Attachment B Plan of Work/Budget of Grant Agreement 69-5F48-5-044 between WTCAC and NRCS to include funding 4 internships and sponsorship of the American Indian - Alaska Native Employees Association Conference. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve the WLWCA contract for the internships with the addition of #4 indicating that WTCAC may designate a new liaison if Jerry Thompson becomes unavailable due to other obligations. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Applications are due March 15 so Roman will set up a conference call for 9am on March 26 to review the applications.

7. Tree Farm Irrigation

Stockbridge-Munsee has a small tree farm and they are looking for a more effective way to get trees to grow and they would like to install an irrigation system. Two practices already exist, 642 Water Well and 442 Irrigation System Sprinkler, however 642 only has a scenario for livestock use even though irrigation is written into the standard and 442 is for cranberry farms only. Could the cook book to tweaked by next year so that 642 could not only be used for livestock but also be used for trees? Could 442 also be available to Tribes not just cranberry growers? WTCAC may need to come up with new payment schedule. The trees are to be grown in areas in hopes of helping the groundwater nitrate problems. It was decided that a subcommittee would be put together to look at this issue headed by Stockbridge-Munsee.

There was also discussion about using a sprinkler system as a fire break.

MOTION: Motion to have Stockbridge-Munsee lead a subcommittee to develop different scenarios and payments schedules for the sprinkler/irrigation system standard. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

8. Small Project Final Reports

St. Croix presented the final report for their small project titled "Regional Wild Rice Assessment". Tony had presented it at a previous meeting, but did not have the budget. This version contains the budget information (attached).

MOTION: Motion to approve final payment of $10,559.42 to St. Croix for the Regional Wild Rice Assessment small project. Motion by LCO, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, St. Croix abstained, motion carried.

9. Small Project Proposals

Deep Water Habitat Enhancement - LCO

LCO presented a project proposal titled Deep Water Habitat Enhancement (attached). This project will be completed this summer and will therefore be funded out of the 2005 earmark.

MOTION: Motion to approve the LCO Deep Water Enhancement Small Project for $14,699. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by FCPC. All ayes, zero opposed, LCO abstained, motion carried.

Devil's Lake Gathering Area Restoration - FCPC

FCPC presented a project proposal titled Devil's Lake Gathering Area Restoration (attached). There was discussion because NRCS was questioning whether or not this project fit the intent of the funds. It was decided that this did fit the intent under Technical Assistance.

Concern was raised that this project was not appropriate because it involved planting of culturally significant plants and the education of Tribal members about these plants. It was decided that each WTCAC representative would take the project proposal to their THPO or other cultural or spiritual leaders to determine if they felt the project was appropriate and be ready to vote on the project at the next WTCAC meeting.

MOTION: Motion to table the FCPC Devil's Lake Gathering Area Restoration Proposal until the next WTCAC meeting with the stipulation that WTCAC representatives will run the project past Tribal elders, THPOs, and/or spiritual/cultural leaders. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, FCPC abstained, motion carried.

Culturally Significant Species Assessment and Outreach Program - FCPC

FCPC presented a project proposal titled Culturally Significant Species Assessment and Outreach Program (attached). FCPC was going to hold this project back, however if the Devil's Lake Gathering Area Restoration ends up not being funded, they wanted to ensure that this project was fully funded. It was decided that this project would be conditionally approved if the Devil's Lake Gathering Area Restoration Project wasn't funded.

MOTION: Motion to conditionally approve the FCPC Culturally Significant Species Assessment and Outreach Program for $21,070 if the Devil's Lake Gathering Area Restoration project is not funded. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, FCPC abstained, motion carried.

Intensive Survey of St. Croix Rice Lakes - St. Croix

St. Croix presented a project proposal titled Intensive Survey of St. Croix Rice Lakes (attached). This project will be completed this summer and therefore could be funded out of the 2005 earmark.

MOTION: Motion to approve St. Croix's Intensive Survey of St. Croix Rice Lakes Project for $19,715.20. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by FCPC. All ayes, zero opposed, St. Croix abstained, motion carried.

St. Croix Sustainable Community Gardens - St. Croix

St. Croix presented a project proposal titled St. Croix Sustainable Community Gardens (attached). This project was submitted for consideration and the funding level will be determined at the next WTCAC meeting when the remaining project proposals are reviewed. This project could be completed this summer and therefore could be funded out of the 2005 earmark.

MOTION: Motion to conditionally approve St. Croix's Sustainable Community Gardens Project for $9,671 dependent on available funding. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, St. Croix abstained, motion carried.

10. Small Project Amendment

Bad River needed to amend the budget for their Culvert Assessment and Remediation Project because WTCAC did not approve the project right away and they were unable to start the project last year. They are now proposing to do the project in 2 phases and to reduce the total funding request from $24,995.50 to $23,501.95. The new budget indicates that $3,701.95 will be spent in FY2009 and $19,800.00 in FY2010 (attached).

MOTION: Motion to approve the budget amendment for Bad River's Culvert Assessment and Remediation Project to reduce the total funding request to $23,501.95 of which $3,701.95 will be spent in FY2009 and $19,800.00 will be spent in FY2010. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

11. Financial Report

Between now and the next meeting Julie, Nate, and Brett will meet and figure out both agreements and where they stand. All meeting expenses have been paid and reimbursed for last quarter's meetings and GLIFWC's 1st quarterly payment was paid and we are awaiting reimbursement from NRCS (there was extra money in the account which could cover the payment before the reimbursement was received).

12. Small Project Updates

Mole Lake's 2 projects, Terrestrial Invasive Species Assessment and Logan Creek Bridge Project, will be completed by September 30, 2009. Oneida's Sugar Camp and Community Cordwood Building Project and the Cost Determination for *Phragmites australis* and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) Project are both on track for completion by September 30, 2009. Pam Roberts will check on Bad River's Graveyard Creek Brook Trout Behavior Study and Habitat Evaluation Project and Jonathan will check with Luis Salas on Bad River's Gitiganing Garden Restoration Project.

13. EQIP AND WHIP Comment Letter

Everyone felt it was very overwhelming for us to read and understand the new rules for EQIP and WHIP and we all thought it might be good to see if GLIFWC had any

comments ready to go on the new rules that we could put on WTCAC's letterhead. Jonathan will check with Jim Thannum to see if he has any thoughts on this.

14. Task List

We did not have a chance to go through the task list, but it was decided that at the next meeting the WTCAC board would meet at 9am with the meeting with the other agencies beginning at 10am or so.

WTCAC also needs to know when we will need to meet with Pat Leavenworth officially to advise her. It was thought that things should be presented to NRCS by early summer.

WTCAC also needs to work on pulling things together for new practices.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 9am on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at Menominee.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
St. Croix

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

Others Present: Jerry Thompson (Retired)

2. American Indian - Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA) conference
The conference is July 13 - 17, 2009. The registration for the conference is $400. Students are not charged.

Monday
Arrival day. Special emphasis program training for NRCS and the elder committee meets. Welcome reception from 7pm – 10pm.

Tuesday
8 am - Opening ceremony with the presentation of colors and a drum group. Loretta Metoxin will probably lead the prayer.

8:30 – 9:30 - Welcome remarks

9:30 – 10 - NRCS chief will speak.

10:20 – 11:00 - New USDA tribal consultation guidance. National Tribal liaison will present this.

11 – 12 - WTCAC presentation, Jerry is putting this together for us.

1 – 2 - How the new farm bill will affect Tribal agriculture and conservation programs. Someone from National HQ will present.

2 – 3:15 - Concurrent session - Section 106 Cultural Resources Responsibilities and Tribal Liaison issues and Career Development.

3:45 – 5 - Tribal elders talk about agriculture in Indian Country from their point of view and as to how NRCS should be taking care of the land and water.

There is a banquet in the evening with entertainment.

Wednesday
7:45 – 5 - Tours: 1) Oneida sights 2) Forestry practices at Menominee and Stockbridge

Thursday
8 – 9:30 - NRCS leadership panel with NRCS higher ups

9:30 – 10 - An attorney on retainer for the National Congress of American Indians will talk about what the Obama administration means for Tribes.

**There are many more training sessions, but they have not been established yet.

MOTION: Motion to give $10,000 for the American Indian - Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA) Conference being held in Green Bay, Wisconsin from July 13 - 17, 2009. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, zero abstentions, motion carried.

Tribal representatives on WTCAC and any other Tribal employees will receive free registration for the conference and WTCAC will be listed as a co-sponsor.

3. Student Internships
The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) will advertise with all Wisconsin colleges, this includes all Tribal Colleges.

4. Small Projects
We need to make sure that the small projects that are slated to be finished in the summer of 2009 are still on schedule. If not, we will need to reallocate the funds. Jonathan will be sending a letter to the contacts for each of the projects requesting an update on the status of the projects.

5. Strategic Plan
Jerry Thompson and Pat Pelky will work to pull together the introduction for the strategic plan and then we will send out the plan for comment. Roman Ferdinand will then work with Chris Borden to pull together comments to come up with a final draft.

For the record, Jerry Thompson noted that October 15, 2001 was when WTCAC was officially formed and officers were elected.

Nate will send out the task list and we will discuss at the next meeting.

Nate will call Renee Anderson (608-662-4422 ext 227) to see what Tribes she has not received information from for our annual report and educational materials.

We will talk about our efforts to secure future earmarks on the conference call on February 3. There are four main areas we should think about for the earmark – student interns, meeting expenses, small projects, workshops/trainings.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Lac du Flambeau, seconded by FCPC. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Proposed Budget for Culvert Assessment and Remediation on the Bad River Reservation (WTCAC Project Proposal)

FY2009

Item	Description	Cost
Salary, WQS Specialist/NPS Coordinator	culvert inventory training & work, $13.50/hr x 32 hrs/wk x 4 wks	$1,728.00
Fringe Benefits	12.35% of salary + $6/wk worker's comp	$887.41
Bad River Watershed Assoc.	training for culvert inventory, data entry, culvert replacement	$750.00
Indirect Costs	10% of direct costs	$336.54
	Total Funding Request	$3,701.95
Supplies (2% match)	general field supplies, gas for vehicle	$600.00
Tribal Roads Dept.(8% match)	salary/fringe for culvert training	$300.00
	Total Project Cost FY2009	$4,601.95

FY2010

Item	Description	Cost
Supplies	pipe & other materials needed for culvert replacement	$15,000.00
Salary, contractor	design work for culvert replacement	$3,000.00
Indirect Costs	10% of direct costs	$1,800.00
	Total Funding Request	$19,800.00
Tribal Roads Dept.(8% match)	salary/fringe and equipment usage for culvert replacement & training	$2,200.00
	Total Project Cost FY2010	$22,000.00

Total Project Cost $26,601.95

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Small Projects Grant
PROJECT PROPOSAL

NAME OF PROJECT: Culturally Significant Species Assessment and Outreach Program

LOCATION: Tribal trust lands, Forest County Potawatomi

SPONSORING TRIBE/ ORGANIZATION: Forest County Potawatomi Community-Natural Resources Department

CONTACT PERSON: Elizabeth Rogers, Environmental Program Director/Ecologist, Natural Resources Department

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, MUST ATTACH A BUDGET. A 10% in-kind Match will be required (Include Project Goals, Tasks and Objectives):

Introduction

Tribal trust lands are arrayed in a checker-board pattern, connected by historical trails and clearings. Culturally important plants are found throughout Tribal lands, many of the species with historical connections to families. Many of these culturally significant plants occur in small openings and along trails that function as wildlife movement corridors and habitats. Traditionally, tribal members would have used these pockets of habitat for hunting and gathering. Thus, there was a synergy of plant communities and animal communities that was influenced and used by Tribal members in a cultural manner.

No systematic survey has been conducted of Tribal plant resources and associated wildlife species. Such information can be used to identify candidate areas for restoration, provide care and protection for rare plants and wildlife habitat, and re-establish traditional care of these areas. In addition to data on spatial-temporal distributions of plant and animal species, there is also a need for outreach to Tribal members to re-acquaint them with their natural resource heritage through work and training experience. This project can be completed in two phases in FY09 and FY10. The cost breakdown is outlined in the budget.

Goals

(1) An inventory of Tribal botanical and associated animal resources

(2) Increased involvement and interaction of Tribal members with their land and its culturally significant fauna and flora.

(3) Familiarization of Tribal members with culturally significant plant and animal species

(4) Identification of rare species or species requiring special attention and candidate areas for restoration

Objectives

To initiate and develop a plant database with spatial-temporal records of plant and animal species on trust lands

To facilitate Tribal member involvement and training through a limited term employee program

To develop an outreach program on the Tribe's natural resource heritage

To create connections between this project and other related natural resource work on Tribal lands

Tasks

Recruit Tribal members to participate in limited term employment (LTE) opportunities and involve them in the project

Select area(s) for initial botanical/animal surveys

Conduct surveys in selected areas with emphasis on the growing/breeding seasons, training LTEs in data collection

Create spatial-temporal data records of relative abundance and occurrence of species

Identify areas for future assessment and restoration activities

Create photographic record of species for outreach materials

Produce outreach materials and actions (e.g. posters, pamphlets, booklets, demo plantings) with Tribal members

Distribute outreach materials

Plan future surveys and restoration actions

PROJECT BENEFIT OUTCOMES: (quantify tangible and intangible benefits if possible)

A tangible and intangible outcome will be increased involvement of Tribal people with their natural resources through employment and training. Numbers of direct participants and time spent are two metrics of involvement and direct. benefit A less tangible benefit is the increased public awareness and networking of tribal people with their lands. A tangible outcome is the production of fauna and flora databases that can be continually added to as the years go by, used for monitoring and ecological assessments of culturally significant resources. Also tangible is the production of outreach materials or projects to increase awareness of Tribal members.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

Proposal stage. No action has been taken other than work on a master botanical and mammal file that can form the foundation of a relational database.

HAS THIS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED TO OTHER FUNDING SOURCES? (Specify Source and Amount)

Has not been submitted for other funding. However, two other projects proposed for BIA funding likely will have some synergy in terms of employment of personnel and could contribute to the larger initiative. In-kind matching will be provided in the amount of $21,867

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: *Financial* x *Amount Requested* $21,070

*Other (explain)*_____

Wisconsin Tribal Advisory Council Approval	*Title*	*Date*

COUNCIL USE ONLY

Does this project meet one or more of the NRCS Funding Authority criteria's. (Check all that apply)

___ New conservation practice development ___ Conservation trials

___ Pilot practice for research and education ___ Conservation demonstrations

___ Conservation planning ___ Conservation technical assistance

Does this project provide public benefit? _____ Yes _____ No

Which WTCAC element does this project primarily address?

_____ Land Conservation _____ Community Development

_____ Water Management _____ Social or Cultural Enhancement

Does this project address the WTCAC Earmark Agreement Plan of Work?

_____ Yes _____ No

List the Plan Of Work Goal, Objective and Task(s) _____

Does this Proposal have the potential to be completed in 18 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SPECIES ASSESSMENT AND OUTREACH
FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY-NATURAL RESOURCES
BUDGET

Category	Requested	Matching (non-required) In Kind
Hourly wages for part time TEK Facilitator ($20 per hour)	$3600	
Hourly wages for part time LTEs ($9 per hour)	$8748	
Fringe for TEK facilitator and LTEs (30%)	$3704	
Indirect (on hourly wages)	$3168	
Printing costs for outreach	$1000	
Travel to related meetings	$850	
Salary for participating Nat. Resource personnel (est. 200 hours)		$14,307
Computer Use (1 computer, 5 months)		$2000
Office Space Use (1 office, 5 months)		$1900
Vehicle use for transportation		$2160
Resources (books, cameras, field gear)		$1500
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	$21070.00	$21,867.00

Funds for related projects have been requested from BIA Circle of Flight and BIA Invasive Species Initiative ($8,000 to 15,000). These are not directly for this project but likely will provide for some additional funds for personnel time.

This project can be completed in two phases in the following time frame.

YEAR	Activities	FUNDS
FY09	Recruit LTEs. Identify areas to be assessed. Begin training and assessment. Produce initial report of findings. Begin production of outreach materials.	$10,000
FY10	Complete assessment. Produce and distribute outreach materials.	$11,070

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Small Projects Grant
PROJECT PROPOSAL

NAME OF PROJECT: Devils Lake Gathering Area Restoration

LOCATION: Devils Lake, (T35N, R13E, Section 2). Tribal trust lands, Forest County, approximately 5 acres

SPONSORING TRIBE/ ORGANIZATION: Forest County Potawatomi Community-Natural Resources Department

CONTACT PERSON: Elizabeth Rogers, Environmental Program Director/Ecologist, Natural Resources Department

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, MUST ATTACH A BUDGET. A 10% in-kind Match will be required (Include Project Goals, Tasks and Objectives):

Introduction

Tribal trust lands surrounding Devils Lake are designated as set aside for non-development, open to traditional uses. A clearing on Devils Lake has traditionally been used as a gathering spot but in recent years has been neglected and is not currently particularly attractive for cultural gatherings. Restoration and enhancement is proposed to create an attractive traditional gathering clearing that will serve the function of education and outreach and provide a demonstration of conservation conducted within a traditional ecological knowledge framework. This project can be completed in two phases in FY09 and FY10. The cost breakdown is outlined in the budget.

Goals

(1) A restored Devils Lake gathering area (approximately 5 acres) for use by elders and all generations of Tribal people

(2) Increased involvement and interaction of Tribal members with their lands through restoration planning, and restoration of culturally important plants

(3) Creation of new opportunities for education of Tribal members in natural resource issues through limited term employment.

(4) Demonstration of restoration of culturally significant resources Tribal lands using a traditional ecological knowledge framework

Objectives

To develop a baseline ecological assessment of the area to be restored with special emphasis on protection of culturally sensitive sites and restoration of culturally important plant species

To facilitate Tribal member involvement (outreach and education) through a limited term employee program

To create an attractive and culturally functional gathering area near Devils Lake

To produce a restoration demonstration area with before and after documentation including a written report and a computer slide show for outreach to other tribes

To create outreach connections between this project and other related work on Tribal lands

Tasks

Recruit Tribal members to participate in limited term employment opportunities to give them ownership in all aspects of the project

Conduct ecological assessment of area before restoration to assess the area for culturally sensitive sites, culturally important plants, and potential areas for planting of culturally significant species.

Create list of plant species present in area before any restoration occurs

Document conditions before and after with photographs and written descriptions

Create list of culturally significant plants to be procured and planted

Create spatial design of restoration and install culturally significant plants.

Create documentation and outreach for Tribal community and funding source through newspaper articles, pictures, reports, and computer slide show.

PROJECT BENEFIT OUTCOMES: (quantify tangible and intangible benefits if possible)

Tangible and intangible outcomes will be evidenced by increased involvement of Tribal people with their natural resources through recompensed work and training. This pilot project for education and conservation will have an ongoing outreach function through the increased use of a culturally important area Another tangible outcome will be enhanced diversity of this parcel of land in terms of culturally significant plant species and use of the area by culturally important wildlife. Increased biodiversity of the area is another anticipated outcome that can be measured. A less tangible outcome will be increased awareness of the Tribal community with regard to their natural resources. A written report and computer slide show will also be produced as a mechanism for outreach and demonstration.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

Proposal stage. No action has been taken.

HAS THIS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED TO OTHER FUNDING SOURCES? (Specify Source and Amount)

Has not been submitted for other funding. However, two other projects proposed for BIA funding may have some synergy in terms of employment of personnel. These submittals may bring in $10,000 to $15,000. Other in-kind matching information provided in the budget.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: *Financial* x *Amount Requested* $22,662

Other (explain) Information on any plant materials that might be available through NRCS Plant Materials Centers. The Tribe is providing $23,640 in in-kind matching.

Wisconsin Tribal Advisory Council Approval *Title* *Date*

COUNCIL USE ONLY

Does this project meet one or more of the NRCS Funding Authority criteria's. (Check all that apply)

___ New conservation practice development ___ Conservation trials

___ Pilot practice for research and education ___ Conservation demonstrations

___ Conservation planning ___ Conservation technical assistance

Does this project provide public benefit? _____ Yes _____ No

Which WTCAC element does this project primarily address?

_____ Land Conservation _____ Community Development

_____ Water Management _____ Social or Cultural Enhancement

Does this project address the WTCAC Earmark Agreement Plan of Work?

_____ Yes _____ No

List the Plan Of Work Goal, Objective and Task(s) _____

Does this Proposal have the potential to be completed in 18 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

DEVILS LAKE GATHERING AREA RESTORATION
FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY-NATURAL RESOURCES
BUDGET

Category	Requested	Matching (non-required) In Kind
Hourly wages for part time TEK Facilitator ($20 per hour)	$3200	
Hourly wages for part time LTEs ($9 per hour)	$5832	
Fringe for TEK facilitator and LTEs (30%)	$2710	
Indirect (on hourly wages)	$2320	
Culturally important planting materials	$4000	
Rental of equipment for site restoration work and native plantings (contractual rental)	$3600	
Travel to related meetings	$1000	
Salary for participating Nat. Resource personnel (est. 200 hours)		$14900
Salary for equipment operator		$1000
Computer Use (1 computer, 5 months)		$2000
Office Space Use (1 office, 5 months)		$1900
Vehicle use for transportation, 4 months		$2340
Resources (books, cameras, field gear)		$1500
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	$22662.00	$23640.00

Funds for related projects have been requested from BIA Circle of Flight and BIA Invasive Species Initiative (8,000 to 15,000). These are not directly for this project but may provide for some overlap in personnel costs.

This project can be completed in two phases in the following time frame.

YEAR	Activities	FUNDS
FY09	Recruit LTEs. Assess restoration site. Design restoration. Perform plantings of culturally significant plants	$14,000
FY10	Complete plantings and documentation	$8662

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Small Projects Grant
PROJECT PROPOSAL

NAME OF PROJECT: Deep Water Habitat Enhancement

LOCATION: Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, Sawyer County

SPONSORING TRIBE/ ORGANIZATION: Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

CONTACT PERSON:

Brett M. McConnell
Environmental Specialist/WTCAC Rep./LCO
LCO Conservation Department
13394W Trepania Road Bldg. 1
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: 715-634-0102
Fax: 715-634-0107
Email: brettmc@centurytel.net

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, MUST ATTACH A BUDGET. A 10% in-kind Match will be required (Include Project Goals, Tasks and Objectives):

Many Reservation lakes and ponds lack adequate structural features and areas for fish to hide. Tree stumps and logs have been removed by property owners to reduce "clutter" along their lakeshore, aquatic herbicides may have reduced or eliminated aquatic plant beds and many natural shorelines have been destroyed and converted to hard edges that provide little or no fish cover or spawning habitat.

Structural features are important in helping to maintain diverse, healthy lake ecosystems and in sustaining gamefish and non-gamefish populations. Structure provides places for fish to hide from predators, shade from the hot summer sun, nesting and spawning habitat and places for food organisms to live and grow. Fish like to hide-especially when bigger fish and other predators are seeking a meal. Without hiding places, populations of young fish and the smaller fish species are at risk of being significantly reduced by predation. Ultimately, this can lead to an imbalanced fish population and reduction in gamefish yields. And of course fish need to eat and reproduce. Algae and other organisms (including bacteria, zooplankton, and aquatic insects) which are important fish foods use structure as growth substrates or habitat areas.

The purpose of this project is to increase or enhance the amount of available structure in a lake in order to increase the overall fish population. Several different types of structure will be evaluated in this project to determine their effectiveness in providing suitable habitat for fish propagation. After looking at design criteria from a number of sources, determinations were made that the structures had to fulfill certain requirements. These included:

- Useful as a deepwater (greater than 10 feet) juvenile structure
- Simple and easy to construct
- Have a relatively long lifespan
- Easily and safely transported by boat

The types of cribs that met the criteria and will be evaluated include:

1. AquaCrib
2. Pennsylvania Porcupine Crib
3. Pallet Cribs
4. Honey Hole Tree
5. Brush Bundles

Lone fish cribs simply act as fish attractors and often concentrate fish for harvest. Groups of fish cribs increase the total amount of available cover and actually increase the fish carrying capacity for that body of water. Therefore clusters of each type of the cribs to be evaluated will be used. These clusters will be placed adjacent to each other in the same body of water. This will allow for an accurate comparison of the different types of structures by eliminating variables such as bottom substrate, adjacent cover, depth, temperature, existing fish community, etc. It has been determined that the following number of structures will be used for each type in order for the same volume of area to be occupied by each different cluster.

Crib Type	Approximate # of cribs/cluster
Aqua Crib	25
Pennsylvania Porcupine Crib	33
Pallet Cribs	42
Honey Hole Tree	12
Brush Bundles	71

Effectiveness of the structures will be determined by comparing the utilization of the structures by juvenile gamefish and baitfish. Underwater photography by SCUBA divers will document the utilization/effectiveness of the structures.

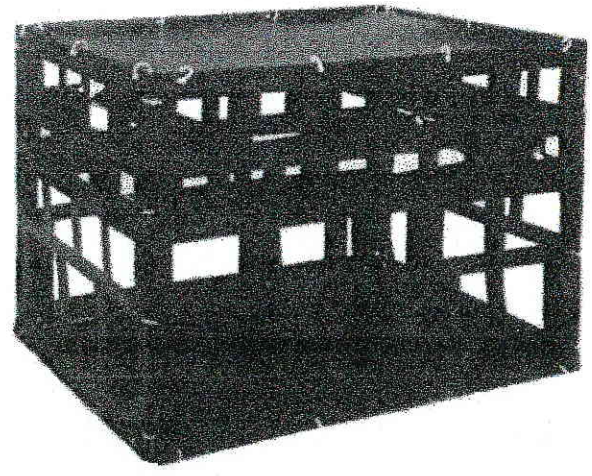
Descriptions of the structures to be used in this project are included below.

AquaCrib

A permanent habitat for fish in inland waters, especially deep lakes that lack protective vegetation. A durable shelter for fish through all life cycles that encourages population growth.

Advantages

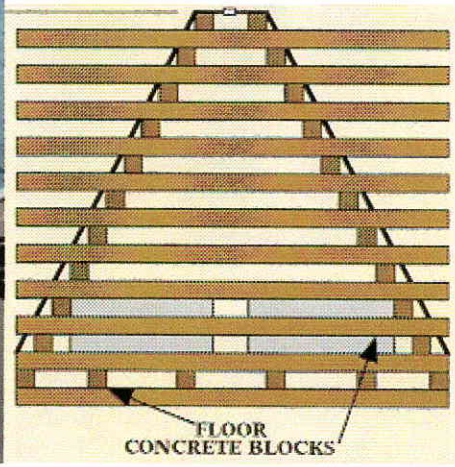
- Lightweight (only about 20 pounds – without brush)
- Sturdy
- Modular in design for quick, simple assemblyhttp://www.aquacrib.com/index.htm
- Easily transported
- Can be installed by just one person
- Durable - lasts indefinitely
- Safe - for boaters and water enthusiasts
- Rests above bottoms



Made of Corrulite, a rugged corrugated plastic that offers strength with minimal weight. The AquaCrib® measures approximately 48" wide X 60" long X 48" high. Six panels connected by four supports and 44 plastic fasteners create various-sized openings at different heights to attract small and large fish. Filled with brush and weighted with a concrete block, AquaCrib®s are sunk to depths of 12 to 20 feet. A hinged top panel allows replacement of brush, keeping the AquaCrib® functional indefinitely. AquaCrib®'s corrugated surface encourages feeding, and it also supports algae and plant growth while sheltering small marine life.

PENNSYLVANIA PORCUPINE CRIB

Porcupine Cribs are long-lasting, deep-water, complex structures designed as a refuge-type habitat. This design should provide protection for juvenile fish and improve recruitment of panfish and gamefish in lakes that lack abundant, deep-water, submerged aquatic vegetation. Porcupine cribs are constructed with 4 ft. 2x2's in a pyramid shape with an open interior for protection of small fish and are designed for 15–18 ft. of water. Submerged structures are normally placed in a row or alternating row pattern, with four to eight-foot spaces between individual structures.



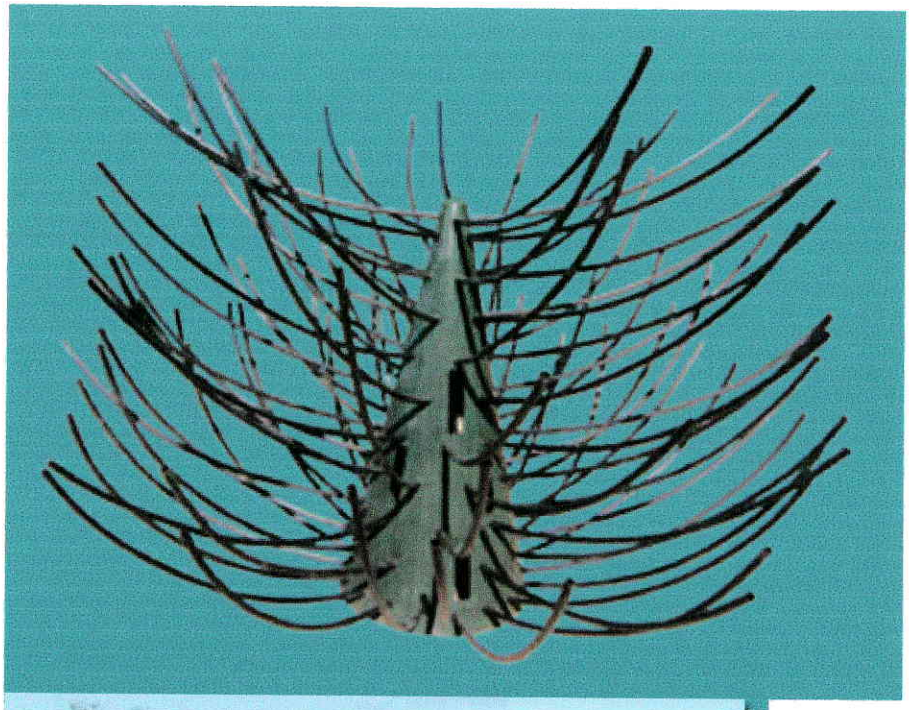
Pallet Crib

Cribs are constructed by layering pallets separated by cinderblocks or sections of PVC on each comer until it is 3 or 4 pallets deep. Then the "sandwich" is strapped together and the pallets are stuffed with brush and submerged at the desired location.

Honey Hole Tree

The Honey Hole Tree has over 15,000 square inches of surface area for algae, eggs, and insect larvae to attach to. The dozen slots around the exterior allow baitfish access to a place to hide. A cluster of at least three trees in a triangular pattern is the most effective. Other features of the Honey Hole Tree include:

- Poly cone with over 275' of polyethylene tubing.
- Never needs to be replaced - will not rot.
- Provides a large 6' tall x 7' wide area of cover.
- Can easily be suspended at any depth.
- Lightweight and easy to assemble.



Brush Bundles

Brush piles can be bundled together and tied to rocks or concrete blocks to weigh the pile down on the lake bottom. Baling wire or a wood frame can be used to keep brush together. Piles with larger and freshly cut branches will degrade more slowly than those of smaller and more aged wood

Budget:

Materials

Aqua Cribs	$3,480
Porcupine Cribs	$2,947
Pallet Cribs (donated pallets)	$420
Honey Hole Trees	$1,600
Brush Bundles	$639
Material Sub-total	$9,086

Labor (includes placement and SCUBA diving evaluations)

Aqua Cribs	$500
Porcupine Cribs	$1,738
Pallet Cribs	$1,130
Honey Hole Trees	$680
Brush Bundles	$1,565
Labor Sub-total	$5,613

Grant Request Total: $14,699

In-kind match: 120 hours for crib construction @$15/hr = $1800

PROJECT BENEFIT OUTCOMES: (quantify tangible and intangible benefits if possible)

The addition of the structures in the lake will increase the amount of complex habitat in the lake. Small fish will use the structures to avoid predation, occupying niches where predators cannot forage. In turn, predator fish may utilize complex habitat as foraging areas. Increasing complex habitat allows the coexistence of predators and prey, through the creation of more microhabitat types. The complex structural cover will provide important habitat for aquatic invertebrates, offering foraging opportunities for juvenile fish that rely on invertebrates as a food source. All of this will in turn increase the fishery production of lake offering tribal members increased opportunity for subsistence fishing.

An additional outcome will be to develop a payment scenario for EQIP.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT: The WDNR has been consulted on the project for various designs to test for the deep water habit. They will also assist with any permitting issues that may arise for placement of structures on the lake bed. No structures for this project have been constructed or installed.

HAS THIS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED TO OTHER FUNDING SOURCES? (Specify Source and Amount)

NO

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: *Financial* _____ *Amount Requested* $14,699

*Other (explain)*_____

_____ _____ _____

Wisconsin Tribal Advisory Council Approval ***Title*** ***Date***

COUNCIL USE ONLY

Does this project meet one or more of the NRCS Funding Authority criteria's. (Check all that apply)

___ New conservation practice development ___ Conservation trials

___ Pilot practice for research and education ___ Conservation demonstrations

___ Conservation planning ___ Conservation technical assistance

Does this project provide public benefit? _____ Yes _____ No

Which WTCAC element does this project primarily address?

_____ Land Conservation _____ Community Development

_____ Water Management _____ Social or Cultural Enhancement

Does this project address the WTCAC Earmark Agreement Plan of Work?

_____ Yes _____ No

List the Plan Of Work Goal, Objective and Task(s) _____

Does this Proposal have the potential to be completed in 18 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Small Projects Grant
PROJECT PROPOSAL

NAME OF PROJECT: Intensive Survey of St. Croix Rice Lakes

LOCATION: Burnett County

SPONSORING TRIBE/ ORGANIZATION: St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

CONTACT PERSON: Katie Stariha, GAP Coordinator, St. Croix Tribal Environmental Services Department, 24663 Angeline Avenue, Webster, WI 54893. Phone; (715)349-2195 ext. 5241, Fax: (715)349-8302, katies@stcroistribalcenter.com

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, MUST ATTACH A BUDGET. A 10% in-kind Match will be required (Include Project Goals, Tasks and Objectives):

Project Goals:

1.) Record critical habitat information for wild rice.

2.) Attempt to research the cause for decline in density and distribution of wild rice in a major ricing lake.

3.) Suggest solutions to mitigate or reverse decline in wild rice density and distribution.

Project Description:

Clam Lake is the major rice producing lake (total poundage documented) in Wisconsin. The lake is situated on the Clam River and is 1,207 acres in size. Lower Clam Lake is attached by a small channel of the river, but has not historically nor recently produced as much rice as Upper Clam. In recent years however, the rice crop in Upper Clam Lake has declined precipitously in density, and to a lesser degree, distribution. In 2001 the lake was surveyed by St. Croix Tribal Natural resources staff. Nearly 270 acres of rice were mapped that year compromising 22% of the total lake area. In 2001 Clam Lake claimed 15.6% of the total rice harvest in the state. The average density of rice on a scale of 1-3 was 2.4. In 2008 the lake was surveyed again. 210 acres of sparse rice were found or 17% of the surface area. Average density on the same rating scale dropped to 1.09 or less than half of what was recorded in 2001. The average yearly reported harvest from Clam Lake 1992-2006 was 3,344 lbs with on year showing zero. The last two years have been zero or very close to.

Natural fluctuations are known to occur in wild rice growth from year to year, but there may be other influencing factors on Clam Lake as both the density and distribution of rice beds has declined to the extant that they have for a period of two consecutive years. Meanwhile, other rice lakes that are close geographically have not shown as dramatic a decline over the past 2 years.

This project proposes to monitor critical rice habitat including water chemistry, health/abundance of associated plant communities, and physical parameters (water depth, water temperature, substrate composition). Monitoring would begin during germination/rosette stage and continue on a bi-monthly basis until maturity. By monitoring rice at each stage, it may be able to be determined where the rice may be encountering limitations on growth.

In addition, surveys will be conducted on two other "control" lakes in the immediate vicinity. Long Lake (Burnett County) and Briggs Lake (Burnett County) will serve as the controls for monitoring. Water chemistry (DO, pH, conductivity, TDS, and turbidity) will be measured in addition to associated aquatics and water depth. We would also like to compare this data to climatic data that should be available on-line.

Project Time-frame

Funding for this project may be used during the months of May, June, July, August and September, not to exceed 16 40 hour work weeks.

Intensive Survey of St. Croix Rice Lakes			
Expenses	**Description**	**Hours**	**Budget Costs**
Personnel	Rate		
2 Wild Rice Surveyors	$10/hour per surveyor	640 hours	$12,800.00
Fringe	25.6% of salary		$3,276.80
Supplies	Calibration Solutions		$200.00
Fuel Costs			$1,000.00
Indirect Costs	19.05% of salary		$2,438.40
Total WTCAC Funding			**$19,715.20**
1 % of Directors Salary			$600.00
In Kind Vehicle Use			$900.00
In-Kind Water Meter Usage			$300.00
In-Kind Boat/Canoe Use			$400.00
Total In-Kind Match (10% minimum)			$2,200.00
Total Project Funding			**$24,115.20**

PROJECT BENEFIT OUTCOMES: (quantify tangible and intangible benefits if possible)

The most important benefit to be derived from this project is the identification of limiting factors on rice growth in Clam Lake. If a determination can be made as to what may be the cause for rice decline on Clam Lake, than that problem may be able to be mitigated. Since wild rice is important to both tribal and non-tribal ricers, as well as waterfowl as a food source, the benefit as a food source could be realized in a relatively short time period if the decline of rice on Clam lake is slowed or reversed. In addition, wild rice improves water quality by uptake of nutrients, thus removing them from the water column. Also, data collected from rice surveys will be added to the internal database that St. Croix keeps on wild rice and offered to other members of WTCAC. This project may offer protection of the rice if the source of the decline can be identified.

Deliverables would include:

- A final report detailing water quality measurements, hours committed to surveying each waterbody, a budget, and a narrative discussing conclusions of the project.
- An excel spreadsheet with all water quality measurement results.
- Copies of field data sheets.

While there is data available on the biological, physical, and chemical parameters that can inhibit or promote the growth of wild rice, this project looks to add to the available data used to determine optimal growing conditions or limiting factors for the growth of rice. Such data could be used by other tribes/entities when determining where to conduct rice restoration efforts across the landscape. A hypothetical example would be to determine if a sediment depth that exceeds roughly 3 inches limited rice growth. Research has shown that a sediment burial of 8 cm can inhibit seedling emergence. If sediment depth is measured along with the presence/absence of rice than we can point to that parameter being the limiting factor for rice growth on Clam Lake. When entities are conducting re-seeding efforts they could then use this information to focus on areas that have a sediment depth of <3 inches., increasing the chance of a successful re-seeding effort.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

This project dovetails into the yearly regional wild rice assessments that the Tribal Natural Resource Department has been conducting since 2001. This project will expand on the regional assessment by focusing in on three St. Croix Lakes (Clam, Long, and Briggs) and offering a more intense survey regimen for these waterbodies.

The project itself is in the planning stage.

HAS THIS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED TO OTHER FUNDING SOURCES? (Specify Source and Amount)

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: *Financial* _____ *Amount Requested* _____

Other (explain) _____

_____ _____ _____

Wisconsin Tribal Advisory Council Approval *Title* *Date*

COUNCIL USE ONLY

Does this project provide public benefit?

_____ Yes _____ No

Which WTCAC element does this project primarily address?

_____ Land Conservation _____ Community Development

_____ Water Management _____ Social or Cultural Enhancement

Does this project address the WTCAC Earmark Agreement Plan of Work?

_____ Yes _____ No

List the Plan Of Work Goal, Objective and Task(s) _____

Does this Proposal have the potential to be completed in 18 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Small Projects Grant
PROJECT PROPOSAL

NAME OF PROJECT: St. Croix Sustainable Community Gardens

LOCATION: Burnett County

SPONSORING TRIBE/ ORGANIZATION: St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

CONTACT PERSON: Katie Stariha, GAP Coordinator, St. Croix Tribal Environmental Services Department, 24663 Angeline Avenue, Webster, WI 54893. Phone; (715)349-2195 ext. 5241, Fax: (715)349-8302, katies@stcroistribalcenter.com

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, MUST ATTACH A BUDGET. A 10% in-kind Match will be required (Include Project Goals, Tasks and Objectives):

Project Goals:

1.) Establish/maintain 2 community gardens, one in the Danbury Community and one in the Sand Lake Community

2.) Provide fresh fruits and vegetables to Elders and young families to increase nutrition and promote healthy eating habits.

3.) Promotes community interactions, intergenerational connections, reduces grocery costs in communities dealing with loss of income.

4.) The practice will teach Tribal Members organic and sustainable agriculture practices.

5.) Encourages self reliance and promotes sustainable food sources with the community members ultimately taking over responsibility of the gardens.

Project Tasks and Objectives:

This proposal is aimed at establishing 2 community gardens in 2 St. Croix communities, Sand Lake and Danbury. Last year marked the beginning of the community garden initiative at St. Croix. Members of the Danbury community expressed an interest in developing a community garden and were able to establish a small plot (25' x 45') with the help of St. Croix youth workers and their supervisors. Development of this garden was considered a success; corn, tomatoes, green beans, pumpkins, zucchini, and cucumbers, were grown. What was able to be harvested was made available to community elders and then the general membership. However, lack of harvesters in the fall due to cultural activities conflicts and youth workers returning to school lead to a significant percentage of produce left in the garden. This project aims to help facilitate establishing more community involvement by providing a garden supervisor and helpers to coordinate care of the gardens. In addition to expanding the size of the Danbury Garden, a plot will be prepared in the Sand Lake community to provide fresh produce and conduct community

education. Children from the Tribal Headstart program will be involved by having them help 'start' some of the plants by planting seeds and caring for the seedlings. This will serve as an excellent catalyst to tie the value of good nutrition and growing sustainable food sources while raising awareness for the gardens, interconnecting the communities, and promoting healthier eating habits. By involving the children we hope to engage parents and grandparents through the enthusiasm, sharing of seedlings, and educational information that their children and grandchildren are participating in.

To fully establish the garden, Headstart seedlings and purchased seedlings will be planted in the designated plots. Whenever possible, heirloom variety plants will be used. Pesticide use will be restricted in order to make the gardens are organic as possible. Weeding will be done by hand and composting utilized. The ultimate goal of the project will be to harvest produce from each garden and ensure that the produce gets out into the community, specifically Elders who are unable to harvest themselves and families with children. Nutritional information and recipes for the harvested food will also be distributed at this time. Finally, seeds from vegetables that are able to be kept will be stored for the next season's garden.

Funding for this project may be used during the months of May, June, July, August and September, not to exceed 12 20 hour work weeks.

St. Croix Sustainable Community Gardens			
Expenses	**Description**	**Hours**	**Budget Costs**
Personnel	Rate		
Supervisor	$10/hour	240 hours	$2,400.00
Aids	$8/hr		$3,840.00
Total Personnel			*$6,240.00*
Fringe	*25.6% of salary*		*$614.40*
Supplies			
Directional Rear Tine Tiller	Rental		$240.00
High Capacity/Pressure Irrigation Pump			$250.00
Water Source 48" Stainless Steel Well Point			$70.00
Fencing			$1,500.00
Seeds			$50.00
Seed growing equipment			$100.00
Plants			$150.00
Total Supplies			*$2,360.00*
Indirect Costs	19.05% of salary		$457.20
Total WTCAC Funding			**$9,671.60**
In-Kind Personnel for Youth Education and Outreach	$10/hr	100	$1,000.00
Total In-Kind Match (10% minimum)			*$1,000.00*
Total Project Funding			**$10,671.60**

PROJECT BENEFIT OUTCOMES: (quantify tangible and intangible benefits if possible)

The most important benefit of the project will be to create immediate access to highly nutritious fruits and vegetables to culturally sensitive populations, mainly Tribal Elders who are unable to garden on their own, and ensure that young families have wholesome foods to shape their eating habits. This effort is small when weighed against the afflictions facing Native peoples, namely diabetes, obesity, etc., however, it serves as a positive step forward in involving communities to change lifestyles through healthy eating. The garden will promote agriculture, and add that these sustainable and organic practices that will establish agricultural ideas to be used with future clients.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

This project was started last year through donations from the St. Croix Tribe and it's departments for the Danbury garden, which will not be available again this year. The overall project is in the planning stage, utilizing the successes and problems encountered during the initial Danbury garden establishment. Planning is being done to expand the actual numbers and sizes of the gardens, the sustainability of the garden, and maximizing the educational potential of the project.

HAS THIS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED TO OTHER FUNDING SOURCES? (Specify Source and Amount)

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: *Financial* _____ *Amount Requested* $9,631.60

Other (explain) _____

_____	_____	_____
Wisconsin Tribal Advisory Council Approval	*Title*	*Date*

COUNCIL USE ONLY

Does this project provide public benefit?

_____ Yes _____ No

Which WTCAC element does this project primarily address?

_____ Land Conservation _____ Community Development

_____ Water Management _____ Social or Cultural Enhancement

Does this project address the WTCAC Earmark Agreement Plan of Work?

_____ Yes _____ No

List the Plan Of Work Goal, Objective and Task(s) _____

Does this Proposal have the potential to be completed in 18 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

WTCAC 2008 Project Report
Regional Wild Rice Assessment

Submitted by

Katie Stariha, GAP Coordinator
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin Environmental Services

March 3, 2009

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Small Projects Grant
Completion Certification

NAME OF PROJECT: Regional Wild Rice Assessment

PROJECT LOCATION: Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties.

SPONSORING TRIBE/ORGANIZATION:
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
24663 Angeline Ave
Webster, WI 54893

CONTACT PERSON:
Katie Stariha
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin WTCAC Representative
24663 Angeline Ave
Webster, WI 54893
katies@stcroixtribalcenter.com

Description of Project Elements Completed:
Completed regional wild rice assessment on 29 water bodies and 13 miles of stream assessing water quality data, the existence to rice beds and remnant beds, and reseeding factors.

PROJECT IN-KIND PERCENTAGE AND DESCRIPTION:
Project in-kind was from the St. Croix Chippewa Indians supporting the Fish and Wildlife Technician and Field Supervisor for 67 hours of work, space costs, telephone, fax ,and internet services. WTCAC funded $10,559.42 for the project. The in-kind totaled $2,719.35, which is a 25% match (10% required match.)

CERTIFICATION OF PROJECT COMPLETION

Project was completed according to proposal approved by the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council.

_____ _____
Certification of Tribal Representative Date

BUDGET SUMMARY
A detailed budget summary is attached to the final report.

Introduction

The St. Croix Tribe began a multi-year Regional Wild Rice Assessment in 2001. The project goals are recording tribal elder wild rice knowledge, documenting the presence of wild rice for its protection as a species of special concern, and increasing regional wild rice abundance for improved water quality, and human, waterfowl, and wildlife consumption.

We began the project in 2001 with a grant from Natural Resources Conservation Service and continued it in 2005 with Circle of Flight funding. In 2006 and 2007 grants through Circle of Flight and Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council supported the assessment. We hosted a student intern in 2007 from Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College whose primary responsibility was wild rice assessment. In 2007 we used two field crews to collect data. Funding for the second crew came from St. Croix's BIA Fish and Wildlife Conservation Program contract.

In 2008 we continued this project through funding by Circle of Flight and Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. We were again able to used two crews that consisted of St. Croix Tribal Natural Resource staff and interns for the wild rice surveys this year.

Prior to 2008, we surveyed 96 water bodies in Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Sawyer and Washburn counties. Lakes and streams were identified in interviews with 26 tribal and non-tribal ricers. Surveys include digitally mapping wild rice beds and remnant beds, measuring water quality and sediment depth, and recording environmental and human factors affecting wild rice growth. All rice beds were photographed.

2008 Wild Rice Assessments

In 2008 we interviewed 5 tribal ricers. We surveyed 29 water bodies that totalled 10278 acres and 13.27 stream miles and mapped, by GPS, 71 wild rice beds totalling 365.76 acres and 106 remnant beds/plants. Thirteen of the water bodies no longer support wild rice. Two of the lakes surveyed have only remnant beds. Five water bodies surveyed only had one small bed of wild rice present. Additional information would need to be determined before deciding whether any of these water bodies would benefit from re-seeding efforts.

Table 1 shows the water bodies assessed in 2008 along with the number and acreage of wild rice beds if any were found. The table also shows our conclusions and reasons about the probable success of re-seeding wild rice.

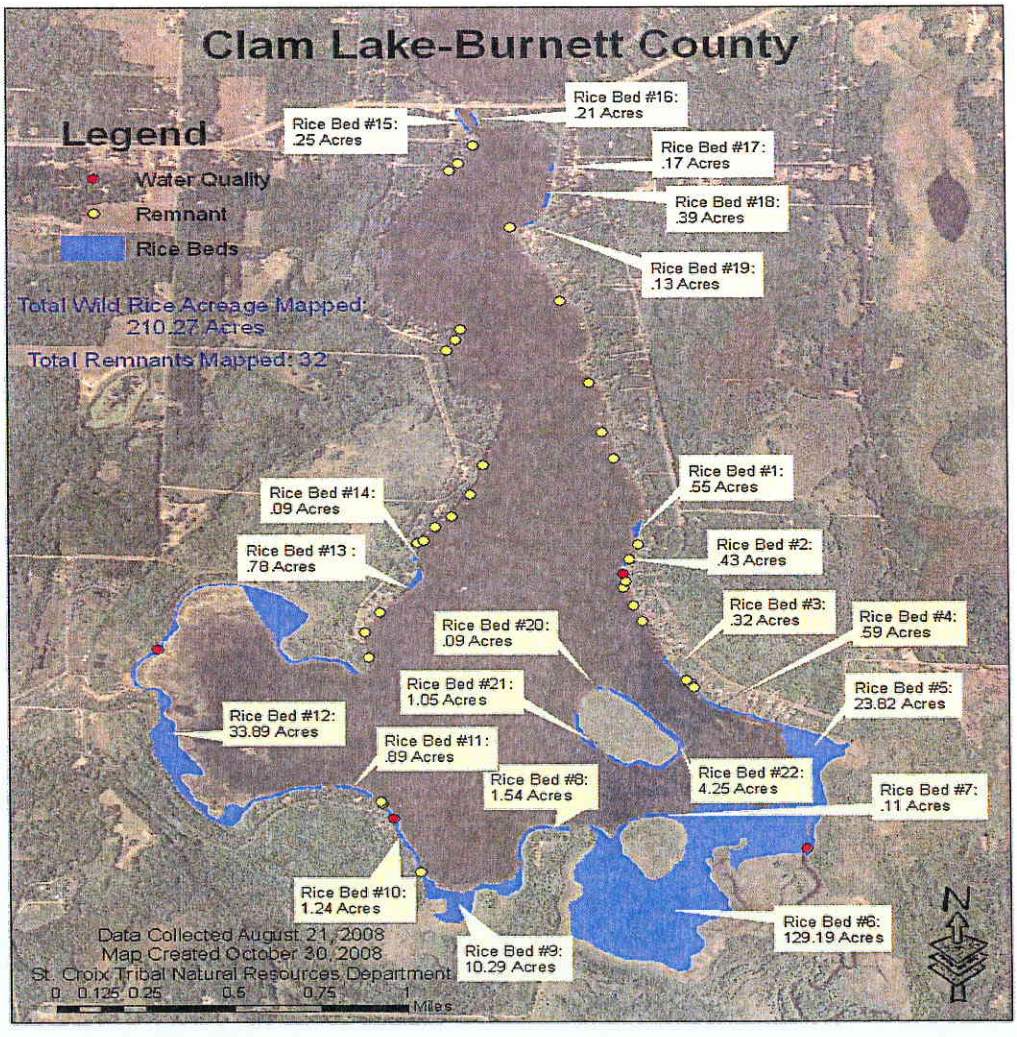
Table 1: 2008 Wild Rice Assessment Waterbodies

County	WBIC	Waterbodies	Surface Acres	Location	# of beds	Rice acreage	# of remnants	Seeding Potential
Barron	2094000	Lake Chetek	770	T33N R10W Sec 30	0	0	0	no do to development & aquatic
Barron	2103200	Lake Montanis	200	T35N R11W Sec 34	1	1.5	0	Done in 2004 (DNR& GLIFWC)
Barron	2109600	Red Cedar Lake	1841	T36N R10W Sec 21	0	0	0	maybe-other aquatics
Barron	2094200	Rice Creek	.77 miles	T34N R11W Sec 22	0	0	2	maybe-lots of other aquatics
Barron	2079800	Upper Turtle Lake	438	T34N R14W Sec 27	0	0	0	maybe-north bay-lots of aquatic
Burnett	2638600	Bass Lake	43	T37N R18W Sec 18	1	.81	0	yes-(WWLT^ looking into it?)
Burnett	2655000	Blackbrook Flowage	178	T39N R17W Sec 26	1	40	0	maybe-aquatics & carrying capac
Burnett	2656200	Upper Clam Lake	1207	T39N R16W Sec 34	22	210.27	32	Future surveys are suggested
Burnett	2467200	Green Lake	274	T40N R15W Sec 35	0	0	0	no do to low H20 flow & aquatic
Burnett	2638400	Holmes Lake	54	T37N R18W Sec 30	0	0	0	no do to extremely poor H20 qual
Burnett	2671000	Love Lake	253	T40N R16W Sec 02	0	0	0	no low water level & aquatics
Burnett	2482900	Minnow Lake	57	T40N R16W Sec 11	0	0	0	no-not suitable for wild rice
Burnett	2674800	Little Yellow Lake	348	T40N R17W Sec 24	3	1.2	12	no do to multiply reasonings
Burnett	2670300	Yellow River	6 miles	T40N R17W	32	42.7	33	no-boat traffic/development
Polk	2620600	Balsam Lake	2054	T34N R17W Sec 10	2	9.98	2	no do to development & aquatic
Polk	2450800	Bass Lake	138	T36N R15W Sec 31	0	0	1	maybe-lots of other aquatics & sa
Polk	2615100	Cedar Lake	1107	T31N R18W Sec 02	0	0	0	maybe in south bay-WDNR tried in
Polk	2666400	Clam Falls Flowage	127	T37N R16W Sec 13	0	0	0	maybe-heavy aquatic competitio
Polk	2657800	Indian Creek	.50 miles	T37N R15W	0	0	0	no-poor water flow & low water lev
Polk	2621300	Otter Creek	.10 miles	T36N R16W Sec 18	0	0	0	? Need to resurvey when water hig
Polk	2628900	Rice Bed Creek	2 miles	T35N R15W	5	15.5	3	maybe-mud flats are dominate
Polk	2518800	Rainbow Lake	9	T36N R16W Sec 18	0	0	0	no-not suitable for wild rice
Polk	2627800	Straight Lake	107	T36n R17W Sec 13	1	1	2	yes but aquatic competition
Sawyer	2725500	Hayward Lake	247	T41N R09W Sec 27	1	0.08	4	maybe-lots of other aquatics
Sawyer	2703500	Totogatic Flowage	3.9 miles	T42N R10W Sec 12	1	0.2	9	? Has been tried by GLIFWC & WI
Washburn	2691500	Nancy Lake	772	T42N R13W Sec 33	0	0	0	maybe-aquatic competition & boat t
Washburn	2691200	Spring Lake	54	T42N R13W Sec 16	1	42.5	6	no-carrying capacity
TOTAL:		29 Waterbodies	10278 acres 13.27 miles		71	365.76	106	
In 2008 we assessed two creeks that we were unable to survey do to non-navigability. They are listed below.								
We did not see any presence of wild rice from what we could view of the creeks from the road.								
Burnett	2688600	Hay Creek	9.61 miles	T42N R15W	0	0		
Washburn	2690600	Five Mile Creek	4.77 miles	T42N R13W	0	0		

^WWLT: West Wisconsin Land Trust (owns land on Bass Lake and Love Lake in Burnett County)

Figure 1 shows an example of the maps we made of water bodies where rice was present and also includes the rice beds layered onto an ortho-photo, and a photo of one of the lake's rice beds.

Figure 1: Upper Clam Lake Wild Rice Beds



St. Croix Regional Wild Rice Assessment		
Total Amount Funded by WTCAC: $**10,559.42**		
Salary	Description	Costs
Wild Rice Intern	160 hours @$8.75/hr	$1,400.00
Fish and Wildlife Tech/GIS Specialist	160 hours @$14.29/hr	$2,286.40
Field Supervisor	155 hours@$19.67/hr	$3,048.85
Fish and Wildlife Tech	160 hours@$10.50 hour	$1,680.00
Salary Total		**$8,415.25**
Fringe Benefits	(25.6% of Salary)	$2,154.30
Total		**$10,569.55**
Tribal Match		
Salary		
Fish and Wildlife Tech/GIS Specialist	58 hours@$14.29/hr	$828.82
Field Supervisor	9 hours@$19.67/hr	$177.03
Salary Total		**$1,005.85**
Fringe Benefits (25.6% of Salary)	(25.6% of Salary)	$257.50
Space Costs	$11.00/sq ft x 344 sq ft x .25 year	$946.00
Telephone, Fax, Internet Services	$170/month x 3months	$510.00
Total Match (10% required)		**$2,719.35**