

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 5 and Tuesday, August 6, 2013
LCO

August 5th, 2013

Meeting called to order at 1:09 pm by Pat Pelky.

1. Roll Call

Present: Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma, Tina Warner), Red Cliff (Gary Defoe Jr.), Oneida (Pat Pelky, Jeff Mears), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile, Roman Ferdinand), Bad River (Lacey Hill), Menominee (Jennifer Hill-Kelley, Jeremy Pyatskowitz), LCO (Brett McConnell), FCPC (Nate Guldan)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Jerry Thompson (WTCAC), Michael Vickerman (RENEW Wisconsin), Dylan Jennings (WTCAC Intern), Forrest Gauthier (WTCAC Intern), Peter Houle (WTCAC Intern), Charlie Thannum (WTCAC Intern), Allissa LaGrew (WTCAC Intern), Kelvina Lee (WTCAC Intern), Lexi Freeman (WTCAC Intern), Tim Deveau (APHIS-VS), Sheryl Shaw (APHIS-VS), Mike Conner (USFS), Deb Proctor (USFS), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Chase Quam (WTCAC Intern), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS-PPQ), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Gary Haughn (NRCS), Lori Wells (RD), Jonathan Pyatskowitz (INCA)

2. Approval of Agenda

Add USFS Northern Research Station to agenda.

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda with addition. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the May 8, 2013 WTCAC Meeting minutes. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. RENEW Wisconsin

Presentation attached and information attached.

5. USFS Northern Research Station

Mole Lake has replaced a bunch of perched culverts and they were keeping their fingers crossed that black cedar, etc. would come back but it didn't. Roman encountered the USFS Northern Research Station in Rhinelander and they are working with them on the project to fix riparian

formerly forested wetlands. They are also looking into biomass to see what trees they should plant, they also help with bioremediation. The people from the research station would like to come and make a more in depth presentation to WTCAC. There is potential to seek funds through them – see attachment

6. Intern Presentations

Kelvina Lee – APHIS Madison

Lexi Freeman – APHIS Madison

Dylan Jennings and Allissa LaGrew – Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Forrest Gauthier – USFS – Watersmeet, Michigan

Charles Thannum – Park Falls Civil Engineering USFS

Pete Houle – Natural Resources Aid at Bad River, Red Cliff, and Ashland NRCS

Chase Quam – NRCS Spooner

Jerry only received a few training plans, he would really appreciate if the rest could sent them to him so he has documents for the students files.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn for the day. Motion by Menominee, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

August 6, 2013

Meeting called to order at 8:07am by at Pelky.

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldán), Menominee (Jennifer Hill-Kelley, Jeremy Pyatskowitz), Oneida (Pat Pelky, Jeff Mears), Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma, Tina Warner), Tony Havranek (St. Croix), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile), Bad River (Lacey Hill), LCO (Brett McConnell), Red Cliff (Gary Defoe Jr., Nathan Gordon)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Dan Cornelius (IAC), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Allissa LaGrew (WTCAC Intern), Dylan Jennings (WTCAC Intern), Forrest Gauthier (WTCAC Intern), Charlie Thannum (WTCAC Intern), Peter Houle (WTCAC Intern), Chase Quam (WTCAC Intern), Lexi Freeman
WTCAC Minutes, August 5 and 6, 2013

(WTCAC Intern), Kelvina Lee (WTCAC Intern), Sheryl Shaw (APHIS-VS), Mike Conner (USFS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS-PPQ), Mike Koehler (NRCS), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Chris Borden (NRCS), Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS), Susan Hunter (FSA), Lori Wells (RD), Jonathan Pyatskowitz (INCA), Paul Strong (NRCS), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC)

2. NRCS Update

Jimmy Bramblett – He has the new brochures. They are working with local work groups through their normal delivery systems to talk about the projects they are hoping to pursue in 2014. They hope to have these meetings done by the end of September.

Chris Borden – Passed a letter out from Jimmy to Pat Pelky on the technical recommendations (attached). CSP – now is a good time to think of applying, Tony talked about St. Croix’s application – application wasn’t too bad. They picked 2 enhancements. Tech Recommendations No more caps on aquaculture practices – Practice 395 will be back to linear feet. We need to start thinking about next year’s projects right now. November 15th will be application deadline. Back to flat rate for beaver dam removal.

Kent retired; he did a lot of work of Tribal projects and aquaculture. His replacement has been chosen, his first day is August 12. He does have his engineering license and he has a significant amount of experience working with Tribes and aquaculture in Michigan.

Jimmy – permits are a huge issue for NRCS in Wisconsin. He asked for a staffing plan for their field offices to make sure they have the right people at the right places.

One USDA Training – moving start time back to 1pm and moving training back to October 30 and 31 to be held at Mole Lake.

MOTION: Motion to support the One USDA training. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

NRCS needs updated Tribal Chairman and addresses.

2nd RTAC at the end of September this year, they want to hold it at Oneida again.

Harmony Training – Training for new state conservationists – Red Cliff Primary site, Oneida back up.

3. FSA Update

Susan Hunter – Report attached.

4. APHIS Update

JoAnn Cruse – EAB in forefront right now, EAB traps should be checked, peak or post emergence in all of Wisconsin right now. EAB has been popping; each week new areas are finding EAB. New quarantines include Sauk County, Dodge County and Jefferson County (not found there but in the counties to the north and south). Another find in Fond du Lac County, was already quarantined but they hadn't found a beetle. Some suspects in Winnebago and Outagamie Counties. They have been going out this year to look for wasps that feed on EAB in baseball fields. The wasps go out about ½ mile from nest and carries EAB back to the nest hole and they drop it because it can't get back in the hole. There may be a project looking at sinking ash trees already. Gypsy moth numbers a little lower this year but they are not done checking traps.

Sheryl Shaw - They are on target for an October 1 implementation of their reorganization, the goal was customer service, the biggest change will be 100% export from 8 Midwestern states. Dr. Deveau will continue to work with us on the things he has. September 28 is National Rabies Day. Dr. Deveau would like to sit down with Tribes and discuss how you would handle a potential of rabies exposures to a dog and then humans.

5. RD Update

Lori Wells – It has been a difficult year with the delay in getting funding. They are down to about 82 employees in Wisconsin. They are going through realignment and taking a look at how they can change program delivery and still provide their service to rural Wisconsin. They are combining and regionalization administrative services. 20% of nationwide funding has to go to highest poverty areas, in Wisconsin they are looking at what the state's goals are going to be, he really wants to focus on starting the One USDA approach in the northern part of the state. A new thing to RD is the President's Promise Zones Outreach Initiative. This could be another avenue for focusing technical assistance and grant and loan funds into areas of greatest need.

6. USFS Update

Paul Strong – Landowners working together in collaborative projects.

<http://www.landscapestewardship.org/>

Mike Conner – State and Private Forestry of USFS – He is group leader for the Forest Health Program – directly responsible for insect and disease assistance to the Tribes. We received a grant for interns from this program – Barb went to the DC office and was able to secure funding. This is great seed money for an intern program for next year, \$32k. We can apply for more grants in future years. There is an RFP out again for this year (attached). They do aerial survey maps every year – he would like to have a call with the Tribes and states. There will be a call coming out for suppression type of funding as well.

7. Wisconsin Tribal Caucus Report

Roman talked about WTCAC being the Tribal Caucus for EPA. Yesterday 7 tribes meet; they had a discussion about the format of the Wisconsin Tribal Caucus. They decided the group would work separately from WTCAC, they are writing a short task list and have meetings open to environmental department staff and hold meetings twice a year with conference calls in between. If it relates to EPA, they will forward it up to RTOC if it relates to USDA they will funnel it through WTCAC.

8. INCA Update

Funding is running out, big push now is to figure out how to maintain all of their staff doing what they are doing. There is a non-profit that helps non-profits that has been working with INCA. A big thing is a portion of the funding needs to come from a foundation and get away from all grants. Important to keep strategic plan updated – Where are we at on the task list? INCA has paid for memberships in a few different organizations; it has done a good job of keeping INCA informed on things such as the Farm Bill. Getting Our Act Together on the Farm Bill – Producers, INCA, etc.

9. WTCAC Internship Program

USDA Pathways Program – it sounds like WTCAC's agreement is about to be signed. If any students are looking at applying to USDA directly for an internship this upcoming year, if we get this approved we are looking for a student or two that we can recommend to Lawrence Shorty for the program. If supervisors feel you had an exceptional student this last year, write up a letter of recommendation to Lawrence Shorty and we will pass it on.

2014 – Jerry wants the agencies to start thinking about positions that they would like WTCAC to hire for 2014, where, what, etc. By October he would like to have as many of these positions identified as possible.

10. 2013 Stewardship Report

They are here. Each agency can take 20 for now. Each tribe should take 50 and Jerry will store the rest until we need more. We published 1000 of them.

11. IAC Update

The IAC Conference is 9-12th of December at Flamingo in Las Vegas. They are hoping to have a couple of scholarships for the region. Mobile farmers market is chugging along, challenge of working across the whole region. He has really been working with the project coordinator to get the schedules out as soon as they can.

USFWS has Landscape Conservation Cooperatives – Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC – John Rogner.

Beginning Farmer Outreach Sessions – Some are scheduled right now – Dan will get ahold of Randy – If there is interest we could have a larger one to draw in people from a large area or do a more localized one.

12. Aquaculture Subcommittee Report

Tony – Position paper was sent out – They had a meeting in St Croix on July 23. Chris Borden, Tom Krapf or Matt Otto, Dean Sylla, 3 tribal liaisons (Michael Stinebrink, Sherrie, and Tom Fredrickson) are all on subcommittee. Tribal reps are Tony, Randy Poelma, Tim, Chad Abel, Mike Preul, Brett, Don Reiter, Pat Pelky, and Larry W. Resource concern issue is the biggest issue.

13. Special Projects

Gary Defoe Jr. - The final project report was handed out. They are very pleased with how it turned out.

MOTION: Motion to approve payment of \$19,725 to Red Cliff for their project titled “Access Improvement to Eagle Bay Beach for Tribal Members” pending submittal of match documentation to Jerry. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, Red Cliff abstains, motion carried.

LCO is in the process of finalizing their project on the raceways. Brett will have a final report at October meeting.

14. WTCAC Procurement Procedures

Handed out procurement procedures – attach – get comments back to Jerry by September 15th, he will email out the electronic version.

MOTION: Motion to request a 0% loan from Oneida in the amount of \$15,000 to be paid back by December 31, 2014. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

15. Website

Things to add:

- Jerry’s contact info
- Upcoming Meetings
- Hyperlink on email addresses
- Asterick for main members
- Jean Buffalo caption on home page

16. Bank Accounts

Citizens Bank account is closed. All remaining funds were moved to Associated Bank in Hayward. We had to open up a second account (savings account) as some GLRI staff have child support that has to be paid.

17. Budget and Grant Reports

The handout from Jerry is attached.

MOTION: Motion from Jerry to conduct an independent audit. Motion by Bad River, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Jerry will put out a request for funds from the GLRI to cover excess hours he is going to need. He needs about \$24k.

New APHIS Grant – He has a signed pre-award letter approving costs for him to go to Kentucky. This grant also has 3 WTCAC meetings in it to provide oversight.

MOTION: Motion from for either Pat or Jerry to sign the grant agreement for the new APHIS Planning Grant for \$100,000. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to give Jerry the authority to sign the USFS Grant for WTCAC Interns for 2014 and/or 2015 for \$32,000 which requires a 1-1 match. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

AmeriCorps Planning Grant – they gave us the match waiver. She called him Friday, she was supposed to call Monday, but she didn't. They are scheduled to talk tomorrow morning at 8:30. This grant is for Tribes that want to do community gardens, in particular, aquaponics. Most of the funds go to Keith to work on this.

MOTION: Motion for either Pat or Jerry to sign the grant agreement with AmeriCorps. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Jimmy told us that he found money to get to us through an agreement and he has some specific ideas. We would need some type of specific deliverables e.g. continuing the development of aquaculture standards which could lead into aquaponics etc. Having Keith on as WTCAC's engineer was also discussed. He also wanted to keep the meetings going. Chris – We need to develop an agreement and one of the primary goals was to continue to support assistance from Keith. He mentioned two specific headings 1) Facilitating our work when it came to making aquaculture and aquaponics into USDA programs 2) Also work regarding training for state conservationist training in Red Cliff into agreement.

Once the funding is figured out, Chris should work with a subcommittee from WTCAC to work on the agreement. Jimmy would like it to be a 2 year agreement. He wants the agreement finalized in the next 3 weeks. Jerry and Keith will figure out how much time he can spend on this.

First priority would be meeting funds and subcommittees, 2nd would be Keith and Randy.

Nate will look at old agreements.

MOTION: Motion for Jerry and Keith to travel to Washington DC to attend the AmeriCorps Planning Training. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

18. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 1 at FCPC.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:48 pm.

EMAIL MINUTES 9/12/2013

MOTION: Motion to accept the grant award from NRCS with the following deliverables 1) Coordinate WTCAC meetings to further promote government to government relationships with the USDA agencies and 2) Provide technical assistance to NRCS and the Tribes for EQIP and CSP and the development of new technical practices in the amount of \$40,000. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Six ayes (FCPC, Mole Lake, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee, Red Cliff), zero opposed, motion carried.

ATTACHMENTS



Clean Energy Choice An Expanded Primer

August 2013

Why Solar Energy?

- *Clean, local, widely available and scalable (from a customer's perspective)*
- *No fuel cost*
- *Only energy resource that turns itself off at night*
- *Reliably produces electricity at high-demand hours*
- *Best resource for offsetting growth in air-conditioning load*

SOLAR GENERATING CAPACITY COMPARISON WISCONSIN VS. TOP EIGHT STATES

State	MW _{dc}	Allow 3 rd party PPA's?
California	1,564	Yes
Arizona	1,097	Yes
New Jersey	971	Yes
Nevada	403	Yes
Colorado	270	Yes
North Carolina	229	No
Massachusetts	124	Yes
Pennsylvania	198	Yes
Wisconsin	13*	No policy

Ranked by Grid-Connected Cumulative Installed Capacity Through 2012

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association

*Wisconsin data provided by RENEW

Clean Energy Choice (a/k/a 3rd Party Power Purchase Agreements)

PROBLEM

While a customer can legally generate energy on-site for personal use, it is not clear whether a third-party can own that system and sell the output to the host customer.

Clean Energy Choice (a/k/a 3rd Party Power Purchase Agreements)

SOLUTION

What is needed is a policy that allows customers to contract w/ third-party system owners and acquire the benefits of on-site renewable energy production either through service/financing agreements or power purchase agreements (PPA's)

How Customers Benefit from Clean Energy Choice

- No up-front capital required from host customers
- Allows nonprofit entities to partner w/ for-profit companies that can use the 30% federal tax credit
- Helps customers manage energy costs and possibly reduce them over the contract life
- Third-party owner is 100% responsible for system operation
- Hugely successful in states that allow it (e.g., California and Colorado)
- It's your premises, after all

It's Already Happening a Little

The City of Monona approved a contract for hosting a 157 kW of solar capacity, owned by an outside investor, on 4 city-owned buildings. The contract specifies that the City will purchase Renewable Energy Credits from the investor. Electricity is not specified.

Why a Statewide Clean Energy Choice Policy?

- State law is ambiguous on this point. Some utilities may be more willing than others to allow these kind of installations to proceed. If the applicable law is not clarified, the question of whether customers can access clean energy produced on their premises from third-party-owned systems remains wholly dependent on the local utility's attitude toward these arrangements.

Existing Host Customers in Wisconsin Served by Third Party-Owned Renewable Energy Systems

PV

- Kohl's Dept. Stores (three metro MKE locations)

Solar Hot Water

- UW-Oshkosh (dorms)
- UW-Stevens Point (dorms)
- Oakhill Correctional Facility
- Willy St. Co-op

What Would Legislation Do?

Answer: Would allow 3rd party owners of RE systems located on a customer's premises to sell output directly to legal occupant of that property w/out being regulated as a "public utility"

3rd-Party Solar PV Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)



Top Solar Hosts – A Comparison

Host	Solar Capacity (in MW)
Walmart	65
Kohl's	42
Costco	39
IKEA	21
Macy's	16
Staples	14
All of Wisconsin	14

Non-Environmental Message Themes

- Property rights
- Customer choice
- Local economic development
- Let the market decide
- No new mandates or taxes

Which Customer Types Stand to Benefit?

- Big electricity users (e.g., grocery stores, water works, food processing plants)
- Sustainability-minded national businesses (e.g. Kohl's Dept. Stores) + local businesses (e.g., Willy St. Coop)
- Nonprofit entities (govt.'s, schools, congregations)
- Farms + agricultural businesses
- Residences with good solar exposure
- Tribal entities (both as hosts and investors)

Supporters So Far

- **Biogas companies:** *DVO, US Biogas, Symbiont*
- **Energy service companies:** *Johnson Controls*
- **RE developers:** *Clean Energy North America*
- **Cities:** *Milwaukee*
- **Counties:** *Dane, La Crosse, Eau Claire*
- **First Nations:** *Oneida (Div. of Env. Health & Safety)*
- **Food producers:** *Organic Valley Cooperative*
- **Farmers:** *Wisconsin Farmers Union*
- **Business groups:** *WI Business Alliance*
- **Faith:** *WI Council of Churches, Interfaith Power & Light*

Related Activities

- Working with individual developers to design third-party business models that could pass muster under current law
- Identify Community Solar development opportunities involving interested municipalities, civic organizations and electric providers



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Immediate release
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Monona Rolls Out Welcome Mat for Solar Energy *Four City Buildings to be Powered by Rooftop Arrays*

In what will become the largest solar electric project serving a Wisconsin municipality, the City of Monona approved a contract this week that will result in the construction of rooftop arrays supplying renewable energy directly to four city-owned buildings. All four solar systems, totaling 156 kilowatts, should be online by year's end.

The four Monona buildings selected to host the solar electric arrays are: City Hall, Public Library, Public Works Garage, and Public Works Dept. Well No. 3. All told, the solar arrays will produce more than 210,000 kilowatt-hours of clean energy per year, equating to 30% of the buildings' combined electricity usage.

The City will receive a stream of renewable energy credits along with the electrical output under a solar service partnership agreement with Falcon Energy Systems, a Colorado-based investment group. Bloomington, MN-based tenKsolar will manufacture the solar generating arrays, and Madison-based Full Spectrum Solar will install and service the equipment on the city-owned sites. Earlier this month, tenKsolar and Full Spectrum Solar teamed up to install a 48 kilowatt system on the Arbor Crossing apartments in Shorewood Hills.

The project team was assembled by Solar Connections, LLC, a Madison consulting group that has also developed residential solar installations that were financed primarily by friends and neighbors of the host customer.

Consultants Kurt Reinhold and James Yockey first introduced this municipal solar model to the Sustainability Committee of the City of Monona in September of 2012, and has since been joined by Janine Glaeser, City Project Manager, to shepherd this project through numerous committees and hearings before Monday's unanimous vote to adopt the resolution to enter into this solar services contract.

joined by Janine Glaeser, City Project Manager, to shepherd this project through numerous committees and hearings before Monday's unanimous vote to adopt the resolution to enter into this solar services contract.

"Five years ago, Monona passed a resolution committing itself to greatly expand its own use of renewable energy by 2025," said Kurt Reinhold, a principal with Solar Connections. "Not only will this partnership help Monona achieve its sustainable energy goals, it will also help the City save on its energy bills."

"With this action, Monona joins the growing circle of Wisconsin businesses, communities and individuals committed to serving themselves with renewable energy produced on-site," said Michael Vickerman, program and policy director of RENEW Wisconsin, a statewide renewable energy advocacy organization.

"Through their actions, forward-thinking entities like Monona will reduce Wisconsin's dependence on imported fossil fuels in a way that creates jobs and invigorates the local economy," Vickerman said.

-END-

RENEW Wisconsin is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that leads and represents businesses, organizations, and individuals who seek more clean renewable energy in Wisconsin. More information on RENEW's Web site at www.renewwisconsin.org.



For Immediate Release

FALCON ENERGY SYSTEMS BUILDS SOLAR PROJECT FOR CITY of MONONA, WI

Larkspur, CO (July 17, 2013) – Falcon Energy Systems announces the signing of a contract with the City of Monona, Wisconsin for the installation of photovoltaic systems on four of its municipal buildings including the Library, City Hall, a Water Pumping station and Public Works Garage. The project will enable the City of Monona to move toward its goal of becoming an Energy Independent Community and help to achieve its plan to provide 25% of its energy through renewable energy by the year 2025. The savings realized from the installation of the solar panels will pay for the project in approximately 8 years.

Development support, design and installation of the project are being provided by Jim Yockey and Kurt Reinhold of Solar Connections LLC and Full Spectrum Solar, both of Madison Wisconsin. Yockey and Reinhold are the first to develop a model for Wisconsin municipalities to enter into 3rd party financing mechanisms for development of renewable energy.

Falcon Energy Systems and Solar Connections will be working with other communities to install similar solar energy systems in fulfillment of a pledge signed by over 140 Wisconsin cities.

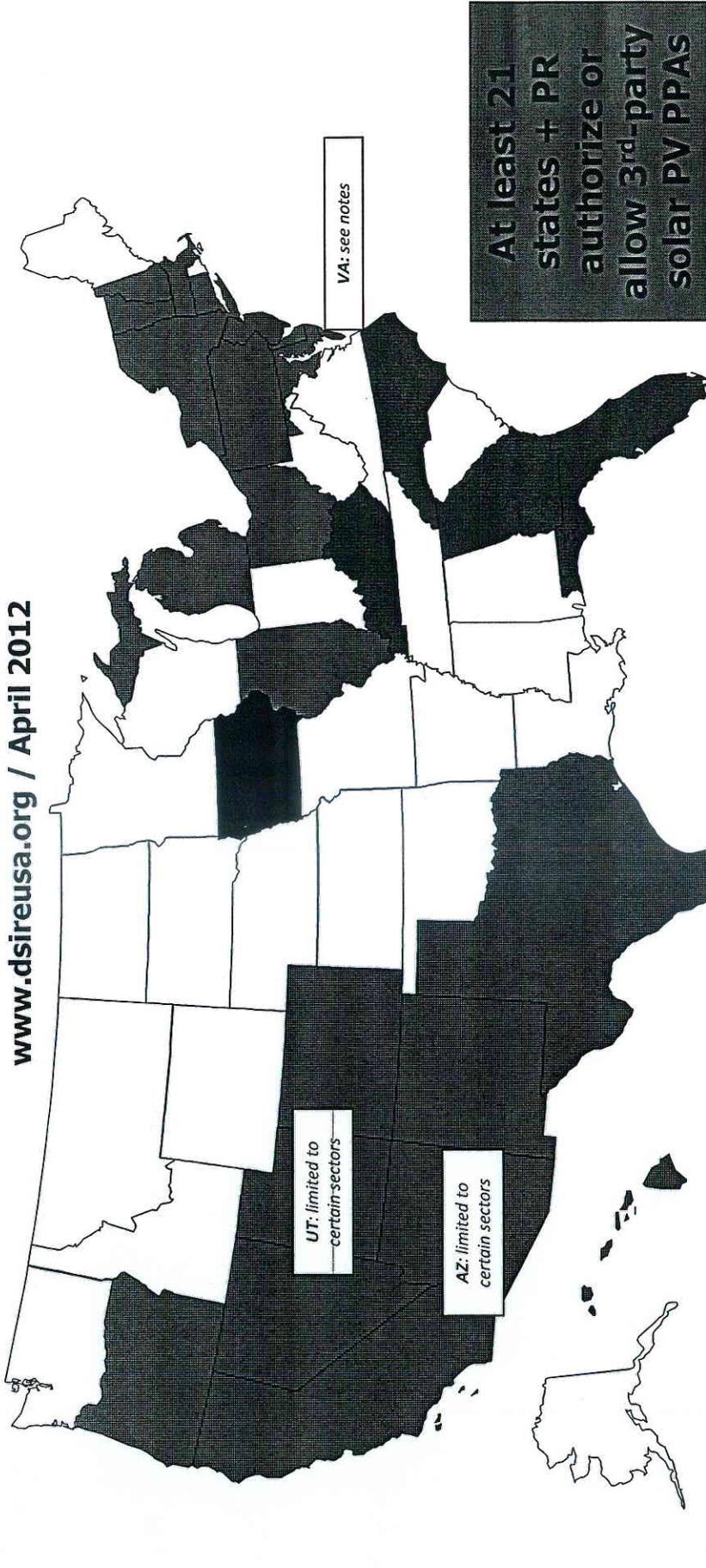
For further details on the project, please contact:

Kurt Reinhold, Solar Connections LLC
608-957-6801
solarconnections@gmail.com

Falcon Energy Systems is a Native-American owned small business based in Larkspur, CO specializing in the development of utility projects impacting energy, sustainability and green design. With over 30 years' experience throughout the world in the renewable energy field, FES offers innovative and cost effective solutions to energy needs.

3rd-Party Solar PV Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

www.dsireusa.org / April 2012



Authorized by state or otherwise currently in use, at least in certain jurisdictions within in the state

Apparently disallowed by state or otherwise restricted by legal barriers

Status unclear or unknown

Note: This map is intended to serve as an unofficial guide; it does not constitute legal advice. Seek qualified legal expertise before making binding financial decisions related to a 3rd-party PPA. See following slides for additional important information and authority references.

■ Puerto Rico

U.S. NEWS

Solar Firms, Utilities in New Power Struggle

By RYAN TRACY

Disputes over the use of small-scale solar power are flaring across the nation, with utilities squaring off against solar-energy marketers over rules for the growing technology.

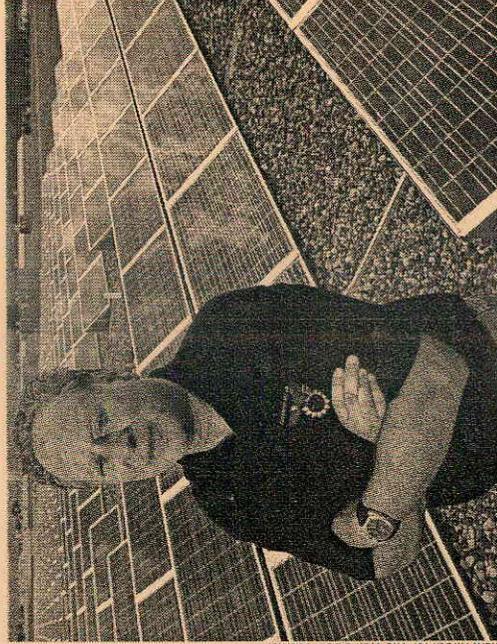
Until now, the fights have been mainly before state regulators. In California, Louisiana and Virginia, utilities have sought to cut what they claim are unfairly high payments they are required to make to owners of homes or larger buildings with solar systems.

At issue in an Iowa lawsuit is whether solar-system marketers can sell electricity in territories where local utilities have exclusive rights to customers. Such an arrangement isn't allowed or is limited in many states, limiting solar firms to sales of panels to homeowners and businesses.

But if they win in Iowa, it could pave the way for fledgling solar industries to expand in other states. The case is being watched closely elsewhere in the Midwest, where policies granting utilities a monopoly on electricity service are one reason a solar-construction boom hasn't occurred, unlike in states such as California and New Jersey.

Utilities "are proponents of renewable energy," said Barry Shear, president of Iowa's Eagle Point Solar LLC, but only "if they own the energy assets and the electrons flow through their grid and they can bill you."

In March, an Iowa District Court judge said Mr. Shear's 18-employee company could sign power-purchase contracts in the Dubuque territory of Alliant Energy Corp., one of the state's largest utilities.



Mark Hirsch for The Wall Street Journal

Barry Shear, president of Eagle Point Solar, which is in a court battle over its power-purchase contracts in the Dubuque, Iowa, territory.

Under the disputed deal, Eagle Point would own solar panels on the roof of a Dubuque municipal building and sell power to the city at a rate similar to Alliant's.

The disputed Dubuque deal employed a "third party" ownership arrangement, in which a rooftop solar system is owned by someone other than the property owner. Solar deals using that structure are growing in popularity—for both residential and commercial properties—because they allow building landlords or homeowners to tap into solar power without a significant upfront investment.

Judge Carla T. Schemmel, overturning an Iowa Utilities Board decision, said Eagle Point could sell solar electricity to the city without encroaching on a utility's lawful turf. She noted that the city would still need to buy electricity from

Alliant when the sun isn't shining. "Eagle Point is neither attempting to replace [the utility nor] sever the link between [the utility] and the city," she wrote. "It is simply allowing the city to decrease its demand for electricity from the grid."

Alliant says the ruling contradicts Iowa's policy of not allowing competition for electricity service. "They were going to be selling energy to one of our customers," said Kim King, manager of the renewable-energy program at Alliant, in an interview.

The ruling was a defeat for Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s MidAmerican Energy Co. unit as well. MidAmerican, another Iowa utility that had sided with Alliant in the case, told the judge in January that if the utilities lost, it could lead to "a proliferation of solar installa-

tion in the state."

Alliant and MidAmerican are appealing to the state Supreme Court. They say their problem isn't with solar plants—each utility already connects to about 100 small-scale renewable-energy systems. Instead, they say they have a problem with the way the deal between Eagle Point and Dubuque was arranged. "This is not a dispute about solar energy. This is about a disagreement in the requirements under Iowa law," said Tina Potthoff, a MidAmerican spokeswoman, in an email.

MidAmerican said in May that it may be capable of generating about 39% of its electricity from wind farms by 2016, making it one of several utilities with large renewable-energy portfolios.

But many of those same utilities have objected to policies they say are too friendly to small-scale renewable-energy generation. NextEra Energy Inc. says it generates more electricity from the wind and sun than any other U.S. company. But its Florida Power & Light unit opposes allowing solar-system marketers to sell electricity to the unit's Florida customers. A spokesman for FP&L said the utility doesn't oppose solar, but Florida law doesn't allow "third party" sales.

In Wisconsin, the question of whether solar-panel marketers can sell power in another utility's service territory is likely to be tested this year, said Michael Vickerman, program and policy director for Renew Wisconsin, a group that advocates use of solar power in that state. "If the utility objects, we may go down the same route that we saw in Iowa," he said.



222 S. Hamilton, Madison, WI 53703

Wisconsin Needs To Adopt a Clean Energy Choice Policy

Current ambiguities in Wisconsin public utility law interfere with customers' ability to access clean energy produced on their premises. In states where third party contracts for solar electricity are expressly allowed, such as Arizona and Colorado, such arrangements have accounted for up to 90 percent of new installations, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. Such arrangements allow customers who don't have several thousand dollars in savings to exercise a free market choice about how they obtain electricity. If they want a solar PV system, for example, they can host one without being forced to spend thousands of dollars in up-front system costs.

But here in Wisconsin, we have a problem. A large utility (Alliant Energy) took legal action in the neighboring state of Iowa to stop the City of Dubuque from buying solar power directly from a company that would own and manage panels on city buildings. And the risk of protracted, expensive legal challenges from utilities so far has deterred third-party solar companies from trying to do business in Wisconsin.

The effect of this ambiguity is to restrict property rights and citizens' freedom of choice. What is needed is a policy that clarifies one's right to purchase renewable energy produced by equipment located on their premises. To achieve this objective, we are leading a grassroots effort, which we call **Clean Energy Choice**, to embed in state law a citizen's right to access clean energy produced on his or her premises.

- A **Clean Energy Choice** policy would affirm customers' right to decide how they wish to purchase, lease, or implement a renewable energy system for their site.
- Because **Clean Energy Choice** allows third parties to provide the needed up-front capital that customers may not have, this policy will greatly expand the number of energy users who can host solar, wind, or biogas systems serving their homes or businesses. This arrangement provides customers with a **market-ready tool for determining their preferred electricity resource mix**.
- **Clean Energy Choice** would help households and businesses overcome the diminishing supply of renewable energy incentive dollars available from Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program and utilities at **no extra cost to ratepayers and taxpayers**.

- In contrast to standard utility electric service, obtaining renewable electricity directly from an on-site system would enable households and businesses to lock in predetermined prices for 10 years or longer. The price of energy from a renewable energy system does not increase or decrease as a result of short-term fluctuations in the cost of conventional fossil fuels. **This arrangement delivers predictability and security to a host residence or business.**

- Nonprofit entities such as schools and houses of worship cannot take advantage of existing federal tax credits for renewable energy. ***Clean Energy Choice*** will enable these entities to team up with for-profit companies that can take full advantage of these incentives **and pass the savings along to their nonprofit hosts.**

- Electricity from a third party-owned system usually flows to the customer directly, offsetting consumption, or it is sold to the utility under an approved tariff. **The rate impact from such installations would be negligible.**

- ***Clean Energy Choice*** will greatly expand market opportunities for Wisconsin companies and their employees who are part of the state's renewable energy supply chain. For example, there are an estimated 135 companies in Wisconsin participating in the solar market, including Helios, Ingeteam, and Caleffi, three Milwaukee-based manufacturers.

July 2013

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE

We, the undersigned businesses, organizations, and individuals, affirm our belief that the road to a sustainable economy in Wisconsin runs through the state's own clean renewable energy sources. Integrating locally available renewables into our economy engages a vast supply chain of local manufacturers, distributors and installers, farmers, builders, entrepreneurs, and related professional workers. Local renewables secure relatively clean, risk-free and low-maintenance energy to a state with no fossil fuel reserves. Renewables also help keep energy dollars circulating within Wisconsin.

As both utility customers and citizens, we support policies that expand opportunities to access renewable energy where we live or work. There are more than 20 states (such as Illinois, Michigan, California, Colorado, Missouri and New Jersey) that expressly allow third-party ownership of renewable energy systems on a customer's premises. In those states, the renewable energy system need not be owned by the host customer. Instead, host customers can sign a contract with a third party who installs, operates, and owns a renewable energy system on the customer's premises. Those states that allow third-party owned renewable energy systems now have the most active markets in the country for small renewable energy systems.

We believe the Wisconsin renewable energy business community will enjoy substantial and sustained growth if allowed to use the same tools that are available in over 20 states. This is why we strongly endorse the **Clean Energy Choice** initiative, and look forward to supporting legislation that would exempt third party-owned renewable energy systems that sell energy directly to the host customer from the definition of a public utility.

Clean Energy Choice embraces the virtues of customer choice, fiscal responsibility, property rights and social responsibility. It is a policy tool that allows citizens to exercise their preferences for renewable energy at no extra cost to ratepayers and taxpayers. For those reasons, we the undersigned enthusiastically support **Clean Energy Choice** and urge Wisconsin policymakers to adopt this initiative.

To add your business or organization's name to the list of signatories above, contact Michael Vickerman at 608.255.4044x2 or mvickerman@renewwisconsin.org

A list of Clean Energy Choice supporters, as of July 25, 2013 appears on the reverse side.

Able Energy (River Falls)
 Adobe REO (Dodgeville)
 ALT Energy (Sussex)
 Artha Sustainable Living Center (Amherst)
 Carl Siegrist Consulting, LLC (Whitefish Bay)
 Carlson Mapping and Analysis LLC (Sun Prairie)
 Central Rivers Farmshed (Stevens Point)
 Chimney Specialists (Highland)
 Citizens for a Clean, Green, and Welcoming
 Community (Wisconsin Rapids)
 Clean Energy North America (Milwaukee)
 Clean Wisconsin (Statewide)
 City of Milwaukee (Milwaukee)
 Convergence Energy (Lake Geneva)
 CSI Sun (Highland)
 Current Electric Co. (Brookfield)
 Dane County (Madison)
 Door County Environmental Council (Sturgeon
 Bay/FishCreek)
 DVO, Inc. (Chilton)
 E3 Coalition (Viroqua)
 Eau Claire County (Eau Claire)
 Eland Electric (Green Bay)
 Energize LLC – (Winneconne)
 Environmental Law and Policy Center (Madison)
 Energy Concepts (Hudson)
 Energy Consulting Network (Madison)
 Full Spectrum Solar (Madison)
 Global Infrastructure Asset Management LLC
 (Madison)
 Grading Spaces (Fort Atkinson)
 Green Neighbor (Wauwatosa)
 Green Sky Energetics (Manitowoc)
 H&H Solar Group (Madison)
 Helios USA (Milwaukee)
 Hoffman Planning, Design and Construction, Inc.
 (Appleton)
 Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin
 (Statewide)
 Johnson Controls (Milwaukee)
 Kettle View Renewable Energy (Random Lake)
 L&S Technical Associates, Inc. (Spring Green)
 La Crosse County (La Crosse)
 Lake Michigan Wind and Sun (Sturgeon Bay)
 Legacy Solar, Inc. (Frederic)
 Lemberg Electric (Brookfield)
 Let It Shine Energy Services (Washburn)
 Madison Solar Consulting (Madison)
 Midwest Renewable Energy Association (Custer)
 Milwaukee Solar (Milwaukee)
 Miron Construction (Neenah)
 Next Step Energy (Eau Claire)
 North American Solar Stores (Madison)
 North Wind Renewable Energy (Stevens Point)
 Oneida Nation – Environmental, Health & Safety
 Division (Oneida)
 Organic Valley Cooperative (LaFarge)
 Photovoltaic Systems LLC (Amherst)
 Planet Bike (Madison)
 Positive Energy Alternatives (Memonomie)
 Prairie Solar Power & Light (Prairie du Chien)
 Productive Energy Solutions (Madison)
 RENEW Wisconsin (Statewide)
 REpowerNow (Viroqua)
 Resource Solar (Madison)
 Ritger Law Office (Random Lake)
 Sand Creek Consultants (Amherst)
 Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter (Statewide)
 Solar Connections (Madison)
 Southwest Badger Resource and Development
 Council (Platteville)
 Sun and Daughters Solar LLC (Rhineland)
 SunPower Corporation (Verona)
 SunSpec (Milwaukee)
 SunVest (Pewaukee)
 Superior Safety and Environmental Services
 (Middleton)
 Sustainable Atwood (Madison)
 Sustainable Engineering Group (Madison)
 Symbiont (Milwaukee)
 TAPCO – Traffic and Parking Control Inc.
 (Milwaukee)
 Tom Brown, Architect (Stevens Point)
 Town and Country Resource and Development
 (Jefferson)
 U.S. Biogas (Mequon)
 W.E.S. Engineering (Madison)
 Werner Electric (Neenah)
 Wisconsin Business Alliance (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Council of Churches – Stewardship of
 Public Life Commission (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Environment (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Farmers Union (Chippewa Falls)
 Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Solar Energy Industries Association
 (Statewide)

Collaboration and Partnership Opportunities with the U.S. Forest Service for Restoration/Afforestation, Biomass, and Environmental Remediation

Background and Justification

The Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies in Rhinelander, WI has been a leader in ecological research for over five decades, with emphasis on both coniferous and deciduous forest species.

Conifer research began in 1957. Early work primarily consisted of breeding and genetics of economically-important conifer species. Some of the forest management tools from this research are still relevant, including dozens of long-term testing sites established throughout the Lake States. In addition to genetics, the Institute's research consisted of diseases of seed, seedlings, and plantations of northern conifers, in addition to the physiology of wood formation and impacts of atomic radiation on forests.

Short rotation woody crop (i.e., poplars and willows) research began in 1968. Much of the early work focused on feedstock production for energy and fiber (i.e., biomass), with an emphasis on developing productive and sustainable silvicultural systems. Genetics, physiology, and vegetation management were priorities. Given the information learned during these decades coupled with the growing need for merging intensive forestry with waste management, environmental remediation research began in the mid-1990s.

Current science at the Institute is largely based on these legacy conifer and hardwood programs. Given synergies among such research capabilities and regional needs for ecosystem services, the timing is ideal for developing partnerships among Institute researchers and Great Lakes tribes.

Restoration/Afforestation

Problem

- There is a major need for restoration/afforestation methods in disturbed areas, such as along shorelines and sites where flow obstructions from perched culverts have caused vegetation mortality.

Solution

- Establishment of willow and poplar riparian buffers contributes to decreased agricultural runoff and increased water and soil quality.
- Removal of obstructions and re-establishment with superior conifer selections (from the testing sites described above) can be used to restore wetlands and adjacent forest habitats.

Forest Service Contribution

- Access to thousands of experimental varieties that outperform commercially available poplar/willow
- Access to dozens of provenances within numerous conifer species appropriate for afforestation
- Existing partnerships in the conifer community (for enhancing restoration/afforestation opportunities)

Biomass

Problem

- There is a major need for biomass feedstock sources for traditional forest products, as well as energy for combined heat and power (i.e., electricity) and biofuels.

Solution

- Short rotation woody crops are renewable feedstocks that can be grown to provide woody biomass and reduce our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy, while conserving soil and water, recycling nutrients, and sequestering carbon.

Forest Service Contribution

- Decades of expertise with genetics, physiology, and silviculture of short rotation woody crops
- Access to thousands of experimental varieties that outperform commercially available poplar/willow
- Global leader in the short rotation crops community (for enhancing biomass opportunities)

Environmental Remediation

Problem

- There is a major need for tree-based systems used for environmental remediation, given that contaminants from residential and industrial waste streams have polluted water and soil much faster than traditional technologies can remediate the problem.

Solution

- Short rotation woody crops exhibit fast growth, elevated water usage, and extensive root systems, which allows them to be used effectively for environmental remediation and subsequent restoration.

Forest Service Contribution

- Decades of expertise with genetics, physiology, and silviculture of short rotation woody crops
- Access to thousands of experimental varieties that outperform commercially available poplar/willow
- Global leader in the environmental remediation community (for enhancing remediation opportunities)
- Utilization of phyto-recurrent selection, a method developed at the Institute that is used to test and select varieties based on specific contaminants and site conditions

Capacity for Collaboration

- Rich history of collaboration with tribes, industry, academia, private individuals, and government agencies at all levels (local, county, state, federal, international)
- Extensive technical expertise, including writing and administering grant proposals from USDOE, USEPA, USDA NRCS, USDA AFRI, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- Elevated cost-share potential
- State-of-the-art facilities and equipment for cutting-edge research and application (see details below)

Facilities and Equipment

- **Controlled environment facilities**
Greenhouses, growth chambers, controlled-environment room, shadehouses, large-capacity drying ovens, walk-in cooler, grinding stations
- **Analytical laboratories**
N-C analyzer, AA spectrophotometer, HPLC, fiber analyzer, bench spectrophotometer, rapid flow analyzer, centrifuges, freeze drier
- **GIS laboratory and modeling capabilities**
High-performance work stations, Trimble GPS units, large-format plotter
- **Hugo Sauer Nursery**
125-acre site with numerous outbuildings, irrigated nursery beds, permanent fence (13-acres), and farm equipment (e.g., tractor, etc.)
- **Harshaw Research Farm**
540-acre site with offices, implement shed, field laboratory, irrigation, permanent fence (80-acres), and farm equipment (e.g., tractor, etc.)

Contact Information

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Team Leader – Phytotechnologies, Genetics and Energy Crop Production Unit
Research Plant Geneticist
U.S. Forest Service
Northern Research Station
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Email: rzalesny@fs.fed.us
Phone: (715) 362-1132

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/Zalesny>

http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/units/iaes/focus/energy_climate_genetics/



Wisconsin State Office
8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53717-25
(608) 662-4422

April 12, 2013

Patrick J. Pelky, President
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155

Dear Mr. Pelky,

This letter is in response to your correspondence of March 18, 2013 and our meeting on March 27th here in the USDA – NRCS State Office in Madison.

Thank you again for your work and interactions with NRCS. By working together we can make a difference.

WI NRCS Response to WTCAC EQIP Letter Dated March 18, 2013

1. Access Roads in Forested settings. Under what conditions may EQIP funding be used to construct an access road in a forested setting? What pre conditions must exist? (i.e. Forest Management Plan, Planned activity) What are eligible management activities? What Resource Concerns are applicable? What has changed? WTCAC was not very successful in finding projects that were eligible to obtain funding through EQIP for most Access Roads in 2013. Consider developing a Scenario under Critical Area Planting appropriate to seeding down, Access Roads, and Forest Trails and landings that accommodates the linear nature of these disturbed areas, and adequately supports the cost of seeding.
 - a. NRCS must ensure that the Access Road practice addresses, or supports another practice that addresses, a resource concern eligible for EQIP. Additional clarification will be provided to WTCAC Members on the identification of resource concerns and how to identify the appropriate practice standards to address those resource concerns. Critical Area Planting (342) may be used for spot treatments of linear sites such as roads and trails which can be converted to acres for use with this practice.
2. Endangered Species. What is the NRCS opinion on when Tribes must address State listed Threatened or Endangered Species to implement an EQIP practice? Does the issue

change based on how the land is held? (Trust, Tribal Owned, Tribal Member owned/Fee Land)? What about State Permits?

- a. NRCS will visit with DNR – BER to communicate the Tribal Nation interests and desires, and to inform them of NRCS’s responsibility to adhere to Tribal Laws. WI NRCS will also confirm this approach with the national office.

3. Fish Cribs. Currently there is no WI-NRCS Standard under which this practice can be included in the EQIP Practice Schedule. A Standard (Fish Pond or other Standard) needs to be added to the Technical Guide to accommodate this practice in the 2014 EQIP practice schedule.

- a. NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to this concern, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process.

4. Aquaculture Pond. Currently the only Resource Concern, under which an Aquaculture facility can be funded by EQIP, is based on an existing facility not being adequate to produce fish. WTCAC would like to have an eligible Resource Concern based on Tribal Concerns about inadequate stocks of fish species, in waters of Tribal concern, and that are of Tribal importance for subsistence farming. The current limit of \$300,000 per contract, and the maximum limits on Scenarios, is restrictive to feasibility of constructing, or reconstructing, a hatchery facility. Additional data that supports this need is available from WTCAC.

- a. As a reminder, NRCS is a conservation organization and not a production agriculture organization. NRCS will work with WTCAC to establish a sub-committee for investigating this issue over the long-term.

5. Bio-Engineering for Streambank restoration. WTCAC would like to have an EQIP practice scenario developed to allow funding of the use of non-living bio materials such as, root wads, wood posts, or other materials. Many sites on Tribal Lands are not accessible with machinery and need to be restored with manual labor.

- a. There is an existing scenario under Practice 580, and on page 80 of the FY-2013 “Cookbook” that covers this situation. NRCS will work to provide additional clarification regarding this matter for the FY-2014 “cookbook”. In addition, the definition will be clarified in Standard 580.

6. Aquaponics. WTCAC is interested in pursuing the development of an EQIP practice scenario to fund the installation of Aquaponic facilities for tribal food production, and utilization of hatchery waste water.

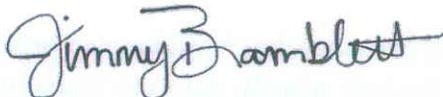
- a. NRCS will plan to use the same sub-committee established under item 5 above to investigate this matter as well. This topic will also be a long-term collaboration to determine how we might be able to provide technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

7. Practice Scenario under standard 396 (Aquatic Organism Passage) earth fill removal, the cost share level is too low. Perhaps second Scenario needed to address smaller structures.

- a. WTCAC has agreed to provide more detail on this need, and work with NRCS on identifying the appropriate practice and/or scenario to address the resource concern identified.
8. Practice scenario under standard 516 (Pipeline) the cost share level for HDPE pipe is far too low, will not even cover the cost of the pipe for Aquaculture Ponds. Change from PVC to HDPE.
 - a. NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to this concern, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process.
9. WTCAC would like to add *Betula papyrifera* (White Birch) to the list of eligible tree species for planting under Standard 612 (Tree & Shrub establishment)
 - a. White Birch will be added to the eligible species list for Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) in FY-2014.
10. WTCAC would like to request that the unit of measure for Practice 395 (Stream Habitat Improvement & Management) be changed from Acres to Feet. This may be a National Issue.
 - a. NRCS-Wisconsin is limited by national guidance on this matter. We will express the concerns/desires of WTCAC to the Ecological Sciences Division at our National Headquarters Office in an attempt to effectuate a change back from acres to feet and number.
11. Under practice 315, WTCAC would like to have Scenarios developed for mechanical (hand pulling and disposal of invasive species) for both uplands, and water bodies that would more accurately reflect the true cost of this type of management. When using Chemical control, scenarios are needed that clearly differentiate Chemical Spot Treatment, Chemical Aquatic Spot Treatment, and Chemical Aquatic Treatment.
 - a. NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to mechanical invasive species removal in wetlands, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process as well as provided additional guidance on existing scenarios.
12. When dealing with Stream Crossings, consider changing from a Stream Crossing Scenario to an Aquatic Organism Passage Scenario if it is anticipated that a minimum Stream Crossing will result in obstruction of organism passage. Don't create a problem to go back and fix! Also consider adding additional Scenarios to accommodate small stream channels or drainageways (intermittent) with lower cost options than culverts or constructed crossings.
 - a. NRCS will work add a Practice Scenario, related to this concern, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process.
13. Not all invasive species that are often controlled by tribes are currently listed on the WI-DNR invasive species list, which is referenced in the EQIP Practice Schedule. It is recommended that this reference be eliminated and defer to the judgment of local resource managers to determine what species are invasive locally.

- a. NRCS requests that WTCAC develop a list of invasive plant species for NRCS review that builds upon the list from WDNR.
14. For many reasons, particularly securing partner funding, and Tribal Council approval, it would be very helpful to WTCAC if the EQIP Practice Schedule could be available to make application decisions much earlier in the Fiscal year, (August) rather than mid December.
- a. NRCS will evaluate the annual cycle of funding, and identify ways to work with WTCAC on providing early information and/or training in preparation for the upcoming program cycle.
15. Consider adding Fire prevention as a Resource Concern to some activities to facilitate the addition of practices to prevent Wild Fire; i.e. Woody residue Mgt, Timber Stand Improvement, Tree Pruning.
- a. Wildfire hazard will be an eligible resource concern for 2014. Additional clarification will be provided to WTCAC Members on the identification of resource concerns and how to identify the appropriate practice standards to support those resource concerns.

Sincerely,



JIMMY BRAMBLETT
State Conservationist



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
Agency

Columbia County FSA Office
2912 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 608-742-5361
Fax: 608-742-0194

Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – August 5, 2013

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison, (608) 742-5361 ext 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

One USDA Session with Tribes – The State FSA director and local FSA office employees will be taking part in this session scheduled for early September. I've contacted the state leaders to be sure they can make it for this important event.

2013 Farm Bill - Someday we hope to have one! We are experiencing major budget and staffing cuts right now and there could be some sort of restructuring of FSA. Not sure what that will involve. At the minimum right now, FSA staffing in the state has to reduce by 18 employees. This could change once the budget and farm bill are passed.

CRP Signup #45 – About 318,000 acres were accepted in Wisconsin – 14,000 bids offered and 12,000 accepted. The EBI cutoff was 209, so those at 209 or greater were accepted. FSA is currently notifying producers if they are accepted or not. Those accepted must get a conservation plan done with NRCS or the Forest Service by September 6th (earlier for trees)

Continuous CRP #44: May 13 - September 30th: FSA offices can still accept offers and approve contracts for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), and SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement)

COC Election/Advisors – The nomination period for active farmers or tribal members to run for positions on the local FSA County Committee ended on August 2nd. Ballots will be sent out in early November and must be returned by early December. New members take office in January 2014. At any time, tribal members can send in a written request to their local FSA office to serve as a paid, non-voting Minority Advisor.

FSA Farm Loan Funding & AUGUST Interest Rates: Loan funds are not tied to the Farm Bill. Wisconsin is hoping to get approximately 5.5 million in loan funds in August to take care of the Farm Ownership Loans that have been approved and have been waiting for funding. FSA anticipates a big lending year in 2014. We hope to get our 2014 funding soon after October 1, which is when our fiscal year starts.

- 1 year annual and 7-year operating & MICROLOANS – 1.50 % (3-week wait unless SDA)
- 40 year ownership loans – 3.625% (National waiting list – hope to fund all soon)
- Emergency loans – 2.50% (funding available)

Microloans – Anyone interested in our Microloan (or other loan program) should contact the local FSA office. Details were provided at the last WTCAC meeting. \$35,000 max loan amount with limited paperwork and eligibility requirements. These are great loans for anyone wanting to start up a small niche operation or enhance their existing operation.



File Code: 1580/3000

Date: August 2, 2013

TO: Northeastern Area State Foresters

**Fiscal Year 2014 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals**

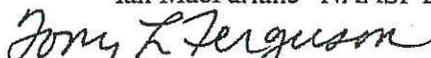
PROPOSALS DUE COB October 15, 2013

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals (RFP). The competitive approach is intended to maximize flexibility and provide Federal funding for projects that address nationally and regionally significant issues or landscapes as identified in State Forest Action Plans and described by the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) national themes.

The FY2014 Competitive Allocation RFP will incorporate the national S&PF Competitive Allocation ("Redesign Grants") and the Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation RFP as two separate categories within this single solicitation. The "Redesign Grants" must be in line with the authorities for urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, forest health, and forest fire hazard mitigation S&PF programs either singularly or in combination. Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation proposals are to focus on hazardous wildland fuel treatments, community/homeowner education, and activities that reduce wildfire risk as identified in the program direction. This process will not include funds or incorporate authorities from Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, and Federal Lands Forest Health Management programs. Projects may be carried out on any combination of land ownerships; however, S&PF funds are to be spent on non-Federal lands as directed by S&PF authorities. **Significant changes in FY2014 are listed in the RFP guidance document.**

During proposal development, we encourage applicants to consult with NA S&PF Field Office Representatives and Field Office staff as well as Cooperative Fire Staff in Newtown Square. In addition, NA S&PF will host a webinar(s) to explain the RFP process and provide technical assistance related to proposal development. If there are questions regarding the FY2013 Competitive Allocation RFP, please contact the appropriate NA S&PF Field Office Representative or the NAASF Executive Director:

- Barb Tormoehlen – St. Paul, MN, at (651) 649-5276 or btormoehlen@fs.fed.us
- Bob Lueckel – Morgantown, WV, at (304) 285-1540 or rlueckel@fs.fed.us
- Terry Miller – Durham, NH, at (603) 868-7694 or twmiller@fs.fed.us
- Ian MacFarlane – NAASF Executive Director at (202) 526-4804 or Ian.macfarlane@mail.wvu.edu


TONY L. FERGUSON

Area Director

Enclosure

cc: NA Executive Team

NA State Departments of Ag.

Fiscal Year 2014 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals

The Fiscal Year 2014 Competitive Allocation Process

Important Changes in FY2014 (more information is provided below, or contact your field representative):

- A single form is now used for all project proposals. Proposals with more than one intended recipient of funds or contributor of match or non-match funds must submit supplemental budget tables for each partner organization clearly indicating the **State** of the office to which the funds are to be directly disbursed, or the match applied.
- Accomplishment reporting requirements will include project spatial data (for entry into SMART – the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool) and may be further amended in both the reporting measures and the reporting interface.
- Requirement to document the appropriateness of project scale to suit the issue. The project scale will be a function of the most appropriate size associated with the issue or landscape of national importance, and may result in single, multistate, or multiregion implementation.
- Request to identify the appropriate category of land ownership, which determines what authority may be used to fund the project.
- Federal funding requested is calculated directly from budget table(s).
- Listing partners separately and entering the number of concurrence letters (which may be submitted separately) helps ensure complete proposals and document State Forester concurrence.
- This year's budget table allows room for explanatory remarks to clarify budget items. Please note any project components that might exceed budget authorities.
- Additional space is provided for Measurable Results and Significant On-The-Ground Outcomes. It is still acceptable to use supplemental custom measures, but we highly encourage the use of both the Current and New Measures to document how your project addresses the relevant national State and Private Forestry themes. There is now no need to select the category separately.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Competitive Allocation process for the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) is consistent with the ***FY2014 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance (revised 4/03/13)***. This national guide is available at http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/fy2014_compet_guide.pdf. This request for proposals (RFP) will have two categories of projects: **Redesign** and **Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation**. The Redesign category is the appropriate and sole submission opportunity for forest health management and treatment projects (see page 3 for excluded projects). A combination of Redesign and Forest Health funds will be used to support forest health-related submissions, as appropriate. If funding for forest health methods development becomes available, a separate RFP solicitation will be issued.

Key Points

- There is no limit on the number of proposals (single or multistate) any one State may submit. **However, the same proposal may not be submitted under both the Redesign and Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation categories.**
- The minimum project proposal amount in Federal funding for Redesign grants is \$25,000; however, there is no minimum proposal amount for the Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation category.
- The maximum amount of Federal funding that will be awarded to any one State (State cap) via this competitive process is 15 percent of the total available funding for each RFP category.
- All proposals must identify the lead agency.
- Multipartner proposals must clearly identify the partners that would receive funding directly and identify the correct State. This information is critical to determine the amount charged to each State's cap. Be sure to gather concurrence of all State Foresters representing States with proposed financial or material partners.
- Funding available for this RFP does not include, nor does it affect, core program funding.
- Proposals will be fully funded to the extent possible once the final NA S&PF FY2014 budget is received.

Eligibility

In FY2014, State forestry agencies and the District of Columbia are eligible to submit or authorize proposals (pass-through direct to partners) for consideration under this competition. Nonprofit organizations, universities, tribes, and other partners must submit proposals through the State Forester where the activity will be conducted. For-profit organizations are not eligible to submit proposals under this competition. State Foresters will collaborate with State agriculture agency directors or other organization directors with State forest health program responsibilities who may submit proposals through the State Forester or directly with a letter documenting concurrence from the State Forester.

Additional information

- Where appropriate, States are encouraged to develop multistate projects in collaboration with other State forestry agencies and partners. Multipartner proposals must include letters of concurrence from each fiscal partner and all affected State Foresters.
- Projects proposed through this process may extend or expand upon other work supported by Federal funds; however, activities and accomplishments must be tracked and reported separately.
- Projects may span up to 3 years, with full funding committed at the time of award.
- Funds to be passed through as a grant to third-party recipients must be clearly identified with the name of the organization, contact information, and funding amount. Third-party pass-through funding amounts will count towards a State's total allocation.
- If selected, any project that includes forest health suppression, restoration, or eradication activities may not be included under a consolidated grant.

Projects Excluded from Consideration under this RFP

1. Gypsy moth suppression, eradication, and Slow-the-Spread (STS) projects. These are determined by cooperative surveys or other efforts in cooperation with the STS Foundation.
2. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Methods Proposals are solicited through a separate process.
3. National and cross-regional forest health initiatives such as oak wilt control, Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR), Evaluation Monitoring (EM), Forest Service Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (FS-PIAP), and Special Technology Development Projects (STDP). These are run through a separate national process.
4. Forest health methods (applied technology development). These may be solicited separately, depending on the availability of funds.
5. Purchase of fire department equipment, including fire weather stations; purchase and installation of dry fire hydrants.
6. Small business start-up funding.
7. Research and development projects.
8. Capital improvements (facilities and infrastructure).
9. Fire preparedness and suppression capacity building.
10. Economic Development Projects.

Proposal Requirements for All Requests

FY2014 NA S&PF Competitive Allocation RFP applications will proceed for funding consideration **only** if they meet the required elements below:

1. Link to Forest Action Plans, national and regional priorities.

In 2010, each State and the District of Columbia completed a State Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (now referred to as a Forest Action Plan). These documents outline priority issues or landscapes within each State and are available at <http://www.forestactionplans.org>. The proposed project's goals must address and be clearly linked to resource objectives and/or priorities in the Forest Action Plan. Project deliverables must demonstrate how the project will help the State achieve the desired future condition documented in the Forest Action Plan. For multistate projects, the proposal deliverables must link to the Forest Action Plan of each State involved.

Project goals should be clearly linked to the objectives of one or more of the national State and Private Forestry themes: 1) conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses, 2) protect forests from threats, and 3) enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

2. Required matching funds (50/50 minimum).

The match must be met by eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match provisions in grant regulations (see Federal Regulations Part 3015–Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, Subpart G at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&SID=1e16a721735f221026c2dc1bf92d48b1&rgn=div5&view=text&node=7:15.1.8.2.3&idno=7>).

3. Appropriate and authorized use of Federal funds.

Proposals must conform to laws and authorities laid out in *The Principal Laws Relating to USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs* (available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/SPF-CF%20handbook.pdf>). The authorities for this RFP—Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, and Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation—may be used singly or in combination. **All respective program reporting requirements will apply to any funds disbursed through this grant process.**

Project Submission and Selection

Documentation for submitting proposals under the FY2014 NA S&PF Competitive Allocation process is available on the NA S&PF Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp>. Please submit proposals in the appropriate fillable PDF form to the e-mail inbox na-rfp@fs.fed.us **no later than close of business on October 15, 2013. Submit each proposal under one and only one RFP category.**

Note: The proposal submission inbox can accept messages up to 4 MB in size. Multiple messages per proposal may be submitted if necessary. Please be sure any supplemental materials or separate e-mails are clearly labeled with the full descriptive project title or proposal number if it has been assigned. Additional information such as maps, tables, and letters of support may be included in addition to the proposal. For assistance submitting proposals to the inbox, contact Terry James at trjames@fs.fed.us or by calling (610) 557-4107.

A Competitive Allocation Review Team consisting of an equal number of State representatives and NA S&PF leaders will collaboratively review, evaluate, and prioritize project proposals. The number of team members will be determined based on total number of proposals submitted and reviewer workload. Proposals will undergo a preliminary review to identify incomplete applications and assign potential funding eligibility based on the project's scope of work and whether it meets the required elements identified in the *Proposal Requirements for All Requests* section.

The interagency review team will complete the review of proposals and develop a recommended ranked list of projects by the end of December 2013. The recommended list of proposals will be submitted to the NAASF Executive Committee for concurrence and to the NA S&PF Director for approval. The NA S&PF Executive Team will then identify the appropriate mix of program funds and compile the FY2014 grant list with funding sources. Projects ranked but not funded will receive further consideration by the NAASF Executive Committee and the NA S&PF Director should additional funds become available.

For Further Information

- Barb Tormoehlen – Field Office Rep., St. Paul, MN: (651) 649-5276 or btormoehlen@fs.fed.us
- Bob Lueckel – Field Office Rep., Morgantown, WV: (304) 285-1540 or rlueckel@fs.fed.us
- Terry Miller – Field Office Rep., Durham, NH: (603) 868-7694 or twmiller@fs.fed.us
- Ian MacFarlane – NAASF Executive Director: (202) 526-4804
or ian.macfarlane@mail.wvu.edu

State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation Process Background

Competitive allocation of funds was codified in Section 8007 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246, known as the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill). Section 8007 outlines a process for competitively allocating funds to State Foresters or equivalent State officials and requires that the Secretary of Agriculture consult with the Federal Advisory Forest Resource Coordinating Committee when determining the competitive allocation of funds.

Beginning in FY2008, a percentage of the national S&PF allocation was invested in projects selected through a competitive process. State Foresters and U.S. Forest Service leaders in the Northeast, South, and West jointly administer this process using the national guidance described below. Each geographic region (NE, S, and W, based on National Association of State Forester regions) designs its competitive process to address two groups of issues:

- 1) Geographically significant issues and landscapes now identified in its Forest Action Plans, and
- 2) Broad themes (specifically the national S&PF themes and priorities identified in the Farm Bill) and direction provided at the national level.

National FY2014 Allocation Process

In FY2014, up to 15 percent of the net available S&PF allocation will be designated for the competitive allocation. The net available funding will consist of S&PF funds available after national commitments are removed.

The net available will include funds that are traditionally transferred to State forestry agencies as well as funds that support S&PF capacity in the U.S. Forest Service Regional/Area Offices and the Washington Office. The U.S. Forest Service Regions/Area will engage their State Forester partners in determining any reductions of funds that support U.S. Forest Service S&PF capacity.

For FY2014, the net available will include funds in the following programs: Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands (National Fire Plan), State Fire Assistance, and State Fire Assistance (National Fire Plan). The competitive allocation will not include funds from Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, and Federal Lands Forest Health Management programs.

In conjunction with the distribution of initial budget advice to the U.S. Forest Service Regional/Area Offices, each geographic region will be informed of the amount to be available to them for competitive project allocation based on current distribution formulas.

Category 1: National State and Private Forestry Competitive Resource Allocation (Redesign Grants)

Redesign grants are intended to “*shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.*” Ideally, proposals will address national State and Private Forestry themes (http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/pdf/performance_measure_table.pdf) by targeting State and Private Forestry program funds to the highest priority unmet conservation needs within a State as laid out in each State Forest Action Plan (<http://www.forestactionplans.org/regions/northeastern-region>). The project’s scale will be a function of the most appropriate size associated with the issue or landscape of national importance, and may result in single, multistate, or multiregion implementation.

Redesign projects can integrate (mix) program authorities and the funding streams of Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Fire, and Forest Health to meet project objectives. This competitive process allows funds to flow toward novel projects with complex needs that address well-vetted priorities with strong assurance of achieving meaningful outcomes.

Eligible Activities under the Redesign Request for Proposals

The Category 1 Redesign RFP allows State Foresters and their partner applicants to mix S&PF programs, authorities, and funding to achieve the priorities and strategies described in their Forest Action Plan. Proposed projects need to address priority issues and threats, produce measureable results, involve collaboration with partners that results in added value, and maximize S&PF funding by using it to leverage contributions from both Federal and non-Federal entities. Successful projects may contain elements of one or more of the S&PF programs identified above.

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Landscape restoration, including invasive species management using prescribed fire. Wildland-urban interface projects that combine hazard mitigation, urban community outreach, and invasives management through Stewardship project planning.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan areas, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and other landscape-scale planning areas.
- Holistic planning and implementation to address Forest Action Plans. Conservation education efforts that transcend programs and authorities. Ecosystem services projects.
- Tree planting projects in urban and municipal areas that conform to guidelines that address the number of trees to be planted and the species and size of trees.
- Strategic outreach efforts to land managers/owners facing urban sprawl, invasive species, and threats from wildfire.
- Integrated efforts to improve management of nonindustrial private forest lands according to the Forest Action Plan.

Reporting and Accountability

New in FY2014 is the requirement to enter spatial data associated with selected projects into the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool (SMART) system. The State and Private Forestry Board of Directors remains committed to the concept of using one core set of measures to tell the story of State and Private Forestry work. Additional work will be required before the system of record can be

modified to accept accomplishments beyond the “current measures” now reported. Funding recipients should expect to be required to report additional project accomplishments as the Board of Directors adjusts reporting measures and systems.

NOTE: In FY2014, as in FY2013, forest health management and treatment projects should be submitted under the Redesign category and should address the Redesign project criteria described in this section.

Eligible forest health management and treatment activities include:

- Prevention, suppression, and/or eradication of invasive and native damaging agents.
- Restoration of forests following damaging events to promote desired future conditions.
- Enhanced surveys and technical assistance for problems not supported by core FHP funds.
- Activities to better engage the public in forest health management.

Interested parties are encouraged to review information pertaining to treatment and management objectives for specific pests at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>. Contact NA Field Office program specialists for assistance and additional information.

If a proposal involves forest health treatment or has a forest health treatment component, applicants need to attach a completed form 3400-2 (available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>) to the proposal at submission. The treatment component should also follow these guidelines:

- Show strong potential for meeting project objectives and must be supported by a biological evaluation that substantiates the need for the project and the strategies proposed.
- Be environmentally acceptable and appropriately documented in accordance with appropriate laws.
- In order to be eligible for such assistance, the entity having ownership or jurisdiction over the affected land must:
 - Consent, cooperate, and participate in the project.
 - Contribute directly to the work to be done.
 - Have the legal authority to carry out such projects.
- Treatment projects require the following documentation:
 - Appropriate documentation in accordance with relevant and required environmental analyses.
 - Biological evaluations, including pre-treatment and post-treatment evaluations.
 - Work, safety, and security plans where appropriate or required.
- Forest Health funds may not be used to cut either dead trees or trees that have commercial value.
- Cooperators shall also maintain appropriate records for each project, including the location of areas treated.

Please note that on the NA S&PF RFP Web site (<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>) under the *Proposal Reference Information* heading, you will find lists of proposals funded in FY2012 and FY2013 along with files containing reviewer comments for all proposals. Under the same heading, a file described as a list of proposals provides a link to the full text of each proposal submitted in Fiscal Years 2011–2013. These are invaluable resources for preparing successful proposals for the current solicitation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a proposal involves Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation activities, a completed NFPORS Form (available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>) is required to be attached to the proposal at the time of submission.

Criteria for Redesign Proposal Selection

1. Priority Issues and Threats – Desired Future Condition (25 points)

Projects will be based on an analysis within the State or region that identifies the issue or landscape being addressed as a priority in its Forest Action Plan.

- Demonstrate a focus on a significant issue or threat in the jurisdiction that will be addressed and how the project will **lead to a desired future condition**.
- Clearly articulate the methods employed, timelines, and resources needed to move the State or region to a desired future condition as articulated in its Forest Action Plan.

2. Measureable Results and Significant On-the-Ground Outcomes (35 points)

Describe how reaching the goals and achievements of the project will effect positive changes.

Projects should prioritize funding and other resources used toward the achievement of the outcomes identified below. List specific measurable results and significant on-the-ground outcomes and milestones as well as the return on investments made.

Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes

- Identify high-priority forest ecosystems and landscapes conserved.
- Demonstrate how forests are actively and sustainably managed.

Protect Forests from Threats

- Identify fire-adapted lands that will be restored and how the risk of wildfire impacts is reduced.
- Identify the threats to forest and ecosystem health and how they are managed and reduced.

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

- Describe how water quality and quantity are protected and enhanced.
- Show how air quality is improved and energy is conserved.
- Identify how communities plan for and reduce their risks from wildfire.
- Describe the economic benefits and values of trees and forests that are maintained and enhanced.
- Demonstrate how wildlife and fish habitat is protected, conserved, and enhanced.
- Show how people are connected to trees and forests and engaged in environmental stewardship activities.
- Describe how trees and forests are managed and restored to help mitigate and adapt to global climate change.
- Describe measures likely to better equip and enable forest landowners to address forest health threats.

3. Collaboration and Integrated Delivery that Influence Positive Change (20 points)

Projects should identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project. Projects should seek to improve the delivery of public benefits from forest management by coordinating with complementary State and Federal programs. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved in the projects.

Multistate collaboration and integration of projects are encouraged. Projects should:

- Describe results and outcomes that are produced at a scale and cost appropriate to the project purpose.
- Demonstrate residual positive benefits related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach, among others.
- Include a component of outreach, training, lessons learned, or related opportunities so that carrying out the project results in skills and capability that extend beyond the life of the project itself.

4. Leverage (20 points)

Projects should maximize S&PF funding by using it to leverage contributions from both Federal and non-Federal entities. Project applications need to clearly identify Competitive Allocation funds requested and associated non-Federal contributions as well as separately document leveraged contributions. Projects shall seek to:

- Maximize return on investment and leverage resources.
- Provide a reasonable balance between administration and technical assistance.
- Use effective approaches to sustainable forest resource conservation, protection, and/or enhancement.
- Improve the delivery of public benefits from forest management by coordinating with complementary State and Federal programs when possible.

Category 2: Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation

The Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation category is designed to protect people and communities from wildfire. It does this by increasing wildfire awareness and education, providing assistance to local fire departments, reestablishing ecosystems after wildfires, reducing excessive fuel accumulations in and around communities, establishing community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs), and developing Firewise programming in communities at risk for wildfire.

In agreement with the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF), the NA S&PF limits the amount of funding available for this RFP category to 35 percent of the net available State Fire Assistance–National Fire Plan SPS2 funding. Through this competitive grant process, Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation projects are focused on hazardous fuels reduction, development of CWPPs, information and education, planning, and hazard mitigation for homeowners.

Three categories of activities have been identified to ensure that funds are used to mitigate or reduce hazard and risk in the wildland-urban interface.

1. Hazardous fuels reduction.

Funding recipients may carry out mitigating hazardous fuels treatments in or adjacent to identified fire-prone communities to reduce the threat of wildfire within the community. Fuel reduction and vegetation management projects, including project-level planning that emphasizes cooperation among agencies and jurisdictions as a way to mitigate wildfire hazards, can be conducted across jurisdictional boundaries, on adjoining private lands, or within the respective communities.

2. Information and education targeting prevention and mitigation in the wildland-urban interface.

Homeowners and local government bear much of the responsibility for improving the defensibility of homes in the wildland-urban interface. States can provide the leadership to coordinate, develop, and distribute educational programs in association with insurance companies, communities, and local government agencies. Informational and educational programs must target prevention and mitigation of loss. Programs should lead to use or establishment of one or more fire program elements such as fire safety codes, development/implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, implementation of Firewise safety practices, fuel treatments within fire-prone communities, or community planning to define fire-safe structures suited to local fire-adapted communities.

3. Risk reduction and hazard mitigation for homeowners and their communities.

Creating conditions in and around individual structures that will limit the transmission of fire from wildland to structures is fundamental to reducing the fire hazard in the interface. This is the responsibility of homeowners and communities. States can facilitate projects that focus on reducing the risk of ignition and loss, developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, implementing Firewise concepts, and conducting risk reduction demonstration projects in fire-adapted communities.

These project categories are complementary to one another. States are encouraged to be creative in identifying and developing proposals that address local needs through a multifaceted approach that integrates activities from all three project categories.

Additional requirements for the development of forest fire hazard mitigation proposals include:

- No more than 25 percent of the project budget can be used for planning purposes.
- No more than 25 percent of the project budget can be used to hire personnel.
- Project activities should be focused in high-risk wildland-urban interface communities as identified by the State's Fire Protection Assessment component of its Forest Action Plan.
- If it is necessary to purchase equipment worth more than \$5,000 to complete the hazard mitigation project, the proposal must include a statement that specifically identifies the need and steps taken to identify alternatives to the purchase.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a proposal involves Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation activities, a completed NFPORS Form (available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtml>) is required.

States are encouraged to explore using third-party nonprofit opportunities within their respective State.

Examples of Activities for Projects that Qualify (not all inclusive)

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

- Use of prescribed fire.
- Use of mechanical means (chippers, brush hog mowers, plows for dozers).
- Small-diameter utilization of wood (biomass).
- Vegetation management (pruning, mowing, chemical, grazing).
- Shaded fuel breaks.
- Defensible space around homes and structures.
- Removal of slash.

Information and Education in the Wildland-Urban Interface

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) or equivalent.
- Firewise/defensible space programming.
- Pamphlets, brochures, and handouts that focus on prescribed fire, hazardous fuels treatments, CWPPs, and/or Firewise-related efforts.
- Inspecting fire-prone property.
- Videos, public service announcements, newspaper inserts.

Risk Reduction and Hazard Mitigation for Homeowners and Their Communities

- Homeowner/Association-sponsored fuels reduction projects.
- Community fire protection plans or equivalent.
- Municipal, fire district, county, and community coordination of slash disposal.
- Multijurisdictional hazard reduction projects.
- Community projects that focus on reducing the risk of ignition or loss.

Examples of Activities for Projects that DO NOT Qualify (not all inclusive)

- Purchase of fire department equipment, including fire weather stations.
- Purchase and installation of dry fire hydrants.
- Small business start-up funding.
- Research and development projects.
- Capital improvements (facilities).
- Fire preparedness and suppression capacity building.

Criteria for Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation Proposal Selection

1. Project Objectives Address Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation (25 points)

- Show that a new project/initiative not previously funded contributes to forest fire hazard mitigation priorities in the Forest Action Plan.
- Show how the hazardous wildland fuels treatment activities are tied to a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- How does the Community/Homeowner Education Targeting Risk, Prevention, and Mitigation objective relate to a priority area of the Forest Action Plan?
- How does the mitigation activity reduce the risk and consequences of wildfire in the wildland-urban interface?
- Show how Community Wildfire Protection Planning and Assessments reduce forest fire hazards.

2. Measures of Success that Relate to Strategic Priorities of the State Forest Action Plan and Identify Client Benefit (25 points)

- Show how the number of high-risk communities assisted is tied to the Forest Action Plan goals.
- How do hazardous wildland fuels treatment activities within the wildland-urban interface advance the priorities in the Forest Action Plan?
- How is the number of homeowners served related to the State's strategic priorities?
- Demonstrate where the Community Wildfire Protection Plans prepared and implemented fit within the Forest Action Plan.
- Show how Firewise programming advances the Forest Action Plan.

3. Partnerships and Collaboration (20 points)

- What do partners identified as sharing in the implementation of this project contribute toward a successful outcome?
- If the project is tied to a high-risk community(ies)/project(s) adjacent to or near Federal lands, how are the Federal partners engaged?
- Demonstrate how the project is tied to other targeted program areas identified within the National Fire Plan, 10-year Comprehensive Strategy, and/or the Healthy Forest Initiative or Forest Action Plan.

4. Expected Outcomes or Products that Demonstrate an Innovative Approach (20 points)

- How does the project use an innovative approach to raise awareness about the benefits of Community Wildfire Protection Plans?
- Demonstrate how hazardous fuels treatment activities are innovative.
- Describe the innovative approach to pilot/regional/statewide prescription burn programs in high-risk communities.
- How will innovative pilot Firewise community workshop(s) be carried out in communities identified in the Forest Action Plan?
- How are community residents informed and educated about using an innovative approach?

5. Capacity for Replication (10 points)

- Indicate whether the project has the capacity to be initiated in other communities or geographic areas within the State and/or in other States.



**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
(WTCAC)**

**Financial Management and Procurement
Procedures**

**September, 2012
(DRAFT)**

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, Inc. (WTCAC) is a Tribal 501(C)(3) organization that works to promote environmental education and United States conservation and environmental programs with Tribal Nations all across the Country. To accomplish these environmental and educational objectives WTCAC acquires Federal Grants which require financial management and procurement procedures that adhere to the 2 CFR Part 230 and 40 CFR 30.21 provisions. The following documentation supports those provisions.

Preface

Due to the demonstrated unreliability of the United States Government to expeditiously process financial payment requests in the course of Federally contracted activities, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) has acquired a \$15,000 line of credit from the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin in order to cover each Federal Agencies indebtedness, until the U.S. Treasury deposits the payment requests. This line of credit ensures that WTCAC's non-interest bearing bank account is not overdrawn; that WTCAC is able to expeditiously meet our Federal partner's financial obligations; and gives the Federal Agencies more than adequate time to process payment reimbursement requests.

Financial & Program Management (40 CFR 30.20 – 28)

WTCAC utilizes the QuickBooks Non-Profit Financial Software for all financial expenditures and payroll activities. This software allows for easy setup of individual project activities by Agency and Federal Funding Categories. The software tracks payment requests and expenditures by each Agency and Project and produces all the financial reports necessary for accountability as per 2 CFR Part 230 and 40 CFR 30.21.

In addition WTCAC has established an online account through the Payment Management System with the Department of Health and Human Services for payment requests and the processing of quarterly FFR Federal Financial Reports and the FFR Federal Cash Transaction Reports.

The WTCAC Program Manager is responsible for fiscal accountability of each project's expenditures, while the WTCAC Treasurer is responsible for oversight of the accounting procedures and the actual payment of debts. The WTCAC Program Manager does not have direct access to the WTCAC

Bank Account, thus all project expenditures must be submitted to the WTCAC Treasurer for approval and payment. As expenditures are acquired by project they are logged into an excel spreadsheet by the WTCAC Program Manager. Every week these expenditures are submitted to the WTCAC Treasurer who reviews them and makes any needed payments. The WTCAC Program Manager enters the payments into the QuickBooks Financial Software under the proper project account and funding category, and then makes the Payment Reimbursement Request to the appropriate agency through the online Payment Management System (PMS). For those Federal Agencies who are not yet using the online PMS for financial transactions the WTCAC Program Manager instead submits a SF-270 "Request for Advance or Reimbursement," for payment.

The WTCAC Treasurer maintains a separate spreadsheet of all payments and deposits made, which is used to triangulate with the QuickBooks Financial Software and the WTCAC Program Managers Project Expense's Spreadsheet to ensure accurate and undisputable fiscal accountability of all individual fund accounts and categories. Allowable costs are determined based on the applicable cost principles in the OMB Circulars, Appendix E of 45 CFR part 74, and 48 CFR part 31.

Due to the demonstrated unreliability of the United States Government to expeditiously process financial payment requests within a reasonable amount of time after submittal of the Payment Request, WTCAC maintains a "line of credit" account balance sufficient to cover any weekly expenditure. Any interest or cost for maintaining this line of credit is borne solely by WTCAC, as any cost incurred as a result of this line of credit are unallowable charges under federal awards. If expenditure would occur greater than the line of credit, WTCAC would make the Payment Request and immediately disperse the funds upon deposit within three (3) days. If a cash advance were to be requested, it will be limited to only the amount needed and shall be maintained in a non-interest bearing account.

If in the course of doing business WTCAC would need to advertise for Consultant Services the RFP will be advertised in the local newspapers within the areas of the Tribal Nations, and posted on the WTCAC website, for a minimum of 30 days. Consultant pay/salary shall not exceed SEC Level IV (\$156,500 for FY 2012). Small and disadvantaged businesses, including Minority/Women Business Enterprises are eligible as suppliers in

the quoting process. Only the WTCAC President has contracting authority for such services, with prior Board of Directors approval.

No Director, employee or agent will participate in the selection or acceptance of a contract for equipment, materials, supplies or services involving a conflict of interest, real, apparent or implied, without the prior approval of the Board of Directors. "Conflict of Interest" includes situations in which the employee, board member and/or family members, or agent has a financial interest in the business or individual selected for the contract. Violation of this "Conflict of Interest" may result in immediate removal of the employee, director or agent.

Budget costs (Federal & Non-Federal) are identified in all budgets. Any anticipated budget deviations over and above the allowed standard of deviation is requested from the Grantee for prior approval.

All financial records are kept for a minimum of 3 years, from the time of the final accomplishment report, in a locked fire-proof safe, and all project reports are kept for a minimum of 3 years in a steel filing cabinet. After which time all records are either burned or shredded.

If cost-sharing or match is required to support a specific grant, individuals time is recorded on timesheets similar to those of the WTCAC employees and per hour value of their time is determined by using the USDA's unskilled, and skilled, wage levels. Any donated materials or supplies are documented as its actual cost.

If any program income is generated those funds go to support the eligible project or program objectives. WTCAC does NOT charge for any In-direct costs. All costs are Direct Costs applicable to a Federal Fund Category.

Property Standards (40 CFR 30.30 – 37)

A list of all property over \$1,000, acquired by Federal funds, shall be kept showing the type of property, identification number, original cost, and depreciated value. The inventory list will be completed at the time of purchase and annually at the end of the fiscal year.

Procurement Standards (40 CFR 30.40 – 48)

WTCAC will conduct all procurement transactions in a manner that maximizes opportunities, increases quality and reduces the cost of purchase. The Program Manager will avoid unnecessary purchases and conduct a lease vs. buy analysis where appropriate.

Office supplies and any other expendable property under \$1,000 needed on a day-to-day, or project-by-project basis may be acquired by the WTCAC Program Manager by comparing prices from common commercially available vendors such as Office Max, Office Depot, Wal-Mart, HP, Local Retail Outlets, etc. either through online purchases or direct store purchases so as to garner the best immediately available price.

Any single expenditure exceeding \$1,000 requires WTCAC Board of Directors prior approval and cost comparison from a minimum of 3 vendors.

Before entering into an agreement with a vendor to purchase goods or services over \$1,000, the following procedures will be followed:

- (1) Affirmative steps will be taken to ensure that Minority, Women and Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises are utilized where possible as sources of supplies. Affirmative steps shall include, as examples:
 - (a) Including qualified Minority, Women and Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises on solicitation lists.
 - (b) Dividing total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities so as to permit maximum small and minority business participation when economically feasible.
 - (c) If possible, establishing delivery schedules which will encourage participation by Minority, Women and Service Disabled Veteran businesses.

- (2) All procurement transactions, regardless of whether by sealed bids or by negotiation, and without regard to dollar value, shall be conducted in a manner that provides maximum open and free competition, but without restricting or eliminating competition. Examples of competitive restrictions are:
 - (a) Unreasonable requirements on firms to qualify to do business.
 - (b) Organizational conflicts of interest.
 - (c) Unnecessary experience and bonding requirements.

(3) Once the vendor/contractor has been selected, the procurement will be finalized by: (A) A contract.

i) Two types of contracts can be used.

(a) Fixed Price: The contract price and scope of work is basically set at the time of award and it is assumed that the goods and/or services will be provided for that price.

(b) Cost Reimbursable: The contractor bills WTCAC for actual costs incurred plus a fixed fee (or a variation of fixed fee such as an incentive fee).

(B) Evidenced by issuance of a Purchase Order.

i) If the total cost contemplated is less than \$10,000, WTCAC may elect to award the goods or services by use of a Purchase Order rather than a contract.

(4) All contracts and purchase orders > \$1,000 must be approved by the WTCAC Board of Directors.

(5) Sole-source contracting is justified when:

(a) The item or service is available from only a single source.

(b) The grantor agency authorizes non-competitive negotiation.

(c) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined to be inadequate.

(6) Contracts (other than small purchases) will contain provisions or conditions that will allow for administrative, contractual or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate.

(7) Contracts will contain suitable provisions for termination by the grantee including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement. In addition, such contracts will describe conditions under which the contract may be terminated for default or terminated because of circumstances beyond the control of the contractor.

(8) Contracts will contain a provision requiring compliance with Executive Order 11246, titled "Equal Employment Opportunity", as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (41 CFR Part 60).

(9) Contracts will include a provision for compliance with Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 USC 874) as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 3). The Act provides that contractor or subgrantee shall be prohibited from inducing any person employed in the construction, completion, repair, or public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled. The grantee shall report all suspected or reported violations to the grantor agency.

(10) When required by the Federal Grant Program Legislation, all construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by grantees and subgrantees shall include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 USC 276a to a-7) as supplemented by Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 5). Under this Act, contractors will be required to pay wages more than once a week. The grantee shall place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation and the award of the contract shall be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The grantee shall report all suspected or reported violations to the grantor agency.

(11) Where applicable, all contracts awarded by grantees and subgrantees in excess of \$2,000 for construction contracts and in excess of \$2,500 for other contracts which involve the employment of mechanic or laborers shall include a provision for compliance with Section 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 USC 327-330) as supplemented by Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 5). Under Section 103 of the Act, each contractor shall be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of standard workday of 8 hours and a standard workweek of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard workday or workweek is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than 1-1/2 times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 8 hours in any calendar day or 40 hours in a workweek. Section 107 of the Act is applicable to construction work and provides that no laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to his health and safety as determined under construction, safety and health standards promulgated by the Secretary of Labor. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies, materials, articles ordinarily available on the open market, contracts for transportation, and transmission of intelligence.

(12) The contract shall include notice of grantor agency requirements, regulations pertaining to reporting, patent rights under any contract involving research, developmental, experimental or demonstration work with respect to any requirements, and regulations pertaining to copyrights and rights in data.

(13) All negotiated contracts (except those awarded by small purchase procedures) awarded by grantees shall include a provision to the effect that the grantee, the federal grantor agency, the Comptroller General of the United States or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to that specific contract, for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcriptions. Grantees shall require contractors to maintain all required records for the three years after grantees make final payments and all other pending matters are closed.

(14) WTCAC will ensure that all contracts are awarded to responsible contractors by checking the "Excluded Parties List" system for suspended or debarred sub-grantees and contractors, prior to award.

<https://www.sam.gov/>

(15) Contracts, subcontracts, and sub grants of amounts in excess of \$100,000 shall contain a provision which requires compliance with all applicable standards, orders of requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 1857 (hj)), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1368), Executive Order 11738 and Environmental Protection Agency Regulations (40 CFR, Part 15), which prohibit the use under non-exempt federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the EAP List of Violating Facilities. The provision shall require reporting of violations to the grantor agency and to the USEPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement (EN-329).

(16) Contracts shall recognize mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency, which are contained in the State Energy Conservation Plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (p.L. 94-163).

Reports and Records (40 CFR 30.50 – 54)

The WTCAC Program Manager is responsible for managing and monitoring all activities on each award. Agency reporting requirements differ from agency to agency, thus WTCAC adheres to each awards reporting requirements as stipulated in the specific Agency Notice of Award (NOA) and Grant Agreement documents.

Time and Attendance (2 CFR 230)

WTCAC processes payroll bi-weekly on the same pay schedule as the Federal Government. Each employee is required to document hours worked each day, and to describe in a daily narrative the activities done that support each individual federal agencies programs and projects. Each employee submits a signed timesheet to the WTCAC Program Manager on the final day of the pay period. The WTCAC Program Manager certifies the timesheets to be correct and signs as the immediate supervisor. The WTCAC Program Manager's timesheet is sent to the WTCAC President who reviews and signs the timesheet. Each employee is required to provide a monthly timesheet/narrative to all of the WTCAC Directors at the end of each month. Descriptions of Employee Benefits are found in the WTCAC Employment Policy Manual – May 2012.

Travel Policy (2 CFR 230)

WTCAC adheres to the same travel policy as the Federal Government. A detailed description of the WTCAC Travel Policy is found in the WTCAC Employment Policy Manual – March 2013, Appendix A.



Advisory
Council

Patrick Pelky, President
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Grants Report
August 6, 2013

	<u>Current Grants</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Expire Date</u>
<i>Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians</i>	2013 USDA APHIS Outreach Grant	\$12,443.74	November 2, 2013
<i>Forest County Potawatomi Community</i>	2013 USDA OAO Outreach Grant	\$72,594.44	November 30, 2013
	2013 Forest County Potawatomi Fnd	\$6,026.90	December 22, 2013
<i>Ho-Chunk Nation</i>	2013 Forest Service Student Intern	\$1,150.66	August 30, 2013
<i>Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians</i>	2013 to 2014 EPA GLRI	\$306,028.39	December 31, 2014
	<u>New Grants</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Begin Date</u>
<i>Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians</i>	2014 USDA APHIS Training Grant	\$100,000.00	September 1, 2013
	2014 AmeriCorps Planning Grant	\$75,000.00	September 1, 2013
<i>Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin</i>	2013 to 2014 Forest Service Interns	\$32,000.00	January 1, 2013
<i>Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians</i>			
<i>Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin</i>			
<i>Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians</i>			
<i>St Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin</i>			
<i>Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community</i>			



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GLRI Balances Per Tribe

Financial Category	Begin \$\$\$	Used 2013	Used 2014	Remain \$\$
Bad River Invasive Species Team Leader, 1,440 hrs. @ \$9.00/hr.	\$12,960.00	\$2,654.85		\$10,305.15
Team Leader Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$1,095.12	\$223.80		\$871.32
Bad River Invasive Species Team Members (3), 3,600 hrs. @ \$8.00/hr.	\$28,800.00	\$4,919.20		\$23,880.80
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$2,433.60	\$414.69		\$2,018.91
FCPC Invasive Species Team Members, 2,560 hrs. @ \$10.00/hr.	\$25,600.00	\$1,875.00		\$23,725.00
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$2,163.20	\$158.07		\$2,005.13
Menominee Invasive Species Team Leader, 880 hrs. @ \$15.00/hr.	\$13,200.00	\$5,373.76		\$7,826.24
Team Leader Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$1,115.40	\$453.00		\$662.40
Menominee Invasive Species Team Members, 2,640 hrs. @ \$10.00/hr.	\$26,400.00	\$10,467.50		\$15,932.50
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$2,230.80	\$882.43		\$1,348.37
Mole Lake Invasive Species Team Leader, 1,100 hrs. @ \$15.00/hr.	\$16,500.00	\$3,556.00		\$12,944.00
Team Leader Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$1,394.25	\$299.77		\$1,094.48
Mole Lake Invasive Species Team Members, 3,013 hrs. @ \$10.00/hr.	\$30,130.00	\$6,137.67		\$23,992.33
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$2,545.99	\$517.41		\$2,028.58
Oneida Invasive Species Team Members, 3,040 hrs. @ \$10.00/hr.	\$30,400.00	\$3,410.00		\$26,990.00
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$2,568.80	\$287.47		\$2,281.33
Red Cliff Invasive Species Team Leader, 1,520 hrs. @ \$15.00/hr.	\$22,800.00	\$6,360.00		\$16,440.00
Team Leader Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$1,926.60	\$536.14		\$1,390.46
Red Cliff Invasive Species Team Member, 660 hrs. @ \$10.00/hr.	\$6,600.00	\$2,675.00		\$3,925.00
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$557.70	\$225.51		\$332.19
Red Cliff Invasive Species Team Members (2), 1200 hrs. @ \$8.00/hr.	\$9,600.00	\$2,816.00		\$6,784.00
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$811.20	\$237.37		\$573.83
Stockbridge Invasive Species Team Members (4), 3,200 hrs. @ \$12.00/hr.	\$38,400.00	\$11,286.00		\$27,114.00
Team Members Fringe (Social Security, Medicare, Workman's Comp @ 8.45%)	\$3,244.80	\$951.40		\$2,293.40
Bad River mileage for Invasive Species control	\$4,260.00			\$4,260.00
FCPC mileage for Invasive Species control	\$5,882.00			\$5,882.00
Menominee mileage for Invasive Species control	\$3,600.00	\$313.13		\$3,286.87
Mole Lake mileage for Invasive Species control	\$999.00	\$53.68		\$945.32
Oneida mileage for Invasive Species control	\$2,260.00			\$2,260.00
Red Cliff mileage for Invasive Species control	\$2,000.00	\$95.49		\$1,904.51
Stockbridge mileage for Invasive Species control	\$2,664.00			\$2,664.00
WTCAC Supplies, (payroll services, office supplies, postage, etc.)	\$350.00	\$148.04		\$201.96
Bad River Supplies & equipment (chain saws, shovels, chemicals, etc.)	\$3,491.00			\$3,491.00
FCPC Supplies & equipment (chain saws, shovels, chemicals, etc.)	\$16,000.00	\$5,483.45		\$10,516.55
Menominee Supplies & equipment (chain saws, shovels, chemicals, etc.)	\$3,600.00	\$3,088.43		\$511.57
Mole Lake Supplies & equipment (chain saws, shovels, chemicals, etc.)	\$1,100.00	\$535.93		\$564.07
Oneida Supplies & equipment (chain saws, shovels, chemicals, etc.)	\$19,812.00			\$19,812.00
Red Cliff Supplies & equipment (chain saws, shovels, chemicals, etc.)	\$4,000.00	\$436.91		\$3,563.09
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
Agency

Columbia County FSA Office
2912 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 608-742-5361
Fax: 608-742-0194

Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – August 5, 2013

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison, (608) 742-5361 ext 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

One USDA Session with Tribes – The State FSA director and local FSA office employees will be taking part in this session scheduled for early September. I've contacted the state leaders to be sure they can make it for this important event.

2013 Farm Bill - Someday we hope to have one! We are experiencing major budget and staffing cuts right now and there could be some sort of restructuring of FSA. Not sure what that will involve. At the minimum right now, FSA staffing in the state has to reduce by 18 employees. This could change once the budget and farm bill are passed.

CRP Signup #45 – About 318,000 acres were accepted in Wisconsin – 14,000 bids offered and 12,000 accepted. The EBI cutoff was 209, so those at 209 or greater were accepted. FSA is currently notifying producers if they are accepted or not. Those accepted must get a conservation plan done with NRCS or the Forest Service by September 6th (earlier for trees)

Continuous CRP #44: May 13 - September 30th: FSA offices can still accept offers and approve contracts for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), and SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement)

COC Election/Advisors – The nomination period for active farmers or tribal members to run for positions on the local FSA County Committee ended on August 2nd. Ballots will be sent out in early November and must be returned by early December. New members take office in January 2014. At any time, tribal members can send in a written request to their local FSA office to serve as a paid, non-voting Minority Advisor.

FSA Farm Loan Funding & AUGUST Interest Rates: Loan funds are not tied to the Farm Bill. Wisconsin is hoping to get approximately 5.5 million in loan funds in August to take care of the Farm Ownership Loans that have been approved and have been waiting for funding. FSA anticipates a big lending year in 2014. We hope to get our 2014 funding soon after October 1, which is when our fiscal year starts.

- 1 year annual and 7-year operating & MICROLOANS – 1.50 % (3-week wait unless SDA)
- 40 year ownership loans – 3.625% (National waiting list – hope to fund all soon)
- Emergency loans – 2.50% (funding available)

Microloans – Anyone interested in our Microloan (or other loan program) should contact the local FSA office. Details were provided at the last WTCAC meeting. \$35,000 max loan amount with limited paperwork and eligibility requirements. These are great loans for anyone wanting to start up a small niche operation or enhance their existing operation.



Wisconsin State Office
8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53717-25
(608) 662-4422

April 12, 2013

Patrick J. Pelky, President
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155

Dear Mr. Pelky,

This letter is in response to your correspondence of March 18, 2013 and our meeting on March 27th here in the USDA – NRCS State Office in Madison.

Thank you again for your work and interactions with NRCS. By working together we can make a difference.

WI NRCS Response to WTCAC EQIP Letter Dated March 18, 2013

1. Access Roads in Forested settings. Under what conditions may EQIP funding be used to construct an access road in a forested setting? What pre conditions must exist? (i.e. Forest Management Plan, Planned activity) What are eligible management activities? What Resource Concerns are applicable? What has changed? WTCAC was not very successful in finding projects that were eligible to obtain funding through EQIP for most Access Roads in 2013. Consider developing a Scenario under Critical Area Planting appropriate to seeding down, Access Roads, and Forest Trails and landings that accommodates the linear nature of these disturbed areas, and adequately supports the cost of seeding.
 - a. NRCS must ensure that the Access Road practice addresses, or supports another practice that addresses, a resource concern eligible for EQIP. Additional clarification will be provided to WTCAC Members on the identification of resource concerns and how to identify the appropriate practice standards to address those resource concerns. Critical Area Planting (342) may be used for spot treatments of linear sites such as roads and trails which can be converted to acres for use with this practice.
2. Endangered Species. What is the NRCS opinion on when Tribes must address State listed Threatened or Endangered Species to implement an EQIP practice? Does the issue

change based on how the land is held? (Trust, Tribal Owned, Tribal Member owned/Fee Land)? What about State Permits?

- a. NRCS will visit with DNR – BER to communicate the Tribal Nation interests and desires, and to inform them of NRCS’s responsibility to adhere to Tribal Laws. WI NRCS will also confirm this approach with the national office.

3. Fish Cribs. Currently there is no WI-NRCS Standard under which this practice can be included in the EQIP Practice Schedule. A Standard (Fish Pond or other Standard) needs to be added to the Technical Guide to accommodate this practice in the 2014 EQIP practice schedule.

- a. NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to this concern, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process.

4. Aquaculture Pond. Currently the only Resource Concern, under which an Aquaculture facility can be funded by EQIP, is based on an existing facility not being adequate to produce fish. WTCAC would like to have an eligible Resource Concern based on Tribal Concerns about inadequate stocks of fish species, in waters of Tribal concern, and that are of Tribal importance for subsistence farming. The current limit of \$300,000 per contract, and the maximum limits on Scenarios, is restrictive to feasibility of constructing, or reconstructing, a hatchery facility. Additional data that supports this need is available from WTCAC.

- a. As a reminder, NRCS is a conservation organization and not a production agriculture organization. NRCS will work with WTCAC to establish a sub-committee for investigating this issue over the long-term.

5. Bio-Engineering for Streambank restoration. WTCAC would like to have an EQIP practice scenario developed to allow funding of the use of non-living bio materials such as, root wads, wood posts, or other materials. Many sites on Tribal Lands are not accessible with machinery and need to be restored with manual labor.

- a. There is an existing scenario under Practice 580, and on page 80 of the FY-2013 “Cookbook” that covers this situation. NRCS will work to provide additional clarification regarding this matter for the FY-2014 “cookbook”. In addition, the definition will be clarified in Standard 580.

6. Aquaponics. WTCAC is interested in pursuing the development of an EQIP practice scenario to fund the installation of Aquaponic facilities for tribal food production, and utilization of hatchery waste water.

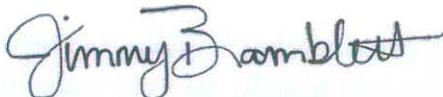
- a. NRCS will plan to use the same sub-committee established under item 5 above to investigate this matter as well. This topic will also be a long-term collaboration to determine how we might be able to provide technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

7. Practice Scenario under standard 396 (Aquatic Organism Passage) earth fill removal, the cost share level is too low. Perhaps second Scenario needed to address smaller structures.

- a. WTCAC has agreed to provide more detail on this need, and work with NRCS on identifying the appropriate practice and/or scenario to address the resource concern identified.
8. Practice scenario under standard 516 (Pipeline) the cost share level for HDPE pipe is far too low, will not even cover the cost of the pipe for Aquaculture Ponds. Change from PVC to HDPE.
 - a. NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to this concern, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process.
9. WTCAC would like to add *Betula papyrifera* (White Birch) to the list of eligible tree species for planting under Standard 612 (Tree & Shrub establishment)
 - a. White Birch will be added to the eligible species list for Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) in FY-2014.
10. WTCAC would like to request that the unit of measure for Practice 395 (Stream Habitat Improvement & Management) be changed from Acres to Feet. This may be a National Issue.
 - a. NRCS-Wisconsin is limited by national guidance on this matter. We will express the concerns/desires of WTCAC to the Ecological Sciences Division at our National Headquarters Office in an attempt to effectuate a change back from acres to feet and number.
11. Under practice 315, WTCAC would like to have Scenarios developed for mechanical (hand pulling and disposal of invasive species) for both uplands, and water bodies that would more accurately reflect the true cost of this type of management. When using Chemical control, scenarios are needed that clearly differentiate Chemical Spot Treatment, Chemical Aquatic Spot Treatment, and Chemical Aquatic Treatment.
 - a. NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to mechanical invasive species removal in wetlands, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process as well as provided additional guidance on existing scenarios.
12. When dealing with Stream Crossings, consider changing from a Stream Crossing Scenario to an Aquatic Organism Passage Scenario if it is anticipated that a minimum Stream Crossing will result in obstruction of organism passage. Don't create a problem to go back and fix! Also consider adding additional Scenarios to accommodate small stream channels or drainageways (intermittent) with lower cost options than culverts or constructed crossings.
 - a. NRCS will work add a Practice Scenario, related to this concern, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process.
13. Not all invasive species that are often controlled by tribes are currently listed on the WI-DNR invasive species list, which is referenced in the EQIP Practice Schedule. It is recommended that this reference be eliminated and defer to the judgment of local resource managers to determine what species are invasive locally.

- a. NRCS requests that WTCAC develop a list of invasive plant species for NRCS review that builds upon the list from WDNR.
14. For many reasons, particularly securing partner funding, and Tribal Council approval, it would be very helpful to WTCAC if the EQIP Practice Schedule could be available to make application decisions much earlier in the Fiscal year, (August) rather than mid December.
- a. NRCS will evaluate the annual cycle of funding, and identify ways to work with WTCAC on providing early information and/or training in preparation for the upcoming program cycle.
15. Consider adding Fire prevention as a Resource Concern to some activities to facilitate the addition of practices to prevent Wild Fire; i.e. Woody residue Mgt, Timber Stand Improvement, Tree Pruning.
- a. Wildfire hazard will be an eligible resource concern for 2014. Additional clarification will be provided to WTCAC Members on the identification of resource concerns and how to identify the appropriate practice standards to support those resource concerns.

Sincerely,



JIMMY BRAMBLETT
State Conservationist



**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
(WTCAC)**

**Financial Management and Procurement
Procedures**

**September, 2012
(DRAFT)**

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, Inc. (WTCAC) is a Tribal 501(C)(3) organization that works to promote environmental education and United States conservation and environmental programs with Tribal Nations all across the Country. To accomplish these environmental and educational objectives WTCAC acquires Federal Grants which require financial management and procurement procedures that adhere to the 2 CFR Part 230 and 40 CFR 30.21 provisions. The following documentation supports those provisions.

Preface

Due to the demonstrated unreliability of the United States Government to expeditiously process financial payment requests in the course of Federally contracted activities, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) has acquired a \$15,000 line of credit from the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin in order to cover each Federal Agencies indebtedness, until the U.S. Treasury deposits the payment requests. This line of credit ensures that WTCAC's non-interest bearing bank account is not overdrawn; that WTCAC is able to expeditiously meet our Federal partner's financial obligations; and gives the Federal Agencies more than adequate time to process payment reimbursement requests.

Financial & Program Management (40 CFR 30.20 – 28)

WTCAC utilizes the QuickBooks Non-Profit Financial Software for all financial expenditures and payroll activities. This software allows for easy setup of individual project activities by Agency and Federal Funding Categories. The software tracks payment requests and expenditures by each Agency and Project and produces all the financial reports necessary for accountability as per 2 CFR Part 230 and 40 CFR 30.21.

In addition WTCAC has established an online account through the Payment Management System with the Department of Health and Human Services for payment requests and the processing of quarterly FFR Federal Financial Reports and the FFR Federal Cash Transaction Reports.

The WTCAC Program Manager is responsible for fiscal accountability of each project's expenditures, while the WTCAC Treasurer is responsible for oversight of the accounting procedures and the actual payment of debts. The WTCAC Program Manager does not have direct access to the WTCAC

Bank Account, thus all project expenditures must be submitted to the WTCAC Treasurer for approval and payment. As expenditures are acquired by project they are logged into an excel spreadsheet by the WTCAC Program Manager. Every week these expenditures are submitted to the WTCAC Treasurer who reviews them and makes any needed payments. The WTCAC Program Manager enters the payments into the QuickBooks Financial Software under the proper project account and funding category, and then makes the Payment Reimbursement Request to the appropriate agency through the online Payment Management System (PMS). For those Federal Agencies who are not yet using the online PMS for financial transactions the WTCAC Program Manager instead submits a SF-270 "Request for Advance or Reimbursement," for payment.

The WTCAC Treasurer maintains a separate spreadsheet of all payments and deposits made, which is used to triangulate with the QuickBooks Financial Software and the WTCAC Program Managers Project Expense's Spreadsheet to ensure accurate and undisputable fiscal accountability of all individual fund accounts and categories. Allowable costs are determined based on the applicable cost principles in the OMB Circulars, Appendix E of 45 CFR part 74, and 48 CFR part 31.

Due to the demonstrated unreliability of the United States Government to expeditiously process financial payment requests within a reasonable amount of time after submittal of the Payment Request, WTCAC maintains a "line of credit" account balance sufficient to cover any weekly expenditure. Any interest or cost for maintaining this line of credit is borne solely by WTCAC, as any cost incurred as a result of this line of credit are unallowable charges under federal awards. If expenditure would occur greater than the line of credit, WTCAC would make the Payment Request and immediately disperse the funds upon deposit within three (3) days. If a cash advance were to be requested, it will be limited to only the amount needed and shall be maintained in a non-interest bearing account.

If in the course of doing business WTCAC would need to advertise for Consultant Services the RFP will be advertised in the local newspapers within the areas of the Tribal Nations, and posted on the WTCAC website, for a minimum of 30 days. Consultant pay/salary shall not exceed SEC Level IV (\$156,500 for FY 2012). Small and disadvantaged businesses, including Minority/Women Business Enterprises are eligible as suppliers in

the quoting process. Only the WTCAC President has contracting authority for such services, with prior Board of Directors approval.

No Director, employee or agent will participate in the selection or acceptance of a contract for equipment, materials, supplies or services involving a conflict of interest, real, apparent or implied, without the prior approval of the Board of Directors. "Conflict of Interest" includes situations in which the employee, board member and/or family members, or agent has a financial interest in the business or individual selected for the contract. Violation of this "Conflict of Interest" may result in immediate removal of the employee, director or agent.

Budget costs (Federal & Non-Federal) are identified in all budgets. Any anticipated budget deviations over and above the allowed standard of deviation is requested from the Grantee for prior approval.

All financial records are kept for a minimum of 3 years, from the time of the final accomplishment report, in a locked fire-proof safe, and all project reports are kept for a minimum of 3 years in a steel filing cabinet. After which time all records are either burned or shredded.

If cost-sharing or match is required to support a specific grant, individuals time is recorded on timesheets similar to those of the WTCAC employees and per hour value of their time is determined by using the USDA's unskilled, and skilled, wage levels. Any donated materials or supplies are documented as its actual cost.

If any program income is generated those funds go to support the eligible project or program objectives. WTCAC does NOT charge for any In-direct costs. All costs are Direct Costs applicable to a Federal Fund Category.

Property Standards (40 CFR 30.30 – 37)

A list of all property over \$1,000, acquired by Federal funds, shall be kept showing the type of property, identification number, original cost, and depreciated value. The inventory list will be completed at the time of purchase and annually at the end of the fiscal year.

Procurement Standards (40 CFR 30.40 – 48)

WTCAC will conduct all procurement transactions in a manner that maximizes opportunities, increases quality and reduces the cost of purchase. The Program Manager will avoid unnecessary purchases and conduct a lease vs. buy analysis where appropriate.

Office supplies and any other expendable property under \$1,000 needed on a day-to-day, or project-by-project basis may be acquired by the WTCAC Program Manager by comparing prices from common commercially available vendors such as Office Max, Office Depot, Wal-Mart, HP, Local Retail Outlets, etc. either through online purchases or direct store purchases so as to garner the best immediately available price.

Any single expenditure exceeding \$1,000 requires WTCAC Board of Directors prior approval and cost comparison from a minimum of 3 vendors.

Before entering into an agreement with a vendor to purchase goods or services over \$1,000, the following procedures will be followed:

- (1) Affirmative steps will be taken to ensure that Minority, Women and Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises are utilized where possible as sources of supplies. Affirmative steps shall include, as examples:
 - (a) Including qualified Minority, Women and Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises on solicitation lists.
 - (b) Dividing total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities so as to permit maximum small and minority business participation when economically feasible.
 - (c) If possible, establishing delivery schedules which will encourage participation by Minority, Women and Service Disabled Veteran businesses.

- (2) All procurement transactions, regardless of whether by sealed bids or by negotiation, and without regard to dollar value, shall be conducted in a manner that provides maximum open and free competition, but without restricting or eliminating competition. Examples of competitive restrictions are:
 - (a) Unreasonable requirements on firms to qualify to do business.
 - (b) Organizational conflicts of interest.
 - (c) Unnecessary experience and bonding requirements.

(3) Once the vendor/contractor has been selected, the procurement will be finalized by: (A) A contract.

i) Two types of contracts can be used.

(a) Fixed Price: The contract price and scope of work is basically set at the time of award and it is assumed that the goods and/or services will be provided for that price.

(b) Cost Reimbursable: The contractor bills WTCAC for actual costs incurred plus a fixed fee (or a variation of fixed fee such as an incentive fee).

(B) Evidenced by issuance of a Purchase Order.

i) If the total cost contemplated is less than \$10,000, WTCAC may elect to award the goods or services by use of a Purchase Order rather than a contract.

(4) All contracts and purchase orders > \$1,000 must be approved by the WTCAC Board of Directors.

(5) Sole-source contracting is justified when:

(a) The item or service is available from only a single source.

(b) The grantor agency authorizes non-competitive negotiation.

(c) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined to be inadequate.

(6) Contracts (other than small purchases) will contain provisions or conditions that will allow for administrative, contractual or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate.

(7) Contracts will contain suitable provisions for termination by the grantee including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement. In addition, such contracts will describe conditions under which the contract may be terminated for default or terminated because of circumstances beyond the control of the contractor.

(8) Contracts will contain a provision requiring compliance with Executive Order 11246, titled "Equal Employment Opportunity", as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (41 CFR Part 60).

(9) Contracts will include a provision for compliance with Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 USC 874) as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 3). The Act provides that contractor or subgrantee shall be prohibited from inducing any person employed in the construction, completion, repair, or public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled. The grantee shall report all suspected or reported violations to the grantor agency.

(10) When required by the Federal Grant Program Legislation, all construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by grantees and subgrantees shall include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 USC 276a to a-7) as supplemented by Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 5). Under this Act, contractors will be required to pay wages more than once a week. The grantee shall place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation and the award of the contract shall be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The grantee shall report all suspected or reported violations to the grantor agency.

(11) Where applicable, all contracts awarded by grantees and subgrantees in excess of \$2,000 for construction contracts and in excess of \$2,500 for other contracts which involve the employment of mechanic or laborers shall include a provision for compliance with Section 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 USC 327-330) as supplemented by Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 5). Under Section 103 of the Act, each contractor shall be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of standard workday of 8 hours and a standard workweek of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard workday or workweek is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than 1-1/2 times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 8 hours in any calendar day or 40 hours in a workweek. Section 107 of the Act is applicable to construction work and provides that no laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to his health and safety as determined under construction, safety and health standards promulgated by the Secretary of Labor. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies, materials, articles ordinarily available on the open market, contracts for transportation, and transmission of intelligence.

(12) The contract shall include notice of grantor agency requirements, regulations pertaining to reporting, patent rights under any contract involving research, developmental, experimental or demonstration work with respect to any requirements, and regulations pertaining to copyrights and rights in data.

(13) All negotiated contracts (except those awarded by small purchase procedures) awarded by grantees shall include a provision to the effect that the grantee, the federal grantor agency, the Comptroller General of the United States or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to that specific contract, for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcriptions. Grantees shall require contractors to maintain all required records for the three years after grantees make final payments and all other pending matters are closed.

(14) WTCAC will ensure that all contracts are awarded to responsible contractors by checking the "Excluded Parties List" system for suspended or debarred sub-grantees and contractors, prior to award.

<https://www.sam.gov/>

(15) Contracts, subcontracts, and sub grants of amounts in excess of \$100,000 shall contain a provision which requires compliance with all applicable standards, orders of requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 1857 (hj)), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1368), Executive Order 11738 and Environmental Protection Agency Regulations (40 CFR, Part 15), which prohibit the use under non-exempt federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the EAP List of Violating Facilities. The provision shall require reporting of violations to the grantor agency and to the USEPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement (EN-329).

(16) Contracts shall recognize mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency, which are contained in the State Energy Conservation Plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (p.L. 94-163).

Reports and Records (40 CFR 30.50 – 54)

The WTCAC Program Manager is responsible for managing and monitoring all activities on each award. Agency reporting requirements differ from agency to agency, thus WTCAC adheres to each awards reporting requirements as stipulated in the specific Agency Notice of Award (NOA) and Grant Agreement documents.

Time and Attendance (2 CFR 230)

WTCAC processes payroll bi-weekly on the same pay schedule as the Federal Government. Each employee is required to document hours worked each day, and to describe in a daily narrative the activities done that support each individual federal agencies programs and projects. Each employee submits a signed timesheet to the WTCAC Program Manager on the final day of the pay period. The WTCAC Program Manager certifies the timesheets to be correct and signs as the immediate supervisor. The WTCAC Program Manager's timesheet is sent to the WTCAC President who reviews and signs the timesheet. Each employee is required to provide a monthly timesheet/narrative to all of the WTCAC Directors at the end of each month. Descriptions of Employee Benefits are found in the WTCAC Employment Policy Manual – May 2012.

Travel Policy (2 CFR 230)

WTCAC adheres to the same travel policy as the Federal Government. A detailed description of the WTCAC Travel Policy is found in the WTCAC Employment Policy Manual – March 2013, Appendix A.



Clean Energy Choice An Expanded Primer

August 2013

Why Solar Energy?

- *Clean, local, widely available and scalable (from a customer's perspective)*
- *No fuel cost*
- *Only energy resource that turns itself off at night*
- *Reliably produces electricity at high-demand hours*
- *Best resource for offsetting growth in air-conditioning load*

SOLAR GENERATING CAPACITY COMPARISON WISCONSIN VS. TOP EIGHT STATES

State	MW _{dc}	Allow 3 rd party PPA's?
California	1,564	Yes
Arizona	1,097	Yes
New Jersey	971	Yes
Nevada	403	Yes
Colorado	270	Yes
North Carolina	229	No
Massachusetts	124	Yes
Pennsylvania	198	Yes
Wisconsin	13*	No policy

Ranked by Grid-Connected Cumulative Installed Capacity Through 2012

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association

*Wisconsin data provided by RENEW

Clean Energy Choice

(a/k/a 3rd Party Power Purchase Agreements)

PROBLEM

While a customer can legally generate energy on-site for personal use, it is not clear whether a third-party can own that system and sell the output to the host customer.

Clean Energy Choice

(a/k/a 3rd Party Power Purchase Agreements)

SOLUTION

What is needed is a policy that allows customers to contract w/ third-party system owners and acquire the benefits of on-site renewable energy production either through service/financing agreements or power purchase agreements (PPA's)

How Customers Benefit from Clean Energy Choice

- No up-front capital required from host customers
- Allows nonprofit entities to partner w/ for-profit companies that can use the 30% federal tax credit
- Helps customers manage energy costs and possibly reduce them over the contract life
- Third-party owner is 100% responsible for system operation
- Hugely successful in states that allow it (e.g., California and Colorado)
- It's your premises, after all

It's Already Happening a Little

The City of Monona approved a contract for hosting a 157 kW of solar capacity, owned by an outside investor, on 4 city-owned buildings. The contract specifies that the City will purchase Renewable Energy Credits from the investor. Electricity is not specified.

Why a Statewide Clean Energy Choice Policy?

- State law is ambiguous on this point. Some utilities may be more willing than others to allow these kind of installations to proceed. If the applicable law is not clarified, the question of whether customers can access clean energy produced on their premises from third-party-owned systems remains wholly dependent on the local utility's attitude toward these arrangements.

Existing Host Customers in Wisconsin Served by Third Party-Owned Renewable Energy Systems

PV

- Kohl's Dept. Stores (three metro MKE locations)

Solar Hot Water

- UW-Oshkosh (dorms)
- UW-Stevens Point (dorms)
- Oakhill Correctional Facility
- Willy St. Co-op

What Would Legislation Do?

Answer: Would allow 3rd party owners of RE systems located on a customer's premises to sell output directly to legal occupant of that property w/out being regulated as a "public utility"

3rd-Party Solar PV Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)



Top Solar Hosts – A Comparison

Host	Solar Capacity (in MW)
Walmart	65
Kohl's	42
Costco	39
IKEA	21
Macy's	16
Staples	14
All of Wisconsin	14

Non-Environmental Message Themes

- Property rights
- Customer choice
- Local economic development
- Let the market decide
- No new mandates or taxes

Which Customer Types Stand to Benefit?

- Big electricity users (e.g., grocery stores, water works, food processing plants)
- Sustainability-minded national businesses (e.g. Kohl's Dept. Stores) + local businesses (e.g., Willy St. Coop)
- Nonprofit entities (govt.'s, schools, congregations)
- Farms + agricultural businesses
- Residences with good solar exposure
- Tribal entities (both as hosts and investors)

Supporters So Far

- **Biogas companies:** *DVO, US Biogas, Symbiont*
- **Energy service companies:** *Johnson Controls*
- **RE developers:** *Clean Energy North America*
- **Cities:** *Milwaukee*
- **Counties:** *Dane, La Crosse, Eau Claire*
- **First Nations:** *Oneida (Div. of Env. Health & Safety)*
- **Food producers:** *Organic Valley Cooperative*
- **Farmers:** *Wisconsin Farmers Union*
- **Business groups:** *WI Business Alliance*
- **Faith:** *WI Council of Churches, Interfaith Power & Light*

Related Activities

- Working with individual developers to design third-party business models that could pass muster under current law
- Identify Community Solar development opportunities involving interested municipalities, civic organizations and electric providers



Michael Vickerman

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Immediate release
July 24, 2013

More information
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Monona Rolls Out Welcome Mat for Solar Energy *Four City Buildings to be Powered by Rooftop Arrays*

In what will become the largest solar electric project serving a Wisconsin municipality, the City of Monona approved a contract this week that will result in the construction of rooftop arrays supplying renewable energy directly to four city-owned buildings. All four solar systems, totaling 156 kilowatts, should be online by year's end.

The four Monona buildings selected to host the solar electric arrays are: City Hall, Public Library, Public Works Garage, and Public Works Dept. Well No. 3. All told, the solar arrays will produce more than 210,000 kilowatt-hours of clean energy per year, equating to 30% of the buildings' combined electricity usage.

The City will receive a stream of renewable energy credits along with the electrical output under a solar service partnership agreement with Falcon Energy Systems, a Colorado-based investment group. Bloomington, MN-based tenKsolar will manufacture the solar generating arrays, and Madison-based Full Spectrum Solar will install and service the equipment on the city-owned sites. Earlier this month, tenKsolar and Full Spectrum Solar teamed up to install a 48 kilowatt system on the Arbor Crossing apartments in Shorewood Hills.

The project team was assembled by Solar Connections, LLC, a Madison consulting group that has also developed residential solar installations that were financed primarily by friends and neighbors of the host customer.

Consultants Kurt Reinhold and James Yockey first introduced this municipal solar model to the Sustainability Committee of the City of Monona in September of 2012, and has since been joined by Janine Glaeser, City Project Manager, to shepherd this project through numerous committees and hearings before Monday's unanimous vote to adopt the resolution to enter into this solar services contract.

joined by Janine Glaeser, City Project Manager, to shepherd this project through numerous committees and hearings before Monday's unanimous vote to adopt the resolution to enter into this solar services contract.

"Five years ago, Monona passed a resolution committing itself to greatly expand its own use of renewable energy by 2025," said Kurt Reinhold, a principal with Solar Connections. "Not only will this partnership help Monona achieve its sustainable energy goals, it will also help the City save on its energy bills."

"With this action, Monona joins the growing circle of Wisconsin businesses, communities and individuals committed to serving themselves with renewable energy produced on-site," said Michael Vickerman, program and policy director of RENEW Wisconsin, a statewide renewable energy advocacy organization.

"Through their actions, forward-thinking entities like Monona will reduce Wisconsin's dependence on imported fossil fuels in a way that creates jobs and invigorates the local economy," Vickerman said.

-END-

RENEW Wisconsin is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that leads and represents businesses, organizations, and individuals who seek more clean renewable energy in Wisconsin. More information on RENEW's Web site at www.renewwisconsin.org.



For Immediate Release

FALCON ENERGY SYSTEMS BUILDS SOLAR PROJECT FOR CITY of MONONA, WI

Larkspur, CO (July 17, 2013) – Falcon Energy Systems announces the signing of a contract with the City of Monona, Wisconsin for the installation of photovoltaic systems on four of its municipal buildings including the Library, City Hall, a Water Pumping station and Public Works Garage. The project will enable the City of Monona to move toward its goal of becoming an Energy Independent Community and help to achieve its plan to provide 25% of its energy through renewable energy by the year 2025. The savings realized from the installation of the solar panels will pay for the project in approximately 8 years.

Development support, design and installation of the project are being provided by Jim Yockey and Kurt Reinhold of Solar Connections LLC and Full Spectrum Solar, both of Madison Wisconsin. Yockey and Reinhold are the first to develop a model for Wisconsin municipalities to enter into 3rd party financing mechanisms for development of renewable energy.

Falcon Energy Systems and Solar Connections will be working with other communities to install similar solar energy systems in fulfillment of a pledge signed by over 140 Wisconsin cities.

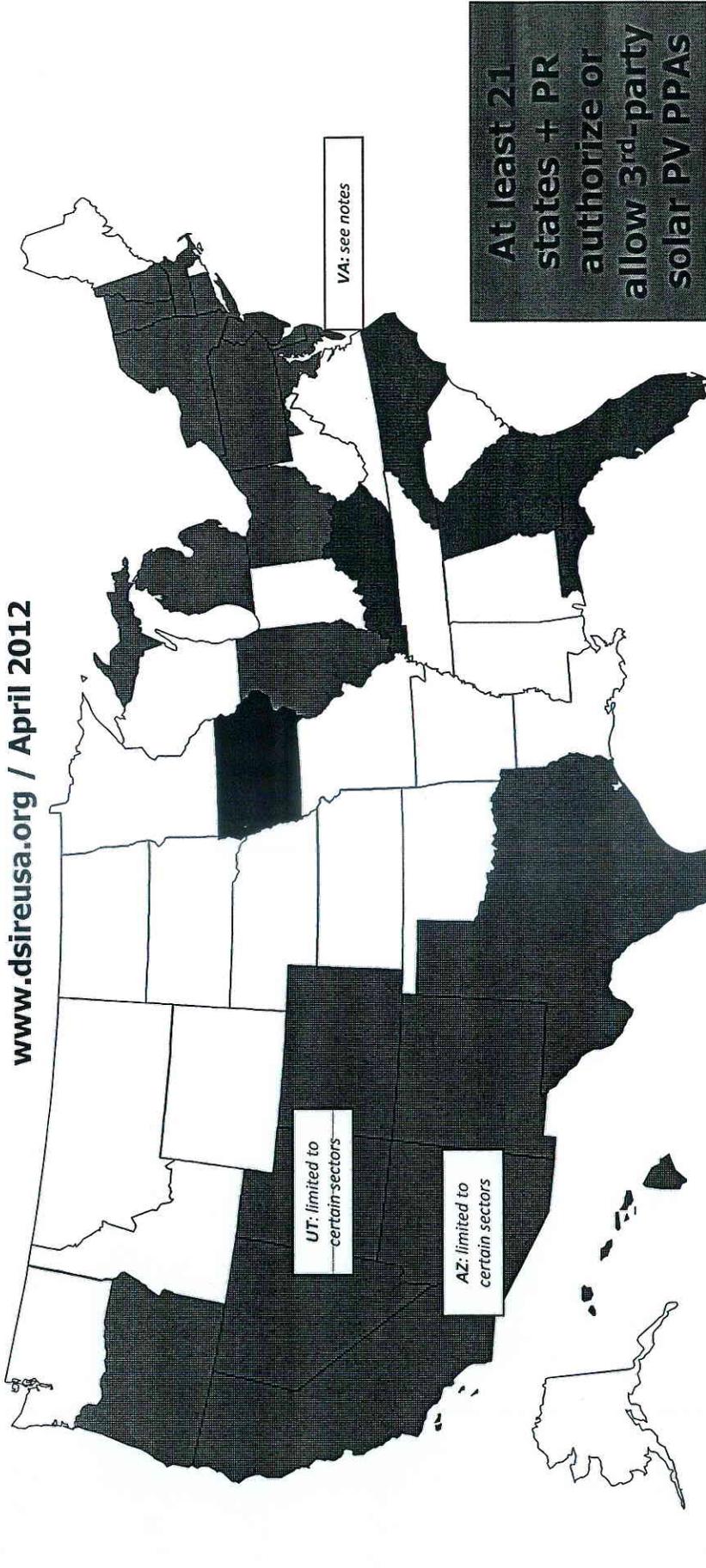
For further details on the project, please contact:

Kurt Reinhold, Solar Connections LLC
608-957-6801
solarconnections@gmail.com

Falcon Energy Systems is a Native-American owned small business based in Larkspur, CO specializing in the development of utility projects impacting energy, sustainability and green design. With over 30 years' experience throughout the world in the renewable energy field, FES offers innovative and cost effective solutions to energy needs.

3rd-Party Solar PV Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

www.dsireusa.org / April 2012



Note: This map is intended to serve as an unofficial guide; it does not constitute legal advice. Seek qualified legal expertise before making binding financial decisions related to a 3rd-party PPA. See following slides for additional important information and authority references.

U.S. NEWS

Solar Firms, Utilities in New Power Struggle

By RYAN TRACY

Disputes over the use of small-scale solar power are flaring across the nation, with utilities squaring off against solar-energy marketers over rules for the growing technology.

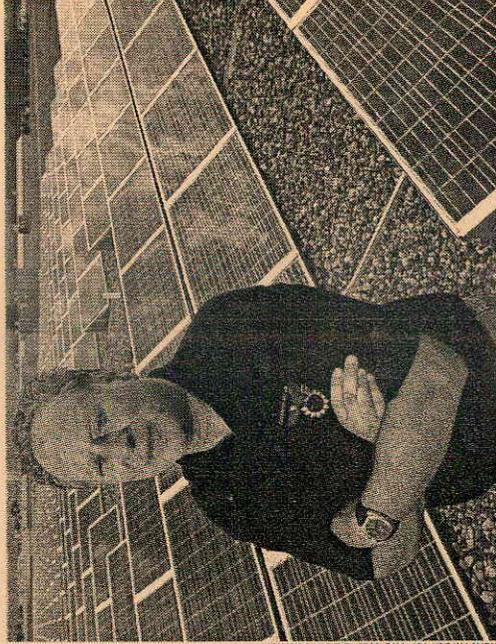
Until now, the fights have been mainly before state regulators. In California, Louisiana and Virginia, utilities have sought to cut what they claim are unfairly high payments they are required to make to owners of homes or larger buildings with solar systems.

At issue in an Iowa lawsuit is whether solar-system marketers can sell electricity in territories where local utilities have exclusive rights to customers. Such an arrangement isn't allowed or is under dispute in many states, limiting solar firms to sales of panels to homeowners and businesses.

But if they win in Iowa, it could pave the way for fledgling solar industries to expand in other states. The case is being watched closely elsewhere in the Midwest, where policies granting utilities a monopoly on electricity service are one reason a solar-construction boom hasn't occurred, unlike in states such as California and New Jersey.

Utilities "are proponents of renewable energy," said Barry Shear, president of Iowa's Eagle Point Solar LLC, but only "if they own the energy assets and the electrons flow through their grid and they can bill you."

In March, an Iowa District Court judge said Mr. Shear's 18-employee company could sign power-purchase contracts in the Dubuque territory of Alliant Energy Corp., one of the state's largest utilities.



Mark Hirsch for The Wall Street Journal

Barry Shear, president of Eagle Point Solar, which is in a court battle over its power-purchase contracts in the Dubuque, Iowa, territory.

Under the disputed deal, Eagle Point would own solar panels on the roof of a Dubuque municipal building and sell power to the city at a rate similar to Alliant's.

The disputed Dubuque deal employed a "third party" ownership arrangement, in which a rooftop solar system is owned by someone other than the property owner. Solar deals using that structure are growing in popularity—for both residential and commercial properties—because they allow building landlords or homeowners to tap into solar power without a significant upfront investment.

Judge Carla T. Schemmel, overturning an Iowa Utilities Board decision, said Eagle Point could sell solar electricity to the city without encroaching on a utility's lawful turf. She noted that the city would still need to buy electricity from

Alliant when the sun isn't shining. "Eagle Point is neither attempting to replace [the utility nor] sever the link between [the utility] and the city," she wrote. "It is simply allowing the city to decrease its demand for electricity from the grid."

Alliant says the ruling contradicts Iowa's policy of not allowing competition for electricity service. "They were going to be selling energy to one of our customers," said Kim King, manager of the renewable-energy program at Alliant, in an interview.

The ruling was a defeat for Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s MidAmerican Energy Co. unit as well. MidAmerican, another Iowa utility that had sided with Alliant in the case, told the judge in January that if the utilities lost, it could lead to "a proliferation of solar installa-

tion in the state."

Alliant and MidAmerican are appealing to the state Supreme Court. They say their problem isn't with solar plants—each utility already connects to about 100 small-scale renewable-energy systems. Instead, they say they have a problem with the way the deal between Eagle Point and Dubuque was arranged. "This is not a dispute about solar energy. This is about a disagreement in the requirements under Iowa law," said Tina Potthoff, a MidAmerican spokeswoman, in an email.

MidAmerican said in May that it may be capable of generating about 39% of its electricity from wind farms by 2016, making it one of several utilities with large renewable-energy portfolios.

But many of those same utilities have objected to policies they say are too friendly to small-scale renewable-energy generation. NextEra Energy Inc. says it generates more electricity from the wind and sun than any other U.S. company. But its Florida Power & Light unit opposes allowing solar-system marketers to sell electricity to the unit's Florida customers. A spokesman for FP&L said the utility doesn't oppose solar, but Florida law doesn't allow "third party" sales.

In Wisconsin, the question of whether solar-panel marketers can sell power in another utility's service territory is likely to be tested this year, said Michael Vickerman, program and policy director for Renew Wisconsin, a group that advocates use of solar power in that state. "If the utility objects, we may go down the same route that we saw in Iowa," he said.



222 S. Hamilton, Madison, WI 53703

Wisconsin Needs To Adopt a Clean Energy Choice Policy

Current ambiguities in Wisconsin public utility law interfere with customers' ability to access clean energy produced on their premises. In states where third party contracts for solar electricity are expressly allowed, such as Arizona and Colorado, such arrangements have accounted for up to 90 percent of new installations, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. Such arrangements allow customers who don't have several thousand dollars in savings to exercise a free market choice about how they obtain electricity. If they want a solar PV system, for example, they can host one without being forced to spend thousands of dollars in up-front system costs.

But here in Wisconsin, we have a problem. A large utility (Alliant Energy) took legal action in the neighboring state of Iowa to stop the City of Dubuque from buying solar power directly from a company that would own and manage panels on city buildings. And the risk of protracted, expensive legal challenges from utilities so far has deterred third-party solar companies from trying to do business in Wisconsin.

The effect of this ambiguity is to restrict property rights and citizens' freedom of choice. What is needed is a policy that clarifies one's right to purchase renewable energy produced by equipment located on their premises. To achieve this objective, we are leading a grassroots effort, which we call **Clean Energy Choice**, to embed in state law a citizen's right to access clean energy produced on his or her premises.

- A **Clean Energy Choice** policy would affirm customers' right to decide how they wish to purchase, lease, or implement a renewable energy system for their site.
- Because **Clean Energy Choice** allows third parties to provide the needed up-front capital that customers may not have, this policy will greatly expand the number of energy users who can host solar, wind, or biogas systems serving their homes or businesses. This arrangement provides customers with a **market-ready tool for determining their preferred electricity resource mix**.
- **Clean Energy Choice** would help households and businesses overcome the diminishing supply of renewable energy incentive dollars available from Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program and utilities at **no extra cost to ratepayers and taxpayers**.

- In contrast to standard utility electric service, obtaining renewable electricity directly from an on-site system would enable households and businesses to lock in predetermined prices for 10 years or longer. The price of energy from a renewable energy system does not increase or decrease as a result of short-term fluctuations in the cost of conventional fossil fuels. **This arrangement delivers predictability and security to a host residence or business.**
- Nonprofit entities such as schools and houses of worship cannot take advantage of existing federal tax credits for renewable energy. ***Clean Energy Choice*** will enable these entities to team up with for-profit companies that can take full advantage of these incentives **and pass the savings along to their nonprofit hosts.**
- Electricity from a third party-owned system usually flows to the customer directly, offsetting consumption, or it is sold to the utility under an approved tariff. **The rate impact from such installations would be negligible.**
- ***Clean Energy Choice*** will greatly expand market opportunities for Wisconsin companies and their employees who are part of the state's renewable energy supply chain. For example, there are an estimated 135 companies in Wisconsin participating in the solar market, including Helios, Ingeteam, and Caleffi, three Milwaukee-based manufacturers.

July 2013

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE

We, the undersigned businesses, organizations, and individuals, affirm our belief that the road to a sustainable economy in Wisconsin runs through the state's own clean renewable energy sources. Integrating locally available renewables into our economy engages a vast supply chain of local manufacturers, distributors and installers, farmers, builders, entrepreneurs, and related professional workers. Local renewables secure relatively clean, risk-free and low-maintenance energy to a state with no fossil fuel reserves. Renewables also help keep energy dollars circulating within Wisconsin.

As both utility customers and citizens, we support policies that expand opportunities to access renewable energy where we live or work. There are more than 20 states (such as Illinois, Michigan, California, Colorado, Missouri and New Jersey) that expressly allow third-party ownership of renewable energy systems on a customer's premises. In those states, the renewable energy system need not be owned by the host customer. Instead, host customers can sign a contract with a third party who installs, operates, and owns a renewable energy system on the customer's premises. Those states that allow third-party owned renewable energy systems now have the most active markets in the country for small renewable energy systems.

We believe the Wisconsin renewable energy business community will enjoy substantial and sustained growth if allowed to use the same tools that are available in over 20 states. This is why we strongly endorse the **Clean Energy Choice** initiative, and look forward to supporting legislation that would exempt third party-owned renewable energy systems that sell energy directly to the host customer from the definition of a public utility.

Clean Energy Choice embraces the virtues of customer choice, fiscal responsibility, property rights and social responsibility. It is a policy tool that allows citizens to exercise their preferences for renewable energy at no extra cost to ratepayers and taxpayers. For those reasons, we the undersigned enthusiastically support **Clean Energy Choice** and urge Wisconsin policymakers to adopt this initiative.

To add your business or organization's name to the list of signatories above, contact Michael Vickerman at 608.255.4044x2 or mvickerman@renewwisconsin.org

A list of Clean Energy Choice supporters, as of July 25, 2013 appears on the reverse side.

Able Energy (River Falls)
 Adobe REO (Dodgeville)
 ALT Energy (Sussex)
 Artha Sustainable Living Center (Amherst)
 Carl Siegrist Consulting, LLC (Whitefish Bay)
 Carlson Mapping and Analysis LLC (Sun Prairie)
 Central Rivers Farmshed (Stevens Point)
 Chimney Specialists (Highland)
 Citizens for a Clean, Green, and Welcoming
 Community (Wisconsin Rapids)
 Clean Energy North America (Milwaukee)
 Clean Wisconsin (Statewide)
 City of Milwaukee (Milwaukee)
 Convergence Energy (Lake Geneva)
 CSI Sun (Highland)
 Current Electric Co. (Brookfield)
 Dane County (Madison)
 Door County Environmental Council (Sturgeon
 Bay/FishCreek)
 DVO, Inc. (Chilton)
 E3 Coalition (Viroqua)
 Eau Claire County (Eau Claire)
 Eland Electric (Green Bay)
 Energize LLC – (Winneconne)
 Environmental Law and Policy Center (Madison)
 Energy Concepts (Hudson)
 Energy Consulting Network (Madison)
 Full Spectrum Solar (Madison)
 Global Infrastructure Asset Management LLC
 (Madison)
 Grading Spaces (Fort Atkinson)
 Green Neighbor (Wauwatosa)
 Green Sky Energetics (Manitowoc)
 H&H Solar Group (Madison)
 Helios USA (Milwaukee)
 Hoffman Planning, Design and Construction, Inc.
 (Appleton)
 Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin
 (Statewide)
 Johnson Controls (Milwaukee)
 Kettle View Renewable Energy (Random Lake)
 L&S Technical Associates, Inc. (Spring Green)
 La Crosse County (La Crosse)
 Lake Michigan Wind and Sun (Sturgeon Bay)
 Legacy Solar, Inc. (Frederic)
 Lemberg Electric (Brookfield)
 Let It Shine Energy Services (Washburn)
 Madison Solar Consulting (Madison)
 Midwest Renewable Energy Association (Custer)
 Milwaukee Solar (Milwaukee)
 Miron Construction (Neenah)
 Next Step Energy (Eau Claire)
 North American Solar Stores (Madison)
 North Wind Renewable Energy (Stevens Point)
 Oneida Nation – Environmental, Health & Safety
 Division (Oneida)
 Organic Valley Cooperative (LaFarge)
 Photovoltaic Systems LLC (Amherst)
 Planet Bike (Madison)
 Positive Energy Alternatives (Memonomie)
 Prairie Solar Power & Light (Prairie du Chien)
 Productive Energy Solutions (Madison)
 RENEW Wisconsin (Statewide)
 REpowerNow (Viroqua)
 Resource Solar (Madison)
 Ritger Law Office (Random Lake)
 Sand Creek Consultants (Amherst)
 Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter (Statewide)
 Solar Connections (Madison)
 Southwest Badger Resource and Development
 Council (Platteville)
 Sun and Daughters Solar LLC (Rhineland)
 SunPower Corporation (Verona)
 SunSpec (Milwaukee)
 SunVest (Pewaukee)
 Superior Safety and Environmental Services
 (Middleton)
 Sustainable Atwood (Madison)
 Sustainable Engineering Group (Madison)
 Symbiont (Milwaukee)
 TAPCO – Traffic and Parking Control Inc.
 (Milwaukee)
 Tom Brown, Architect (Stevens Point)
 Town and Country Resource and Development
 (Jefferson)
 U.S. Biogas (Mequon)
 W.E.S. Engineering (Madison)
 Werner Electric (Neenah)
 Wisconsin Business Alliance (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Council of Churches – Stewardship of
 Public Life Commission (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Environment (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Farmers Union (Chippewa Falls)
 Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice (Statewide)
 Wisconsin Solar Energy Industries Association
 (Statewide)



File Code: 1580/3000

Date: August 2, 2013

TO: Northeastern Area State Foresters

**Fiscal Year 2014 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals**

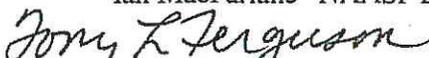
PROPOSALS DUE COB October 15, 2013

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals (RFP). The competitive approach is intended to maximize flexibility and provide Federal funding for projects that address nationally and regionally significant issues or landscapes as identified in State Forest Action Plans and described by the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) national themes.

The FY2014 Competitive Allocation RFP will incorporate the national S&PF Competitive Allocation ("Redesign Grants") and the Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation RFP as two separate categories within this single solicitation. The "Redesign Grants" must be in line with the authorities for urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, forest health, and forest fire hazard mitigation S&PF programs either singularly or in combination. Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation proposals are to focus on hazardous wildland fuel treatments, community/homeowner education, and activities that reduce wildfire risk as identified in the program direction. This process will not include funds or incorporate authorities from Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, and Federal Lands Forest Health Management programs. Projects may be carried out on any combination of land ownerships; however, S&PF funds are to be spent on non-Federal lands as directed by S&PF authorities. **Significant changes in FY2014 are listed in the RFP guidance document.**

During proposal development, we encourage applicants to consult with NA S&PF Field Office Representatives and Field Office staff as well as Cooperative Fire Staff in Newtown Square. In addition, NA S&PF will host a webinar(s) to explain the RFP process and provide technical assistance related to proposal development. If there are questions regarding the FY2013 Competitive Allocation RFP, please contact the appropriate NA S&PF Field Office Representative or the NAASF Executive Director:

- Barb Tormoehlen – St. Paul, MN, at (651) 649-5276 or btormoehlen@fs.fed.us
- Bob Lueckel – Morgantown, WV, at (304) 285-1540 or rlueckel@fs.fed.us
- Terry Miller – Durham, NH, at (603) 868-7694 or twmiller@fs.fed.us
- Ian MacFarlane – NAASF Executive Director at (202) 526-4804 or Ian.macfarlane@mail.wvu.edu


TONY L. FERGUSON

Area Director

Enclosure

cc: NA Executive Team

NA State Departments of Ag.

Fiscal Year 2014 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals

The Fiscal Year 2014 Competitive Allocation Process

Important Changes in FY2014 (more information is provided below, or contact your field representative):

- A single form is now used for all project proposals. Proposals with more than one intended recipient of funds or contributor of match or non-match funds must submit supplemental budget tables for each partner organization clearly indicating the **State** of the office to which the funds are to be directly disbursed, or the match applied.
- Accomplishment reporting requirements will include project spatial data (for entry into SMART – the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool) and may be further amended in both the reporting measures and the reporting interface.
- Requirement to document the appropriateness of project scale to suit the issue. The project scale will be a function of the most appropriate size associated with the issue or landscape of national importance, and may result in single, multistate, or multiregion implementation.
- Request to identify the appropriate category of land ownership, which determines what authority may be used to fund the project.
- Federal funding requested is calculated directly from budget table(s).
- Listing partners separately and entering the number of concurrence letters (which may be submitted separately) helps ensure complete proposals and document State Forester concurrence.
- This year's budget table allows room for explanatory remarks to clarify budget items. Please note any project components that might exceed budget authorities.
- Additional space is provided for Measurable Results and Significant On-The-Ground Outcomes. It is still acceptable to use supplemental custom measures, but we highly encourage the use of both the Current and New Measures to document how your project addresses the relevant national State and Private Forestry themes. There is now no need to select the category separately.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Competitive Allocation process for the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) is consistent with the ***FY2014 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance (revised 4/03/13)***. This national guide is available at http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/fy2014_compet_guide.pdf. This request for proposals (RFP) will have two categories of projects: **Redesign** and **Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation**. The Redesign category is the appropriate and sole submission opportunity for forest health management and treatment projects (see page 3 for excluded projects). A combination of Redesign and Forest Health funds will be used to support forest health-related submissions, as appropriate. If funding for forest health methods development becomes available, a separate RFP solicitation will be issued.

Key Points

- There is no limit on the number of proposals (single or multistate) any one State may submit. **However, the same proposal may not be submitted under both the Redesign and Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation categories.**
- The minimum project proposal amount in Federal funding for Redesign grants is \$25,000; however, there is no minimum proposal amount for the Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation category.
- The maximum amount of Federal funding that will be awarded to any one State (State cap) via this competitive process is 15 percent of the total available funding for each RFP category.
- All proposals must identify the lead agency.
- Multipartner proposals must clearly identify the partners that would receive funding directly and identify the correct State. This information is critical to determine the amount charged to each State's cap. Be sure to gather concurrence of all State Foresters representing States with proposed financial or material partners.
- Funding available for this RFP does not include, nor does it affect, core program funding.
- Proposals will be fully funded to the extent possible once the final NA S&PF FY2014 budget is received.

Eligibility

In FY2014, State forestry agencies and the District of Columbia are eligible to submit or authorize proposals (pass-through direct to partners) for consideration under this competition. Nonprofit organizations, universities, tribes, and other partners must submit proposals through the State Forester where the activity will be conducted. For-profit organizations are not eligible to submit proposals under this competition. State Foresters will collaborate with State agriculture agency directors or other organization directors with State forest health program responsibilities who may submit proposals through the State Forester or directly with a letter documenting concurrence from the State Forester.

Additional information

- Where appropriate, States are encouraged to develop multistate projects in collaboration with other State forestry agencies and partners. Multipartner proposals must include letters of concurrence from each fiscal partner and all affected State Foresters.
- Projects proposed through this process may extend or expand upon other work supported by Federal funds; however, activities and accomplishments must be tracked and reported separately.
- Projects may span up to 3 years, with full funding committed at the time of award.
- Funds to be passed through as a grant to third-party recipients must be clearly identified with the name of the organization, contact information, and funding amount. Third-party pass-through funding amounts will count towards a State's total allocation.
- If selected, any project that includes forest health suppression, restoration, or eradication activities may not be included under a consolidated grant.

Projects Excluded from Consideration under this RFP

1. Gypsy moth suppression, eradication, and Slow-the-Spread (STS) projects. These are determined by cooperative surveys or other efforts in cooperation with the STS Foundation.
2. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Methods Proposals are solicited through a separate process.
3. National and cross-regional forest health initiatives such as oak wilt control, Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR), Evaluation Monitoring (EM), Forest Service Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (FS-PIAP), and Special Technology Development Projects (STDP). These are run through a separate national process.
4. Forest health methods (applied technology development). These may be solicited separately, depending on the availability of funds.
5. Purchase of fire department equipment, including fire weather stations; purchase and installation of dry fire hydrants.
6. Small business start-up funding.
7. Research and development projects.
8. Capital improvements (facilities and infrastructure).
9. Fire preparedness and suppression capacity building.
10. Economic Development Projects.

Proposal Requirements for All Requests

FY2014 NA S&PF Competitive Allocation RFP applications will proceed for funding consideration **only** if they meet the required elements below:

1. Link to Forest Action Plans, national and regional priorities.

In 2010, each State and the District of Columbia completed a State Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (now referred to as a Forest Action Plan). These documents outline priority issues or landscapes within each State and are available at <http://www.forestactionplans.org>. The proposed project's goals must address and be clearly linked to resource objectives and/or priorities in the Forest Action Plan. Project deliverables must demonstrate how the project will help the State achieve the desired future condition documented in the Forest Action Plan. For multistate projects, the proposal deliverables must link to the Forest Action Plan of each State involved.

Project goals should be clearly linked to the objectives of one or more of the national State and Private Forestry themes: 1) conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses, 2) protect forests from threats, and 3) enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

2. Required matching funds (50/50 minimum).

The match must be met by eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match provisions in grant regulations (see Federal Regulations Part 3015–Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, Subpart G at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&SID=1e16a721735f221026c2dc1bf92d48b1&rgn=div5&view=text&node=7:15.1.8.2.3&idno=7>).

3. Appropriate and authorized use of Federal funds.

Proposals must conform to laws and authorities laid out in *The Principal Laws Relating to USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs* (available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/SPF-CF%20handbook.pdf>). The authorities for this RFP—Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, and Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation—may be used singly or in combination. **All respective program reporting requirements will apply to any funds disbursed through this grant process.**

Project Submission and Selection

Documentation for submitting proposals under the FY2014 NA S&PF Competitive Allocation process is available on the NA S&PF Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp>. Please submit proposals in the appropriate fillable PDF form to the e-mail inbox na-rfp@fs.fed.us **no later than close of business on October 15, 2013. Submit each proposal under one and only one RFP category.**

Note: The proposal submission inbox can accept messages up to 4 MB in size. Multiple messages per proposal may be submitted if necessary. Please be sure any supplemental materials or separate e-mails are clearly labeled with the full descriptive project title or proposal number if it has been assigned. Additional information such as maps, tables, and letters of support may be included in addition to the proposal. For assistance submitting proposals to the inbox, contact Terry James at trjames@fs.fed.us or by calling (610) 557-4107.

A Competitive Allocation Review Team consisting of an equal number of State representatives and NA S&PF leaders will collaboratively review, evaluate, and prioritize project proposals. The number of team members will be determined based on total number of proposals submitted and reviewer workload. Proposals will undergo a preliminary review to identify incomplete applications and assign potential funding eligibility based on the project's scope of work and whether it meets the required elements identified in the *Proposal Requirements for All Requests* section.

The interagency review team will complete the review of proposals and develop a recommended ranked list of projects by the end of December 2013. The recommended list of proposals will be submitted to the NAASF Executive Committee for concurrence and to the NA S&PF Director for approval. The NA S&PF Executive Team will then identify the appropriate mix of program funds and compile the FY2014 grant list with funding sources. Projects ranked but not funded will receive further consideration by the NAASF Executive Committee and the NA S&PF Director should additional funds become available.

For Further Information

- Barb Tormoehlen – Field Office Rep., St. Paul, MN: (651) 649-5276 or btormoehlen@fs.fed.us
- Bob Lueckel – Field Office Rep., Morgantown, WV: (304) 285-1540 or rlueckel@fs.fed.us
- Terry Miller – Field Office Rep., Durham, NH: (603) 868-7694 or twmiller@fs.fed.us
- Ian MacFarlane – NAASF Executive Director: (202) 526-4804
or ian.macfarlane@mail.wvu.edu

State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation Process Background

Competitive allocation of funds was codified in Section 8007 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246, known as the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill). Section 8007 outlines a process for competitively allocating funds to State Foresters or equivalent State officials and requires that the Secretary of Agriculture consult with the Federal Advisory Forest Resource Coordinating Committee when determining the competitive allocation of funds.

Beginning in FY2008, a percentage of the national S&PF allocation was invested in projects selected through a competitive process. State Foresters and U.S. Forest Service leaders in the Northeast, South, and West jointly administer this process using the national guidance described below. Each geographic region (NE, S, and W, based on National Association of State Forester regions) designs its competitive process to address two groups of issues:

- 1) Geographically significant issues and landscapes now identified in its Forest Action Plans, and
- 2) Broad themes (specifically the national S&PF themes and priorities identified in the Farm Bill) and direction provided at the national level.

National FY2014 Allocation Process

In FY2014, up to 15 percent of the net available S&PF allocation will be designated for the competitive allocation. The net available funding will consist of S&PF funds available after national commitments are removed.

The net available will include funds that are traditionally transferred to State forestry agencies as well as funds that support S&PF capacity in the U.S. Forest Service Regional/Area Offices and the Washington Office. The U.S. Forest Service Regions/Area will engage their State Forester partners in determining any reductions of funds that support U.S. Forest Service S&PF capacity.

For FY2014, the net available will include funds in the following programs: Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands (National Fire Plan), State Fire Assistance, and State Fire Assistance (National Fire Plan). The competitive allocation will not include funds from Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, and Federal Lands Forest Health Management programs.

In conjunction with the distribution of initial budget advice to the U.S. Forest Service Regional/Area Offices, each geographic region will be informed of the amount to be available to them for competitive project allocation based on current distribution formulas.

Category 1: National State and Private Forestry Competitive Resource Allocation (Redesign Grants)

Redesign grants are intended to “*shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.*” Ideally, proposals will address national State and Private Forestry themes (http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/pdf/performance_measure_table.pdf) by targeting State and Private Forestry program funds to the highest priority unmet conservation needs within a State as laid out in each State Forest Action Plan (<http://www.forestactionplans.org/regions/northeastern-region>). The project’s scale will be a function of the most appropriate size associated with the issue or landscape of national importance, and may result in single, multistate, or multiregion implementation.

Redesign projects can integrate (mix) program authorities and the funding streams of Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Fire, and Forest Health to meet project objectives. This competitive process allows funds to flow toward novel projects with complex needs that address well-vetted priorities with strong assurance of achieving meaningful outcomes.

Eligible Activities under the Redesign Request for Proposals

The Category 1 Redesign RFP allows State Foresters and their partner applicants to mix S&PF programs, authorities, and funding to achieve the priorities and strategies described in their Forest Action Plan. Proposed projects need to address priority issues and threats, produce measureable results, involve collaboration with partners that results in added value, and maximize S&PF funding by using it to leverage contributions from both Federal and non-Federal entities. Successful projects may contain elements of one or more of the S&PF programs identified above.

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Landscape restoration, including invasive species management using prescribed fire. Wildland-urban interface projects that combine hazard mitigation, urban community outreach, and invasives management through Stewardship project planning.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan areas, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and other landscape-scale planning areas.
- Holistic planning and implementation to address Forest Action Plans. Conservation education efforts that transcend programs and authorities. Ecosystem services projects.
- Tree planting projects in urban and municipal areas that conform to guidelines that address the number of trees to be planted and the species and size of trees.
- Strategic outreach efforts to land managers/owners facing urban sprawl, invasive species, and threats from wildfire.
- Integrated efforts to improve management of nonindustrial private forest lands according to the Forest Action Plan.

Reporting and Accountability

New in FY2014 is the requirement to enter spatial data associated with selected projects into the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool (SMART) system. The State and Private Forestry Board of Directors remains committed to the concept of using one core set of measures to tell the story of State and Private Forestry work. Additional work will be required before the system of record can be

modified to accept accomplishments beyond the “current measures” now reported. Funding recipients should expect to be required to report additional project accomplishments as the Board of Directors adjusts reporting measures and systems.

NOTE: In FY2014, as in FY2013, forest health management and treatment projects should be submitted under the Redesign category and should address the Redesign project criteria described in this section.

Eligible forest health management and treatment activities include:

- Prevention, suppression, and/or eradication of invasive and native damaging agents.
- Restoration of forests following damaging events to promote desired future conditions.
- Enhanced surveys and technical assistance for problems not supported by core FHP funds.
- Activities to better engage the public in forest health management.

Interested parties are encouraged to review information pertaining to treatment and management objectives for specific pests at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>. Contact NA Field Office program specialists for assistance and additional information.

If a proposal involves forest health treatment or has a forest health treatment component, applicants need to attach a completed form 3400-2 (available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>) to the proposal at submission. The treatment component should also follow these guidelines:

- Show strong potential for meeting project objectives and must be supported by a biological evaluation that substantiates the need for the project and the strategies proposed.
- Be environmentally acceptable and appropriately documented in accordance with appropriate laws.
- In order to be eligible for such assistance, the entity having ownership or jurisdiction over the affected land must:
 - Consent, cooperate, and participate in the project.
 - Contribute directly to the work to be done.
 - Have the legal authority to carry out such projects.
- Treatment projects require the following documentation:
 - Appropriate documentation in accordance with relevant and required environmental analyses.
 - Biological evaluations, including pre-treatment and post-treatment evaluations.
 - Work, safety, and security plans where appropriate or required.
- Forest Health funds may not be used to cut either dead trees or trees that have commercial value.
- Cooperators shall also maintain appropriate records for each project, including the location of areas treated.

Please note that on the NA S&PF RFP Web site (<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>) under the *Proposal Reference Information* heading, you will find lists of proposals funded in FY2012 and FY2013 along with files containing reviewer comments for all proposals. Under the same heading, a file described as a list of proposals provides a link to the full text of each proposal submitted in Fiscal Years 2011–2013. These are invaluable resources for preparing successful proposals for the current solicitation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a proposal involves Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation activities, a completed NFPORS Form (available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>) is required to be attached to the proposal at the time of submission.

Criteria for Redesign Proposal Selection

1. Priority Issues and Threats – Desired Future Condition (25 points)

Projects will be based on an analysis within the State or region that identifies the issue or landscape being addressed as a priority in its Forest Action Plan.

- Demonstrate a focus on a significant issue or threat in the jurisdiction that will be addressed and how the project will **lead to a desired future condition**.
- Clearly articulate the methods employed, timelines, and resources needed to move the State or region to a desired future condition as articulated in its Forest Action Plan.

2. Measureable Results and Significant On-the-Ground Outcomes (35 points)

Describe how reaching the goals and achievements of the project will effect positive changes.

Projects should prioritize funding and other resources used toward the achievement of the outcomes identified below. List specific measurable results and significant on-the-ground outcomes and milestones as well as the return on investments made.

Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes

- Identify high-priority forest ecosystems and landscapes conserved.
- Demonstrate how forests are actively and sustainably managed.

Protect Forests from Threats

- Identify fire-adapted lands that will be restored and how the risk of wildfire impacts is reduced.
- Identify the threats to forest and ecosystem health and how they are managed and reduced.

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

- Describe how water quality and quantity are protected and enhanced.
- Show how air quality is improved and energy is conserved.
- Identify how communities plan for and reduce their risks from wildfire.
- Describe the economic benefits and values of trees and forests that are maintained and enhanced.
- Demonstrate how wildlife and fish habitat is protected, conserved, and enhanced.
- Show how people are connected to trees and forests and engaged in environmental stewardship activities.
- Describe how trees and forests are managed and restored to help mitigate and adapt to global climate change.
- Describe measures likely to better equip and enable forest landowners to address forest health threats.

3. Collaboration and Integrated Delivery that Influence Positive Change (20 points)

Projects should identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project. Projects should seek to improve the delivery of public benefits from forest management by coordinating with complementary State and Federal programs. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved in the projects.

Multistate collaboration and integration of projects are encouraged. Projects should:

- Describe results and outcomes that are produced at a scale and cost appropriate to the project purpose.
- Demonstrate residual positive benefits related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach, among others.
- Include a component of outreach, training, lessons learned, or related opportunities so that carrying out the project results in skills and capability that extend beyond the life of the project itself.

4. Leverage (20 points)

Projects should maximize S&PF funding by using it to leverage contributions from both Federal and non-Federal entities. Project applications need to clearly identify Competitive Allocation funds requested and associated non-Federal contributions as well as separately document leveraged contributions. Projects shall seek to:

- Maximize return on investment and leverage resources.
- Provide a reasonable balance between administration and technical assistance.
- Use effective approaches to sustainable forest resource conservation, protection, and/or enhancement.
- Improve the delivery of public benefits from forest management by coordinating with complementary State and Federal programs when possible.

Category 2: Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation

The Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation category is designed to protect people and communities from wildfire. It does this by increasing wildfire awareness and education, providing assistance to local fire departments, reestablishing ecosystems after wildfires, reducing excessive fuel accumulations in and around communities, establishing community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs), and developing Firewise programming in communities at risk for wildfire.

In agreement with the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF), the NA S&PF limits the amount of funding available for this RFP category to 35 percent of the net available State Fire Assistance–National Fire Plan SPS2 funding. Through this competitive grant process, Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation projects are focused on hazardous fuels reduction, development of CWPPs, information and education, planning, and hazard mitigation for homeowners.

Three categories of activities have been identified to ensure that funds are used to mitigate or reduce hazard and risk in the wildland-urban interface.

1. Hazardous fuels reduction.

Funding recipients may carry out mitigating hazardous fuels treatments in or adjacent to identified fire-prone communities to reduce the threat of wildfire within the community. Fuel reduction and vegetation management projects, including project-level planning that emphasizes cooperation among agencies and jurisdictions as a way to mitigate wildfire hazards, can be conducted across jurisdictional boundaries, on adjoining private lands, or within the respective communities.

2. Information and education targeting prevention and mitigation in the wildland-urban interface.

Homeowners and local government bear much of the responsibility for improving the defensibility of homes in the wildland-urban interface. States can provide the leadership to coordinate, develop, and distribute educational programs in association with insurance companies, communities, and local government agencies. Informational and educational programs must target prevention and mitigation of loss. Programs should lead to use or establishment of one or more fire program elements such as fire safety codes, development/implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, implementation of Firewise safety practices, fuel treatments within fire-prone communities, or community planning to define fire-safe structures suited to local fire-adapted communities.

3. Risk reduction and hazard mitigation for homeowners and their communities.

Creating conditions in and around individual structures that will limit the transmission of fire from wildland to structures is fundamental to reducing the fire hazard in the interface. This is the responsibility of homeowners and communities. States can facilitate projects that focus on reducing the risk of ignition and loss, developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, implementing Firewise concepts, and conducting risk reduction demonstration projects in fire-adapted communities.

These project categories are complementary to one another. States are encouraged to be creative in identifying and developing proposals that address local needs through a multifaceted approach that integrates activities from all three project categories.

Additional requirements for the development of forest fire hazard mitigation proposals include:

- No more than 25 percent of the project budget can be used for planning purposes.
- No more than 25 percent of the project budget can be used to hire personnel.
- Project activities should be focused in high-risk wildland-urban interface communities as identified by the State's Fire Protection Assessment component of its Forest Action Plan.
- If it is necessary to purchase equipment worth more than \$5,000 to complete the hazard mitigation project, the proposal must include a statement that specifically identifies the need and steps taken to identify alternatives to the purchase.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a proposal involves Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation activities, a completed NFPORS Form (available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtml>) is required.

States are encouraged to explore using third-party nonprofit opportunities within their respective State.

Examples of Activities for Projects that Qualify (not all inclusive)

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

- Use of prescribed fire.
- Use of mechanical means (chippers, brush hog mowers, plows for dozers).
- Small-diameter utilization of wood (biomass).
- Vegetation management (pruning, mowing, chemical, grazing).
- Shaded fuel breaks.
- Defensible space around homes and structures.
- Removal of slash.

Information and Education in the Wildland-Urban Interface

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) or equivalent.
- Firewise/defensible space programming.
- Pamphlets, brochures, and handouts that focus on prescribed fire, hazardous fuels treatments, CWPPs, and/or Firewise-related efforts.
- Inspecting fire-prone property.
- Videos, public service announcements, newspaper inserts.

Risk Reduction and Hazard Mitigation for Homeowners and Their Communities

- Homeowner/Association-sponsored fuels reduction projects.
- Community fire protection plans or equivalent.
- Municipal, fire district, county, and community coordination of slash disposal.
- Multijurisdictional hazard reduction projects.
- Community projects that focus on reducing the risk of ignition or loss.

Examples of Activities for Projects that DO NOT Qualify (not all inclusive)

- Purchase of fire department equipment, including fire weather stations.
- Purchase and installation of dry fire hydrants.
- Small business start-up funding.
- Research and development projects.
- Capital improvements (facilities).
- Fire preparedness and suppression capacity building.

Criteria for Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation Proposal Selection

1. Project Objectives Address Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation (25 points)

- Show that a new project/initiative not previously funded contributes to forest fire hazard mitigation priorities in the Forest Action Plan.
- Show how the hazardous wildland fuels treatment activities are tied to a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- How does the Community/Homeowner Education Targeting Risk, Prevention, and Mitigation objective relate to a priority area of the Forest Action Plan?
- How does the mitigation activity reduce the risk and consequences of wildfire in the wildland-urban interface?
- Show how Community Wildfire Protection Planning and Assessments reduce forest fire hazards.

2. Measures of Success that Relate to Strategic Priorities of the State Forest Action Plan and Identify Client Benefit (25 points)

- Show how the number of high-risk communities assisted is tied to the Forest Action Plan goals.
- How do hazardous wildland fuels treatment activities within the wildland-urban interface advance the priorities in the Forest Action Plan?
- How is the number of homeowners served related to the State's strategic priorities?
- Demonstrate where the Community Wildfire Protection Plans prepared and implemented fit within the Forest Action Plan.
- Show how Firewise programming advances the Forest Action Plan.

3. Partnerships and Collaboration (20 points)

- What do partners identified as sharing in the implementation of this project contribute toward a successful outcome?
- If the project is tied to a high-risk community(ies)/project(s) adjacent to or near Federal lands, how are the Federal partners engaged?
- Demonstrate how the project is tied to other targeted program areas identified within the National Fire Plan, 10-year Comprehensive Strategy, and/or the Healthy Forest Initiative or Forest Action Plan.

4. Expected Outcomes or Products that Demonstrate an Innovative Approach (20 points)

- How does the project use an innovative approach to raise awareness about the benefits of Community Wildfire Protection Plans?
- Demonstrate how hazardous fuels treatment activities are innovative.
- Describe the innovative approach to pilot/regional/statewide prescription burn programs in high-risk communities.
- How will innovative pilot Firewise community workshop(s) be carried out in communities identified in the Forest Action Plan?
- How are community residents informed and educated about using an innovative approach?

5. Capacity for Replication (10 points)

- Indicate whether the project has the capacity to be initiated in other communities or geographic areas within the State and/or in other States.

Collaboration and Partnership Opportunities with the U.S. Forest Service for Restoration/Afforestation, Biomass, and Environmental Remediation

Background and Justification

The Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies in Rhinelander, WI has been a leader in ecological research for over five decades, with emphasis on both coniferous and deciduous forest species.

Conifer research began in 1957. Early work primarily consisted of breeding and genetics of economically-important conifer species. Some of the forest management tools from this research are still relevant, including dozens of long-term testing sites established throughout the Lake States. In addition to genetics, the Institute's research consisted of diseases of seed, seedlings, and plantations of northern conifers, in addition to the physiology of wood formation and impacts of atomic radiation on forests.

Short rotation woody crop (i.e., poplars and willows) research began in 1968. Much of the early work focused on feedstock production for energy and fiber (i.e., biomass), with an emphasis on developing productive and sustainable silvicultural systems. Genetics, physiology, and vegetation management were priorities. Given the information learned during these decades coupled with the growing need for merging intensive forestry with waste management, environmental remediation research began in the mid-1990s.

Current science at the Institute is largely based on these legacy conifer and hardwood programs. Given synergies among such research capabilities and regional needs for ecosystem services, the timing is ideal for developing partnerships among Institute researchers and Great Lakes tribes.

Restoration/Afforestation

Problem

- There is a major need for restoration/afforestation methods in disturbed areas, such as along shorelines and sites where flow obstructions from perched culverts have caused vegetation mortality.

Solution

- Establishment of willow and poplar riparian buffers contributes to decreased agricultural runoff and increased water and soil quality.
- Removal of obstructions and re-establishment with superior conifer selections (from the testing sites described above) can be used to restore wetlands and adjacent forest habitats.

Forest Service Contribution

- Access to thousands of experimental varieties that outperform commercially available poplar/willow
- Access to dozens of provenances within numerous conifer species appropriate for afforestation
- Existing partnerships in the conifer community (for enhancing restoration/afforestation opportunities)

Biomass

Problem

- There is a major need for biomass feedstock sources for traditional forest products, as well as energy for combined heat and power (i.e., electricity) and biofuels.

Solution

- Short rotation woody crops are renewable feedstocks that can be grown to provide woody biomass and reduce our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy, while conserving soil and water, recycling nutrients, and sequestering carbon.

Forest Service Contribution

- Decades of expertise with genetics, physiology, and silviculture of short rotation woody crops
- Access to thousands of experimental varieties that outperform commercially available poplar/willow
- Global leader in the short rotation crops community (for enhancing biomass opportunities)

Environmental Remediation

Problem

- There is a major need for tree-based systems used for environmental remediation, given that contaminants from residential and industrial waste streams have polluted water and soil much faster than traditional technologies can remediate the problem.

Solution

- Short rotation woody crops exhibit fast growth, elevated water usage, and extensive root systems, which allows them to be used effectively for environmental remediation and subsequent restoration.

Forest Service Contribution

- Decades of expertise with genetics, physiology, and silviculture of short rotation woody crops
- Access to thousands of experimental varieties that outperform commercially available poplar/willow
- Global leader in the environmental remediation community (for enhancing remediation opportunities)
- Utilization of phyto-recurrent selection, a method developed at the Institute that is used to test and select varieties based on specific contaminants and site conditions

Capacity for Collaboration

- Rich history of collaboration with tribes, industry, academia, private individuals, and government agencies at all levels (local, county, state, federal, international)
- Extensive technical expertise, including writing and administering grant proposals from USDOE, USEPA, USDA NRCS, USDA AFRI, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- Elevated cost-share potential
- State-of-the-art facilities and equipment for cutting-edge research and application (see details below)

Facilities and Equipment

- **Controlled environment facilities**
Greenhouses, growth chambers, controlled-environment room, shadehouses, large-capacity drying ovens, walk-in cooler, grinding stations
- **Analytical laboratories**
N-C analyzer, AA spectrophotometer, HPLC, fiber analyzer, bench spectrophotometer, rapid flow analyzer, centrifuges, freeze drier
- **GIS laboratory and modeling capabilities**
High-performance work stations, Trimble GPS units, large-format plotter
- **Hugo Sauer Nursery**
125-acre site with numerous outbuildings, irrigated nursery beds, permanent fence (13-acres), and farm equipment (e.g., tractor, etc.)
- **Harshaw Research Farm**
540-acre site with offices, implement shed, field laboratory, irrigation, permanent fence (80-acres), and farm equipment (e.g., tractor, etc.)

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