

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 19, 2009**  
**Red Cliff**

Meeting called to order at 9:10am by Jonathan Pyatskowitz.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Bad River (Erv Soulier, Pam Roberts), FCPC (Nate Guldan), Ho-Chunk (Sheena Schoen), LCO (Brett McConnell), Menomonie (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), Mole Lake (Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Tracey Ledder), St. Croix (Katie Stariha, Tony Havranek, Cody Mattison), Stockbridge-Munsee (Bob Frank)

Others Present: Jerry Thompson (NRCS), Todd Dale (WTCAC Intern), Greg Yakle (NRCS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Tony Erba (USFS), Tom Krapf (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), Gary Haughn (NRCS), Tom Cogger (NRCS), Julie Malvitz (NRCS)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve agenda. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Nate did not have the minutes finished from July 13, 2009 meeting. He will have them done by the next meeting.

**4. Intern Presentations**

Todd Dale gave his presentation. Todd is attending LCO Community College, his internship was with NRCS out of the Spooner office. Todd indicated that he was very gracious for the opportunity. He learned about many things including how to reduce erosion on shorelines through the use of gabions, terrestrial plant ID, and invasive species. He said that this was definitely one of the best jobs he has ever had. Through the internship he read many manuals, books, and brochures to get an understanding of terminology. He now has a much better understanding of many different types of soil, of which he pointed out there are more than 600 types in Wisconsin. Also, he said that he now has a much deeper appreciation for farmers and their work. Other things he worked with or on included a clinometer, soil maps, hydric soil characteristics, soil models, no till on farm fields, importance of residue on farm fields, learned about wetlands and wetland plants and communities. He really enjoyed the AIANEA conference in Green Bay. He hopes to continue his work next year. He will type up the report and send it to Jerry to give to us.

Arthur LaBarge gave his presentation. William Poupart was sick but this is basically what he did as well, although he indicated that William worked at Lac du Flambeau more. He thanked WTCAC for the introduction to NRCS and other Tribes. He said that this opportunity opened many different doors for him. He gained awareness of NRCS and various projects. For the summer, he worked with Lac du Flambeau for 6 weeks,

Rhinelanders NRCS for 3 weeks, and attended the AIANEA conference for 1 week. He then gave a detailed account of his activities throughout the summer. From June 15 - 28, he installed an electric fence for Lac du Flambeau. From June 29 to July 1 he did some training on topo maps, GPS training, and timber sale procedures. From July 7 - 13, he built wood duck houses that would be used on Powell Marsh (funded by WHIP program) and sold strawberries with Golden Eagle Farms. From July 13 - 17 he attended the AIANEA conference and got networking experience. From July 20 - 24 he got machinery training in Lac du Flambeau which included dump truck, 1 ton flatbed, and other heavy equipment. He also mowed dikes on Powell Marsh. On July 24 he was in Rhinelanders with NRCS and did some road access surveying and he learned about culverts and placing them correctly. On July 28, he received NRCS GPS spotting and Toolkit experience. From August 3 - 5 he had soil profile and soil survey training. On August 6 he helped FCPC with fish count and stocking procedures. On August 11 he went out with AIS specialist and got a presentation on AIS species. On August 12 he met with John Campbell, soil scientist out of Rhinelanders, and got further training on soil profiling. Lastly on August 12, he went out to an FCPC access road improvement site and met with contractor that will be working on the road.

Tomorrow is the interns last day; Jerry gave them an evaluation form to fill out about their supervisors and their jobs. The supervisors also have evaluation forms to fill out about the students. Jerry consulted them on career opportunities with NRCS and Tribes. He will be closing the books with WLWCA Friday or Monday. All of the hours were not used up.

### **5. Small Project Update**

Miles Falck from GLIFWC gave an update on their project, Invasive Plant Risk Assessment/Prioritization Model. This is a 6 month progress report. There are almost 5000 records (166 different species) of invasive species in the 4 counties in northern Wisconsin. The idea for the project is to build some tools to assess the threats and potential impacts and get some idea of where management is feasible. They plan to use temperature, land cover, soil characteristics, and different things that would impact plant growth and build a model of where the species range could be. They are filling in existing gaps with these funds so when they build the models they have more of a complete sampling of the area. They worked on developing all of the environmental layers last winter. They plan to ask other agencies for help with developing the rest of the environmental data. They are using openModeller software to develop the model. He gave some examples of draft models (leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle). So what are the applications? Once they have a model that they feel is fairly accurate, the model will generate GIS coverages. They can then overlay land ownership patterns to conduct management of the invasive species and they can then determine if it is well distributed throughout the potential range or if it is still isolated.

### **6. NRCS Update**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Jerry Thompson gave overview of this new program. Like old conservation security program but on steroids. If you are a tribe and are doing good conservation work and are implementing conservation practice, you may

be able to apply to this program. It is a payment for doing this work. This may be able to address issues when things are not yet completely degraded. Enhancements do not need to be to NRCS specs, they just need to be enhancements. They can be used in areas where degradation is just starting or by keeping things pristine. Sign up just started, first cut off date is September 30, and then the next is January 14.

The purpose is to encourage producers to address resources concerns. It has a ranking tool and it includes cropland and non-industrial forest land. There are five different pools in Wisconsin; the agriculture program just competes within Wisconsin, while the forest portion is a nationwide competition. Different applications for cropland and forest land. All land you own or operate has to be enrolled (at this point there is no waiver for tribes to not include all of their lands, they are looking at it). It authorizes 12,796,000 acres/year enrollment through 2017 (10% to forestry). It allocates acres to the state to manage. It also competitively ranks peers who face similar resources concerns.

Eligibility – Applicant (must be producer, all Tribes meet this), land (most land eligible unless in CRP, WRP, and the old CSP program), Stewardship Threshold Requirement (a series of questions in computer programs establishes the thresholds and indicates whether you meet this requirement, extra points given for enhancements- Conservation Measurement Tool). Does Trust status of the Tribal lands lead to any roadblocks to this program? They feel that it doesn't because the rules say it is eligible on Indian Lands which include Trust Lands.

A producer fills out a self screening checklist to determine if this program is appropriate then goes through Conservation Measurement Tool. It establishes an annual payment for 5 years. Here is an example of \$10 an acre. So for a 14,000 acre Reservation that is \$140,000 per year. The enhancements are nationally set. We should know the enhancements they would consider shortly. There is a payment limitation for \$40,000 per year and \$200,000 per contract. If the Tribe can ensure that no individual is exceeding this limitation then they can exceed these levels. State of Wisconsin will get a certain amount of acres.

## **7. USEFS Update**

Tony Erba gave an update and handed out the presentation he gave at the last meeting they attended (March 12, 2008). He is developing things over the last few months. The discovery of EAB in Green Bay happened recently. They have been involved at developing strategies with how to deal with it and now it is very close. Yesterday he signed a letter to all Tribal leaders in the state to explain the strategy for EAB. They will further restrict how firewood will be moved in the state. Wood cannot be moved from south of Hwy 29 to the north of Hwy 29. Over the last few months the US EPA is generating a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with a large deal of money. They are wondering if they can pool money together with Tribes for these projects.

What can they do to assist Tribes off of the National Forest is the question. They have forest planners that can help with Tribal forest plans. They have someone in Rhinelander that works with Forest history and may be helpful to Tribes. Maybe NRCS could adopt

USFS practices to be used in EQIP and WHIP for Tribes. Secretary Vilsack indicated the USFS should be in charge of the nations forests not just the National Forests!!!! Mary Rasmussen, USFS Tribal Liaison, gave a handout on what the USFS does. MOU's for technical assistance could be a possibility. Linda Parker is a forest ecologist that deals with invasive species for the Forest. We wondered if she could participate in Invasive Species Subcommittee.

### **8. APHIS Update**

JoAnn Cruse gave the APHIS update. There was an EAB find in Green Bay and they also had a find in Kenosha County late last week. Both finds were from the purple traps. There was controversy about there effectiveness, but the new lure may be helping.

Kentucky now has 20 counties in quarantine. Six counties in Wisconsin now have EAB. The site in Newburg has been shown to extend about 3 miles from first find. So far they have not seen a big hot spot for EAB in Green Bay or Kenosha County. They think the whole NE part of Illinois is likely infested. They are planning to quarantine Brown and Kenosha Counties. 6700 traps were placed statewide. 1500 growing degree days is when they say the beetles stop flying, may not have reached that up north, but down south it has. They are going to start taking traps down. If you have traps, keep the hardware for next year and put left over lure in the freezer. Al Murray (FCPC forester) was interested in putting together an EAB workshop.

APHIS has access to biological control for leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, and spotted knapweed. Let her know if you are interested. They are still looking into biocontrol, egg parasite, and larval parasite.

### **9. Native Food Sovereignty**

Jeff Metoxen with Oneida gave this presentation. He has worked with this program since the 1970's, the foundation is culturally based and they provide the community white corn. Everything is open to the public. They have a retail store, cannery, white corn, and organic garden. They have worked with other tribal entities doing the same things. They realized they have more contact with tribes outside of Wisconsin then inside, so they want to reach individuals in Wisconsin. How could the Tribes work together to make sure the food is still around and pass information on to future generations and how can they help each other? He would just like to start dialogue with other Tribes.

### **10. Small Grant Status Reports**

Tribes that currently have active small projects gave updates and indicated whether or not they would be completed by September 30, 2009 so that we would spend down funds from the contract that expires on September 30, 2009. Nate will pull all of this information together and give update at the next meeting.

### **11. Technical Recommendations**

A follow up on the technical recommendations was given by Matt Otto. He indicated that most of the things suggested are going to be doable. He handed out a draft waiver request for recommendations that they do not have any control over. They are Pipeline

(516), Well (642), and Pest Management (595). He said that if we get waiver for 2010 then scenarios could be developed for 2011. He felt like beaver dam removal would likely be approved. Sign up will probably be November - January this year.

### **12. Small Project Sign Up**

The Bad River well project is moving along so a discussion ensued on the small project proposal that Bad River had submitted at a prior meeting. It was felt that the response from Bad River on the well project was sufficient enough to award them another small project.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the Bad River small project "Invasive Species Assessment" for \$6,641.92. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

It was discussed that there are sufficient funds to fund Mole Lake's Logan Creek Bridge Project at the full 90% level.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve an additional payment of \$1,484 to Mole Lake for the Logan Creek Bridge Project which would increase the cost share of the project to the maximum of 90%. Motion by LCO, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, Mole Lake abstains, motion carried.

### **13. Financial Report**

Brett handed out the checking register. He indicated that there are a few things we have not been reimbursed for yet.

### **14. Website**

Brett is going to get another quote for a website and will follow up at next meeting.

### **15. Great Lakes Regional Native American Fish and Wildlife Conference**

Bob Frank sits on regional planning board. There was a request from the host Tribe for a roundtable discussion on NRCS funding. The roundtable discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16 from 1:30 – 4 pm in Traverse City, Michigan.

It was discussed that WTCAC could prepare a presentation and that WTCAC will send one or more people.

**MOTION:** Motion to sent WTCAC representatives to the NAFWS Great Lakes Regional Conference in Traverse City, Michigan. Motion by Oneida, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

### **16. WTCAC Funding Discussion**

Jonathan is drafting a letter to Tom Christiansen and one to Pearlie Reed. Jonathan, Nate, Brett, and Jim talked to Tom Christiansen after the presentation at the AIANEA conference. Jonathan is thinking we should be funded like an RC&D and we should outline that in the letter.

**17. Proposed Technical Recommendations**

There was the discussion of the possibility of a spring pond standard. This standard would be for the dredging of spring ponds. We have interest and will continue to discuss in the future.

**18. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2009 at Stockbridge-Munsee.

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn. Motion by FCPC seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried.