

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Invasive Species Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 22, 2008
Holiday Inn West, Madison, WI**

Tony Kuchma, Oneida Nation, facilitated the meeting

Roll Call:

Meghan Merryfield, Oneida Nation; Tony Havranek, St. Croix; Miles Falck, GLFWC; Brett McConnell, LCO; Joshua Grimm, Mole Lake; Jerry Thompson, NRCS

Review of WITCAC and Invasive Species Subcommittee Duties:

There was a brief discussion regarding WITCAC and the role of the invasive species subcommittee. Brett clarified that the role of WITCAC is to identify Tribal conservation issues and advise the NRCS on how to best use USDA programs to assist Wisconsin Indian Nations. WITCAC is also a subcommittee of the Wisconsin State Technical Committee.

The role of the invasive species subcommittee is to develop a list of the most important invasive species threats for each Wisconsin Tribe. Development of a work plan that addresses how to control the spread of the invasive species can then be used as a pilot study to change the NRCS Pest Management Standard. The pilot study needs to follow NRCS guidelines and can be paid for by WITCAC small project funding.

Open Discussion Session:

The open discussion session was used to understand the needs of the Tribes and Agencies represented at the meeting.

- The administrative oversight required for managing NRCS programs and contracts is perceived to be so daunting that many tribes are leery to use the programs as a funding tool for implementing projects.
- More flexibility with determining the cost of a project would make this funding more attractive. Can NRCS fund a project at an estimated rate to allow it to be implemented and then provide the match when the actual cost of the project is known when the project is completed?
- There is a need to be proactive with controlling invasive species. NRCS programs provide funding only after a problem arises. Proactively funding a project designed to prevent the spread of invasive species makes ecological sense.
- Funding projects that are outside of "agricultural land" is needed. Invasive species spread along road side ditches, and other right of ways that are not considered agricultural land. Miles commented that the protocol is within the National Invasive Species Management Plan which was developed in part with the assistance of the USDA.
- A need exists for funding that allows areas to be treated over multiple years at a rate that is more than an "incentive payment". This reflects the reality of invasive species management.
- Can WITCAC be a clearinghouse to establish access to an online database of peer reviewed research papers that could be used by all Wisconsin Tribes? Meghan has researched possible services and is getting price quotes. Jerry commented that this

could be an opportunity for WTCAC to provide a training workshop on how to use the database.

Points of Discussion for WTCAC:

- There is a need for rapid response on land adjacent to “agricultural land” or an exemption for areas such as Right of Ways.
- Change the Pest Management Standard to allow proactive management of invasive species. Allow for early detection and rapid response.
- Change the EQIP rule for eligible lands to be consistent with the National Invasive Species Plan which includes right of ways and other adjacent lands.
- Explore the possibility to purchase access to an online database of peer reviewed research articles that could be used by all Wisconsin Tribes Natural Resource Departments.

Review of Invasive Species Small Project Proposals:

GLIFWC, Mole Lake and Oneida had invasive species projects ready for WTCAC to review.

The GLIFWC proposal goal is to “complete a pilot project to establish an invasive plant risk assessment/ prioritization model to support GLIFWC’s ceded territory resource management activities, in conjunction with the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, thereby enabling more effective allocation of resources and more efficient completion of invasive plant surveys and control activities.”

The Mole Lake proposal is design to assess the extent of invasive species on the reservation. “The goal of the Terrestrial Invasive Species Assessment is to determine the location, abundance and impact of terrestrial invasive species on the Mole Lake Reservation and develop control measures to prevent the introduction of new invasive species and manage existing invasive species.”

The Oneida proposal has a goal “To provide information to WTCAC and NRCS to amend the current Pest Management Standard to allow funding for invasive species management on tribal lands.” The project will target *Phragmites australis* (giant reed grass) and *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard).

Jerry Thompson reviewed the proposals to make sure they met NRCS guidelines and would be ready for WTCAC.

Next Steps:

Oneida Nation: Meghan will review online research databases and report back to WTCAC on the logistics of obtaining the service.

GLIFWC: Miles will write a letter to the National Invasive Species Council to lobby for additional funding to control invasive species within right of ways. There was talk of the letter being reviewed by the subcommittee and being sent by WTCAC. Will clarify at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

To be announced. Will be held after the 2008 field season.

WTCAC Meeting: Minutes supplied by Nate Guldán

Invasive Species (IS) Subcommittee Update

*There is a need for rapid response to invasive species, want to include right of way and other adjacent lands that are considered agriculture. NRCS rules don't follow National Invasive Species Plan. National Invasive Species Council (NISC) established by Executive Order in 1998. Miles Falck from GLIFWC holds a seat on the Council. Thought it would be a good thing for Miles to be more involved with us so he can take things back to the Council. WTCAC SHOULD BRING THIS ISSUE TO PAT LEAVENWORTH TO MAKE CHANGES FOR A MORE PROACTIVE APPROACH TO FIGHTING INVASIVES THROUGH EQIP. Push NRCS to allow land adjacent to ag land to be included in EQIP and push DOT to get funding for Right of Ways treatment.

WTCAC get 501c3 then we would be eligible to apply for grants for treatment of invasive species in right a way's. Funding trough USFS.

Talk to NRCS directly to see if this stuff can be handled by EQIP. Directed the IS subcommittee to draft letter to NISC and then WTCAC will approve it and sign it.

*Need to talk about treating the same area more than 1 time. Example was EWM, may need to be treated every so many years. Garlic mustard needs to be treated for at least 5 years, Phragmites every 3 years.

*Workshop potential for having a rep from an online database and have them come and train the Tribes and have each the Environmental Department of each Tribe get access to online databases. The online databases have over 600 journals and they can be searched by topic and the scientific papers can be read directly from these databases. Jerry said that there is potential to have this covered by earmark money.

MOTION: Motion to take recommendation of IS subcommittee to expand the EQIP definition of where we can apply treatment for Invasive Species to lands adjacent to agricultural lands and to allow for multi-year treatments on the same land and incase of reestablishments. Motion by LCO, seconded by Mole Lake. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to direct IS subcommittee to develop a letter to the NISC to request what funding is available to treat travel and utility right a ways. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Menomonie. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to accept recommendation of IS subcommittee to see if WTCAC can establish access to an online database for professional journals for each WTCAC member Tribe. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Menomonie. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Small Project Proposals

- 1) Tony presented the project for St. Croix titled "Regional Wild Rice Assessment." Deliverables will be final reports and summary. Work will be done by August 2008 and report by November 2008. **MOTION:** Motion to approve by FCPC, 2nd by LCO. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Mile presented GLIFWC project titled "GLIFWC Invasive Plant Risk Assessment Prioritization Model." Phase 1 done by Sept. 30, 2009, phase 2 by Sep. 30, 2010. We are interpreting that GLIFWC cannot take part in EQIP and WHIP programs but can apply for small grant money. **MOTION:** Motion to approve by LCO, 2nd by Mole Lake. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Tony presented Oneida's proposal entitled "Cost Determination for Phragmites australis and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) Control." **MOTION:** Motion to approve by Mole Lake, 2nd by LCO. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Roman proposed Mole Lake's project entitled "Terrestrial Invasive Species Assessment." Final outcome will be GIS layer documenting the occurrence of invasives on the Reservation. Motion to approve by FCPC, 2nd by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, Mole Lake abstained, motion carried.