

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 14 and Wednesday, October 15, 2014
LCO

Meet called to order at 12:01 pm.

1. Roll Call

Present: Bad River (Lacey Hill-Kastern), FCPC (Nate Guldan), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Jeremy Pyatskowit), Mole Lake (Tina VanZile), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Gary Defoe Jr.), St Croix (Jeremy Bloomquist), Ho-Chunk (Tina Warner)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Dr. Tim Deveau (APHIS-VS), Melissa Lewis (WTCAC Intern with LCO), Greg Bussler (NASS), Eric Oliphant (BIA), Carleen Yocum (USFS), Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Lance Ausing (RD), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Jonathan Pyatskowit (INCA), Kenneth Papes (NRCS), Matt Otto (NRCS), Chris Borden (NRCS), Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS), Lea Zeise (IAC), Alan Johnson (WTCAC), Susan Hunter (FSA), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS – PPQ), Merben Cebrian (BIA).

Welcome by Mic Isham, LCO Tribal Chairman.

2. Approval of Agenda

Intern presentation and discussion on Intern Program need to be added to the agenda.

MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the August 4, 2014 WTCAC Meeting Minutes. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. Request of Agencies/Cooperator Deliverables

How can we improve our partnership through the process of WTCAC? We would like other agencies to think about opportunities to improve access. We want this to be more of a partnership meeting in the future instead of just reporting out and giving updates. We would like to see more interactions. Do we need MOUs or Cooperative Agreements? We see opportunities with the Forest Service. We have funds to do another subcommittee. Please take back to your groups and think about it. We would like to take WTCAC to the next level. Alan will be the main contact on this, please get back to him.

5. NRCS Update

Jimmy Bramblett - this discussion we are going to have is usually in January, we are trying to move our delivery time forward. We want time for planning prior to snowfall. Tom Fredrickson has taken another position in Spooner, Ron Spiering will be the new DC, he is currently DC in Altoona.

Chris Borden – A spreadsheet with estimates of Tribal EQIP Projects was distributed (attached). The dollar values are subject to changes. Right now there is about \$465,000 in requests. WTCAC's proposed screening tool (attached) was also handed out as well as the ranking questions proposed by WTCAC (attached). It was explained that the reason for 25 points given to all local issues is so you get more points for the number of resource concerns you address, not which ones as WTCAC does not want to say what resource concerns should be more important than others.

6. FSA Update

Susan Hunter (report attached)

7. APHIS Update

Dr. Deveau – VS – They are 1 year into the VS reorganization, there isn't a veterinary in charge in Madison, she is now considered the service center director. Dr. Deveau's boss is now out of Iowa. Not sure if they can take on interns in the future due to the reorganization. Over the past year he vaccinated over 700 dogs and cats on Reservations. He is also working with Oneida Farms with biosecurity and animal handling plans. He has been talking to them about radio frequency deer tags. They were just notified of a pilot project on the durability of these tags with animals. Angus cows and bison came right to his mind so they are working with Oneida Farms on it. Looks like they are going to go through with the pilot project. He is also putting in for some Grass Roots funding to determine if they are vaccinating enough to prevent spread of rabies coming in from the wild. You really want a 70% rate to stop an outbreak if it does occur. They could probably employ some students to gather the info.

JoAnn Cruse – PPQ – 15 counties were added to the EAB quarantine this summer and the most recent was Outagamie County. They are in discussion with Oneida on this. Also was a find in Oneida County and confirmation came in last Monday. It is within 25 – 50 miles of 4 different Tribe's lands. All traps have been removed in Wisconsin by their contractor, so there aren't any additional finds at this point in time. A PhD with Wright State University found EAB in a white fringe tree. First time found in any tree other than ash. She will forward the information to us. She hasn't seen final gypsy moth trapping numbers for this year. Pretty high in certain parts of the state. The moths were flying later this year. She lost one of her staff to FDA about a week ago, so she only has 2 staff left. They probably will not get it filled until next year. Farm Bill Project Proposals are up for submission. There are goals the projects need to fall into, open until October 24. This is in anticipation of the 2015 funds being available. Potential funding opportunity for funding for Tribes to develop their own EAB quarantine rules through WTCAC? Oneida liked the idea of the grant.

Melissa Lewis – WS – Fiscal Year Recap (report attached). The week of October 20 WS will be sending out a draft of the state wild bird environmental assessment. All Tribes will have a chance to comment. This is an internal APHIS document that will be shared with Tribes to comment. Tribes will have a second opportunity to comment when it is preleased for public comment. Melissa had an internship with WTCAC and now moved into a position with APHIS.

8. Rural Development Update

Lance Ausing – The last fiscal year they had a pretty big year, in Wisconsin they have served several small communities and a number of different Tribes around the state on various levels, water, sewer, housing, etc. They are running on a continuing resolution right now until December. As far as their funding allocations are concerned, they have been informed that it should be relatively static. In the last couple of years they have gone through a realignment process internally, significant reduction in FTE staff. Six years ago they had 121 staff and last week they had 77, and he thinks that is where they will remain. They will still be operating out of 6 regional offices around the state. They now incorporate the DNR in on their loan and grant discussions on any and all projects within the state. With Tribal projects, chances are they will have already had a discussion with US EPA.

9. USFS Update

Mary Rasmussen – report attached.

Mike Conner – Tribal lands forest health survey is complete. They covered several Tribes in the aerial surveys. Virtually no damage observed other than a small chunk on Lac du Flambeau. Forest Health Technical Assistance is provided directly to Tribes on Forest Health and Disease Activity. They do onsite evaluations, training sessions. They can also offer pesticide trainings directly to the Tribes. Mike will send me an update. Introduced the new official representative to WTCAC – Carleen Yocum. Carleen – The USFS Liaison position at the tribal colleges is being filled. The position would be at the Menominee College however this position will be available to all Tribal colleges.

10. NASS Update

Greg Bussler – Passed out the 2012 Census of Ag info on Reservations. Last Friday the 3rd yield forecast was released for corn and soybeans. Corn yield at 162 bushels per acre and soy bean is 45 bushels per acre. The next report will be released on November 10. This fall they have some surveys going on, County Ag Practices Survey for Row Crops. Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) and the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey in October and November and asks about production practices on vegetables, corn and potatoes and chemical use. Used by EPA to register products. They will also do a 10 year ownership transition of agricultural land survey. Ag Census is done every 5 years.

11. IAC Update

Leah Zeise – Dan sent out a newsletter – attach it. December 8 – 11 is annual conference in Vegas.

12. INCA Update

Jonathan Pyatskowitz – They are having funding issues, they are operating under APHIS grants and USDA OAO at this time. They have a few employees out West. They still do a lot of work with WTCAC over the years with trainings and such. They partnered with the National Association of Conservation Districts and they have lobbyists.

13. BIA Update

Eric Oliphant - \$525,000 was passed to tribes on last minute funding requests last year. One of the things they were able to secure funds to put towards are the 2015 aerial photos that they will be putting together.

Mervin Cebrian – The Fish and Wildlife Program which he is in charge of just sent out 3 requests for proposals. Endangered species, invasive wildlife, youth initiative, and fish hatchery maintenance. Proposals are due the 2nd or 3rd week in January.

GLRI proposals are currently undergoing NEPA review. Hopefully it will be finalized soon so funding can be disbursed.

There is a November 4 meeting that will touch on the NEPA requirements and tips for writing grants to BIA. There will also be a webinar and call in line.

14. Intern Presentation

Melissa Lewis on wild rice project.

15. NRCS Cooperative Agreement

Alan – 2014 NRCS Cooperative Agreement Deliverables are over 150%, the last request for payment has been submitted. We have a 2015 agreement in place. This agreement allows us as partners to meet together in a forum where we can exchange information. Perhaps this is a time for change in direction, what are the needs of agencies that can be addressed working with WTCAC.

Jimmy Bramblett - expressed thanks to everyone that worked on the agreement. One thing we are trying to do is make things easier on the back end to make things easier going forward. Copy of agenda, sign in sheet and minutes is needed to pay for meetings. Jimmy thanked Chris and Cheryl.

16. GLRI Update

Randy – He travelled to 4 of the 7 Tribes. He did not get to Bad River, FCPC, and Mole Lake. He thought the activities went much smoother this year, a lot more control work was done, a few more species were found. A lot of return employees so they already had experience. He will be submitting a report to Alan for his report to EPA, this grant ends the end of the year. We have not heard anything on the new grant, hope to have the funds for next year. Did not have as much turnover this year.

17. AmeriCorps Update

Keith – Planning grant from them for aquaponics facilities. One of the problems is first we need the aquaponics systems before we have the staff. No funding right now, so at this time we decided not to apply for AmeriCorps staff at this point. Waiting on a possible funding for one system. The grant ends December 1. Door is still open in the future if we decide to pursue.

18. APHIS Outreach and Program Training

Jerry – 2 different APHIS grants, Farm Bill 10201 expired with the new Farm Bill, the same program is now call 10007. We have funds under them right now. Requested an extension of the 10201 grant until November 1. The last session will be in Fort Collins next week. They have 17 students signed up and Jerry and Randy will be there. Nine of the folks are employees of INCA and 8 are either extension agents from Tribal colleges or Tribal staff. They entered into an agreement with INCA for WTCAC to handle all the travel and per diem expenses for INCA.

10007 grant kicked in August 1. The deliverable of this grant is we are supposed to try and get more Tribes to apply for this program. He sent out 248 emails to prior participants at past trainings. We provided training to over 220 tribes across the US. They all got emails over the last month or so trying to promote this program. Not a single person responded asking for assistance to put a request in. He is going to IAC Conference and will put up a display to promote this program. Hopefully next year we will get some Tribes to apply for this program. They are going to try and produce some actual webinars and put them on CDs and distribute out to the Tribes. If any tribes are going to submit a proposal, please email JoAnn.

MOTION: Motion to approve Randy to travel to Fort Collins. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve payment above the federal per diem rate for the Fort Collins hotel for one participant in next week's training. Motion by LCO, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

19. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 8am on December 3 at Bad River.

20. USFS Internship

Alan – State and Private Forestry and National and we had funding for 5 interns, both have been extended for this next year so have some seed money for interns for next year. We are requesting interns from our partners at this time, please let us know where the positions would be. We are also looking for funds to support those internships. So if anyone has any ideas on supporting those interns please give Alan a call. He would like to have things in order by December. Alan was asked to send out a reminder to Federal Agencies on this by Pat Pelky. \$8,360 is the average cost per intern. Alan will send out a breakdown of the costs.

21. RTCAC

Pat Pelky – We are in the Central region, Pat is on for WTCAC, and Tina is the alternate. It includes 9 states. Pat will send the minutes out. There is a national NRCS liaison that has been in his position for a year. We were not aware this person existed.

22. Aquaculture Subcommittee

They are still working on resource concern issue with NRCS. Kind of in holding pattern. We need to present something on this to Jimmy. Try and get fisheries staff from Tribes to contact Keith to finalize aquaculture issues.

23. Forestry Subcommittee

Carleen Yocum is taking Barb's position. NRCS is funding a meeting through the cooperative agreement. This December we will probably have a secondary meeting to discuss formation of the subcommittee.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn for the day. Motion by LCO, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.

October 15, 2104

Meet called to order at 8:02 am.

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldán), LCO (Brett McConnell), St. Croix (Jeremy Bloomquist), Red Cliff (Gary Defoe Jr.), Ho-Chunk (Tina Warner), Lac Du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Mole Lake (Tina VanZile), Menominee (Jeremy Pyatskowitz), Oneida (Pat Pelky)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Jonathan Pyatskowitz (INCA), Chris Borden (NRCS), Lea Zeise (IAC), Alan Johnson (WTCAC),.

2. Approval of Agenda

Review and Approval of EQIP Projects needs to be added.

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda with the addition of "Review and Approval of EQIP Projects". Motion by Menominee, seconded by Mole Lake.

3. Executive Session

There wasn't a request for Executive Session.

4. President Report

Alan and Pat did have a chance to meet with Butch Blazer in Minneapolis on the 24th of September and then they got invited to the meeting in the afternoon. They had about 30 minutes with him. They went through the booklet we had and expressed how without WTCAC the Tribes would not have access to many services, talked about interns, and the 3rd party pathways agreement. He seemed very interested in the Interns. He is working with Ann Mills and Leslie Wheelock and are talking about Tribal issues. Handed out proposed letter. They will take another shot at the letter and get back to us.

5. Election of President

Mole Lake and LCO nominate Pat Pelky and he accepts.

Vote was unanimous for Pat Pelky as president.

Congratulations Pat!

6. 2015 Tribal EOIP Projects

We will plan to evaluate at the December 3 meeting.

7. Financial Report

Alan went through the NRCS Agreement.

Alan went through EPA GLRI Grant.

USFS Budgets – Interns – Match was waived – has been extended

USFS State and Private Forestry – Interns – has been extended

APHIS Budget – old one will be practically zeroed out, new one we have \$95,000 left out of \$100,000.

8. Development Plan and Report

Alan handed out a Development Plan and Report (attached).

9. Task List

The task list was reviewed and updated. Nate will update the Word Version and email out to everyone.

If everyone could please take a look at website and let me know if you have any changes or updates.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm.

EMAIL MOTION 10/19/2014

MOTION: Motion to approve submittal of a suggestion to Farm Bill 10007 for APHIS Goal 6 – Mitigation and Rapid Response for approximately \$90,000. Motion by St.Croix, seconded by Mole Lake. Seven ayes (St. Croix, Mole Lake, Bad River, LCO, Menominee, Red Cliff and Lac du Flambeau), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MOTION 10/24/2014

MOTION: Motion to submit a grant request to APHIS to help fund WTCAC's internship program for approximately \$70,000. Motion by Menominee, seconded by St. Croix. Seven ayes (Menominee, St. Croix, Stockbridge, Red Cliff, Bad River, Mole Lake & FCPC), zero opposed, motion carried.

ATTACHMENTS

SEE BACK →

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
October 14, 2014 Sign-in**

Name	Tribe/Organization	Email
Brett McConnell	LCO	brett.mcconnell@lco.wisn.gov
Jeremy Bloomquist	St. Croix	jeremyb@stcroixtribalcenter.com
Gary Defoe DL	Red Cliff	gary.defoe@redcliff-wisn.gov
Mary Rasmussen	USDA Forest Service	mrasmussen@fs.fed.us
Dr. Tim Deveau	USDA APHIS VS	timothy.p.deveau@aphis.usda.gov
Lacey Hill Kastern	Bad River	wildlifegis@badriver.wisn.gov
Melissa Lewis	Intern - LCO	Melissa.K.Lewis@aphis.usda.gov
Greg Bussler	USDA - NASS	greg.bussler@nass.usda.gov
Eric Oliphant	BIA	eric.oliphant@bia.gov
Scott McDougall	LDF Tribe	smcdougall@ldftribe.com
Carleen Yocum	USDA Forest Service / NA	cyocum@fs.fed.us
Randy Gilbertson	WTCAC	Gurraks12@centurytel.net
Keith Segebusch	WTCAC	iseakogak@hotmail.com
LANCE Ausing	USDA - Rural Development	lance.ausing@wi.usda.gov
Greg Yackle	NRCS	greg.yackle@wi.usda.gov
Tina L. Vanzile	Sckagon Chippewa	tina.vanzile@scc-wisn.gov
TINA WARNER	HCN	betina.warner@ho-ark.com
Jeremy Pyatskowitz	Menominee	jpyatskowitz@mitw.org
JONATHAN PYATSKOWITZ	INCA	jonathan.pyatskowitz@wisconsin.gov
Kenneth Popes	USDA - NRCS	kenneth.popes@wi.usda.gov
Matt Otto	NRCS	matt.otto@wi.usda.gov
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Jimmy Bramblett	NRCS	jimmy.bramblett@wi.usda.gov
Pat Pelky	ONEIDA TRIBE	pelky1@oneida-tribe.org
Lea Zeise	IAC	Lea@IndianAgLink.com
Susan Johnson	WTCAC	susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov
Susan Hunter	FSA	susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov
JoAnn Cruse	USDA, APHIS, PPQ	joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov

Merben R Cebrian, Bureau of Indian Affairs, merben.cebrian@bia.gov

2015 Tribal EQIP Application Practice Estimate Summary 10-14-2014

Cost Per

Tribe	Project Name	Practice	Scenario	Unit	Amount	Unit	Amount	Practice and Scenario to be determined
Forest County Potawatomi	Forest Trail and Landing Repair	655	Grading and Shaping with Vegetative Establishment	\$ 3.14	300	Feet	\$ 942.00	
Forest County Potawatomi	Stream Crossing	578	HU-Culvert installation, > 25" Diameter, Double culverts	\$ 84.35	90	Feet	\$ 7,591.50	
Lac Courte Oreilles	Forestry	666	Precommercial Thinning - Hand Tools	\$ 256.99	200	Acres	\$ 51,398.00	Exact amount undetermined
Lac Courte Oreilles	Wild Rice	644	Wild Rice Seeding	\$ 652.26	5	Acres	\$ 3,261.30	
Lac Du Flambeau	LDF Phase 2		Aquaculture Ponds and associated practices	\$ 350,000.00	1	Various	\$ 350,000.00	Estimate upward risk
Lac Du Flambeau	Young Forest Practice	647	Alder Shearing	\$ 40.00	595.37	Acres	\$ 23,814.80	Exact amount undetermined
Lac Du Flambeau	Forest Stand Improvement	666	To be determined may be zero.			Acres	\$ -	
Menominee	Project 1	560	Gravel over Base Coarse	\$ 10.93	30	Feet	\$ 327.90	
Menominee	Project 2	560	Gravel over Base Coarse	\$ 10.93	75	Feet	\$ 819.75	
Oneida	WASCOB and associated practices	638	Unknown			Various	\$ 3,330.00	Rough Estimate
Red Cliff	Blue Bird Boxes	649	Blue Bird Boxes	\$ 77.39	20	Each	\$ 1,547.80	
Red Cliff	Osprey Nesting Platform	649	3 Osprey Nesting Platforms	\$ 34.74	45	Feet	\$ 1,563.30	

Red Cliff	Red Cliff Creek Streambank Protection Immediately DS from Blueberry Road	580	Bioengineered	\$ 20.05	150 Feet	\$ 3,007.50	Current estimate assumes Bioengineered and the 150 feet.
Red Cliff	Red Cliff Creek Streambank Protection between Blueberry Road and the lake.	580	HU-Riprap on bank over 7 ft high measure from bank top to toe of slope	\$ 36.79	200 Feet	\$ 7,358.00	
Red Cliff	Wood Residue Treatment	384	Orchard Pruning	\$ 175.89	3 Acres	\$ 527.67	
Red Cliff	Composting Facility	317		\$ -	0	\$ -	Ineligible not ag production or processing
Saint Croix	Wild Rice	644	Wild Rice Seeding	\$ 652.26	15	\$ 9,783.90	
Bad River		No Application				\$ -	
Ho Chunk		No Application		\$ -	0	\$ -	
Sokaogon/Mole Lake		No Application				\$ -	
Stockbridge-Munsee		No Application		\$ -	0	\$ -	

Total \$ 465,273.42

Wisconsin FY15 EQIP (WTAC)

Screening Criteria Worksheet: NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Fiscal Year 2015

A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for 2015 EQIP sign-ups for the WTAC funding pool. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, application periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and the EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs related to this initiative.

Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, or low) must be recorded in Pro Tracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for Each Eligible EQIP Applicant	
Applicant Name:	County:
Application No:	Field Office:
Evaluator Name:	Date:
Priority Determination for Pro Tracts – Select One:	

High	High Priority Category: The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council has given this application a priority rating of High.
Medium	Medium Priority Category: The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council has given this application a priority rating of Medium.
Low	Low Priority Category: The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council has given this application a priority rating of Low.

The priority determination of high, medium, or low must be recorded in Pro Tracts for this applicant.

D.C. Approval:	Date Approved:
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Natural Resources Conservation Service
 WI 2015 WTCAC EQIP Draft Ranking Tool (October 14, 2014)

National Priorities Addressed (Maximum Amount 250 Points)

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	250 Point(s)
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdrift?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil till, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)

10 Point(s)	6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?
	High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:
10 Point(s)	7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?
10 Point(s)	7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?
10 Point(s)	7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?
5 Point(s)	7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?
10 Point(s)	7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?
5 Point(s)	7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?
10 Point(s)	Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:
15 Point(s)	8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?
10 Point(s)	8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?
10 Point(s)	8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?
	Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:
10 Point(s)	9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?
5 Point(s)	9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?
5 Point(s)	9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?
State Issues Addressed (Maximum Amount 400 Points)	
Issue Questions	
150 Point(s)	Permitting Applicant has obtained all necessary state and federal permits, excluding Incidental Take Permit and construction site erosion control permits, to complete the practice(s) or no permits are required.
	Partnerships
110 Point(s)	2. Will this application result in a contract that will leverage other partnerships or funds? (70 Points)
	Compliance
70 Point(s)	3. Are all active EQIP contracts for this applicant on schedule and in full compliance with no modifications completed due to a delay in implementation, except those beyond participant's control? (40 Points)
	Long Range Planning
70 Point(s)	4. Will at least one practice on this application enable the applicant to address one or more identified concerns in a Tribal long range plan? (40 Points)
Local Issues Addressed (Maximum Amount 250 Points)	
Issue Questions	
25 Point(s)	2. Will a practice on this application address any Air Quality Impact? (25 Points) 1. Emissions of Greenhouse Gases 2. Objectionable Odors
	Responses

25 Point(s)	3. Will a practice on this application address any Degraded Plant Condition? (25 Points) 1. Excessive Plant Pest Pressure 2. Inadequate Structure and Composition 3. Undesirable Plant Production and Health 4. Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation
25 Point(s)	4. Will a practice on this application address any Excess Water issue? (25 Points) 1. Runoff, Flooding or Ponding 2. Seasonal High Water Table 3. Seeps
25 Point(s)	5. Will a practice on this application address Insufficient Use of Irrigation Water? (25 Points)
25 Point(s)	6. Will a practice on this application address any Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat issue? (25 Points) 1. Cover/Shelter 2. Food 3. Habitat Continuity (Space) 4. Water
25 Point(s)	7. Will a practice on this application address any Inefficient Energy Use issue? (25 Points) 1. Equipment and Facilities 2. Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations
25 Point(s)	8. Will a practice on this application address any Livestock Production Limitation? (25 Points) 1. Inadequate Feed and Forage 2. Inadequate Shelter 3. Inadequate Water
25 Point(s)	9. Will a practice on this application address any Soil Erosion issue? (25 Points) 1. Classic or Ephemeral Gully 2. Sheet and Rill 3. Streambank, Shoreline or Water Conveyance Channels 4. Wind
25 Point(s)	10. Will a practice on this application address any Soil Quality Degradation issue? (25 Points) 1. Compaction 2. Organic Matter Depletion
25 Point(s)	11. Will a practice on this application address any Water Quality Degradation issue? (25 Points) 1. Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids or Compost Applications in Groundwater or Surface Water 2. Excess Sediment in Surface Water 3. Nutrients in Groundwater or Surface Water 4. Pesticides in Groundwater or Surface Water



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
Agency

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Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – October 14, 2014

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FSA FARM BILL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS IN WISCONSIN

A link has been put on the WI FSA homepage that lists all the Farm Bill Informational Meetings that are being held by FSA offices and UW-Extension throughout Wisconsin on the new Dairy Margin Protection Program and the ARCPLC for farms with historical commodity (corn, soybean, wheat, oats, etc.) bases and yields. The listing will be updated weekly as more meetings are being planned. Visit the WI FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov/wi.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The nomination period for members of the local FSA County Committee ended on August 1. However, any tribal member can submit a written request anytime to serve as a FSA County Committee advisor to ensure the views and needs of the tribes are considered by the local Committee. New advisors would start in March.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

October Farm Loan Interest Rates: 2.125% for operating/microloans/youth loans, 3.625% for ownership and conservation loans. *Microloan* - maximum loan amount has increased to \$50,000.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

Signup #47 for the Continuous CRP is currently underway at the FSA. Cost-share payments, upfront signing incentive payments and practice incentive payments are available during this signup. We have not heard when there may be another general signup

LOSS COVERAGE POLICIES WITH FSA– FRUIT, VEGETABLES, FARM RAISED FISH, MAPLE SAP

The Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covers losses on uninsurable commercial crops caused by damaging weather conditions. The 2014-Farm Bill expanded NAP to include buy-up protection, similar to buy-up provisions offered under the federal crop insurance program and details are still being worked out. A 100 percent waiver of the basic service fees for NAP coverage and a 50 percent reduction in premiums for buy-up NAP coverage is available for limited resource producers, beginning farmers, and **tribal members** and women. A press release was issued recently to WTCAC members and tribal publications.

Application deadline dates for specific NAP qualifying crops for 2015 are shown below.

September 30, 2014 - fall and spring plantings of 2015-crop wheat, barley, rye, triticale, and mint

November 20, 2014 - fruit and other crops such as apples, pears, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, honey, maple sap, asparagus and other perennial fruits

March 15, 2015 – Spring seeded crops that cannot be insured

FALL CROP REPORTS AT FSA

Crop reports for all winter wheat, alfalfa, hay, grass, pastures, and other forages that will be harvested in 2015 are due to the FSA office by no later than November 15, 2014 Late filed reports will cost a minimum \$46 for each farm

FSA STATE NEWSLETTER

All FSA program information will be put out from the FSA office via electronic GovDelivery newsletters. Anyone wishing to receive the FSA newsletter and program announcements should go the WI FSA homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov/wi and click on “Subscribe to Wisconsin FSA Email News” in the upper right hand corner of the page with their email address.



USDA Forest Service Update
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
WTCAC Meeting, LCO October 14, 2014
Mary Rasmussen

Report on Tribal Roundtable - Draft Ground Water Directive

The Tribal Roundtable for the draft Groundwater Directive was held August 19 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, WI. There were about 25 folks in attendance with representatives from 8 tribes in three states (MI, MN, WI) and GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission). Tribes present included: Lac du Flambeau, St. Croix, Fond du lac, Bad River, Lac Vieux Desert, Keweenaw Bay, Red Cliff, Sokaogon – Mole Lake

Result: As a result of tribal leaders requesting that tribes have additional input, continued consultation, and the opportunity to work with the Forest Service on development of the final groundwater directive two main things happened. The comment period for input was pushed out from September 3 to October 3. Secondly, the Forest Service will convene an Intertribal working group with interested tribes to craft additional or alternative language that would address tribal concerns.

Intertribal Working Group for Proposed Groundwater Directive

The US Forest Service is inviting you to attend an Intertribal Working Group meeting to continue our engagement on the proposed Groundwater Directive. This meeting is a follow-up to our Tribal Roundtable on the Groundwater Directive that many Great Lakes Tribes attended, and the formal written comments we have received from the Leech Lake Band, GLIFWC and others.

- **When**
 - November 17, 2014 (one day only)
 - 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
- **Where:** Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, Wisconsin
- **Who:**
 - Tribal Government Officials
 - Tribal Natural Resource Staff
- **Purpose:**
 - To craft additional/alternative/amplified language that will address tribal concerns
 - To address eastern “water use” doctrine vs. western “water rights” doctrine
- **Outcome:** Alternative final draft directive that addresses tribal issues and concerns
- **Sideboards:**
 - Tribes understand that proposed language is advisory, not final
 - Agency will publish Tribal Summary Impact Statement with final directive, as defined in DR 1350-002

This meeting is intended be an in-depth working group meeting between US Forest Service Natural Resource Specialists and Tribal Natural Resource Specialists. Tribal Officials are encouraged to attend. Please come prepared to submit and discuss any language to be used to amend the current language in the draft directive. It is our hope to come out of this meeting with an amended or amplified alternative draft that addresses tribal issues and concerns.

The alternative draft will be submitted to Washington, DC for consideration. In any event, a Tribal Impact Summary Statement will be published with the final directive which shall consist of

- 1) a description of the tribal implications and the extent of the agency's prior consultation with Tribal officials,
- 2) a summary of the nature of the Tribe's concerns and the agency's position supporting the need to issue the directive, and
- 3) a statement of the extent to which the concerns of Tribal officials have been met.

Your Response to this message will be greatly appreciated. Miigwech!

August 19 Meeting Summary: Following an opening prayer, water ceremony, and sharing of tribal knowledge on water, which all really emphasized how water is an integral part of their culture, the Forest Service National Groundwater Leader gave a presentation followed by an extended discussion.

- Tribes strongly support the assumption in the directive of the interconnectivity of groundwater and surface water as indivisible parts of everything.
- Tribes would like to see more explicit recognition of the Forest Service's relationship and obligations to the tribes in the directive.
- Tribes requested extension of the tribal consultation period.
- Tribes requested participation in the development of the final directive.
- Tribes expressed the FS needs to take a more active role in controlling or objecting to activities off NFS lands with a potential to degrade the environment, at least when they pose some threat to resources on NFS lands. Mining proposals were used as an example
- Tribes requested the directive reference treaty rights as they see water as something that they never gave up under the treaties and that they still retain the control of or right to.
- There were several questions and comments on the directive, in particular specific parts. A court reporter was present to formally document comments.

Storm Damage

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest received heavy storm damage in certain areas as a result of severe storms in early September. Since that time the forest has made steady progress on clearing hazards from roads and trails. The forest brought in outside resources (saw teams, heavy equipment, and other personnel) for recovery efforts in regards to damage to campsites, trails, roads and other areas.

Some special closure orders were put in place during the recovery operations. Some of those have been lifted. The storms not only blew down timber but the heavy rains also caused severe erosion on many forest roads and trails.

Current Closures:

Medford-Park Falls Ranger District 715-762-2461

- Wintergreen Ski Trail is closed, including the parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 70.
- Portions of the Flambeau Trail system are closed to public use:

- Flambeau Motorized Trail 118G-102, from Hwy 70 south approximately 2.5 miles to Forest Road 653.
- Flambeau Motorized Trail 118FS-103, from Hwy 70 south approximately 1 mile to where it intersects with Flambeau Motorized Trail 118G-102.
- Flambeau Motorized Trail 118C-101 & 118CA-101, from Hwy 70 north and west approximately 2.5 miles to where it intersects with Forest Road 549E (Wintergreen Road).
- Closure of above Flambeau Motorized Trails segments include their shared winter snowmobile routes of Corridor 10, Trail 101, Trail 102 and Trail 103 within the Winter Green Salvage Closure Area.

Great Divide Ranger District:

Hayward Office – 715-634-4821; Glidden --715-264-2511

- Black Lake Campground sites 19-29 closed; sites 1-18 and the boat landings are open.
- A small portion of the Dead Horse Trail is closed from Forest Road 162 to DH10 and southeast to DH11
- Moose Lake campground is closed, boat ramp is open.
- Trail 421 is closed from Forest Road 164 to 319.
- Snowmobile Trail 5 is closed from Forest Road 320 to 164

Firewood Opportunities

Additional opportunities to gather firewood are available and tribes in the vicinity of these areas were contacted by the local District Ranger.

- The Great Divide District is allowing ATV's to collect firewood along portions of Trail 421 and the Dead Horse Trail and these areas are identified on a map which expires Nov 21.
- The Park Falls District also has an addendum for portions of the Flambeau Trail that expires Oct. 31.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet is now on Facebook!

***“Like Us”* on Facebook**

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee
Development Strategic Plan
Goals 2014-2016**

Introduction

Established in 2001, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) is an Association that provides a forum for eleven (11) Native American Tribes in Wisconsin to identify and solve natural resource issues on Tribal lands. We are a Council that gives a voice to our Tribes of Wisconsin on conservation issues that are important to us at the state and national levels.

Through a strong partnership with the USDA–NRCS, the Council reviews and recommends proposals for conservation projects from Tribes of Wisconsin. Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils were first authorized in the 1995 Farm Bill as advisory bodies to NRCS and all of USDA on Tribal issues. WTCAC was the first such council formed in the country.

Vision:

Natural resources of reservations in Wisconsin will become world renowned as being ecologically sustainable while meeting the needs of our communities.

Mission:

Make federal conservation programs work on Tribal Lands through government to government education and demonstration.

Goal 6. Sustainable Funding

Secure the funding needed to continue the mission of WTCAC and to successfully achieve WTCAC goals

Objective 6.1. Develop a Funding Plan that addresses: financial assistance for projects i.e., EQIP and WHIP set asides and special project funding, funds to run the meetings to keep the organization functioning, and securing future earmarks.

Financial Development Process

1. Planning (leading to IMPLEMENTATION)

GOAL: TO FORMULATE A STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMPLIMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET APPROVED BY WTCAC's BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Objective: Determine the immediate and future financial needs for services, programs and projects, prioritize and determine most appropriate fund-raising tools to meet those needs

- Operating
- Internships
- APHIS and/or other USDA agencies
- Special projects under \$100,000

- Special projects over \$100,000
- Aquaculture
- Aquaponics
- Aquaculture to Aquaponics
- Agricultural initiatives
- Food Sovereignty
- Training and education
- Personnel hire and retention/support for tribal projects
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program
- Forest Management (blueberry, sugar maple, fire protection, controlled burning, white birch, planting)
- Planning
- Invasive plant control
- Community Gardens
- Alternate Energy/Alternative energy /conservation/production
- Capital
- Endowment
- Technology support (WTCAC web site as informational conduit for upcoming grants, meetings, central meeting area for subcommittee work—example EPA grant information-reporting dates, requirements, budget updates, grant reports-progress—with web induced alert to each subcommittee member as info/updates/reminders occur)
- Policy Analysis—assistance—technical analysis and recommendations
- Create a Conservation Program Chart—incorporate the following information in such: program/service name, purpose and population served, location, type of contract, original start date, contract dollars and time, date of expiration /renewal, wish list associated with program/service for expansion and/or stabilization

Objective: Obtain Memorandum of Understanding or Cooperative Agreements from USDA and/or other Governmental entities with responsibility for Native American Sovereignty

1. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
2. Farm Service Agency (FSA)
3. Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
4. Rural Development (RD)
5. Forest Service (FS)
6. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
7. Risk Management Agency (RMA)
8. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
9. Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC)
10. Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA)
11. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
12. Indian Health Services (IHS)
13. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
14. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS)
15. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
16. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

17. Interior Department—Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs
18. Bureau of Indian Education
19. National Historical Act—Advisory Council on Historical Preservation
20. Department of Justice—Office of Tribal Justice

Strategies:

- Ascertain the priorities of Wisconsin Tribes
- Ascertain the priorities of the governmental agencies the Board has prioritized as partners or potential partners
- Combine the priorities of the WTCAC Board, Wisconsin Tribes and the partners or potential partners
- Begin the process of obtaining a MOU or Cooperative Agreement (with deliverables which are fee based) from those partners or potential partners the Board has identified

Potential results:

Capture the attention of Agency Heads

Develop MOU leading to better awareness of WTCAC, leading to WTCAC being on radar screen for help/support/potential grants. MOU could lead to Cooperative agreement with WTCAC providing deliverables for fees

2. IMPLEMENTATION *(leading to FUTURE FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT)*

GOAL: OBTAIN FUNDS DESIGNED TO STABILIZE CURRENT PROGRAMMING
GOAL: OBTAIN FUNDS TO DESIGN, DEVELOP, AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND/OR PROJECTS OF IMPORTANCE TO TRIBES IN WISCONSIN

Objectives: *Identify funding opportunities on a public, private, federal, regional, or state basis*
Identify Cooperative Agreements leading to fee based deliverables

Strategies

- Work with Board/Development Committee in order to prioritize and obtain needs
- Ascertain organization needs and target specific grants for those needs
- Develop a grant system enabling a timely application process
- Develop templates for grants--facilitating compliance of repeat needed grant information, i.e. job descriptions, resumes, history, background, and accomplishments
- Develop an annual budget for WTCAC of direct and indirect costs
- Research local, regional, national, federal and state grant opportunities that match WTCAC needs with grantors field of interest
- Identify public foundations, family foundations, trusts and cultivate via information about organization—submit requests
- Attend foundations, etc. functions as appropriate
- Research via internet, and other media sources grant opportunities and procure all needed application and guideline materials

- Submit Board approved grant requests
- Develop fee based deliverables base
- Utilize chart of Conservation Programs to identify needs, research and obtain funding

FUTURE FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: DEVELOP A DONOR BASE THROUGH PROSPECTING AND FRIEND-RAISING

Develop a broader donor base through prospecting, friend-raising, and utilizing the Moves Management™ team approach to fund raising.

Objectives: *Identify 20 current donors or prospects for cultivation, strategize via MOVES MANAGEMENT, and obtain gifts*

Objectives:

- Develop annual mail campaign through targeting specific areas and target population
- Utilize Moves Management™ for cultivation of current identified donors in order to move to next level of giving

Strategies:

- Develop donor recognition tools i.e. individual and corporate
- Utilize web site to educate re giving
- Cultivate: (1) individuals, (2) corporations, (3) faith based organizations, (4) groups, (5) clubs
- (6) Foundations--local, regional, national, (7) trusts
- Develop individual cultivation plan for top 10 identified current/potential donors utilizing Moves Management™
- Maintain current individual donor information in database utilizing strict confidentiality procedures
- Develop in conjunction with WTCAC Board specific gifting materials, i.e. informational brochure depicting forms of gifting and opportunities, campaign letters
- Monitor on a regular ongoing basis the resources needed to accomplish the strategic development plan

GOAL: DEVELOP CAUSE-RELATED MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Objectives: *Identify business/corporations for solicitation as being a partner in a cause-related marketing campaign*

Strategies:

- Decide program to be the recipient of the cause-related marketing campaign and gather all information concerning program, needs, benefits to the community and those served

- Solicit identified businesses/corporations explaining cause-related marketing and educating them about WTCAC
- Develop appropriate media/marketing needs in collaboration with “partner” and Board of WTCAC

*Cause-related marketing motivates consumer additional spending, improves a company’s community image as being recognized as a supporter of an organization that is providing need services to the community.

GOAL: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT WTCAC PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Objectives:

Ascertain potential donors and develop a team-based strategy

Strategies

- Provide educational seminars to targeted audiences
- Determine policies and procedures for the program
- Develop relationships with estate planners
- Develop a web-site providing organizations mission, programs, and case for giving
- Ascertain tools for Planned Gifts that show creativity and are donor centered
- Develop gifting information with insert return and disseminate to targeted population
- Provide Estate Planning seminars to professionals facilitated by accredited speakers--increasing Estate Planners awareness of WTCAC
- Cultivate identified prospects to move them along “donor highway”
- Involve Board members, staff, volunteers and community members
- Develop specific gifting materials, i.e. informational brochures depicting forms of gifting and opportunities, names of Estate Planners, etc.
- Provide information on the WTCAC web site
- Review development goals, objectives and giving plan quarterly
- Develop methods to map strategies for cultivation via Moves Management™
- Obtain Donor software and maintain current database
- Research potential donors on internet, public records, friends, business associates, vendors and other linkages to organization

