

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday April 23, 2015
Stockbridge-Munsee

April 22

Meeting called to order at 8:13 am.

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldan, Mary Bartkowiak), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Doug Cox), Mole Lake (Tina VanZile), Red Cliff (Chad Abel), St. Croix (Jeremy Bloomquist, Cody Mattison), Stockbridge-Munsee (Angela Waupochick, Paul Koll, Randall Wollenhaup), Oneida (Pat Pelky)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Jerry Thompson (Consultant), Randy Gilbertson (WTCAC), Chris Borden (NRCS), Alan Johnson (WTCAC), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Melissa Lewis (APHIS - WS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Jimmy Bramblet (NRCS), Tom Krapf (NRCS)

Sign in sheet is attached.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Tabled until tomorrow.

4. GLRI Grant Update

Alan handed out grant information. We need to set a start date for those Tribes that will have WTCAC employees. We need to have Tribes draft contracts. Alan will see if EPA needs to review contracts.

5. APHIS Training Presentation

Jerry Thompson gave an APHIS Training Presentation.

6. AmeriCorps

Keith – Grant is done, we far exceeded our goals and the contract officer was forwarding our project report on to supervisors as a great example of a project well done.

7. Reports

A) APHIS Funding – St. Regis is waiting for a work plan from us so that they can work with us in the mitigation process. What Tribes are interested in working on this? Send out summary of what is needed and responsibilities of Tribes interested in the Internship Grant to provide outreach on EAB. Alan will send this out. APHIS Training – Jerry Thompson

B) NRCS - Alan – we are on target with our costs at this point in time. Right after the board meeting I am going to give Alan a draft copy of the board minutes and he will take that and agenda and submit right to NRCS to get reimbursement submitted.

C) Old EPA GLRI – We still have some monies there. We have until July 1 to spend down the \$25,000 for WTCAC expenses. Probably need about \$13,000 - \$14,000 which leaves us with about \$11,000 to divide amongst the Tribes. Final written report will be shared by the end of June. Run requests for supplies back to Alan to use up the remaining funding.

D) USFS - \$32,000 from State and Private Forestry and funding from Forest Research – Both accounts have been spent down and zeroed out. The final report for the Research Grant was sent in. Send final reports to the entire Board.

E) Interns – 4 applicants and 4 inquiries. APHIS – Wildlife Services is funding one at this point. USFS would fund 2 at Ottawa. We have no other funding.

8. NRCS Technical Review Update

Jimmy – Went through Technical Recommendations (attached) and NRCS responses.

9. Financial Report

Erin - We ended up paying Unemployment insurance last year as we had more than 4 employees over 19 weeks.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

April 23

Meeting called to order at 8:05 am.

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldan), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Jeremy Pyatskowitz), Mole Lake (Tina VanZile), Red Cliff (Chad Abel), St. Croix (Jeremy Bloomquist, Cody Mattison), Stockbridge-Munsee (Paul Koll), Oneida (Pat Pelky)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Jerry Thompson (Consultant), Chris Borden (NRCS), Alan Johnson (WTCAC), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Melissa Lewis (APHIS - WS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Jimmy Bramblet (NRCS), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Jack Chang (WI – DATCP)

Sign in sheet is attached.

2. NRCS Technical Review Update (continued from previous day)

Jimmy – Went through Technical Recommendations (attached) and NRCS responses.

3. Financial Development

Alan – Recently the 2501 OAO was sent in. We submitted a great proposal thanks to the aquaculture committee. It would give us the opportunity to plan for the future and educate in the area of aquaculture potentially leading to aquaponics. We submitted for \$208,000. The NW WI Workforce Investment Board would provide outreach and training support to American Indian farmers in the northwest WI (OAO Grant). The investment board will fund up to 5 interns that will provide the outreach and education and in return WTCAC would receive a subcontract for \$25,000 to cover WTACAC's costs and work on the project.

Short term and long term implementations – he would like to get some restricted monies but also operating funds. Operating funds are harder to get in, but we are going to continue in that process. He has applied to the Johnson Foundation as they had an interest in the intern program, however they indicated they would only fund business, not natural resources. First Nations had a recent grant for \$26,000 that was submitted for aquaculture with Forest County. Kellogg and Robert Wood Johnson and Ford Foundation have had letters of inquiries. He is working with Shakopee on operating expenses. The CIG grant was submitted, it passed the first round but it sounds like St. Croix would like to back off of the grant this year. Also applied for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers grant for over \$700,000 for aquaponics in conjunction with Forest County. Alan thanked several folks for continuing to send Alan grant opportunities. He will be putting together a grant calendar for the entire year.

MOTION: Motion to withdraw the CIG grant that was submitted and have Alan draft a memo stating this. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. Strategic Planning Process

Alan – Alan will try to put together an outline and send out. Looking at getting a facilitator for a strategic planning session.

5. Aquaculture Subcommittee

Jeremy – We have pretty much already touched on everything. Keith, Tony, and Jeremy met in April to come up with the OAO grant. They would like a Tribe to apply for EQIP funds based on the NRCS response to technical recommendations. They would like to have a mid-July subcommittee meeting. We would like Jimmy, Tom, and Chris there if possible. Tony and Erin worked hard on it. One of the things in the OAO grant is they requested surveying equipment so that WTCAC could actually do the preliminary design survey for Tribes interested in applying for aquaculture practices through NRCS. WTCAC would provide NRCS with electronic survey data. They felt they need about 3 subcommittee meetings per year plus 1 that includes NRCS.

6. Forestry Subcommittee

Pat apologized as he did not pull it together. We also need NRCS involved. The new NRCS Forester started this week. Jimmy is anxious to learn more about that this committee is doing.

7. APHIS

JoAnn gave an update on bird flu from Dr. Deveau - They are conducting surveillance in a 10 km circle around all farms that have bird flu. They are assuming it is moving with waterfowl. Expect it to continue until temps stabilize in the 70s. His advice for the Tribes is to make sure you report any sick birds to DATCP. JoAnn will send me a link to put in the minutes on more info.

The Tribal Wildlife Services Liaison would like to be more involved. Melissa will provide contact info to WTCAC and we will invite him to the next meeting.

PPQ – They still don't have their 2015 budget. They are already talking about planning for 2016. Not a lot has changed for EAB or gypsy moth. Taylor County was added for gypsy moth. The only states putting out EAB traps are in the south because they had to start so early. They are hoping they will hear in the next couple of weeks that they are approved. The plan had been to put out about 1300 traps in WI. Oneida County will have some traps. Lac du Flambeau would like to do their own trapping. She will let us know when she has traps. Question – is there any hope for biological control? She doesn't think biocontrol will be the silver bullet. They don't see if sweeping through WI as quickly as they thought it would.

8. FSA

Susan's report is attached.

9. Rural Development

Not present

10. USFS

Mary Rasmussen – Private Forestry update was emailed and is attached.

CNNF – Tribal Chairs should have received a letter from Paul Strong on road and trail closures. Over the last couple of years the way recreation is funded is a line item in the budget and that has been slowing reducing. They looked at campgrounds that don't have a lot of use, they have decided to temporarily close some of the campgrounds and reduce services at some (garbage collection, out house pumping, etc.). They will be taking comments this summer to look at some campgrounds to permanently close.

11. NASS

Not present

12. RMA

Not present

13. EPA

Not present

14. IAC

Not present

15. INCA

Jerry – He was with INCA a couple of weeks ago. They are focusing on forming Tribal Conservation Districts. They were approved at their annual meeting in December. They are focusing on training on TCD capacity building. They have made some headway. Under EQIP 515 language they have come up with a waiver procedure for lands that have not been historically irrigated or lost their history of irrigation through no fault of the land owner or user. INCA wanted to thank WTCAC for all the work we have done with them over the years. They felt the partnership between WTCAC and INCA has been a boost for Tribes nationwide. They hope in the future it may be able to happen again.

16. IHS

Not present

17. DATCP

Jack - If you don't receive the news release from DATCP please let him know and you can be added to the list serve or go to their website. Discussed bird flu outbreak in Jefferson, Juneau, Barron and Chippewa Counties. Last week they issued a ban of moving birds from these 4 counties.

Jack is with the Division of Agricultural Development. They have 6 different divisions in DATCP. The division that handles disease and control is the Animal Health Division. Call 1-800-572-8981 for any questions on the bird flu. This will go directly to the Animal Health Division. They also have fact sheets about bird flu and other diseases on their website.

18. BIA

Not present

19. NRCS

Jimmy – He reiterated his appreciation for the frank discussion yesterday. They have a new regional conservation partnership program. It will be coming up this summer. The American bird conservancy was awarded \$5 million over the next 5 years to protect and improve habitat for the Golden Winged Warbler. They are working out the details of the agreement, they will have a sign up that will operate like the EQIP program. Looking at application deadline of July 19. They are looking at projects that affect even aged aspen and even aged alder. They are looking to affect the mature alder to create an uneven aged stand. They also have 2 aspen opportunities – when it gets to a certain stage it needs to be clear cut, a lot of the 35 – 45 year old stands of aspen, they have incentives available to cut a mosaic in it to cut ½ or 1/3 and then cut the rest in the next 10 years. Shearing they will have incentives, for aspen, they will have incentives for marking. The sooner Tribes get working on this with NRCS, the higher the ranking will be. The ranking process will follow statewide NRCS ranking, not the WTCAC ranking.

He has a product that shows the planning process for each Tribe when it comes to EQIP. They are asking what projects were are interested in to get the conservation planning done in advance. Handed out current potential projects list.

It is time for our next agreement that helps fund these sessions. He is interested in making the agreement last multiple years. That will give us flexibility in upcoming years to look at other projects if they have available funds. He would like the letter back to NRCS requesting the funding by next Friday, sooner the better. This would have to go to DC from NRCS if we are over \$100,000, looking at 3 years. Chris would like to get an invite when we meet with our Tribal liaison. Jimmy understands they need to step up to the plate being Randy and Keith do not have funds to help out so we want to get out in front of these things. He really wants everyone to plan first and then figure out the dollars and cents. He would like us to approve projects by October. October 1 will probably be the sign up date.

20. Technical Review Process

We need to start the process earlier on our end. Add Technical Recommendations spot to website. Please send Nate updated WTCAC contacts and emails for WTCAC Board.

21. GLRI Grant

Issues of concern between contractor and subawardee. Erin is going to contact Tina to figure this out.

- 1) Need to find out if this can be a contract including materials and travel.
- 2) Need to get deliverable out to the Tribe, payment terms.
- 3) Need to develop an invoice for reimbursement.

22. APHIS Grant

Jerry is wondering if anyone is interested in applying. He can help any Tribe put their application together.

23. RTCAC

There have not been any meetings since the last update we got from Pat.

24. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the January 26 WTCAC Meeting Minutes. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

25. Recognition of Former Board Members

Tina will work on a gift for Roman and Jeremy will work on a gift for Katie.

MOTION: Motion to approve up to \$200 each for gifts for Katie and Roman. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

26. Next Meeting

Looking between the 7th and 16th of July for the next meeting in Mole Lake.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

EMAIL MOTION 05/28/2015

MOTION: Motion to approve the placement of Shawana Begay and Marcus Robinson to the agencies and locations identified. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Six ayes (Ho-Chunk, Stockbridge-Munsee, FCPC, St. Croix, Bad River, LCO), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MOTION 05/28/2015

MOTION: Motion to approve the budget and indirect costs for EPA Grant Subaward. Motion by Bad River, seconded by FCPC. Six ayes (Bad River, FCPC, Menominee, LCO, Stockbridge-Munsee, Ho-Chunk), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MOTION 06/03/2015

MOTION: Motion to approve interns with available funding. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Six ayes (FCPC, Mole Lake, Red Cliff, Stockbridge-Munsee, Bad River, and LCO), zero opposed, motion carried.

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
April 22, 2015 Sign-in**

Name	Tribe/Organization	Email
Brett McConnell	LCO	brehmc@cheqnet.net
Jeremy Bloomquist	St. Croix	jeremyb@stcroixtribalcenter.com
Cody Mattison	St. Croix	codym@stcroixtribalcenter.com
Keith Sengbusch	WTCA/C	isea.kayak@hotmail.com
Jerry Thompson	Tribal Consultation Services	@gmail.com
Randy Gilbertson	WTCA/C	Curroaks120centurytel.net
Scott McDougall	Lac du Flambeau	smcdougall@lcftribe.com
Tina L. Van Zile	Sokaogon - Mole Lake	tina.vanzile@scc-nsn.gov
Mary Bartkowick	Forest Co. Potawatomi	Mary.bartkowick@FCPotawatomi.gov
Angela Nauprehtick	Stockbridge-Munsee Community	angela.nauprehtick@mohican-nsn.gov
CHAD ASER	RED CLIFF	
Doug Cox	Menominee	dycox@MITW.org
Paul Koll	Stockbridge - Munsee	paul.koll@mohican-nsn.gov
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Chris Borden	USDA - NRCS	chris.borden@wi.usda.gov
Ann R. Johnson	WTCA/C	
MARY RASMUSSEN	USDA - Forest Service	mrasmussen@fs.fed.wi.usda.gov
Nate Gouldan	FCPC	
Pat Pelky	Oneida Tribe	ppelky1@oneidatribetn.org
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Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
April 23, 2015 Sign-in

Name	Tribe/Organization	Email
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Melissa Lewis	APHIS - Wildlife Services	2melissa.lewis@gmail.com
Jeremy Pyatskowitz	Menominee	jpyatskowitz@mitn.org
Sherrie Zent-Reed	NRCS - Shawano Office	sherrie.zentreed@wi.usda.gov
CHAD ABEL	RED CLIFF!	
Paul Koll	Starkbridge Munsee	paul.koll@ndhcar-nsn.gov
Chris Barden	USDA-NRCS	chris.barden@wi.usda.gov
Jimmy Bramblett	" "	jimmy.bramblett@wi.usda.gov
Pete Kelly	Oneida Tribe	petekelly@oneidatribetn.org
Nate Galdan	FCLP	



Note

Jimmy response on top
WTCAC 1/15/2015 letter attached

March 22, 2015

Pat Pekly, President
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

Dear Pat,

This letter is in response to WTCAC's January 15, 2015 correspondence of technical recommendations for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Many thanks to you, and all WTCAC Members for bringin these issues forward to help strengthen an already positive collaboration we enjoy. Should you have any questions regarding this information we will be happy to discuss as desired by WTCAC. Below are our responses to WTCAC recommendations:

Item # 1 Access Roads in a Forested Setting. WTCAC continues to have difficulty in determining practices that address resource concerns eligible to obtain funding through EQIP for Access Roads in 2014.

WTCAC Recommendation: Please provide the Training on the identification of resource concerns and how to identify the appropriate practice standards to address those resource concerns. WTCAC recommends that the 342 Standard include fall seeding for native species. Rye should not be a recommended cover crop due to its allopathic effects.

NRCS Response

NRCS will present an outline at the April Meeting regarding the Access Road Practice Standard and applicable resource concerns. At the April or June WTCAC meeting the NRCS State Forester will be introduced to WTCAC, and work with WTCAC to schedule an in-field training session.

Item # 2 Endangered Species. What is the NRCS opinion regarding when Tribes must address State listed Threatened or Endangered Species to implement an EQIP practice?

WTCAC Recommendation(s): Please provide results of meetings with DNRBER and the national office. Please provide tracking information regarding how the SOP has worked in 2014 in Wisconsin. Please provide the current policy that requires protection of



federally listed species that includes suggestions for the protection of State T & E species. What changes are being considered?

NRCS Response

Chris Borden will provide training regarding NRCS-Wisconsin's procedure for handling NEPA responsibilities for both State and Federal Threatened and Endangered species element occurrences related to NRCS funded projects on Tribal lands. No direct discussion took place with the WI DNR regarding the development of this policy due to the government to government relationship that exists between USDA and the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin.

Item # 3 Aquaculture Ponds. WTCAC requests the NRCS establishment of eligible Resource Concern(s) based on Tribal Concerns about inadequate stocks of fish species, in waters of Tribal concern, and waters that are of Tribal importance for subsistence farming.

WTCAC Recommendation: 1.) WTCAC requests NRCS to continue to fund some aquaculture practices based on existing resource concerns. 2.) In addition, WTCAC requests NRCS to consider tribal aquaculture programs and expansion of aquaculture facilities as non-production agriculture 3.) WTCAC requests NRCS to foster development of Aquaculture programming to address resource concerns related to wild stocks offish. 4.) WTCAC requests NRCS to provide for new construction expansion and funding of the new construction expansion based on wild fish resource concerns (for example, but not limited to imbalance within and among populations and threatened and endangered species resource concerns).

NRCS Response

Regarding WTCAC recommendation #1, NRCS plans to continue to use "Animals-Livestock Production Limitations" as the applicable resource concern in situations where the Tribe is interested in replacing existing poorly functioning aquaculture ponds.

Regarding WTCAC recommendation #2, based on our conversations regarding Tribal lake survey/stocking protocols at the Aquaculture Subcommittee meeting, NRCS in Wisconsin recognizes population imbalance within lakes as an eligible resource concern for EQIP. In these cases "Fish and Wildlife-Inadequate Habitat" will be used as the applicable resource concern. The 2014 Farm Bill language made it possible for NRCS-Wisconsin to consider expansion of an existing Aquaculture Pond facility. However the 2014 Farm Bill did not include language allowing us to consider financial assistance for new facilities where Aquaculture Ponds do to currently exist.

For your reference, the following is the complete list of animal related resource concerns from the current NRCS National Planning Procedures Handbook.



Fish and Wildlife-Inadequate Habitat

- Food
- Cover/Shelter
- Water
- Space Continuity

Livestock Production Limitation

- Inadequate Feed and Forage
- Inadequate Shelter
- Inadequate Water

Regarding WTCAC recommendation #3, NRCS is appreciative of efforts tribes undertake to assure stocking is done through locally adapted genetic strains. This strengthens the rationale for Tribal efforts.

Regarding WTCAC recommendation #4, see responses to recommendations 1 and 2 found above.

Regarding the list of eleven additional items, i.e., stream side incubators etc., it would be helpful for the WTCAC to prioritize these in order that we focus our resources on the top concerns.

NRCS appreciates all the efforts of the Aquaculture Subcommittee and looks forward to seeing WTCAC's list of anticipated upcoming project. This will be very helpful in planning our assistance going forward.

Item # 4 Wild Rice Planting. WTCAC requests further clarification of wild rice planting and cost. Documentation from WTCAC regarding costs have been submitted. The NRCS and Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee have discussed a different payment scale than WTCAC has documented; implementation of Wisconsin documented payment scale will fulfill clarification request.

NRCS Response

NRCS-Wisconsin is committed to maintain the scenarios and keep WTCAC informed if it appears that any changes are likely. We are aware of the importance to the Tribes' commitment to the use of Wild Rice local ecotypes. We are also working with the National Office on how to best "organize" these efforts as either 1) a stand along practice standard, or more likely 2) development of an appropriate Payment Schedule Scenario under an established practice standard.



Item # 5 Seasonal High Tunnel. Currently NRCS allows one High Tunnel per Tribe. The Tribes have numerous communities within Tribal lands that function independently, and have a need for separate practices. It is recommended that NRCS reconsider this policy, and provide the funding for such reconsideration.

NRCS Response

The NRCS-Wisconsin will accept applications for additional High Tunnels per Tribe as long as controlled by the tribe and located on Tribal land. We appreciate WTCAC bringing this issue to our attention.

Item # 6 Maple Syrup Production. What are the NRCS proposal of scenarios for Maple Syrup production, to include tubing for sap transport to avoid rutting and compaction?

NRCS Response

NRCS-Wisconsin State Resource Conservationist will be exploring development of standard(s) to address this resource concern in FY15. NRCS-Wisconsin appreciates WTCAC bringing this to our attention and is looking forward to working with WTCAC on this issue going forward.

Item # 7 Tribal Liaison (responsibilities). WTCAC requests further clarification re Tribal Liaison Responsibility.

NRCS Response

NRCS-Wisconsin presented WTCAC with a document outlining the responsibilities of the NRCS Tribal Liaison's at the December 2014 WTCAC meeting. We would be open to having a discussion regarding this issue at a future WTCAC meeting if desired.

Item # 8 EQIP. WTCAC requests the NRCS to put together a document that outlines all the NRCS EQIP application and implementation process, e.g. signup deadlines, batching dates, obligation, scheduling, certification, and payments.

NRCS Response

NRCS-Wisconsin will develop materials for onsite training with each individual Tribe. The best forum for the training is likely to be in the field with the participation of the Tribal staff, NRCS Liaisons and the NRCS Resource Conservationist Program Liaison (Chris Borden).

Item # 9 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.



WTCAC Recommendation: WTCAC will continue to coordinate the development of Aquaponics technical recommendations for future consideration of NRCS. WTCAC recommends that the technical recommendations process begin in 2015.

NRCS Response

Due to the recent submittal of the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG), NRCS-Wisconsin would like to monitor the process as it rolls out and determine NRCS involvement based on CIG outcomes.

Item # 10 Practice Scenario Pipeline 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.

WTCAC Recommendation: WTCAC has the cost data from two Tribal projects and recommends increased funding.

NRCS Response

NRCS-Wisconsin intends to include an Aquaculture Pond scenario using HDPE pipe in the 2016 EQIP payment schedule. We appreciate WTCAC bringing this issue to our attention.

Item # 11 Herbaceous Weed Control. WTCAC would like to have scenarios developed for mechanical (hand pulling and disposal of invasive species) for both uplands, and water bodies that would 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.

WTCAC Recommendation: Request that NRCS bring back the scenario components of 2,4D amine salt, granular and liquid, for Eurasian Milfoil control and other aquatic species as well as expanded funding for the 2015 EQIP signup.

NRCS Response

NRCS-Wisconsin State Agronomist, Terry Kelly is taking the steps necessary to create Herbaceous Weed Control scenario(s) that will serve to control aquatic invasive species including Eurasian Water-milfoil. We are looking forward to investigating whether or not our existing scenarios are applicable to situations where hand pulling for heavy infestations is needed.



Item # 12 Stream Crossings. 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. Also consider adding additional Scenarios to accommodate small stream channels or drainage ways (intermittent) with lower cost options than culverts or constructed crossings.

WTCAC Response: The existing scenario's relating to stream crossing often results in more resource concerns in stream corridors than necessary. The option of bridges should be considered to eliminate the need for excavation in the streambed. Also culvert placement in remote areas results in maintenance issues with debris and beaver.

NRCS Response

The NRCS intends to include a scenario for the installation of pre-constructed bridge spans into the 2016 EQIP Payment Schedule for Aquatic Organism Passage. The NRCS State Engineer John Ramsden and the Program staff will develop guidance for staff regarding when this scenario is appropriate.

Item # 13 Unique Engineering Challenges. Resource concerns exist (for example at Red Cliff's Spirit Island stream bank site) however no preexisting EQIP scenario exists. Developing and including a scenario in the cookbook for a one time use is not feasible. A means of developing a construction plan, costs, and funding not associated with the cookbook is requested.

NRCS Response

Paul Johnson and Kenny Papes have developed and presented four alternatives for the Red Cliff Tribe to consider. We are currently in the process of determining if any additional EQIP scenarios will be needed. We believe our existing process for developing scenarios can deal with unique engineering challenges. Development of scenarios that seem particular to a given situation often can be used in other cases, here and in other States.

Item # 14 August EQIP. 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.

NRCS Response

While we expect a relative high level of stability of the EQIP Practice Schedule from 2015 to 2016. We are committed to providing updates to the WTCAC regarding the scenarios that are of Tribal concern that undergo meaningful change.



Item # 15 Seeding types and dates. The NRCS seedling window for native species ended July 15. The NRCS mixes contain winter wheat and annual rye. WTCAC Recommendation: Winter wheat and annual rye are not native to NE Wisconsin (annual rye has allelopathic tendencies). WTCAC recommends use of native species only, and further recommends fall seeding, as the best time to seed natives is in the fall.

NRCS Response

Pat Murphy will follow up with Terry Kelly on the potential for late summer – Early Fall seeding for native mixes. The options to develop waivers and ability to develop custom mixes will be discussed with the NRCS planning staffs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Bramblett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JIMMY BRAMBLETT
State Conservationist

Cc: Tom Krapf, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, Madison, WI
Pat Murphy, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Madison, WI
John Ramsden, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Madison, WI
Chris Borden, State Tribal Liaison, NRCS, Medford, WI
Alan Johnson, Executive Director, WTCAC, Gillett, WI



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Department of
Agriculture**

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

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Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – April 23, 2015

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

Farm Loan Programs

April Farm Loan Interest Rates: 2.375% for operating/microloans/youth loans and 3.375 % for ownership and conservation loans.

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 but we are hoping later this spring.

FSA April State Newsletter

Attached is a copy of the April FSA State Newsletter which has also been posted to the Wisconsin FSA webpage under Newsletters in the left hand column. 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.

FSA Disaster Programs for Livestock, Trees, Honey Bees, Farm Raised Fish, etc.

FSA has various disaster programs to help recover from losses due to adverse weather. These include the following programs:

- *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* – assistance for livestock deaths due to adverse weather
- *Livestock Forage Program (LFP)* – assistance for grazing losses in designated drought counties
- *Tree Assistance Program (TAP)* – assistance for loss of commercial trees due to adverse weather.
- *Emergency Loss Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)* – assistance to help with losses due to adverse weather.
- *Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)* – loss coverage for commercial crops that are not insured within your county. Includes fruits, vegetables, maple sap, honey, farm raised fish, mushrooms, floriculture, wild rice with water control structures in place, etc. \$250 administrative fee is waived for tribes/tribal members and ½ of buy up premiums are waived.

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USFS Northeastern Area-St Paul Field Office Update Notes for WTCAC April 2015 Meeting

Forest Health Suppression Project Call Letter

Forest Health Protection received two project proposals in response to this year's forest health suppression call letter. The oak wilt suppression project submitted by the Menominee was funded. Linda Haugen will be working with the Menominee on the implementation and evaluation of this project.

It is not too early to begin thinking about potential suppression projects for next year. The call letter for these projects usually comes out in August and there is usually a limited amount of time to develop project proposals. We can develop better project proposals if we have advance notice of potential projects.

Forest Health Protection 2015 Tribal Lands Aerial Surveys

Each year Forest Health Protection conducts aerial surveys to map insect and disease damage over Tribal lands. These surveys are done in conjunction with our surveys over National Forest and other federal lands (For example: National Park Service and USF&W Service Refuges). Since we must be able to maintain radio contact with Forest Service dispatch, these surveys are limited to Tribal lands with larger contiguous landholdings in the vicinity of National Forests.

We typically survey the Lac Courte Oreilles, Bad River, Red Cliff, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee and the Stockbridge-Munsee. These surveys are conducted in late June to early July, so the predominant damage we map is early season defoliators. Therefore, these surveys miss insects and diseases that show up later in the year (for example: oak wilt). If you are aware of specific damage that you want us to map please contact Michael Connor (email: mconnor@fs.fed.us; phone: 651-649-5180). It would also be helpful to have a contact from each of these tribes so we can share pertinent information.

Forest Health Restoration Efforts

Forest Health Protection has been doing some field trials to evaluate Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Tolerant trees. This work has been a cooperative effort between Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and Northern Research Station, as well as partners that have been willing to provide locations for out-plantings. This spring the Forest Service is providing about 40 of the 2-year-old potted American elm seedlings (from known DED tolerant parents) for climate change adaptation plots that have been established in a joint Menominee/NRS climate change project. The elms being used are leftovers from trees grown at Toumey nursery for a study to determine whether the seedling progeny of DED tolerant parents perform any better than seedlings from locally collected elm seed. Unfortunately we won't have results from the elm study for 10 or more years.

WI DNR Oak Harvesting Guidelines Update

The WI DNR is currently working with external partners to review the oak harvesting guidelines which are required for consideration on state, county and MFL lands. The guidelines were last reviewed and updated in 2007. The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA), Great Lakes Timber Professional Association (GLTPA), Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF), Society of American Foresters (SAF), Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA), Industrial Land Manager, Wisconsin Paper Council, Lake States Lumber Association (LSLA), US Forest Service and DNR foresters. A Science Sub-Committee and an Economics & Implementation Sub-Committee have made revision recommendations to the Advisory Committee.

The revised guidelines will go out for public review and comment in June 2015, and then will be finalized in September 2015 with the goal of implementation in the spring of 2016. The WI DNR is interested to know if the tribes use any or all of the guidelines to guide oak harvesting practices on their land. For any questions, please contact Becky Gray, Rebecca.Gray@wisconsin.gov, 608-275-3273.

Forest Health Training Opportunities

Pesticide Training

Reminder: As discussed at the last WTCAC meeting, please coordinate with Randy on your pesticide training needs. Randy will then work with our office so we can plan the training and determine the dates and locations.

Hazard Tree Training

The Forestry Subcommittee notes indicated that several tribes had issues or concerns with hazard trees. Forest Health has staff that can provide training in addressing and identifying hazard trees. If you are interested in potentially having a hazard tree training session please contact Michael Connor; email mconnor@fs.fed.us or phone 651-649-5180.

Personnel

Tribal Colleges Liaison position was advertised and application period has closed. Selection process expected to conclude by early May.