**WTCAC Meeting March 22 and March 23, 2016 (Tuesday and Wednesday)**

**Host: St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
 *Lodging and meeting location:*** *30222 State Road 35 and 77--Danbury, WI 54830*

**Call to Order 8:10**

Roll Call Members: Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, The Ho-Chunk Nation.

**Guests:** Michael Arce (Oneida), Colleen Yocum (FS), Michael Connor (FS), Chris Borden (NRCS), Joann Cruse (APHIS), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Chelsey (FCPC), Mary (FCPC) Janice Kelley (NRCS) Alan Johnson (WTCAC)

**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:** GLRI update and discussion—All members of the GLRI team were requested to attend this meeting: \*Bad River, \*Forest County Potawatomi Community, \*Oneida, \*Red Cliff, \*Mole Lake and Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee.

\* =In attendance. Menominee excused.

* **2016 Work Plan**—Forward to Alan and Keith changes and/or if work plan remains the same. **SIGNED WORK PLAN DUE TO WTCAC ON MAY 1ST. (ALSO, INCLUDE WHAT EACH TRIBE NEEDS FOR THIS PROJECT, training? personnel issues? equipment issues? payment issues? Or whatever your Tribe needs to help make this a successful project. Keith to follow-up).**
* Reporting schedule for 2016—**Quarterly basis**: **DUE DATES October 1, January1, April 1, July1** for the preceding quarter. Requisites of report--Tribe: Species treated/mapped: Acres mapped (to 10th of an acre): Acres treated (to 10th of an acre): Method of treatment: Estimated percentage of species eradicated or controlled: How was estimate made? New or innovative methods used: Significant Events/Experiences: Photo documentation of various phases (attach additional page): Attach any diagrams, charts, graphs or maps to express data and findings: Other items to report may be unusual or unique or something you may wish to bring attention to in this project.
* **Semi-annual reporting** **Due Dates:** **(March 30 and September 30)** to include: Work accomplished for the period, quantifying results (i.e. acres): Corrective actions for problems encountered: Project work for the new reporting period: Report if the project work is on schedule, what activities within the work plan are completed, and the percentage of work completed for 1) this reporting period and 2) for the entire project: Report a comparison between the project funds expended and the work progress completed: Maps, pictures, GPS points, etc. documenting completed tasks and highlight accomplishments during the project period. Include concerns and recommendations.
* **Budget**---Budgets were passed out. Invoices to be sent to **Alan and Erin via email** and for hard copy records to **Alan via snail mail** (WTCAC, 7118 Cty Rd V, Gillett, Wisconsin 54124 is the address) Sending email as well as snail mail eliminates mistakes, provides a hard copy for the Administrative files, provides backup information for Quick Books and maintains a continuity of record keeping between participating Tribes and WTCAC. (This process is reinforced via experience with this grant—and has decreased mistakes). Project costs by project year to be reviewed in relation to the amount budgeted to the Tribe and the amount the Tribe has spent. Overages/underages must be brought to the attention of Erin and Alan immediately. Indirect cost rate with supporting documentation to be provided to Erin and Alan.
* **Personnel**---keeping personnel for the project suggestions: Crew leaders make $1.00 more per hour (in order to keep within budget the number of work weeks can be decreased). Training is important---Randy Gilbertson used to provide training regarding weed id—also pesticide training may be important to some Tribes---group training with multiple Tribes may be a solution. FS (Michael Connor) Menominee College (Jen Youngblood) suggests that FS or MC might do Pesticide Training. SUGGESTION: Chad/Mary/Doug teleconference with FS re training and what needs to be done and how? The name of John Kyle was also mentioned? Maybe Doug might take lead on training? TIME of HIRE: (if hire is for 20 weeks) Bring crews together in June for training---June-September = 20 weeks. Suggestion pesticides training are separate from invasive species training. FS and other entities have invasive training opportunities.
* **Contacts**—(see attachment re GLRI group)
* **Comments**: Chad Abel (Red Cliff): did extensive mapping, catalogued 20 species, have not gone deep into the woods. Used brush hogs, back pack sprayers, did revisit sites. Did try to avoid spraying if possible. Success story— Phragmites use for sludge and use for waste water filter. Hoping EPA will provide funding for support of this project. Chelsey (FCPC) going to do more monitoring bought a chipper shredder for use, dug pit to bury seeds and stems, doing some control prior to harvest of Red Pine, doing research re the use of goats, would use portable solar fencing to contain goats and chart invasive species removal. Suggestion: Google “How Cows Eat Weeds” for info regarding invasive control. Lacey (Bad River): Crew spent all summer chest deep in water, emphasis was on wild rice beds, the native competitors are hybrid cattails, did some buckthorn treatment. Nathan (Mole Lake) recently hired and unfamiliar with project—no report.

**NRCS report:** Janice Kelly gave a briefing regarding her background. Works out of Columbia County, is a Soil Conservationist, Is American Indian/Alaskan Native NRCS Tribal Liaison, also Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Liaison, is also Special Emphasis Manager, works with Pathways. Discussion took place regarding tracking students/interns involved in Pathways in order to determine some baselines and determine success of the program.

Discussion occurred regarding use of solar in relation to costs associated with aquaculture projects. NRCS has a variety of different options regarding lighting and energy systems.

Discussion occurred regarding FS. Bad River indicated they would host a Board Meeting coupled with FS. Date to be determined. Discussion occurred regarding NRCS request that WTCAC and Tribes help determine resource needs beyond 2017 for budget and planning purposes. In addition WTCAC and NRCS would like to organize another Field Day (early summer) in relation to FS.

**Field Day:** Lacey Hill Kasten (Bad River) will work with Alan in order to put together.

**Strategic Plan:** At this meeting, the Board selected Goal 5 to begin to detail.

Goal 5: The Executive Director will search funding opportunities for sustainability energy and create and maintain a spreadsheet for WTCAC Board by June 2016.

Objective: Determine sustainable energy needs of Wisconsin Tribes

Objective: Determine funding to fulfill the sustainable energy needs of Wisconsin Tribes

Strategy: Alan to research funding opportunities

Strategy: WTCAC will create a spreadsheet of Wisconsin Tribal sustainable energy needs

Strategy: WTCAC will develop an Energy Conservation and Energy Sustainability Plan

Strategy: WTCAC will work with NRCS and other USDA agencies as well as philanthropic organizations in order to fulfill funding requirements of plan

Strategy: WTCAC to work with Tribes in order to help fulfill their energy requirements

**Lunch:** Adjourned 12:07

**Called to order** at 1:14 pm.

**Roll Call:** Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. Quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes by Mole Lake, 2nd by Bad River. All in favor, motion carries.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve by Bad River, 2nd by St. Croix. Motion carries.

**Farm Bill Goal #3:** Jerry Thompson: Farm Bill 1007 Capacity Building Goal 3: This suggestion is to develop the Capacity of Tribal Nations (Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota) in the Invasive Species survey protocols of USDA APHIS PPQ. Tribal Nations are the second largest land owners in the United States (next to the Federal Government) and they have some of the worst Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds infestations on their farmlands, rangelands and wetlands of any agricultural lands in the country. APHIS wants to take the training a step further on a Tribal nation to nation capacity building model. APHIS wants us to try and come up with a model incorporating PPQ policies into a culturally acceptable format for Tribes and then they want to do the training. As Tribes continue to develop overseas markets for their agricultural products “pest free certifications” will be paramount for their success. The training would be coordinated by Jerry, training provided by APHIS, and WTCAC would oversee the project. Request: $144,286-Obtained: $80,000

After discussion the WTCAC Board voted Motion by Red Cliff to reject funding, 2nd by St Croix. All in favor, motion carries.

At the 3/23 portion of the meeting, a synopsis of the project #3 was provided to Dan Cornelius IAC.

**Farm Bill Goal #6**: Alan Johnson: Farm Bill 1007 Capacity Building Goal #6: This suggestion is to Design, Develop, Conduct, Evaluate a Pest Rapid Response Emergency Preparation and Mitigation Exercise on Tribal Lands in Wisconsin. The Exercise will involve Tribal and other stakeholders. Preparedness is imperative; when a pest is detected, the time between corresponding unified response activities is a critical window to lessen trade impacts, environmental damage, economic and social costs. Both the Incident Command System (ICS) and the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), as suggested for use by APHIS, provide a clearly identified planning process which can be used to enhance response activities for preparation, rapid response, and mitigation of pest(s). Expanding on the Tribal Mitigation and Quarantine Protocol Development Project through (this) Pest Rapid Response Emergency Preparation and Mitigation Exercise will further strengthen Tribal knowledge base, response options, training, and capabilities prior to the onset of a pest emergency. The overarching goals of containment, control, and/or eradication of pests will be enhanced. Request: **$117,958-Obtained: $75,000**

The Board requested Alan to formulate the work plan and redo the budget.

**Intern Placement:**

Forest Service and APHIS selected 3 candidates. Bobby Long from Cherokee Nation would like to work with APHIS WS. Albany Eckert is interested in working on USFS Research. Senior at Stoney Brook University. Ashley Archer – Interned with us last year with APHIS WS. Member of Sault Saint Marie and would be working with USFS Research Program.

Motion to approve the placement of these 3 interns Red Cliff, 2nd by Bad River. All in favor, motion carries.

**NRCS Ranking:**

Motion to approve a ranking of St. Croix’s project as high, 2nd by Mole Lake. St. Croix abstains, motion carries.

Motion to approve FCPC’s project as high, 2nd by Bad River. FCPC abstains, motion carries.

Motion to approve Red Cliff project as high by FCPC, 2nd Bad River. Red Cliff abstains, motion carries.

Alan and Keith were requested to determine the 5 biggest projects from each tribe in relation to EQIP and the potential date for request in order to place on NRCS radar screen.

**Technical Recommendations update:**

1. Work on scheduling a Forestry Subcommittee Meeting
2. Steps in EQIP Process – Where can we make a difference in improving NRCS services to Tribes. Issue with LCO last year was used as an example. They should have a good product at next meeting.
3. Looking to WTCAC to give numbers on training. They would like to fill 40 seats but could do it with 30. They will bring more info to the next meeting.
4. Aquaculture – they have a meeting next Tuesday in Wausau. They will be producing a document to show everyone where we are at.
5. Aquaponics – CIG grant came out; we are not going for one.
6. Obstruction removal – they will develop specific guidance on it
7. Vermont was helping people replace evaporators for sugar bush. Everything else they were doing is now out of their cookbook.
8. NEPA – Judy Derricks is State Resource Conservationist and she is going to put her thoughts into it.
9. Interns – Has been some discussion with opportunities in the future. They are interesting in providing an experience to interns in their field offices.

Chance for input on new CSP rules coming out in 2017.

**APHIS Intern:** Mole Lake, Menominee, Bad River, St Croix, and Oneida are interested in

placements. WTCAC would have 5 placements for APHIS Funds. Next steps are to place, determine a work plan with the participating tribe(s), work with APHIS regarding the work plan and obtain Board approval regarding the work plan and process.

**Aquaculture subcommittee**:

Next meeting is on Tuesday, March 29 from 10 – 2 in Wausau.

**Forestry Subcommittee:**

Need formal action Paul Koll from Stockbridge-Munsee as the leader of the Forestry Subcommittee.

**Motion to appoint:** Paul Koll as the subcommittee leader by Red Cliff, 2nd by St. Croix. All in favor, motion carries. Pat, Nate, and Alan will meet with Paul regarding FS.

**APHIS Mitigation Meeting:**

Alan will send out a doodle poll and they will hold it in Oneida as the gentleman from Mohawk will be flying in.

**Business of Indian Agriculture Training:**

Oneida had money left over from sovereignty summit and would cover the hotel costs. Please help recruitment efforts.

**Motion to adjourn** by St. Croix, 2nd by Mole Lake. Meeting adjourned at 4:25.

**March 23, 2016**

**Roll Call:** Bad River, FCPC, LCO, Oneida, St. Croix, Red Cliff, Mole Lake. Quorum Present.

 Lily Palmer (FS), Diane Berger (Rural Development), Evie Moore (Farm Service Agency), Dan Cornelius (IAC)

**Approval of Today’s Agenda.** Need to add financials to agenda today as we didn’t get it yesterday.

**Motion to approve** agenda by Mole Lake, 2nd by LCO. Motion carries.

**APHIS Update:**

Working on revising Farm Bill work plans. They need to be revised and in by June 1. JoAnn is going to talk to Kristian and see if it would be possible to transfer the funds over to IAC. Dan Cornelius said IAC might be interested but would need to know more.

They are going with national contracts for EAB trapping to do the national trapping plan. She handed out maps for WI and MI. If we don’t have traps that fall on Tribal land, we can still get traps from APHIS to trap. Menominee County and Baraga County, MI was added to the EAB quarantine. Marquette County was added in WI. Losing office manager in about a week, still short on staff. Need a background in biological sciences for a position that will be open for only 5 days. JoAnn will give us a heads up when it will be open. APHIS will have booths at the NAFWS Meeting.

**Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference:** will be in Lacrosse this year. They are looking for Tribal speakers. October 17-19, 2016.

**Motion to direct:** Alan to put together a presentation on the mitigation plan for the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference by FCPC, 2nd by Mole Lake. Motion carries.

**Financial Updates:**

Erin and Alan have been holding checks so we don’t go into the negative. Reimbursements are lagging expenditures.

**Motion to accept and approve**: the financial report by Red Cliff, 2nd by FCPC. All in favor, motion carries.

**FSA Update:**

Evie Moore – CRP – they just finished a general sign up at the end of February and are waiting to see what offers will be accepted. There were several handouts. You can get upwards of 90% cost share on the practices for specific species. FSFL – Farm storage facility loans – set up to house and handle grain and hay products, it has now expanded to many different storage types. They are low interest loans. 1.635 interest rate this month for 7 year guaranteed loan. 15% down payment, if over $100k can go to 10 or 12 years. Only wood products that are covered are biomass at this point.

**Forest Service Update:**

Lily Palmer – 3 different handouts. Annual birch gathering maps through GLIFWC. They will be sent out at the end of this month. Sharp-tail grouse habitat is being restored on the Bayfield peninsula.

Larry Heady is retiring at the end of this year and FS is outreaching his position. Please have them respond to the outreach if you know of anyone that may be interested.

**Forestry Subcommittee**: – She will work with Lacey to figure out the schedule of the next meeting. There will be a team working with Lily to set up the next meeting to align with the NRCS training. Minutes from the last subcommittee meeting will be coming out soon.

Mike Conner – They have been trying to get a pesticide training off the ground. The plan is a person on their staff will work with Doug Cox to get it assembled and move forward. The goal would be first part of June. They will be flying over all federal lands, state lands, and tribal lands for insects and diseases. It would be helpful if Tribes were interested in a certain issue to let them know. Mike will send a letter to Alan and Alan will get it out to WTCAC. Suppression projects call will be coming out soon for pests of concern. They have done oak wilt and forest tent caterpillar spraying with Menominee. He will send info to Alan and Alan will send out. Flyer on Asian Long Horned Beetle. It was in Chicago and that site was eradicated. It attacks maple.

**INCA:** Pat was emailing with Jonathan and his term is up and would volunteer for another term if we wanted him too.

Motion to accept Jonathon Pyatskowit as the INCA rep by Mole Lake, 2nd by FCPC. Motion carries.

**IAC Update:**

Dan Cornelius – He brought a large kit of seeds. They started a new initiative. They struggle to be everywhere they need to be with one vehicle. They have launched a regional tribally supported agriculture. People can go online and order and ship monthly to a distribution site. They are starting a mobile seed library and are working to reallocate funding they have to put together the seed kits and have the distribution facilities to hand them out. This is a way to provide more support.

Their RCPP application was successful for $1.8 million to build conservation planning capacity across the whole country in partnership with Indian Land Tenure Foundation. They plan to do an RFP for Tribes to do conservation activity plans. He will see if they can share their full application with WTCAC. Plan to do a series of Regional Workshops for Tribal staff, individual producers, and Tribal colleges on the NRCS conservation planning process.

Draft agenda for Food Summit was handed out. CIG webinar they will be holding next week. Dan will send out an email with the link to the webinar.

**RTCAC Update**: They just had a new kick off meeting last week and they accepted WTCAC’s recommendation that Pat Pelky be reappointed for another 3 year term, Tina also got carried over as the alternate.

**NRCS Update**: Chris Borden - looking forward to working with us to implement the 2016 EQIP Practices. There is now a 5 acre max to remove land from Forest Management during the 5 year contract period. NRCS is looking into a waiver for Tribes.

**NASS Update:** Alan Johnson –WTCAC and NASS have been in contact regarding the 2017 survey. Two concerns exist, NASS cannot release names for Tribes to review and potentially update; Tribes cannot release names for NASS to review and update. NASS may do a door to door visitation on Tribal lands, but, again, having the list to do so is imperative.

**Rural Development:** Diane Berger – she is the new Area director for Rural Development. Iron County down to Monroe County. 2 offices, one in Menominee and one in Spooner. VPAG expect to publish a $50 million NOFA, they plan to sue the remaining Farm Bill Money for it. Did a VPAG last year with Red Cliff and marketing their fish. Last year provided a grant to LCO College for their community kitchen facilities at their community gardens. Working with Bad River tribe on their water system. Renewable Energy for America Program – provide grants and loans to Ag producers or small businesses to create or save electricity. Grant program apps are due May 2 this year, grants can only be 25% of project cost. Working with LCO on self-help housing program. She has a bunch of brochures and a copy of their progress report.

**Next Meeting:**

Ho-Chunk May 3.

**Motion to adjourn**: by St. Croix, 2nd by Mole Lake. Meeting adjourned at 10:47.