

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 13, 2011**  
**LCO**

Meeting called to order at 8:14 am by Jonathan Pyatskowit.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Bad River (Lacey Hill), Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma), LCO (Brett McConnell, Dan Tyrolt), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowit), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile, Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Melonee Montano, Josh Lafernter), Stockbridge-Munsee (Randall Wollenhaup - on phone), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), FCPC (Nate Guldán), St. Croix (Katie Stariha, Tony Havranek – arrived at 8:50)

Others present: Kent Wabrowetz (NRCS), Chris Borden (NRCS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Donna Huebner (RD), Pat Leavenworth (NRCS), Craig Ficenec (NRCS), Judy Derricks (NRCS), Tony Bush (NRCS), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Susan Hunter (FSA), Tom Melnarik (NRCS), Michael Stinebrink (NRCS), Gary Haughn (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), Mike Koehler (NRCS), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Dan Cornelius (IAC)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

IAC Update and Interns need to be added to the agenda.

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

In Item 10, need to clarify that Mole Lake cut the check for \$250, not FSA. In Item 15, the Rhinelander Intern position could partner with Mole Lake, FCPC and Lac du Flambeau.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the November 2, 2011 minutes with changes. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**4. NRCS Update**

Pat Leavenworth – in terms of operations, they passed a minibus bill to fund 3 departments and Agriculture was one of them. NRCS is waiting to see their allowance. She thinks they should be pretty good for this year, but they are continuing to prepare for future years. It depends on the next Farm Bill, they presented \$23 billion in cuts to the super committee but they didn't come to any conclusion. Farm Bill is now on normal track instead of fast track. They have already held public hearings and they should get going on it in January. One new development, there was a

decision memo that the Chief signed to establish 3 Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils. Each Regional Council would consist of 16 members each, five federal, 10 tribal, and 1 from a regional tribal organization. Nominations will be accepted until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Nominations should go to Pat. Pat has volunteered to be one of the 3 state conservationists on the council.

Pat handed out their annual state wide report. Because NRCS does easements, they are more or less a land management agency. A few years ago they got together with partners to put together a wildlife phenology calendar and send it to everyone participating in the easements. She handed them out to everyone. They have a management team meeting this week and they are hoping their budget arrives today or tomorrow. They have begun signups for the programs.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - In Wisconsin, the NRCS is focusing the GLRI funds they received from EPA on the watersheds from Green Bay down to Milwaukee. It is EPA money through the GLRI, they have a portion that they are awarding through the EQIP program. They are really trying to track and document results. It is supplemental EQIP funding.

#### **5. EPA Update**

Jim Ruppel was ill and not able to attend. He emailed an update to everyone (attached).

#### **6. APHIS Update**

JoAnn Cruse – They fared better than they anticipated as far as the budget goes. They had some carry over funds that will get them through this year but then in 2013 the budget will go way down. They will have an EAB tracking program again this year. Bulk of trapping would be in western/northwestern part of the state. This may be the last year they have money for trapping. If you haven't sent in your EAB trapping data from 2011, please get it in. Nothing new as far as EAB quarantines. Gypsy moth took 40% budget cut. Trapping will still be done through USFS. She started meeting with tribes to talk about quarantines in Ashland and Bayfield counties. She met with Bad River yesterday and is meeting with Red Cliff tomorrow. They are moving forward with the emergency management exercise with Menominee. The table top exercise is planned for May with the full scale exercise in September.

Dan Cornelius with IAC indicated he has worked in Michigan with training on wasps. He is putting together a video that will be online on the training. Wisconsin and Minnesota really need to hold trainings because the forests in Michigan are already so devastated. They went to a site where every ash was gone.

\*St. Croix arrives at 8:50\*

## **7. Rural Development Update**

Donna Huebner – They do not have their final budget numbers yet. The budget for the Community Facility Program (fire trucks, town halls, hospitals, etc) is going to triple. They are guessing funding for the Water and Waste Program will go down a little. Their main focus is going to be servicing, as they have put that on the back burner the last couple of years. Substantially underserved trust areas – out for comment until January 13. This allows Tribes for projects on trust lands to ask for a lower interest rate of 2%, higher scores for funding, and possible waiving of matches for projects such as rural waste, electric, telecommunications, distance learning, and broadband. Stan is chair of Food and Agriculture Committee and they are going to work with Pat Leavenworth and FSA to put together some tribal listening sessions in January. They are going to work with the Great Lakes Inter Tribal Council and are looking to hold it near an airport as national people will be coming. As far as students, they are still looking at one student but they could be out of any of the 6 area offices in the state.

## **8. FSA Update**

Susan Hunter - She passed out a handout (attached). They do have a loss coverage policy with Mole Lake for wild rice. They need to collect pricing and yield data for the last 40 years to set up a state yield. Please send this information to her if you have any. Last year they did not have funding for conservation loans, however they do have funding this year. She has a list of guaranteed lenders. They are still waiting on their budget, however took quite a hit as they lost 16 employees in the state to retirement. Things don't look to good for FSA; some of the major programs will likely get cut. She thinks they will be a lot smaller in the new farm bill.

## **9. IAC Update**

Dan Cornelius – The INCA/IAC annual symposium was held in Las Vegas last week. It was a good chance to learn about different issues. National Directors for most Federal agencies were there including Secretary Vilsack. Dan has been hearing that the Farm Bill is going to happen next year; it would need to happen in the first 3 months of it. Keepseagle has been taking up a lot of his time, doing claims intake and outreach. The deadline is December 27; please go to [Indianfarmclass.com](http://Indianfarmclass.com) for information. Dan will travel anywhere in the region to do claims intake. The Great Lakes Regional Food Symposium is scheduled for April 9 and 10 at Oneida. It is focused on food but they will be talking quite a bit about different USDA programs. They will be working on Agriculture census through next year, it is very important to get data from tribal producers as it drives funding decisions. There is an advisory board for Native American farmers and ranchers being organized at the national level. He believes it will have 15 members. Jerry passed out information on it (attached). This is a high level policy board with 6 federal representatives from the national level. They are looking for names right now. They plan to hold 2 – 4 meetings a year in DC. Secretary Vilsack will make the selections. They need to send resume and they will be vetted. No felony conviction or no outstanding federal debt that you are delinquent on. Dan created a regional blog [IACgreatlakes.wordpress.com](http://IACgreatlakes.wordpress.com) (wordpress will be

dropped off). The blog contains grant applications, summary of eligibility requirements and intended purpose. He wanted to make it easy for people to take a quick look to see if a grant is appropriate or not.

### **10. WTCAC Interns**

There were 14 eligible positions; he had requested that job descriptions be sent to him today. The position with Aphis-VS in Stevens Point has been cancelled so we only have 13. Housing is not available with the USFS Hayward position. RD position listed for the City of Menominee could be statewide. We only have funding for 5 but Thursday afternoon at the INCA conference Jerry sat in on a talk with Lawrence Shorty and met with him afterwards, they talked about the program and he suggested that Jerry write something up and send it to him about extra money we may need for students. Jerry hopes to have internships posted by the end of the month. We should advertise in Minnesota and Michigan as well. What about Tribal student organizations? Stevens Point and Madison have Native American student groups. February 28<sup>th</sup> will be the application deadline. Training plans – doesn't pay to work on them yet until we know we are putting a student in that position, just want it in place before the student starts. Everything will be on the website.

Greg has contacted 4 of the WTCAC interns from 2011 to let them know that they will be considered with the other applications for the STEP program. This program allows them to work with NRCS over summers while in college and then after college they are usually offered a full time position. NRCS needs technicians for the future as well. Technician positions do not require mobility if that is an issue.

### **11. EQIP/WHIP Projects**

There are 3 national initiatives this year: high tunnel, organic, and energy. The applications for these national initiatives are due February 3.

The total WTCAC EQIP request is \$409,748 and the total WTCAC WHIP request is \$22,980 at this point.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$38,162 in 2012 EQIP funding and up to \$2,784 in 2012 WHIP funding for Oneida. Motion by FCPC, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, Oneida abstains, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$1,260 in 2012 WHIP funding for Menominee. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, Menominee abstains, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$15,104 in 2012 EQIP funding for Stockbridge-Munsee. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$85,458 in 2012 EQIP funding and up to \$5,600 in 2012 WHIP funding for FCPC. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, FCPC abstains, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$102,720 in 2012 EQIP funding and up to \$5,442 in 2012 WHIP funding for Mole Lake. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, Mole Lake abstains, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$40,125 in 2012 EQIP funding and up to \$1,230 in 2012 WHIP funding for LCO. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, LCO abstains, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$37,500 in 2012 EQIP funding for St. Croix. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, St. Croix abstains motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$15,972 in 2012 EQIP funding for Red Cliff. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$62,665 in 2012 EQIP funding and up to \$6,664 in 2012 WHIP funding for Lac du Flambeau. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve up to \$12,042 in 2012 EQIP funding for Bad River. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**Bring additional EQIP/WHIP projects to February 1 meeting.**

### **12. EQIP/WHIP Ranking Questions**

They need clarification to the companion document that we had started so the liaisons understand what the questions were meant to address. Tony had to add two questions to EQIP for energy practices so 38 total questions. Thirty-six of them are worth 6.5 and the last two questions on energy are worth 8.

Tony had to change a few questions on WHIP as some of the resource concerns he was addressing were not available through the state. There are exactly 10 concerns and each question is worth 25 points.

Companion document – The WTCAC approval question was clarified as well as the question about other funding. We discussed that was mean by the statement “imminent need to get

project finished”. NRCS liaisons will work on this question as well as the tribal plan question and come up with suggestions.

### **13. INCA Conference**

Jerry and Jonathan went to the INCA/IAC conference last week in Las Vegas. Jonathan thought it went well, WTCAC is recognized pretty well as far as the work we have been doing, a lot of people like the model. There are still a lot of barriers in other states. They keep hearing about a lot of inconsistency across states. There are a lot of issues in Alaska. We also need to keep pushing for Farm Bill items. We need to get the definition of subsistence agriculture right in the Farm Bill. There was a lot of interest in the Indigenous Stewardship Methods presentation. Hopefully we can continue to be a resource for other tribes. Each state has their own unique problems and situations; it won't work the same everywhere. Biggest thing Jonathan pushed was just to function like a technical committee. There is a lot of tribal interest in training. USDA folks that were making presentations did mention WTCAC a number of times. Janie Hipp specifically mentioned that WTCAC is the model for TCAC's. She said they should ask WTCAC for help in doing this. On Thursday afternoon there was an INCA tribal capacity meeting and she came in with her staff and again encouraged the tribal staff there to establish TCACs and work with WTCAC to try and do this. Jerry brought 200 brochures and only had 8 left at the end.

Jonathan has learned that there are a couple things that INCA does that we could do. One thing that they have done from the beginning is to have indirect cost in all grants so they have a fair amount of money that is theirs to use sitting in their back account. They recently hired someone to do an audit and that is where they pay for these types of things. A lot of foundations require an audit. Most government grants usually accept 19-20%. Indirect cost can cover things such as audits, fax line, insurance, web master, etc. We need to make sure we get our website developed because that is the first thing they foundations look at.

### **14. Special Project Proposals**

Stockbridge-Munsee submitted a race way project proposal – same as LCO but using solar power. The proposal needs to be revised and resubmitted.

### **15. Small Project Reports**

Red Cliff – Mino Bimaadiziiwin Gitgaaning “Return to the Good Like Farm” - Final Report handed out by Melonee. We need a budget that outlines what was paid for and the match. The costs and hours that actually went into building the traditional high tunnel need to be documented. She will bring it to the next meeting.

Mole Lake – Swamp Creek Hydraulic Controls Assessment – Final report was handed out. This is one piece of a long term broad Rice Lake Restoration Project. There needs to be a more detailed budget breakdown and documentation. Roman will pull together and email out.

**We should revise our final report template to make sure we are getting everything we need.**

### **16. Regional TCAC**

Jerry passed out a handout calling for nominations for a Regional TCAC (attached). Pat Pelky volunteered to be on the regional TCAC.

**MOTION:** Motion to nominate Pat Pelky for the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, Oneida abstains, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to nominate Tina Van Zile as the alternate for the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, Mole Lake abstains, motion carried.

Pat Pelky will talk to Pat Cornelius about the USDA Advisory Board.

### **17. Technical Recommendations**

The technical recommendation meeting is in February so anything that needs to be developed, please work with Keith. Nate will try to contact the Tribe from Michigan to get bridge information. The current technical recommendations include bottomless culverts, bridges, two way access roads, and traditional high tunnels.

### **18. Strategic Plan**

Roman suggested that WTCAC should revisit the strategic plan. It was decided that WTCAC would have a meeting to review the strategic plan the afternoon before the February 1 meeting.

### **19. Employee Handbook Revisions**

Jerry will work up a basic schedule for annual and sick leave.

### **20. Program Manager Report**

Budget is down to \$54,610 and we have at least three special projects to pay out of that. We will have roughly \$36,000 left in allocation for small projects.

There is training scheduled in Louisiana in January. We discussed hiring a Contractor to assist with Louisiana training. There is another TCAC training scheduled from February 13 – 17 in Nevada. There is also a training scheduled from March 5 – 15 in Arizona, they have a TCAC

but it is not functioning. The training would be for 70 people or so. It would consist first of a TCAC training with a touch up on the Indigenous Stewardship Manual and a review of roles and responsibilities for District Directors. After the TCAC training, they want Jerry to meet with each Tribal Soil and Water Conservation district throughout the state.

Jerry will put together an announcement to hire an Outreach Specialist to assist with trainings, etc.

The IRS sent Jonathan a letter saying they would not accept the Power of Attorney form saying they need more information. Jerry found out they had revised the form but just posted it, so Jerry filled out the new form and had Jonathan signed it and sent it in.

### **21. Next Meeting**

There will be a meeting to review WTCAC's Strategic Plan the afternoon of January 31 and a regular WTCAC meeting on February 1, both at FCPC. The Technical Recommendation Meeting is scheduled for February 29 in Madison.

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn. Motion by Red Cliff seconded by Mole Lake. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.

### **EMAIL MINUTES 1/11/12**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve a contract with Randy Gilbertson for assistance with the outreach trip to Louisiana for \$1,750. Motion by St. Croix seconded by Ho-Chunk. Eight ayes (FCPC, St. Croix, Ho-Chunk, Lac du Flambeau, LCO, Red Cliff, Oneida, Mole Lake), zero opposed motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve travel for Jerry Thompson and Randy Gilbertson to Louisiana for an outreach trip. Motion by St. Croix seconded by Ho-Chunk. Eight ayes (FCPC, St. Croix, Ho-Chunk, Lac du Flambeau, LCO, Red Cliff, Oneida, Mole Lake), zero opposed motion carried.



## **ATTACHMENTS**

# WTCAC December 13, 2011

## EPA Update

1. **Superfund Division - Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS)**
  - a. Willing to conduct a First Responder Awareness Level/OSHA 8 Hour Annual HAZWOPER Refresher training course for any tribe interested in hosting the event (the last one was at the Oneida Reservation in August).
  - b. They will also work with the Tribes to conduct a hazardous materials exercise, either tabletop, functional or full scale (e.g. one was done for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe in Mt. Pleasant, MI, last June).
  - c. Interested tribes contact Glenn Cekus at Cekus.Glenn@EPA.GOV or (312) 353-6449.
  
2. **Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) update and proposed rule change.**
  - a. Annual TRI Analysis has been updated
  - b. Proposed rule change for facilities reporting in Indian Country (from State Gov to EPA and Tribal Gov)
  - c. Generally seeking to increase tribal participation in TRI program.
  
3. **TEA Renegotiations and Solicitation for Input**
  - a. Guidebook written in response to IG report assumes we will do environmental plans, TEAs should be used to fulfill that role.
  - b. Solicitation for comments and suggestions sent out on 11/23/2011, due back to Willie Harris or Jenny Manville by 12/23/2011
  
4. **Guidebook for Building Tribal Environmental Capacity,**
  - a. Consultation extended to January 31, 2012.
  
5. **Reminder - Request for Contact Information for Emergency Responders.**
  - a. Info being sought by superfund program.
  - b. Have only heard back from about half the WI Tribes so far.
  
6. **Call for Proposals for Assistance for Renewable Energy /Brownfields/Feasibility Studies**
  - a. Assess the reuse of brownfields for renewable energy
  - b. Not a direct award of funding
  - c. EPA will conduct the studies in cooperation with the tribe and DOE NREL
  - d. Limited program funding, first come first served & selected sites
  - e. Contact is Rosita Clarke, Brownfields RE Coordinator 312-886-7251
  
7. **Fy2012 Tribal Environmental Program Management Conference**
  - a. February 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> @ EPA R5 Chicago HQs

- b. Call for presentations sent out, Tribes requested to submit agenda topics **by December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**8. R5TOC Meeting in February (tentative)**

- a. Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012, 1-5 PM @ EPA R5 Regional Office (Room TBA)
- b. Proposed Topics
- c. Seeking Tribal Input on Agenda (Send to Willie **by December 28<sup>th</sup> 2012**)

**9. CERCLA State and Tribal Response Programs – Notice of Funding**

- a. Notice of Funding for FY12 128(a), funding requests **due by January 31, 2012.**
- b. Address redevelopment of brownfield sites and other contaminated sites.
- c. \$50 million awarded noncompetitively to establish and enhance state and tribal response programs nationwide.
- d. Be sure to contact Jane Newman if interested.

**10. Environmental Justice Grants.**

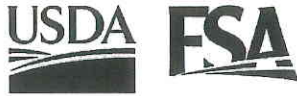
- a. 1 Million given out in 2011 another 1 million to be given in 2012
- b. Red Lake MN Chippewa Tribe recived funding to repair failing septics, and id unsafe water.
- c. Pre-Application Teleconference **Calls on January 12<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 15**
- d. Applications **due by February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**11. Underground Storage Tank Regulation Changes & Tribal Consultation**

- a. A number of changes in the UST program including new containment and training requirements for operators in Indian Country.
- b. Consultation open **through February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**
- c. Tribal Consultation Conference Calls on:
  - i. January 5, 2-3 (EST)
  - ii. January 26, 2-3 (EST)

**12. Additional topic Info sent via email.**

Additional information (too much to print out) on the above topics will be provided via email.



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
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Farm  
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Agency

OFFV FSA Office  
2187 North Stevens Street, Suite A  
Rhinelander, WI 54501-8036

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Fax: 715-362-9370

## FSA REPORT TO WTCAC – DECEMBER 2011

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison (715) 362-5941 ext 104, [susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov](mailto:susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov)

**Wild Rice Yields and Prices** – The FSA State office needs to compile data on native wild rice production yields and prices for the past 4 years, 2008-2011 to set the a state native wild rice yield and price for FSA's loss coverage policies (NAP – Non-insured Assistance Program). If any tribe has documentation of annual native wild yields or prices, please provide it to me, Susan Hunter. We need it as soon as possible.

**Conservation Loans (see attached fact sheet)** – The goal of FSA's Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide loan funds to implement conservation practices approved by NRCS. Funding is now available in 2012 for Conservation Loans, but only through FSA's guaranteed lenders. There were no funds allocated for direct loans with the local FSA office. Applicants would have to work with pre-approved guaranteed lenders and a listing is available.

**County Committee Advisors** – FSA offices throughout the state are looking for female or minority advisors top take office effective March 1, 2012. Nominations are required by early January and those selected will serve a one-year term. Advisors would not be voting members, but the person selected to serve as an advisor will be instrumental in increasing the awareness and participation in FSA activities, including elections. The advisor will help insure that problems and viewpoints of the underrepresented groups are understood and considered in local FSA actions. If anyone is interested, contact your local county FSA office.

**Keepseagle v. Vilasck**: A \$760 million settlement with USDA has been reached in this class action lawsuit which claimed USDA discriminated against Native Americans by denying them equal access to credit in the USDA Farm Loan Program. Native American farmers may be eligible for a payment of up to \$50,000 or more and forgiveness of some or all of their outstanding farm loans if they applied for or attempted to apply for a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999. Interested individuals will need to file a claim by **December 27, 2011** to get benefits. After the Court approves the Settlement, meetings will be held across the country to help Class Members file claims. You can register for a Claims Package at the website [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or by calling the toll-free number 1-888-233-5506.

**Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process – Compensation for Claims of Discrimination**: Any farmer who believes that USDA improperly denied them farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because they are Hispanic, Latino or female are eligible to apply for compensation of discrimination through an option set up by USDA for a streamlined process to resolve their claims simply. More information about the claims process is available at [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or by calling 1-888-508-4429.



# Conservation Loan Program

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees conservation loans to promote conservation on farms and ranches throughout the United States to conserve our natural resources.

Many farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land do not have the "up front" funds available to implement these practices.

The goal of FSA's Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide farmers access to credit to implement these practices.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong.

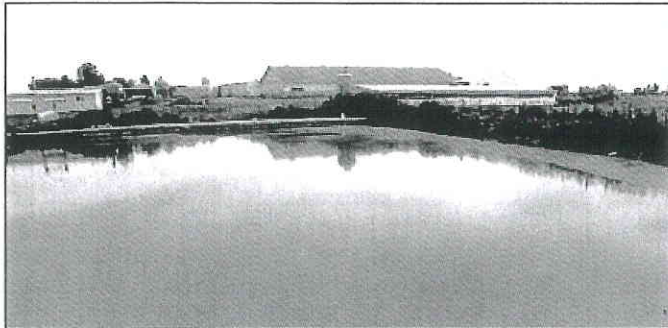


Photo Provided by NRCS

## FSA Conservation Loan Program

CL funds can be used to implement a conservation practice approved by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), such as to reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and promoting sustainable and organic agricultural practices. This would include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Interested applicants who do not already have NRCS-approved conservation plans should work with the local NRCS staff to develop a conservation plan, including all applicable conservation practices. New or existing conservation plans must be NRCS approved before FSA can provide financing.

## Rates and Terms

Those interested may apply for direct CLs with loan limits up to \$300,000 at local FSA offices. In addition,

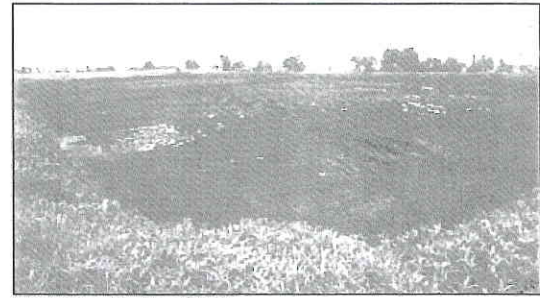


Photo Provided by NRCS

guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Interest rates on guaranteed CLs will vary, but may not exceed the rate charged the lender's average farm customer. For direct CLs, the interest rate will be the direct loans rate in effect (for farm ownership loans) either at the time of loan approval, or loan closing. These rates are available at the local FSA office.

Terms will vary and will be based on the life of the security offered, but not to exceed 20 years for real estate security and seven years for chattel property. CLs must be fully secured and can only be approved for those who have the ability to repay them.

## Streamlined CLs

For those applicants with a strong financial position, paperwork requirements can be significantly reduced. The streamlined application process reduces paperwork for applicants, lenders and FSA staff by eliminating the requirement to provide a cash flow and its supplementary documentation.

To submit a streamlined CL application, the applicant must: be current on payments to all creditors; have a debt-to-asset ratio of 40 percent or less; have a minimum Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) score of 700; have a net worth of at least three times the loan amount; and not have received FSA loan servicing within the past five year.



*For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local USDA Service Center.*

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Clark	Abby Bank - Abbotsford	715-223-2345
Out of State	Agstar Finanical Services, FLCA - Mankato	507-387-4174
Out of State	Agstar Finanical Services, PCA - Mankato	507-387-4174
St. Croix	Agstar FLCA - Baldwin Tier II Program	715-688-6367
Taylor	AgStar FLCA - Rice Lake	715-234-2114
St. Croix	AgStar PCA - Baldwin	715-688-6367
Taylor	AgStar PCA - Rice Lake	715-234-2114
Buffalo	Alliance Bank - Mondovi	715-926-4234
Trempealeau	Alliance Bank - Osseo	715-597-2626
Lafayette	AMCORE Bank - Argyle	608-543-3321
Green	AMCORE Bank - Monroe	608-328-5100
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Cuba City	608-744-2125
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Fennimore	608-822-7300
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Lancaster	608-744-3524
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Platteville	608-348-4300
Marinette	Associated Bank, NA - Coleman	920-897-2732
Wood	Associated Bank, NA - Marshfield	715-384-3171
Out of State	Associated Bank, NA - Red Wing, MN	651-388-2862
Wood	Associated Bank, NA - Vesper	715-569-4400
Grant	Badger State Bank - Cassville	608-725-5121
Trempealeau	Badgerland Financial-Arcadia, ACA	800-236-4425
Trempealeau	Badgerland Financial-Arcadia, FLCA	800-236-4425
Sauk	Badgerland Financial-Baraboo, ACA	608-356-4903
Sauk	Badgerland Financial-Baraboo, FLCA	608-356-4903
Dodge	Badgerland Financial-Beaver Dam, ACA	920-887-4680
Dodge	Badgerland Financial-Beaver Dam, FLCA	920-887-4680
Calumet	Badgerland Financial-Chilton, ACA	920-849-9369
Calumet	Badgerland Financial-Chilton, FLCA	920-849-9369
Lafayette	Badgerland Financial-Darlington, ACA	800-236-4075
Lafayette	Badgerland Financial-Darlington, FLCA	800-236-4075
Iowa	Badgerland Financial-Dodgeville, ACA	608-935-5247
Iowa	Badgerland Financial-Dodgeville, FLCA	608-935-5247
FDL	Badgerland Financial-FDL, ACA	800-569-6840
FDL	Badgerland Financial-FDL, FLCA	800-569-6840
Rock	Badgerland Financial-Janesville, FLCA	800-755-0344
Grant	Badgerland Financial-Lancaster, ACA	800-236-2030
Grant	Badgerland Financial-Lancaster, FLCA	800-236-2030
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Madison, ACA	608-241-1586
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Madison, FLCA	608-241-1586
Buffalo	Badgerland Financial-Mondovi, ACA	800-236-2188
Buffalo	Badgerland Financial-Mondovi, FLCA	800-236-2188
Green	Badgerland Financial-Monroe, ACA	
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Mt Horeb, ACA	608-437-5503
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Mt Horeb, FLCA	608-437-5503
Sheboygan	Badgerland Financial-Plymouth, ACA	920-893-6671
Sheboygan	Badgerland Financial-Plymouth, FLCA	920-893-6671

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Columbia	Badgerland Financial-Portage, ACA	800-686-1345
Monroe	Badgerland Financial-Sparta, ACA	800-236-3148
Monroe	Badgerland Financial-Sparta, FLCA	800-236-3148
Vernon	Badgerland Financial-Viroqua, ACA	800-236-1288
Vernon	Badgerland Financial-Viroqua, FLCA	800-236-1288
Jefferson	Badgerland Financial-Watertown, ACA	800-686-138
Jefferson	Badgerland Financial-Watertown, FLCA	800-686-138
Portage	Bancroft State Bank	715-335-4545
Manitowoc	Bank First National-Kiel	920-894-2215
Manitowoc	Bank First National-Manitowoc	920-684-6611
Monroe	Bank of Cashton	608-654-5121
Trempealeau	Bank of Galesville	608-582-2233
Kewaunee	Bank of Luxenburg	920-845-2345
Green	Bank of Monticello	608-938-4116
Green	Bank of New Glarus	608-527-5211
FDL	Bank of Oakfield	920-583-3191
Sauk	Bank of Prairie Du Sac	608-643-3393
Kewaunee	Baylake Bank - Kewaunee	920-388-2040
Door	Baylake Bank - Sturgeon Bay	920-743-5551
Waupaca	Baylake Bank - Waupaca	715-256-9610
Lafayette	Benton State Bank	608-759-2671
Polk	Bremer Bank - Amery	715-235-2144
Dunn	Bremer Bank - Colfax	715-962-3141
Dunn	Bremer Bank - Menomonie	715-235-2144
Calumet	Calumet County Bank	920-756-2181
Out of State	Castle Bank, NA - Harvard, IL	815-943-6441
Langlade	Citizens Bank - Antigo	715-623-2346
Green	Citizens Bank - Brodhead	608-897-2151
Polk	Citizens Bank - Clear Lake	715-263-2675
Lafayette	Citizens Bank - Darlington	608-776-4458
Outagamie	Citizens Bank - Kaukauna	920-766-8160
Grant	Citizens Bank - Potosi	608-763-2211
Vernon	Citizens First Bank - Viroqua	608-637-3133
Chippewa	Citizens State Bank - Cadott	715-289-4253
Out of State	Citizens State Bank - Lena, IL	815-369-4524
Clark	Citizens State Bank of Loyal	715-255-8526
Grant	Clare Bank - Boscobel	608-375-4182
Grant	Clare Bank - Montfort	608-943-6304
Grant	Clare Bank - Platteville	608-348-2727
Lafayette	Clare Bank - Shullsburg	608-965-4401
Manitowoc	Cleveland State Bank	920-693-8256
Manitowoc	Collins State Bank	920-772-4433
Calumet	Community Bank and Trust-Chilton	920-849-8888
Calumet	Community Bank and Trust-Chilton/Sheboygan	920-849-8888
Clark	Community Bank of Central Wisconsin - Colby	715-223-3998
Rusk	Community Bank of Ladysmith	715-532-7279

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Barron	Community Bank of Northern Wisconsin-Rice Lake	715-234-5665
Grant	Community First Bank-Boscobel	6083754117
Monroe	Community State Bank-Norwalk	608-823-7416
Racine	Community State Bank-Union Grove	262-878-4820
Jackson	Co-op Credit Union--Black River Falls	715-284-5333
Barron	Cumberland Federal Bank	715-822-2249
Rusk	Dairyland State Bank - Bruce	715-868-2175
Brown	Denmark State Bank - Denmark	920-863-2161
Manitowoc	Denmark State Bank - Whitelaw	920-732-4551
Dane	DMB Community Bank - Deforest	608-846-3711
Out of State	Dubuque Bank & Trust Company - Dubuque, IA	563-744-3354
Columbia	Farmers & Merchants Bank - Friesland	920-348-5141
Monroe	Farmers & Merchants Bank - Kendall	608-463-7101
Columbia	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank - Columbus	920-623-4000
Iowa	Farmers Savings Bank - Mineral Point	608-987-3321
LaCrosse	Farmers State Bank - Branch of River Bank - Bangor	608-486-2356
Dodge	Farmers State Bank - Fox Lake	920-928-3161
Green Lake	Farmers State Bank - Markesan	920-398-2336
Outagamie	Fidelity National Bank-Appleton	920-993-1234
Taylor	Fidelity National Bank-Medford	715-748-5333
St. Croix	First Bank of Baldwin	715-684-3366
Racine	First Banking Center - Burlington	262-763-3581
Lafayette	First Banking Center - Darlington	608-776-3512
Green	First Banking Center - Monroe	608-328-3800
Lafayette	First Banking Center - Shullsburg	608-965-3459
Rock	First Citizens State Bank - Whitewater	262-473-2112
Barron	First National Bank & Trust - Rice Lake	715-234-1399
Rock	First National Bank & Trust Co - Beloit	608-363-8110
Out of State	First National Bank & Trust Co - Winnebago, IL	815-335-2366
Green Lake	First National Bank-Berlin	920-361-2400
Barron	First National Bank-Chetek	715-924-4851
Lafayette	First National Bank-Darlington	608-776-4071
Out of State	First National Bank-Holcomb, KS	620-277-0077
Waupaca	First National Bank-Iola	715-445-3211
Grant	First National Bank-Platteville	608-348-7777
Waushara	First National Bank-Poy Sippi	920-987-9000
Waupaca	First State Bank - New London	920-982-3300
Out of State	Galena State Bank & Trust Company - Galena, IL	815-777-9202
Brown	Greenleaf Wayside Bank	920-864-7901
Waupaca	Greenstone FCS, ACA - Clintonville	715-823-2128
Brown	Greenstone FCS, ACA - DePere	920-336-5701
Waupaca	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - Clintonville	715-823-2128
Marinette	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - Coleman	800-261-4046
Brown	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - DePere	920-336-5701
Manitowoc	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - Manitowoc	920-682-5792
Dane	Harris NA - Madison	608-821-1900



## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Sauk	Harris NA - Reedsburg	608-524-8251
Milwaukee	Harris NA - Special Asset Unit, Milwaukee	414-258-7709
Out of State	Harvard Savings Bank	815-943-5261
Out of State	Harvard State Bank - Harvard, IL	815-943-4407
Iowa	Heartland Credit Union - Dodgeville	608-935-7000
Dane	Heartland Credit Union - Madison	608-282-7000
Grant	Heartland Credit Union - Platteville	608-348-6700
Marathon	Heritage Bank-Spencer	715-659-2430
St. Croix	Hiawatha National Bank - Glenwood City	715-265-4211
Dodge	Horicon State Bank	920-485-3040
Dunn	Independence State Bank - Elk Mound	715-879-4888
Trempealeau	Independence State Bank - Independence	715-985-3197
Manitowoc	Investors Community Bank-Manitowoc	920-686-9998
Out of State	Iowa State Bank - Parkersburg, IA	319-346-1226
Jackson	Jackson County Bank - Black River Falls	715-284-5341
Out of State	Kent Bank - Kent, IL	815-443-2711
Lincoln	Lincoln County Bank - Merrill	715-536-8301
Grant	Livingston State Bank	608-943-6351
Outagamie	M&I Bank - Appleton	920-738-3800
Dodge	M&I Bank - Beaver Dam	920-887-8350
Rock	M&I Bank - Beloit	608-364-3825
Dane	M&I Bank - Cambridge	608-423-3241
Chippewa	M&I Bank - Chippewa Falls	715-723-5531
Iowa	M&I Bank - Dodgeville	608-935-3349
Eau Claire	M&I Bank - Eau Claire	715-831-4227
FDL	M&I Bank - FDL	920-923-4292
Brown	M&I Bank - Green Bay	920-468-5751
Rock	M&I Bank - Janesville	608-754-7771
Grant	M&I Bank - Lancaster	608-723-4166
Dane	M&I Bank - Madison	
Wood	M&I Bank - Marshfield	715-387-1134
Dodge	M&I Bank - Mayville	920-387-2200
Dunn	M&I Bank - Menomonie	715-235-5521
Clark	M&I Bank - Neillsville	715-743-3197
Sauk	M&I Bank - Reedsburg	608-524-6456
FDL	M&I Bank - Ripon	920-748-3161
Sauk	M&I Bank - Sauk City	608-643-8591
Outagamie	M&I Bank - Seymour	920-833-2335
Shawano	M&I Bank - Shawano	715-526-6101
Sauk	M&I Bank - Spring Green	608-588-2526
Portage	M&I Bank - Stevens Point	715-344-5100
Dane	M&I Bank - Sun Prairie	608-837-7373
Jefferson	M&I Bank - Watertown	920-261-7102
Marathon	M&I Bank - Wausau	715-845-4311
Marquette	M&I Bank - Westfield	608-296-2161
Green Lake	Markesan State Bank - Markesan	920-398-2358

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Dodge	Markesan State Bank - Randolph	920-326-4131
Dodge	Markesan State Bank - Waupun	920-324-2200
Marathon	Marshfield Savings Bank	715-387-1122
Taylor	Mid-Wisconsin Bank - Medford	715-748-1310
Clark	Mid-Wisconsin Bank-Colby	715-223-2361
Grant	Mound City Bank-Platteville	608-348-2685
Dodge	National Bank of Waupun	920-324-5551
Dodge	National Exchange Bank - Beaver Dam	920-887-8731
FDL	National Exchange Bank - Campbellsport	920-533-5533
Sheboygan	National Exchange Bank - Cascade	920-533-5533
FDL	National Exchange Bank - FDL	920-921-7700
Sheboygan	National Exchange Bank - Howards Grove	920-565-3351
Green Lake	National Exchange Bank - Kingston	920-394-3544
FDL	National Exchange Bank - Mt. Calvary	920-753-4171
LaCrosse	Park Bank - Holmen	608-526-3325
Walworth	Peoples Bank - Elkhorn	262-723-4200
Chippewa	Peoples State Bank-Bloomer	715-568-1100
Crawford	Peoples State Bank-Prairie Du Chien	608-326-6424
Marinette	Peshtigo National Bank	715-582-4512
Trempealeau	Pigeon Falls State Bank	715-983-2295
Wood	Pioneer Bank - Auburndale	715-652-2105
Rusk	Pioneer National Bank - Ladysmith	715-532-5551
Ozaukee	Port Washington State Bank	262-284-4491
Portage	Portage County Bank-Almond	715-366-4311
Waupaca	Premier Community Bank-Marion	715-754-2535
Out of State	Prinsbank - Prinsburg, MN	320-978-6351
Richland	Richland County Bank-Richland Center	608-647-6306
LaCrosse	River Bank - LaCrosse	608-788-6300
LaCrosse	River Bank - Sparta	608-269-1277
Vernon	River Bank - Stoddard, Hqtrs	608-457-2100
Clark	River Cities Bank	715-422-1100
Clark	River Cities Bank	715-422-1100
Marathon	River Valley State Bank-Wausau	715-845-5522
Iowa	Royal Bank - Cobb	608-623-2313
Juneau	Royal Bank - Elroy	608-462-8401
Out of State	Sauk Valley Bank and Trust Company - Sterling, IL	815-626-5996
Chippewa	Security Bank-New Auburn	715-237-2658
Dunn	Security Bank-Ridgeland	715-949-2265
Pepin	Security Financial Bank - Durand	715-672-4237
Wood	State Bank Financial-State Bank Marshfield	715-486-1263
Monroe	State Bank Financial-State Bank Sparta	608-269-2111
Trempealeau	State Bank of Arcadia	608-323-3331
Calumet	State Bank of Chilton	920-849-9371
Dane	State Bank of Cross Plains-Black Earth	608-437-8968
Washington	State Bank of Newburg	414-675-2306
Dodge	State Bank of Reeseville	920-927-3841

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Vernon	State Bank of Viroqua	608-637-3127
Barron	Sterling Bank - Barron	715-537-3141
Barron	Sterling Bank - Chetek	715-924-4817
Barron	Sterling Bank - Rice Lake	715-736-6150
Dane	The Peoples Community Bank - Mazomanie	608-795-2120
Monroe	Timberwood Bank-Tomah	6083722265
Green	Union Bank & Trust-Brooklyn	608-455-2311
Rock	Union Bank & Trust-Evensville	608-882-0714
Trempealeau	Union Bank of Blair - Blair	608-989-2541
Monroe	Union National Bank & Trust Co-Sparta	608-269-6737
LaCrosse	Union State Bank - West Salem	608-786-0600
Buffalo	United Bank - Mondovi	715-926-3882
Trempealeau	United Bank - Osseo	715-597-3136
Langlade	United FCS, FLCA - Antigo	715-623-7644
Wood	United FCS, FLCA - Marshfield	800-324-5752
Taylor	United FCS, FLCA - Medford	800-324-5753
Portage	United FCS, FLCA - Stevens Point	800-324-5754
Clark	United FCS, FLCA - Thorp	800-324-5758
Marathon	United FCS, FLCA - Wausau	800-324-5751
Langlade	United FCS, PCA - Antigo	715-623-7644
Wood	United FCS, PCA - Marshfield	800-324-5752
Taylor	United FCS, PCA - Medford	800-324-5753
Clark	United FCS, PCA - Thorp	800-324-5758
Marathon	United FCS, PCA - Wausau	800-324-5751
Eau Claire	Unity Bank - Augusta	715-286-2223
Out of State	Unity Bank - Rush City, MN	320-358-3600
Barron	US Bank - Rice Lake	715-234-8212
Manitowoc	US Bank -Manitowoc	920-683-5630
Trempealeau	Waumandee State Bank-Arcadia	608-323-3304
Buffalo	Waumandee State Bank-Waumandee	608-626-3131
Marathon	Wells Fargo Bank WI - Edgar	715-352-2341
Out of State	Wells Fargo Bank, NA - Duluth, MN	218-723-2694
Out of State	Wells Fargo Bank, NA - Winona, MN	507-457-1370
Green	Wisconsin Community Bank-Monroe	608-328-4000
Lafayette	Woodford State Bank-Blanchardville	608-523-4215
Green	Woodford State Bank-Monroe	608-325-7766
Grant	Woodhouse & Bartley - Bloomington	608-994-2759

# USDA FSA County Committee Minority Advisors

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

The County Office Committee (COC) is the direct link between the farming community and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The COC's help run FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will be run. They make FSA agriculture programs fit the needs faced by local producers.

Committees make decisions on:

- commodity price support loans and payments
- establishment of allotments, yields, and marketing quotas
- farmer loans
- conservation programs
- incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and
- other farm disaster assistance.

The COC operate within official regulations designed to carry out Federal laws, applying their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

## County Committee Advisors

The importance of the county committee system stems from a simple concept that local farmers know their communities and their business, and how best to make national programs work locally. Committee members know what issues are facing farmers in their area since they themselves are active farmers.

COC advisors are instrumental in ensuring that problems and viewpoints of the under-represented groups, females and minorities are understood and considered in local FSA actions.

Duties include:

- attending each committee meeting;
- participate in all deliberations
- helping to develop women and minorities interest in FSA programs
- actively solicit candidates from under-represented groups for nomination during the annual committee election process; and
- perform special duties at the COC's request.

Note: COC Advisors do not have voting rights or the authority to sign documents.

## Representation of Under-Represented Groups

County Committee Advisors represent under-represented groups which include:

- African Americans,

- Hispanic Americans,
- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and
- Women.

## Eligibility Requirements

COC Advisors shall:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area;
- be willing and able to serve as an advisor, if appointed;
- indicate in writing their willingness and ability to serve.

## Expectations of County Committee Members and Advisors

The committee member's job is one of public trust.

Members are expected to:

- serve the public faithfully
- represent the county as a whole
- make informed, fair and impartial decisions
- maintain strict confidentiality
- have a good understanding of FSA programs and services
- follow law and regulations

FSA County Committees are producer focused. As representatives of producers, county committee members are also expected to take the lead in ensuring equal opportunity in all its deliberations and in the work of the county office. The committee shall:

- treat producers, loan applicants, lenders, members of the public and candidates for the COC and county staff positions equally, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicapping condition;
- give the County Executive Director (CED) full support and encouragement in carrying out the county office's equal opportunity responsibilities.

County Committee members make decision important to other producers throughout the county. As a representative of the U.S. Government entrusted with this responsibility, each committee member and advisor must make sure all producers are treated fairly.

*For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) or contact your local USDA Service Center.*

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## USDA Establishes Advisory Board for Native American Farmers and Ranchers

WASHINGTON, December 7, 2011 – Agriculture Secretary Vilsack today announced the establishment of a special advisory board to help USDA officials ensure Native Americans participate in and benefit from USDA programs. The board is being put in place as part of the Keepseagle settlement.

"The Council for Native American Farming and Ranching will help native governments, businesses, farmers and ranchers partner with USDA to create jobs, drive economic growth and strengthen tribal communities," Vilsack said.

The Council will work closely with the Office of Tribal Relations, Farm Service Agency and other USDA agencies to improve the success of Native farmers and ranchers who access USDA's entire portfolio of programs to build and achieve profitability in their businesses. USDA recently established a technical assistance network with the Intertribal Agriculture Council. The network works across Indian Country in 13 regional locations. USDA also recently launched a strike force initiative in southeastern states that is now expanding to western states with substantial Native American populations. These two technical assistance efforts will work together to ensure the unique challenges of Native Americans, living both on and off reservations, can be addressed. Agriculture is the second largest employer in Indian Country, according to the National Congress of American Indians.

All nominations for advisory board membership should be sent by January 20, 2012 to: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250, Attn: Council for Native American Farmers and Ranchers. Send comments to the Office of Tribal Relations, 500A Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20250.

Keepseagle v Vilsack was a lawsuit alleging that USDA discriminated against Native American farmers and ranchers in the way it operated the Farm Loan Program. The lawsuit was settled late last year, and the settlement has been approved by the court. The filing period for claims opened June 29, 2011, and continues for 180 days until December 27, 2011. Up to \$760 million will be made available in monetary relief, debt relief and tax relief to successful claimants. Claimant services representatives can be reached through calling [1-888-233-5506](tel:1-888-233-5506). Claimants must register for a claims package by calling the number or visiting <http://www.indianfarmclass.com>.

## **Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils (RTCACs) Decision Memo Option Selected By the Chief**

Establish three RTCACs by selecting a 16 member RTCAC composed of five Federal and 10 Tribal representatives and a representative from one Regional Tribal Organization within each NRCS region. On the Federal side, one RC and three State Conservationists will be selected and an American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association (AIANEA) Regional Representative. The Tribal side will consist of nine tribal representatives, an AIANEA Elder, and a representative from one Tribal Organization from the Region.

### **Nomination Process for Tribal Members:**

**Tribal Representatives:** there are nine tribal members and one AIANEA Elder from the Region. The Tribal representatives are from the different part of the region. The Tribes will determine the method of selection of representatives or alternate or a member of USDA/NRCS State Tribal Advisory Council. Nomination of appointment or resignations of tribal representatives of the RTCAC shall be made to NRCS, through a letter signed by the Tribes. Membership of the tribal representatives will be limited to elected Tribal official and one tribal organization within the Region, or their designated employees or representatives. Each Tribal member will serve three years.

### **Nomination Process for Federal Members:**

The five Federal members will be composed of one RC, three STCs and one AIANEA Regional Representative who will be nominated and appointed by the NRCS Chief. Each Federal member will serve three years.

### **Nomination Process for the Tribal Organization:**

The tribal organization member will be nominated by the Tribes. Each member will serve three years.

### **Suggested process and time-line:**

1. October to December 31, 2011: STCs write a letter to/contact each Tribe in their state notifying them of the potential opportunity to volunteer to serve on the Council
2. October to December 31, 2011: STC volunteer to serve on Council
3. October to December 31, 2011: STC forward Tribal nominations
4. January 2012: Selection of Federal and Tribal members to serve on Councils
5. March 2012: Letter of approval notification from Chief
6. April–July, 2012, first council meeting
7. Committee will meet twice a year face to face
8. Ten months to establish the Councils (October 2011 to July 2012)

Tribe	EQIP		WHIP		Actual	Difference
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount		
Oneida	\$38,162.00	\$2,784.00 *			\$41,009.00	\$63.00
Menomin	\$0.00	\$1,260.00 *			\$1,260.00	\$0.00
SBM	\$15,104.00	\$0.00 *			\$12,962.00	-\$2,142.00
Ho-chunk	\$0.00	\$0.00 *			\$0.00	\$0.00
FCPC	\$85,428.00	\$5,600.00 *			\$91,082.00	\$54.00
Mole Lake	\$102,720.00	\$5,442.00 *			\$116,025.00	\$7,863.00
LCO	\$40,125.00	\$1,230.00 *			\$43,782.00	\$2,427.00
St Croix	\$37,500.00	\$0.00 *			\$38,743.00	\$1,243.00
Red Cliff	\$15,972.00	\$0.00 *			\$19,852.00	\$3,880.00
LDF	\$62,665.00	\$6,664.00 *			\$68,421.00	-\$908.00
Bad River	\$12,042.00	\$0.00 *			\$12,136.00	\$94.00
	\$409,718.00	\$22,980.00 *			\$445,272.00	\$12,574.00



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## FSA REPORT TO WTCAC – DECEMBER 2011

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison (715) 362-5941 ext 104, [susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov](mailto:susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov)

**Wild Rice Yields and Prices** – The FSA State office needs to compile data on native wild rice production yields and prices for the past 4 years, 2008-2011 to set the a state native wild rice yield and price for FSA's loss coverage policies (NAP – Non-insured Assistance Program). If any tribe has documentation of annual native wild yields or prices, please provide it to me, Susan Hunter. We need it as soon as possible.

**Conservation Loans (see attached fact sheet)** – The goal of FSA's Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide loan funds to implement conservation practices approved by NRCS. Funding is now available in 2012 for Conservation Loans, but only through FSA's guaranteed lenders. There were no funds allocated for direct loans with the local FSA office. Applicants would have to work with pre-approved guaranteed lenders and a listing is available.

**County Committee Advisors** – FSA offices throughout the state are looking for female or minority advisors top take office effective March 1, 2012. Nominations are required by early January and those selected will serve a one-year term. Advisors would not be voting members, but the person selected to serve as an advisor will be instrumental in increasing the awareness and participation in FSA activities, including elections. The advisor will help insure that problems and viewpoints of the underrepresented groups are understood and considered in local FSA actions. If anyone is interested, contact your local county FSA office.

**Keepseagle v. Vilasck**: A \$760 million settlement with USDA has been reached in this class action lawsuit which claimed USDA discriminated against Native Americans by denying them equal access to credit in the USDA Farm Loan Program. Native American farmers may be eligible for a payment of up to \$50,000 or more and forgiveness of some or all of their outstanding farm loans if they applied for or attempted to apply for a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999. Interested individuals will need to file a claim by **December 27, 2011** to get benefits. After the Court approves the Settlement, meetings will be held across the country to help Class Members file claims. You can register for a Claims Package at the website [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or by calling the toll-free number 1-888-233-5506.

**Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process – Compensation for Claims of Discrimination**: Any farmer who believes that USDA improperly denied them farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because they are Hispanic, Latino or female are eligible to apply for compensation of discrimination through an option set up by USDA for a streamlined process to resolve their claims simply. More information about the claims process is available at [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or by calling 1-888-508-4429.





# Conservation Loan Program

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees conservation loans to promote conservation on farms and ranches throughout the United States to conserve our natural resources.

Many farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land do not have the "up front" funds available to implement these practices.

The goal of FSA's Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide farmers access to credit to implement these practices.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong.

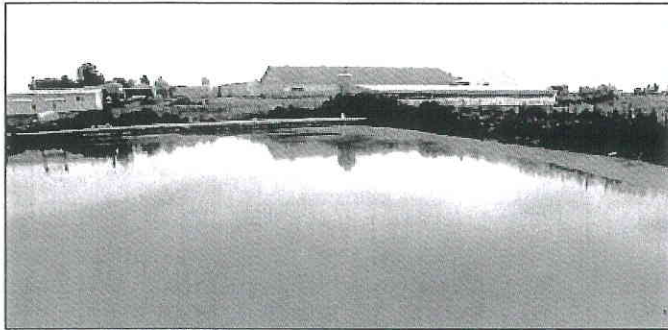


Photo Provided by NRCS

## FSA Conservation Loan Program

CL funds can be used to implement a conservation practice approved by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), such as to reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and promoting sustainable and organic agricultural practices. This would include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Interested applicants who do not already have NRCS-approved conservation plans should work with the local NRCS staff to develop a conservation plan, including all applicable conservation practices. New or existing conservation plans must be NRCS approved before FSA can provide financing.

## Rates and Terms

Those interested may apply for direct CLs with loan limits up to \$300,000 at local FSA offices. In addition,

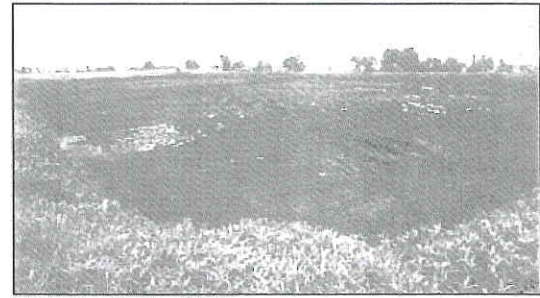


Photo Provided by NRCS

guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Interest rates on guaranteed CLs will vary, but may not exceed the rate charged the lender's average farm customer. For direct CLs, the interest rate will be the direct loans rate in effect (for farm ownership loans) either at the time of loan approval, or loan closing. These rates are available at the local FSA office.

Terms will vary and will be based on the life of the security offered, but not to exceed 20 years for real estate security and seven years for chattel property. CLs must be fully secured and can only be approved for those who have the ability to repay them.

## Streamlined CLs

For those applicants with a strong financial position, paperwork requirements can be significantly reduced. The streamlined application process reduces paperwork for applicants, lenders and FSA staff by eliminating the requirement to provide a cash flow and its supplementary documentation.

To submit a streamlined CL application, the applicant must: be current on payments to all creditors; have a debt-to-asset ratio of 40 percent or less; have a minimum Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) score of 700; have a net worth of at least three times the loan amount; and not have received FSA loan servicing within the past five year.



*For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local USDA Service Center.*

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Clark	Abby Bank - Abbotsford	715-223-2345
Out of State	Agstar Finanical Services, FLCA - Mankato	507-387-4174
Out of State	Agstar Finanical Services, PCA - Mankato	507-387-4174
St. Croix	Agstar FLCA - Baldwin Tier II Program	715-688-6367
Taylor	AgStar FLCA - Rice Lake	715-234-2114
St. Croix	AgStar PCA - Baldwin	715-688-6367
Taylor	AgStar PCA - Rice Lake	715-234-2114
Buffalo	Alliance Bank - Mondovi	715-926-4234
Trempealeau	Alliance Bank - Osseo	715-597-2626
Lafayette	AMCORE Bank - Argyle	608-543-3321
Green	AMCORE Bank - Monroe	608-328-5100
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Cuba City	608-744-2125
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Fennimore	608-822-7300
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Lancaster	608-744-3524
Grant	American Bank & Trust WI - Platteville	608-348-4300
Marinette	Associated Bank, NA - Coleman	920-897-2732
Wood	Associated Bank, NA - Marshfield	715-384-3171
Out of State	Associated Bank, NA - Red Wing, MN	651-388-2862
Wood	Associated Bank, NA - Vesper	715-569-4400
Grant	Badger State Bank - Cassville	608-725-5121
Trempealeau	Badgerland Financial-Arcadia, ACA	800-236-4425
Trempealeau	Badgerland Financial-Arcadia, FLCA	800-236-4425
Sauk	Badgerland Financial-Baraboo, ACA	608-356-4903
Sauk	Badgerland Financial-Baraboo, FLCA	608-356-4903
Dodge	Badgerland Financial-Beaver Dam, ACA	920-887-4680
Dodge	Badgerland Financial-Beaver Dam, FLCA	920-887-4680
Calumet	Badgerland Financial-Chilton, ACA	920-849-9369
Calumet	Badgerland Financial-Chilton, FLCA	920-849-9369
Lafayette	Badgerland Financial-Darlington, ACA	800-236-4075
Lafayette	Badgerland Financial-Darlington, FLCA	800-236-4075
Iowa	Badgerland Financial-Dodgeville, ACA	608-935-5247
Iowa	Badgerland Financial-Dodgeville, FLCA	608-935-5247
FDL	Badgerland Financial-FDL, ACA	800-569-6840
FDL	Badgerland Financial-FDL, FLCA	800-569-6840
Rock	Badgerland Financial-Janesville, FLCA	800-755-0344
Grant	Badgerland Financial-Lancaster, ACA	800-236-2030
Grant	Badgerland Financial-Lancaster, FLCA	800-236-2030
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Madison, ACA	608-241-1586
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Madison, FLCA	608-241-1586
Buffalo	Badgerland Financial-Mondovi, ACA	800-236-2188
Buffalo	Badgerland Financial-Mondovi, FLCA	800-236-2188
Green	Badgerland Financial-Monroe, ACA	
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Mt Horeb, ACA	608-437-5503
Dane	Badgerland Financial-Mt Horeb, FLCA	608-437-5503
Sheboygan	Badgerland Financial-Plymouth, ACA	920-893-6671
Sheboygan	Badgerland Financial-Plymouth, FLCA	920-893-6671

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Columbia	Badgerland Financial-Portage, ACA	800-686-1345
Monroe	Badgerland Financial-Sparta, ACA	800-236-3148
Monroe	Badgerland Financial-Sparta, FLCA	800-236-3148
Vernon	Badgerland Financial-Viroqua, ACA	800-236-1288
Vernon	Badgerland Financial-Viroqua, FLCA	800-236-1288
Jefferson	Badgerland Financial-Watertown, ACA	800-686-138
Jefferson	Badgerland Financial-Watertown, FLCA	800-686-138
Portage	Bancroft State Bank	715-335-4545
Manitowoc	Bank First National-Kiel	920-894-2215
Manitowoc	Bank First National-Manitowoc	920-684-6611
Monroe	Bank of Cashton	608-654-5121
Trempealeau	Bank of Galesville	608-582-2233
Kewaunee	Bank of Luxenburg	920-845-2345
Green	Bank of Monticello	608-938-4116
Green	Bank of New Glarus	608-527-5211
FDL	Bank of Oakfield	920-583-3191
Sauk	Bank of Prairie Du Sac	608-643-3393
Kewaunee	Baylake Bank - Kewaunee	920-388-2040
Door	Baylake Bank - Sturgeon Bay	920-743-5551
Waupaca	Baylake Bank - Waupaca	715-256-9610
Lafayette	Benton State Bank	608-759-2671
Polk	Bremer Bank - Amery	715-235-2144
Dunn	Bremer Bank - Colfax	715-962-3141
Dunn	Bremer Bank - Menomonie	715-235-2144
Calumet	Calumet County Bank	920-756-2181
Out of State	Castle Bank, NA - Harvard, IL	815-943-6441
Langlade	Citizens Bank - Antigo	715-623-2346
Green	Citizens Bank - Brodhead	608-897-2151
Polk	Citizens Bank - Clear Lake	715-263-2675
Lafayette	Citizens Bank - Darlington	608-776-4458
Outagamie	Citizens Bank - Kaukauna	920-766-8160
Grant	Citizens Bank - Potosi	608-763-2211
Vernon	Citizens First Bank - Viroqua	608-637-3133
Chippewa	Citizens State Bank - Cadott	715-289-4253
Out of State	Citizens State Bank - Lena, IL	815-369-4524
Clark	Citizens State Bank of Loyal	715-255-8526
Grant	Clare Bank - Boscobel	608-375-4182
Grant	Clare Bank - Montfort	608-943-6304
Grant	Clare Bank - Platteville	608-348-2727
Lafayette	Clare Bank - Shullsburg	608-965-4401
Manitowoc	Cleveland State Bank	920-693-8256
Manitowoc	Collins State Bank	920-772-4433
Calumet	Community Bank and Trust-Chilton	920-849-8888
Calumet	Community Bank and Trust-Chilton/Sheboygan	920-849-8888
Clark	Community Bank of Central Wisconsin - Colby	715-223-3998
Rusk	Community Bank of Ladysmith	715-532-7279

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Barron	Community Bank of Northern Wisconsin-Rice Lake	715-234-5665
Grant	Community First Bank-Boscobel	6083754117
Monroe	Community State Bank-Norwalk	608-823-7416
Racine	Community State Bank-Union Grove	262-878-4820
Jackson	Co-op Credit Union--Black River Falls	715-284-5333
Barron	Cumberland Federal Bank	715-822-2249
Rusk	Dairyland State Bank - Bruce	715-868-2175
Brown	Denmark State Bank - Denmark	920-863-2161
Manitowoc	Denmark State Bank - Whitelaw	920-732-4551
Dane	DMB Community Bank - Deforest	608-846-3711
Out of State	Dubuque Bank & Trust Company - Dubuque, IA	563-744-3354
Columbia	Farmers & Merchants Bank - Friesland	920-348-5141
Monroe	Farmers & Merchants Bank - Kendall	608-463-7101
Columbia	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank - Columbus	920-623-4000
Iowa	Farmers Savings Bank - Mineral Point	608-987-3321
LaCrosse	Farmers State Bank - Branch of River Bank - Bangor	608-486-2356
Dodge	Farmers State Bank - Fox Lake	920-928-3161
Green Lake	Farmers State Bank - Markesan	920-398-2336
Outagamie	Fidelity National Bank-Appleton	920-993-1234
Taylor	Fidelity National Bank-Medford	715-748-5333
St. Croix	First Bank of Baldwin	715-684-3366
Racine	First Banking Center - Burlington	262-763-3581
Lafayette	First Banking Center - Darlington	608-776-3512
Green	First Banking Center - Monroe	608-328-3800
Lafayette	First Banking Center - Shullsburg	608-965-3459
Rock	First Citizens State Bank - Whitewater	262-473-2112
Barron	First National Bank & Trust - Rice Lake	715-234-1399
Rock	First National Bank & Trust Co - Beloit	608-363-8110
Out of State	First National Bank & Trust Co - Winnebago, IL	815-335-2366
Green Lake	First National Bank-Berlin	920-361-2400
Barron	First National Bank-Chetek	715-924-4851
Lafayette	First National Bank-Darlington	608-776-4071
Out of State	First National Bank-Holcomb, KS	620-277-0077
Waupaca	First National Bank-Iola	715-445-3211
Grant	First National Bank-Platteville	608-348-7777
Waushara	First National Bank-Poy Sippi	920-987-9000
Waupaca	First State Bank - New London	920-982-3300
Out of State	Galena State Bank & Trust Company - Galena, IL	815-777-9202
Brown	Greenleaf Wayside Bank	920-864-7901
Waupaca	Greenstone FCS, ACA - Clintonville	715-823-2128
Brown	Greenstone FCS, ACA - DePere	920-336-5701
Waupaca	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - Clintonville	715-823-2128
Marinette	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - Coleman	800-261-4046
Brown	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - DePere	920-336-5701
Manitowoc	Greenstone FCS, FLCA - Manitowoc	920-682-5792
Dane	Harris NA - Madison	608-821-1900

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Sauk	Harris NA - Reedsburg	608-524-8251
Milwaukee	Harris NA - Special Asset Unit, Milwaukee	414-258-7709
Out of State	Harvard Savings Bank	815-943-5261
Out of State	Harvard State Bank - Harvard, IL	815-943-4407
Iowa	Heartland Credit Union - Dodgeville	608-935-7000
Dane	Heartland Credit Union - Madison	608-282-7000
Grant	Heartland Credit Union - Platteville	608-348-6700
Marathon	Heritage Bank-Spencer	715-659-2430
St. Croix	Hiawatha National Bank - Glenwood City	715-265-4211
Dodge	Horicon State Bank	920-485-3040
Dunn	Independence State Bank - Elk Mound	715-879-4888
Trempealeau	Independence State Bank - Independence	715-985-3197
Manitowoc	Investors Community Bank-Manitowoc	920-686-9998
Out of State	Iowa State Bank - Parkersburg, IA	319-346-1226
Jackson	Jackson County Bank - Black River Falls	715-284-5341
Out of State	Kent Bank - Kent, IL	815-443-2711
Lincoln	Lincoln County Bank - Merrill	715-536-8301
Grant	Livingston State Bank	608-943-6351
Outagamie	M&I Bank - Appleton	920-738-3800
Dodge	M&I Bank - Beaver Dam	920-887-8350
Rock	M&I Bank - Beloit	608-364-3825
Dane	M&I Bank - Cambridge	608-423-3241
Chippewa	M&I Bank - Chippewa Falls	715-723-5531
Iowa	M&I Bank - Dodgeville	608-935-3349
Eau Claire	M&I Bank - Eau Claire	715-831-4227
FDL	M&I Bank - FDL	920-923-4292
Brown	M&I Bank - Green Bay	920-468-5751
Rock	M&I Bank - Janesville	608-754-7771
Grant	M&I Bank - Lancaster	608-723-4166
Dane	M&I Bank - Madison	
Wood	M&I Bank - Marshfield	715-387-1134
Dodge	M&I Bank - Mayville	920-387-2200
Dunn	M&I Bank - Menomonie	715-235-5521
Clark	M&I Bank - Neillsville	715-743-3197
Sauk	M&I Bank - Reedsburg	608-524-6456
FDL	M&I Bank - Ripon	920-748-3161
Sauk	M&I Bank - Sauk City	608-643-8591
Outagamie	M&I Bank - Seymour	920-833-2335
Shawano	M&I Bank - Shawano	715-526-6101
Sauk	M&I Bank - Spring Green	608-588-2526
Portage	M&I Bank - Stevens Point	715-344-5100
Dane	M&I Bank - Sun Prairie	608-837-7373
Jefferson	M&I Bank - Watertown	920-261-7102
Marathon	M&I Bank - Wausau	715-845-4311
Marquette	M&I Bank - Westfield	608-296-2161
Green Lake	Markesan State Bank - Markesan	920-398-2358

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Dodge	Markesan State Bank - Randolph	920-326-4131
Dodge	Markesan State Bank - Waupun	920-324-2200
Marathon	Marshfield Savings Bank	715-387-1122
Taylor	Mid-Wisconsin Bank - Medford	715-748-1310
Clark	Mid-Wisconsin Bank-Colby	715-223-2361
Grant	Mound City Bank-Platteville	608-348-2685
Dodge	National Bank of Waupun	920-324-5551
Dodge	National Exchange Bank - Beaver Dam	920-887-8731
FDL	National Exchange Bank - Campbellsport	920-533-5533
Sheboygan	National Exchange Bank - Cascade	920-533-5533
FDL	National Exchange Bank - FDL	920-921-7700
Sheboygan	National Exchange Bank - Howards Grove	920-565-3351
Green Lake	National Exchange Bank - Kingston	920-394-3544
FDL	National Exchange Bank - Mt. Calvary	920-753-4171
LaCrosse	Park Bank - Holmen	608-526-3325
Walworth	Peoples Bank - Elkhorn	262-723-4200
Chippewa	Peoples State Bank-Bloomer	715-568-1100
Crawford	Peoples State Bank-Prairie Du Chien	608-326-6424
Marinette	Peshtigo National Bank	715-582-4512
Trempealeau	Pigeon Falls State Bank	715-983-2295
Wood	Pioneer Bank - Auburndale	715-652-2105
Rusk	Pioneer National Bank - Ladysmith	715-532-5551
Ozaukee	Port Washington State Bank	262-284-4491
Portage	Portage County Bank-Almond	715-366-4311
Waupaca	Premier Community Bank-Marion	715-754-2535
Out of State	Prinsbank - Prinsburg, MN	320-978-6351
Richland	Richland County Bank-Richland Center	608-647-6306
LaCrosse	River Bank - LaCrosse	608-788-6300
LaCrosse	River Bank - Sparta	608-269-1277
Vernon	River Bank - Stoddard, Hqtrs	608-457-2100
Clark	River Cities Bank	715-422-1100
Clark	River Cities Bank	715-422-1100
Marathon	River Valley State Bank-Wausau	715-845-5522
Iowa	Royal Bank - Cobb	608-623-2313
Juneau	Royal Bank - Elroy	608-462-8401
Out of State	Sauk Valley Bank and Trust Company - Sterling, IL	815-626-5996
Chippewa	Security Bank-New Auburn	715-237-2658
Dunn	Security Bank-Ridgeland	715-949-2265
Pepin	Security Financial Bank - Durand	715-672-4237
Wood	State Bank Financial-State Bank Marshfield	715-486-1263
Monroe	State Bank Financial-State Bank Sparta	608-269-2111
Trempealeau	State Bank of Arcadia	608-323-3331
Calumet	State Bank of Chilton	920-849-9371
Dane	State Bank of Cross Plains-Black Earth	608-437-8968
Washington	State Bank of Newburg	414-675-2306
Dodge	State Bank of Reeseville	920-927-3841

## LENDER LIST

Lender Geo County	Lender Name	Lender Phone Number
Vernon	State Bank of Viroqua	608-637-3127
Barron	Sterling Bank - Barron	715-537-3141
Barron	Sterling Bank - Chetek	715-924-4817
Barron	Sterling Bank - Rice Lake	715-736-6150
Dane	The Peoples Community Bank - Mazomanie	608-795-2120
Monroe	Timberwood Bank-Tomah	6083722265
Green	Union Bank & Trust-Brooklyn	608-455-2311
Rock	Union Bank & Trust-Evensville	608-882-0714
Trempealeau	Union Bank of Blair - Blair	608-989-2541
Monroe	Union National Bank & Trust Co-Sparta	608-269-6737
LaCrosse	Union State Bank - West Salem	608-786-0600
Buffalo	United Bank - Mondovi	715-926-3882
Trempealeau	United Bank - Osseo	715-597-3136
Langlade	United FCS, FLCA - Antigo	715-623-7644
Wood	United FCS, FLCA - Marshfield	800-324-5752
Taylor	United FCS, FLCA - Medford	800-324-5753
Portage	United FCS, FLCA - Stevens Point	800-324-5754
Clark	United FCS, FLCA - Thorp	800-324-5758
Marathon	United FCS, FLCA - Wausau	800-324-5751
Langlade	United FCS, PCA - Antigo	715-623-7644
Wood	United FCS, PCA - Marshfield	800-324-5752
Taylor	United FCS, PCA - Medford	800-324-5753
Clark	United FCS, PCA - Thorp	800-324-5758
Marathon	United FCS, PCA - Wausau	800-324-5751
Eau Claire	Unity Bank - Augusta	715-286-2223
Out of State	Unity Bank - Rush City, MN	320-358-3600
Barron	US Bank - Rice Lake	715-234-8212
Manitowoc	US Bank -Manitowoc	920-683-5630
Trempealeau	Waumandee State Bank-Arcadia	608-323-3304
Buffalo	Waumandee State Bank-Waumandee	608-626-3131
Marathon	Wells Fargo Bank WI - Edgar	715-352-2341
Out of State	Wells Fargo Bank, NA - Duluth, MN	218-723-2694
Out of State	Wells Fargo Bank, NA - Winona, MN	507-457-1370
Green	Wisconsin Community Bank-Monroe	608-328-4000
Lafayette	Woodford State Bank-Blanchardville	608-523-4215
Green	Woodford State Bank-Monroe	608-325-7766
Grant	Woodhouse & Bartley - Bloomington	608-994-2759

# USDA FSA County Committee Minority Advisors

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

The County Office Committee (COC) is the direct link between the farming community and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The COC's help run FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will be run. They make FSA agriculture programs fit the needs faced by local producers.

Committees make decisions on:

- commodity price support loans and payments
- establishment of allotments, yields, and marketing quotas
- farmer loans
- conservation programs
- incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and
- other farm disaster assistance.

The COC operate within official regulations designed to carry out Federal laws, applying their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

## County Committee Advisors

The importance of the county committee system stems from a simple concept that local farmers know their communities and their business, and how best to make national programs work locally. Committee members know what issues are facing farmers in their area since they themselves are active farmers.

COC advisors are instrumental in ensuring that problems and viewpoints of the under-represented groups, females and minorities are understood and considered in local FSA actions.

Duties include:

- attending each committee meeting;
- participate in all deliberations
- helping to develop women and minorities interest in FSA programs
- actively solicit candidates from under-represented groups for nomination during the annual committee election process; and
- perform special duties at the COC's request.

Note: COC Advisors do not have voting rights or the authority to sign documents.

## Representation of Under-Represented Groups

County Committee Advisors represent under-represented groups which include:

- African Americans,

- Hispanic Americans,
- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and
- Women.

## Eligibility Requirements

COC Advisors shall:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area;
- be willing and able to serve as an advisor, if appointed;
- indicate in writing their willingness and ability to serve.

## Expectations of County Committee Members and Advisors

The committee member's job is one of public trust.

Members are expected to:

- serve the public faithfully
- represent the county as a whole
- make informed, fair and impartial decisions
- maintain strict confidentiality
- have a good understanding of FSA programs and services
- follow law and regulations

FSA County Committees are producer focused. As representatives of producers, county committee members are also expected to take the lead in ensuring equal opportunity in all its deliberations and in the work of the county office. The committee shall:

- treat producers, loan applicants, lenders, members of the public and candidates for the COC and county staff positions equally, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicapping condition;
- give the County Executive Director (CED) full support and encouragement in carrying out the county office's equal opportunity responsibilities.

County Committee members make decision important to other producers throughout the county. As a representative of the U.S. Government entrusted with this responsibility, each committee member and advisor must make sure all producers are treated fairly.

*For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) or contact your local USDA Service Center.*

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## **Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils (RTCACs) Decision Memo Option Selected By the Chief**

Establish three RTCACs by selecting a 16 member RTCAC composed of five Federal and 10 Tribal representatives and a representative from one Regional Tribal Organization within each NRCS region. On the Federal side, one RC and three State Conservationists will be selected and an American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association (AIANEA) Regional Representative. The Tribal side will consist of nine tribal representatives, an AIANEA Elder, and a representative from one Tribal Organization from the Region.

### **Nomination Process for Tribal Members:**

**Tribal Representatives:** there are nine tribal members and one AIANEA Elder from the Region. The Tribal representatives are from the different part of the region. The Tribes will determine the method of selection of representatives or alternate or a member of USDA/NRCS State Tribal Advisory Council. Nomination of appointment or resignations of tribal representatives of the RTCAC shall be made to NRCS, through a letter signed by the Tribes. Membership of the tribal representatives will be limited to elected Tribal official and one tribal organization within the Region, or their designated employees or representatives. Each Tribal member will serve three years.

### **Nomination Process for Federal Members:**

The five Federal members will be composed of one RC, three STCs and one AIANEA Regional Representative who will be nominated and appointed by the NRCS Chief. Each Federal member will serve three years.

### **Nomination Process for the Tribal Organization:**

The tribal organization member will be nominated by the Tribes. Each member will serve three years.

### **Suggested process and time-line:**

1. October to December 31, 2011: STCs write a letter to/contact each Tribe in their state notifying them of the potential opportunity to volunteer to serve on the Council
2. October to December 31, 2011: STC volunteer to serve on Council
3. October to December 31, 2011: STC forward Tribal nominations
4. January 2012: Selection of Federal and Tribal members to serve on Councils
5. March 2012: Letter of approval notification from Chief
6. April–July, 2012, first council meeting
7. Committee will meet twice a year face to face
8. Ten months to establish the Councils (October 2011 to July 2012)

## USDA Establishes Advisory Board for Native American Farmers and Ranchers

WASHINGTON, December 7, 2011 – Agriculture Secretary Vilsack today announced the establishment of a special advisory board to help USDA officials ensure Native Americans participate in and benefit from USDA programs. The board is being put in place as part of the Keepseagle settlement.

"The Council for Native American Farming and Ranching will help native governments, businesses, farmers and ranchers partner with USDA to create jobs, drive economic growth and strengthen tribal communities," Vilsack said.

The Council will work closely with the Office of Tribal Relations, Farm Service Agency and other USDA agencies to improve the success of Native farmers and ranchers who access USDA's entire portfolio of programs to build and achieve profitability in their businesses. USDA recently established a technical assistance network with the Intertribal Agriculture Council. The network works across Indian Country in 13 regional locations. USDA also recently launched a strike force initiative in southeastern states that is now expanding to western states with substantial Native American populations. These two technical assistance efforts will work together to ensure the unique challenges of Native Americans, living both on and off reservations, can be addressed. Agriculture is the second largest employer in Indian Country, according to the National Congress of American Indians.

All nominations for advisory board membership should be sent by January 20, 2012 to: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250, Attn: Council for Native American Farmers and Ranchers. Send comments to the Office of Tribal Relations, 500A Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20250.

Keepseagle v Vilsack was a lawsuit alleging that USDA discriminated against Native American farmers and ranchers in the way it operated the Farm Loan Program. The lawsuit was settled late last year, and the settlement has been approved by the court. The filing period for claims opened June 29, 2011, and continues for 180 days until December 27, 2011. Up to \$760 million will be made available in monetary relief, debt relief and tax relief to successful claimants. Claimant services representatives can be reached through calling [1-888-233-5506](tel:1-888-233-5506). Claimants must register for a claims package by calling the number or visiting <http://www.indianfarmclass.com>.

# WTCAC December 13, 2011

## EPA Update

1. **Superfund Division - Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS)**
  - a. Willing to conduct a First Responder Awareness Level/OSHA 8 Hour Annual HAZWOPER Refresher training course for any tribe interested in hosting the event (the last one was at the Oneida Reservation in August).
  - b. They will also work with the Tribes to conduct a hazardous materials exercise, either tabletop, functional or full scale (e.g. one was done for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe in Mt. Pleasant, MI, last June).
  - c. Interested tribes contact Glenn Cekus at Cekus.Glenn@EPA.GOV or (312) 353-6449.
  
2. **Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) update and proposed rule change.**
  - a. Annual TRI Analysis has been updated
  - b. Proposed rule change for facilities reporting in Indian Country (from State Gov to EPA and Tribal Gov)
  - c. Generally seeking to increase tribal participation in TRI program.
  
3. **TEA Renegotiations and Solicitation for Input**
  - a. Guidebook written in response to IG report assumes we will do environmental plans, TEAs should be used to fulfill that role.
  - b. Solicitation for comments and suggestions sent out on 11/23/2011, due back to Willie Harris or Jenny Manville by 12/23/2011
  
4. **Guidebook for Building Tribal Environmental Capacity,**
  - a. Consultation extended to January 31, 2012.
  
5. **Reminder - Request for Contact Information for Emergency Responders.**
  - a. Info being sought by superfund program.
  - b. Have only heard back from about half the WI Tribes so far.
  
6. **Call for Proposals for Assistance for Renewable Energy /Brownfields/Feasibility Studies**
  - a. Assess the reuse of brownfields for renewable energy
  - b. Not a direct award of funding
  - c. EPA will conduct the studies in cooperation with the tribe and DOE NREL
  - d. Limited program funding, first come first served & selected sites
  - e. Contact is Rosita Clarke, Brownfields RE Coordinator 312-886-7251
  
7. **Fy2012 Tribal Environmental Program Management Conference**
  - a. February 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> @ EPA R5 Chicago HQs

- b. Call for presentations sent out, Tribes requested to submit agenda topics **by December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**8. R5TOC Meeting in February (tentative)**

- a. Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012, 1-5 PM @ EPA R5 Regional Office (Room TBA)
- b. Proposed Topics
- c. Seeking Tribal Input on Agenda (Send to Willie **by December 28<sup>th</sup> 2012**)

**9. CERCLA State and Tribal Response Programs – Notice of Funding**

- a. Notice of Funding for FY12 128(a), funding requests **due by January 31, 2012.**
- b. Address redevelopment of brownfield sites and other contaminated sites.
- c. \$50 million awarded noncompetitively to establish and enhance state and tribal response programs nationwide.
- d. Be sure to contact Jane Newman if interested.

**10. Environmental Justice Grants.**

- a. 1 Million given out in 2011 another 1 million to be given in 2012
- b. Red Lake MN Chippewa Tribe recived funding to repair failing septics, and id unsafe water.
- c. Pre-Application Teleconference **Calls on January 12<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 15**
- d. Applications **due by February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**11. Underground Storage Tank Regulation Changes & Tribal Consultation**

- a. A number of changes in the UST program including new containment and training requirements for operators in Indian Country.
- b. Consultation open **through February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**
- c. Tribal Consultation Conference Calls on:
  - i. January 5, 2-3 (EST)
  - ii. January 26, 2-3 (EST)

**12. Additional topic Info sent via email.**

Additional information (too much to print out) on the above topics will be provided via email.