

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

September 28, 2006

Hosted by: Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) was called to order by Ritchie Brown, Executive Director at 9:30 a.m. on September 28, 2006 at the Pine Hills Golf Course N9499 Pine Hills Drive in Gresham, WI.

II. Roll Call

Present: Stockbridge-Munsee (Greg Bunker)	Oneida Nation (Pat Pelky)
Ho-Chunk Nation (William Hopinkah)	St. Croix (Katie Stariha)
Lac Du Flambeau (Scott McDougall)	Bad River (Rae Ann Maday)
Forest County Potawatomi (Nate Guldan)	Red Cliff (Melanee Montano)

Absent: Menominee Nation
Lac Courte Oreilles
Sokaogon
GLIFWC

Other Attendees: Jerry Thompson, ASTC-FO NRCS; Mike Koehler, NRCS Liaison; Lori Van Hule, NRCS-CRS; Tom Cogger, NRCS Liaison; Tony Bush, NRCS Liaison; Sherrie Zenk-Reed, NRCS Liaison; Tom Fredrickson, NRCS Liaison; Julie Malvitz, NRCS Liaison; Greg Yackle, NRCS Liaison; Tim Devean, NRCS Liaison; Bob Frank, Stockbridge-Munsee; Bert Davids, Stockbridge-Munsee; Chad Miller, Stockbridge-Munsee; Ritchie Brown, WTCAC Executive Director; Sylvia Redschlag, WTCAC Consultant.

Quorum: ___ No Yes **8 Tribes Represented**

III. Approval of Minutes.

Deferred until next scheduled meeting. Last few meetings lacked quorum.

IV. Revisions to Agenda.

Jean Buffalo-Reyes is unable to attend this meeting. Ritchie Brown will facilitate. Pat Leavenworth is unable to attend. Jerry Thompson will be reporting for Pat Leavenworth.

V. Reports

NRCS Update

Jerry Thompson, ASTC-FO NRCS, reported Pat Leavenworth, NRCS WI State Conservationist has been detailed for several months to Oklahoma and Dan Pikelm is now Acting State Conservationist for Wisconsin in the interim. He also commented that retirements are taking a lot of people right now.

APHIS Update

JoAnn Cruse, USDA-APHIS is in training this week and was unable to attend this meeting.

WTCAC Update

Section 106 Project Status Report: Ritchie Brown, WTCAC Executive Director reported on the Tribal Summit and Workshop held in September at UW-Stevens Point for those that were not able to attend. Extra copies of the workshop packet were made available in the back of the meeting room for those Tribes that were unable to attend. He discussed the progress on the Section 106 Project and that we are moving forward in coordinating with the THPO's and requested to attend the next scheduled meeting with the THPO's which is held concurrently with the WSDOT group. THPO's were invited to this month's WTCAC meeting however none are in attendance. He recommended offering dollars to the THPO's to cover travel expenses to encourage continued participation and input to the consultation process development. It became apparent during the workshop that more meetings would be needed before consensus can be reached among the Tribes on how to proceed. He recommended a formal request for modification of the existing contract be made to Pat Leavenworth, NRCS State Conservationist for a 12 month extension of time, additional funding to accommodate additional tasks associated with 2-3 more workshops and adjust project milestones accordingly to accomplish the requirements. Discussion ensued regarding the recommendation and justification for the modification of the existing contract.

Motion: Pat Pelky, Oneida Nation made the motion to request modification of the existing contract for the Section 106 project. Rae Ann Maday, Bad River seconded the motion. All yeas, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Project Status Report: Ritchie Brown reported on the progress of EAB survey activities during the month of September. Trap trees were set up at Lac Du Flambeau, work continued setting up trap trees at Menominee, and authorization was still proceeding through deciding officials at Stockbridge-Munsee. Forestry committee members and natural resource staff from Stockbridge-Munsee met with the WTCAC EAB Survey Team on September 27th and trap tree locations were surveyed and trees flagged pending final approval by Tribal decision-makers. WTCAC EAB Survey Team members Sylvia Redschlag and David Olson participated in detection survey and sampling training at Maumee State Forest outside Toledo, Ohio with fellow EAB surveyors and resource specialists from OH, MI, IN, PA, DE, MN, IA, co-sponsored by Ohio Department of Agriculture and USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection. While at the field training event, they were interviewed by Toledo Blade Staff Writer Tom Henry for an article published in the Toledo Blade Newspaper Friday, September 22, 2006. Ritchie Brown attended an EAB Clinic in Brighton, Michigan back in July 2006. The team had prepared slide shows from both training events for presentation at the meeting, however technical difficulties with newly acquired equipment pre-empted viewing the presentations until the next meeting.

Forestry Committee Update

Bert Davids, Tribal Forester with the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe, discussed EQIP resource concerns list and recommended adding a couple of concerns addressing plant condition and plants not adapted to sites.

Tribal Technical Committee

The committee felt the Resource Concern List focuses on row crops and not Tribal resources. It was recommended a separate Natural Resource Concern List be compiled. It was also recommended work begin on a strategic plan. Jerry Thompson discussed the upcoming "Working Lands Initiative Listening Sessions" for Wisconsin and that he will forward further information via e-mail as it becomes available.

Wetland Reserve Program

NRCS is still in the process of staffing it through contracting office.

WHIP Program

Jerry Thompson reported there is no more "cost share". NRCS will be using flat rates.

- Wild Rice Seeding will move to category 644 Wetland/Wildlife Management at \$600.00 per acre flat rate
- Tree Drops and Anchor \$95.00 each. 12-Inch Tree Drops in place \$18 each.
- Nesting Platforms fixed rate.
- Eradication of Invasives will be a fixed rate of \$35.00 per acre.
- 75 Percent to restore wetlands and maintain for 10 years.
- No Easements.

Motion: Pat Pelky, Oneida Nation made the motion to.....

The motion was seconded by Scott McDougall, Lac Du Flambeau. All yeas, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

VI. Other Business

Members were reminded to return their travel vouchers to Ritchie Brown after the meeting for processing.

VII. Meeting Schedule

Proposed upcoming WTCAC meeting schedule was reviewed. October meeting was postponed till November 2, 2006 due to scheduling conflicts. Meeting location changed from Menominee to Bad River. December meeting location changed from Oneida Nation to Ho-Chunk Nation. Date to be determined at November meeting. Possible change of meeting location for December meeting from Black River to Muscoda. Information will be forthcoming.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Minutes prepared by: Sylvia Redschiag

Minutes approved by: Ritchie Brown, Executive Director