

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

July 20, 2006

Hosted by: Lac Du Flambeau

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 9:00 pm. on July 20, 2006 at the Lake of the Torches Resort & Conference Center in Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin.

II. Roll Call

Present: Ho-Chunk Nation (William Hopinka)	Oneida Nation (Pat Pelky)
Forest County Potawatomi (Nate Guldán)	Menominee Nation (Doug Cox)
Lac Du Flambeau (Scott McDougall)	Bad River (Rae Ann Maday)*

Absent: Lac Courte Oreilles
Sokaogon
Stockbridge-Munsee

St. Croix
Red Cliff
GLJFWC

Other Attendees: Jerry Thompson, ASTC-FO NRCS; Tom Cogger, NRCS Liaison; Sherrie Zenk-Reed, NRCS Liaison; Mike Kohler NRCS Liaison; Tom Fredrickson, NRCS Liaison; JoAnn Cruise, USDA-APHIS-PPQ; Dr. Tim Devean, USDA-APHIS; Ritchie Brown, WTCAC Executive Director; Sylvia Redschlag, WTCAC Consultant; David Olson, WTCAC Consultant; Tina Boisen, Admin Support to WTCAC Executive Director.

Quorum: X No Yes 5 Tribes Represented

(*) Note: One late arrival of Tribal member well into the meeting established quorum at 11:00 a.m.).

III. Approval of Minutes.

Deferred until next scheduled meeting due to lack of quorum.

IV. Revisions to Agenda.

Jean Buffalo-Reyes is unable to attend this meeting. Ritchie Brown, Executive Director will facilitate. Pat Leavenworth, NRCS State Conservationist, is unable to attend. Jerry Thompson, Assistant State Conservationist will be reporting for NRCS.

V. Reports

NRCS Update

Jerry Thompson, Assistant State Conservationist, presented a status briefing and noted that Pat Leavenworth is in St. Louis reporting on the Yellow Jacket review process. Chief is nominated as the Under Secretary to the Secretary. The NTCAC is trying to become established and Jean Buffalo-Reyes' name was forwarded to be part of the Board for NTCAC. Edith is under the gun to try and get the NTCAC established before leaving office.

Jerry clarified the purpose of the WTCAC is to advise the State Conservationist (Pat Leavenworth) separate from the department of agriculture and other offices. Jerry relayed that Pat asked if WTCAC could forward their meeting schedule several months in advance so as to better enable her to attend regular meetings and avoid scheduling conflicts. Discussion ensued about Pat Leavenworth receiving advance notice of tentative meeting dates, agenda items and topics. Doug Cox commented that the WTCAC meetings seem to be occurring on a monthly basis now versus quarterly. Ritchie Brown explained the meetings are now at more frequent intervals because of the amount of project work going on that requires more frequent meetings.

Jerry also relayed that Pat would like a report so she knows where the Tribes are at with the “flat rate” funding concept being established to replace “cost-sharing”. Ritchie Brown asked Jerry Thompson if he had a ball park number on the flat rate for various projects, and whether it would equate at least an amount 50 percent (or higher) of the total project cost. Jerry replied all of the information is being collected at this time and he will forward it as soon as it becomes available, and went on to further explain that WTCAC needs to provide input and advise Pat Leavenworth as to their thoughts about the “flat rate” funding structure concept. A question was raised whether beef and bison will fall under the feedlot category and if the agency could get back to them on the classification of those types of projects.

APHIS Update.

Ritchie Brown commented that he received a call earlier in the morning that JoAnn Cruise was delayed by bad weather down south while enroute to the meeting, but she is expected to arrive shortly. He suggested moving on with the agenda and coming back to the APHIS update and briefing later on the agenda in the interest of maintaining the meeting schedule.

WTCAC Update.

Introductions. Ritchie Brown, WTCAC Executive Director, introduced the two newly retained consultants to the WTCAC, David Olson and Sylvia Redsclag with VisionQuest Environmental Management Services.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Project Status Report: Following their introductions, Sylvia Redsclag and David Olson reported on the progress of EAB survey activities during June (start-up) and early July. They reported cross-training was conducted with USDA-APHIS and USFS and Ho-Chunk DNR staff at Ho-Chunk Nation in Black River Falls. They reported Oneida Nation was the first to respond to the written authorization request for access to Tribal land, and that the natural resource staff were able to obtain the requisite approvals from Tribal decision-makers in record time. Trap trees were set up at Oneida while authorizations for the other Tribes were still proceeding through the approval chain to various Tribal decision-makers for clearance. Bad River also responded immediately, however, after reviewing the project proposal, they elected to conduct their own EAB survey on the reservation and will be utilizing an in-house forester on their staff to locate and set-up trap trees sites and conduct the destructive sampling later in the season.

Section 106 Project Status Briefing: Ritchie Brown and Sylvia Redsclag reported on the status of the project and outlined the upcoming two-day Tribal Summit and Workshop scheduled for August 15 & 16 at UW Stevens Point regarding the Section 106 Tribal Consultation and project review process being developed, as they fielded questions about the workshop from the audience. Ritchie

Brown sought input whether or not to limit the workshop to one day or proceed with a two-day workshop, where the afternoon of the second day would involve an interactive exercise with the participants. They went on to report that speaker invitations had already gone out, where a number of acceptances have already been returned. They were also seeking recommendations for additional speakers if the workshop would extend into a two-day event. Jerry Thompson suggested contacting the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) to see if they would send someone down to give a similar presentation to that which they presented to WTCAC nearly a year. Jerry said he would forward contact information for MACPRA when he returned to his office. They were also seeking recommendations for a conference facilitator and other possible guest speakers. Jerry Thompson suggested the NRCs Liaisons could serve as work group moderators for the participant interactive exercise breakout sessions on the second day of the workshop, and offered to coordinate and facilitate that days' events. . Ritchie suggested some of the key players get together for a short conference planning session immediately following the WTCAC meeting.

NOTE: Jo Ann Cruse arrived at the meeting during this project status briefing and open discussion above. Following a brief break, the APHIS Update was given.

APHIS Update

Emerald Ash Borer. JoAnn Cruse, USDA-APHIS-PPQ reported EAB was found in Illinois during the first part of June at Lily Lake (Kane County), approximately 40 miles south of the stateline. She further reported that the researchers estimated the introduction of emerald ash borer in the U.S. could date back 5-6 years ago based on the survey data and field observations in hardest hit areas in the Midwest, particularly Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. She went on to report another find about a week ago, south of Kenosha just across the stateline in the city of Evanston, Illinois (Northern Cook County, IL) which appears to be a larger infestation than the recent finding in Lily Lake (Kane County, IL). She noted that Illinois Department of Agriculture has a different philosophy and process for dealing with green, white, and black ash trees that exhibit signs of infestation from emerald ash borer., in that they have a nuisance policy which directs that the trees be taken down immediately to limit harborage, infestation and further spread of EAB to healthy ash populations. JoAnn went on further to comment that EAB will be here in Wisconsin soon and quarantine will be needed when it arrives all there legislation is in place. She further stated that it is hard to detect EAB, or to predict what area of the state will be the first to present a risk to our considerable ash populations. Bottom line it's no longer a question of "if" but "when" the emerald ash borer will present in the state. The original intent of this project was a cooperative agreement with APHIS and WTCAC to cooperatively accomplish the goals of the grant. Permission slips for access need to be turned in so the testing can take place on Tribal lands. We need to know where the EAB are and where they are not.

Ash Seed Collection. Ritchie Brown commented the BIA has had a seed collection program and another meeting will be set-up in the near future on seed collection and the need for preserving Ash tree resources should the emerald ash borer arrive in the state. He suggested we can do this collectively or individually.

Black Ash Preservation. Ritchie Brown commented we also need to stock pile some logs somehow, but more importantly, what we need is to have the basket makers select the logs. He discussed

some alternative strategies for preserving Black Ash logs for 20-30 years for cultural purposes (ie. basket weaving, cradle boards, etc.). He described some of the various processes including kiln drying, water submersion, refrigeration and sealing. Discussion ideas: 1) sink them under cooler waters,, 2) bury them, 3) or debarking the tree to keep the bore away. Maybe the tribes can do a survey to find out how many logs would need to be stock piled. It is attributed to the livelihood of some Tribes to maintain the cultural traditions. JoAnn Cruse commented We have researchers looking for ways to preserve the logs, possible kiln dried maybe; the concern would be drying out a small layer of the outside of the log. Ritchie Brown commented he talked with the basket makers and they say they soak the log before they pound it anyway so it may not be a problem. Hocak heritage preservation has talked about various funding sources because of the cultural component.

Introduction of Dr. Deveax. JoAnn Cruse introduced Dr. Timothy Deveax is with USDA Veterinary Services working here in central Wisconsin. He is a Special Programs Manager that is working with Avian Influenza (a.k.a. Bird-Flu) an H5N1 virus and that he has worked with the Western Seaboard Awareness program. Brief discussion ensued about West Nile Virus, that it is a domestic disease associated primarily with mosquitoes and not with wildlife as much. So far there have been no human cases reported here in Wisconsin, only one horse and some birds. Dr. Deveax is currently working with the Tribes here in Wisconsin on rabies vaccines and canine diseases.

Vacancies. JoAnn Cruse mentioned that USDA-APHIS is in need of a GIS Specialist in there office and a Trade Officer, to monitor animal products being smuggled into the state.

Significance of Preserving Cultural Sites. Ritchie Brown presented a slide show of various sites around the state with cultural significance, interaction within Tribes, Oral Tradition versus European interpretation of Section 106 connections to sites of traditional/cultural significance.

NOTE: Housekeeping: Participants voted to finish the meeting instead of breaking for lunch which resulted in a unanimous vote to finish the meeting.

Forestry Committee Update

No activity in the past month. Nothing to report.

Technical Committee – EQIP Ranking System

Jerry Thompson, updated the group on the role this group now plays in advising Pat Leavenworth, since WTCAC now reports exclusively to her and no longer through the state technical committee. He further stated that WTCAC is the only organization getting its own funding-thus the need for the ranking tool. Jerry briefly went over the ranking system and list of resources, and briefly discussed the EQIP Ranking System and the necessity for the Tribes to come to the table in negotiating the “flat rates” as they equate to a certain percentage of the overall project costs, in the former cost-sharing system of funding. Tribes need to take a look at and evaluate the ranking system and point out any problems which may exist. Opened floor for comments and questions.

Tony Bush, commented by the next meeting he will have a better idea of tools and put a narrative together describing Ag or Tribal sustainability (he defined sustainability as cultural process with resources to justify the practices toward EQIP “agri-cultures” In making funding determinations for

projects involving cultural practices, we need to make sure all uses fit into the list, thus the need to make sure WTCAC is involved upfront.

Ritchie Brown inquired: "What do we need for the next month's meeting then?" Jerry Thompson suggested meeting right after today's business meeting to decide if the Tribes want to accept the current list or make revisions to it.

VI. Other Business

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

VII. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2006 (2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.) on the eve of the Section 106 Tribal Summit & Workshop at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point College of Natural Resources in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. WTCAC Officers and Executive Director went into executive session briefly, followed by a short conference planning session regarding the Tribal Summit & Workshop.

Minutes prepared by: Tina Boisen, Administrative Support to WTCAC Executive Director.

Minutes approved by: Ritchie Brown, Executive Director

JUNE 28
PAT COULD NOT
ATTEND

WTCAC Meeting Notes, June 9, 2006, Red Cliff, Wisconsin

I spoke with Richie Brown privately, and asked him to contact you regarding setting up a meeting.

5103 C Process-Richie said that they are in the process of getting it set up. "It is about a five month long process, and we are about two months into it." He said that they hoped to have the account transferred to the Bank of Colby about July 1.

Meeting notes:

I spoke about the 106 process in Wisconsin, based on input from Lori Van Hulle, describing the number of reviews taken place this year. Most of the 2006 CR reviews are tied to CRP and EQIP contracts. Out of the over 900 CR Reviews, only one needed a second level review.

I also discussed updates on the EQIP Energy Incentive and Contract Completion Incentives with the group, and asked if they could set up a WTCAC meeting schedule for a year.

Aphis-distributed a brochure on Giant Hogweed, an invasive plant that has been found in Iron County, WI. Aphis is working with WTCAC on emerald ash borer monitoring on 'trap trees'. They girdle the tree, which stresses it, and releases volatile compounds which appear to attract the emerald ash borer (EAB). The focus will be on high risk sites-campgrounds, pow wow grounds, etc. The emphasis will be on white or green ash, not black ash.

Joanne also found that there are six other established tribal advisory groups in the U.S. Minnesota's is the Minnesota Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee. They talked about how there may be some benefits to getting in touch with some of the other groups in terms of getting their voice heard on National issues.

Joanne also talked about Avian flu and ICS training.

Richie Brown-Section 106-He has a bank account set up through the Bank of Colby, and could transfer the funds from Oneida beginning June 12. If that doesn't work, he would like to have them transferred by July 1. The contractor for CR activities is Vision Quest. They are looking for two contacts per tribe, a primary and secondary contact, which could be the TPO or Archaeologist, for example.

They are looking for a good turnaround time, which is one of the reasons for the two tribal contacts. The two contacts should be authorized by the tribal council.

The Tribal Summit Workshop on the 106 Review Process is set up for August 15 and 16. Speakers will be coming in for it, and should be able to answer all our questions on Section 106. Richie envisions both NRCS and tribal folks going through the two day

session. Richie says the some of the tribal folks aren't all that familiar with the 106 process, either.

There may be more than one tribe involved in the review process, because of different periods of occupation overlapping on the same ground. Richie says that there may be more than just the 11 recognized tribes currently in Wisconsin, also, but the process described in the powerpoint (handout attached) should satisfy their needs, also.

Emerald Ash Borer-the monitoring effort with Apluis is to do two sites per reservation. They will learn where the EAB are, but also where they aren't, yet. Richie thinks the EAB are already in the Lower Wisconsin near Muscoda.

Richie also talked about stockpiling ash logs for use in tribal basket making. All the expert basket makers are in their 60's, 70's, and 80's. So after the EAB goes through all the existing trees, and by the time a new stand regenerates, all the expertise will be lost before there is a useable log again. Richie has thought about sinking logs, but you need specific logs, and you also need the basket makers to select the logs that they can use.

Tom Cogger asked about financial incentives through USDA programs to collect ash seed, and perhaps store logs. I answered that there presently is not a standard this would fit under, and is currently not possible. If he wished to pursue this, he should work with Pat Murphy. It was kind of an awkward situation in that I didn't want to say 'no' at that point, but I definitely did not want to provide any encouragement, either.

WTCAC update-Richie talked about the bank account transfer, and he still needed signatures from Doug Cox, Paul Nineham, and Jean Buffalo-Reyes to authorize use. The contract for EAB monitoring was signed, so he needs a mechanism to buy equipment and pay contractors.

The August meeting is tentatively scheduled for the evening of August 14 at 4:00 PM in Stevens Point to coincide with the Summit Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 6 at Lac du Flambeau. They MAY want to move that meeting to July 20th. Jean Buffalo-Reyes will try to set up a schedule of WTCAC meetings for the next year.

WTCAC- Pat Pelky would like WTCAC to be independent of the State Technical Committee, if I understood correctly. He also mentioned something about a Tribal Title in the next Farm Bill. Jean said she would call you, and mentioned that she had touched base with you before.

That's about it.

Jan