

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 2, 2008
Forest County Potawatomi Community

Meeting called to order by Nate Guldán at 9:02 am. Jonathan was not able to make the meeting, so Nate Guldán ran the meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Oneida (Pat Pelky), LCO (Brett McConnell), FCPC (Nate Guldán), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Bad River (Pam Roberts), St. Croix (Tony Havranek)

Pam Roberts and Ervin Soulier are the new representatives for Bad River.

Others Present: Jim Thannum (GLIFWC), Chris Borden (Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D), Tony Bush (NRCS), Pat Rivers (Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Dr. Tim Deveau (APHIS)

2. Approval of Minutes

The November 4, 2008 minutes need to be amended to indicate that the 2 projects approved were for Bad River and that they were titled Graveyard Creek Brook Trout Behavior Study and Evaluation Project and Culvert Assessment and Remediation Project.

MOTION: Motion to approve November 3, 2008 meeting minutes and to approve November 4, 2008 meeting minutes with amendments. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is being held December 14 -17 in Columbus, Ohio. There is a symposium on getting the most out of the Conservation Title in the Farm Bill. This is short notice, but if anyone is interested in going, it would be good to have someone there. WTCAC could pick up the travel expenses for this meeting.

4. Annual Report and Educational Brochure

Julie distributed 2 handouts that Renee Anderson put together. One illustrated the funds the Tribes have utilized from EQIP before and after the formation of WTCAC and from WHIP. Pat Pelky recommended pointing out how the amount of funds utilized changed when the cost share rates were reduced. The Tribes used fewer funds when the cost share rate went from 75% down to 50%. Julie will see if Renee can include this.

The other handout illustrated all the project summaries and pictures sent in by the Tribes. Most Tribes have sent in project summaries and photos. Nate will email the Tribes that have not.

These are just draft reports, Renee is still working to pull everything together and she just wanted to show what she had at this point.

5. Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Habitat and Species Workshop

Bret handed out a draft agenda for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Habitat and Species Workshop being held on February 19, 2009 in Lac du Flambeau (attached). It looks like it may be a good workshop.

6. NRCS Update

Pat Leavenworth and Jerry Thompson participated via a conference call.

NRCS is missing 3 signature authorities from Oneida, Red Cliff, and Stockbridge. Tony Bush will be sending the Oneida information. Nate will contact Red Cliff and Stockbridge.

Jerry Thompson is retiring at the end of December. Julie Malvitz and Greg Yakle will be taking liaison responsibilities in the interim. Jerry apologized for not being able to personally be at the meeting and said a few words about how he has enjoyed working with WTCAC. He also indicated that WTCAC has definitely come along way since 1998. Julie will be taking on some duties and Greg will also be helping. Some state office people may need to help as well. Renee Anderson will work with us on the brochure and annual report.

This is the first time the agency has had a stand alone audit, because of increase in funding Wisconsin has been receiving they are on the radar screen and have had this audit going on since last February. A month ago they came out with report and did not show very well. They have by the end of the year to justify everything and hopefully get a clean audit next year.

The rules for the new Farm Bill are still being run through the rules clearance process. The EQIP rule has not made it through yet, but they started sign up as of December 1 that will run through January 31. A very uncertain year is coming up with a continuing resolution until March 6 so they do not have a final budget yet.

Payment limits – not official but they have no intention of changing the language in relation to Tribes from the last farm bill, therefore the Tribes will not need to worry about the limits.

WHIP – other entities will not be part of WHIP program any more, only individuals and Tribes. \$500K is initial allocation for WHIP this year, last year \$985,750, but that was with extra they got toward the end of the year and it may happen again this year. Coastal states will have a tough time spending the money without Tribes and farmers that would want to participate in WHIP so the money may come to other states. This could help all the Tribe's nation wide.

Pat Leavenworth has a copy of Mole Lake's Section 106 MOU and she will be signing it. Jerry also has Oneida's and has been trying to find time to finish it but he is swamped with the audit. Jerry needs to resolve who is going to take over the 106 process once he retires.

7. Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership

Pat Rivers (pat.rivers@dnr.state.mn.us, 218-633-8617, www.midwestglaciallakes.org), the Project Manager for the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership, gave a presentation (see attachment).

Pat indicated that the Tribes can play a role in the partnership by staying informed on what the partnership is doing, by guiding partnership direction, by looking for opportunities to leverage funds, and by helping the partnership with our communication networks.

Pat indicated that things the partnership will be able to provide include technical assistance, work with counties to give incentives to homeowners to keep their shorelines natural, and by awarding grants. He indicated the Tribes should have projects ready because the partnership may be able to award grants in the future.

Pat will be emailing Nate their draft Strategic Plan and Nate will email it out to everyone. Please review the strategic plan by the next meeting so we can discuss whether or not we would like to officially show our support for this Partnership. If we would like to support it, he would appreciate an official letter of support which they will include in their application packet.

8. SF-269 Form (Financial Status Report)

NRCS indicated that on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year, WTCAC needs to fill out a SF-269 Form (Financial Status Report) for each of our agreements with NRCS. Chris Borden and Nate filled it out at lunch and Nate will mail it to NRCS.

9. St. Croix Small Project Final Report

Tony Havranek from St. Croix presented the final report for St. Croix's small grant project entitled "Regional Wild Rice Assessment" (Attached). He did not have the financial part of the report, so we will need to approve payment at next meeting.

Tony also presented a summary of all EQIP and WHIP projects that St. Croix completed in 2008.

10. Financial Update/Judicare

Nate and Jonathan met with David Armstrong on Monday to discuss the status of the 501(c)3 application. Nate has almost got all the financials in order and he will be completing them shortly. Nate will also be compiling brief summaries for all the small projects that have been completed because this is needed for the 501(c)3 application. Fees will be required to be paid so if Jonathan can get a letter drafted we can ask Oneida for a donation to cover these costs.

We also discussed that we need to increase the amount of money reimbursed to the Tribe that hosts the meeting because the meetings are costing more than \$500.

11. Energy Component to Strategic Plan

We discussed that we need to add energy component to strategic plan to prepare for upcoming funding opportunities, etc.

12. EQIP Ranking Tool

Tony Bush handed out the EQIP Ranking Tool for 2008 (attached). It will be used to rank the Tribal projects that are submitted. This ranking tool needed to be approved by WTCAC so it could be posted on the internet. The Tribes would not be eligible for EQIP funds unless it was posted.

MOTION: Motion to approve the 2008 EQIP Ranking Sheet and post it on the internet so that Tribes may sign up for EQIP. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

There were new practices added this year. They are: Pumping plant (533), Vegetated Treatment Area (635), Access Control (472), Field Border (386)

13. APHIS Update

Dr. Tim Deveau gave an update for APHIS.

He indicated that they vaccinated dogs and cats on a number of Reservations.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was found in a hunting preserve near Junction City. All deer were depopulated (64 deer). Only 1 animal, a 9 year old doe, was positive (but it had no outward signs of CWD). 12 yrs ago they fenced off the area and she was a first generation offspring from a wild population purchased from DNR. They have purchased a few bucks over the years. The owner is required to dig up and bury soil near feeders, burn buildings, and maintain fence line for 5 years so no deer are allowed in. The owner will be paid fair market value for the animals. Once he has everything cleaned up he will get payment from state.

A wild pig killed in Crawford County had pseudorabies. Please make sure to report any wild pig sightings on Tribal lands.

There is a meeting on VHS on December 11 at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. No new areas in Wisconsin for VHS.

14. List of Items Jerry was working on for us

- 1) Annual Report
- 2) Brochure for educational purposes
- 3) Matrix of Projects – Name, date, project title, amount, final report, did we send a check
- 4) Section 106 MOU (who will help with it)

15. Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 13 at St. Croix at 9am.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by LCO, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.



Ranking Tool Summary for FY2009 - WTCAC (Draft)

Description:

This ranking tool will be used to rank EQIP applications through the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council.

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Grazed Forest, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture, Water, Wildlife

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.00

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 36 - 25	Medium: 24 - 13	Low: 12 - 0
Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.00

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 70 - 40	Medium: 39 - 11	Low: 10 - 1
Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
1	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds with total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) where available, groundwater contamination or point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations?	10
2	Will the treatment you intend to implement for water conservation or irrigation efficiency using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in water use?	10
3	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards?	10
4	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?	10
5	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation?	10
6	Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable benefits to residue management, nutrient management, air quality management, invasive species management, pollinator habitat, and animal carcass management technology or pest management?	10
7	Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in energy conservation benefits?	10
Total Points		70

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 0.60

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 24 - 15	Medium: 14 - 6	Low: 5 - 0
Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Applicant has never had an EQIP contract or been offered an EQIP contract.	10
	2	Applicant has successfully completed an EQIP contract and fulfilled all terms and conditions, or is implementing all active contracts according to schedule.	10
	3	Applicant has not successfully completed an EQIP contract according to the terms, however extenuating circumstances existed which resulted in the waiver of all liquidated damages by the State Conservationist OR the resource concern was addressed through other means (installed practice on their own, sold the herd, enrolled the land in CRP, etc.).	10
	4	Applicant has not successfully completed an EQIP contract and is not implementing an active contract according to schedule.	0
	5	Practices on this application will enable the applicant to address one or more identified concerns in their Tribal Long Range Plan or Integrated Resource Management Plan.	10
	6	This application includes a conservation power plant (wind or solar/photovoltaic) that reduces the carbon footprint of the operation.	10
	7	This application includes scenarios that specifically benefit pollinators.	10
Maximum Points: 40			Total Points: 60

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.00

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 163 - 95	Medium: 54 - 16	Low: 15 - 1
Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.	Consult with your designated tribal liaison.

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Sheet & Rill Erosion will be addressed?	5
	2	Ephemeral Gully Erosion will be addressed?	4
	3	Classic Gully Erosion will be addressed?	5
	4	Streambank Erosion will be addressed?	10
	5	Shoreline Erosion will be addressed?	6
	6	Soil Organic Matter Depletion will be addressed?	1
	7	Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding will be addressed?	6
	8	Inefficient Flows in Water Courses will be addressed?	1
	9	Harmful levels of Pesticides in Groundwater will be addressed?	3
	10	Excessive Nutrients (N,P,K) Organics, or Pathogens in Groundwater will be addressed?	9
	11	Harmful levels of Pesticides in Surface Water will be addressed?	3
	12	Excessive Nutrients (N,P,K) Organics, or Pathogens in Surface Water will be addressed?	10
	13	Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water will be addressed?	7

14	Will this application address a direct conduit to ground water?	11
15	Federal, State or Tribal Recognized Threatened or Endangered Plant Species will be addressed?	8
16	Federal, State, or Tribal Declining Plant Species or Plant Species of Concern will be addressed?	7
17	Noxious and Invasive Plants will be addressed?	11
18	Forage Quality and Palatability will be addressed?	1
19	Plant Productivity, Health and Vigor will be addressed?	11
20	Plants Not Adapted to the Site will be addressed?	11
21	Inadequate Cover/Shelter for Fish/Wildlife will be addressed	7
22	Inadequate Space for Fish/Wildlife will be addressed?	3
23	Fish/Wildlife Habitat Fragmentation will be addressed?	7
24	Federal, State or Tribal Recognized Threatened or Endangered Fish/Wildlife Species will be addressed?	7
25	Federal, State, or Tribal Declining Fish/Wildlife Species or Fish/Wildlife Species of Concern will be addressed?	6
26	Objectionable odor will be addressed?	2
27	Inadequate stock water for domestic animals will be addressed?	1
28	Stress and mortality for domestic animals will be addressed?	1
Maximum Points: 163		Total Points: 163

Tribal EQIP Program for fiscal year 2009

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program offers cost share assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Land eligibility is based on an identified resource concern and determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Eligible producers may apply for cost share on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns.

Interested tribal producers may apply in person at the USDA locations listed for each tribe. Applicants may also request EQIP assistance by telephone, fax, e-mail, or letter.

Bad River and Red Cliff Bands of Lake Superior Chippewas

Ashland Service Center
315 Sanborn Avenue, Suite 100
Ashland, WI 54806

(phone) 715-682-9117 x114
(fax) 715-682-0320
tom.cogger@wi.usda.gov

Forest County Potawatomi Community, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Rhineland Service Center
2187 North Stevens Street, Ste A
Rhineland, WI 54501

(phone) 715-362-5941
(fax) 715-363-9370
julie.malvitz@wi.usda.gov

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Ladysmith Service Center
1120 West Lake Avenue
Ladysmith, WI 54848

(phone) 715-532-7629
(fax) 715-532-9933
mike.koehler@wi.usda.gov

Menominee Indian Tribe and Stockbridge-Munsee Community

Shawano Service Center
603C Lakeland Road
Shawano, WI 54166

(phone) 715-524-8520 x113
(fax) 715-526-6121
sherrie.zenkreed@wi.usda.gov

Ho-Chunk Nation

Onalaska Service Center
1107 Riders Club Road
Onalaska, WI 54650

(phone) 608-782-0180
(fax) 608-785-1739
greg.yakle@wi.usda.gov

St. Croix Chippewa

Spooner Service Center
800 N. Front Street, Room 103
Spooner, WI 54801

(phone) 715-635-8228
(fax) 715-635-3729
tom.fredrickson@wi.usda.gov

Oneida Nation

Oneida Nation Service Center
P.O. Box 365, Ridgeview Plaza, Ste 6
Oneida, WI 54155

(phone) 920-496-5370
(fax) 920-490-2450
tony.bush@wi.usda.gov

Based on the diverse and often unique nature of tribal conservation issues the following resource concerns have been identified as being the highest priorities for cost share assistance:

Soil Erosion – sheet and rill; classic or ephemeral gully; streambank; shoreline

Soil Condition – organic matter depletion

Water Quantity – excessive, runoff, flooding or ponding; insufficient flows in water courses

Water Quality – harmful levels of pesticides or pathogens in ground or surface water; excessive nutrients and organics in surface or groundwater; harmful temperatures of surface water

Fish & Wildlife - inadequate cover/shelter or space; habitat fragmentation; threatened and endangered species – federal, state, tribally recognized, declining species - species of concern

Plant Condition - noxious and invasive plants; forage quality and palatability; plants not adapted to site; productivity, health, vigor; threatened and endangered species – federal, state, tribally recognized, declining species or species of concern

Domestic Animal – inadequate stock water; stress and mortality

Air Quality – objectionable odor

This list is meant to capture the major resource concerns of all the federally recognized Indian tribes in Wisconsin.

Eligible Practices, Cost-Share Rates and Limits 2009: See the attachment posted on the website at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.html>

Application period: Applications may be submitted anytime. Sign-up for 2009 funding will occur from December 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009.

Ranking and Fund Allocation: Scoring of all eligible applications will be done after January 31, 2009 when the ranking period has passed. Scoring will be completed using the ranking worksheet for Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) posted on the website. Each tribe will submit project proposals, as part of the ranking worksheets, and applications to WTCAC for approval.

WTCAC has distributed the tribal allocation equally among the tribes for cost-share on approved projects. Each WTCAC member tribe will utilize their share of the funding according to the ranking of their individual applications (projects). Funds not used by a tribe will be returned to WTCAC for redistribution to tribes with funding requests that exceed their original share, pending project approval. These additional unfunded projects will be funded according to their rank among the other unfunded projects.

Business Type Code	Business Type	SCIMS Tax ID Type	Individual or Entity			Entity Members		
			FTE Eligibility Required	AGI Eligibility Required 1/	\$300,000 Limit Applies 2/	Members required 3/	Member's AGI Affect \$300,000 Limit and Payment 4/	Impact FTE Eligibility
1	Individual	SSN	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
2	General Partnership	EIN	Yes 5/	Exempt 6/	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Joint Venture	EIN	Yes 5/	Exempt 6/	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Corporation or Limited Liability Company	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	Limited Partnership	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	Estate	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7	Trust - Revocable	SSN	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
7	Trust - Revocable	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
10	Churches, Charities, & Non-Profit Organizations	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
15	Indians Represented by BIA (includes groups or individuals)	No tax id - Will map to BIA	Yes 7/	Yes 7/	State Tracks	No	No	No
17	Trust - Irrevocable	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
18	Individual operating as a Small Business	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
20	Indian Tribe	EIN	Yes	Exempt	Exempt	No	No	No
20	Alaska Native Corporations	EIN	Yes	Exempt	Exempt	No	No	No

FTE is Farm Tract Eligibility and reflects the combined result of HEL, CW, PCW determinations recorded in FSA's subsidiary system.

1/ AGI eligibility certification (Form CCC-926) is required on all contracts obligated after October 1, 2008.

2/ Per the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. A person or legal entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, payments under this subchapter that, in the aggregate, exceed \$300,000 for all contracts entered into during any 6-year period. In addition payments for conservation practices related to organic production to a person or legal entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed, in the aggregate, \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any 6-year period.

3/ Where members required is "Yes," Forms CCC-901A or CCC-902 MUST be on file with FSA. All members must file Form CCC-926 for AGI certification. Payments to the entity will be reduced for member shares not meeting AGI.

4/ Business types where members required is "Yes" will have reductions in an amount commensurate with the ownership shares of the AGI ineligible members. This reduction will occur at payment but participants must be informed, prior to signing the NRCS-CPA-1202, that these reductions will be applied at payment.

5/ FTE is done at both the Joint Operation level AND the member level since a member may be ineligible on another tract. The Joint Operation at the entity level (not member level) needs to have an association with the land.

6/ AGI eligibility is not evaluated at the entity level. AGI eligibility is checked at the member level and applied to payments based upon eligible member shares.

7/ BIA submits Forms AD-1026 & CCC-926 for the land unit(s) attached to an application. BIA Submits one CCC-926 for the Indians they represent and assures that all Indian members meet the AGI requirements.

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Habitat and Species Workshop

Lac Du Flambeau

To engage Great Lakes states, cities, tribes, NGOs, and federal agencies in a facilitated dialogue about advancing habitat protection and conservation through demonstrations of web-based tools, discussion of state priorities and needs, updates on federal activities and funding programs and interactive dialogue about innovative approaches for moving selected projects from planning to implementation.

Feb 19th

Time	Agenda Item	Leader
9:30 a.m.	Welcome, Review of Workshop Objectives* and Introductions	GLC Staff or Tribal Rep
9:45	Habitat and Species Chapter of the GLRC: Progress to Date <i>Overview of the GLRC; Update on status of the Habitat/Species Subcommittee & Progress Report and Call to Action; wetlands monitoring—20 minutes</i>	Federal Agency Rep
10:05	Update on Web-based Habitat Tools <i>Status of integrated funding and habitat projects data bases, with emphasis on ranges of uses</i>	GLC Staff
10:30	Break	
10:45	Tribal Habitat Restoration Strategies, Initiatives and Priorities: Brief Presentations Followed by Facilitated Discussion <i>In context of the GLRC Strategy - seek common interests. Direct implementation cooperative agreement—discuss environmental program overall</i>	Senior Tribal Reps
Noon	Networking Lunch (provided by Tribe of Lac du Flambeau) ▪ Habitat Restoration Priorities (last 15 minutes of lunch)	HOW Rep
1:00	Stepping Down the GLRC: Restoration Strategies at the State/Local Level ▪ Joint Ventures: A Model for Collaborative Project Implementation ▪ Direct implementation tribal cooperative agreement—discuss specific projects in GL Basin/with GL tribes	Tribal Rep – possibly single person Jennifer Manville can help identify who might fit his role
1:45	Implementing Restoration: Facilitated Discussion on Selected Projects in the Great Lakes Basin—discuss impediments to project implementation and ways to overcome them ▪ Challenges to implementation (funding and other) ▪ Potential funding/resource programs ▪ Partnerships: who is missing? ▪ Innovations: what is possible beyond traditional approaches? ▪ Identify near-term specific steps to advance implementation	GLC Staff; Tribal Rep(s)
3:00	Break	
3:15	Matching Habitat Projects with Funding: How do you do it? <i>Demonstration of GLHI tools for matching projects with potential funding sources, using 2-4 projects from host state as examples; highlighting key federal authorities</i>	GLC Staff; Tribal rep(s)
3:45	Announcements: Key Changes to Federal Habitat/Wetlands Programs <i>Federal agencies will briefly announce new programs or significant changes in existing program authorization or appropriation that impacts GL restoration/protection efforts.</i>	Federal Agency Reps (USFWS, USACE, USEPA, NOAA, USFS, BIA)

Comment [V.P.1]: Options:
1. tribal person discuss wetlands as a general tribal priority with 2-3 examples from across basin
2. another tribal person discuss same for upland habitats
option 2:
have 3 major entities discuss their initiatives:
1. Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Resource Mgt. Authority
2. GLIFFWC
3. 1854 Authority
Option 3: overview of circle of flight (WI, MI, MN, IA)

Comment [V.P.2]: Need to identify person(s) who could present 3-6 projects

Comment [V.P.3]: Need someone to provide overview of 2-4 projects; glc staff will demo the online tools to match those projects with potential funding sources.

Comment [V.P.4]: Move up in agenda to morning begin program at 9 a.m. and put this agenda item after the 9:45 session

4:00	Advancing Collaboration on Habitat Projects: A Facilitated Discussion Ways to improve information exchange; overcome bureaucratic and logistical hurdles, increasing partnerships, finding local sponsors, etc.	GLC staff (facilitator)
4:15	Wrap Up and Next steps Recommendations from discussion to be included in report to GLRC to inform priorities of its Habitat/Species Subcommittee	GLC staff (facilitator)
4:30	Adjourn	

11/17/2008

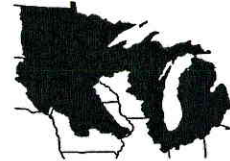


MISSION

The mission of the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is to protect, restore and enhance fish and aquatic communities in midwestern glacial lakes through partnerships that foster sustainable habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

WHAT AND WHERE

Our efforts focus on natural fish lakes greater than 10 acres in size that were formed from the Wisconsin Glacial Episode. These lakes number approximately 40,000 and occur in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Habitat protection is the most cost-effective long-term conservation strategy.

The Partnership will leverage local and regional efforts to acquire the resources necessary for success, including decision analysis and other evaluation tools.

Money spent on restoration, if done correctly, is a wise investment and will result in a positive return on that investment.

Our lake conservation efforts are most likely to succeed when we evaluate progress toward clear and measurable goals, adapting our methods as new information becomes available.

GOALS

Protect and maintain intact and healthy lake systems.

Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.

Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats in lakes to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats in lakes that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.

OBJECTIVES

Conduct a condition analysis of Midwest glacial lakes habitat by 2012.

Identify priority fish habitats in the partnership area by 2012.

Prepare a "Status of Fish Habitats in Midwestern Glacial Lakes" report in 2012 and every five years thereafter.

Protect healthy and intact Midwestern glacial lakes fish habitats by 2015.

Improve the condition of 50 percent of priority habitats and species targeted by the partnership by 2020.

MIDWEST GLACIAL LAKES PARTNERSHIP PROCESS

Inventory

Conduct an inventory and classification of the lakes resource across the region using existing data.

Prioritize

Work with partners to identify priority areas for each system type:

- Healthy and intact fish habitats in lakes
- Impaired lake habitats
- Engineered systems (with control structures)

Identify System Influences

Develop a regional perspective on problem definition at larger scales. What are the common processes, condition factors, and stressors affecting the state of the resource?

- Land use (watershed)
- In-lake use (riparian, shore land and in-lake structure)
- Climate change (affects policy and priorities)
- Organizational capacity, precipitating interest and social barriers

Improve

Provide consistent guidance to partners across the region for implementing lake protection and conservation strategies by focusing on the process and underlying system influences. Address the system influences that are impacting the resource. Host policy forums on emerging issues to share the most effective and up-to-date research and management strategies.

Evaluate

Measure the social, ecological, and economic response and benefits. In the event of failure, determine why the project did not meet expectations.

Adapt

Based on project evaluation, change strategies as warranted.

MIDWEST GLACIAL LAKES' THREATS AND STRESSORS

Habitat loss, plant removal, woody vegetation

This threat includes but is not limited to: a lack of trees in lakes (a legacy of logging that will continue for decades), direct removal of aquatic vegetation, shading by docks, and powerboat impacts in shallow waters.

Multiple use conflicts

The public trust doctrine is the principle that certain resources are preserved for public use and that the government is required to maintain resources for this reasonable use. What happens when "reasonable use" impacts the integrity of lake habitats?

Cumulative impacts, regulation and awareness

The activities of any one person (or lake home) may not negatively impact the resource as a whole. Taken cumulatively as all activities around a lake or in a watershed, however, they can significantly alter lake habitats and water quality. How do we address the "death by 1,000 cuts"?

Water quality, watershed inputs, and sedimentation

Seemingly isolated land use decisions can have dramatic effects many miles away. For example, the anoxic or dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico is directly related to land use in the Mississippi River watershed. Similarly, how do we better manage our lakes' watershed activities?

Development and shoreline alteration

How do we limit the impact that traditional development and associated shoreline alterations bring to lakes?

Hydrologic alteration (lake level and connectivity)

Lakes with control structures or dams lack natural variation in water levels. Aquatic plants benefit from occasional low water and are compromised by prolonged high water.

Ditches artificially connect many lakes. Channel maintenance directly affects downstream lake water quality. Re-routed connections may provide pathways for invasive species to travel.

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin WTCAC 2008 Project Report

Introduction

The St. Croix Tribe began a multi-year Regional Wild Rice Assessment in 2001. The project goals are recording tribal elder wild rice knowledge, documenting the presence of wild rice for its protection as a species of special concern, and increasing regional wild rice abundance for improved water quality, and human, waterfowl, and wildlife consumption.

We began the project in 2001 with a grant from Natural Resources Conservation Service and continued it in 2005 with Circle of Flight funding. In 2006 and 2007 grants through Circle of Flight and Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council supported the assessment. We hosted a student intern in 2007 from Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College whose primary responsibility was wild rice assessment. In 2007 we used two field crews to collect data. Funding for the second crew came from St. Croix's BIA Fish and Wildlife Conservation Program contract.

In 2008 we continued this project through funding by Circle of Flight and Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. We were again able to use two crews that consisted of St. Croix Tribal Natural Resource staff and interns for the wild rice surveys this year.

Prior to 2008, we surveyed 96 water bodies in Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Sawyer and Washburn counties. Lakes and streams were identified in interviews with 26 tribal and non-tribal ricers. Surveys include digitally mapping wild rice beds and remnant beds, measuring water quality and sediment depth, and recording environmental and human factors affecting wild rice growth. All rice beds were photographed.

2008 Wild Rice Assessments

In 2008 we interviewed 5 tribal ricers. We surveyed 29 water bodies that totalled 10278 acres and 13.27 stream miles and mapped, by GPS, 71 wild rice beds totalling 365.76 acres and 106 remnant beds/plants. Thirteen of the water bodies no longer support wild rice. Two of the lakes surveyed have only remnant beds. Five water bodies surveyed only had one small bed of wild rice present. Additional information would need to be determined before deciding whether any of these water bodies would benefit from re-seeding efforts.

Table 1 shows the water bodies assessed in 2008 along with the number and acreage of wild rice beds if any were found. The table also shows our conclusions and reasons about the probable success of re-seeding wild rice.

Table 1: 2008 Wild Rice Assessment Waterbodies								
County	WBIC	Waterbodies	Surface Acres	Location	# of beds	Rice acreage	# of remnants	Seeding Potential
Barron	2094000	Lake Chetek	770	T33N R10W Sec 30	0	0	0	no do to development & aquatics
Barron	2103200	Lake Montanis	200	T35N R11W Sec 34	1	1.5	0	Done in 2004 (DNR& GLIFWC)
Barron	2109600	Red Cedar Lake	1841	T36N R10W Sec 21	0	0	0	maybe-other aquatics
Barron	2094200	Rice Creek	.77 miles	T34N R11W Sec 22	0	0	2	maybe-lots of other aquatics
Barron	2079800	Upper Turtle Lake	438	T34N R14W Sec 27	0	0	0	maybe-north bay-lots of aquatics
Burnett	2638600	Bass Lake	43	T37N R18W Sec 18	1	.81	0	yes-(WWLT^ looking into it?)
Burnett	2655000	Blackbrook Flowage	178	T39N R17W Sec 26	1	40	0	maybe-aquatics & carrying capacity
Burnett	2656200	Upper Clam Lake	1207	T39N R16W Sec 34	22	210.27	32	Future surveys are suggested
Burnett	2467200	Green Lake	274	T40N R15W Sec 35	0	0	0	no do to low H2O flow & aquatics
Burnett	2638400	Holmes Lake	54	T37N R18W Sec 30	0	0	0	no do to extremely poor H2O quality
Burnett	2671000	Love Lake	253	T40N R16W Sec 02	0	0	0	no low water level & aquatics
Burnett	2482900	Minnow Lake	57	T40N R16W Sec 11	0	0	0	no-not suitable for wild rice
Burnett	2674800	Little Yellow Lake	348	T40N R17W Sec 24	3	1.2	12	no do to multiply reasonings
Burnett	2670300	Yellow River	6 miles	T40N R17W	32	42.7	33	no-boat traffic/development
Polk	2620600	Balsam Lake	2054	T34N R17W Sec 10	2	9.98	2	no do to development & aquatics
Polk	2450800	Bass Lake	138	T36N R15W Sec 31	0	0	1	maybe-lots of other aquatics & sandy
Polk	2615100	Cedar Lake	1107	T31N R18W Sec 02	0	0	0	maybe in south bay-WDNR tried in '07
Polk	2666400	Clam Falls Flowage	127	T37N R16W Sec 13	0	0	0	maybe-heavy aquatic competition
Polk	2657800	Indian Creek	.50 miles	T37N R15W	0	0	0	no-poor water flow & low water levels
Polk	2621300	Otter Creek	.10 miles	T36N R16W Sec 18	0	0	0	? Need to resurvey when water higher
Polk	2628900	Rice Bed Creek	2 miles	T35N R15W	5	15.5	3	maybe-mud flats are dominate
Polk	2518800	Rainbow Lake	9	T36N R16W Sec 18	0	0	0	no-not suitable for wild rice
Polk	2627800	Straight Lake	107	T36n R17W Sec 13	1	1	2	yes but aquatic competition
Sawyer	2725500	Hayward Lake	247	T41N R09W Sec 27	1	0.08	4	maybe-lots of other aquatics
Sawyer	2703500	Totogatic Flowage	3.9 miles	T42N R10W Sec 12	1	0.2	9	? Has been tried by GLIFWC & WDNR
Washburn	2691500	Nancy Lake	772	T42N R13W Sec 33	0	0	0	maybe-aquatic competition & boat traffic
Washburn	2691200	Spring Lake	54	T42N R13W Sec 16	1	42.5	6	no-carrying capacity
TOTAL:		29 Waterbodies	10278 acres 13.27 miles		71	365.76	106	
In 2008 we assessed two creeks that we were unable to survey do to non-navigability. They are listed below.								
We did not see any presense of wild rice from what we could view of the creeks from the road.								
Burnett	2688600	Hay Creek	9.61 miles	T42N R15W	0	0		
Washburn	2690600	Five Mile Creek	4.77 miles	T42N R13W	0	0		

^WWLT: West Wisconsin Land Trust (owns land on Bass Lake and Love Lake in Burnett County)

Figure 1 shows an example of the maps we made of water bodies where rice was present and also includes the rice beds layered onto an ortho-photo, and a photo of one of the lake's rice beds.

Figure 1: Upper Clam Lake Wild Rice Beds

