Maine CRAC Meeting
March 2, 2011
Minutes

Present: Autumn Birt, Heidi Bunn, Coleen Churchill, MaryAnne Coffin, Jade Gianforte, John Gledhill, Lance Gorham, Brad Hansen, Juan Hernandez, Lindsay Hodgman, Seth Jones, Elaine Moceus, Wayne Munroe, Heidi Nelson, Helena Swiatek, and Elaine Tremble .

Guests: Dave Garcelon, Dan Schmidt, and Darol Wilson.

Tribal Liaisons Presentation – *Working with Maine's Tribes*
Juan explained that the purpose of this presentation was to get a sense of what is going on with the tribes and how we are handling any conflicts now or in the future. He would like to make this a yearly event as a way to touch base and transfer knowledge to newer liaisons.

Dave Garcelon (Passamaquoddy Tribe): Dave passed out a handout which outlined the work that Washington County has been doing with the tribes for the past 19 years (approximately $1.5 million of program funds have been provided to the tribe). He explained that it is crucial to build a trusting relationship with tribal members and that there are other things besides buildings that you can do for the tribe, but you have to be willing to put in the time.

Helena Swiatek (Houlton Band of Maliseets): The Houlton Band of Maliseets own less than 1000 acres of land of which approximately 300-500 acres are available for forestry and/or agricultural related practices. After a terminated contract in 2001, NRCS has only provided technical assistance to the Maliseet's environmental department. Today, NRCS has several contracts with the tribes including one for a high tunnel.

Dan Schmidt (Penobscot Indian Nation): Dan showed a video on the work that Bangor Field Office has done with the tribe. He explained that each tribe is different and you need to realize that quickly or you will fail. You should work with members from different divisions within the tribe to build relationships. He is selective as to which of his staff members he has working with the tribes, but slowly integrates them to allow them to build their own relationships so that we don't lose the relationship with the tribe when he is not there anymore.

Darol Wilson (Aroostook Band of MicMacs): Currently there are a few contracts with the MicMacs for high tunnels. Brad Hansen added that the reason that we have not had a lot of contracts with the MicMacs is because they have very little land which is used primarily for housing. However, there might be a possibility for forestry practices around the Spruce Haven Campground.

Diversity Day Update
Presque Isle: Event went well – the smaller group allowed people to engage more. Seth is in the process of compiling the comments from the evaluations and will send it out to the committee. Seth asked if the committee could set a date now so that reservations could be made earlier (i.e. bigger rooms, speakers, exc). Diversity Day 2012 will be held on February 15, 2012. This will allow the committee to secure meeting venues, speakers, exc in a timely manner.

Bangor: Coleen said that the event had great speakers and location, but next year we need to fix the food issues (labeling, amounts, etc.). All areas agreed that all food at the events should be labeled better to provide a better connection to the groups represented, but also to inform those with allergies what may be in the food. Juan added that there were too many samples and we should limit them next year.

Lewiston: Autumn said that they had great speakers and that everyone ended on time. However, having 4 SEPM's represented caused them to go through lunch with no entertainment. Juan suggested that Lance's GLBT speaker be a part of the 2012 Presque Isle Event. Autumn Birt and Heidi Nelson will host the Central Event in Bangor. All cultural areas will have rotated around the state after the 2012 event except for the GLBT SEPM. If funds are available Juan would like to have the GLBT SEPM host a presentation for the Bangor area in 2013.

Coleen asked if anyone had sent thank you letters to their speakers. Most had sent notes already, but she suggested letters be sent to Cara Clark, Bill Skaggs and Kim Bradford's supervisors. Lance was asked to draft a letter to Bill Skagg' supervisor, Heidi Nelson was asked to draft a letter to Cara Clark's supervisor and Wayne Munroe was asked to draft a letter to Kim Bradford's supervisor. Letters will be forwarded to Coleen so she can finalize them for mailing.

February 15, 2012 Diversity Day Event
Lewiston: AI/AN SEPM (Seth Jones) and Hispanic SEPM (Jade Gianforte)
Bangor: Asian Pacific Islander SEPM (Autumn Birt), Veteran SEPM (Heidi Nelson) and Disability POC (John Gledhill).
Presque Isle: GLBT SEPM (Lance Gorham), Federal Women's Program (Helena Swiatek) and Black SEPM (Wayne Munroe).

Filing a Discrimination Complaint Title VI & VII
John Gledhill gave a short presentation on how to file a discrimination complaint and where to find the information. It was agreed that the presentation be sent to all FSA/NRCS employees

HR Updates
A new executive order has eliminated the SCEP/CIP internship programs. It will be replaced by the "Pathways" program, but little information has been given to HR as to the specifics.

Review Business Plan (see business plan for details)
#4: Elaine has been working with DC's to implement the Beginning Farm Workshop. Two events have been held in Aroostook County and one is being planned in May for Scarborough. Lance and Helena are planning to do a similar presentation for WAgN in May. Clarification is needed to determine if these events will count towards this action item.

#6: Elaine Moceus will compile a list of organizations that we could partner with from the FSA outreach software to the next meeting. Elaine Tremble will work with her to include the NRCS list. Elaine Tremble also suggested talking to the DC's/CED's during the civil rights review to help identify areas for reaching underserved groups. The committee will wait to see what the pilot Civil Rights Review subcommittee develops before pursuing this.

#7: There were questions as to whether or not the Envirothon could count as an educational event. Heidi Bunn and Elaine Tremble suggested setting up a booth at the event and talking with the students during breaks about the career opportunities available in the NRCS/FSA (i.e. what types of classes to take in college, what types of positions are available in NRCS/FSA, etc). Handouts that John Gledhill produced for the career fairs could be used. Elaine will get the dates and email to the committee so that members can choose which area they would like to participate in.

#10: Delete

#14: Lindsay will email the survey out.

#15: Heidi Bunn volunteered to work with Pauline and Elaine Tremble to present the findings of the reports to the committee.

#17: Table until the next meeting (subcommittee meets 3/11/2011).

FY2011 Meeting Dates
June 1, 2011
September 7, 2011