

**Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Teleconference
October 11th, 2011**

MINUTES

Agenda

- Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils
- WATCAC official membership – resolutions from councils
- Draft Strategic Plan for Tribal Program
- State practices/standards (Stream Habitat Imp & Mgt 395 & Aquatic Organism Passage 396)
- January face-to-face meeting
- Identify agenda items for Nov. 8th meeting

Participants

- Coeur D'Alene Tribe
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Quinault Tribe
- Samish Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe
- Tulalip Tribe
- NWIFC
- NRCS

Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils - Roylene Rides at the Door, WA NRCS State Conservationist

Roylene updated the group with highlights from a meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture's office, which Ernest Brooks, Vice-Chairman from Colville, also attended. Forty million dollars will be provided to research biofuel production to help achieve a national goal of fueling airlines and half of the Navy with biofuel.

The Department of Agriculture has been targeted for a 10% budget cut. Program funding pools should be available by November 1, 2011 so we will need to determine what the tribal funding pools will look like. Tribes are funded currently so that every submitting tribe's first choice is funded. As more tribes participate, this will be problematic, so we need a different strategy such as by land type, i.e. forest, range, etc.

Payment schedules for practices are being developed at the national level. They are looking at 15 practices so far, which represent about 50% of what NRCS puts on the ground.

The NRCS Chief has signed off to form Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils. This proposal will come out in the Federal Register for review. A critical question to address is how tribal members will be selected.

WATCAC official membership, resolutions from councils - Rebecca Toupal, East Area Tribal Liaison

Rebecca reminded the group that NRCS needs resolutions from councils indicating participation in the Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, and appointing official representatives who represent the council and technical staff. The need for a resolution is considered by the tribes as necessary to establish who speaks for the respective tribe, and is not restrictive to participation.

Participation in the WATCAC should not be limited to resolutions, but voting and other official actions by the group should be by those tribes with resolutions.

Colville is expected to provide a resolution appointing Sylvia Peasley and James McCuen. Roylene suggested the group target the January meeting for having resolutions. Samish Tribe requested a list of resolutions received so far, which includes:

Coeur D'Alene – email from Chairman identifying technical representatives
Colville Confederated Tribes – support/participation resolution
Makah Tribe – support/participation resolution including council and technical representatives
Samish Indian Nation – support/participation resolution including council and technical representatives

Eighteen tribes have participated in one or more WATCAC meetings this year:

Coeur D'Alene Tribe
Colville Confederated Tribes
Hoh Tribe
Kalispel Tribe
Makah Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinault Tribe
Samish Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribe
Yakama Nation

Draft Strategic Plan for Tribal Program - Robin Slate, West Area Tribal Liaison

Robin is working on a strategic plan for NRCS's tribal activities and efforts. She is looking at what other states are doing and would like input from the WATCAC. Roylene suggested the January meeting as a date to review the draft, and noted that the group can help NRCS with issues such as staffing.

James McCuen, Christine Woodward, Charlene Nelson, Preston Hardiston, and Mike Stamon volunteered to assist Robin in various ways. The draft will be sent to the WATCAC for comments and to provide others with an opportunity to contribute to the plan. A request was made to save the document as a 2007 WORD file.

State practices/standards (Stream Habitat Imp & Mgt 395 & Aquatic Organism Passage 396) - Larry Johnson, State Conservation Engineer

These practices have been out for review for a while. Larry noted that comments received from Larry Wasserman have been incorporated so far. The deadline for comments is April 2012.

January face-to-face meeting – Roylene Rides at the Door, Rebecca Toupal, & Robin Slate

Roylene noted that by working with ATNI, NRCS will be able to provide travel assistance to one person from each tribe for the January meeting, which will be held at Squaxin Island. The proposed dates are January 12th and 13th, 2012 with travel the morning of the 12th and the afternoon of the 13th. Tribes need to comment on the dates as soon as possible. Proposed agenda items include:

- The next Farm Bill – need WATCAC input to take to ATNI’s February meeting
- Tribal resolutions pertaining to participation and representation in the WATCAC
- Review draft strategic plan for NRCS-tribal activities
- SRA/TRA working session – how to collect tribal resource assessment data; need tribes to bring data and/or resource plans

November 8, 2011 Meeting Agenda Items

- Funding pools for EQIP & WHIP – how much, how to structure for selection
- Plant lists for EQIP ranking – how to address, identify, protect information (only a list of names is needed; should list be by tribe or inclusive without tribal identification or reflect habitat designations that encompass one or more species? NOTE: list is for application ranking purposes only
- Prescribed burning – how to make doable
- WATCAC participant agenda items

Requested Materials

Wisconsin TCAC Strategic Plan
Stream Habitat Imp & Mgt 395 & Aquatic Organism Passage 396