

**Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council**  
**Teleconference**  
**September 11, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

**Agenda:**

- Welcoming remarks (Roylene)
- Tribal Resource Assessment and Priority treatment area maps (Jeff Kuhlmann, John Kendig, and Peter Bautista and Dave Brower)
- FY13 Program details and issues (Jeff Kuhlmann, John Kendig, and Jeff Harlow)
- 391 Riparian forest buffer practice standard review committee (Bonda Habets)
- Nutrient management practice standard (Bonda Habets)
- Aquaculture program (John Kendig)
- Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Update (Roylene)
- Closing remarks (Roylene)

**October 9, 2012 next regularly scheduled teleconference.**

**Next Face-to-face meeting will be January. Possible dates could be during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week on the West side. Please forward any ideas or suggestions to Rebecca, Robin or Jackie.**

**All information for TRA is due by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

**Participants (available by teleconference):**

Colville Confederated Tribes – N/A

Colville Reservation Conservation District – Jackie Richter

NWIFC-Jim Weber

Kalispel – Matt Berger

Lummi – Alan Chapman

Makah tribe – N/A

Quinault – N/A

Samish – N/A

Snoqualmie – N/A

Squaxin Island-Jim Peters

Yakama –Jonalee Squechos, Stuart Crane

NRCS – Roylene Rides at the Door, Peter Bautista, Jeff Harlow, Martin Bales, Harold Crose,

Bonda Habets, John Kendig, Jeff Kuhlman, Dave Brower, Robert Jarrett, Rick Nobel

**Meeting called to order: 9:30 a.m.**

### **Introduction:**

**Roylene Rides at the Door (NRCS State Conservationist)** – Roylene thanked everyone for being with us. NRCS is getting ready for the next fiscal year funding budget allocation; letters should be in by the end of the month. They are still operating on a continued resolution through March. Funding allocated for FY12 is as follows; \$4.36 million in EQIP Energy Initiative, \$1.97 million for Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Partnership, \$ 1.05 million Tribal EQIP, nothing on Tribal easements and \$1.29 million for Working Lands for Wildlife (WHIP) Sage Grouse.

### **Tribal Resource Assessment (TRA) Discussion:**

**Peter Bautista (NRCS, ASTC for Operations)** – Peter provided an overview and update of the Tribal Resource Assessment (TRA) process, reiterating the top 11 statewide tribal resource concerns and description of the process undertaken by NRCS on TRA with Tribal Liaisons working with their respective tribes to collect treatment boundaries on maps and treatment acreages. The TRA process was started immediately following the WATCAC July 2012 face to face meeting with a deadline set for September 11, 2012. Peter then asked the NRCS Tribal Liaison representatives to provide updates on their TRA undertaking to date. See updates provided below on this. See attachment **(TRA priority Treatment Area Guidance)**

**Jeff Kuhlman (East side Area Resource Conservationist)** - Jeff was filling in for Rebecca Stuart who could not attend. Jeff thanked the Tribes for all their hard work on the TRA he stated that there was a lot asked of everyone and because of their effort we now have some great solid data. **(See attachment East side TRA)**

Jeff discussed the East side acreage that was provided and how it was broken down in the matrix spreadsheet by land use. He also said they were working on including a ranking question for Tribal owned land not within the reservation to help clarify the issue of off reservation acreage. This proposal would be to include ranking questions to the Local Work Group (LWG) and points assigned for projects that would benefit tribal resource priorities and treatment targeted areas on TRA Maps. There was a discussion on Tribal owned lands not within the reservation boundaries and Dave Brower (NRCS state GIS specialist) showed how they incorporated them on the maps he helped develop for the TRA. Roylene asked if we could do an overlay to show the U&A areas (usual& accustomed areas) to cover both Trust and allotted lands.

**John Kendig (West side Area resource Conservationist)** – John was filling in for Robin Slate who could not attend. John gave an update on the 25 tribes Robin has been working with and the various stages of consultation they were in. So far they have received maps from 11 tribes on the west side. He explained that it is a very lengthy process to meet with all 25 tribes and familiarize them with NRCS and the TRA. Peter was hoping to get the numbers in to publish by the end of year and expressed concern with only 50% of the west side tribes been met with thus far. Peter explained that having good, complete numbers on the acreage supports NRCS's request for funding, the TRA is our fallback or support for justifying those dollars asked for.

Peter asked if we were going to proceed with the current numbers we have?

Roylene said yes. She reminded the group that the TRA is a living document and it can be adjusted at a later date, but it very important that we continue to get all the acreage in so we can have good numbers to defend our budget; it also supports and directs goals and staffing. She said the “drop dead date” is June otherwise we won’t get it in the budget request for Fy14.

Peter said for now we will be moving forward with the acreage we have currently to publish a document. Martin suggested having an amendment to the document to allow for participation at a later date. Jim Peters stated that membership of this group should not be a requirement to provide input.

**Dave Brower (NRCS-WA GIS Specialist)** provided maps and discussed the acreage he has received from the West side Tribes. Alan Chapman (Lummi) suggested that the associated Ag lands include aquaculture activities and would like to see U&A displayed at some point.

#### **FY 13 Programs for Tribes Discussion:**

**Jeff Harlow (NRCS ASTC for Programs)** – Jeff outlined eligible practices, ranking criteria and hold downs covered in his attachments (**please see attachment FY13 tribal ranking**). He explained that the ranking criteria help bring priorities to the top for eligibility. He also outlined NRCS’s practices and codes and the life span of the practices.

Peter stated that as with the TRA, the FY 13 Tribal Programs development process was discussed and decided during the July 2012 WATCAC meeting, that NRCS Tribal Liaisons would work with their respective tribes in garnering their input on these program details by September 11, 2012.

Consequently, because the information from the west side tribes was not all gathered to date, that **NRCS would extend the time to gather the information to October 1, 2012.**

Jeff said he would be willing to help provide the West Area the information to share with their tribes. Finally, when all information is received and discussed with the WATCAC during the October meeting, can any decisions be made as to how to proceed with FY 13 Tribal programs.

Roylene said that the ranking for eligible projects happens November 1<sup>st</sup> and obligation of funds will happen April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Technical Practice Standards Discussion:**

**Bonda Habets (NRCS State resource Conservationist)** - Riparian forest buffer (391) practice standard being reviewed. In August they will form a committee to review the standard to make sure it’s consistent as there are many different interpretations on this standard. They would like to have a technical review to address inconsistencies and still retain flexibility to fit projects. She is writing a scope of work, she is looking for a facilitator and working on a face-to-face meeting in Ellensburg. She is asking for one or two names from WATCAC to be a part of this standard Review committee. They are hoping to have the whole process/review completed by January or March. At the end of the process Bonda will send out an action plan. If you are interested or you would like to nominate someone for this committee please call or email Rebecca Stuart or Robin Slate with your nominations as soon as possible.

Jim Peters stated that Salmon recovery is not being met in the current standard. He questioned the validity of all of these committees to address the issues and reminded NRCS of the federal Statute that requires all Federal agencies to work directly with the tribes.

Bonda explained the Nutrient management practice standard and that WA is meeting as a State Technical Advisory Council's (STAC) Technical Subcommittee with 18 members from State, Federal, Industry, and NRCS. They have been meeting since April in hopes of posting the 590 Standard in October so NRCS planners could use it. However, the Phosphorus Index will delay implementation until January. WA and OR developed their Phosphorus Index together, one for Western WA/OR and one for Eastern WA/OR. We have to establish our own index so National Office doesn't assign one. It sounds like there won't be a centralized Phosphorus Index in CDSI and that states will have their Phosphorus Index validated by SERA17. SERA17 will be presenting information on Phosphorus Indexes at the American Society of Agronomy this fall. The Subcommittee will work with West National Technical Support Center agronomists to vet our Phosphorus Index's progress so we stay on the necessary path.

Allan Chapman brought up fecal coliforms he said that he asked the State for EPA to set specific numbers. There was a question on if it was a state standard or not. Allen said they have their own monitoring system on their reservation. Allen asked Bonda to add Lummi to the list for the committee.

#### **NRCS Aquaculture Program Discussion:**

**John Kendig (West side Area resource Conservationist)**-Provided the group with a power point on NRCS's efforts to develop a shellfish program in WA. **(See the attachment watcac-aqua pp)** He gave back ground information on shellfish in WA, production, location and their importance to aquaculture in WA. He explained NRCS's process for developing the program and stressed the importance of understanding fully the issues and resource concerns before being able to provide assistance and support. They want to get Tribal perspective. There are only two states in the US that have an aquaculture program, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Roylene was instrumental in Rhode Island to get a program started. John provided examples of NRCS's efforts in those states and highlighted what they are working on in WA and how they will be moving forward with this program.

Allan Chapman suggested that they attend the Shellfish Interagency Permitting Team meeting to help them understand the issues better. He said there are a couple of diseases that need to be monitored and water quality/acidity that should be reviewed. Discussion on the 700 and 643 practices followed. The pest management standard only covers pesticide application and it will not work in this situation.

#### **NRCS Western Regional Tribal Advisory Council Discussion:**

**Roylene Rides At The Door (NRCS State Conservationist)** – Roylene discussed the formation of the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council and representatives selection. Two from WA were selected, Terry Williams from the Tulalip Tribe, and Silvia Peasley from Colville. In addition, Roylene is one of the State Conservationists that were selected to participate on this council. She stated that they met two weeks ago in Phoenix and that it was a great meeting. Nine tribes were represented and WA was the only one with two representatives, Sylvia and Terri were really good. The AZ Tribal Association of Conservation Districts hosted the event. They developed an action plan that had 22 action items. She is hoping the minutes will be available to release with the next WATCAC minutes and that Sylvia or Terri will be able to report to this group. The group will be meeting bi-monthly and twice a year for face-to-face meetings. In addition USDA formed a farmer and rancher group and they want to make sure these councils collaborate together. If you have any issues please send it to Sylvia.

Roylene thanked everyone for their participation and reminded the group of January's face-to-face meeting. It will be held on the west side around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January. If you have any suggestions for this meeting, location options or dates please get those to Jackie, Robin or Rebecca.

**Meeting adjourned: 12:30p.m.**

**Next meeting: Teleconference, October 9th, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.**

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**All information for TRA is due by October 1st, 2012**