

**UW-Extension Native American Task Force Meeting, 6/2/16, 10 am-2:30 pm**  
**Potawatomi Natural Resources Center, Crandon, WI**  
**MINUTES**

Attended by: Brian, Jennifer, Matt, Cat, Patrick, Eloise, Steve, Katie, Christie, Tom Schmitz, Chris, Mycha

1. **Welcome and Presentation by Tribal Administrator: Eugene Shawno**-Potawatomi Tribal Administrator welcome the NATF team and provide an overview of the community, tribal programs and strategies. He hoped that our discussion would find ways to help us work together to help local families, children, and communities. No one way is the right way. We have to understand the uniqueness in Tribal nations, we share the responsibility to help people, care and remain humble. Brian made the point that whatever the new model UWEX evolves to, the Task Force supports maintaining or expanding direct partnerships with Tribes, if they so desire. There are many opportunities
2. **UW Colleges/Extension Tribal Listening Sessions.** Matt provided an update on this initiative that began when a group of UW Colleges and tribal nations that found that the relationship between them wasn't very strong. It was an opportunity to look at the relationship bet UW and tribal nations, how is UW present in communities. There will be a series of listening sessions around WI to explore this relationship through hearing from tribal leaders. What questions should the UW be asking when they go into communities? NATF members suggested making sure the agenda is also being set by the tribal community. What questions would help UWEX? Are there particular people who should be in the room? There are 8 listening sessions around the state. Idea is to id actionable things in the next 3 years in how the UW engages and serves Native people. Focus on teaching, research, and outreach. Questions include things about issues in communities, lessons from past relationships, etc. Patty Loew is coordinating and Jessie Conway-UW Nelson Institute. Jennifer added that UW should be aware that tribes have systems protocols for surveying. Brian- it is paramount that someone local to set the tone. Katie asked about UW relationships with Tribal colleges, other colleges. Jennifer offered the PEOPLE program for youth as one opportunity for engagement. Jennifer suggested contacting tribal chairs to be respectful. Cat- offered the importance of building relationship within the community and not just a one time "event." The recommendation was that UWEX individuals who are engaged in the tribal community be present. Patrick- sessions need to be listening with simple follow-up actions, tie regional things together, and use these as building blocks. Steve- need to frame the conversation, set ground rules. Eloise suggested that in Milwaukee Co., the program should be just a listening session.
3. **Tom Schmitz Retirement:** A Pendleton blanket and card was given to Tom Schmitz in appreciation of his support for the NATF. A delicious potluck followed.
4. **Administrative Updates from Tom Schmitz.** He suggested that the NATF request a meeting with the Sponsor Team and work team, ASAP. Remind them of the paper the NATF created for NA Specialist (NATF position paper from 2010). Timeline will be pushed back. Engage in work teams. NATF work should flow into tribal relationship work team. The idea of a "virtual" tribal presence was the idea of improving relationship, the NATF should be a part of this process. Julie Koewar and Paul Robeck are the co-chairs.

Other news: Mica's position FTE has been change from 50-100%. He has been asked to look for ways to enhance the NATF's work. He commended the NATF for their work and wanted it to continue.

Will Andresen will be the 2-interim Regional Director stationed at the Iron County UWEX.

Tom acknowledged the importance of the NATF. Brian and others acknowledged Tom's continued support for the NATF.

5. **G-WOW Climate Initiative Updates:** Cat provided updates on various G-WOW related climate change educational initiatives. The 2016 G-WOW Institute will be July 18-21. Cat asked for help with promotion. Other initiatives include Carrol College interested in partnering on a Native studies program, a Sea Grant project with

UW-SP for climate change training, Eloise will share G-WOW via Facebook. Jennifer encouraged contacting Menominee College who is working with climate change education.

6. **NATF website:** Patrick asked for what's new items and additional postings for the site. He put the minutes on the website. Just help him understand what you would like featured. Cathy said she would help Patrick with website content.
7. **NW DNR Water Team Training:** Patrick updated that the DNR approached NATF to provide training to understand tribal points of view and develop more effective partnerships. The date will be the last week of September. He is setting up a monthly conference call to structure the training. We will come back next NATF meeting to ask for support.

Patrick contacted the WI Tribal Conservation Advisory Council to create partnerships on trainings and building more partnership where tribes want them. Jennifer suggested Patrick contact Jennifer Youngblood, USFS tribal liaison who is located at Menominee Nation.

#### 8. **Updates from NATF Members on Programming**

Milwaukee County UWEX: Eloise explained that they received funding for Katy's position to build relationships between UWEX educators and various NA organizations in Milwaukee. Katy will be setting up meetings this summer to start relationships that will hopefully move into programming. Katy is setting up a digital resource to keep Milwaukee area tribal members aware of what's happening in the city and with their tribal communities to make connections. This could include UWEX programming that could be highlighted. Steve & Mica- they did something similar and used it as a visual tool to id what was missing in their community. Steve suggested investigating the various phone apps that might be available. Eloise asked if there was a resource that showed what UWEX offers to tribal members statewide.

Menominee County UWEX: Jennifer said that their office is fully staffed. She is working on a project to revive traditional woodland arts. Working with sustainability. Attended UN indigenous conference and bringing an international component to the Menominee Tribal College. Dawn-Family Living: Menominee Wellness Initiative, through UWM grant to reduce childhood obesity through physical activity and food. She has a Strong Woman program planned for mid-July. Working with 4H educators to start 4H program, with a strong component on health, language, culture. Laura-NEP: Working with the FRESH coalition which is helping bring together 3 tribal communities, Stockbridge-Munsee and HoChunk and Menominee. Timeline to develop survey to assess access to food within the area and make recommendations.

Chris: Just finished her PhD on how adolescent NA youth use Facebook, especially about prejudice, stereotypes, etc. She has recommendations and scholarly sharing on doing youth surveys. In her UWEX work, she sees needs in the youth voice, especially the voice of indigenous youth and inner city youth. Digital story telling is one piece. She offers the statewide arts camps, but wants to go to reservations to do digital story telling. Has gone to LDF and Bad River. Chris has 4H Liaison responsibilities for tribal communities.

Idea to have an online training session for new UWEX employees to increase their basic knowledge of working with tribes, that would be supplemented with a training workshop.

Eloise recommended that there be a statewide meeting of 4H educators who work with tribal youth to provide connections, resources, etc. Matt shared his conversations with Joy about having such training sessions.

Cat: passed since she already provided an earlier update under the G-WOW agenda item.

Forest County UWEX: Mary-NEP: Has used Joy's curriculum on snacks for Native kids. Her question is: are a lot of families still eating government commodities? She offers things for kids to take home or try. She is gleaned all info that she can to connect with kids. Asked for nutrition curriculum.

Mica-Youth Development: Is working on prevention in Mole Lake and capacity building work. Is working with the FLY program which are 10-day expedition programs for Native youth and young adults, fully paid for, to help at risk youth build confidence, self-esteem, etc. Family fun days. Two-week camp for leadership, language and self-autonomy camp for youth.

Steve-CNRED: Prevention embodies the 4 elements of youth development and these are within the Native American tradition. He identified that there are no intertribal sports in Forest County. Starting to tackle this, have written grants. Would also do with tribal communities.

4H Program Updates: Matt shared the Youth Leadership (11/11-13) Conference @ Upham Woods. FRTEP is a federally recognized Extension program. Joy is developing curriculum for Heads Start and Kids Snacks curriculum. She is interested in how NATF could help sponsor. We are in the 4<sup>th</sup> and final years of FRTEP. Tribal Youth Mentoring Grant is available now, the challenge is they are looking for 12 month projects with weekly mentoring. Contact Matt if interested. AFRE grant is open for a project with Iowa and Purdue on youth obesity prevention. They are interested in putting together a multi-state project. This could build on what Joy, Forest County, and Menominee doing.

Patrick's Update: DNR has embarked on internal wild rice assessment project, but no mention of working with tribes on this. Indicates need for training. Our national poet laureate is a Native American. Patrick shared one of her poems.

Lac du Flambeau UWEX Updates: Brian-CNRED: big news is that he is a 1<sup>st</sup> time grandpa! 20<sup>th</sup> annual Lakefest on June 18<sup>th</sup> in LDF. Doing strategic planning, asked by tribal council to get involved in a drug and endangered youth group. Brian got OK from NATF Team to give Will Andresen an update on the NATF.

**9. Next meeting dates:**

8/19: 10 am: Bad River, CAT will coordinate meeting space

11/17: 10 am LDF, Brian will coordinate meeting space

**10. Meeting adjourned: 2:30 pm.**