

## Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation

### Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2007 – BIA, Fort Snelling, MN

A meeting of the Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation (ACTT) was held on January 19, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Office, Fort Snelling, MN.

Mike Moilanen, Co-Chair, ACTT (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe), called the meeting to order and welcomed the ACTT members and guests to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

#### Members Present:

Mike Moilanen, Co-Chair, Mille Lacs  
Burny Tibbetts, Co-Chair, White Earth  
Carl Dagen, Bois Forte  
Bill Vogel, Grand Portage  
Dave Danz, Grand Portage  
Teresa Peterson, Upper Sioux Community  
Marc Mogan, Prairie Island Indian  
Community

Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT  
Mike Robinson, Mn/DOT  
Dave Trooien, Mn/DOT  
Cheryl Cloud, Mich TTAP  
Tony Saccoman, BIA (Alt.)  
Jeff Tillman, SEH (City Alt.)  
Jolynn Shopteese, MIAC (Alt.)

#### Members Absent:

Jody Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Community  
Lester Morris, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux  
Community  
Donald May, Red Lake  
Jim Walker, Red Lake  
Steve Kleeberger, Leech Lake  
Jason Hollinday, Fond du Lac

Brian Freeberg, City of Bemidji (Alternate  
present)  
Annamarie Hill, MN Indian Affairs Council  
(Alternate present)  
Todd Kennedy, BIA (Alternate present)  
David Enblom, Cass County  
Tom Sorel, FHWA – MN Division  
Cheryl Martin, FHWA – MN Division

#### Guests Present:

Scott Hanson, Mille Lacs  
Dave Solsrud, Mn/DOT  
Dan Gullickson, Mn/DOT

Teresa Chapman, Mn/DOT  
Sue Groth, Mn/DOT  
James Garrigan, NECI.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Reports from Subcommittees:**

##### Tribal Road Signs

Presented by Sue Groth, Lead, Tribal Road Signs Committee:

- Committee met on December 6, 2006 at St. Cloud

- Purpose of Meeting was to discuss assorted issues relative to placement of Boundary and other signage in or near reservations. To set in motion, development of a process for Tribal signing. Ultimately, a comprehensive plan
- Work on guidelines for tribal signing issues across state/county jurisdictions.
- A survey was sent to tribes to gain input about issues of concern with two tribes responding.(handout)
- Requested the ACTT to participate in reviewing the tribal input and to fit into Mn/DOT's current Guide & Service Sign Program – completed at meeting
- Discussion by ACTT
  - Installation and maintenance are issues to address
  - Dual language signs may also be considered
  - Of primary concern with tribes is the boundary and tribal government office signing.

**ACTION:** Tribal Road Sign will continue to meet to develop a process for tribal road signing. Next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2007 10 AM at St. Cloud.

## **Approval of Minutes from 9/19/06:**

- Motion: Burny Tibbetts. Second: Marc Mogan. Approved by consensus

## **Reports from Subcommittees - continued:**

### **Roadside Vegetation Management Subcommittee Reports:**

#### **1. Look at Statewide Policy- No report/Group has not met**

#### **2. Identify & Promote Successful Practices Committee**

Presented by Scott Hanson & Mike Moilanen, Co-Lead, Identify & Promote Successful Practices Committee:

(Handout from Scott Hansen-Mille Lacs Band)

- Example of an MOU between a band and state DOT or other agencies.
- Each tribe should determine how formal they want their relationship to be.
- Mille Lacs goal is to at least meet annually with Mn/DOT to talk about vegetation management issues.
- The key is the cooperation to jointly work out vegetation management issues. Share resources when appropriate (e.g. band may agree to do some mowing on TH R/W to help out).
- Some bands have very good working relationships already and may not need a formal MOU. (Good to customize locally.)
- This MOU would be an option to propose to MIAC (April meeting).
- Will send out an electronic copy of the sample MOU to members for review. Tribal Attorney may want to review. **ACTION**
- Education is likely part of any solution. People need to understand the effects of chemicals on the environment.
- Boise Forte would like to be a pilot on how to approach this. **ACTION**
- Red Lake applies and gets funding from Bureau of Land Management for fire

suppression to remove vegetation (i.e. fuel for fire). They use the money to mow the whole R/W way (some on TH R/W).

- Looking for best management practices (BMP's).

**ACTION:**

1. Bois Forte and Mille Lacs volunteered to be the pilot project for drafting an MOU with their MNDOT regions and or State of MN. Due Dates?
2. ML will put together draft MIAC resolution for discussion at next quarterly ACTT meeting – March 23, 2007

**3. Create Awareness & Educate on Issues Report**

Presented by Cheryl Cloud, Member, Create Awareness & Educate on Issues Subcommittee

- Cheryl has done research and also made contacts with MN Dept of Ag., Terry McDill
- DNR typically handles established species.
- MN Dept of Agriculture typically handles emerging species.
- Option: Develop a tool kit. Would contain educational materials. TTAP with a link to Minnesota would be a possibility.

**ACTION ITEM:**

1. Committee will continue to work on issue including toolbox on issue and possible speakers for MN Dept of Ag at future meetings/conferences
1. Mn/DOT Central Office (Paul Walvatne) leads meetings annually in each district to discuss vegetative management issues, as well as other issues. Suggested that Paul ask each district to contact appropriate tribal reps so they can attend these meetings. (These training sessions may include more than one Mn/DOT district.) – Dan Gullickson will contact Paul on this.

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\* Because of the similarities in committee responsibilities, the Statewide Policy committee was disbanded. The Successful Practices Committee will now include the Statewide Policy issues and will be renamed the Successful Practices/Statewide Policy Committee. Members from the Statewide Policy Committee were assigned to the two remaining Roadside Vegetation Committees. New membership is as follows

Create Awareness & educate committee

Jim Walker, Red Lake Nation (lead)  
Cheryl Cloud, Michigan TTAP  
Todd Kennedy/Tony Saccoman, Midwest Region BIA  
Don May, Red Lake Nation  
Dave Enblom, Cass County Engineer Dept  
Burny Tibbetts, White Earth Reservation  
Marc Morgan, Prairie Island Indian Community  
Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD/Co Ag Inspector

Successful Practices/Statewide Policy

Mike Moilanen, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (lead)

Scott Hanson, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (lead)  
Bonnie Harper-Lore, FHWA MN Division  
Lester Morris, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
Dave Solsrud, MNDOT District 8  
Paul Walvatne, Mn/DOT Forestry Unit Supervisor  
Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD/Co Ag Inspector  
Tom Sorel, FHWA MN Division  
Carl Dagen, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa  
Brian Freeberg, City of Bemidji – Engineering Dept  
Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD/Co Ag Inspector

## **New Business:**

### **Mn/DOT's Functional Classification System Update:**

Presentation by Theresa Chapman and Jim Garrigan  
(Handout - Teresa Chapman)

- Theresa briefly went over current progress of Functional Classification Update. There has not been much tribal discussion to date
- Jim Garrigan went over his involvement on committee
- Discussion centered on MNDOT recognition of BIA IRR Classifications
- How would we deal with grandfathered in IRR routes that were classified under to old system
- These routes may need to be updated before they would be recognized
- Tribes hope Mn/DOT would accept the new BIA classification system in terms of routes qualifying for ATP funding. (Needs to be a major collector or higher for ATP funding.)
- Work should be ready to report back at our fall meeting.
- Goal is to include all IRR routes in the Mn/DOT functional classification system.

**ACTION ITEM:** Theresa Chapman will come back to the Oct 2007 ACTT meeting after the process is complete.

### **2007 Tribes & Transportation Conference:**

Linda Aitken, Tribal Liaison, Mn/DOT  
(Handout - 2006 conference evaluation)

- Dates: October 9-10
- Location: Shakopee? Prairie Island? Lower Sioux?
- Would like to see a few other tribes assist in the planning of the presentations.
- Would like to see more opportunity for interaction between tribal people and others.
- Would like to see the BIA as a co-partner in the T&T Conference (along with the Tribes, FHWA and Mn/DOT).
- BIA will host their tribal meeting on April 17-19 in Duluth - Canal Park. Discussed whether or not to combine the BIA meeting with the T&T. Consensus was no. The BIA meeting tends to be more nuts and bolts and has a different audience.
- Transit is a topic of interest. Would be part of a larger topic called Tribal Mobility.

**ACTION ITEM:**

1. Linda will seek interest from tribes in hosting the conference (Prairie Island, Lower Sioux, and Shakopee Mdewakanton) on the dates selected – October 9 & 10.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of 2007 Tribes & Transportation Planning Committee will meet at the BIA Roads Meeting on April 17 – 19, 2007. Members – not a comprehensive list:

Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT

Mike Moilanen, Mille Lacs

Marc Mogan, Prairie Island

Jason Holliday, Fond du Lac (invited)

Tony Saccoman, BIA

Curt Sledgeve, BIA

Cheryl Martin, FHWA

Mn/DOT Transit

District Host

Tribe Host

Next meeting will be held on Friday, March 23 at the Metro Office, Mn/DOT. Meeting scheduled to run 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Minutes of 12/19/06 Meeting

Types of Road Signs – handout

Example of an MOU – handout

PPT Mn/DOT's Functional Classification System Update – handout

2006 Tribes & Transportation Conference Evaluation - handout

Minutes were provided by Mike Moilanen, Mille Lacs; Mike Robinson, Mn/DOT District 1; and Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT CO.