

**Final – approved at 1/18/08 ACTT Meeting**  
**Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation**

**Meeting Minutes**

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Media Room, Friday September 21st, 2007  
9 AM – 2 PM

A meeting of the Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation (ACTT) was held on September 21, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe – Government Center, Vineland, 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  
Marc Mogan, Prairie Island Indian Community  
Steve Kleeberger, Leech Lake  
Jason Hollinday, Fond du Lac  
Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT  
Marty Connor, Bois Forte  
Sam Strong, Red Lake

**Members Absent:**

Dave Danz, Grand Portage  
Jody Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Community  
Jim Walker, Red Lake  
Burny Tibbetts, Co-Chair, White Earth  
Travis Leenerts, Upper Sioux Community  
Lester Morris, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux  
Community  
Donald May, Red Lake  
Annamarie Hill, MN Indian Affairs Council  
Cheryl Cloud, Mich TTAP  
Mike Robinson, Mn/DOT

Bill Vogel, Grand Portage (Alt.)  
Jolynn Shopteese, MIAC (Alt.)  
Tom Sorel, FHWA – MN Division  
Cheryl Martin, FHWA – MN Division  
Tom Fronk, BIA (Alt.)  
Brian Freeberg, City of Bemidji  
David Enblom, Cass County  
Jeff Tillman, SEH (City Alt.)  
Dave Trooien, Mn/DOT

**Guests Present:**

Mike Weiss, Mn/DOT Office of Traffic, Safety & Operations  
Scott Hansen, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

**Old business**

1. Reviewed minutes of 6/15/07 ACTT meeting and made corrections on Page 1 – delete Jason Hollinday's name from absent list

## 2. Tribal Reservation Signing – Mike Weiss

- Mike provided an update of the work done by the sub-committee and the working draft of the Reservation Signing in Minnesota brochure. The brochure is near completion and final input was requested from the ACTT members.
  - Comments:
    - Update Mille Lacs logo
    - Name to Reservation Road Signs
    - Keep size at 8X11 – small
    - Q – do the cities have to be incorporated for the municipal id entrance sign?
    - New – Reservation Boundary Signs criteria: Federally recognized tribes and federally recognized boundaries
    - Need to identify a tribe for the Reservation Boundary Signs as – Linda will do
    - Add camping & marina to specific service signs
    - Need to insert updated District phone #s when they are changed
    - Mike Moilanen and Teresa Peterson (requested) will make presentation at the upcoming T&T conference

## 3. Toward Zero Deaths – Linda (for Dave Trooien)

- Linda presented to the ACTT the issue brought to the June meeting regarding “Increased Traffic Safety in Tribal Location” by Dave Trooien. Dave’s purpose was to initiate an effort to reduce traffic violations through a grassroots effort either on a Reservation basis or a corridor basis. Two handouts from the TZD website about “What is Toward Zero Deaths?” and “The Four Es” were discussed.
  - Comments:
    - Discussed whether the ACTT should take on this as an issue.
    - Steve Kleeberger – expressed concern over the lack of presence of the highway patrol which was talked about at the 2005 T&T conference and nothing has changed.
    - Sam Strong expressed concern over the recent highway fatalities in Red Lake.
    - Mike Moilanen mentioned that he had met with Mn/DOT regarding 169 as a TZD corridor, however, since that time he has not had time to pursue because of added temporary duties. He will take the TZD issue to the new Community Development Commissioner when he/she is on board.
    - Discussion whether Leech Lake was interested in forming a TZD focus group at LL. Steve will take the issue to the Tribal Council.
    - Back to the ACTT – this issue will remain as an update and educational with the ACTT.

## 4. Roadside Vegetation Management – Scott Hansen

- Scott’s Report:
  - Has spent the last 6 months gathering information.

- He has worked with Paul Walvatne Mn/DOT Forestry Unit Supervisor, Lee Purdham, District 3, and Bonnie Harper-Lore, FHWA. (He need to connect with Lee's replacement) regarding communication plan and management process. .
  - Band statutes ban herbicides and pesticides from use on the reservation.
  - Some issues:
    - There is quite a bit of sensitivity with the proximity of the road so near Mille Lacs Lake and also the traditional use of plants which are also in close proximity to the highways.
    - The Audubon Society may designate part of the reservation a bird area.
    - Herbicides are expensive
    - Are working to identify areas in need of control and to do so mechanically.
    - ML has good relations with utility companies – cooperation with ML on their means of control.
  - Scott said the goal to have a plan is next season.
- Mike Moilanen – The question is how formalized does each tribe want to get? Is this something that could be a statewide program as far as meeting together on the issue?
  - Discussion:
    - Jason – it is an issue at Fond du Lac – they are posting no spraying signs.
    - What about special cases – invasive species? What means to control them.
    - Steve – what about noxious weeds? Does Mn/DOT use certified gravel?
- Mike – Other initiative of this issue are education – request an update from Cheryl Cloud. (action)

## New Business

### 1. Membership

- Should the US Forest Service be represented at the ACTT meetings? Discussion – is there a presence on the reservations of the US Forest service. Decision was made to extend invitation to attend ACTT meetings. (action)
- New Tribal Representatives:
  - Marty Connor, Commissioner of Public Works, Bois Forte, will replace Carl Dagen.
  - Travis Leenerts, Vice-Chairman, Upper Sioux Community
  - Sam Strong, Planner, Red Lake, is not replacing anyone, but will be attending and participating in the ACTT meetings.

2. Selection of ACTT Chairperson(s) for next year.
  - o Jason Hollinday, Fond du Lac – Co-Chair
  - o Marc Mogan, Prairie Island Indian Community – Co-Chair

The next meeting will be on January 18, 2008. Request will be made to hold the meeting at the Mn/DOT District 1 Office in Duluth.

Next meeting requested agenda item: Bridge inspections and funding.

Meeting adjourned

## Handouts:

Reservation Road Signs in Minnesota brochure (draft)  
ACTT Issue Description: Increased Traffic Safety in Tribal Locations (previously introduced)  
TZD website pages “What is Toward Zero Deaths?” and “The Four Es”

Minutes were provided by Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT CO.

### Follow-up email from Paul Walvatne:

Hi, Linda and all! I just want to respond to a couple of items under Roadside Vegetation Management in the Sept. 21 minutes. So here goes:

**Regarding Certified Weed Free Gravel:** At this point the State of Minnesota (nor counties) does not have a weed free gravel program, however, there is a lot of activity and awareness brewing on this issue. Our Mn/DOT licensed, non-commercial pesticide applicators and other highway maintenance personnel are doing their best to control weeds at the gravel pit locations through an integrated approach using chemical, cultural, mechanical and biological means. Some of the County Ag Inspectors are taking an active role in gravel pit weed monitoring/awareness. Minn Dept of Ag is exploring the possibility of a gravel pit certification program through the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA). MnDNR is also taking a close look at weed spread from gravel pits in their jurisdiction.

**Regarding Weed Free Mulch:** Mn/DOT specifies weed free mulch on roadside seeding projects. The program is administered by MCIA.

**What about special cases--invasive species? What means to control them?** From my experience working with Grecian foxglove over the last 7 years, I've found control is possible but eradication is very difficult. It will take all of us working closely together to inventory and then implement control measures.

Let us know how we can help! Thanks!

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