

TRIBAL/FOREST SERVICE MOU ANNUAL MEETING

**KEWEENAW BAY
OCTOBER 6, 2010
1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

I. OPENING DRUM/PIPE.

The meeting began with a drum and pipe ceremony. Leo LaFernier, a Red Cliff elder and longtime Voigt Intertribal Task Force representative and GLIFWC Commissioner, was given asema and asked to say a prayer. Leo acknowledged that there were a lot of issues on the agenda today, some of which may not be easily resolved. He asked the Creator for guidance so that the parties can work in a dignified and respectful way and resolve any differences. Leo acknowledged that the MOU is a very important document that a lot of people have worked very hard on.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.

Kekek Jason Stark, Policy Analyst for GLIFWC, welcomed everyone to the meeting and began introductions. (see list of attendees below)

Attendance:

Voigt Intertribal Task Force: Leo LaFernier (Red Cliff), Chris McGeshick (Mole Lake), Scott Smith (Lac du Flambeau), and Mic Isham (Lac Courte Oreilles).

GLIFWC: Jonathan Gilbert, Alexandra Wrobel, Sara Moses, Heather Naigus, Ann McCammon Soltis, Neil Kmiecik, Kekek Jason Stark, Jim Zorn, Gerry DePerry, Annie Thannum.

USFS: Sue Spear (Ottawa National Forest), Brandy Hill (USFS-MI), David Silvieux (Hiawatha National Forest), Marla Emery (USFS NRS), Mark Hansen (USFS NRS FIA ST. Paul), Dan Eklund (Chequamegon -Nicolet National Forest), Paul Strong (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest), Larry Heady (FS Eastern Region), Berneice Willis (FS-RO), Richard Glodowski (USFS Regional Office-LEI), Tom Schmidt (NRS), Mary Rasmussen (Tribal liaison).

Others: Todd Warner (KBIC), Skyler Dakota (Westwood High School), Vanessa Beaver (Baraga Area School), Kelly Arnold (Hannahville), Dustin Lovell (Hannahville), Dakota Meshigaud (Hannahville), Cody Meshigaud (Hannahville), Sam Wandahsega (Hannahville), Kevin Maulson (Lac du Flambeau)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Kekek Jason Stark welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if anyone had any additions to the agenda. Jim Zorn, GLIFWC Executive Administrator, stated that he had received a call from Tom Maulson, Voigt Intertribal Task Force Chairman, and that Tom had wanted to raise the issue of monster trucks using the right-of-ways in the forest and the impact on wetlands. Kekek Jason Stark suggested adding the item under *Section B--Law Enforcement*.

IV. OPENING REMARKS FROM TRIBAL AND FOREST SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES.

Voigt Task Force Opening Comments, Mic Isham, Chairman, GLIFWC Board of Commissioners:

On behalf of the GLIFWC member tribes, Mic welcomed everyone to the meeting, to what, he feels, is a shining example of interagency cooperation and co-management. He uses it as an example to all the other agencies he interacts with and points to this as a way to solve conflicts, in “the MOU way.” Mic congratulated everyone who works on this MOU on behalf of all the member tribes. On behalf of the LCO tribe specifically, Mic thanked everyone because LCO relies heavily on the National Forest for hunting, gathering, and sustenance, as well as the income that gathering provides. Mic feels that LCO benefits greatly from the MOU and is very grateful for that. Mic also mentioned that the LCO Youth Crew did an excellent job this year and, in fact, received an *Eastern Regional Honor Award* from the Forest Service. Two of the kids now plan on going on to school for natural resources, which is exactly what the tribes want. Mic thanked everyone who was involved with the Youth Crew, and looks forward to a great meeting.

Forest Service Opening Comments, Paul Strong, Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Supervisor:

Paul Strong stated that it was very nice to be back in the ceded territories in the land of the Lake Superior Ojibwe. He has been gone a long time and is very grateful to be given the chance to provide the opening remarks and represent the Forest Service. Although there are many more senior members here that have been working on the implementation of this MOU, Paul believes he was given the honor because, more than 10 years ago, he was a part of the group that worked on the creation of the MOU. He recalled that in September of 1994, in this very building, the Forest Service committed to working with the tribes on the development of the MOU that is now reviewed on an annual basis. Paul noted that several people who are here today were also in the room back in 1994, like Jim Zorn, Mic Isham, and Leo LaFernier. That day was very significant because what started as a fledgling effort, with the parties not really sure where they were headed, became clear that day, not necessarily all the details, but the commitment of the Forest Service to work with the tribes, creating some foundational principles that have sustained themselves over the course of time. These include: 1) respect the tribes as sovereign governments; 2) consult with the tribes on a government-to-government basis; and 3) acknowledge that the tribes can self-regulate. These are the very underpinnings of the day-to-day operations that the agency follows. Paul stated that this is a very emotional day for him. He said that he considers his work on the MOU the highlight of his 20-year career with the Forest Service. He stated that he wasn't sure if he'd ever be able to sit at this table again and now that he is here, he's very grateful for the opportunity to speak and be a little bit reflective. Paul acknowledged some of the milestones that occurred while he's been gone -- GLIFWC's 25th year anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the Tribal/Forest Service MOU. Paul thanked the tribes for allowing the Forest Service to be a part of that.

As Forest Service staff handed out gifts, Paul recollected the very symbolic gifts that the Forest Supervisor had handed out back in 1994. They were birch bark baskets and wild rice, and they were symbolic in that they were gifts from the tribes back to the tribes. Paul noted that the gifts passed out today are a little more modern. They consist of a water bottle from the FS Tribal Relations Office and also a commemorative coin, which Larry Heady designed. On the face is the Forest Service shield with a traditional wampum belt superimposed on it, which represents a sign of diplomacy, a principle and a practice that we honor. The reverse side has a circular band with the traditional colors of the medicine wheel, and within the band are the names of all the native peoples found in or removed from the eastern region, which encompasses a 20-state area spanning from Maine to Minnesota, south to Missouri and across to Maryland. And the outside ring says consultation, collaboration and partnership, in landscape conservation. This is the

foundation that our tribal relations are based on. Paul asked that the tribes accept these gifts on behalf of the Forest Service, symbolizing their continued intent to work together collaboratively with the tribes.

Opening Comment, Leo LaFernier, Red Cliff: On behalf of the Red Cliff Tribe, Leo expressed their continuing interest in the MOU, and that it means more to them than just the hunting, gathering and campground stays. Leo welcomed Paul Strong back and stated that he had been disappointed back when Paul left; he figured he did such a good job that the Forest Service shipped him out. Leo also stated that it was good to see all the young people here. He reminded them that someday they will be sitting here making decisions for their grandchildren. Leo thanked everyone for attending and for all their hard work.

Opening Comments, Jim Zorn, GLIFWC Executive Administrator: Jim wished Jonathan Gilbert a Happy Birthday! Jim stated that Jonathan, along with Neil Kmiecik, Biological Services Director, has been at GLIFWC for more than 25 years, and it's great to call him both a friend and colleague.

Jim Zorn welcomed Paul Strong back. He recalled that he, Paul Strong, and Jonathan Gilbert were the primary authors of the MOU, with a lot of help from the Voigt Task Force. Jim recalled the story of how the MOU came into existence, and how the relationship was built upon trust and honesty. When a question would come up, they would think it through and bring it back to the principles and make sure they got it right, so there would be no landmines in the future. When the MOU was finished and the parties were ready to sign it, there were two Forest Service officials whose jobs were threatened by some in Congress and elsewhere that did not like the MOU. The notion that tribes would be gathering in the national forests was not welcome to certain segments of society. Yet, in the face of that pressure, these two federal officials said, "we're going to sign this." Jim felt that it doesn't get much more honorable than that in a relationship. Jim stated that it is important to remember those days so we know how we got here. He also thanked Mary Rasmussen for all her help in facilitating communication and helping solve problems, as well as other Forest Service staff. Jim stated that the resources we all share in this relationship is a tremendous body of wealth and this MOU helps the tribes get access to those resources, consistent with tribal sovereignty, consistent with self-regulation, and consistent with culture and history. Jim thanked everyone for being here today.

Kekek Jason Stark handed out new Tribal/Forest Service binders containing the many documents involved in implementing the MOU. He offered to provide additional copies if needed.

V. MEETING MINUTES.

- A. Kekek Jason Stark: The 2009 annual meeting minutes have been approved. A copy has been provided within the green binders.
- B. Ann McCammon Soltis: The 2010 annual meeting minutes will be taken by GLIFWC. The draft minutes will be available for review at the December 2010 Voigt Task Force meeting and also provided to the Forest Service for review. The minutes will be finalized in January 2011.

VI. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNMENT-TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MOU TRIBES AND THE FOREST SERVICE [MOU SECTION VI].

A. MOU Administration and Implementation [MOU Section VI.A].

1. Public Comments Received by Forest Service Prior to Annual Meeting.

Mary Rasmussen stated that no public or legislative comments had been received this past year. She stated that the Forest Service has on their website, a continual opportunity for the public to comment. The MOU is on the website, as well as the annual meeting notes from the past five years, campground use and other background documents, as well as a variety of reports.

B. Law Enforcement [MOU Section VI.E]. Heather Naigus, GLIFWC & Rich Glodowski, USFS

Heather explained that Fred Maulson was absent today because he was in Washington, DC attending a meeting with the Wildlife & Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. Heather briefly discussed the training the GLIFWC wardens did with Mike Evans, and also how GLIFWC Enforcement worked with the Forest Service regarding the discovery of a cannabis farm. There was further discussion about the discovery of drug cartels using Forest Service land for their operations.

There was discussion of working with the Forest Service on the ruts and habitat degradation resulting from the use of monster trucks and ATVs on Forest Service right-of-ways. One issue relates to the Forest Service's jurisdiction over these areas, since they tend to be areas that are leased to power companies. The areas get rutted and then the trucks make alternate routes around them, which results in the habitat degradation. There was discussion of potential violations by the individuals using these areas, but also involving wetland fill and possible 404 violations. GLIFWC and the Forest Service are working together to try to be proactive, and the GLIFWC Enforcement Division enjoys a good working relationship with the Forest Service.

There was discussion of the commercial fishing boat issues at Black River Harbor in Michigan. The Forest Service stated that it's an issue they are working through and hope to communicate and educate the parties on the MOU. GLIFWC Enforcement stated that it appreciates the trusting relationship with the Forest Service, and look forward to continuing in the same many in the future.

There was further discussion of the drug finds within the Forests and the safety concerns for staff, tribal gatherers and enforcement personnel. Jim Zorn stated that the staff at OMB is aware of the problem. Paul Strong stated that the discovery of marijuana on Forest Service lands is very troubling to the Forest Service, because it goes to safety in the woods. He explained that their chief recently made a national statement regarding this issue, which is, in essence, a safety advisory for Forest Service staff in the woods. There was discussion about the new position to be stationed at Rhinelander, an agent from California, who will be able to work more closely coordinating with tribes and off-reservation wardens.

There was discussion about the vacancy at Duluth, which the Forest Service hopes to have filled by mid-October. Mic Isham invited the FS to bring the new person to be introduced to the Voigt Task Force when they are hired.

Berneice Willis stated that the joint cooperation and training has been great. It's an annual opportunity to discuss issues and come together. She very much looks forward to the yearly training session. Also, as far as the youth are concerned, the Forest Service Enforcement Division also wants to participate in working with kids.

There was discussion on last year's issue of vandalism to rice beds on Lac Vieux Desert Lake. Although there are still some visible signs from last year, no new vandalism has been reported.

There was discussion of reports of western tribes approaching the Obama Administration regarding problems retaining officers in law enforcement. The Forest Service has sent several of their law enforcement staff from around the country to help out. Although it is not part of this MOU, it is something that the Forest Service is involved with.

There was discussion on the requirements related to camping, and Jason provided a handout about the common issues encountered in implementing the campground agreement. These include: 1) leaving the campsite unoccupied, 2) exceeding the 14-day limit, where applicable, 3) gathering within the campsite, or without the proper permits, 5) failure to have parking stickers, and 4) failure to have tribal ID.

There was a question related to whether the campground agreement could be harming the popular campgrounds; GLIFWC heard that services might be cut in areas that don't bring in as much revenue, and since tribal members camp for free in these areas, they do not generate revenue for the Forest Service. The Forest Service stated that funding for campgrounds is based on actual usage, not the fees collected.

Rich Glodowski complimented Kekek Jason Stark on the handout, stating he would like to review it further and have additional dialog. He stated the document really shows the maturity of the MOU and the section regarding self regulation is very good.

Heather Naigus gave a Power Point presentation on Camp Nesbitt. She introduced several young people who had attended the camp and who attended the meeting to share some of their experiences. Heather explained the camp is a collaboration between GLIFWC and the Forest Service. The camp takes a wholistic approach and stresses physical, spiritual, and intellectual achievement. The camp teaches young people about natural resources careers, and respect for the outdoors and their traditions. They are introduced to GPS mapping, botany, biology, fishing, canoeing, etc. In 2009, the attendance was 9 children. In 2010, attendance was up to 25. There has been discussion of developing a camp for older kids as well. Tom Maulson did the opening ceremony, and some elders were there to do smudging. Heather thanked the Forest Service for their continued cooperation with the camp.

Sue Spear, USFS, stated that the camp was a highlight for the Forest Service staff as well. They very much enjoyed participating in the camp, and some staff had even taken their

own children along to participate. Mic Isham thanked the kids for coming and sharing, and stated that one day in the future, they would be sitting in these meeting chairs and making the same kinds of decisions for their grandchildren.

There was further discussion of youth outreach opportunities and how they may fit into recent Obama administration initiatives. Jim Zorn stated that these are the kinds of things that the DOI should hear. He stated that Camp Nesbitt is a good example of what works.

C. Monitoring and Evaluation [MOU Section VI.D].

1. Northern Research Station/GLIFWC Staff Report: 2009-2010

Tom Schmidt reported that the Forest Service is really happy with the GLIFWC/Forest Service relationship. It has really evolved. Tom spoke of how he incorporated the MOU practices into a detail he was working on in Hawaii last year, involving the Koa tree. Rather than just looking at the issue in isolation, they incorporated the culture of the Native Hawaiians. So this MOU is having a big influence on the FS. It affects the way their scientists behave. It encourages them to do “more than what they said they’d do.” This relationship has been very beneficial to all parties involved.

Marla gave a brief overview of several ongoing research projects of interest to the tribes:

Michigan Project-Northern Research Station (NRS) scientists completed a study evaluating submergence of infested black ash in water to determine the effectiveness for killing EAB and preserving the wood for basket making.

With respect to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) –

NRS scientists are collaborating with university researchers to monitor ash mortality in EAB infested areas across Ohio and southeast Michigan. They are looking at surviving trees in stands where they have over 99% mortality, and determining what makes the other 1% EAB resistant.

NRS scientists are working with the Gun Lake Tribe (MI) and Pokegon Band (MI) for release of parasitoids on tribal lands for biocontrol of EAB to protect stands of black ash.

Building on the birch bark inventory model, NRS scientists are assessing the potential to use FIA data to assess the supply of basket-grade black ash trees and collecting TEK.

In addition to seed collection efforts, NRS research involves developing protocols for shoot regeneration, clonal propagation, and rooting plants acclimatized to the greenhouse for mass propagation and conservation.

Wildlife Conservation:

Discussion of Forest Service projects. NRS cooperator Patrick Zollner (Purdue University) is continuing research on marten. Recent completed work focused on marten survivorship in Wisconsin, which will soon be published in the Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM). Ongoing research is analyzing marten movement patterns and marten habitat quality, as well as patterns of hunting efficiency and habitat selection between resident and translocated marten in Northern WI.

Discussion followed regarding current and historical uses of fire by the Nez Perce Tribe. The Nez Perce approach to fire today is a blending of traditional knowledge and western science. Their biggest constraint on fire use is their shrinking land base.

Discussion of Bioenergy/Biomass. Harvesting forest residues for bioenergy. Harvest treatments were successfully completed by the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forests during the 2009-2010 winter within the mixed deciduous forest study area. Pre-treatment sampling was completed in summer 2009, with the first post-treatment sampling completed in summer 2010.

Discussion of forest carbon calculation tools designed for ease of reporting continue to evolve. More detailed information is available online.

Discussion of tribes and climate change, goals and policies. As part of a national USFS Research & Development initiative, NRS recently received funding and executed an agreement with the College of the Menominee Nation to address effects of climate change on tribes and natural resources. Work is still in the planning stages, but some of the goals are to: a) identify existing climate change efforts being undertaken by tribes and tribal organizations, b) assess tribes' climate change information needs, c) determine strategies for meeting those information needs with an emphasis on partnerships, and d) coordinate with similar efforts in the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains to foster opportunities for tribes to engage with climate change policy development.

Mark Hansen described the Forestry Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Plans: NRS FIA has committed to produce the equivalent of a state forest inventory report for the ceded territories. Although based on the format and content of state reports, it can be refined and customized to suit the tribes' needs

2. GLIFWC Co-op Projects: GLIFWC studies in cooperation with Forest Service.
§ Marten Research Update

Jonathan Gilbert described the research that graduate students Tanya Aldrich and Nick McCann are doing. They are looking at prey and habitat structure at various marten use sites and also looking at hunting patterns.

Jonathan also discussed an article he co-wrote, entitled "Survival of Adult Martens in Northern Wisconsin," which was published in the JWM.

There was discussion of translocation efforts, capturing 30 martens from MN and collaring them and releasing them in WI. Jon discussed the work of one of his colleagues, Dan Eklund whom he credited with reminding the state of their

obligations to the tribes. There was further discussion of the collaborative efforts of the agencies regarding marten.

§ Elk B Assisted Dispersal Project Update

There was discussion of issues with the elk in the Clam Lake area, and the fact that it is on the VTF agenda tomorrow. The state is coming to discuss and consult with the tribes on this issue, however, there is concern that the state's approach has already been decided.

There was discussion of issues relating to small populations of elk, specifically that it is safer for the population to be in scattered groups so that if something happens to one group, all the elk aren't eliminated. The issue that has risen is regarding to where the elk will be relocated, the tribes are concerned about public access to the elk. They understand that there may be NEPA requirements if elk were to be held and released on public lands.

§ Understory Plant Project Update (Logging Study)

Jonathan explained that this is an ongoing study, begun by Beth Lynch many years ago, carried on by Karen Danielsen, and now by Alexandra Wrobel. The study involves plots of northern hardwood stands within the Medford District of the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. They have, for about seven years, done pre-treatment surveys to quantify and qualify understory plants. Then there was selective cutting. Now they will study and classify, after the harvest, how the plant communities have changed and how and if they recover. This study could last for many years.

Discussion followed regarding biomass. Mary Rasmussen stated that the Potawatomi are looking at sustainable alternative energy on-reservation. Bois Forte and Grand Portage are also interested in projects.

D. Natural Resource Harvest Management [MOU Section VI.C].

1. Harvest Monitoring and Exchange of Harvest Data.

§ Tribal Harvest B Jonathan Gilbert provided a report on tribal wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering on National Forest lands during 2008-2009, in comparison with the six previous harvest seasons. For a variety of reasons (stabilizing harvests, convenience of tribal members with phone surveys) this report is now being done every three years.

§ Non-Tribal Harvest B Report by Forest Service on non-tribal harvest conducted under general federal regulations, provided. Mary Rasmussen described the report as having the same format as in past years. Mary noted that the number of permits for boughs was slightly up in the Chequamegon/Nicolet NF.

There was discussion of tracking lawful and unlawful harvesting, ie taking “oversized” boughs. This isn’t really a problem, since retailers won’t buy boughs that are too large—they have certain size requirements.

§ *Lac Courte Oreilles v. State of Wisconsin* B Tribal Gathering on State Lands Update. Kekek Jason Stark provided an update illustrating the ways that the MOU has carried over to the Voigt case. The tribes are in the final stages of drafting the stipulations and implementing a system on certain state lands that would parallel rules on national forest land. This will open a lot of land to tribal gathering. The national forest has been open to tribes for a long time, but not state lands like state forests, wildlife areas, and state parks. This will expand the ability of tribal members to harvest resources on these lands. There was discussion on potential ways to simplify the permit system. This may include another box on the general tribal harvest permit or the development of a separate tribal gathering permit which would be applicable to both State and Federal lands.

2. Campground Fee and Length of Stay Exemption Agreement and Implementation Plan.

§ Forest Service Report on Campground Usage

Discussion/Updates from Forest Service and GLIFWC staff on implementation of the campground agreement during the past year. Overall usage is slightly down.

§ Forest Service Report on Campground Usage provided.

§ Updated List of Fee-Exempt Campgrounds, provided.

There was brief discussion and clarification of the terms “out of service” vs. “closed” areas.

E. Technical Working Group (TWG) Report [MOU Section VI.A].

Update from GLIFWC and Northern Research Station staff on 2008 charge to the TWG to conduct an evaluation and provide recommendations to the USFS and tribes about how birch bark monitoring data could continue to be in FIA data collection. Marla Emery stated that the Forest Service will be getting the reports out in the next few months. She stated that over 12,000 trees were looked at and there was a significant amount of TEK involved.

There was further discussion of the recent drug finds, and that the agencies shouldn’t underestimate the safety issues.

F. National Forest Planning and Decision-Making [MOU Section VI.B].

Review of government-to-government consultation on Forest Service decisions that affected the abundance, distribution or access to the natural resources found in the National Forests. Particular discussion on:

§ Forest Service Planning Rule Update -- documents provided:

1. Timeline of collaboration and consultation events since Dec 2009
Planning Rule process graphic
2. Sept 22, 2010 letter from the Washington office to all federally-recognized Tribes
3. Summary notes from the first National Tribal conference call
4. Summary of tribal comments from the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest Service Land Management Planning Rule

There was discussion regarding tribal feedback, the national conference call, and the letter sent to all tribes. This is an opportunity to consult before the public has seen the draft planning rule. There are plans to hold 3 sessions for Region 9 somewhere in the lakes states, perhaps Ashland.

There was discussion on whether the national planning rule will affect the MOU. Larry Heady assured the tribes this national consultation and the rule do not supersede the MOU.

There was discussion on the continuing problems of road closures that hamper tribal gathering, but are later opened for snowmobiling. Tribal members should report when this happens so staff can work with Forest Service staff to address the problem.

Sacred Sites. There was discussion of how the Forest Service is going to have “listening sessions” but these in no way will preclude the Forest Service from talking directly with the Voigt Task Force. Instead it will provide a crisp timeline of Secretary of Vilsack’s initiative to conduct formal Tribal consultations on the effectiveness of existing department and agency sacred sites laws, regulations, and procedures, beginning in late November.

§ Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill)

There was discussion regarding implementation of the Farm Bill. Larry Heady stated that there are no substantial changes in the current version of the Farm Bill. Tribal concerns include the purchasing of public land by private entities.

There was discussion of the Community Forestry Open Space Conservation Program. This is land that is at least 5 acres in size, at least 75% forested, and can provide community benefits. Lands held in trust by the United States on behalf of a Tribal Government as well as allotment lands are not eligible for acquisition under this program.

There was discussion on reburial of remains. Consultation is coming to a close. As far as closure for cultural purposes, there has not yet been a lot of dialog about this, but there is a law now, so the Forest Service could close an area now if someone requests it.

There was discussion of forest products for traditional and cultural purposes. There are several requests underway right now that the tribes and the Forest Service are working on. There was discussion of the term “free of charge” versus “fee exempt.” The tribes prefer “fee-exempt.”

§ Emerald Ash Borer SLAM Policy Status Report

Mary Rasmussen gave a brief update: To date, no EAB has been found within the boundaries of the Chequamegon/Nicolet or the Ottawa National Forests. EAB infestations have been found in Mackinaw, Delta, and Schoolcraft counties (within the boundaries of the Hiawatha) and on private lands. The Huron-Manistee (and all of the lower peninsula of Michigan) is in the primary quarantine area.

G. MOU Amendments, Regulatory Changes, and Self-Regulation Agreement Changes [MOU Section VI.F].

There was discussion regarding the potential amendment of the MOU to incorporate the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) as a means of strengthening the MOU by providing it with additional legal authority. As a follow up to the discussion of the Farm bill above, a small team including Jason Stark, Larry Heady and Mary Rasmussen, will look at how the MOU could be changed and provide a recommendation for the next meeting. The Parties should think about who from each agency should be part of the team.

VII. REQUIRED NOTICES/PARTIES= DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES.

Review of housekeeping details, including update on the Parties= designated representatives and Akeepers of the process.@ Updated Forest Service and tribal contact lists were provided. Several minor changes were made, and Forest Service staff noted that Tony Erba is taking a new job soon in Milwaukee. He will remain in the region as the Director of the Planning & Appeals Litigation Staff Group.

IX. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

All parties agreed the meeting went very smoothly. Paul Strong thanked Mary Rasmussen and Kekek Jason Stark, as well as others for its success.