Timberland Invasives Partnership

Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 23, 2016 Location: Menominee Tribal Forestry Center

# Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Steering Committee Members Present: Jeremy Johnson- TIP Steering Committee Chair/Menominee County, Doug Cox- MITW, Marie Graupner- TIP Steering Committee Vice Chair/Langlade County Land Conservation, Cody Brauner- Langlade County Forestry, Scott Frank-Shawano County, Steve Janke- USFS, Randall Wollenhaup- Stockbridge Munsee Community, Chad Trudell- Oconto County.
2. Steering Committee Members Present via call-in: Tracy Beckman- TIP Steering Committee Treasurer/Lumberjack RC&D.
3. Others Present: Chris Arrowood- TIP Coordinator.

# *Review & approve previous meeting minutes.*

No edits suggested. Marie motions to approve the business session of the meeting minutes from May 17th 2016, seconded by Cody. All in favor, motion passes.

# General Updates.

1. *TIP*. Chris informs the group that TIP is continuing to perform well the per hour rate of outreach. He has attended several events, but also notes several large opportunities that were not available this year.
2. *Partners*. Steve reports that the Forest Service has two seasonal workers that will likely stay on until the end of September and that the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition’s grant manager has moved to a part-time capacity and that the coordinator has left leaving the organization in a difficult spot. Jeremy reports working on Spotted Knapweed. Chad reports that phragmites treatments have proven effective especially with the high water levels this year. Doug reports that the tribal interns have completed their season, they will likely be replaced with two year-round positions. Scott reports working on approximately 1/10th of an acre of Japanese Knotweed. Cody reports working on Garlic Mustard and Wild Parsnip until late July, this work will continue this fall. Marie reports work done by John Preuss to treat Japanese Knotweed in Summit Lake. Randall reports working on several items including working with utility companies in Gresham. Tracy reminds everyone the Lumberjack project proposal deadline is October 13th.

# Financial Report.

1. *Current Status.* Chris reports that to-date for 2016 TIP has spent approximately $19,900 this year. Approximately $59,032.71 is remaining available in 2016 these funds are held in 9 separate accounts.
2. *Budget Discussion.* Chris reports two upcoming grant opportunities he would like to pursue. The first opportunity is a $4,000 request to Lumberjack RC&D to continue to support TIP’s self-maintenance & coordination. The second opportunity would be a $40,000 grant proposal to the USFS (GLRI) to conduct control in the TIP area. Steve tells the group that the consensus on these grants is that acres treated will be the main aspect considered in ranking proposals. Jeremy askes the group to get projects in mind for this kind of proposal so that TIP can submit a competitive proposal. Chris also requests permission to attend the UMISC conference in La Crosse, Lumberjack RC&D will cover expenses, but his time would need to be paid by TIP. Motion by Scott to approve Chris’s attendance of the UMISC conference with Lumberjack paying for expenses, seconded by Tracy. All in favor, motion passes.

# Approval of the Lumberjack RC&D IS Coordinator Proposal. Chris presents the position to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee expresses concerns as to the reduction in the Coordinator’s availability to the TIP area, as well as the reduction in stability for the position caused by the increased labor costs. Tracy states that she believes the position is the direction that invasive species management is moving. Jeremy suggests tabling the idea for a special Steering Committee meeting prior to the October 27th Lumberjack Meeting. Jeremy suggests that Chris put together a comparison of three options for the Steering Committee to consider those being the positon as presented, a compromise with reduced scope and reduced benefits, and no changes. The comparison will include cost estimates, as well as a pro and con list. Scott would also like to see a plan of what the overarching target is with this proposal and how we plan to achieve it.

# TIP Strategic Management Plan Review.

Chris states that he has revised the strategic management plan under the WMA Grant received last year. He will now need to meet with each of the partners to get specific revisions, and asks that everyone be thinking about what they would like to see.

# Schedule next meeting.

A special meeting to discuss TIP’s grant proposals and the Lumberjack IS Coordinator postion & options is scheduled for October 11th at 1:00 PM in Keshena. Chris will send out a Doodle poll to confirm the date/time.

# Adjournment at 2:54 p.m. by committee consensus.