

TRIBAL FISHING

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Tribes sign Great Lakes Water Accord

By Jennifer Dale

Frank Ettawageshick, tribal chairman of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, was honored Dec. 16 by the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority for the role he played in the Tribal & First Nation Great Lakes Water Accord. The Accord was the brainchild of the Anishinaabe leader, who worked to bring together leaders of every tribal nation in the Great Lakes Basin.

Ettawageshick was gifted a blanket by Jimmy Mitchell, chairman of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Natural Resource Commission.

"I appreciate the acknowledgement," said Ettawageshick, "But I was just the catalyst. It was already on everybody's mind."

The Accord signing ceremony took place Dec. 22 and 23, hosted by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Of the 44 tribal leaders attending, 42 signed the document that day, one of the representatives signing for 55 tribes, one for 42 tribes, and one for eight tribes.

Since then, Ettawageshick has had 38 documents go out for signatures of those not able to attend. That means almost all of the 200 Great Lakes tribes have come on board, according to Ettawageshick.

The first evening of the ceremony opened with an invocation by honored Pipecarrier Frank Kelly, who spoke of the sacred duty of Anishinaabe women as water carriers. The keynote speaker was Josephine Mandamin, one of a small group of Anishinaabe women who began a walk for the water around Lake Superior carrying with them a copper bucket filled with lake water.

Josephine Mandamin told the assembly that her journey really began at a Sundance where she heard Eddie Benton-Banai. "He spoke of things to come. He said an ounce of water would one day cost an ounce of gold," she said. It stuck with her all winter. "What are you going to do about it?" she asked herself. "What can we do about the water?" She took it to her Medewiwin sisters. They held a meeting but no one came.

"I'll do whatever I have to, to fulfill my responsibility," she thought. To kindle awareness of

the water's plight, she decided to take one pail of Lake Superior water and walk around the lake with her sister. "Picking up that water, that work, is same responsibility that Anishinaabe women

have to carry the water," she said.

We must pick up our teachings, Mandamin said. Her walk around the lakes acknowledged those teachings. "Think: if all of us Anishinaabe women took up our

responsibilities with water, each with her man beside her, what powerful healing it would be," she said. "This is the moment for us to act."

Following her talk, she was

given a beautiful red wool blanket presented to her by Frank Ettawageshick and Janine Sam. Frank Kelly gave her a striking turtle pendant necklace.

The next morning, after Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Chief Audrey Falcon spoke for the water, Ettawageshick made a powerful opening statement. Water is so abundant for us, he said. It's this feeling of abundance that tempts us into bad ways of doing things. "We need to work to purify and protect our waters."

It has already happened to one lake. In 1960, the Aral Sea, in Uzbekistan and Kazakstan, was the fourth largest body of water in the world. Due to human activity, 75 percent of that water is now gone. "You can drive for miles of bottomlake to get to the water, passing shipwrecks along the way," Ettawageshick said. "Traditions are in disarray. We are in serious trouble."

The commodification of water, said Ettawageshick, takes away control of the water. "There is an appearance of abundance here. Others are very dry," he said warning that thirsty states with serious water shortages or predicted shortages will look to the Great Lakes for water.

Ettawageshick said that the planetary ecosystem works as a whole. For Mother Earth to be healthy, her parts have to be healthy. "We are in the midst of one-fifth of all fresh water in the world. What we do can have an effect on the whole earth," he said. "We have our responsibilities, our traditional teachings, and the strength to take care of this. Think about it, what could happen. It's scary."

Tribes need exercise their sovereignty to protect the water. "We have governmental rights and responsibilities. Some understand this. But as a system, people haven't thought of us as governments. We need to bring this to people's attention," he said. "We need to step up and take our place and responsibility to work for protection of Mother Earth and her waters."

The Accord is not a document with specifics. Instead it concentrates on commonality, so that everyone can all work together.

See "Unprecedented Accord,"

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Photo by Jennifer Dale

WATER CARRIER — Josephine Mandamin spoke for the water in opening ceremonies for the signing of the Tribes & First Nations Great Lakes Water Accord the evening of Dec. 22. Above, she is presented with a blanket. It is the women's duty to look after the water, she said.



Photo by Jennifer Dale

IN ACCORD — In an extraordinary gathering, tribal and first nation leaders came together in peace, unity and strength to sign the Tribes & First Nations Great Lakes Water Accord, asserting sovereign duty and responsibility over the waters of their homeland. Pictured above are (L-R) Little Traverse Bay Bands Chairman Frank Ettawagweshick, little River Band Ogema Lee Sprague holding his baby son, Grand Traverse Band Chairman Robert Kewaygoshgum, and other tribal leaders sign the Accord. Although the tribal leaders were glad to see the states and provinces of the great Lakes concerned about water quality, the Annex 2001 to the 1985 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement did not include the tribes.

CORA and GLRC meeting briefs

The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) and its committee, Great Lakes Resources Committee (GLRC) met in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Aug. 26.

The GLRC meeting was chaired by LRB Chairman Frank Ettawageshik. Bob Hardenburgh, LRB Natural Resources Department, gave the invocation.

REPORTS

ACCESS — CORA Executive Director Jane TenEyck said she needed each tribe's access site priority list, requested by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT) to ascertain top tribal access sites for consideration of funding.

The executive director asked if GLRC still wants electricity at Whitefish Point. Matson said the fishermen need it to start their engines on the cold days. After discussion, since the funds are there to pay the bills, electricity will remain by the consensus of the GLRC, but TenEyck will have the electricity company check the meters.

TenEyck reported that McKay Bay access site is complete, including dredging.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

LTBB— John Keshick reported that his commission approved its GLFT access sites listing. It approved all five of the CORA regulation amendments, discussed an inland hunting and fishing code, and approved requesting GLFT funding for the Bell's Dock proposal.

GTB — John Concannon reported that his commission discussed inland hunting and fishing issues.

LRB — Jimmy Mitchell reported that his commission met with the Ludington Charter Fishing Association on improving net marking. The LRB NRC did discuss additional net markings, but they are hav-

ing a problem with net buoys being cut. This is a danger zone, Mitchell said, and they are trying to find a solution. Sprague suggested Law Enforcement night surveillance, the most common time buoys are cut. Paquin suggested to Sprague that the LRB representative bring this to the next Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Kathryn Tierney, Bay Mills counsel, said that the tribal officers can cite non-Indians into state court and federal court if they identify anyone tampering with nets.

Mitchell reported that the release of three sturgeons was unfortunate timing because the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service applied lampricide during the same time-frame, and he hopes the sturgeon are strong enough to survive the chemicals.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE — Fred Paquin reported conducting joint patrols. The committee asked that four trap net amendments be made to the CORA regulations. Four trap nets have been removed by law enforcement agencies and two were removed by CORA-contracted fishermen. He believes there are still six abandoned nets to be removed.

TenEyck said nets were removed from the inter-tribal waters as the GLRC directed. Officer Kevin Willis has a map of the areas where the nets are in the waters that she can supply at the next meeting.

Paquin presented a Law Enforcement Committee request for a CORA regulations amendment to reflect the excessive floating line issue. The amendment would restrict the length of floating line to not exceed 5 feet. A DNR and a US Coast Guard vessel were entangled in floating line and it is becoming more of an issue that needs to be addressed before someone is seriously

injured.

Discussion ensued on how the length of line came about and if that footage was acceptable. Paquin made it clear that the fishermen could have as much line as they like, but they can only leave 5 feet floating on the surface. The remainder of the line will have to be weighted down by an anchor.

A motion to approve the proposed CORA Regulation amendment to add a new subsection (m) to Section 9 of the CORA Regulations to read: "Floating buoy line on the surface of the water shall not exceed 5 feet in length," was carried unanimously.

BIOLOGISTS' REPORTS

All biologists reported attending Lake Committee meetings.

LTBB — Steven Lenart said LTBB has been working on whitefish assessments and adult perch assessments.

GBT — Tina Frankenberger said her department has been working on assessments and beach seining with the Michigan DNR.

BMIC — Paul Ripple reported completing the summer whitefish assessments and preparing for the fall run.

LRB — Archie Martell reported preparing for the fall run.

ITFAP — Tom Gorenflo reported that the GLRC approved the siscowet permit for the November closure and tabled the siscowet permit for retention of sub-legal (less than 17 inches) siscowet. After a Biological Services Division (BSD) discussion, a telephone vote was taken and the board approved the retention of the sub-legal siscowet as part of the permit.

The draft permit was then sent to the TFC for review, as required under Consent Decree notification requirements. The state required GPS coordinates and the sealing of all fish as part of the permit, among other demands. Matson said that the state is going back in time by making things so restrictive, and the demands are ridiculous. Gorenflo asked the GLRC if the permit can be issued regardless of the comments.

A motion to authorize issuing the siscowet permit, duly noting the state and federal concerns, carried unanimously.

Continuing his report, Gorenflo said ITFAP is in the second year of two major whitefish research studies and will need to tag fish during the closed season this year, so he needs GLRC's authorization to issue permits to selected trap net fishermen participating in the tagging study. Once the target number is reached, the selected fishermen will stop lifting.

A motion to authorize CORA staff to contract with participating fishers for tagging studies and to authorize CORA staff to issue permits to contracted fishers to fish with trap nets during the November closure until the target number of fish are tagged, carried unanimously.

Gorenflo reported on the 2003 fish contaminant report. Last year Lake Michigan fish were tested for contaminants and the results were good: contaminant levels in whitefish and lake trout were quite low. Again, the tribal fish will have to be separated from other species and other areas that are high in mercury, since mercury is turning consumers away from fish in general.

ITFAP Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley said that a press release on the contaminants will be issued. He added that these results are used as political issues by environmental groups claiming that all fish in the Great Lakes are contaminated.

Sprague said that one day the mercury levels will become a problem for everyone.

He said that GLRC and CORA should consider taking a stand on mercury and getting letters and more press releases issued. Ripley said that CORA acts on these types of issues by means of a resolution or letters of opposition, such as the letter on the Ludington Power Plant earlier this year.

Reporting on Annex 2001, Ripley said a main concern for the tribes that the state and federal governments did not deal with the tribes on a government-to-government basis. He had a draft letter in the packet to be signed by TenEyck that states that every tribe should be dealt with on a government-to-government basis, and every tribe has sovereign rights to the resources on reservation land and in trust.

Sprague said that at the last meeting with the U.S. EPA, Secretary Leavitt handed out a letter that said the federal government acknowledges that the states have the right to make the determination over water jurisdiction. Sprague said he didn't like relying on the state to protect our sovereignty and the tribes need to have a voice since this is at the federal level as well as the state level. He asked that the letter not be sent out unless it indicates that the Council of Great Lakes Governors cannot expect one or two individuals to represent the Great Lakes tribes and First Nations and would rather give the opportunity for each and every sovereign tribe within the Great Lakes Basin the right to participate at the highest decision-making level.

Parker voiced his position that Annex 2001 is an interstate agreement, not an intergovernmental agreement, and the tribes do not want to be a part of that agreement. The tribes do not want to sign on and give up the authority to go into federal court and stop diversions.

A motion to authorize sending the letter drafted by Mike Ripley, including the modifications suggested by Sprague that day, to the Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors on CORA's position on Annex 2001, carried unanimously.

BIOLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION — Stephen Lenart reported that the BSD's annual report has not been done, and the state has requested this issue be included on the Executive Council agenda. The management plan states this report is due to GLRC by March 1, but the information available on March 1 is only preliminary.

Parker said that if the state does not like the report, this will give the tribes justification to ask the state what they expect from the BSD in the report.

It was consensus of the GLRC that the biologists will submit a report with information available to current date. If or when new information is discovered that changes the management structure, it will be presented to GLRC at that time.

Lenart also reported on the subsistence harvest report. At the last Executive Council meeting, CORA agreed to provide the state with a report detailing the harvest of fish in treaty-ceded waters. The information has been compiled for years 2001-03 and will be forwarded to the parties before the September Executive Council meeting.

In Old Business, the GLRC next dealt with the state's proposed stocking changes for chinook salmon in northern Lake Huron. Gorenflo received the state's full stocking proposal for chinook stocking in the Cheboygan River. Matson said that Sault Tribe opposes the proposal and Sault Tribe attorney Aaron Schlehber was to draft a letter to the state detailing Sault Tribe position.

See CORA meetings, page 7

OFFICERS OF CORA BOARD & COMMITTEES

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills)

Jeff Parker, tribal president

Anthony LeBlanc, Conservation Committee chairman

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB)

Robert Kewaygoshkum, tribal chairman

John Concannon, Natural Resource Commission (NRC) chairman, GLRC* vice chairman

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRB)

Lee Sprague, tribal ogema, CORA vice chairman

Jimmie Mitchell, Natural Resource Commission (NRC) chairman

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB)

Frank Ettawageshick, tribal chairman, GLRC chairman

John Keshick, Natural Resource Commission (NRC) chairman

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault Tribe or SSMTCI)

Fred Paquin, Tribal Director, Chief of Police, CORA chairman

Vic Matson Sr., Tribal Director, Conservation Committee Chairman

* "Great Lakes Resource Committee" of CORA, which serves as the inter-tribal management body for the treaty fishery in 1836 treaty waters.

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Tribal Fishing, an award winning newsletter, is published by CORA bimonthly. Contact Jennifer Dale at the phone or email above with questions or to make a submission.



BMCC summit looks at tribal food system

By Jennifer Dale

BAY MILLS — What do you get when you take a potato, soak it in sugar, fry it in fat and then sprinkle salt all over it? Diabetes? Heart Disease? Stroke? All of the above? Because we have lost our way, Anishinaabe have become prey to numerous diseases that could be fended off by steering clear of the “white man’s diet” of highly processed, fatty foods.

Bay Mills Community College Extension, the College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute and the Chippewa County Extension hosted a one-day summit Oct. 22 at the Bay Mills Horizons Conference Center to examine the tribal community food system in Chippewa County. The summit brought together participants from a wide range of interests to find common ground in the interest of having healthy, affordable food that is accessible and available to meet the needs of every person in the community — in other words, a community that is “food secure.”

The aim of the food summit, said BMCC Extension and Community Development Director Steve Yanni, is to eliminate hunger and food insecurity by building more local and regional food self-reliance, and local thriving economies.

Bay Mills Elder Aggie Carrick shared her lifelong experience of gathering in the woods. The 85-year-old great grandmother grew up gathering blueberries, cranberries, pincherries, chokecherries, gooseberries, June berries, apples, nannyberries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, sand cherries, hazelnuts, wintergreen, leeks, oyster mushrooms, morels, beefsteak mushrooms, pinecones, boughs, princess pine, worms, and, just recently, wild rice. The family also hunted for partridge, goose, duck, deer, fish, and clams.

She carries on the tradition to this day, having picked over 100 quarts of blueberries this year alone. Her lore came from her mother, who loved the woods,

“The windigo is a feeling of emptiness and hunger, and the cure is to give something away,” she said. “Concentrate and what can you give, not what can you get.”

— Elder Kathy LeBlanc on American diet

and she thinks that her daughter Wanda will carry on the family tradition. Each autumn she and her 14 children, her grandchildren and great grandchildren come together for a feast of wild food that they have all gathered and prepared.

Bay Mills Historian Paula Parker gave participants an idea of how the Anishinaabeg once lived off the land. Even after the Europeans settled and Natives were confined to reservations, there were still strong connections with the land and its bounty.

The tribal historian told of the Anishinaabe migration from the east coast to the Great Lakes, and how they found the food that grows on water, “manomin,” or wild rice. When Father Isaac Jogues came to this area in the early 17th century, he found a summer encampment of 5,000 Anishinaabe gathered at Bahweting (“the Gathering Place,” now Sault Ste. Marie) to fish. The Anishinaabe did not stay in one place, but migrated throughout the area.

Parker used cattails and deer as examples of how the Anishinaabe treated with their food, all of which had many uses so there was no waste. Cattails were sought throughout the seasons. In the spring, Anishinaabe gathered the new shoots to eat cooked or raw. Young flower heads could be boiled and eaten like corn on the cob. Flour could be made from summer pollen or winter rootstock. The cattail was also prized as an antiseptic, for baby diapers, and weaving as well

as a torch and tinder.

All parts of the deer were used. Venison was a basic meat, and all parts were eaten, including the tongue and internal organs. The hide, brains, bones, antler, eyeballs, hair, hooves, and sinew were all made into useful products, like needle and thread, or paint and glue, to name just a few.

Yanni came to the podium to provide an overview of food systems and how they work — or don’t work. He defined a traditional or local food system as “all food within a particular culture.”

“Community food security is a condition in which all members obtain safe culturally acceptable nutritionally adequate diet,” he said, adding that quantity, quality and sustainability were all important factors.

Lack of food security, is called “food insecurity.” Yanni said that millions of Americans are food insecure — that’s 10 percent of all U.S. households, and of that 10 percent, one third are hungry.

Those who are food insecure suffer from diet-related health problems. Figures for obesity, food borne illnesses, and diet-related deaths are higher than one might expect, and they are all on the rise, he said.

Yanni characterized the commercial aspect of food insecurity as the highly processed unhealthy foods such as French fries being marketed. Further, the food industry is becoming concentrated, with most of all food sales going to a few top firms. Cereal is especially selective, he said, with 80 percent of sales going to only four

firms.

The U.S. farm sector is also declining, according to Yanni. Farmers can’t compete with the big markets. Cindy Dutcher, a Raber-area farmer and member of the Big North Cooperative, contributed that not too long ago, most locally grown food was sold locally. That has declined in the last 30 years.

“Sustainability is sacrificed in the competitive market,” she said, adding that farms are now less than 1 percent of the general population. “In 1900, it was 50 percent.”

Yanni said that the “white man’s diet” causes a lot of chronic disease, and Native food technology is disappearing. In order to help ensure food security, Yanni would like to see more local and regional food self-reliance, and local thriving economies. “Creating a more democratic food system would give communities a greater role in deciding how their food is produced and distributed,” he said.

BMCC Cultural Coordinator Kathy LeBlanc addressed the spiritual component of food systems. America is a spiritually hungry nation, she said, and that hunger manifests itself as avarice. She likened this hunger to that of the insatiable windigo. “The windigo is a feeling of emptiness and hunger, and the cure is to give something away,” she said. “Concentrate and what can you give, not what can you get.”

Creation provides everything we need to exist, according to the Anishinaabeg perspective. “That worldview that needs to come out and take center stage for the world to survive,” she said. “This is what is missing from our society that encourages people to take everything and not give anything back.”

LeBlanc was born and raised on the Bay Mills reservation. When she was young, each family was known for some special expertise, like gathering, hunting, or fishing. The community shared

a potato patch in which all shared the work and the harvest, as well as a year-round ice house.

Things have changed fast, she said. In her single lifetime, water went from pristine to contaminated. “There is no more drinking out of the lakes and streams,” she said. “Balance needs to be restored on a spiritual level to correct this. The Anishinaabe ceremonies — offering food and offering tobacco, for example — ensures balance on a spiritual level.”

She cautioned that “creation doesn’t need us, but we need it,” recommending youth teachings for traditional foods instead of reaching for McDonalds hamburgers and French fries. “Take kids berry picking; teach them tradition and wisdom. Scientists are starting to validate wisdom that evolved over thousands of years. Everything in creation has a responsibility and purpose — just because we don’t know about it yet, does not mean it doesn’t have one.”

With the help of the Menominee College staff, the participants worked on mapping the local food system. Then they broke into small groups to work on the three goals.

It seemed each group had the general same ideas. Themes that made a strong showing were education, local foods and a cleaner environment.

In the first one to three years, groups wanted to teach children a better, healthier way to acquire and prepare food and provide a permanent market for local foods. They also wanted to address diseases caused by diet. Most groups called for the need and desire for fast food to be eliminated by the next generation, along with the handing down traditional food knowledge. In the seventh generation, groups envisioned a community in which food insecurity is gone, diet-related disease is all in the past and the environment is cleaned up.

CORA regulations amended to deal with abandoned nets

SAULT STE. MARIE — On Oct. 28 the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority’s Great Lakes Natural Resource Committee (GLRC) took action to amend the CORA Commercial Subsistence and Recreational Fishing Regulations for the 1836 Treaty Ceded Waters of Lake Superior, Huron and Michigan in Section III. Definitions, and Section IX. Gear Restrictions.

A 30-day notice was given and there were no contests. The amendments go into effect on April 1, 2005.

In Section III, a new subsection (bb) reads:

(bb) “Abandoned nets” means

officer as such; or

(2) nets which have not been utilized or tended by the fisher for 14 days.

Section IX (1) now reads:

(1) Unattended and abandoned nets may be seized by an enforcement officer and forfeited; provided, that if the nets have been reported to the appropriate Tribe as vandalized or lost prior to seizure, the fisher shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to retrieve the nets.

New Section IX (4) and (5) read:

(4) All trap nets used for fishing from November 1 through December 31 within ten (10) feet of the surface of the water shall have a staff buoy on the pot and

at the terminating end of the lead, with at least four (4) feet exposed above the surface of the water with a red or orange flag no less than twelve (12) inches by twelve (12) inches bearing the license number of the fisher affixed to the top of the staff. Each net shall have attached along the top edge of the net fluorescent orange floats at least six (6) inches by fourteen (14) inches in size, which are evenly spaced along the length of the lead every 300 feet or less.

(5) Commencing April 1, 2005, all trap nets shall have identifier tags containing the license number of the owner, placed on the lifting buoy and pot of each net.

ATTENTION Fishers & Fish Processors

A seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification training to be conducted by Michigan Sea Grant Agent Ron Kinnunen has been scheduled for March 29-31, 2005, in Bay Mills Indian Community, location to be announced.

The cost is \$90 per person, and includes all HACCP manuals and educational materials. This very reasonable cost for HACCP certification cannot always be offered, so take advantage now. (Typically, the course cost is \$500 to \$600.) The course is open to any and all

fishers and fish processors who would like to attend.

CORA-member tribe fishers should check with their Natural Resource departments for additional resources, but please make sure Jennifer Dale has your name and phone number.

To ask questions or to sign up, please call Jennifer Dale, CORA Public Information & Education, at 906-632-0043, or email her at <jmdale@chippewaottawa.org>, or contact Ron Kinnunen at 906-226-3687 or <kinnunen1@msu.edu>.

HACCP TRAINING

March 29-31 • Sign up now!

This Course Cannot Be Held Unless The Class Is Full, So Call Now!



Unprecedented Accord

From Page 1



Mohawk leader Don Maracle (middle) signs the Accord.

“We don’t want to take a tour of Great Lakes shipwrecks in a bus,” Ettawageshick said. “That’s what vision we are trying to avoid.”

Grand Council Chief of Ontario Indians John Beaucage, who co-hosted the ceremony, spoke about how the water’s plight came to be, and our role in restoring it to health. Back seven generations, we could go out and fish and canoe around the lakes, and drink the water with no worries of contamination. Niagara kept out species that did not belong here.

Now governments are signing agreements without consulting tribal governments, without our understanding of Mother Earth. “Sometimes we have to leave things alone to make them work right — we change things because we don’t understand that,” said Beaucage. “We are the last thing in Creation.

It doesn’t need us; it would probably work a lot better if we left.”

“So, when we talk about being consulted, it’s because of our traditional knowledge and responsibility to the seventh generation — it’s important we have a voice in what’s happening. We want to be recognized as a jurisdictional part of Great Lakes management. We have been here thousands of years. We are not stakeholders, we are governments.”

Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of Bay of Quinte, spoke about strength in unity. “In only 200 years, North

Americans have been able to pollute all the lakes, streams, land and the air we breathe,” he said.

Fishing is the his community’s sustenance. He described his homeland on the north shore of Lake Ontario on the Bay of Quinte, which is only 25 to 30 feet deep. “Any change at all on Lake Ontario deeply affects us,” he said, going on to describe how they depend on groundwater, which is drying up. “Some people have to buy water now. We are deeply concerned about any diversions in Great Lakes water. No one nation has the right to spoil the environment of all.”

“We need to be heard. There is strength in union and the way of righteousness is peace,” he said. “Anishinaabe are responsible for Creation. It’s our job to do. There are not as many of us, so we must join together to make our voice strong. We look forward to it. We will do our job in union.”

Frank Kelley spoke to the leaders to urge

them to take action beyond words. “Are we stakeholders?” The assembly responded with a resounding “NO.”

“Are we a Nation?” he asked. “YES!”

“Do we have a sacred duty?” “YES!”

“We have had councils, met, talked,” he said. “Then we wait for something from the other side ...”

“Today I talk to you about duty and obligation. Women are the sacred keepers of the water. Their first and foremost duty is to water. It is men’s duty is to protect them.”

Kelly said that because the Accord is written in the English language, all the leaders must take them home and translate the Accord into their own language, so that the words reach into their hearts and minds, so the words have have wisdom and truth.

“For millions of years, water remained the same. It followed the hydrologic cycle. Our generation alone has placed it under the most severe stress,” he said.

“We have been kept from our sacred duty,” he said the the assembled leaders. “You know we must assert sovereignty. Assert our rights. In Canada, sovereignty is not enough. In the U.S., sovereignty comes with BIA-approved constitutions ... We answer to a higher court. A higher law, where self-determination comes from, where law and powers come from. Don’t fall into the trap of other jurisdictions.”

Anishinaabe originally controlled the Great Lakes, said Kelly. “We had free trade system to all of the east, west, north, south. We traded our copper with our brothers in the South America ... Today, NAFTA, stands as one of the biggest concoctions of foreign jurisdiction.”

“Water was never a commodity — it was our life-blood. I implore you do not get caught up in semantics of a foreign language,” said Kelly. “This document is the best effort in a foreign language. Let it be understood in your language and our spirit. That we are here as leaders, warriors, citizens, custodians of sacred water of Mother Earth and it is time to take action!”

Tribal leaders each added their thoughts to the discussion. Each speech served to further cement the tribes’ unity. “We are signing document as a sign of solidarity,” said Chris McCormack, Chief of Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. “We stand with you, because these waters are sacred. Keep and preserve for grandchildren and seventh generation that are coming forward.”



Photo by Jennifer Dale

Pipecarrier Frank Kelly presents Josephine Mandamin with a turtle pendant necklace.



In appreciation for his efforts organizing the Tribal Water Accord, Frank Ettawageshik (middle) was gifted with a beautiful blanket by Lee Sprague and Jimmy Mitchell (left and right) of Little River Band.



Photos by Jennifer Dale

Sault Tribe Chairman Aaron Payment (middle) leads the way to the retirement of the colors with his tribe’s Eagle Staff. Below, those attending the signing ceremony celebrate with a dance around the circle.





Tribal & First Nations Great Lakes Water Accord

November 23, 2004

Our ancestors have inhabited the Great Lakes Basin since time immemorial, long before the current political boundaries were drawn. Our spiritual and cultural connections to our Mother Earth are manifest by our willingness to embrace the responsibility of protecting and preserving the land and Waters.

Traditional teachings and modern science combine to strengthen our historical understanding that Water is the life-blood of our Mother Earth. Indigenous women continue their role as protectors of the Water. Ceremonial teachings are reminders of our heritage, they are practices of our current peoples, and they are treasured as gifts that we hand to our children.

When considering matters of great importance we are taught to think beyond the current generation. We are also taught that each of us is someone's seventh generation. We must continually ask ourselves what we are leaving for a future seventh generation.

We understand that the whole earth is an interconnected ecosystem. The health of any one part affects the health and well being of the whole. It is our spiritual and cultural responsibility to protect our local lands and Waters in order to help protect the whole of Mother Earth.

Tribes and First Nations have observed with growing interest that the Great Lakes Basin governments of the United States and Canada have begun to share our concerns about the preservation of the quality and quantity of the Great Lakes Waters.

The eight States and two Provinces of the Great Lakes Basin entered into the 1985 Great Lakes Charter, Annex 2001, and have drafted an Interstate Compact and International Agreement to implement the provisions of Annex 2001. These agreements, however, make no provisions for including Tribes and First Nations as governments with rights and responsibilities regarding Great Lakes Waters. These agreements also assert that only the States and Provinces have governmental responsibility within the Great Lakes Basin.

Through International treaties and court actions, however, Tribes and First Nations continue to exercise cultural and spiritual rights of self-determination and property rights within traditional territories for our peoples and nations. Tribal and First Nation governments, like all governments, have the duty to protect the interests and future rights of our peoples. Since we have recognized rights and we are not political subdivisions of the States or Provinces, the assertion that the States and Provinces own and have the sole responsibility to protect the Waters is flawed.

Thus, the efforts of the States and Provinces to protect the Waters of the Great Lakes Basin are flawed because these efforts do not include the direct participation of the governments of the Tribes and First Nations. This fundamental flaw endangers the interests of all inhabitants of the Great Lakes Basin, and ultimately, because of the interconnectedness of the worldwide ecosystem, endangers the interests of the entire earth.

It is thus our right, our responsibility and our duty to insist that no plan to protect and preserve the Great Lakes Waters moves forward without the equal highest-level participation of Tribal and First Nation governments with the governments of the United States and Canada. Merely consulting with Tribes and First Nations is not adequate, full participation must be achieved.

By this accord signed on November 23, 2004, at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, the Tribes and First Nations of the Great Lakes Nations do hereby demand that our rights and sovereignty be respected, that any governmental effort to protect and preserve the Waters of the Great Lakes Basin include participation by Tribes and First Nations, and we also hereby pledge that we share the interests and concerns about the future of the Great Lakes Waters, further pledging to work together with each other and with the other governments in the Great Lakes Basin to secure a healthy future for the Great Lakes.

Signatories, November 23, 2004

Darren Henry, Councilor, Aamjiwnaang
 Chief Chris McCormack, Association of Iroquois & Allied Nations
 Peter Nahwegahbow, Audeck Omni Kaning
 Chief Vernon Syrette, Batchewana First Nation
 Rod Monague, Councilor, Beausoleil First Nation
 Chief Mike Esquega, Bijiitwaabik Zaaning Anishinaabek
 Geewadin Elliott, Chippewa of Nawash Unceded First Nation
 Denise Stonefish, Delaware (Moravian) Nation
 Daisy Costas, First Nation of Crees Quebec
 Eugene Reynolds, Fond du Lac
 Chief Lyle Sayers, Garden River First Nation
 Robert Kewaygoshkum, Chairperson, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
 Laura W. Spurr, Chairperson, Huron Potawatomi Inc.
 William E. Emery, President, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
 Lee Sprague, Ogemaw, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
 Frank Ettawageshik, Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
 Chief Wilmer Naganosh, Magnetawan First Nation
 Noah Oshag, First Nation Delegate, Matawa First Nation
 Chief Glen Hare, M'Chigeeng First Nation

Chief Bryan LaForm, Mississauga First Nation
 Chief R. Donald Maracle, Wolf Clan, Mohawks of Bay of Quinte
 Chief A. Francis Boots, Mohawks of Akwesasne
 Deputy Grand Chief Dan Kooses, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
 Chief Randall Phillips, Oneida Nation of the Thames
 Daniel Rapp, Tribal Secretary, Pokagon Band of Potawatami Indians
 Chief Angus Toulouse, Sagamok Anishinawbek
 Chief Audrey Falcon, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
 Chief Vernon Roote, Saugeen First Nation
 Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
 Robert Chicks, Chairperson, Stockbridge Munsee
 Chief James Wabigwan, Thessalon First Nation
 Grand Council Chief John Beaucage, Union of Ontario Indians
 David White, First Nation Delegate, Walpole Island First Nation
 Chief Joel King, Wasauksing First Nation
 Esther Osche, First Nation Delegate, Whiefish River First Nation
 Ronald J. Manitowabi, Councilor, Wikiwemikong First Nation
 Chief Irene Sagan Kells, Zhibahaasing First Nation



Great Lakes Protection Pact signed

CHICAGO, Ill. — In an extraordinary display of inter-governmental collaboration, dozens of government officials and tribal representatives signed a Great Lakes Declaration and a framework document for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem. Officials in attendance included members of President Bush's cabinet and senior staff, United States senators and congressmen, Great Lakes governors, Tribal leaders, mayors, state senators and representatives.

"This is the largest formal collaboration of its kind focused on the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes Basin," commented Mike Leavitt, then-administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The signers of the Great Lakes Declaration pledged to work together toward a common goal of protecting, restoring and improving the Great Lakes ecosystem in order to address the new and continuing challenges and ensure a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Framework establishes strategy teams, made up of government, quasi-government and other regional stakeholders, as the working bodies responsible for drafting action plans that will be used for the draft Great Lakes strategy. The teams will use the nine priorities identified in October 2003 by the Great Lakes governors and since adopted by the Great Lakes mayors and ratified by the Great Lakes Commission as their organizational foundation. This strategy will be presented to the members of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration for resolution of final issues and adoption at Summit I, scheduled for summer 2005.

In May 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13340



Photo courtesy of U.S. EPA

COLLABORATORS — Pictured left to right are Illinois Governor Blagojevich, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Beverly Gard (R-Indiana), Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians Chairman Frank Ettawageshik, Minnesota Lt. Governor Carol Molnau, Ohio Governor Bob Taft, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, Erie, Penn., Mayor Richard Fillippi, Michigan DEQ Commissioner Dennis Schornack, and New York Governor George Pataki.

creating a Cabinet-level Task Force to accelerate the coordination for protection and restoration of the Great Lakes system. The Executive Order directed the task force to help convene and establish "a regional collaboration of national significance for the Great Lakes" among the U.S. federal government, tribes, the Great Lakes states, local communities and other interests in the Great Lakes region.

The Great Lakes constitute the largest freshwater system on earth, containing roughly 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply. In addition to their natural beauty, the Great Lakes serve as a source of drinking water for more than 30 million people, support the culture and life ways of Native communities, form the backbone for billions of dollars in shipping, trade, and fishing and provide

food and recreational opportunities for millions of American and Canadian citizens.

Overarching considerations

The Council of Great Lakes Governors' and Mayors' first priority addresses water use and diversion issues. This priority issue is being addressed through ongoing binational efforts to implement the Great Lakes Charter Annex of 2001, so it is not included the scope of the Strategy Teams issues.

The second of the governors' and mayors' priorities — to promote programs to protect human health against adverse effects of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem — is of paramount importance in each Strategy Team. For this reason, a separate Strategy Team for human health was not created, but GLRC Members expect that each Strategy Team will explicitly consider and address human health impacts and priorities, as appropriate, when developing its section of the Great Lakes Strategy.

Similarly, unique tribal interests and perspectives are of great importance to each of the Strategy Teams. Accordingly, the GLRC Members expect each Strategy Team will explicitly consider the tribal rights, interests, governmental infrastructure and programs involved in the issue being considered, and will identify priorities and strategies that relate to the health, welfare, and culture of tribal communities.

A third issue that is important to each of the Strategy Teams is the need for research and monitoring. Each Strategy Team should be mindful of such needs and coordinate all issue-specific recommendations through the Indicators and Information Strategy Team.

Issue Area Strategy Teams

(There are an average of five tribal representatives on each team.)

(a) Habitat/Species Strategy Team

(i) Addresses governors' priority: "Enhance fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting coastal wetlands, fish and wildlife habitats."

(ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: Restoration/protection of habitat, native species, fisheries, coastal areas, wetlands, healthy forests, the natural hydrologic cycles and other critical natural features and areas.

(b) Indicators and Information Strategy Team

(i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Standardize and enhance the methods by which information is collected, recorded and shared within the region."

(ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: indicators, monitoring, data standards, reporting of environmental information, Great Lakes Integrated Coastal Observing System (GLICOS), Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs), and the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) process. Emphasis will be on strengthening decision support systems.

(c) Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBT) Reduction Strategy Team

(i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Continue to reduce the introduction of PBTs into the Great Lakes ecosystem."

(ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: reduction of toxic substances, Pollution prevention (P2), new chemicals of concern, air deposition and long range transport, Great Lakes Initiative (GLI) and fish consumption advisories.

(d) Invasive Species Strategy Team

(i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species."

(ii) Issues to be covered

include, but are not limited to: ballast water management, National Invasive Species Act/ Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act present and future implementation, the Illinois carp barriers and exploration of other potential barriers, rapid response protocols and strategies, prevention and mitigation procedures, outreach and education, and applied research.

(e) Sustainable Development

(i) Addresses Governors'

Priority: "Adopt sustainable use practices that protect environmental resources and may enhance the recreational and commercial value of our Great Lakes."

(ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: transportation, brownfields, land use and preservation practices, waterfront restoration, and economic viability as a function of environmental and natural resource protection.

(f) Coastal Health Strategy Team

NOTE: Although human health will be explicitly addressed, as appropriate, in each of the Strategy Teams above, there are several specific coastal issues that can very directly impact human health.

(i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Promote programs to protect human health against adverse effects of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem."

(ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: Beach Closings, CSO/SSOs, bacteria and pathogen contamination.

(g) Nonpoint Source Strategy Team

(i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Control pollution from diffuse sources into water, land and air."

(ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: buffer strips, Clean Water Act Section 319 requirements, total maximum daily load programs (TMDLs), agricultural practices, erosion, nutrients, coastal nonpoint pollution issues, stormwater runoff, and conservation reserve programs.

(h) Area of Concern (AOC) Restoration/ Sediments Strategy Team

(i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Restore to environmental health the Areas of Concern identified by the International Joint Commission as needing remediation."

(ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: Restoring the health of AOCs through the remedial action program, cleaning up contaminated sediments through the implementation of the Great Lakes Legacy Act and other authorities, and delisting of AOCs.

For additional information about this meeting, the Great Lakes Declaration and the framework document, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration>.

Source: U.S. EPA

High school seniors invited to apply for summer fishery mentoring program

MARQUETTE — Senior high school students are invited to apply for a summer 2005 summer fisheries biology mentorship at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Station in Marquette, Mich.

This summer mentoring program, the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, is sponsored by the American Fisheries Society. The goal of the program is to stimulate the interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions. So, preference will be given to qualified women and minority students.

Students who are selected will work with Jessica Mistak, senior fisheries biologist with the Michigan DNR, for 8 weeks. Duties will include measurement of stream habitat variables, fish sampling, and participation in

fish production efforts.

The student will be expected to provide their own transportation to and from Marquette. A scholarship of \$3,000 will be awarded to the student for participation in the program.

Please note that although the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is open to sophomore, junior and senior level students, Mistak is restricted to recruiting students who will be 18 years of age by June 1, 2005, due to Michigan child labor laws.

Interested students should contact Jessica Mistak at the MDNR Fisheries Station, 484 Cherry Creek Rd., Marquette MI 49855, 906-249-1611, ext. 308, mistakjl@michigan.gov.

For more information about the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program itself, see <http://www.fisheries.org/html/hutton/studentguide.shtml>.



From CORA & GLRC meetings, page 2

Chaired by Fred Paquin, the Aug. 26 Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) meeting was held immediately after the GLRC meeting.

REPORTS

INFORMATION & EDUCATION – Jennifer Dale reported a whitefish tagging study press release was widely used in the US and Canada. The salmon net safety campaign was conducted with a poster and map going out to all tribal natural resource departments, with an additional 50 requested by the DNR.

Dale reported attending the Sullivan's Creek Fish Hatchery open house and the commissioning of the USGS Research Vessel Sturgeon in Cheboygan.

The "Eat Fish But Choose Wisely" grant team met Aug. 2 when it was decided Dale will arrange talking circles for fishers and elders. The group viewed an excellent video from the grant's principal investigator, John Delinger, about the safe way to eat fish. Dale obtained permission to use elements of the video and perhaps get more funding to produce a Anishinaabe version.

In other work, Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) certification for Lake Whitefish may be possible; exotic species documentation kits were distributed; and Bay Mills Township may be interested in a joint launch project at Pendills. While in Cheboygan, Dale visited a vessel access site as requested by a fisher, and also noted that the USGS also has access issues and perhaps a joint venture could be investigated.

On June 28 and 29 she attended a Michigan Sea Grant Whitefish Marketing workshop, which she will continue to follow.

LRB Ogema Lee Sprague said that marketing a Native American-branded whitefish product is of value to pursue. Wild-caught fish are getting a better market value than farmed fish and this may be the time for the tribes to move forward on marketing the whitefish. After further discussion, Paquin said that the marketing issue will go on the next meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Jane TenEyck presented a blanket letter of support that CORA can submit on behalf of CORA-member tribes for things like grant proposals or marketing efforts. The letter provides CORA support for the tribe seeking funds without making a commitment.

A motion by Ettawageshick, supported by Sprague, to approve a blanket letter of support for CORA to supply member tribes as needed for grant applications dealing with Great Lakes or inland issues, carried.

The \$5,000 CORA approved to fix the tribal dock at the Little Lake access site is insufficient. Michigan DNR's Jim Hooker supplied an M.C.M. Marine quote for \$8,910 including galvanizing the dock, which the DNR will install. A motion by Parker, supported by Ettawageshick, to approve the bid submitted by M.C.M. Marine to build a tribal dock at Little Lake Harbor access site for \$8,910, \$3,910 of which will be trans-

ferred from the access line item and added to the allocated \$5,000 for this project, carried.

TenEyck and Hooker viewed repairs needed at the Whitefish Point tribal dock. A steel piling was lying on the lake bottom and other pilings were leaning. Maintenance on these pilings is needed every 4 to 5 years. In 2000, repair of steel pilings cost CORA \$8,551. Under the Use Permit, CORA is responsible for repair of the pilings.

Ryba Marine agreed to do the project for \$6,000. A motion by Sprague, supported by Victor Matson Sr., to approve repairs to the steel pilings at the Whitefish Point access site tribal dock and allow up to \$6,000 from the access site line item to do the project, carried.

TenEyck was satisfied with the CORA building paint job and presented a bid for \$1,000 plus supplies for the same contractor to paint the pole barn. A motion by Matson, supported by John Concannon, to approve the bid to paint the pole barn for \$1,000 plus supplies, carried.

TenEyck asked to discontinue CORA administration of the Protectors of the Earth youth camp. Protectors of the Earth staff do not want to follow CORA procedures and it makes it difficult to get things done. She asked that the dollars be transferred to Sault Tribe. The CORA board voted to allow TenEyck to discontinue administration of the youth camp dollars.

TenEyck asked approval to spend additional monies to pave the parking lot. A motion by Parker, supported by Matson, to approve \$7,619.62 to be taken from savings and added to the pre-approved funds from 2002 to pave the CORA parking lot for a total of \$23,440, carried.

In Old Business, the CORA board discussed an expert witness contract due to expire on September 30. A motion by Parker, supported by Ettawageshick, to extend Professor Susan Gray's subcontract for two years and to increase her line item by \$10,000 maximum, carried.

Under New Business, the CORA board approved the 2005 budgets.

Paquin asked that the Little Traverse Bay Bands contact Sault Tribe that month to discuss the 2004 budget for Inter Tribal Fishery Assessment Program (ITFAP). LTBB Natural Resource Director Doug Craven agreed to meet with ITFAP Director Tom Gorenflo on the 2004 budget. Ettawageshick added that everyone did agree to a timeline for budgets being approved and it should be followed as closely as possible.

TenEyck proposed drafting a uniform subcontract that eliminates the 10 to 15 subcontracts now in use. Under a uniform subcontract, perhaps all the dollars would come through CORA and be administered back to the proper programs, she said.

Paquin suggested that TenEyck draft a uniform subcontract for

review by CORA's legal counsel, who would then pass it on to the respective tribes. It was consensus of the board that TenEyck draft a uniform subcontract for Administration Services, Information and Education, and Biological (ITFAP) for Tierney as CORA's legal counsel, to review, after which the draft would be sent for tribal review.

Tierney requested approval of a witness contract for a rebuttal witness on federal land policy for the inland case, the funds to be paid out of litigation support. A motion by Parker, supported by Matson, to approve the professional and technical services contract between CORA and Charles Wilkinson for his use as a rebuttal witness on federal land policy for the inland case, not to exceed \$225 per hour nor exceed the \$40,000 line item, carried.

The board went into Executive Session to discuss offering the CORA executive director position to Interim Director Jane TenEyck. Coming back into regular session, Paquin announced that TenEyck accepted and has been hired. A motion by Ettawageshick, supported by Jimmie Mitchell, to hire Jane TenEyck as the Executive Director of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, carried unanimously.

Two other actions were taken as a result of Executive Session discussion. A motion by Ettawageshick, supported by Parker, to create a salaried position of secretary for CORA effective January 1, 2005, carried unanimously. A motion by Sprague, supported by Jimmie Mitchell, to transfer a contract employee to salaried position with CORA effective January 1, 2005, carried unanimously.

GLRC, Oct. 28

The Great Lakes Resources Committee (GLRC) of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) met Oct. 28 at GTB's Turtle Creek Business Annex Building in Williamsburg, Mich. LTBB Chairman Frank Ettawageshick presided over the meeting and an invocation was given by Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' Bob Hardenburgh.

REPORTS

ACCESS – CORA Executive Director Jane TenEyck said that not all access site priority lists are in. Although there's no deadline for the lists, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust needs the list for next year's funding cycle.

For the Committee's review, TenEyck presented new Whitefish Point Use Permit language that dealt with inactive fishing boats at the site. The DNR has no problem with boats left during the closed season or winter months, she said; the problem is during the prime fishing season. It was consensus of the board that Bay Mills Counsel Kathryn Tierney draft wording as needed and circulate it to GLRC for review.

TenEyck said that the same inactive fishing boat problem

occurs at the CORA access site McKay Bay. She would like to use the same wording as rules for McKay Bay. TenEyck also noted problems with boats being docked on the south side of the dock and parking on the beach, which is private property. BMIC Conservation Committee Chairman Tony LeBlanc said that the south side property owner was upset with boats being tied on that side, but he is allowing the fishermen to unload their boxes on that side and the boats are being tied on the north side.

It was consensus of the GLRC that the earlier discussion on active and inactive boats should apply to the CORA access sites and is not a regulation change, but rather a procedure or rule of the CORA access site.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

LITTLE RIVER BAND – Jimmie Mitchell reported his commission has been hearing citations, and has added a trap net fisher to the fishing activity in its area.

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND – John Concannon reported speaking to Captain Ben Carrick about expanding the patrol in the area. It was noted this should be dealt with by the Law Enforcement Committee.

BAY MILLS – New Committee Chairman Tony LeBlanc reported that everything was in-house.

SAULT TRIBE – Victor Matson Sr. reported that Sault Tribe re-vamped its committee and has been discussing the proposed trap net regulations.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS – Commissioner Dougherty Johnson said LTBB has requested Great Lakes Fishery Trust funding for its enterprise, Bell's Fishery. He requested CORA look into Trade Adjustment and Assistance Program for possible monies for the fishermen. TenEyck said she would assign the task to Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale.

Johnson reported that a Sault Tribe fisherman was approved for the LTBB Bay de Noc permit. The permit allows the fisherman to fish five nets; he has two nets in the water.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE – Capt. Ben Carrick reported that his committee met yesterday and would like clarification on unattended nets. One such case was thrown out of court by an LTBB judge who felt the definition in the regulations was not specific enough.

Craven added that the judge said the regulations did not specifically state that leaving unattended nets was a prohibited act.

Tierney felt the judge was right – it is a stylistic problem that never occurred to anyone because the fishermen have always been cited and convicted. GTB Counsel Bill Rastetter said that GTB has addressed this issue in its tribal regulations and will share those with the other tribes.

BIOLOGIST'S REPORTS
GRAND TRAVERSE BAND – Erik Olsen discussed finishing a fall walleye survey for the walleye

stocking plan, which will be summarized for the Technical Fishery Committee (TFC) by March 1, 2005, in hopes of additional walleye stocking. The department also surveyed fall lake trout spawning. Olsen reported that a grant funded 12 passive integrated transponder kits and readers for Lake Michigan studies.

BAY MILLS – Paul Ripple reported that Bay Mills has been concentrating on commercial harvest monitoring whenever possible. Ripple has also been conducting an electroshock survey with in Waishkey Bay area with assistance from the Little River Band to do an electroshock survey to assess natural recruitment in walleye and other studies in conjunction in the St. Marys River, as well as beach seining.

ITFAP – Tom Gorenflo did not have a report at this time.

LITTLE RIVER BAND – Archie Martell's department is finishing its fall lake trout spawning assessment and has been monitoring commercial fishing in the Ludington area.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS – Stephen Lenart reported starting fall work and completing early fall whitefish assessments. LTBB was awarded a grant to do sturgeon work in the Bay. The Department had a recapture last week that was traced back to a population from the Manistee River.

Lenart reported that Bay Harbor was built over a couple of Kiln piles, a highly alkaline substance that has found its way to the Bay. Discovered by routine monitoring, the DEQ has found pH levels in excess of 12 along a 1,000-foot stretch of shoreline out to 100 feet, estimated at 30-50,000 gallons a day.

BIOLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION – Lenart said that because of the differences of opinion, the TFC could not send out the preliminary whitefish harvest numbers. The TFC is struggling with interpretation of the model ratings and will hold a conference call on this issue tomorrow.

Under Old Business, the GLRC discussed CORA Regulations amendments for trap nets.

Matson said Sault Tribe does not agree with the amendment pertaining to trap nets being removed by Nov. 15 but agrees with the other amendments. Concannon, LeBlanc and Mitchell all agreed with Matson. After an in-depth discussion regarding the details of the proposed amendments, Matson motioned with support from Mitchell to approve four of the five proposed CORA Regulations amendments pertaining to trap nets: 1) definition of "abandoned nets;" 2) extra markings on shallow trap nets; 3) identifier tags for both trap and gill nets in two different locations; and, 4) staff on end of lead to go into effect April 1, 2005. The motion carried.

After going over options for dealing with nets after Nov. 15,

See CORA meetings, page 8



Natural resource director looks to future

By Jennifer Dale

As Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' (LTBB) natural resources director, it seems that at only 29, Doug Craven has achieved his goals. Not only is he working for his own tribe at the top of his chosen discipline, he and his wife Sarah have two boys, Weengush, 4, and Nodin, 3. All are members of the LTBB.

Craven stepped into the job shortly after the Consent Decree was signed and the five 1836 treaty fishing tribes formed Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA). The Decree was what was needed at the time, he said. "It's not a perfect document, but we are only five years into it," he said. "There were three philosophies at work in the development of the Decree, and concessions were made by all parties ... Who gave up more, I don't know."

Big issues challenging the youthful director are the CORA tribes' inland case, and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the US Coast Guard (USCG). All the CORA tribes are proceeding into new territory with the inland case to reaffirm the 1836 tribes' right to inland hunting and fishing. The case is expected to go to court in 2006.

Some of Craven's work is playing catch-up with tribes that have been established far longer than the LTBB, which gained fed-



Photo by Jennifer Dale

Doug Craven, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' natural resource department director, stands in front of his new office building.

eral recognition in 1994. "We just passed our own commercial vessel safety regulations," he said, which will go toward an MOU with the USCG that the other CORA tribes already possess.

Craven said the tribe is making headway on an gathering MOU with the USFS. "We are ready to sit down with the Forest Service and get some real work done."

LTBB, along with Little River

Band of Ottawa Indians and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, are working on a uniform three-tribe uniform gathering code with the USFS, an understanding Bay Mills Indian Community has had with the Forest Service for some time.

Craven's chosen profession arose from his childhood in the St. John's area, north of Lansing. The outdoors was a big part of Craven's upbringing in a rural area with farming, hunting and fishing. When he left home to attend Western Michigan University, he knew in his first year he wanted to go into natural resources. He began in biology, but switched to natural resources management and then added environmental management. This gave him the core background of biology, while he gained a broader perspective studying management. He liked studying social issues, and how people interact with the environment.

While earning his degree, he began working with the LTBB Natural Resources department during the summers. After graduation, he first worked with an environmental consultant and was then hired as Northern Huron Band of Potawatami's environmental director. But he had his feelers out for any natural resource jobs in his own tribe, so when the department director position opened, he was ready.

He would like to begin graduate work, but right now the distance isn't reasonable. In the meantime, he can put his education and his rapidly growing experience to work. Craven hopes more Native youth will become interested in natural resources careers, as he did.

"Getting kids into natural resources is very important," he said, adding that he's like to become more involved with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, a big proponent of natural resources education for tribal youth.

He said LTBB is making an effort to establish a scholarship program specifically for natural resource management. "Of the 1,000-plus kids in the scholarship program, only one is into natural resources. The rest are in business, mostly," he said. "That's the perception today."

A big part of Craven's concern is the need to bring the Anishinaabe perspective to natural resource management, both inside and outside Indian tribes. On a large scale, he explained, natural resource needs are managed for overall benefit — but how "benefit" is defined is a cultural value.

In Western science, our needs come first, and we manipulate the environment toward that. In the wholistic Anishinaabe perspective, the resource needs come first.

"For the most part, we do

CORA meeting briefs for October, from page 7

closed season, it was consensus to review the proposed amendment dealing with removal of trap nets by Nov. 15 of each year after the tribal natural resource entities have reviewed the amendment.

TenEyck was directed to contact the MDNR to get the identifier tags issued to the fishermen prior to April 1, 2005.

CORA, Oct. 28

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) met Oct. 28 at Grand Traverse Band's Turtle Creek Business Annex Building, Williamsburg, Mich. CORA Chairman Fred Paquin presided over the meeting. A motion by LTBB Chairman Frank Ettawageshik, supported by Bay Mills President Jeff Parker and Sault Tribe Director Victor Matson Sr. to approve the 2003 Audit carried unanimously by acclamation.

According to a presentation by Karla Myers from the auditing firm Rehmann Robson, CORA received a clean opinion in the 2003 audit, which means the internal controls are in place to create the financial statement. Overall, CORA had a good year with a net income of \$1,513 and approximately \$60,000 on the full accrual basis, said Myers, thanking CORA Executive Director Jane TenEyck and her staff for "doing a great job."

Donna Budnick, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, attended the meeting to explain how her department could help the CORA tribes with the inland case.

A CORA part-time staff was made full-time while subcontracting to Inter Tribal Fisheries Assessment Program for some of that time. A motion by Ettawageshik, supported by LRB NRC Chairman Jimmie Mitchell, to support hiring the secretary as a full-time CORA employee and that 25 percent of her time be subcontracted to ITFAP, was carried unanimously by acclamation.

REPORTS

CORA Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale was at an Administration for Native Americans grant writing training, and her written report was submitted in the board packets.

Executive Director Jane TenEyck reported that a further modification of line items within the litigation support fund was needed to cover expert witness expenses. After discussion, a motion by Ettawageshik, supported by Parker, to move \$15,000 from the Research on Federal Indian Policies line item to Professor Gray's line item carried unanimously by acclamation.

TenEyck then reported the need to renew contracts with two

of the expert witnesses. A motion by Parker, supported by Ettawageshik, to extend the sub-contracts CORA has between Bay Mills for Dr. Cleland and LTBB for Dr. Dowd for another year was carried unanimously by acclamation. The board also approved removing the \$40,000 caps each for Dr. Cleland and Dr. Dowd, but that they do not exceed the \$80,000 litigation line item.

TenEyck presented the draft uniform sub-contract for Administration, Information & Education and Biological Services she had developed at the direction of the CORA board. The draft provoked a lengthy discussion on LTBB concerns with subcontracting to ITFAP for its biological services, an issue that had been lingering for three years without resolution. The discussion ended with an agreement to come to an understanding by the next CORA meeting in December.

CORA Chairman Fred Paquin asked if there were any further comments, suggestions or motions. Parker suggested deleting the ITFAP section from the 2005 sub-contract. Motioned by Parker, supported by Matson, to delete the Biological Services (ITFAP) portion from the 2005 sub-contract and move forward with the Administration Services and Information and Educa-

tion Programs in the amount of \$80,000 per contract, carried unanimously by acclamation.

TenEyck wrapped up her report with a reminder for each tribe to bill CORA for litigation-related travel.

Ettawageshik announce a meeting of all the tribes and First Nations in the Great Lakes Basin scheduled for Nov. 22-23. Tribes had pledged goods and dollars toward the effort, including Sault Tribe, Grand Traverse Band and Little Traverse Bay Bands. A motioned by GTB NRC Chairman John Concannon, supported by Mitchell, to approve \$1,000 from the CORA line item for meeting rooms to help pay for meals at the inter-tribal meeting, carried unanimously by acclamation.

Under New Business, TenEyck asked the CORA tribes for assistance in making deadlines for a FY2006 Appropriations Request, since CORA has no lobbyist. Ettawageshik said that the request was sent to Congressman Kildee's office, to the Committees and to LTBB's lobbyist, Lydia Hoffer. He said that the Committees have already begun working on next year's budget and CORA's request has been worked on and is in the system, adding that there is still a need for the tribes to go to D.C. individually to push for support.

The CORA board discussed details a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service. Mitchell reported on meetings between the tribes, saying they had hoped there would be uniformity of regulations for all five CORA tribes.

He added that the tribes that met on this issue would like to discuss with the CORA board the need to proceed with CORA's Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee (ILWRC) to get regulations on the forest lands for a uniform gathering code with the U.S. Forest Service for all five tribes.

Bay Mills already is a party to an agreement between the Forest Service and the GLIFWC tribes. A discussion on the MOU content ensued with no action taken.

Lastly, Bay Mills Counsel Kathryn Tierney informed the board that the FY2005 litigation support request will have to be done before the next meeting in December.

A motion by Ettawageshik, supported by Parker, to adopt a resolution of support for the FY 2005 Litigation Support request and that the resolution cannot be released until after the CORA Board approves the litigation budget drafted by the tribal attorneys, was carried unanimously by acclamation.