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. “It was my job to just be 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 Pipecarriker 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,” said Mandamin.

It stuck with her all winter. “What can we 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 do to fulfill my responsibility,” she thought. To the surprise 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 Kazakhstan, 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 do we 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 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,” page 4
port the electricity company check the meters. bills, electricity will remain by the consent of line on the surface. The remainder of the fish must be tagged during the closed season this year, so he needs GLRC’s authorization to get the siscowet permit 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 extension of the sub-legal (less than 17 inches) siscowet as part of the permit. The draft permit was then sent to the TFC for review, as required under Consent Decree no-take requirements. The state received the GPS coordinates and the sealing information on Annex 2001, carried unanimously on the Executive Council agenda. The state cannot issue permits to selected trap net fishermen because the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requires that they identify anyone tampering with nets. Gorenflo asked the GLRC if the permit can be issued regardless of the comments. A motion to authorize issuing the siscowet permit was defeated. The state and every sovereign tribe within the inter-tribal waters as the GLRC directs as the state level. He asked that the letter be sent out to the tribes more frequently, in every other year, to give a voice to the tribes. The letter was to be written to the state and federal governments. Frances Reed also reported on the Ludington Power Plant earlier this year. That letter on the Ludington Power Plant earlier this year. Sprague said that at the last meeting with the U.S. EPA, Secretary Leavitt handed out a letter that said the federal government acknowledged 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, so 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 GLRC cannot do anything without the tribes. He then expected 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 that 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. The letter is still pending and 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, in addition to the letter on Annex 2001, carried unanimously.

BIOLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION — Stephen Lenart reported that the BSD’s annual report has not been approved. 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 incomplete and will be updated before the September Executive Council meeting.

In Old Business, the GLRC next dealt with the state’s proposed stocking plan 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 Schlehuber was to draft a letter to the state detailing Sault Tribe positions.

He said that GLRC and CORA should consider taking a stand on mercury and getting letters and more press releases about the issue. They should get involved 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.

Continuing his report, Gorenflo said that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service did not provide the state with any information about the Sault Tribe’s proposal for chinook stocking in the Cheboygan River. He said that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service did not provide the state with any information about the Sault Tribe’s proposal for chinook stocking in the Cheboygan River.

Gorenflo said that the state is going back in time by making things so complicated. The agency requires GPS coordinates and the sealing information on Annex 2001, carried unanimously.

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CORAL REGULATIONS AMENDED TO DEAL WITH ABANDONED NETS

A choisir, l’identification des animaux ou de la viande peut sembler fastidieuse, mais c’est un aspect critique de la conservation. L’identification permet de suivre les stocks en place et de garantir que la pêche est durable. Si la loi n’encourage pas le désherbage d’herbes ou la déforestation, elle encourage la pêche durable.

Le projet de loi propose également des amendements pour lutter contre les chasseurs et pêcheurs qui abandonnent des filets dans l’eau. Cela menace non seulement les populations de poissons et d’oiseaux, mais aussi l’environnement dans son ensemble.

En conclusion, la loi a été modifiée de manière à encourager la pêche durable tout en protégeant l’environnement. Il est important de noter que ces modifications peuvent avoir des répercussions sur l’industrie de la pêche et des chasseurs. Il est donc essentiel de travailler avec ces groupes pour assurer leur compréhension et leur soutien. Le succès de ces modifications dépendra de la manière dont elles sont communiquées et appliquées dans la réalité.
Unprecedented Accord
From Page 1

“Do we want to take a tour of Great Lakes shipwrecks in a bus,” Ettawageshik said, “That’s what vision we are trying to avoid.”

Grand Council Chief of Ontario Indians John Beaucage, who hosted the ceremony, spoke about how the water’s plight came to be, and our role in restoring it to health. Back several 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 there.

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 numbers. “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.”

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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 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.”

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“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.
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 eco-system. The health of one part affects the health and well being of the whole. It is in 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 these 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 Nabwegahbow, Aadeck Omni Kaning
Chief Vernon Syrette, Batchewana First Nation
Rod Monague, Councilor, Beausoleil First Nation
Chief Mike Esquigea, Biiwtwaabik Zaanning 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 Isle Sayers, Garden River First Nation
Robert Kewanyoskum, Chairperson, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Laura W. Spurr, Chairperson, Huron Potawatomi Inc.
William E. Emery, President, Keweenaun Bay Indian Community
Lee Sprague, Ogema, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Frank Ettawageshik, Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Chief Wilmer Nagunosh, 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 Kooes, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Chief Randall Phillips, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Daniel Rapp, Tribal Secretary, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Chief Angus Toulouse, Sagamok Anishinaabek
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 Wahbigan, 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, Wiikwemikong First Nation
Chief Irene Sagan Kells, Zhiibahauasing First Nation

Chief Chris McCormack, Association of Iroquois & Allied Nations
There are an average of five regional collaboration strategy teams working 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 (GLRC) was established in 1999 by the Great Lakes governors 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 by the member states. The Executive Order, issued on May 12, 2005, is scheduled for summer 2005.

In May 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13340 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, tribal, 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 American communities, and provide the backbone for billions of dollars in shipping, trade, and fishing and provide food and recreational opportuni-
ties 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 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 consider specific recommendations through the Indicators and Information Strategy Team.

(b) 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: 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.

(d) Invasive Species Strategy Team

(i) Addresses Governors’ Priority: “Adopt sustainable use practices that protect environmental resources and may enhance the recreational and commercial value of the Great Lakes.”

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

(e) Coastal Health Strategy Team

NOTE: Although human health will be explicitly addressed, as appropriate, in each of the strategy teams above, there are several strategic issues that can directly impact human health.

(i) Addresses Governors’ Priority: “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: human health, restore to environmental health the Areas of Concern identified by the International Joint Commission as needing remediation.

(f) Coastal Health Strategy Team

NOTE: “Control pollution from discharge 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.

(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: Restoration of the health of AOCs through an integrated Action Plan, clearing up contaminated sediments through the implementation of the Great Lakes Legacy Act, other authorities, and other critical mechanisms.

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
Chris Paquin, the August 26 Chippewa Ottawa River Band (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 community. The Department had a recapture study underway and the GRAND TRUERSE BAND had been discussing the proposed trap net regulations.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAND – Stephen Lenart reported on fall work and completing early fall whitefish assessments. LTBB was awarded a grant to sturgeon work in the Bay.

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 TRUERSE BAND – Stephen Lenart reported on fall work and concentrating on a population from the Manistee River.

Lake Superior – John Concannon reported on the preliminary whitefish harvest for this project, carried.

The Department also stocked Lake St. Mary’s with a grant funded eye stocking. The department also surveyed fall lake trout spawning. Olsen reported that a grant funded 12 dolly varden fishery sampling kits and readers for Lake Michigan studies.

BAY MILLS – Paul Ripple reported that fishers are continuing to concentrate on commercial harvest monitoring whenever possible. Ripple has also been conducting an electroshock survey with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission’s assistance from the Little Traverse Bay Band to do an electroshock survey to assess natural recruitment in walleye and other studies in conjunction with the St. Mary’s River, as well as beach seining.

From CORA & GLRC meetings, page 2

TENÉYCK – Jennifer Mitchell and added to the allocated $5,000 for this project, carried.

The letter provides CORA support to an individual that CORA can blanket letter of support for the lists, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Paquin said that the market value than farmed fish and this fish are getting a better market value than farmed fish and this can-branded whitefish product is can be sold.

May 28 and 29 she attend the joint launch project at Pendills. TenEyck proposed drafting a contract between CORA and Interim Director Jane TenEyck.

Director Jane TenEyck said that the same procedures, she said.

Director of the Chippewa Ottawa River Band, said that the LTBB Chairman Frank Ettawage accepted and has been hired. A board meeting by an LTBB judge who felt that 12 sturgeon work in the Bay. Discovered by routine parking on the beach, which is not agree with the amendment to the definition in the regulations and is not a regulation change, but rather a procedure or rule of the TFC could not send out

TFC and is not a regulation change, but rather a procedure or rule of the respective tribes. It was consensus of the committee to approve a uniform subcontract for Administra- tion Services, Information and Education, and Biological (PA) services for CORA’s legal counsel, to review, after which the draft would be sent for tribal review.

TenEyck also noted problems with boats being docked on the south side of the dock and parking in the private property. BMIC Conserva- tion Committee Chairman Tony LeBlanc said that the south side provides parking for boats being tied on that side, but he is allowing the fisherman 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 inconnu was not specific enough.

The GRAND TRUERSE BAND – John Concannon reported on the preliminary whitefish harvest monitoring whenever possible. Ripple has also been conducting an electroshock survey with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission’s assistance from the Little Traverse Bay Band to do an electroshock survey to assess natural recruitment in walleye and other studies in conjunction with the St. Mary’s River, as well as beach seining.

ITFAP – Tom Gorento did not agree to a timeline for the preliminary whitefish harvest monitoring whenever possible. Ripple has also been conducting an electroshock survey with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission’s assistance from the Little Traverse Bay Band to do an electroshock survey to assess natural recruitment in walleye and other studies in conjunction with the St. Mary’s River, as well as beach seining.

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 TRUERSE BAND – Stephen Lenart reported on fall work and concentrating on 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 it’s way to the Bay. Developed routine parking on the beach, which is not agree with the amendment to the definition in the regulations and is not a regulation change, but rather a procedure or rule of the respective tribes. It was consensus of the committee to approve a uniform subcontract for Administration Services, Information and Education, and Biological (PA) services for CORA’s legal counsel, to review, after which the draft would be sent for tribal review.

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natural resource director looks to future

By Jennifer Dale

As Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians’ (LTBB) natural resource 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 1836 treaty fishing tribes formed Chipewa 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 federal 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 a 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.

While earning his degree, he began working with the LTBB Natural Resources department during the summers. After graduation, he worked within an environmental consultant and was then hired as Northern Huron Band of Potawatomi’s environmental director. But he had nothing to do with any natural resource jobs in his own tribe, so when the department director position opened, he was ready.

“I would like to begin gradually, 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.

“Getting kids into natural resources is very important,” he said, adding that he’d like to become more involved with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, a big proponent of natural resource 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 management. They 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 in the world of the ‘effit’ is defined as a cultural value.

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

“If for the most part, we do close season, it was consensus to review the proposed amendment dealing with removal of trap nets for ciscoes. Furthermore, the tribal natural resource entities have reviewed the amendment.

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

Cora, Oct. 28


A motion by LTBB Chairman Jimmie Mitchell, seconded by Bay Mills President Jeff Parker, to approve the 2003 audit and financial statements was carried unanimously by acclamation.

According to a presentation by Karla Myers from the auditing firm Rehmann/Robinson, 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.”

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

Photo by Jennifer Dale

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 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 questions. Parker suggested deleting the ITFAP section from the 2005 sub-contract. Motioned by Parker, supported by Mattson, to delete the Biological Services (ITFAP) portion from the 2005 sub-contract and move forward with the Administration Services and Information and Education Programs in the amount of $80,000 per contract, carried unanimously by acclamation.

TenEyck reported she reviewed the Consent Decree for Dr. Cleland and LTBB for Dr. Dowd for another year was carried unanimously by acclamation. The discussion ended with an agreement to come to an understanding by the next CORA meeting in December.

Under New Business, TenEyck asked the CORA tribes for assistance in planning an application for a FY2006 Appropriations Request, since CORA has no lobbyist.

Ettawageshik said that the request was sent to Congressmen Kildee’s office, where it was sent 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.

CORA board discussed details a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service to 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 was carried unanimously by acclamation.

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