

MACPRA Meeting  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005  
Lakefront Inn, St. Ignace  
Host - Sault Saint Marie Tribe

Present: Cecil Pavlat - Sault Ste. Marie Tribe, Sharron Detz - Grand River Bands, Agency representatives from NRCS: David Burgdorf, Plant Materials Specialist; Glenn Lamberg, American Indian Liaison.

Cecil began with a pipe ceremony, smudge and welcome as our host. There were no minutes from the last meeting.

The first item on our agenda was the **Novi Inadvertent Discovery**. In October of 2003, there were remains of eight ancestors discovered on private property. The property owner wants the remains to go back to the tribes. Since MACPRA raises educational awareness in regards to these issues and helps with the tribal process, it was determined that MACPRA would be involved. The property owners signed legal paperwork assigning this process to MACPRA. The state police determined that this was not a criminal case. The remains went from the medical examiners office to Michigan State University who concurred as a second opinion that these remains were in fact from a burial site that was determined to be over 800 years old, and then sent back to the medical examiners office. This process has taken one and one-half years. At our last meeting it was decided to obtain the remains as soon as possible. Earl M (Hannahville), who believes that the remains had a historical significance, Joe Mitchell, Winnay and Cecil went together to obtain the remains. Re-internment will take place in Mt. Pleasant sometime in May. Press Releases will go out to all the tribes. It is not our goal to stop urban sprawl or progress. It is our only intent to return our ancestors where their remains will be safe and not disturbed again. It is very important to educate the public on this important matter. Please note that has taken 400 years to get this to this point where non-native people also see the importance of this. Joe Mitchell has offered to care for these ancestors until they are repatriated in May. Donna Budnick has offered to help on this issue.

Sharron shared that a private property owner in Grand River's area has gotten in touch with her and wants to return remains that he is sure are Native. Is there a certificate that MACPRA can give him recognizing his participation in this process? We all agreed that it is important to recognize land owners for their willingness to do "the right thing".

The non-profit status and the rest of the agenda were tabled because we did not have enough participation at this meeting. Glenn suggested the possibility of having our meetings as conference calls, as an option, to those that cannot make it to the meetings.

Roger LaBine has been nominated to the position of vice-chair but he has not responded as of yet.

KBIC, Summer Cohen, has offered to write a grant to form a committee, represented by each tribe, for travel etc, and the objective would be to develop a policy for repatriation issues.

NRCS Presentation: Dave Burgdorf presented information to MACPRA regarding a program of collecting seeds from Ash trees in Michigan because of the threat posed by the Emerald Ash Borer to potentially wipe out all ash in Michigan. Dave explained that in regards to black ash the culture significance is truly much higher due to the artwork with baskets. Dave also discussed that other ash trees are significant also and that they should not be lost either, thus, seeds from all ash need to be collected.

Presently USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have agreed to work with groups that would like to preserve seed for future generations in case the Emerald Ash Borer is not able to be eliminated. The ARS is set up to store germoplasm in a very well managed facility and that tribes donating seed to this operation will have charge over the seed and this seed can be recovered in future years for reestablishment.

What USDA needs:

- It is most important that Great Lakes Tribes are comfortable with the process of USDA storing the seeds for the tribes. MACPRA has the capacity to bring about this type of comfort.
- USDA does not have the man power to collect the seeds. The help of tribal communities, youth groups, community groups, 4H clubs, etc. are needed to collect the volume of seed necessary.
- Promotion of this concept throughout the State of Michigan. If MACPRA could provide articles to Tribal Newspapers this would be a great start.

Other Thoughts:

- Tribes can also collect seeds and USDA will provide them with all the knowledge available to store their own seed.
- NRCS can provide training, identification of tree help, visual aides, collection points and other technical help in this activity.
- Great Lakes Basket Weavers need to be contacted: Glenn is to contact Marcus Crampton.
- Dave Burgdorf will contact Anna Crampton for her thoughts. Anna is Dave's neighbor.
- Glenn will work with MACPRA to develop an article for the Tribal Newspapers and MI Indian Quarterly. Cecil will approve this article prior to it being used.
- Glenn will have article available at the MI Indian Education Conference-Critical Issues at Traverse City in March.

A task agreement system will need to be established so that tribes will have the security of knowing seeds are theirs and that they are in control of this. Dave Burgdorf will work on this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharron Detz, GRBOI  
Glenn Lamberg, NRCS