

Advancing Climate Adaptation Initiatives for Indigenous Tribes within the Great Lakes Region

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Motivation

- ❁ Assist the Great Lakes Tribal Nations in the protection of the environment and their traditional ways of life in light of a changing climate
 - ❁ Tribal Fisheries
 - ❁ Clan Animals
 - ❁ Medicinal Plants
 - ❁ Natural materials for crafts
 - ❁ Ancient burial grounds and sacred sites
- ❁ Great Lakes Tribal Nations expressed interest in a regional climate camp



Source: Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Engaged Partner

❁ Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI)

- Robin Clark – Primary Contact
- GLISA had previously supported other ITCMI efforts
 - Tribal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan development (2016)

**Michigan Tribal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
and Adaptation Planning: Project Report**

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.

December, 2016

Source: Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Working with Engaged Partner

● ITCMI's Expressed Needs

- Assist with facilitation of a workshop to:
 - Follow-up on progress related to 2016 Vulnerability Assessment
 - Help Tribal Nations prepare for the potential impacts of extreme precipitation events in their communities
 - Example: Bad River Band – July 2016



Source: <http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/>

Graham Sustainability Institute's Catalyst Grant program supports the facilitation of workshops which build partnerships and determine next steps.

Tribal Climate Workshop

- ⦿ When: October 9-11, 2017
- ⦿ Where: Bay Mills Community College
- ⦿ Who: Tribal Nations from Michigan and other Great Lakes States
- ⦿ Workshop design:
 - Monday:
 - *Each Tribal Nation will share their stories* related to successes and challenges experienced in developing climate adaptation plans
 - Tribal environmental experts will present their research
 - Tuesday:
 - *Extreme precipitation*: personal experiences, introduction to “Game of Floods” training exercise and one potential adaptation planning tool
 - Wednesday:
 - Impact of the *impact of climate change on the role of women* caretakers of water and as educators

Working with Engaged Partner

- ⦿ For success, one needs to understand, and be sensitive to, the unique challenges of the partner
 - ⦿ For Tribal Nations, challenges in environmental and climate adaptation planning have included:
 - Self-governance
 - Protection of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
 - Informed, prior consent
 - History of lack of inclusion of Tribal Nations in all phases of environmental planning
 - Building bridges within individual Tribal Nations

Working with Engaged Partner

⦿ Benefits of working with engaged partner

- ⦿ Working with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan has...
 - Aided in trust-building between the project team and Tribal Nations
 - Insured the needs of the Tribal Nations have been put first
 - ITCMI has first hand knowledge of these needs
 - Insured local Tribal expertise is included in the workshop

Working with Engaged Partner

⦿ Benefits of working with engaged partner

⦿ Collaboration insured that ...

- Project tasks directly addressed clearly-stated needs of the partner
- Project deliverables were designed to be actionable by project partners
- Clearly defined needs and deliverables made for a stronger and more focused proposal!

Student Opportunities



• Logan Dreher – Brown University

- Doris Duke Conservation Fellow
- Assisted in review of current tribal adaptation planning efforts within Great Lakes Regions
- Obtained understanding of how of Indigenous populations creatively address environmental changes in their communities



• Ellie Masters – Oberlin College

- Supported by outside funding
- Assisted in development of community education/outreach materials for Tribal youth