



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL NARRATIVE

Submitted by: Treasurer Reyes

Training/Event: Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin Farm Visit
Location: Green Bay, WI
Date of Event: August 22, 2014

Thank you fellow Council members and the Citizens of LTBB for allowing me the opportunity to attend the Oneida of Wisconsin Tribe/Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Agricultural Assessment Work Group. The following is a brief travel report/summary:

Thursday – August 21, 2014

Councilor John Keshick, Ziibimijiwang farmer Doug Schlappi, Ziibimijiwang Secretary, Vicki Kelley and I departed from the Tribal Government building upon adjournment of the Tribal Council meeting.

Friday – August 22, 2014

Our visit started at 8am, breakfast meeting with Joanie Buckley, Internal Services Division Director and their attorney that assists with their Agriculture operations.

Our tour began with a drive by of the "Buffalo Orchard". The magnificent Oneida Buffalo herd, consists of about 100 head, which are grass fed and supplemented with hay and grain feed. The herd is located just west of Oneida. There are two pastures, the west pasture is for the reproductive herd and every year newborn calves come into the herd.

The majority of the Buffalo and equipment were all made possible from the Intertribal Bison Co-op grants, starting in 1996 to present. The Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and the Oneida Nations Farms, also contributes in kind service to this project.

Next stop was "Oneida Nation Farms" in Seymour, WI. This operation is where the Black Angus Beef are raised. Their beef operation is growing into a Point of Origin, which means born and raised on their farm. Sometimes beef replacements are purchased from local Black Angus herds. Their beef is not fed steroids, hormones, antibiotics or any animal byproducts.

We were provided a tour of the cattle farm by Dennis VanVreede and Jeff Scofield. During this time they shared best & worse practices of their cattle operation.

Our generous hostess took us to lunch at the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin's golf course "Thornberry" where all but two members of their Tribal Council joined us for lunch.

After lunch, it was off to their organic farm known as Tsyunhehkwa, which loosely translated means "Life Sustenance" in the Oneida language. Our tour guide was Jeff Metoxen, Farm Manager. Jeff was very knowledgeable and forthcoming with their successes and failures over the years.

Tsyunhehkwa is an Agricultural Community and Culturally based program of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. The farm sits on an 83 acre site and is certified Organic and consists of three main components, Agriculture, Cannery and Retail. Their program is founded on Self Sustainability, and service for the Oneida Nation and the Community. The entire operation and services are open to the public.

We toured the barn where the "Oneida White Corn" is hung to dry after braiding. We were also shown the "Three Sisters Garden", chicken culling room as well as the equipment that is used to process the birds. The chickens are purchased in advance for a nominal fee by local people.

Next stop was the Oneida Cannery where we toured the canning and dehydrating room by Jamie. We were invited to participate in the "Oneida Food Safety Course Certification" class provided by Vanessa Miller, Public Health Sanitarian.

This class is mandatory for all food handlers on the reservation, including daycare workers and Casino cooks. They also provide food booth inspections at the Pow Wows and food vendors are required to have this certification prior to the event.

From here we were taken to the "Oneida Market" where a variety of items are sold including Oneida buffalo, Oneida Black Angus Beef, Dehydrated Oneida White Corn and locally produced honey.

Our final stop was the Skenandoah Building where we met with Michelle Danforth to discuss Agri-tourism and Recap of our tour with Joanie Buckley.

At the end of our visit we drove back to Michigan.

This tour was very helpful in answering questions regarding the start-up of the LTBB farm. I would like to thank Joanie Buckley and the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin for their generosity in funding this worthwhile trip.

Marcella R. Reyes