

**Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Natural Resource Commission
1st Quarterly Report
January – February – March 2019**



**Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Natural Resource Commissioners**

John Keshick III, Chairman

Renee Dillard, Vice-Chairman

Frederick Holdorph, Treasurer

Gerald Chingwa, Commissioner

William Ortiz, Commissioner

The Natural Resource Commission is continuing to work on the Great Lakes Consent Decree for 2020 to define specific issues in areas of the Decree that were not completely specified or clarified at the time of signing the Decree in 2000. Many issues have arisen from the implementation of the 2000 Consent Decree and the changes of Whitefish or lack of Whitefish and Lake Trout being abundant. Due to the ever-changing ecosystem in the Great Lakes many areas of the 2000 decree has been amended by the Tribes, Federal Government and State of MI once an agreement has been reached. There are many areas that come up that have not been agreed upon or changes that are agreeable to all parties, there are some of the areas that will be addressed in the future decree and discussion will be held right up to the time of reaching an agreement. Meetings for 2020 are currently on a monthly basis with the 5 Tribes titled Tribal Talks. Attendees at the Tribal Talks meeting include Tribal Chairs, NRD Program Directors, Legal staff and NRD Commissioners. Individual Tribes each rotate as hosts for the Tribal Talks meetings. There are some very significant issues being discussed by the tribes to present their concerns on such issues. It is very important that the commissioners be present during these meetings so that they are up to date on what is discussed between the tribes.

The importance of the upcoming Great Lakes Consent Decree is a 20-year Decree and the current Decree will expire in 2020. There are many important changes that have had a great effect on LTBB Commercial Fishermen in the last 19 years that will need to be addressed in the upcoming 2020 Decree. The Natural Resource Commission meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of each month will have time set aside for the 2020 Great Lakes Consent Decree negotiations for discussion and review of what has taken place at the Tribal Talk meetings.

The Natural Resource Commission and the Natural Resource Department continue to lead in the enforcement, conservation and management of tribal natural resources by successfully and responsibly preserving the LTBB's sovereign right to hunt and fish, both on the inland lands and waters as well as commercial and subsistence fishing on the 1836 Great Lakes. Utilize our natural resources in order to promote, honor and respect our traditional, spiritual and physical relationship with the land and waters for the future benefit of our Tribe.

LTBB Natural Resource Commission Meetings Attended:

- January 09, 2019 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- January 14, 2019 2020 Tribal Talks – Bay Mills, MI
- January 23, 2019 Regular Meeting canceled – inclement weather
- January 24, 2019 CORA Meeting – LTBB Hosting
- January 25, 2019 2020 Tribal Talks – LTBB Hosting

- February 13, 2019 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- February 14, 2019 2020 Tribal Talks with GTB & LTBB
- February 21, 2019 Sturgeon Advisory Meeting – Indian River, MI
- February 27, 2019 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- February 28, 2019 CORA Meeting – LTBB Hosting
- March 12, 2019 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- March 14, 2019 2020 Tribal Talks – LRB Hosting – Manistee, MI
- March 27, 2019 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- March 28, 2019 CORA Meeting Cancelled not rescheduled

The Natural Resource Department is comprised of 4 divisions: Conservation Law Enforcement; Great Lakes Fisheries; Inland Fisheries and Inland Wildlife. The Natural Resource Commission and the Natural Resource Department assist in the development of Policies that have become necessary for the implementation of the Inland Consent Decree. Some of those policies developed are for species that LTBB has a season for such as the Bear Policy Sturgeon Policy and Elk Policy. The Natural Resource Protection Statute is developed to assist the LTBB Conservation Officers in the field and to allow for Conservation Officers to have the authority to check persons in the field to ensure that they are abiding by the rules and regulations. The Natural Resource Protection Statute will allow for Conservation Officers to check ID's and Licenses of persons encountered in the field to determine tribal jurisdiction vs. State hunters and fishers.

Natural Resource Commission

The Natural Resource Commission is comprised of 5 Commissioners with staggered 4-year terms, currently the commission has all 5 positions occupied. Two of the Commissioners term will be ending this year, if interested the two commissioners will have to submit their letter of interest to the Executive Office.

LTBB Rules and Regulations

- The LTBB Natural Resource Rules and Regulations for both Reservation and Ceded Territory for 2020 is currently a work in progress. The Commission has a timeline that is followed to complete the next years regulations.
 - The Natural Resource Commission reviews comments from surveys and takes into consideration the comments to make the appropriate changes to the Rules and Regulations accordingly.
 - The LTBB Natural Resource Department Programs also reviews the Rules and Regulations and makes suggestions on any updates that will apply to the 2020 Rules and Regulations.
- The Rules and Regulations are subjected to change every year according to the LTBB Citizens comments from harvest surveys that are completed by tribal citizens when renewing their licenses, Conservation Law

Enforcement input, Biologist studies and modeling and changes to the State of MI Regulations.

Natural Resource Commission/Department Programs

The Natural Resource Department will be hosting and participating in various workshops such as the Maple Sugar workshop that will be held on April 13, 2019. Throughout the year the Natural Resource Department will be presenting different workshops that are usually well attended and appreciated by the Tribal Citizens, such as Hunter Safety, Tribal Citizen First Time hunters, Deer Processing. Having the fairly new position of Treaty Rights Enhancement Specialist, Daniel Hinmon there will be more community involvement activities/workshops in the future. Keep your eyes open for exciting upcoming events throughout the months to come from your Natural Resource Department.

These programs/events have had a positive reaction from Tribal Citizens and participation from tribal citizens, these have become annual events and the Natural Resource Department Staff and the Natural Resource Commissioners have received positive feedback from the participants and the LTBB Community.

The Natural Resource Commission would like to thank Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Chair's Office for recommendation to Tribal Council for their appointments to the Natural Resource Commission.

