Update on Enbridge's July 2019 Helicopter Incident

Naomi Tillison, MNRD Director - nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov

Less than a year after an Enbridge helicopter crashed on the Reservation (see article on page 5 for more info), Enbridge had a second helicopter incident on the Reservation. On July 20th, 2019, an Enbridge helicopter accidentally released a load of 6 large poly mats (weighing 7000 pounds) that were being transported to an anomaly dig worksite east of the Bad River. The mats crashed to the ground in a remote area of the Reservation west of Government Road damaging trees and churning up soils. Over a year later, Enbridge has yet to remove the mats or restore the damage to this area. More information about Enbridge can be found at: http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/natural-resources/threats/

~MISSION STATEMENT~

The Department strives for resource management which both conserves the natural resources for the future generations and provide for the needs of the present. The departments existence reflects the importance the Bad River Tribe places on its right and ability to exercise sovereignty, self-determination and self-regulation in the area of natural resource management.

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Howling for Ma’iingan continued...

In the State of Wisconsin, it is legally mandated that the WDNR host a wolf hunt when Ma’iingan is Federally delisted. This most recent round of proposed delisting is likely to be challenged legally by NGOs and become one of at least 7 Federal cases against being killed across Turtle Island and open Ma’iingan’s fate to what individual State and Tribal governments decide. While we updated our Mashkiiziibi Ma’iingan Relationship Plan last year, the State of Wisconsin has not updated its plan since 2007 with the most recent science, improved understanding with Anishinaabe lands, and advancements in carnivore coexistence strategies. The Great Lakes States did not respect the treaties and relationships with the Great Lakes Anishinaabe bands last time Ma’iingan was delisted and wolf hunts took place in the Great Lakes states in the early 2010s. White Earth Elder Zhaashiigid Nooding (Bob Shimkew) describes the shared history of genocide and displacement that Ma’iingan and Anishinaabe hold and explains some of the ways Minnesota specifically did not honor Anishinaabe and the brotherhood with Ma’iingan. The Wolf is My Brother by White Earth Elder Zhaashiigid Nooding (Bob Shimkew)

Even since European colonists, including my own ancestors, came to Turtle Island the treatment of Ma’iingan has been shaped by fear, a lack of understanding, and powerful lobbyists who buy out politicians on both sides of the aisle. In this time of the seventh fire, centering the relationship and knowledge Anishinaabe have with Ma’iingan is crucial to heading down a good path. In my work with Bad River, I have learned how ways of life, including living in balance with all of nature, are embedded in Anishinaabe language and culture. These perspectives have been overlooked or suppressed.

If you’re not sold on beauty in the chunk of moss, maybe it’s time to give beeswax wraps a try. They come in a range of solutions for all types of hair too. (If you’re looking for a more affordable alternative, you can try DIY beeswax wraps using a mixture of beeswax, vegetable oil, and essential oils.)

7. Save money by creating your own beauty products. Whether you’re looking to cut down on waste or save some cash, making your own beauty products can be a great way to reduce your environmental impact and save money. For example, try making your own shampoo bars andconditioner in bar form, instead of a liquid. They eliminate all the plastic packaging associated with liquid, and reduce the environmental impacts of shipping by being more packable and lighter weight. Bars for shampoo and conditioner are becoming easy to find in stores and online as they become more popular, and they come in a range of solutions for all types of hair too. If you’re not sold on using a bar, you can invest in some reusable bottles and buy refills that come in either plastic pouches that can be returned to the manufacturer for reuse, tablets that you just add water to in your container for creating the product, or cardboard cartons that can be recycled.

Many of the items listed above are described as “investments” because they may be a pricier purchase than the disposable versions, but there are benefits to that upfront cost. For example, ZipTop Containers claim that their reusable bags can replace 5000 plastic bags. If you take the cost of one ZipTop sandwich bag ($6.99) and divide it by its reported number of uses (5000) you get the cost of $.0014 per use. In comparison, if you buy a 300 count box of Great Value Plastic bags from Walmart (which costs $4.42) you get the more expensive cost of $.0147 per bag (and then you toss it in the trash).

While I’m still making the switch to some of these products myself, and cannot fully recommend any one brand or product, I would recommend you looking into the options that fit best for you and your family by doing some internet searches for products and reviews (there is a TON out there). Even making a few small changes over time can help the environment and make you feel good about your choices.
Radon Updates

Daniel Wiggins, Radon Specialist, radon@badriver-nsn.gov

The Tribal Quality Air Radon Program sponsored a Radon Test Initiative in Bad River this summer! We out-reached to 41 tribal homes with 13 returned Radon kits. The 13 returned kits had no high levels of Radon. As part of the testing initiative, residents were encouraged to do in-home radon testing and be entered for a giveaway raffle. Pictured is our Door Prize winner with his picnic table win! Congratulations Leo & Rayin!

Introducing MNRD’s Manoomin Oshkaabewis

Boozhoo Anishinabeg of the Bad River Rez. Hooah! I am Dan Powless, Bad River Tribal Resources Department. Oshkaabewis can be defined as a messenger of traditional and ceremonial knowledge. This project will incorporate a wider range of effort by bringing together Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western Science practices. The ceremonial component will reach out to elders, language speakers, and youth.

I have experience as a program coordinator with a natural resource background in wetlands biology from an earlier position held with the tribe. It included office and field activities to address wetland management and inventory concerns of the tribe on various projects. At different periods I have been active in traditional life ways, gardening, gillnetting, spearing, hunting, trapping, ceremonies, lodge, Ojibwe language, and singer sounds out who I am culturally. Plus an avid Packer and Brewer fan.

I have met many teachers, educators and mentors be it on your best shirt we’re going skiing. Talk about the grins and chuckle. Notably, we have been seeing the decline of the manoomin along with other species taking over. We’ll revisit that later.

Being a ricer in the Kakagon Sloughs is a pretty special time for all of us as witnessed again this year. New young faces, fall-ins, socializing are good medicine here! We like to tease. We were in Big Slough. Someone said how come you and your boy wear the same kind of shirt. I said Yeah! come on son put on your best shirt we’re going skiing. Talk about the grins and chuckle.

Common Ground

2020 Summer Edition

Tribe Buys Back More Land Base in Upper Falls/Cameron’s Creek

By Suzi Smith, GIS Specialist gspe@badriver-nsn.gov

In July, Bad River Band closed on over 400 acres of forest land in the Upper Bad River Falls and on Cameron’s Creek. One of the 11 parcels includes a hunting cabin and outbuildings, and many features extensive shooting lanes and access trails. Waawankweesh (deer) here grow big and will feed and help provide for families long into the future from these properties. Access to the Maskizibiini (Bad River) is also increased with one parcel adjacent to the river providing fishing opportunity.

This purchase was completed with funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (BIA GLRI) grant and Bad River Tribal Historic Preservation Office (TRPO) activities. It was formerly owned by Mike Nuskvika and his business Superior Outfitters, LLC. We hope you take a ride or hike there soon to enjoy the setting and share in the beauty of nature.

6 Easy Ways to Reduce Plastic and Landfilled Waste in Your Life

Jessica Strand, Environmental Specialist - environmental@badriver-nsn.gov

1. Invest in several reusable water bottles, whether they are glass, plastic, or stainless steel. Refilling a reusable water bottle means that you are recycling (or throwing away) less single-use plastic bottles. Reusable water bottles come in a wide variety of materials, colors, and styles—there is sure to be one that works for you! If you have more than one, you will be more likely to always have a clean one to fill quickly as you rush out the door, eliminating another excuse to grab a single-use bottle.

2. Invest in several travel mugs for your temperature-dependent beverages (e.g., coffee, tea, iced beverages) and fill them at home or on the go to eliminate using disposable cups, many of which are not able to be recycled. Just like reusable water bottles, reusable travel mugs come in a variety of materials and styles.

3. Invest in some reusable spray bottles and buy concentrated cleaning solutions or refills in plastic-free packaging to refill them. More and more companies are eliminating or reducing plastic packaging two ways: 1) by providing cleaning products that are concentrated so that they are shipped in smaller plastic packages and you add the water yourself at home when putting it in your spray bottle, or 2) providing refills in a waxed cardboard carton (think school milk carton) from which you refill your spray bottle. Spray bottles are easy to get in glass and plastic these days, so choose which is best for you—either way you are reducing the number of empty spray bottles you are disposing of when you refill a reusable one. Just make sure you are keeping the bottles labeled and designated for a specific chemical, as you do not want to mix incompatible...
monitoring network. Of the 39 air monitoring site across Wisconsin, 37 are operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and 2 are operated by Tribes. With the majority of sites across Wisconsin operated by WDNR, WDNR coordinates Wisconsin’s monitoring network and the Bad River Band is a partner to that network.

WDNR worked hard to updated their website last year and developed a mobile phone app at the same time. I was looking forward to showing everyone this app and the useful information it shows.

You can search for the app on your app store, just search for WisconsinAQM, and I’ll paste links for more information at the end of this article. Explore the app, there’s lot of information there. Besides pollutants, it shows the current temperature and which way the wind is blowing to. Many thanks go out to our partners at the WDNR for pulling this project together and working very hard to keep Wisconsin’s air quality monitoring network running and easy to access!

Youn Kilger, Mashkiiziibii Air Quality Specialist - airquality@badriver-nsn.gov

The color system is called the Air Quality Index. This chart explains each color.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</td>
<td>Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy</td>
<td>Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Unhealthy</td>
<td>Health Alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous</td>
<td>Health Warning: Emergency conditions, everyone is likely to be affected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Links for more Information:
https://airquality.wi.gov/home/map
https://www.airnow.gov/afqi/afqi-basics/

For other inquiries, call 715-682-7123 and leave a voice message and we will connect you with Department staff.
Howling for Ma’iingan continued...

presumed in the past and if we want a new path forward for Ma’iingan, Anishinaabe voices need to be heard. I wanted to offer some ideas for what tribal members can do as delisting of Ma’iingan seems eminent by the Federal government.

*Help Track and Understand Ma’iingan*

Every fall the Mashkiiziibii Wildlife Program conducts Ma’iingan howl surveys to understand how the 3-5 reservation packs are doing. In the winter, we keep tabs on Ma’iingan with track surveys on the snowy Res roads. With such a large Reservation and such a small wildlife program, it’s impossible to get the full picture without engaging with the Bad River community. This fall we intend to do outreach specifically with hunters and trappers to learn more about what the people out on the land are seeing and learning (without anyone having to give up their hunting spots). Stay posted for the development of an official wildlife sighting reporting form we will make available on the wildlife program page of the Bad River website.

In the meantime, please reach out if you would like to be trained in to conduct howl surveys. There is no feeling like the joy that comes hearing pups howl back at you with their tiny, quivering voices or the unexplainable mix of emotions that overhears you when you hear and out from one another. Email Abi at wildlife@badriver-rn.gov to get involved with tracking and understanding Ma’iingan.

*Use Social Media Platforms*

Fear often comes from a lack of understanding. Most of my knowledge about who Ma’iingan is is thanks to all the teachers who have gifted me with their time and energy here in Bad River. Your voice matters and many of us have social media platforms we can use for positivity and education rather than fear mongering and the negativity and education. More oxygen, a tillled environment, these microorganisms can utilize these hazardous materials as a source of energy.

Additionally, overturning soil exposes a larger amount of the soil to oxygen. This will allow gasoline, for example, to volatilize or evaporate from the soil more quickly. More oxygen also allows these microorganisms to better grow and utilize those hazardous materials. This process is called aerobic biodegradation. Thirdly, because of the high oxygen, tilted environment, these microorganisms, and soil amendments lead to better plant uptake of water and other nutrients, microorganism growth is encouraged. With this heightened microbial activity, these microorganisms can utilize these hazardous materials as a source of energy.

In hard to access, remote sites (dependent upon the extent of a spill, or area of dumped hazardous materials) a process called bioremediation can be used. This process is less intrusive and degrading to the landscape and it also generally more cost effective. By amending the soil with fertilizers and other nutrients, microorganism growth is encouraged. With this heightened microbial activity, these microorganisms can utilize these hazardous materials as a source of energy.

Read the Scientist Reviews of the Current Situation Plan and other Ma’iingan information here: http://www.badriver-rn.gov/wildlife/

Read the following books (contact Abi to see if a copy is available to borrow): Mishomis Book by Edward Benton Banai (see if a copy is available to borrow) and The Wolf’s Trail by Thomas Peacock. The Mishomis Book by Edward Benton Banai see if a copy is available to borrow and The Wolf’s Trail by Thomas Peacock. I am honored to work to do my part in healing the history of Ma’iingan and Anishinaabe surviving genocide at the hands of European colonists. I am available to the community to engage and learn more about these issues and to take action so please don’t hesitate to email me. Miigwech,

Abi Fergus

Remediation of Contaminated Landscapes: Step by Step

Andrew J. Spychalla, Brownfield Specialist brownsfield@badriver-rn.gov

Remediation efforts began again for the site of the Enbridge helicopter crash of October 29, 2018. This fatal accident lead to the release of numerous fuels and other hazardous materials into the ground in a remote area of the Bad River Reservation. From an ecological standpoint, it is important to clean up this site and try to remediate the soil of the area to pre-accident conditions.

Contaminated soils and subsurface materials can be remedi-ated in many ways. Soil can be washed of toxins, heated to separate toxins from soil, or simply incinerated to destroy contaminants. These processes all have their place but are oftentimes difficult to execute or prohibitively costly.

Enbridge’s original proposal was to create an access route to bring in equipment to excavate the contaminated soil and either haul off-site for disposal or treat on-site. Enbridge then proposed a third option of in-situ-bioremediation, which is the option that MNRD requested they implemented.

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Additionally, overturning soil exposes a larger amount of the soil to oxygen. This will allow gasoline, for example, to volatilize or evaporate from the soil more quickly. More oxygen also allows these microorganisms to better grow and utilize those hazardous materials. This process is called aerobic biodegradation. Thirdly, because of the high oxygen, tilted environment, these microorganisms, and soil amendments lead to better plant uptake of water and other chemicals in the soil. This means that the natural system of plant growth is removing contaminants from the soil organically, a process called phyto-remediation. On July 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, soil was dug by hand to 18 inches in the area surrounding the impact zone, and to 24 inches in the center of that zone. Urea fertilizer (supports vegetative growth/protein formation), triple superphosphate fertilizer (energy conversion of nutrients for plant growth), and muriate of potash (cell wall growth/drought resistance) were all used.

Because this process is relying on the natural growing season to remediate the contamination, the process needs to be done multiple times throughout the summer, as plants are taking up nutrients at a faster rate as to repro-
Introducing from NRD...

Deputy Director, Russell Corbine Jr. “Charlie” - ardeputy@badriver-asn.gov

Hello,

My name is Russell Corbine Jr. I am from Bad River and grew up in Bayfield. I was recently hired as the Deputy Director for the Mashkiizibi Natural Resources Department (NRD). Prior to serving in my current role, I worked for the United States Army. I hold two military occupation specialties, one as an Infantryman and the second as a Counterintelligence Specialist. During my 20 years of service, I led organizations in times of peace and conflict. I deployed several times to Afghanistan, Iraq and the Republic of Korea. I spent a total of 10 years, out of 20, overseas and am happy to finally be home.

As the Deputy Director of NRD, I am charged with helping the Director lead a diverse group of technical experts and carry out the policy set by the tribal government. I do not take this task lightly and hope to use my experience, knowledge, skills and abilities to better the department and position it for continued success. My leadership style is grounded in transformational leadership principles. I believe in setting a positive example and investing in people through teaching, training, coaching and mentoring. I choose to empower people and help them grow both professionally and personally.

In addition to my military background, I have also attained my BS Degree in Management, Leadership and Network Support from Northland College and a Master of Science in Industrial Psychology from Southern New Hampshire University in 2020. I am also a PhD candidate at Walden University and hope to earn my doctorate in Industrial Psychology by 2022. My training helps me better understand the human aspect of organizations: specifically, organizational development, leadership, and motivation. I look forward to working with each of you in the future and helping our department meet and exceed operational goals.

Russell Corbine Jr.
Deputy Director, Russell Corbine Jr. “Charlie”

BMNR Lease Specialist, Charles Connors Sr.

Boochoo Wi-Idanookinimagamang,
My name is Charles F. Connors Sr. (Chaz), I was hired as the new Lease Specialist for the Bad River Tribe’s Land Office in June 2020. I am looking forward to starting my new position as the Bad River Tribe’s Lease Specialist, working with my NRD Staff Co-workers, and assisting the NRD Staff in the development of the Tribe’s Land Office. I am excited to learn this new profession that assists our Tribal Community in their endeavors in locating an area for constructing a new home within the Bad River Reservation for their family.

I am a Bad River Tribal Member who was raised and have lived within the Bad River Reservation for most of my life. I have attained my B.S Degree in Management and Leadership from Northland College as well as A.A.’s in Office Administration and Network Support Specialist from LCO Community College. I have worked for the Bad River Tribe in multiple positions since being Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army in 1989. For the past 8 years I was a Grant Writer within the Tribal Administration Department. During this time, I had successfully written and have been awarded multiple grants for Tribal Programs to assist our Tribal Members. The knowledge and experience I have gained over the last 30 years I look to bring into my new position within our Tribe and continue to assist our Tribe in expanding for the betterment of our community.

Charles F. Connors Sr
Lease Specialist
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Phone: (715) 682-7111 Ext. 1588
Fax: (715) 682-7118
E-mail: Lease@badriver-asn.gov

Conservation Warden Angelina Godinez

Hi, I’m Angelina Godinez, I’m 21 years old and a member of the Bad River Tribe. I applied for the Conservation Warden position because it is one of my dreams jobs. I love to be outside, checking out the new places, and now that I got to do that everyday for work is amazing.

You can reach me at one of the options below:
Email: BRNRWarden@badriver-asn.gov
Cell Phone: 715-979-1511

Forestry Updates

By Gena Abrunsvon, Forestry Specialist
Forester@badriver-asn.gov

In early August, Mashkiizibi Forestry hosted Stephanie Julian’s tribal youth on a Bad River watershed tour. Various sites within and on the outskirts of the watershed were visited. Maps were distributed and history was discussed. Stops included Potato River Falls, Little Girl’s Point, Gile Flawage, Plummer Headframe, Upson Falls, Spillerberg Lake, and Bibon Swamp State Natural Area.

Remediation of Contaminated Landscapes: Step by Step continued...

duke. On August 25th and 26th, this soil turning process was done again. With drier conditions, and the soil having been turned one month prior, the soil turning went smoothly.

Soil sampling results we received have showed a decline in concentrations of hazardous materials. In October 2019, 11 sampling areas showed concentrations of hazardous substances above the Tribe’s Environmental Response and Remediation Code’s cleanup standards. As of July 2020, only 3 sampling areas had results above cleanup standards. While the process is taking some time to sort itself out, this site is well on its way back to the condition it was in, nearly 2 years ago.

In addition to contaminating the soil and water, Erbrich’s helicopter crash damaged trees, traditional plants, and impacted the wildlife in this area.

Soil sampling results showed an area of cleanup between the natural soil and the contaminated soil. In June 2019, the Tribe’s Environmental Response and Remediation Code’s cleanup standards. As of July 2020, only 3 sampling areas had results above cleanup standards. While the process is taking some time to sort itself out, this site is well on its way back to the condition it was in, nearly 2 years ago.

In addition to contaminating the soil and water, Erbrich’s helicopter crash damaged trees, traditional plants, and impacted the wildlife in this area.

Here, the young men are exploring the Potato River at Upson Falls.

Pre-turning on August 25th, grass coming up through the straw since July.