



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

From: Winnay Wemigwase

Date: April 26 – May 2, 2015

Re: EPA Water Quality Standards Academy

Having volunteered to sit on the Water Quality Workgroup with Kira Davis, LTBB Water Quality Specialist; Renee Dillard, LTBB Natural Resources Commissioner; Daugherty Johnson, Environmental Services Director; Donna Budnick, LTBB Legislative Services Attorney; and, Tribal Councilor Aaron Otto, I was asked to attend this week-long training in Washington D.C. I attended with both Commissioner Dillard and Councilor Otto. Our goal in attending the Academy was to increase our overall knowledge and understanding of water quality standards and activities under the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The training was an intensive introduction to basic principles, practices and laws regarding water quality for water bodies that fall under the jurisdiction of the United States federal government. Each day covered several topics. Some of these topics included: Tribal Lands, Waters of the

U.S., Designated Uses and UAAs, Recreational Use Criteria, Aquatic Criteria, Biological Criteria, Nutrient Criteria, Antidegradation, Climate Change, Human Health Criteria, Tools for Water Quality Standards, Economic Considerations, Mixing Zones, Water Quality Standards Development and Review, Monitoring and Assessment, 401 Certification, Wetlands, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits and Listings and Total Maximum Day Load (TMDL) limits and submissions.

After having attended this week-long training, I am excited and honored to be assisting with the creation of legislation and policy to protect the waters we call home. I am relatively new to the technical aspects of monitoring and protecting our water. We all know that it is important, but I hope that we can also instill that feeling into how we function on a daily basis in order to preserve our waters for our future generations. The Workgroup has a lot of work ahead of us. However, we also have a lot of things to share with the community, and I hope that everyone in our tribal and local communities participate as much as they possibly can.

I want to thank the Citizens of LTBB for continuing to allow me the opportunity to have eye-opening experiences like I had at this training. I am honored to represent our people at these events and to be able to bring this information back home to make things better for everyone possible. Chi-miigwech!

Respectfully submitted by,

Winnay Wemigwase
Tribal Council