



Region 5 Tribal Wetlands Working Group Updates

Mike Jones

Stockbridge-Munsee Community

TWWG Co-Lead



Tribal Wetlands Working Group (TWWG)

Tribally-led collaborative that includes tribal wetland staff from across EPA Region 5

Mission

Facilitate collaboration and networking among Region 5 Tribes to build tribal program capacity and staff expertise related to wetland management, monitoring, restoration, and conservation



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TWWG Background

2021

- EPA effort to gauge interest in expanding WI TWWG to Region 5 tribes
- Environmental Law Institute facilitates TWWG formation

2022

- Framework document finalized
- Membership opened up to all 35 Region 5 Tribes
- Initial training workshop held (Monitoring and Assessment)

2023

- Partnership with NAWM to facilitate TWWG operation
- Funded as part of a larger WPDG to improve tribal wetland program capacity



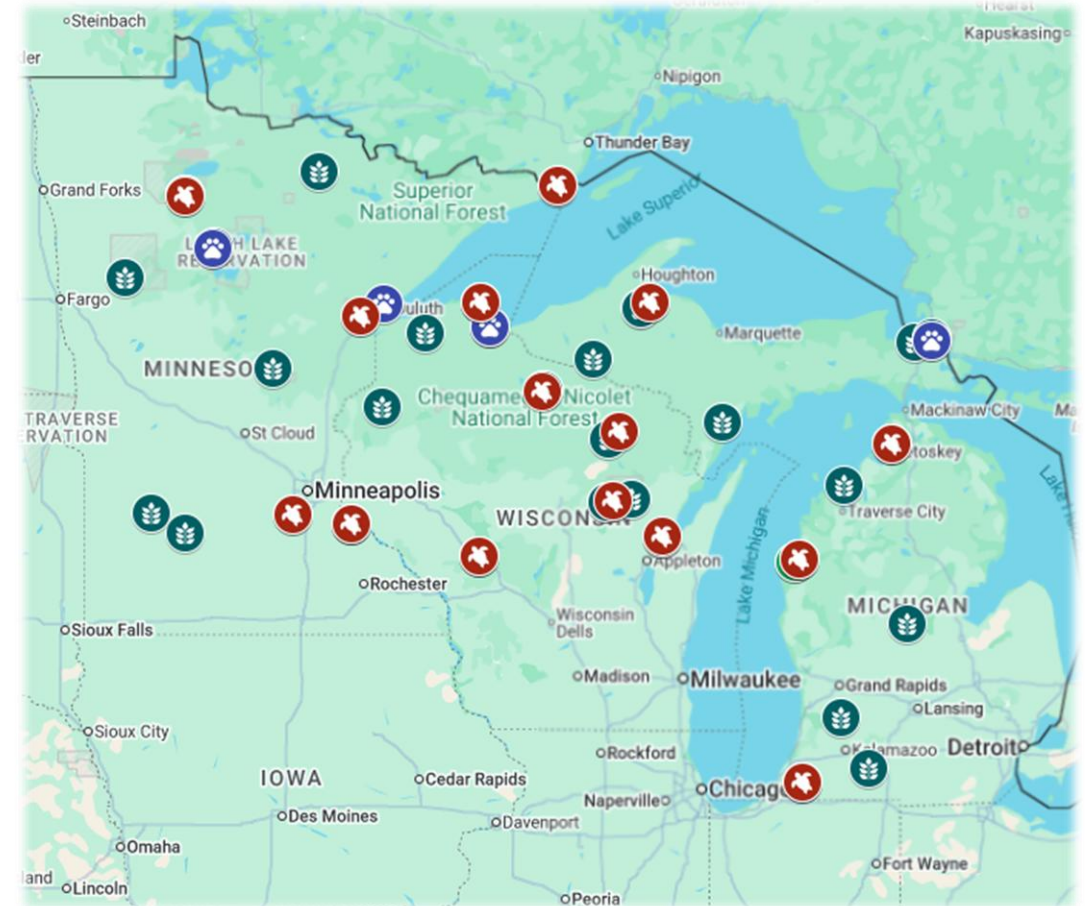
Current TWWG Info

- Structure
 - Co-leads Mike Jones and Alexis DeGabriele (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians)
 - December 2025 Election for one Co-lead position
 - 14-member Advisory Committee
 - Training and Finance Subcommittees
- 88 members from 34 tribes and GLIFWC



Current TWWG Info

- Annual virtual meeting
- Annual in-person training
- Virtual trainings/presentations
- Map-based wetland program summaries
- Teams site for resources, announcements, discussion



2024 Wetland Plant ID Training

- Online review training
- Four locations
- Partnered with state agencies
- 54 attendees



2025 BWSR Training

- Pilot to gauge interest for tribal-only training
- Reserved spots for tribal staff
 - Wetland Delineation Methods
 - Plant ID
 - Soils on the Landscape
 - Hydrogeomorphic Method of Classifying Wetlands
- Hope to expand to other agencies



2025 Wetlands Field Practicum

- Hosted by Lac Courte Oreilles
- Field-based wetland delineation refresher
- Trainers from WDNR, USACE, NRCS



NAWM Membership

- Free 3-year memberships for TWWG members
- Access to webinars, resources, policy updates
- 50+ membership requests

Why Join NAWM?



Knowledge & Tools You Can Trust

- Members' Webinar Series — 8 exclusive webinars each year, plus access to the full archived library. Topics include science, policy, and legal issues.
- Free Certificates of Attendance for all live webinars (non-members pay \$25 each).
- Federal Policy Tracking Tool — see key policy updates before they make headlines.
- Online Training Library with the opportunity to earn free Certificates of Completion.
- Robust Reference Library of wetland resources at your fingertips.

Connection & Influence

- Access to a national network of wetland scientists, policy experts, and practitioners.
- Opportunities to serve on NAWM committees and shape the direction of our work.
- Voting rights in Board of Directors elections and other member decisions.
- Members-only discussion forums launching soon — connect with peers in your specialty.
- Calendar of Events listing to promote and discover professional opportunities.

Recognition & Pride

- A welcome kit with a NAWM waterproof field notebook for new members or a NAWM magnet for renewing members.
- Logo placement on NAWM's homepage for groups of 10 or more.
- The satisfaction of knowing your membership directly supports wetland conservation efforts nationwide.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association Tribal Symposium

- Coordinated by Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
- “Working with Tribes” panel (GLIFWC, WTCAC, Sokaogon Chippewa)
- Lightning presentations on program highlights (7 tribes)
- Roundtable to discuss partnership opportunities



Upcoming

- Co-lead election (December)
- GIS training
 - Saint Mary's University GeoSpatial Services
 - Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)
- Annual virtual meeting
- Winter presentation/training- topic TBD
- 2026 trainings



Questions?

r5twwg@gmail.com

Mike Jones

michael.jones@mohican-nsn.gov

Alexis DeGabriele

alexisdegabriele@lrboi-nsn.gov