

TSWAN Meeting Minutes
June 9-10, 2010
Nespelem, WA

ATTENDANCE: Bill Denton, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, Pete Palmer, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Lewis Younger, *Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*; Steve Pendleton, Marge Sawyer, *Makah Tribe*; Ronald Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; Jill Boskofsky, *Native Village of Ouzinkie*; Zannita Armell, *Shoshonne-Bannock Tribes*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; Bonnie Burke, *Umatilla Tribe*; Jake Johns, *Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs*; Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, Elaine Welk, TSWAN.

Absent Tribes: *AVCP; Chehalis; Cheesh-Na; Chignik; Kalispel; Kootenai Tribe; Levelock Village; Muckleshoot Tribe; Nez Perce Tribe; Nunakauyarmiut; Native Village of Eklutna; Native Village of Port Lions; Native Village of Venetie; Old Harbor Village; Quinault Indian Nation; Spokane Tribe; Sun'Aq Tribe; Tulalip Tribe; Yakama Nation.*

Guests in Attendance: Terri Parr, *ATNI*; Bass Williams, Don Hurst, Juanita Warren, Virgil Seymour, Joaquin Bustamante, Linda Novotney, Cherie Moomaw, Steve Williams, Phillip Barnaby, Eddy Hanway, Anna Francis Jack, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Richard Roberts, *EFI Recycling*; Ken Bunn, *Grand Ronde*; Teresa Shaffer, *Inchelium School*; Jerry Hebert, Ron Johnson, Mark Hintz, Gene R. Jones, Sr., *Northwest Indigenous Energy Coop.*; Don Chalmers, *Sparrowhawk Consulting*; Mike Willis, *University of Washington*.

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Danny Joe Stensgar, Colville tribal member and TSWAN President, welcomed the group to the TSWAN meeting and the Colville Reservation. A traditional welcoming song was offered by drummer, Steve Williams.

Joaquin Bustamante, who runs the Colville Recycling Facility, gave a PowerPoint presentation on what they are accomplishing at the facility and the clean-up that has been underway there. He said they have about 20 programs on the Colville Reservation that they are working with. They have shipped out 53 bales which is equivalent to 23 tons at \$95 per ton. He says their goal is to protect and preserve the land, water and air and reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill. They are working on outreach to the tribal offices, schools and homes and have had very successful public and council member participation in their Earth Day pick-up events. They are also using local media to advertise in, as well as the papers in Grand Coulee and trying to get creative in their outreach efforts.

Bustamante said they are also working with Richard Roberts of Environmental Fibers International (EFI) as a consultant to find the best prices for their recyclables. They are currently recycling paper, cardboard, plastic, tires, aluminum and other metals, collecting e-waste and refrigerators for recycling, and generating compost with the clippings from many of the tribal facilities. They are using several sources of workforce, including WEX, TANF, the Summer Youth program, Trustee Assistance, employment and training. They have a baler for making the various bales ready to transport. They are in need of scales for weighing and have been talking with Seatech about items that may already be available to them in the old mill. They have a wish list of other equipment to make their operation more viable. Bustamante closed by saying he hopes they can cooperate through TSWAN with other member tribes to maximize the return on loads by collecting "like kind" bales for shipping. He also stressed his true belief in the Power of ONE to be able to make a difference and encouraged everyone to start where they are with what they have on the recycling effort.

Colville Tribal Councilman Virgil Seymour, answered some of the questions generated by Joaquin's presentation, and then introduced Teresa Shaffer, a music teacher from the Inchelium K-12 Schools who started and maintains a model recycling program at the school.

Teresa Shaffer started an Earth Day Program with a poster project in the school. Next, she had students participate in a whole day of picking up garbage and doing clean-up, rewarded with root beer floats. She got some recycling bins for use in the schools six or seven years ago which are available in every classroom. Some teachers are more supportive than others. The students lunch program was another good place to start, and students now scrape their plates, recycle their milk containers and water bottles, at a huge saving to the amount of garbage generated. She has also has worked with the kitchen staff to start sorting and recycling. She reported on one program of recycling the large metal cans from food used in the kitchen. They recycled 1440 cans in one year which was 900 pounds of metal. They totaled 80 yards of recyclables over the year. And the program is catching on with the students who are providing outreach to their families. Habits are being learned and set. She ended by saying she agrees with Joaquin's statements on the power of one. Just start with what you have, where you are.

TRIBAL UPDATES.

Cindy Spiry – Snoqualmie Tribe

Spiry reports that she attended the TSWAN Waste Management 101 class and made a presentation on their recycling program. Her department is working with the Casino to reduce the amount of garbage that can be used for composting or recycling. They are in the education and outreach phase of this program and are preparing the financial data to show how this will help with costs. They are also planning a Household Hazardous Waste pick-up event. Anne Bailey from TSWAN will be assisting with this. Their Integrated Waste Management Plan is almost finished.

Lewis Younger – Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

Younger reported that the revenues are down at their casino, as he knows others have been mentioning also. He said it is helping their program as various tribal facilities see how much money can be saved in their departments through waste reduction. They continue to go after grants and are looking into biodiesel, incinerators and other "green" money available. He encourages people to go after the "green" grants as these are currently better funded with this administration. He says they have generated \$2,780,000 in grants in the past 6 months and are looking forward to hosting the grant writing workshop in September.

Ronald Wassillie – Newhalen Tribal Council

The Tribe just finished a successful community clean-up on the last day of school with all the students participating. He is working to secure a backhaul deal with white goods and cars. He is also working with the City of Newhalen on 50 tons of steel that needs to be recycled. He has a company that wants it, but he also wants to secure the backhauling deal with them so negotiations are under way.

Zannita Armell – Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Arnell introduced herself and said she is taking over the Solid Waste Program as a halftime position that goes with her original halftime position on Brownfields, so she is just learning what all is needed and necessary. She said they currently recycle cardboard, household hazardous waste, refrigerators and other recyclables. They recycle wood from various properties for the elders. As part of her coming into the department, she is having to make changes that are not always popular with the employees, but they have seen a 50% increase in revenues by sorting and recycling so far.

Bill Denton – Coeur d’Alene Tribe

Denton said their tribal casino is undergoing a major expansion with the addition of 100 rooms, and that they are working with a consultant on green hotel practices. Although this project is outside of his department, but he has been made aware of what they are doing. They have installed a natural roof on the pavilion on the golf course that is made of native plants. Part of the expansion involves switching the sewage lagoons to IBR plants so they can generate water for irrigation. Lewis Younger of the Grand Ronde said that their tribe has some experience with these and it has not all been as planned. He encouraged Denton to send anyone who wants further information down to see how theirs have functioned and what they have had to do to make them really a working system. Denton reported their HHW clean-up last year generated 12,600 pounds of hazardous waste, so they plan to have another event this August or September with the monies left from that grant.

Mike Willis – University of Washington

Mike announced a meeting in LA of the Western Region Universities Consortium (WRUC) that he and Kami Snowden will be attending, and that it was good to have Kami on as one of their board members. The WRUC targets superfund site workers, emergency response personnel, and waste site assessment workers, among others, with an emphasis on reaching underserved workers. Willis also gave some details on the potential of collaborating again with TSWAN on an upcoming Labor and Industries grant. More details will be forthcoming.

Jill Boskofsky – Native Village of Ouzinkie

Boskofsky reports that she is currently working on an IGAP grant. A recent grant provided a can crusher and recycle bins for each household in the village at a cost of \$5000 and she has since turned the can recycling over to school students. She said for Fiscal year 2011 they are able to fund an environmental technician position. The City of Ouzinkie is going to donate equipment.

Steve Pendleton – Makah Tribe

Pendleton reports that the USDA money for the transfer station has come through, but there are many hidden requirements in the fine print that they are working through meeting. The Housing Department is also working with USDA, and they have been very helpful in getting them on the right track with their grant. Site work has started although they have 30% of their plans left to finish, but they expect construction to begin this fall, perhaps in September. Their outreach program is underway to help the community make the transition when it happens. Their recycling is comingled and filled once per week. They have been working with the community on Allotment Clean-ups, including collecting cars, brush, trailers, etc. The Tribal Council is doing this for free in preparation for their Canoe Journey. In April they held the annual beach clean-up that included the participation of State parks volunteers. Pendleton is hoping to provide more environmental awareness and would like to see their court system support tougher sanctions in their codes.

Jake Johns – Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Johns introduced himself and reports things are going well at their transfer station and landfill. Their casino resort is going green. They are distributing ‘earth tubs’ to people and the schools for composting.

Bonnie Burke – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla

Burke complimented the Colville on their very scenic area and said how impressed she was with their transfer stations and recycling facilities. She thought TSWAN should do what they can to help the Spokane Tribe with their transfer station. Burke received information from Lew Younger of the Grand Ronde about the foundation grant they have to purchase smaller recycling bins. She mentioned the 300 room and 600 slot expansion the Umatilla Tribe is doing at their casino. They are also installing a new

4-plex cinema and other expansions in their office facilities. Burke said her department is gearing up for all of the C & D waste they are going to be receiving with the pending construction. She has been able to get some help from some of the sub-contractors on the sizes of equipment they will be needing. She said they are already juggling containers for the summer and special events, and that she does have the problem of tribal folks thinking that she can just “donate” their containers to them for the special events. They have cleaned up two small illegal dump sites totaling 7 appliances and 2 couches. The Nez Perce dropped in to visit her site and she asks that future tours give her at least a week notice. They are in the process of updating their staff on the new scale software, and Burke is still trying to find funding to landscape their TERF facility grounds with native plants.

Kami Snowden announced that TSWAN has added the Nooksack Tribe as a new member and that Elizabeth Swanaset will be the delegate. There wasn't ample lead time for her to attend this meeting but we will see her at the September meeting.

While not yet official in writing, TSWAN received verbal approval of fiscal year 2011 IGAP to include a component for Oil Spill Response Training. It's currently anticipated the training will be located with the Quinault Indian Nation given their proximity to ocean waters. The workplan proposes a four-day training and Cindy Spiry of the Snoqualmie Nation said she thought they might be able to donate a boat and boom, while Bill Denton said the Coeur d'Alene's have one also.

Again, while not yet official in writing, there is a verbal approval that the Snoqualmie Nation and TSWAN collaborated on to conduct a Tribal Green Building Conference. Spiry and Snowden have begun looking at venues and dates in anticipation of the grant being formally awarded and ready for execution October 1, 2010. The conference is currently planned to take place summer 2011.

LUNCH was provided by the Colville Tribal Planning, Solid Waste Enforcement & Recycling Programs. Cooks included Joaquin Bustamante, Phillip Barnaby, Eddy Hanway and Anna Francis Jack. Besides the homemade chicken enchiladas, it included native camas and bitterroot with hand picked huckleberry sauce. The hard work was appreciated.

DRAWINGS for the many very nice gifts donated for this event were held after lunch. Participants all received several gifts including t-shirts, shoulder packs and windbreakers with the TSWAN logo, courtesy of the Colville Planning and Solid Waste Department.

Dr. Jerry Hebert of the Northwest Indigenous Energy Coop made a presentation on some of the things they are doing. One is working with the Salish and Kootenai Colleges to provide a “green” degree for native students. He then introduced everyone to Adaptive ARC which would be most helpful to those with limited landfill space. It is a portable “gasification” system which breaks any items down to the fourth (gas) state. The product known as syngas can be used to generate electricity or whatever source of power needed. A by product is ash that can be buried in the landfill. The smallest capacity machine they have can do 25 tons of waste per day. This new type of process can use a mixed waste stream and is called a “Cool Plasma” process. The start out cost is \$3.5 M.

Don Chalmers of Sparrowhawk Consulting gave a report on the grants outstanding for the Colville. He said they are starting a Colville Foundation which is a portal for non-profit groups to access a wide variety of funding sources. Additional grants, to date, include:

- Washington State Public Works Board Small Community and Rural Counties.
- A \$512,400 grant to Cap and Close the Nespelem dumpsite.
- An EPA grant for Materials Management would help toward the purchase of a shredder.

- A CARE grant to provide for a partnership on toxic waste material education and recycling for the Solid Waste program.
- An EPA grant pending is one for 16 roll-off containers for the Transfer Station.
- A pending grant for the cleanup of the Nespelem Fire. It involves SCC and IHS.
- An area wide pilot program through EPA for Brownsfields has been applied for. Tribe has their IWMP in place and funding would provide for the goals of: closure of sites is integral; reduce dump site fires; monitor PCP situation; improve funding; expand recycling center; reduce water and air pollution. It would take an estimated \$1.6 M for all three sites. Demolition of 130,000 square feet of buildings would be necessary. RCRA has come up with another way of covering sites instead of clay. They involve waste buried in lined pit with interim cover on that, then fine grain cover and finally a top planting of vegetation. This builds a capillary barrier.
- USDA has a funding plan grant for those who have been rejected by the banks and it is a loan/grant combo.

There is also a potential EPA funding for closure of open dumps, although these funds have not yet been appropriated nor has it been established that solid waste programs will be eligible. TSWAN is taking a lead in getting an awareness of how large this problem is and how little the funding available can accomplish. A new IHS report is now in review and identifies over 3400 open dump sites with 37 in Alaska. The message to be delivered is to ask that tribes be given the same consideration for funding as cities, counties and states. TSWAN has the support of ATNI and will present the formal resolution to ATNI in September. Currently the funding for 1200 per year only closes 3 to 4 sites per year.

Pete Palmer – Confederated Tribes of the Colville

Palmer introduced Richard Roberts of Environmental Fibers International (EFI). He has been working with the Colville Recycling Center and said his information is available online at www.envirofiber.com. Roberts said there is much statistical information there that might be of help to tribes gathering data for their applications, etc. Roberts talked about “Single Stream Recycling” in which items are sorted and baled into loads of like kind. He said the labor is justified in the price difference, especially if you can set it up to have the consumers help from the drop off. He suggested trying to find ways to help tribal organizations with long term thinking and by building relationships. EFI, for instance, trucks unsorted, multi source loads to the Union Gospel Mission in Yakima where they have a large holding capacity. Those in need of help are then able to earn and payback by sorting recyclables in their facility. Roberts said he will come and work with anyone wanting to get a recycling program going. He also encourages TSWAN members to ban together to create single stream loads and get the best prices. And because of the cyclical nature of the business, he helps advise on when the best prices can be obtained. Holding capacity is a real asset for this sort of program.

Pete Palmer thanked TSWAN and Anne Bailey for their help with the Transfer Stations. She said people are starting to tarp their loads. Some of the other issues they face are accidents, fire, vandalism and hazardous waste. She requested TSWAN send out new copies of the Template to all members. She said the Colvilles are working on their ordinances and codes. They continue to have some issues with the way HUD housing is managed because owners and renters are treated differently under the law. They are planning a HHW event a half-day on June 28th and all day on the 29th.

Amanda Squartsoff – Native Village of Port Lions

Amanda sent in a report in abstention. For recyclables, they are now accepting all plastic, paper and electronics; aluminum, tin and steel cans; and HHW which includes aerosol cans, paints, fluorescent light bulbs, etc. They just shipped out their annual HHW to Borough for proper disposal. Ink and toner

cartridges, household and lead acid batteries were also included in this shipment. White goods like refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, etc are on hold for funding to ship scrap metal. The annual Clean-Up day on June 4th was very successful, but Squartsoff feels they still need more public outreach so more will help. The school's annual "Cultural Week" for kids invited the Environmental Department to work with the students where they did recyclable crafts, including rainsticks (paper towel rolls), paper bead bracelets and necklaces (beads made from magazine pages), terrariums (made from 2 liter soda bottles they drank as treats), picture frames (made from cardboard and decorated). The 3-6th grades worked on a play they performed in front of the school and community members at a potluck held at the end of the week. Squartsoff says she found it online and it was titled "Down in the Dumps." On Earth Day, the Environmental Department did a presentation for the students and community on recycling and on being "green," ending with a recycling jeopardy game also found online. This summer they are scheduling some beach clean-ups and recycled crafting for the community throughout the summer.

June 10, 2010; Tribal Caucus

Discussions included:

- Review of grant funds and projects.
- The need for contractual agreements for individual tribes requesting training from Anne Bailey.
- WM 101 Recap; discussion of training topics, venue, and review of post-training comments.
- Upcoming Meth Lab Awareness trainings.
- September TSWAN Meeting and training

Review of minutes from the March 2010 meeting took place. Bill Denton moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Cindy Spiry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business to come before the organization, Steve Pendleton moved to adjourn. Danny Joe Stensgar seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The next TSWAN meeting will take place September 29-30 at the Spirit Mountain Casino hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Grand Ronde, OR. A grant writing workshop will take place September 28, just prior to the meeting, at the same location.