

# TSWAN Hosts the

## March 28, 2012

### IDAHO STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING ON MARCH 28th

### TSWAN Meeting on March 29th

Hampton Inn Suites, Boise/Downtown

495 S. Capitol Blvd.

Boise, Idaho 83702

### Please Join Us!

#### STAKEHOLDERS MEETING OBJECTIVES

- To better understand the relationships between tribes, state and federal agencies, and other local governments.
- To identify means to improve communications.
- To elevate and bring better awareness to tribal issues.
- To gain a clearer understanding of the jurisdictional authorities by other agencies as they specifically pertain to tribes. For example, permitting of waste facilities on or near tribal lands and oversight of those permits.
- To learn more about what state regulations may apply for inert landfills or a more regionalized composting facility on tribal lands.
- To determine if there are state programs with funding opportunities for tribes.

TSWAN member rooms will be reserved after we approve your Travel Authorization. Others may call the Hampton Inn and asked for the TSWAN booking to receive the special event rates. For further information, contact: [Kami Snowden, TSWAN Executive Director](#)

P. O. Box 505, Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: 509-235-6007

Fax: 509-235-2105 Email: [ksnowden@tswan.org](mailto:ksnowden@tswan.org)

#### Who we are:

The Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN) is a tribal non-profit corporation with 33 member tribes from throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. TSWAN is a tribal response to developments in solid waste management, and is specifically an attempt to make the solutions fit in Indian Country. And all tribal lands. TSWAN has an established reputation of being a progressive organization providing on-the-ground assistance to our member tribes.

The member tribes of TSWAN all recognize a cultural prerogative to be good stewards of the earth and its environment. Each tribe has different traditions and different stories, but we agree on the importance of wasting and leaving a sustainable legacy for the future. Through the careful and economically viable development of recycling programs, household hazardous waste programs, and solid waste management, together with education and attempts to create awareness, the tribes and TSWAN are working for fundamental social change. In this throw-away society, such a profound change is an extremely long process, but is the most basic of first steps in long-term care for our environment and natural resources.

**TSWAN Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9 – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**Pendleton, Oregon**

**ATTENDANCE:** Dean Adams, *Burn-Paiute Tribe*; James Helmstetter, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Alex Panamaroff, *Larsen Bay Village*; Eddy Chu, *Muckleshoot Tribe*; Ron Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Aleena Beasley and Zannita Armell, *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; Greg Wynecoop, *Spokane Tribe*; Bonnie Burke, *Umatilla Tribes*; Derald Ortloff and Loretta Zammarchi, *Yakama Nation*; Kami Snowden, and Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

**Absent Tribes:** *AVCP; Cheesh-Na; Chehalis Tribe; Chignik; ; Grand Ronde; Kalispel; Kootenai; Levelock Village; Makah Nation; Nooksack; Nunakauyarmiut Tribe; Native Village of Eklutna; Native Village of Port Lions; Native Village of Ouzinkie; Native Village of Venetie; Old Harbor; Quinault Nation; Confederated Tribes of the Siletz; Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak; Tulalip Tribe; Warm Springs Tribe.*

**Guests in Attendance:** Joaquin Bustamante, Connie Davison, and Gene Fenton, *Colville Tribes*; Theodore Means, Warrior Appenay, *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*; Bill Matt, *Spokane Tribe*; Robert Medellin, *Umatilla Tribe*; Alfrida Peters and Thomas Sams, *Yakama Nation*; Brian Fiedorczyk, *EPA*; Al Latourette, *EPA* and Jim Zokan, *EPA*.

Danny Joe Stensgar, President of TSWAN, welcomed everyone present and thanked Bonnie Burke, TERF manager for the Umatilla Confederated Tribes for hostessing our event.

Bonnie welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming, and asked for a roll call of those present.

Afterward, Kami Snowden, Executive Director of TSWAN introduced Loretta Zammarchi, Solid Waste Planner for the Yakama Nation who presented a power point on how the Solid Waste Program is using GPS and GIS to track the illegal dumping on their lands. Loretta started by saying that much of her program was based on things they had tried and how NOT to do this.

She outlined their goals and an interconnected circle of three rings: Making the Environment Safe, Using and honoring Ancestral Knowledge and Providing and Economically Sound Process.

In 2006, the Yakama received an IGAP grant aimed at:

- Building Capacity
- Closing Illegal Dumpsites
- Building Awareness in the Community
- Supporting the Solid Waste office
- Assessment

However, without any REAL data on the scope of the issue and the costs involved, Zammarchi said they ended up writing their IGAP to begin to obtain baseline information. Prior to the IGAP, garbage from illegal dumps was collected and disposed of in mixed, un-separated loads. Although a study had been done by Zender who identified 135 sites, no records had been kept on tracking illegal dumpsites. And, there was no plan in place for CLOSURE of these illegal dump sites. So, the first order of business was to develop tracking logs to show usage/needs; identify the long term needs and routes to help identify which areas were most impacted and habitual offenders; get a clean-up done. It quickly became apparent that they needed some adequate forms to enable tracking, and budgeting for the projects. She said the 'checker board' nature of the reservation with tribal land, allotment and fee lands was a significant jurisdictional issue to overcome.

TSWAN loaned the Yakama a GPS and they logged in the coordinates for 130 sites. This helped them to locate, catalogue, quantify and store the information on their sites. From the data they were collecting, they were able to prioritize the clean-up efforts, budget for the costs, monitor and establish "patterns" of illegal dumping and start tracking who/what caused these. They were able to budget for the proper equipment to make clean-up efficient. Zammarchi said that their IGAP grant was able to provide small equipment monies as it was for "Planning and

Implementing” the plan. With EPA members in attendance, she pointed out that Solid Waste has no separate bullet in the current EPA GAP Guideline discussion.

To start their program, first sites were logged in with GPS (Global Positioning System) to establish their locations. This information was logged into GIS (Geographic Information Systems) which is a tool to display and analyze the collected data in meaning full ways. She said one of the tools they learned to appreciate the most was a Ricoh Camera which linked the GPS/GIS systems together so their data could be easily plugged into the office computer system at the end of the day with the location, field notes, etc all downloaded in a matter of minutes. The cost savings in employee time easily covered the \$1900 costs. Information and software maybe available from [www.geospacialexperts.com](http://www.geospacialexperts.com).

From the collected data, it was first most important to establish land ownership, due to the checker board nature of their reservation. Zammarchi recommended going online to the county GIS information available. If you cannot find what you want there, go the plat maps for allotment and fee land.

To date, the Yakama have assessed 299 sites. They have cleaned up and closed 148 sites. They have removed 4500 tons of illegal dumps. Their costs have been \$837,134 of which \$450,000 was tire related and for which they partnered with the WA State Department of Ecology to have tires removed. They have posted 57 signs on the new “codes” and “enforcements.” In the future, they need to clean up more sites; clean up the older data that was collected before the GPS/GIS systems; and keep current management on the systems they have put into place.

In 2009/2010, the Yakama Nation spent much time on re-writing their Solid Waste Codes, getting them passed through Tribal Council, and making them enforceable! Then 2010-2011 have been dedicated to Community Outreach. Zammarchi introduced Alfrieda Peters, a native Yakama member who has been very instrumental in the success of this community outreach effort.

Alfrieda Peters presents herself in her traditional native clothing at her presentations. She said that she had been working in air quality issues through community health for several years before becoming involved in the solid waste program. After finding so many of the air quality issues related to the illegal dumpsites, she and Loretta found a way to team-up together through a USDA grant on Changing Waste Disposal Behaviors. Through Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM), they started their efforts with a community survey. They recommend NOT making one 37 questions long like theirs! [Handouts of their survey and the answers were provided.]

The goals of CBSM were to:

- Hire a tribal liaison.
- Review the literature.
- Develop a community survey
- Uncover the barriers
- Promote the ancestral ways
- Promote the financial and environmental benefits to the tribal peoples.
- Through the Awareness> Knowledge>Attitudes>and Skills>
- Create a Personal Collective Action to promote CHANGE!

As one of the tribal members, Peters contacted the people through their native locations and activities: Churches; Longhouses; Community Centers.

She gathered the surveys to find out Where the waste was from? Who was using the dumpsters? Why were they using the dumpsters? Did people recycle? Were they aware of the new codes? What was their environmental concern? She provided classes on proper solid waste disposal. Incentives were provided in the form of reusable grocery bags.

Health needs and cultural concerns came to light, like the dangers of using of native plants that are growing in or around illegal dump sites. Fishermen and hunters had concerns about the broken glass and other sharps found in

places they wanted to use. Tribal members expressed concerns about rodents, West Nile virus, coyotes and bears that were part of the illegal dump sites.

Perceived barriers also came to light. Garbage service was seen as too expensive. Driveways were too long. Others never thought of garbage as a problem. To counter this, visual aids were developed showing that IF you could rent movies or buy cases of pepsi, the expense was less than these items people thought nothing of having. And roll out containers were demonstrated to show how the garbage could be easily transported down a long driveway. A refrigerator recycling sign-up with a \$30 reward and recycling bag was provided. This was very successful and the removal of some directly impacted child safety.

Although a goal had been set through the USDA grant of signing up 100 households, 255 new households signed up for garbage service. And the Yakama Nation's program won an Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council, (IACC) Award and became featured as a pilot program.

Al Latourette of the EPA reported on his Sony GPS camera that works with Google Earth as more of an entry level for tribes. The cost is around \$800. He also said that Environmental Systems Research Institute [ESRI] has an initiative to work with small organizations and maybe helpful to the tribes.

### **TSWAN lunch break**

Bonnie Burke, Tribal Environmental Recovery Facility [TERF] manager for the Umatilla Confederated Tribes and hostess of the TSWAN group, gave information on their operations. They have reservation wide garbage collection service. Recycling collection is at satellite locations like the Mission, market, longhouse and at TERF. They have an education and outreach program promoting responsible recycling.

The goals of the TERF program are to provide professional customer service; create a positive perception about the services they provide; and be competitively priced with added benefits to their customers.

They finished their \$1.3M, 13,000 square foot transfer station in 2001 on a USDA 4.5% loan. They have 5.5 employees. They use 53 foot trailers which hold 40 tons of garbage each. They were able to add a 310 J backhoe in 2011 and plan to recondition the old one for a back up.

The facility has a safety meeting each month and maintains equipment and facilities logs. Their funding is provided from 5% tax, 8% recycling revenue, 2% from the general public, 45% from commercial collections and 40% from their residential routes on the reservation.

TERF started recycling paper in 2002, with all tribal programs to participate per Board Resolution. They also started curbside recycling for tribal elders in 2002. In 2009 they were able to purchase a used recycling truck for \$3500. They also recycle cardboard.

Their educational outreach program consists of news and ads in the tribal paper, through the Chamber of Commerce in Pendleton, printed brochures, advertising in the Pendleton Round-Up brochures, after school activities, email announcements and various waste disposal events. They do a Earth Day and National Recycle Week program with the schools.

TSWAN broke to go on tours of the new Tribal Offices and the TERF Transfer Station, after which the meeting was adjourned for the day.

E Welk

**Snoqualmie Tribe; Cindy Spiry**

Spiry reported they recently completed their second household hazardous waste collection event. For this event they hired a consultant to oversee the entire event, including advertisement and monitoring the contractor for the event. Spiry reported disappointment in what they received from the consultant considering the cost.

There was a small roundtable discussion at this point regarding HHW collection events. Kami Snowden mentioned that TSWAN does have a completed feasibility study wherein there are recommendations for conducting multiple and more regionalized collection events for member tribes using only one contractor. By doing so it has the potential to be far more cost effective. Snowden will soon be working with James Helmstetter of the Coeur d'Alene, and neighboring tribes on this very issue.

**Burns-Paiute Tribe; Dean Adams**

Adams reported the tribe received \$15,000 from IHS for the development of a transfer facility and work will soon be underway. Adams also has been appointed to the Region 10 RTOC and encouraged members to read the comments made by the RTOC on the IGAP Guidance Document and then provide comments themselves to EPA.

**Newhalen; Ronald Wassillie**

Wassillie reported they had just completed their annual village cleanup. The city is still operating the waste site but Wassillie has agreed to continue to provide aide as they have hired a new manager who has completed the RALO (Rural Alaska Landfill Operations) training. The burn box on site has finally been repaired. Wassillie encouraged members with environmental issues and questions to contact either Dean Adams or himself and they can bring those issues to RTOC.

**Native Village of Larsen Bay; Alex Panamaroff**

Panamaroff reported the village, having 2 dumps, has begun cleanup using IGAP funds. One of the sites is approximately 90% finished. They are working with one of the boroughs on a backhaul program, and with a Kodiak consortium on overall solid waste management. They also received some additional funding to backhaul e-waste from all of the villages and already ship lead acid batteries. They have been environmental classes for two years now to the schools and are beginning to see changes in the community as the students continue to take this information back into their homes.

**Muckleshoot Tribe; Eddy Chu**

Chu expressed frustrations and complaints with their existing waste collection company. As a pilot program the tribe agreed to begin collection in three housing projects (110 homes). Chu has ordered a rear loading collection truck and will take over residential curbside collection when the equipment is in place and then will take on the scatter sites (altogether 350 homes) throughout the reservation.

Chu also mentioned that the compactor is running well and his ratio with compaction runs from 6:1 to 8:1 thereby dramatically decreasing the number of trips for final disposal. Chu has been pleasantly surprised the voluntary recycling taking place, despite the lack of incentive for the people to do so.

**Coeur d'Alene Tribe; James Helmstetter**

The tribe has submitted a grant to develop environmental codes and technical assisting to enhance recycling (focusing on tribal enterprises). They did not receive the grant, but will apply again in the future. Regarding green practices within the tribal businesses, he reported the casino and resort have implemented some green practices, but other tribal enterprises have not.

**Colville Confederated Tribes;**

**Connie Davisson** reported the Environmental Trust Department having completed the Integrated Waste Management Plan, are now working on a Capital Waste Management Plan, in part to address substandard septic. The plan is now in the review stage. She also reported that the SWAC has knowledge of over 250 illegal dump sites, but likely more. They have, however, received a \$96,000 Brownfields grant to begin closure of the Nespelem site. They are also in need of training in GPS and GIS so they can map these sites and work towards cleaning them

**Joaquin Bustamante** reported they installed cameras at the recycling because people were dumping illegally there and stealing metals. Recycled white goods and metals have netted the tribe \$4,000. He also mentioned they are working with TOSHA to purchase a bulb crusher that removes the hazardous materials from the bulbs as well. Recently they had to clean a 52,000 pound marijuana grow site.

Danny Joe Stensgar mentioned that the tribe also has trouble with the theft of metals from their sites. Thieves are cutting through fences to get to the metals and are leaving other problems such as hydraulic fluid on the ground from cars, etc. Cameras were to be installed, but haven't been to date.

#### **Nez Perce Tribe; John Wheaton**

Wheaton reported recently discovering a new illegal dump site and is in the process of doing an assessment.

He also discussed a project with the City of Lapwai. The city is wanted to drain local lagoons, but once drained it creates a solid waste issue. They will be applying for an IGAP grant to conduct a greenhouse marketing study. Part of the grant request will include the position of a recycling coordinator.

Also, they are working with SWAC on a waste to energy project. They've been focusing on wood wastes but want to consider other materials.

#### **Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Zannita Arnell**

Arnell reported they have made a request to council to purchase new containers and a roll-off truck and are awaiting a decision. Currently they are working on an overall waste management plan and then will work on a plan that specifically addresses solid waste management. They are now beginning to accept white goods and construction waste, and are incorporating separation bins for cardboard and other recyclables. New construction has increased the waste stream as well. There is resistance from the tribal council in charging a gate rate at the transfer station, even though they are asking for as little as \$.50 per bag. Stensgar recommended they develop a SWAC with representatives from council and other departments. Having a SWAC has helped the Colville Tribes move their program along as the involvement of other departments lends understanding and support of solid waste issues.

Arnell echoed the problems faced by other member tribes in that thieves are breaking into the transfer station, but their worst issue is the theft of fuel and cutting the lines on the vehicles and equipment.

#### **Yakama Nation; Lorretta Zammarchi**

The overall update by the Yakama Nation was provided the previous day. However, Zammarchi spoke on the White Swan fire that earlier this year consumed 150 homes. The community came together with several local partners to clean the area.

#### **Spokane Tribe; Bill Matt**

Matt reported that the West End dump site closure is now complete. He also mentioned the tribe provides curbside pickup for HUD homes (714 houses) for \$20.00 per month although Elders are free.

Matt discussed a program they employ for cleanup of areas by using prisoners. Part of the success can be attributed to the "2 for 1" agreement. Essentially, for every day a prisoner works on a cleanup project, two days will be taken from their sentence.

Code is now in place for new construction to use the transfer station for waste (flow control).

Kami Snowden discussed some of the concerns over the IGAP Guidance Document issued by EPA. TSWAN will be submitting comments, which are due by November 30. A copy of that letter will be distributed to members prior to final submission to EPA so members will have the opportunity for input and suggestions.

Snowden also briefed the members on FY2012 TSWAN projects and programs. TSWAN did not get funded for one of the trainings requested in the IGAP grant, which causes a reduction in our overall funding. TSWAN did, however, receive a hazardous waste grant to develop tribal emergency response teams, but that funding will not be available until January 1.

The next TSWAN meeting will be March 28-29, 2012 in Boise. This will be the Idaho Stakeholders meeting and we want to make certain all important issues are addressed and questions answered so please send Snowden your discussion points. This is an excellent venue for the tribes to make valuable contacts with state agencies and departments.

Having no further business to come before the members, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

### **Makah Nation; Marge Sawyer [ Tribal Report submitted by email]**

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide TSWAN members with a progress update on the construction of the Makah Transfer Station facility.

- A groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 31, 2011. The Tribal Chairman and Vice Chairman explained the history and importance of closing the Warmhouse Beach Open Dump. They also explained the importance of the transfer station and why it's essential to the Tribe's goal of closing the dump. Tribal Council, managers, and members of the Makah Tribal community were joined by representatives of Ridolfi, Clallam County, and Primo Construction at this ceremony.
- Most of fill has been placed and compacted for the transfer station, associated roadways, and aprons. The original site surface was proof rolled and inspected prior to fill being placed. All soft spots were removed, refilled, and compacted. Compaction testing of the compacted fill material has been performed in accordance with the project specifications, and compaction results have been approved after each test.
- Renovations to the existing maintenance building have begun. The outer walls have been cleaned, and restoration of the roof, walls, and parapet are in progress. A total of 10 trusses required repair, and two were completely replaced.
- The bio-swales for treatment of storm water have been constructed, and topsoil has been placed. Grass seed and straw have been placed as erosion control measures in the bio-swales. Quarry spalls have been placed for energy dissipation at pipe outfalls into the swales.
- The construction of the concrete foundations for the lower level compactor room and retaining wall is complete. Concrete for the compactor room and retaining wall was poured on September 27, 2011. Backfill placement and grading in the area surrounding the compactor room and retaining wall continues.
- The wastewater holding tank was installed on October 14, 2011 and has been backfilled.
- Trenching for the storm water pipes and catch basins has been completed, and the catch basins and piping have been installed for the eastern portion of the site. The catch basin and storm water piping has been installed as shown in the construction drawings.
- The Makah Tribe coordinated with Clallam County PUD to install primary electrical equipment at the site. The existing power pole has been relocated, and preparations are being made to install the main power distribution system.