

**TSWAN Meeting Minutes**  
**June 19, 2008**  
**Seattle, WA**

**ATTENDANCE:** Glen Connelly, *Chehalis Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Lewis Younger, *Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*; Kevin Greenleaf, *Kootenai Tribe*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Amanda Squartsoff, *Native Village of Port Lions*; Ron Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; Karl Braden, *Quinault Indian Nation*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Delores Stokes, *Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak*; Teddi Bronson, *Umatilla Tribe*; Derald Ortloff, Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

**Absent Tribes:** *AVCP; Cheesh-Na; Chignik; Coeur d'Alene; Kalispel; Larson Bay; Levelock Village; Makah; Muckleshoot; Nunakauyarmiut; Old Harbor Village; Shoshone-Bannock; Siletz; Snoqualmie; Tulalip; Warm Springs; and the Yakama Nation.*

**Guests in Attendance:** Al LaTourette and Kristin Hall, *USEPA*; Mike Willis and Steven Hecker of the *University of Washington*; Stephen Price, *Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council*.

Kami Snowden welcomed members and guests to the TSWAN meeting, and started with a Review of the Meth Lab Training which all had attended the previous 2.5 days. She said the feedback on the class had been very positive with many requesting that the class be extended even longer because some wanted to know more. There was some discussion as to whether or not the chemical part had been too in-depth and could be shortened, or if it could be broken into more 'group' type, hands-on type learning. Some wondered if it could be combined with a HAZCOM or HAZWOPER class. Anne Bailey suggested that it be tied into a 24-hour Household Hazardous waste training. She thought the blood borne pathogens, biohazards training could be tailored to tribal needs and could provide certification too. An Educational Outreach presentation trainees could take back to their members was also mentioned.

Larry Zirkle of Total Reclaim, Anchorage, Alaska spoke to the group on the work that Total Reclaim is doing with the Alaskan Tribes and Villages to help them with their recycling programs. He wanted to emphasize the "Reclaiming Our Lands" idea and have people remove the blinders as to what can truly be reclaimed from solid waste. He showed a film on how e-wastes (computers and electronics) are being sent to China for recycling and how the practice is wreaking environmental and health programs in the small villages taking in the e-wastes. He made comparisons with the solid waste problems faced in rural Alaskan villages and made suggestions on 'ship it in – ship it out' programs that they try to help villages develop with their suppliers. The bottom line for his business is to awaken the people to the problem and have them start affecting change on a personal level.

Snowden introduced Kristin Hall from the USEPA Tribal Solid Waste Program. Ms. Hall delivered handouts on EPA Region 10 Updates and Grants.. She also talked about USDA

grants and pointed out that tribes are often left competing with other small rural cities (populations under 10,000) because there is not a special grant program just for tribes on many of the grants. EPA receives a lot of comments on how hard it is to understand USDA grants. Snowden suggested USDA do more pre-application information which would help people with the actual grant application. USDA is often too short on answers and requires a lot of financial reports and proprietary information that is not required on other grants. It was suggested by others that perhaps more could be done to sell the benefits of “green” concepts to private foundations and corporations. Additionally, a big sell needs to be done to natives and you people to get them passionate about these concerns through educational outreach. Tribes that have casinos, for example, might consider an outreach program to the casinos to aid in the understanding and stewardship of adopting a ‘green’ policy and aid in the environmental programs of the tribe.

## Lunch Break

### TRIBAL UPDATES

#### Chehalis Tribe ~ Glen Connelly

- There is still no Solid Waste Management Plan for the Tribe.
- They are writing ‘nuisance laws’ which give them some enforcement tools.
- Sponsored Spring Clean-Up which has led to a year round dumpster for the tribes now at what they are calling a Convenience Station. Recycling is available at this site now also and is getting cardboard recycling set up. Since there is no more backyard burning allowed, they are seeing the dumpsters being used.
- Progress is being made.

#### Kootenai Tribe ~ Kevin Greenleaf

- Tribe partners with the county landfill and tribal waste program now ‘mirrors’ the county.
- Paper and cardboard are separated and recycled.

#### Newhalen Tribe ~ Ronald Wassillie

- Has sent letter to managers for a recycling program, and wishes for it to include all solid waste, including cars.
- Is working on an arrangement with the Pebble Mine management to haul out cars and other solid waste.
- Total Reclaim will take this solid waste for recycling.

Kami Snowden introduced John Wheaton from the Nez Perce Tribe who was here for the Meth Lab Training and is filling in for the recently deceased David Zwerneman. We had a moment of silence for David.

#### Nez Perce Tribe ~ John Wheaton

- Tribe sponsored a Spring Clean-up.

- They are establishing a CDL Transfer Station. They have had two inspections by EPA and have had two violations. They are working to correct the situation.
- They are working with Idaho DEQ program also to get the final approvals on their Water Treatment Plan that David Zwerneman was working on

#### Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak ~ Delores Stokes

- Kodiak is a village that a town has grown up around and so has many layers of government. There are three tribes in the community.
- The Borough works with Total Reclaim on their Solid Waste and ships it out.
- Bingo operation pays for their community dumpster. They are recycling paper, cardboard and plastic.
- Batteries are being recycled.
- Summer Youth Program/ Outreach effort teaching students to change their thinking to Pack-in and Pack-out.
- Kodiak Environmental Work Group which includes the city, three tribes, borough and elected county is forming a cooperative weed management and garbage program.

#### Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council ~ Stephen Price

- Established Waste Oil Energy Converters which burns used oil to help bring down energy costs at the clinic.
- Have an anti-freeze converter which recycles old anti-freeze into new.
- R & B Center which can be barged out.

#### Native Village of Port Lions ~ Amanda Squartsoff

- Sponsored an Earth Day Poster Contest in April. All K-5 graders competed in this Educational Outreach.
- Sponsored an Environmental Luncheon and featured information on recycling.
- Recycling bin participation is up.
- Barging out scrap metal next year and will also do Household Hazardous Waste collection.
- Recycling: paper, plastic, aluminum, steel, batteries, oil, filters, light bulbs and propane tanks at this time.
- Doing a Waste Analysis at the new recycling building.

Larry Zirkle taught Freon removal which Amanda and another person are doing. Amanda has also recently completed her 8 –hour HAZWOPER recertification.

#### Spokane Tribe ~ David Ernst

- Tribe has a contractor to do the weight scales at Wellpinit. They have a set of ‘farm’ scales that have met inspection to be moved to the West End transfer station.
- Ernst requested aid from our members regarding where to obtain 40-Cubic containers from TSWAN member. DJ Stensgar from Colville Tribe said they get theirs from Western Fabrication in Spokane.
- Still need surveillance/fencing and gates at site.
- They still need to design a fee schedule for supporting the transfer stations.
- Need a plan for collection of garbage, and vendors who will haul off the reservation.

- Need RFP for contractors to haul. Stensgar offered some suggestions and Snowden will see if she is able to find an RFP she constructed several years ago. Got suggestions on haulers from Colville Tribe also.
- Will set up recycling bins and hope to also have household hazardous waste storage.
- Requests any technical advice and assistance from TSWAN members.

#### Colville Confederated Tribes ~ Danny Joe Stensgar

- Anne Bailey recently conducted a transfer station operation training for the Colville Tribes and Stensgar reported that she did an excellent job. After this training, HR brought in job descriptions and did evaluations.
- The tribe needs to address their transfer stations as they are technically and legally open dumps and will need to be closed as such.
- Stensgar emphasized that transfer station workers need to know how to separate garbage.
- No longer taking cardboard and need a baler so they can.
- Would like to see more cooperation from the casinos.

#### Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde ~ Lewis Younger

- Tribe has an issue with the cost of waste elimination.
- Currently have a contract with Western Oregon. (contract for what????)
- See need for Tribal members to be more self-sufficient in waste management.
- Hopes TSWAN will be able to help them. Would like to create and manage their own transfer station.

Kami Snowden explained that the TSWAN group would be happy to get a copy of the Template to him and explained how it walks you through the Solid Waste Management Plan menu.

#### Umatilla Tribe ~ Teddi Bronson

- TERF program had put in a proposal to EPA for more containers which was turned down.
- Bonnie has recently submitted a grant for a new truck and backhoe.
- There has been some change in the staffing and have two new drivers.
- Received a grant from the Wild Horse Foundation for recycling containers to be placed in the schools.
- Purchased more 'bag it' systems recently, which is a container system for paper recycling.
- Earth Day at the Charter School was a big success. Recycling has really boosted the waste elimination.

#### TSWAN ~ Kami Snowden

- Recently did whole school training at Incheleum Schools on Recycling and Renewable Resources.
- TSWAN grant has been cut to \$110,000 for 2009. This is a cut of \$84,000 and Kami asked for input on how to make this work.
- Felicia Wright of USEPA, Washington D.C., will be having a meeting with people in Billings, MT. next week for input on implementing the EPA's Strategic Plan for Tribes.

The meeting was adjourned and members went directly into Tribal Caucus.

The next meeting of TSWAN will take place in September (specific dates to be announced) and is tentatively scheduled to be hosted by the Yakama Nation (final approval pending).