

**TSWAN Meeting Minutes**  
**March 12, 2009**  
**Ocean Shores, WA**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Denton, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, Pete Palmer, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Lewis Younger, *Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*; Hans Apokedak, *Levelock Village*; Steve Pendleton, *Makah Tribe*; Eddy Chu, *Muckleshoot Tribe*; Ron Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Amanda Squartsoff, *Port Lions*; Cynthia Farlow, *Siletz Tribe*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Bonnie Burke, *Umatilla Tribe*; Derald Ortloff, Loretta Zammarchi, *Yakama Nation*; Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

**Absent Tribes:** *AVCP; Chehalis; Cheesh-Na; Chignik; Kalispel; Kootenai; Larsen Bay; Nunakauyarmiut; Native Village of Eklutna; Native Village of Venetie; Old Harbor Village;; Shoshone-Bannock; Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak; Tulalip Tribe; Warm Springs.*

**Guests in Attendance:** Virgil Seymour, Kelcee Palmer, Gene Fenton, *Colville Tribe*; Lisa Riener, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Pamela Hillstrom, *Squaxin Island Tribe*; Al LaTourette, Laurie Fry, *USEPA*; Lawrence Hawk, *Trellis Earth Products*; Bridget Ray, Sam Watson and Don Chalmers, *Sparrowhawk*.

Danny Joe Stensgar, President of TSWAN welcomed the members present and thanked them for attending. He thanked Karl Braden of the Quinault Nation for hosting the meeting and turned the agenda items over to Kami Snowden, Executive Director of TSWAN.

Kami Snowden introduced Sparrowhawk Consulting as the selected consultants of the RFP for TSWAN's Strategic Plan Template, and turned the meeting over to them for their presentation and communication to the tribes.

As a starting point, Sam Watson explained that with a September, 2009 deadline for completion, it is going to be imperative to keep this process moving forward with the TSWAN member tribes. The Strategic Plan will be the tool TSWAN will use to guide the organization, both financially and programmatically, through the next ten years. He also explained that the purpose of this template portion of this project is to help the tribes find funding for their Integrated Waste Management Plans.

To begin the process Sparrowhawk will develop a background questionnaire that can be mailed, emailed, or completed by phone in order to assess the needs of the membership and get acquainted with any special requirements the membership might have. Sparrowhawk will then send out their report for a review and feedback and subsequently modify the Strategic Plan for the tribes to use as a development template to help them fund and implement their individual Integrated Waste Management Plans.

The next order of business was a report from the RCRA Team formed at the last TSWAN Tribal Caucus in December of 2008. This committee was looking into why Congress has

not set up tribal solid waste issues to be treated as “states” like air and water quality issues are and IF there would even be any advantages for a change to the congressional language. After meeting and reading through several documents, including the by-laws of TSWAN, it was recommended that since TSWAN is a “program and service” organization as opposed to a “lobbying” organization, there wasn’t any reason for TSWAN to continue in any direction that might be construed as an effort to do any lobbying. After a discussion of the purpose and limits of TSWAN as an organization, it was moved by Lewis Younger of the Grand Ronde that the RCRA Committee as it was originally chartered be disbanded. Steve Pendleton of the Makah Tribe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Laurie Fry of the EPA’s Lead Based Paint Team gave a presentation on the perils of lead-based paint in older homes and toys, and on newer toys. She showed slides on how the effects of lead based paint are much more dangerous to small children in their developmental years. Fry indicated that EPA can provide a list of contractors who have been reviewed by the agency for the standards and procedures they follow, and that they can recommend for abatement and renovation programs. She passed out information to the membership and her card and hopes to be helpful to the tribes in their housing projects.

#### LUNCH BREAK

Lawrence Hawk of Trellis Earth Products gave a presentation on his line of biodegradable plates, cups, bags and silverware that they recommend for the tribal casinos and other uses. He cited statistics on the problem that non-biodegradable plastic products are causing in landfills and their hazards to the people and the earth. He noted their products contain a smaller amount of oil based product and larger amounts of switch grass, algae and hemp. This makes them decompose within 2-3 years time, and their price range is midway as wholesale prices go. He is willing to put together a custom quote for anyone tribe that might be interested in this product for their tribe or their casinos.

Gene Fenton of the Colville Confederated Tribes, gave a presentation on the SABRE 4000, a handheld trace detector made by Smiths Detection used to detect traces of narcotics or toxic industrial chemicals. The slide show and movie clips showed how problems with meth labs can be detected in almost any location, from motel/hotels rooms to organizations involved in housing programs.

#### TRIBAL UPDATES

##### **Newhalen Tribe.** Ron Wassillie.

Wassillie reported that they did not get the \$15,000 SW demo grant they applied for with ANTHC. He said he had some questions on the criteria and how it was used to reach this decision.

They are continuing to monitor their dump sites.

The local ‘mining’ operation is on hold, and conducting environmental impact studies on water. This has impacted many of the locals who were working there and they are hoping this process can speed up so people can get back to work.

**Umatilla Tribes.** Bonnie Burke

Burke reports they are busy with the C & D of the truck stop. They have much larger tanks going in, as well as a McDonalds restaurant. They are revising their business plan with their codes and ordinances to be revised by the end of the year as they want codes to be part of the overall permit process for C & D.

CTUIR were the grant recipients for an automated arm garbage truck, and now have their drivers getting their CD licenses for the truck which will be delivered in August, 2009. They also have to educate the public on the new collection process that this new truck will require.

Their tribal attorney is working on changes of the MRM for electronic waste. They must then go through an internal review process and then train their workers on the new MRM. The electronic waste will be hauled to Portland, OR.

**Kalispel Tribe.** Don Hutson

The Kalispell have only one transfer station and the waste is hauled off the reservation. He is looking forward to the results of the local county SWAC.

**Snoqualmie Tribe.** Cindy Spiry.

Spiry reported that they are working on their ISWM Plan for the new casino. They are currently working with Anne Bailey, TSWAN Circuit Rider on their waste sort and characterization.

**Siletz Tribe.** Dennis Lancaster.

Lancaster reported that he is still working for NW Maritime and has been working on a Hawaiian contract. They have completed a project with the Corp of Engineers on the Foster Dam in Oregon. With their sonar mapping and crane, they were able to remove 61 truck loads of material from behind the dam. This compared to the 4 truck loads the Corp had been doing from on top of the dam. Having the success of this project now, their project manager will be taking this process to the National Conference.

**Makah Tribe.** Steve Pendleton

Pendleton reports that they have finished their waste disposal proposal and have it on their council's top five list. Their next course of action will be taking it to IHS/BIA in Seattle and then to the Office of Tribal Affairs at the White House in Washington D.C. They have some new council members who have really ramped up this process. They have also partnered with Region 10 EPA/IHS/BIA. They have requested a letter from TSWAN to help this process along. They feel the new federal stimulus package is more grant oriented with less loan matching. In its current status their landfill is a human health threat. Talks with Cantwell's office were also very helpful. Pendleton suggested that other tribes be proactive and not wait for the USDA/BIA or anyone to come to them. He also thanked Bonnie with the Umatilla Tribe for helping them by giving them so much information from the Umatilla SWMP.

**Sun'Aq Tribe of Kodiak.** Katherine Ellenak.

Ellenak said that years ago they had lobbied for landfill liners under RCRA. They had fluoride poisoning of 250 people in Cooper Bay. They have a new landfill manager who has been sent to training and they are starting to educate the public.

They received a \$10,000 grant to clean out the inert dumps. Drums are already being sent out.

Kodiak's bulk fuel tank facility has been upgraded with a grant from BIA, but the tanks need to be hauled.

They are trying to work with three local villages to get scrap metal out.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL NEXT MORNING AT 9 AM.

TSWAN Meeting

Friday, March 13, 2009

Quinault Indian Nation

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Several member tribes from Alaska expressed concern with the TSWAN meeting days (typically a Thursday and Friday combination) and how some local airlines do not operate flights on the weekends. By the time members reach Alaska on Friday evenings there are no further flights to their homes until that following Monday. It was group consensus that we alter our meeting days to a Wednesday-Thursday combination so as to allow an additional travel day to those who need it.

Lou Younger, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde presented the members with a letter requesting assistance in investigating the implications and potential impacts of RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) as it pertains to tribes as the Tribe explores the feasibility of constructing a landfill, among other alternatives, for tribal use. After discussion it was agreed that a new committee comprised of Don Hutson, Lew Younger and Kami Snowden be structured to develop questions and discussion items to discuss with the USEPA and other agencies to seek responses to the regulatory, cultural and operational benefits, consequences and responsibilities of landfilling.

Tribal Updates: Continued

**Quinault Indian Nation.** Karl Braden

Over the last two days the Tribe completed the training and certification of 30 members in Meth Lab Awareness. The training was conducted jointly by TSWAN, the University of Washington and the Washington State Patrol.

Of the 28 illegal dumps in the area, nine have been cleaned.

Braden has applied for the manager's position he currently holds on the interim since the departure of Samuel Iwenofu.

**Spokane Tribe.** David Ernst

After a long and harsh winter that brought transfer station completion to a halt, progress is again underway to complete the site. They will soon be excavating to place the electrical lines for the hookups to the transfer station at Wellpinit. They've still to construct and negotiate a contract for hauling of trash from the transfer station once it's opened for business. There are still no plans in place for closure of the existing dumping area(s).

**Tulalip Tribe.** Al Jones, Jr.

The tribe is developing recycling drop off locations on the reservation. Budget cuts have hurt existing programs so developing new programs is a special challenge.

Danny Joe Stensgar and Cindy Marchand of the Colville Confederated Tribes made presentation to tribal members regarding programs and projects undertaken by the Colvilles; discussing how and what makes their programs work.

They are in the process of obtaining demolition permits to remove many old trailers throughout the reservation.

**Levelock Village.** Hans Apokedak

Winter is a time when Han's programs take a back seat because of weather restrictions, but he is now gearing up for the annual spring cleanup.

**Chehalis Tribe.** Glen Connelly

Bulk of green waste has been a large expense for the tribe and they are now looking for ways to chip this waste type rather than continue on the large disposal scale. Like many other tribes they are preparing for spring cleanup given that Earth Day is next month.

Snowden relayed information she'd received regarding the federal stimulus package. It was her understanding there could be funds available for construction and demolition wastes. She'll do some further checking and further advise.

**Kootenai Tribe.** Kevin Greenleaf.

Greenleaf reported on the handling of electronic waste, which is done through a waste processing operation in Old Town. The company is currently looking for advanced funding to expand.

The tribal council supported the effort to remove white goods and junk cars from the reservation with letters to tribal members and reservation occupants. The letter was instrumental in inspiring people to participate.

The Tribe is currently working on their Integrated Waste Management Plan.

**Coeur d'Alene Tribe.** Les Higgins

The Tribe received a grant from the USDA to: conduct three community education meetings on waste management and recycling; implement green hotel practices; introduce more recycling; and initiate backyard composting. TSWAN is providing education program assistance with the meetings and with the education and outreach portion of the HHW collection events slated to take place later this spring. The RFP for HHW services will be published in the next couple of weeks and dates for the events will be determined.

Higgins mentioned that the Tribe uses a type of legal burn box for burning of green wastes. This could be a portable mechanism and used by others if desired. Anyone interested should contact the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

**Colville Tribes.** Pete Palmer

Palmer presented the newly completed Integrated Waste Management Plan, which goes to Tribal Council for approval on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. This document will be instrumental in obtaining grant money for program implementation. The plan also calls for the closure of open dumps and provides for a waste hauling alternative to the Wenatchee landfill which will save the Tribes considerable dollars. Future plans, as outlined in the document, include investigating the feasibility of constructing a reservation landfill.

The recycling program is up and running. They are looking into the possibility of renovating an existing warehouse to house a recycling office, materials and equipment, plus storage of recyclables waiting for transportation to markets. Part of the area would be dedicated to establishing a materials exchange.

The Tribes are currently doing their own shredding, and continue to encourage participation from all departments, as this is saving them valuable dollars to not pay for a shredding company to mobilize to the reservation to handle sensitive documents.

The Colvilles continue to recycle junk vehicles. They've removed over 1000 vehicles in just two of the four districts so their goal is to remove as many as possible reservation-wide.

**Native Village of Port Lions.** Adrian Francis.

Filling in for Amanda Squartsoff, Francis reported that they are looking into ways and means to recycle polystyrene. Products continue to come into the village, yet they have no means to remove all the Styrofoam. They currently backhaul approximately 1 ton of overall recycling each month.

Village employees have been conducting door-to-door interviews asking residents what environmental services are most important to them. The overwhelming response has been pick-up services, like the services received by the tribal elders. People indicated they were much more likely to participate in the programs if the service reached their doorsteps.

Francis also mentioned they are in need of larger recycling storage areas; that they backhaul e-waste to Kodiak Island for further shipping and recycling; that they're trying to come up with a plan to remove scrap metals from the villages; and they are conducting a slogan contest for earth day.

**Native Village of Larson Bay.** Alex Panamaroff

Panamaroff mentioned the large amount of turnover in the environmental coordinator's position on the last couple of years. He has held the position now for approximately eight months with much of his time spent in training and familiarizing himself with projects, policies, programs, and issues surrounding the village.

They have hired a consultant to help them write an Integrated Waste Management Plan. The plan has since been accepted by both the tribe and the city. Since the city manages the dumpsite there is dual responsibility for seeking funds and project oversight. This is accomplished through a Memorandum of Understanding. The city has now applied for a Class III permit. They continue to work on education programs for the curriculum, concentrating first on the schools.

Larson Bay recycles batteries, e-waste, and aluminum and is now initiating recycling of plastics. Everything not recycled goes into the burn box. Even with recycling they estimate that 80% of waste after burn is aluminum cans, so in an effort to recycle more the village has distributed can crushers to encourage more recycling.

**Native Village of Venetie.** Lance Whitwell.

Whitwell, as the newest member of TSWAN, provided information about himself and his tribe. He's been the environmental coordinator for Venetie for 10 years. The Tribe was formally established in 1942 with an estimated 2 million acres of reservation. However, the 1976 Native Land Claims Act dissolved the reservation.

There are 2 communities within the Venetie area, and both are building new schools. This means there are two schools soon to be in need of deconstruction and both contain asbestos. Both sites are also the grounds for previous fuel spills, so there is much remediation that needs to be done with these sites and buildings.

The next TSWAN meeting will take place June 17-18, 2009 at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Please note this is a Wednesday and Thursday! Further information regarding the meeting will be circulated as soon as arrangements are made.

Having no further business to come before the organization, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.