

## TSWAN Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2011

Chehalis, WA

**ATTENDANCE:** Glen Connelly, *Chehalis Tribe*; James Helmstetter, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, Pete Palmer, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Kevin Greenleaf, *Kootenai Tribe*; Alexander Panamaroff, *Larsen Bay*; Eddy Chu, *Muckleshoot Tribe*; Ron Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Angie Christiansen, *Old Harbor*; Karl Braden, *Quinault Nation*; Aleena Beasley, *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Sheena Kaas, *Squaxin Island Tribe*; Derald Ortloff, *Yakama Nation*; Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

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

**Guests in Attendance:** Joaquin Bustamante, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Bill Matt, *Spokane Tribe*; Jim Reinhold, *Squaxin Island Tribe*.

Kami Snowden, Executive Director of TSWAN welcomed, the members present thanked our host, Glen Connelly and the Chehalis Tribe for hosting our meeting and the previous training. Snowden updated the attendees with the schedule of trainings and meetings that TSWAN has planned for this year. In early April, TSWAN, in conjunction with the Yukon River Inter-tribal Water Council and the Alaska State Patrol, will present two sessions of the meth lab identification training in Fairbanks.

The final meth lab identification training per the TSWAN original grant will be presented April 26-27<sup>th</sup> back here at the Chehalis Tribal Community Center and is open to ALL tribes. It was explained that this was a "national grant," and has been presented to tribes from other states and regions besides those here in the Northwest, EPA Region 10.

Snowden announced the progress on the Oil Spill Recovery Training which TSWAN is offering at the Quinault Nation May 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the UW. After some discussion on exactly what the training will cover and how it will assist the solid waste programs of TSWAN member tribes, many present shared that they did not have the HAZWOPER certifications that are a pre-requisite for the class. Anne Bailey, Project Coordinator for TSWAN, explained the three types of certifications that would work as pre-requisites. It was decided that TSWAN will offer a 24-Hour HAZWOPER certification training April 12-14<sup>th</sup> with the location to be announced as soon as one can be arranged. This will allow the members who are not currently certified to be qualified in time for the Oil Spill Response training in May.

Snowden talked about the June "stakeholders" meeting that TSWAN hoped to arrange in Boise, ID, which would be similar to the meeting that had been held in Lacey, WA. TSWAN arranges for representatives from the host state's government agencies to attend in an effort to open lines of communication, set up contact people, and assist the tribes in networking with the agencies that affect their tribal nations. After some discussion, it was decided that September would be a better month to have such a meeting and that this would also allow more time for arrangements to be made and all the pertinent agencies to be invited. The dates were set for September 14-15<sup>th</sup> in Boise, exact location to be announced.

On August 8-10th, TSWAN members have been invited by Cindy Spiry to join the Snoqualmie Nation at their Green Building Summit to be held at the Olive 8, a platinum level LEED certified hotel in downtown Seattle. It is the hope of the Snoqualmie Nation and TSWAN that members will leave with information helpful in the building, expansion and updating of tribal hotels and casinos, and other building structures, which have such a big impact on tribal solid waste programs and facilities. Spiry presented some of the programs, tours and presenters that will be at this conference, and welcomed any suggestions of other programming from TSWAN membership. She also opened it up to anyone who would like to serve on a planning committee to assist in organizing the conference.

Spiry provided further information about the Olive 8 Hotel. During their construction, they had a 98% construction waste recycling program, and today are still able to recycle over 90% of their solid waste. She said speakers would include Recovery 1, Ridolfi Engineering and a program on using Native Plants. A tour of Shoreline Transfer Station is being arranged. She hopes to have an area for display booths where members can showcase their programs.

The next item for discussion on the agenda was Tribal Youth Outreach. Ron Wassillie of Newhalen Tribal Council opened the discussion by stating how the tribal boards and leadership do not have youth at their tables and asking for ideas and input from other members on how to get tribal youth more involved. Several tribal nations like the Yakama Nation have extensive "Spring Cleanup" programs that involve their local youth, and many of them have programs in tribal schools regarding recycling programs, Earth Day events, environmental art programs, etc. The Spokane Tribe said they have turned their recycling program over to a Youth Council. But members agreed that what they were really seeking were programs that would develop youth leaders who would be interested in pursuing the education and leadership skills necessary to carry tribal governments into the next generation. Mentoring, 'job shadowing,' as well as scholarship programs were discussed. It was suggested that perhaps at some point TSWAN could develop some volunteer curriculum programs. It was agreed that members would like to see more youth outreach that leads to long-term interest, development and support for tribal youth leaders. How to go about that was not resolved, but will continue to be a topic for discussion.

Kami Snowden gave a brief overview of efforts to manage the need for new TSWAN member tribal resolutions that had been required with the new grants program through EPA. Several high level contacts have been made, and Snowden said she has not received the final proposals on this yet, but will notify members as soon as things are finalized.

After the lunch break, Bruno Ridolfi and Kathryn Foster of Ridolfi Engineering gave a presentation on the 12 year process leading to the future closure of the Warmhouse Beach Open Dump at the Makah Nation, and the opening of a Transfer Station there. Since Ridolfi has been involved in testing groundwater and soils at the locations for so many years, their monitoring records have become quite valuable in helping secure the funding needed to move this project forward. Besides the Makah Nation, the U. S. Air force and Coast Guard, as well as IHS and BIA have all been instrumental in creating this open dump which must now be closed. Tribal attorneys are in talks with these other agencies in hopes of some financial help in this closure process. And, the Makah Nation has secured some loans and grants to help with it also. In all, when finalized, Ridolfi estimates that the total cost will have reached near the \$5M figure. The tribal objectives with this project have been to: minimize the impact to the environment by re-using other existing sites; protect wetlands; make new location convenient for the community; have new location near the tribal offices; make the new transfer station self-sustaining over the long run; support community salvage and reuse with a drop and swap area; provide a Household Hazardous Waste area; perhaps provide a future compost area and make it easy to operate and maintain.

## **TRIBAL UPDATES**

**Glen Connelly – Chehalis Tribe reports** that the Chehalis have private service for their solid waste program, but also provide open dumpsters for tribal members. They set out pallets for electronics and Household Hazardous Waste collection which are also for tribal use only and are manned on the weekends whenever they get the most activity from outsiders wanting to dump there. The tribe has a community Spring Cleanup program. Recycling interest is building from the tribal committee and the casino is working on a program to compost their food waste.

**John Wheaton – Nez Perce Tribe** says they are working on a feasibility study with Waste to Energy engineers on a transfer station. The tribe is also getting a \$106K from USDA for capital development of a shop, trucks and other equipment. A recycling trailer has been donated to the tribe. A Lewiston Company has been sustaining their recycling program for them.

**David Ernst – Spokane Tribe** reported that they have been able to close the West End Dumpsite. They have applied for a grant through EPA which did not get funded. Then they submitted their proposals for a HUD-IPC grant and still were turned down for funding. David turned the report over to Bill Matt who said they are managing

without a fully functional transfer station. Everything from the West End is now transferred to the Wellpinit Dump site. They do have curbside pickup and are limiting hours at the dumpsite, but without assistance things are still just being dumped on the ground at the Wellpinit site. They have combined three entities to save money, but without funding, the refuge department is have a tough time.

**Angie Christiansen – Old Harbor Village** says they have placed and are using their burn boxes there in Alaska. They are experiencing some growing pains in managing these burn boxes, but at least the bears are no longer feeding at the dump since their food source is gone. They have received a backhaul grant through Rural Cap to dispose of 50 vehicles, e-waste and some of the waste from the mining dump site. They are collecting large household items. A large truck has been purchased for collecting these items. And, they are continuing with their educational outreach to the community and schools. Christiansen reports they have shipped out 6 pallets and 2 fish totes of lead acid batteries. They have also purchased a small Skid Steer and a Connex Box to store their equipment at the dump site.

**Aleena Beasley – Shoshone-Bannock Tribes** says that she is now working with Zannita Armell, primarily in the Solid Waste department, while Zannita manages both but specializes in Brownfields. This past year they have doubled the monies for their department with better accountability, new staff, and cost cutting measures and making sure everyone on the staff has a CDL license so they are cross trained into other jobs. They are getting their new truck in two weeks, and have hired an in-house mechanic to keep their equipment running at much less expense than sending it out for repairs. They now have a warehouse and a baler for their recyclables.

**Sheena Kaas – Squaxin Island Tribe** says their tribe just joined TSWAN in December, 2010. They are working on a Solid Waste Management Plan which they plan to implement in June, 2012. They are currently working on a 'waste stream event.' Their tribe will also be hosting the 2012 Canoe Trip SW Leadership Circle which is equivalent to SWAC for tribes. Executive service asks all departments to send up SW issues, and they are also working on a curb side recycling program with a fee.

**James Helmstetter – Coeur d'Alene Tribe** says he is new to this job having replaced the retired Bill Denton. James says he feels fortunate that Bill was so organized and put together such a good program it is making his job much easier. Helmstetter says the new wing of their casino is nearly completed. They will be hosting a Tribal Leaders event soon.

**Alex Panamaroff – Larsen Bay** reports they have shipped out their first load of lead batteries. They are doing outreach on their Household Hazardous Waste collection after completing their training but he feels they could use more training. They have a building they would like to demolish and convert to a community garden area, but after sampling, it is laced with lead and asbestos so they are going to have to treat it like a Brownfield and may be prevented from making that conversion. They are recycling e-waste, aluminum cans, papers and plastic, but they have to have storage since getting these backhauled is a problem because they were not compacted enough. They are hoping to get the funding to get a baler and compactor and have learned how to package things for shipping.

**Joaquin Bustamante – Colville Confederated Tribes** reports they have received their Freon abatement system and those who are trained are removing Freon from refrigerators. They are sponsoring a CFC removal class March 30-31<sup>st</sup>. They are working on training staff to have all certifications up to date. Outreach on recycling with the Nespelem School is underway, and they plan to work with the Keller School also. St. Clair is chipping all of their debris that has been stockpiled for the cap and enclosure project. Riverside Recycling has removed all white goods from Desautel and Nespelem transfer stations. L & S Tires removed all of the tires from all transfer station sites and the recycling facility and also a huge pile out of Spirit Ridge.

Spokane recycling hauled a total of 56 bales out of our facility but we have not received the tonnage report yet. We are hoping the higher prices on fibrous goods will give us a good return. We have just placed an order for heaters for our program.

After a presentation at the Omak district meeting in January was so well received, we have been asked to give it in other districts as well. We are thinking of doing a recycling program at the CIPV facility in Omak. They have metal that really needs recycling. April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be Earth Day and we plan to have programs to support the day. The

Environmental Trust will not be a household hazardous waste pick up drive this year. Monthly pick up at the transfer stations and hauling the waste to the Omak landfill will be our program instead.

Four new recycling bins have been ordered to place at each of the transfer stations. Attendant will help people learn to sort their items. We have also received a \$1.2M grant for cap and closure.

**Kevin Greenleaf – Kootenai Tribe** says the county hauls all of their goods. They are doing some recycling in partnership with the county who will contract and haul the recycling to Coeur d'Alene. They got an approved GAP grant.

**Derald Ortloff – Yakama Nation** reports that it has been business as usual for them. They continue to monitor some illegal dump sites. The recently had a fire and are working with EPA and Dept. of Ecology and their insurance company on those homes. Only two sites tested positive for asbestos and those will be cleaned and cleared. Five of the houses were insured by HUD and the rest had private insurance. The insurance companies will determine what will be rebuilt. Since it was a government declared emergency, FEMA came in and wanted to govern under the Safford Act, but since FEMA was not prepared to deal with on the same figures as the Yakama Nation, they are going to push the issue and now have to 'prove' their own estimate. FEMA also offered them some modular homes, the ones from New Orleans, but they do not meet the snow load or other building requirements out here and would have to be remodeled upon arrival. The formaldehyde is another issue, but Anne Bailey said not to be deterred by that because it can be "burned off" in a high home heating process over a couple of days.

**Karl Braden – Quinault Nation** said he was able to complete a GIS class this fall through the college and is using his new skill to map various sites. Hwy 101 cleanup near the old mill site is underway. They finalized a plan with the USFS for treatment of streams that flow onto the Reservation.

**Cindy Spiry – Snoqualmie Nation** says she has been working to put together the Green Building Summit for August. She would appreciate any help by way of a planning committee. They are also funding a HHW event and Earth Day event. She says they are also working on some restoration projects.

**Ron Wassillie – Newhalen Tribe** reports that they put in for two grant from the Alaska Forum for equipment and received one of those grants. Now they need certification for CFC recovery machine and so are going through that process. They also must re-word the plan to clean burn. In May, they plan a tribal village environmental event.

#### **Thursday, March 10, Tribal Caucus**

The TSWAN Executive Board met in Executive Session.

Kami Snowden discussed with members the business program established with Budget Rental Cars for TSWAN members who frequently rent cars when traveling to TSWAN meetings and functions. This program allows for discounts using a corporate assigned number, and cards were handed out to those who wanted/needed them.

Snowden also advised she has established a business program with Alaska Airlines for our members who frequently fly. If interested in participating please contact Snowden for details.

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and discussed. Pete Palmer moved to approve the minutes, with the motion seconded by Joaquin Bustamante. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am