

TSWAN Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2011

Snoqualmie, WA

ATTENDANCE: James Helmstetter, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Steve Pendleton, *Makah Nation*; Rod Atti, *Nunakauyarmiut*; Ron Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; Raymond Broncho, *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Sheena Kaas, *Squaxin Island Tribe*; Bonnie Burke, *Umatilla Tribes*; Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

Absent Tribes: *AVCP; Cheesh-Na; Chehalis Tribe; Chignik; ; Grand Ronde; Kalispel; Kootenai Tribe; Larsen Bay; Levelock Village; Muckleshoot Tribe; Nooksack; 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, Yakama Nation.*

Guests in Attendance: Benito Cervantes, Fuzzy Fletcher and John Mullen, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; Bill Matt, *Spokane Tribe*.

Danny Joe Stensgar, President of TSWAN, welcomed everyone present and turned the meeting over to Kami Snowden who announced some Agenda changes including moving tribal updates to the first item since we would be leaving on a tour after the lunch break.

Colville Tribes – Danny Joe Stensgar

Stensgar reported that they are working with a consultant to help with closing the dump. They have four transfer stations, two of which are all containers with no on ground dumping. They have been having trouble with some fires at their dumpsite, and EPA has had the tribe sign a FARR agreement for no more open burning. They are trying to reach agreements over the burning that did happen.

They have reached an agreement with their Parks and Recreation Department and they will continue to pay for services. They have also gotten an \$110,000 IHS grant for containers to use in the sort and separation operation Anne Bailey trained them in. Stensgar says that educating the tribal members to use the containers is the most important issue they are facing right now to prevent dumping. He also feels there is going to be a real shock to tribal members whenever they have to start paying for services as all have been provided free. Pete Palmer is working on environmental regulations to get all the codes, policies and procedures in place.

Stensgar said the biggest problem that they have is police support to enforce the codes. They also have some tire piles that need to be cleaned up and they may look into funding like the Yakama Nation used from state grants. They recently had a TSWAN training on Freon removal and the tribe was able to by the Freon removal machine so they are able to process the white goods. They have also been having a problem with people stealing the metal from their landfills.

Snoqualmie Nation – Cindy Spiry

Spiry reports that the Snoqualmie Casino is implementing some of the changes they have recommended. They are changing the lights to LED and have gone to smaller water bottles. Recycling bins have been installed on the floor of the casino and is very popular with the public also. Spiry will discuss some ideas they have for future things to do with TSWAN after other reports.

Ron Wassillie – New Halen Village

The village had a cleanup in May which was well attended and followed by a picnic for the kids. Wassillie reports that the dumpsite has been out of the village control for two years now, and is in need of attention. He says the white goods, which had been hauled out to the road, have now been pushed back into the dump. There is also a sizeable tire pile. The city said they had funding to ship out the recyclables, but they don't seem to be doing so. Basically, things are just sitting there. They had a clean-up with the electric co-op. The disposal site is no longer accepting transmission fluid for the burn unit.

Wassillie said they have finished the FY 2012-2013 IGAP grant and are seeking \$250K for indoor air quality to help with mold, solid waste, mining, water quality, etc. He was also able to get some radon testing kits from the University of Arizona. Also, the mining company has toured and is still in the exploration phase at this time.

Umatilla Tribes – Bonnie Burke

Burke said the major construction project adding 200 rooms at the casino has meant additional construction and demolition volume for the transfer station, from one trailer per week to 4 trailers per week. They have primarily wood, metal and cardboard in this phase. Stealing metal has also been a problem for them to monitor. The hotel will be finished by September in time for the Pendleton Round-up. The 4-Plex cinema should be finished by October. The additional revenues have enabled them to purchase a new backhoe and a trailer. She said they also get a 7% solid waste tax on anything that crosses the scales. Whenever this project is done the tribe plans to build an office complex that will be leased back to the USFS.

They are preparing for a Household Hazardous Waste event with TSWAN as part of a training.

The tribal clean-up day had low participation.

Burke has the goal of getting her transfer station landscaped and is looking forward to the native plant tour later today with Cindy. She is looking for ideas and help with this project. She also said that she feels the FARR program has benefitted them because no burning means the transfer station is another option instead of burning.

Snoqualmie Nation – Cindy Spiry

Spiry said she wanted to take this opportunity to introduce some ideas that had come up with her crew after the TSWAN sponsored Oil Spill Training in May. She said they have a 16 member Emergency Response Team in their community, which includes divers, coast guard, EPA, and three fire department members. They also have the benefit of an ICS Trainer, Fuzzy Fletcher. Because they also have an oil spill containment trailer managed by John Mullen, their Hazmat specialist, they would like to propose some more “hands on” training sessions through TSWAN. These would not be the classroom certification type trainings, but the actual, in river containment exercises that they only had time to go through briefly at the TSWAN training in May. They felt many of the tribes have rivers instead of the ocean and could benefit from more of this hands-on experience. And because they have to do their periodic training in the next 60-90 days, they just thought other TSWAN members might want to be involved. They are thinking of about 40 people in attendance and time to swap the teams out to get hands on in various aspects of the training.

Benito Cervantes, the Snoqualmie Tribal Police Chief, also brought up the idea of training teams of TSWAN tribal members in Emergency Response, including crime scene prevention where applicable. He said they have problems because too many of their employees are untrained and sited child protective services taking children back into a meth house to feed them dinner as an example. Besides preserving crime sites, he would like to see teams trained in collection of evidence. He would like to see personnel trained in “testing” procedures with the various kits available.

John Mullen mentioned that respirator training is another program that maybe needed. Many employees have never had any respirator experience at all. And the rest of the Personal Protective Equipment is something more members need to be familiar with also.

The group dismissed for lunch and was to meet the tour bus at 1:30 in front of the Snoqualmie Casino.

The afternoon session include a tour of the Snoqualmie restoration projects the tribe has or is completing, stopping at the environmental office for viewing of the rain garden planted as landscaping for the tribal office. The tour completed with a stop at Snoqualmie Falls, sacred ground to the Snoqualmie Nation where the group was treated to a historical background presentation by Snoqualmie Tribal Chair Ray Mullen.

Thursday, June 9 – Tribal Caucus

Remaining Tribal Updates:

Squaxin Island Tribe – Sheena Kass

Kass reported that they currently are offering curbside recycling to 141 homes, and to date 30-35 homes have registered for this service. There is an additional charge for the service, but during a survey they conducted and found the residents were willing to pay for recycling.

They are also considering the feasibility of composting food waste from their community kitchen, which currently serves up to 300 people. The Tribe is hosting next year's Canoe Journey with the goal of making it a waste free event.

They continue to work on their IWMP. They are working with the casino on a waste sort to determine the largest waste stream, and how much could be prevented or reduced.

Makah Nation – Steve Pendleton

Pendleton spoke about the new transfer station as they are scheduled to break ground on or around June 16 and have offered the position for a Construction Coordination to monitor Primo Construction (the Contractor). However, they are still clearing the site and also ramping up for recycling in preparation of opening the transfer station.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe – James Helmstetter

Helmstetter, still becoming acclimated to his position, reported there are several dumpsters and around the reservation and that illegal dumpsites are fairly well controlled. He has also been working with the Nez Perce Tribe to bring recycling back on the radar.

Spokane Tribe – David Ernst

The tribe conducted their annual road cleanup. This is an event where tribal employees turn out to clean the roadsides. This year each employee carried two bags: one for trash and the other for recyclables. This was a popular move and kept the recyclables out of the main garbage.

Ernst also reported that the West End dumpsite has been closed and cleaned up. Eagle River Construction completed the closure using funds through an IHS stimulus package. The transfer station in Wellpinit is still not fully operational although he's submitted two different grants with no awards. The HUD grant requires public participation and the solid waste programs didn't even make a priority with the tribe.

Their IWMP is under review by the public.

Bill Matt, Spokane Tribe, also reported on the tribe utilizing inmate labor to reclaim the Wellpinit site. They are also changing codes on illegal dumping from \$100 to \$5,000 and are currently awaiting approval for the change.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes – Ray Broncho

Broncho reported that their recycling efforts have increased; they are in the process of purchasing a forklift for operations at the transfer station; and have implemented an equipment maintenance program so they do not have the expense of outside mechanics. They have trained staff in CPR/ First Aid/ and general safety, and have also drivers now with hazardous materials endorsements for their CDL licenses.

Although they have ordered 1,000 new waste containers, they also purchased a plastic welder for older containers in order to preserve them as long as possible

The Tribe will be offering a summer outreach program for youth at the cost of on \$12.00 per month.

Toksook Bay – Roderick Atti

Atti reported that his village, having a serious road dust issue, was able to obtain ATV water sprayers through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortia (ANTHC) and they will hire two people to run the program. An additional

part of the issue is that the village has no running water, so water must be packed in. They are also working with youth on education programs.

There was dialogue on the following issues during the remainder of the caucus session:

- Briefing of the Spill Response Training held recently in Ocean Shores, WA at the Quinault Indian Nation.
- Briefing on the August 9-11 Snoqualmie Tribal Green Conference which TSWAN is partner.
- Request by staff for the tribes of Idaho to submit issues to be brought to the table at the Stakeholder's Meeting to be held this September in Boise, ID. Even if the TSWAN member tribe is not located in Idaho, many of us share the same issues and concerns and, as members of TSWAN, our solidarity and support for one another is what has made us a success so we hope to see a large turnout in Boise.
- Programs/Projects for FY 2012 and funding.

Having no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.