

TSWAN Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2011
Boise, Idaho

ATTENDANCE: Dean Adams, *Burn-Paiute Tribe*; James Helmstetter, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Kevin Greenleaf, *Kootenai Tribe*; Alex Panamaroff, *Larsen Bay Village*; Ron Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; John Wheaton; *Nez Perce Tribe*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Sheena Kaas, *Squaxin Island Tribe*; Kami Snowden, and Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

Absent Tribes: *AVCP; Cheesh-Na; Chehalis Tribe; Chignik; ; Grand Ronde; Kalispel; Levelock Village; Makah Nation; Muckleshoot; Nooksack; Nunakauyarmut Tribe; Native Village of Eklutna; Native Village of Port Lions; Native Village of Ouzinkie; Native Village of Venetie; Old Harbor; Quinault Nation; Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Confederated Tribes of the Siletz; Sun`aq Tribe of Kodiak; Tulalip Tribe; Umatilla Tribes; Warm Springs Tribe, Yakama Nation.*

Guests in Attendance: Alex Dailey, *IHS, Spokane, WA*; Bill Matt, *Spokane Tribe*.

Danny Joe Stensgar, President of TSWAN, welcomed everyone present and introduced Alex Dailey, an engineer with IHS from the Spokane, WA office.

Kami Snowden, Executive Director of TSWAN, explained why the Idaho Stakeholders meeting was being moved to March of 2012. Several of the most important people from the Idaho government had conflicting meetings on their schedule, and although they offered to send representatives, it was decided to re-schedule to insure their attendance in person.

Snowden gave a report on TSWAN programs and funding. She said the IGAP grant did get funded at an estimated 65% attendance rate for travel. This grant also included the program coordinator position which was funded as a TSWAN employee position and will be advertised in October. Stensgar suggested that the job description should include an ability to provide TSWAN trainings that would be "certifiable." Some of the training certifications TSWAN would like to be able to certify would be the 40-Hr HAZWOPER (also 24 and 8 HR); 1st Aid and CPR certifications; and perhaps Asbestos and Lead abatement trainings. Snowden said they would be looking for an Industrial Hygienist who was also able to help with Planning as well as training. Snowden also announced that the Western Regional University Consortium has committed to provide trainers to help TSWAN if they need them. Updating the webpage would also be necessary so that TSWAN could maintain a list-server. Snowden has collected several bids on this, but has a local web designer she plans to touch base with also.

The grant to fund a Stakeholder's Meeting in Salem, Oregon next year was also funded. Dates for this have not been selected at this time.

Ron Wassillie of Newhalen Village Alaska said that the villages are starting to have a real problem with Meth and said training for the Village Public Safety Officers would be helpful. It was also suggested by Dean Adams that TSWAN try to provide a Meth Lab Training in conjunction with the Tribal Leaders Summit which will be hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde April 30th through May 4th, 2012. For those seeking certification, they would attend the entire two day training, but opening the "mock labs" to the entire Tribal Leaders Summit was seen as a great way to bring the Tribal Leaders on board with the meth lab problems many reservations face but which are sometimes clandestine enough not to draw the attention they warrant.

TSWAN has also been funded for a new grant called THREAT, Tribal Hazardous Response Emergency Activation Team. The goal is to build teams able to respond quickly and assess the type of hazardous release each emergency situation has created. The teams will be sensitive to the needs of the families affected by the situations and make recommendations to speed up the process of meeting family needs. A template for an Emergency Response Plan will also be created. The Snoqualmie Nation has many of the parts already in place for such a team, and will be the

model program for this. Scholarships for all TSWAN member tribes are planned so they can attend and put their teams together.

Snowden said that she would like to get input of the 2013 “Special Projects” ideas for the GAP grant. Stensgar suggested a new “needs assessment” be sent out to gather responses from all members. Ideas suggested by those present included:

Recycling training – 1) education programs before waste stream; 2) how to make it pay for itself; 3) market driven recycling.

Composting training – Master Composter from WSU, Andy Bary, was suggested to do more programs for TSWAN. Sheena Kaas of the Squaxin Island Tribe said they would really like education on backyard composting.

Snowden reported that half of the budget from the Oil Spill Response training in Ocean Shores was still left. Two days of hands on field exercises will be offered at some time. This will be at the Snoqualmie Nation since they have such a team already built and have the equipment to do this training.

Cindy Spiry of the Snoqualmie Nation reported on the Tribal Green Summit held in Seattle in August. She said the response has been very positive with comments like “eye opening” and “excellent training.” There have also been requests to repeat this and she is thinking doing it every two years might be an option.

On the topic of the Stakeholders meeting rescheduled for March in Boise, John Wheaton of the Nez Perce Tribe said they are having real turmoil over jurisdictions, permits and oversight issues. He says he thinks “consensus building” with the State of Idaho the March Stakeholder’s meeting could be very beneficial.

Wheaton has learned that the proposed regional landfill that the tribe has not been consulted on or even asked to be at the table (even though it will be within the bounds of the reservation) was driven by SWAB, the Solid Waste Advisory Board, which was formed by the counties that were in the powers of agreement with the regional landfill. The North Central Idaho County Chairmen could provide more information and includes the counties of Clearwater, Latah, Lewis, Idaho and Nez Perce. Latah County hauls to Arlington, Oregon, but you had to be in the contract to use this service. Asotin County may be able to “buy in” in the next tier. The CEO of Idaho Waste Systems cannot respond to the Nez Perce Tribe because of some technicality. Although the tribe has made many efforts to get responses and communicate with the state and counties, they have been shut out of the process. They wonder about the environmental impact statements and analysis of the proposed parcels (three). Even though solid waste was not included in the EPA RCRA process, water and air quality will surely be affected and it was wondered why EPA cannot get involved on this level. To now, EPA has deferred to the State of Idaho. Questions about the NEPA process were also brought up. The Nez Perce Tribe does not have any “environmental codes” at this time which might be helpful in their having jurisdiction. [Note: it has since been learned that the parcel within the reservation boundary was not pursued due to unavailability, and the other two parcels bordering the Nez Perce are not prime locations.]

Dean Adams of the Oregon Burns-Paiute Tribe said that the governor’s office there holds “cluster meetings” three to four times per year with all department heads and staff just for the purpose of bringing people together, finding out issues and consensus building. They set out “objectives” and “action items” at these meetings.

Some of the issues set out for discussion at the March Stakeholders meeting were:

- Creation of a MOA process with the state departments.
- Creation of “cluster meetings” with the governor’s office and state departments.
- Understanding and consensus on the NEPA process.
- Possible state funding pots open to tribes.
- Advance notifications and information on meetings.
- Does Idaho have a Commission on Indian Services?

Kevin Greenleaf of the Kootenai Tribe said they pay to the county. They have an extensive recycling program because of the life expectancy of their landfill. They hope to do more composting, but need clarification on the regulations from Idaho Health and Welfare.

Notification will be sent out to TSWAN member tribes on moving the Idaho Stakeholder's meeting to March, 2012. Requests for date availability will be sent, however the week of March 5th is not a good time because of NCAA.

TRIBAL UPDATES

Alex Panamaroff – Larsen Bay, Alaska

Alex reports they have had a very busy year at their metal recycling area. They hired two laborers to sort the staging area and got it all separated and ready to ship. They should be done by the end of the month. They will be starting on another area next spring.

Panamaroff's assistant, Richard Henson, is meeting with a representative from China to backhaul metals. The local lodge will sub-contract to this company which qualifies as a minority business.

A car crusher would really be beneficial to the village. They remove the fluids, but have not got a good way to crush the cars.

They shipped three loads of batteries to Borough in Kodiak. The city had quit shipping them and they were really piling up, so Panamaroff's assistant was able to get these shipped out.

Alex's assistant started an environmental class in the schools last year. This has been a big hit with the kids and they are pulling their parents into the benefits.

They are also setting up a Recycle/Reuse program. They have a couple of connex to use, one as storage and one as an outlet.

Sheena Kaas – Squaxin Island Tribe

Kaas says they have Household Hazardous Waste problems too. The county will only take them on Friday mornings and they are overwhelmed by how much goes into setting up a HHW facility.

She said she is working on some new programs. Also, a 'waste sort' is needed to get on with their solid waste plan. Cindy Spiry of the Snoqualmie Nation said that perhaps they have someone to help since Bailey is no longer working at TSWAN.

Kaas is also interested in setting up a composting program and asked about training in that. Andy Bary of the Pierce County WSU Extension Office was recommended since he taught a class at the TSWAN Waste Management 101.

Kaas also reported that Squaxin Island Tribe is hosting the 2012 Canoe Journey to be held July 29th through August 5th. They are trying to make this a "waste free" event which is quite a task. They figure they will need 50 people per day on their "green teams" and said if anyone from TSWAN would like to volunteer, they would certainly be most welcome. Also, IF TSWAN wants to have a meeting in conjunction with this, they may need to look at rooms in Olympia for August 1st and 2nd because of the huge number of people who attend. Kami Snowden said this could be considered as an early "September" meeting and thanked Sheena for the invitation.

Alex Dailey – IHS

Alex Dailey was a guest at the meeting and said they are just ending a funding cycle. There were two solid waste projects in their funding range this time. One is a \$15K grant for the Burns-Paiute SW Plan they are working on. The other was a grant for the Chehalis Tribe on their SW Plan.

Dailey reported they are trying to do more planning upfront, with national plans funding smaller amount grants right now. He said that tribal priority ranks high at number one or two where there is a demonstrated health need. Including this as a high priority on your funding requests is very helpful and beneficial.

Bill Matt – Spokane Tribe

Matt reports they have been working on the brownfield area, their post and pole area, trying to recycle all that is there. Some salvage like the engineered steel structure may be salvaged to reuse by the council. 4000 vehicles have been recycled. They have had two different companies working on this and he has been impressed by their drain and containment process. He also said he is working on the Don Mining Superfund Site, a uranium mine.

David Ernst – Spokane Tribe

Ernst reported that neither of their transfer stations are operational at this time, and they need \$310K to get both up and running. However, with recently approved HUD ICDBG funding, the West End transfer station will get a weight scale installed, and a scale house installed, (approximate value = \$50,000).

James Helmstetter – Coeur d’Alene Tribe

Helmstetter said he is waiting to hear on a “code writing” grant they applied for. He also reports that the tribe has had a couple of “wins” on lawsuits: 1) Hecla Mining on the mercury issue; 2) Avista Power drawdown policies at the dam on the Spokane River.

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe has been doing much building. They have a new medical center and a new bus garage.

John Wheaton – Nez Perce Tribe

Wheaton reports that USDA has awarded the Nez Perce Tribe a \$65K grant for a recycling center. They can now get bids and develop this in Sweetwater at the old box plant near Lapwai. They have plans to reuse some of the equipment that is already there.

Also, their waste water plant is up and running as of August 22nd in conjunction with the city of Lapwai. They are contracting with Emerald in Spokane on their e-waste. Emerald gets e-waste from both the Nez Perce and the University of Idaho.

Kevin Greenleaf – Kootenai Tribe

Because of their small size, the Kootenai Tribe has all their sorting and recycling done by the County and pay on the amount they send. The county there is very proactive on recycling with 50% of all waste now being recycled. They bought their bins through a GAP grant and all is set up and working well.

Dean Adams – Burns-Paiute Tribe

They are working on a brownfields clean-up assessment on a 147 acre allotment where there are many old dumpsites from the vials used in animal surgeries. This is difficult with sagebrush 15-17 foot tall and so desolate. They also have a 2000 acre reservation and a 40,000 acre ranch. Sulphur in the water is a problem.

Adams is now a Region 10 Operations Officer. He is looking for a small outdoor site for the transfer station. They are under 400 members; 200 on the reservation. Al LaTourette has been out helping him with projects.

Cindy Spiry – Snoqualmie Nation

Spiry said their solid waste department will be hosting another household hazardous waste event this fall. They have hired a contractor to help with this one because they expect it to be an even bigger event. It will be held on Halloween weekend, Saturday, October 29th.

The spreadsheet they have available maybe helpful to Sheena Kaas of the Squaxin Island Tribe and Cindy said she would be happy to email that to her. She also offered to send help with their waste sort event and explained how they had done it whenever Anne Bailey had been available to help.

Danny Joe Stensgar – Colville Confederated Tribes

Stensgar reports they are having problems with people coming in and cutting up waste metal right in the fields. They have put cyclone fencing around their four sites. They also have received a new “used” truck and have hired someone to be an emergency driver for the truck.

Ron Wassillie – Newhalen Tribal Council

The tribe had an MOU from the city of Newhalen to operate the landfill for six years. That ended two years ago, and the \$80K burn box that was purchased under tribal operations is now torn-up because of improper usage. Wassillie said he asked the city council for repair monies but none were coming. He said the site is now unmanned; workers are untrained; and all can use the dump freely. White goods have increased dramatically over the summer with about 100 items now sitting at the site and no programs to recycle them. There is much frustration after the tribal management had the landfill in such good condition.