

TSWAN Meeting Minutes
March 17-18, 2010
Snoqualmie, WA

ATTENDANCE: Bill Denton, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, Pete Palmer, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Lewis Younger, *Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*; Kevin Greenleaf, *Kootenai Tribe*; Alex Panamaroff, *Native Village of Larson Bay*; Steve Pendleton, Marge Sawyer, *Makah Tribe*; Eddy Chu, *Muckleshoot Tribe*; Ronald Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Amanda Squartsoff, *Native Village of Port Lions*; Jill Boskofsky, *Native Village of Ouzinkie*; Clair Wood, *Siletz Tribe*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Katherine Ellanak, *Sun'aq Tribe*; Bonnie Burke, *Umatilla Tribe*; Derald Ortloff, *Yakama Nation*; Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, *TSWAN*.

Absent Tribes: *AVCP; Chehalis; Cheesh-Na; Chignik; Kalispel; Levelock Village; Nunakauyarmiut; Native Village of Eklutna; Native Village of Venetie; Old Harbor Village; Quinault Indian Nation; Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Tulalip Tribe; Warm Springs Tribe.*

Guests in Attendance: Kelcee Palmer, Juanita Warren, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Christine Colt, Kristin Hall, Jill Gable, Jim Borthen, Kim Farnham, *USEPA Region 10*; Mike Willis, *University of Washington*.

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Kami Snowden, TSWAN Executive Director, welcomed all attendees and guests to the meeting, thanking Cindy Spiry and the Snoqualmie Nation for hosting the previous days' training and the general meeting. Snowden also re-introduced Anne Bailey as the newest TSWAN staff member. Bailey, up until February 1, 2010 worked as a Circuit Rider by and through a personal services contract through the TSWAN STAG grant. October 1, 2009 TSWAN was granted an amendment to the GAP grant which allowed for the hiring of a Project Coordinator. TSWAN publicly opened the position. Approximately 10 applications/resumes were received. The TSWAN Executive Board conducted interviews with the top applicants and selected Anne Bailey to serve as Project Coordinator.

As a PC Bailey will be responsible for continuing work on IWM plans (using the TSWAN template) with tribes; providing some training; and aiding in the development of specific tribal projects.

Snowden began the meeting discussing the status of the tribal open dump inventory recently conducted by Indian Health Services. Over the past few years IHS has been collecting information on open dumps throughout the United States. Al LaTourette, EPA Region 10, aided in this effort by working with Region 10 tribes to GPS and visually characterize these sites.

The report by IHS should be presented to Congress within the next few weeks. According to IHS the report contains information on approximately 3400 dumpsites on tribal lands throughout the US. 67 sites within Region 10 will be classified as 'immediate threat' with 57 of those in Alaska alone.

Kristin Hall, EPA Region 10 Solid Waste Program, stated that this IHS inventory report is an update to the 1998 inventory. The report considers three risk categories for the dumps (low, medium, and high) and 70 of the open dumps in Region 10 are categorized high. The President and Secretary of EPA is asking congress for appropriations for tribal dumpsite clean-up. Those requests include: 1. an increase in GAP by \$9 million and; 2. \$30 million in a multimedia grant program for tribes, possibly an annual

program by 2011. Tribes should begin now to prepare and set priorities so they are ready to respond when and if funding for cleanup becomes available. Hall also added that the Brownsfields programs go hand-in-hand with open dumps, so suspected Brownsfields should also be included in tribal surveys of sites. To this end, EPA will be contacting tribes for updates on the status of their open dumps and would like to know the best avenue (phone, email, mail ,etc.) and that there are EPA circuit riders available to help with inventory field work.

Questions/Comments:

- Steve Pendleton stated that EPA needs to help tribes move dumps higher on the SDS (Sanitation Deficiency System) listing on HIS.
- David Ernst asked if the dump threat level would be available in the EPA correspondence. Hall responded that they would be made available and encouraged community awareness as an avenue to help increase the threat level of a dump.
- Katherine Ellanak stated she would like to see the list of the open dumps identified for Alaska, and stated that the information should be distributed to the tribal leaders. Ellanak also stated that some villages are backhaul ready but there is no funding to support the program, and that those who are “shovel ready” should be moved up on priority.
- Ron Wassillie wanted to know how the threat level of the open dumps was calculated and assessed, and requested EPA closely analyze the formula and how it was implemented, as many of the open dumps began with one number for threat level, but eventually wound up with another.
- Derald Ortloff stated that it will take everyone in Region 10 to have IHS move solid waste above water and air projects on the Sanitary Deficiency System. Ortloff also suggested that EPA present this topic at ATNI (Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians) meeting in May.
- Eddy Chu requested specific information on the definition of what an open dump is and how it is assessed.
- Kami Snowden informed the group that she has, to date, formally requested this subject be addressed and discussed at the Tribal Leaders Summit, the TSWRP National Forum, and will request the same of ATNI.

EPA Energy Star Program – Jim Borthen

Jim Borthen, USEPA Region 10, presented information on the Energy Star Program. In highlighting his presentation, Mr. Borthen described four steps to energy reduction: inventory sites, develop a program, benchmark, and revisit/reassess. This is a nationwide program, and many manufactures give rebates (mostly on appliances) for Energy Star products. The federal government is also currently providing tax rebates. EPA maintains a database for tracking the program.

While attending the Alaska Forum on the Environment, Snowden and Anne Bailey had conversations with the US Navy regarding technology about Navy ships wherein all the plastics used onboard are processed and made into a dense plastic disc. Currently the Navy has no end use for the plastics (but by processing them they take up considerably less space in landfills) but are looking for ideas and potential partnerships to come up with a purposeful end use. Commentary from Navy representatives indicated TSWAN is just the type of partnership they are seeking. Snowden passed around samples of the processed plastics, and requested ideas from the group on possible end uses. Snowden and Bailey will have future contact with the Navy to further explore possible connectivity.

TSWAN received verbal notice that they should receive the full request for GAP for FY 2011 (approximately \$236,000). Final award will not be made until later this year, but barring any complications, TSWAN will be able to accomplish the following in FY 2011:

- Maintain staff (Executive Director and Project Coordinator) including salaries, fringe benefits, office supplies, travel, and the like.
- Continue to support travel for members to meetings at a rate of 60% attendance. Also includes travel for the President (or other Executive Board members) and some staff to other tribal organization functions (ATNI, e.g.).
- Conduct an oil spill response training for tribes. This training was a specific request by TSWAN membership.
- Conduct a Regional Stakeholders Meeting in Boise, Idaho. This meeting will be similar in form and function to the meeting held with stakeholders in the State of Washington in 2008.

Snowden discussed the agenda for the Waste Management 101 (3-day training) May 10-14 in Tacoma at the Emerald Queen Casino. Announcements and registration forms are available via the TSWAN website. Included in this training:

- CFC/Freon Recovery Certification. This is a 12 hour course being taught by Larry Zirkle, Total Reclaim and includes certification. Cost for this training is \$35, although one TSWAN member from each tribe will be paid for. Class size is limited to 15 so if interested, please register as soon as possible. Also, this track will overlap with Day 1 of the Waste Programs 101.
- Scheduled for Day 1 are panel presentations on waste reduction and recycling efforts and programs and a tour of Recovery 1, a CDL facility that makes marketable items from CDL materials.
- Green Building
- CDL: Waste, Recycling and Hazardous Properties
- Source Reduction and Hazardous Waste Preparation
- Brownfields
- Composting
- Climate Change
- Greenhousing
- E-Waste

A grant writing workshop is scheduled for September 28 at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The training will be led by grant writers with the Grand Ronde Tribes. A detailed course outline, syllabus and registration information will be coming soon. This training will take place the day prior to a regular TSWAN meeting (September 29-30, 2010) in the same location, sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Snowden provided a recap of the Methamphetamine Lab Awareness training which took place just prior to the TSWAN meeting (March 15-16) in Snoqualmie, WA and also hosted by the Snoqualmie Tribe. University of Washington trainers certified 30 attendees in NIEHS Meth Awareness (Hazardous Materials). Attendees arrived from across the United States including North Carolina, Minnesota, and California as well as some local tribes. Task force detectives from the Washington State Patrol once again provided mock labs and visual/hands-on activities, including a tour of the WSP Meth Lab

Response vehicle, which served as a very good follow up to the classroom instruction. Snowden also reported that several staff members from USEPA Region 10 attended the mock scenes.

Providing commentary on the training, David Ernst stated that the training was a good balance between chemistry and hands-on. Katherine Ellanak commented that the TSWAN training was a real eye opener. She attended the training conducted by the Cherokee Nation and it was all text book with no hands-on. Christine Colt of EPA stated that was a great partnership with the WSP, one of a kind training and wants the program to continue and grow.

Snowden also reported on being invited to the National Environmental Justice Conference in New Orleans this past January to present a poster session on the TSWAN meth lab awareness project. The presentation was extremely well-received with many other tribes and agencies requesting more information and even aid in creating a more national awareness.

Bailey reported on work currently being done on the Alaska Integrated Waste Management Plan Template. She has drafted the first three chapters of the document and will be distributing the same to Alaska TSWAN members for commentary and feedback. Kickoff for this project occurred at the Alaska Forum on the Environment and we will have draft presentation of the template at the Tribal Leaders Summit in Juneau this August. This project must be completed as a GAP grant deliverable by September 30, 2010. There can be no extensions for this project as the grant will be closing on that date. Input from Alaskan Native Villages is vital to the success, as well as usefulness, of this template and we ask for interactive participation.

Tribal Updates:

Due to some difficulties with hearing people speak during this meeting, each member reporting was asked, and each agreed to, provide a brief written statement of their updates. Please submit these to Kami Snowden – ksnowden@tswan.org – as soon as possible so they can be incorporated into these permanent minutes. Your cooperation and responsiveness is greatly appreciated.

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho-Kevin Greenleaf

- The Tribal government is and some members are recycling 50-75% of their solid waste through the county program.
- Currently all paper, cardboard, plastic 1-7, glass, antifreeze, metal, aluminum & steel cans, white goods, batteries, tires and yard waste can be recycled.
- Council requested a plan and budget for a community recycling plan this year.
- The county is planning how to accommodate 100% comingled household recyclables which will be sorted at the county landfill

Nez Perce Tribe – John Wheaton

- The Nez Perce Tribe's solid waste program is developing recycling programs within the boundaries of the Nez Perce reservation. Rural development is finalizing approval for a \$65,000 grant for equipment, forklift, chipper/mulcher, recycling trailers, truck, baler, and development to an already existing warehouse for recycling collection. The Tribe passed a resolution dedicating the land and existing buildings to the Water Resources for a recycling facility. The new recycling facility will also neighbor and is in conjunction with the development of the Nez Perce Tribe's Appaloosa Express Barn (Our Tribal transit system).

- The Tribe has recently (March) been involved with peripheral recycling. They, for example, had ORRCO (from Spokane) pick up 250 gallons of oil that we collected over two years, and also our maintenance brought several truck loads of e-waste to Sutton Recycling in Lewiston, Idaho. For each of these services, the Tribe was not charged, mainly because they are not a commercial business with frequent dumps.
- The City of Lapwai announced they are decreasing the hours of operation for the Container Site, to two days per month to lower the cost from their new contracted services with Four Feather, as the previous contractor was fired without consent from the Tribe. The Tribe has invested time and money into creating the Lapwai Valley container site and is focused on trying to negotiate an opportunity for better partnership, to keep the container site open for reasonable hours to keep costs lower. The Tribe has obtained all information regarding charges at the Container Site, and found large inconsistencies with billing. The City still has not provided good management or account billing. The Tribe plans to eventually obtain management through agreement with the City.
- The Tribe's main concern at this time is illegal dumping. They have many people illegal dumping into the Lapwai Valley container site increasing the volume of tons at a drastic rate, hence the reason for cost hikes. In addition, culverts and ravines are now starting show increased seasonal dumping off the road side. The roads are in the County jurisdiction but are not being monitored and fines have yet to be issued.
- Earth Day events and activities have been planned to take place as early as March 22nd to May 10th. In summary, Earth Day events and activities include clean-ups, walk-a-thon, bar-b-q, and beautification such as planting flowers and trees for the elderly and community centers.

Colville Confederated Tribes – Pete Palmer

- Recycling Program – Okanogan County reported that the tribe was 37 tons of waste short of what was tipped last year which means they have diverted that much waste from the stream. They are looking into the feasibility of a joint venture with Okanogan County in recycling. They've advertised for a manager but will be re-advertising for that position and working up a job description for a warehouse aide.
- Working on RFP to get contractor into the transfer stations to remove the scrap metal and white goods
- Companies want to start coming in after junk vehicles again and we are taking a different approach this year where the Tribe will permit and regulate only. The companies can work directly with property owners to acquire junk vehicles and scrap metal.
- Accomplished 5 property clean ups around the reservation
- Nespelem Transfer Station fire is out! It has been closed to open dumping, and have diverted scrap and tires to recycling and all other debris to Desautel.

- Working on getting attendants trained on sorting and separation of wastes. They were all given a revised job description and hand book and the Tribe is now awaiting for TSWAN to come out to complete trainings and provide the safety and emergency plans for the stations.
- Inchelium Transfer station is really getting cleaned up. They have had a WEX worker in there raking the blow around trash and separating things as it comes in.
- Will be working on a report for the Council on the CIHA Housing developments and the junk yards, high build up of solid waste and junk vehicles.
- Working with Pacific Aquaculture to assist with preparation of permitting documents and solid waste management plan for processing plant.
- For the first time ever, they have won 3 solid waste infractions with fines in Tribal Court.
- CCT became the first tribe in WA State to participate in the tire collection program.
- Working with Al LaTourette, USEPA Region 10 Circuit Rider, on identifying illegal dumps and mapping them.

Siletz Tribe – Clair Wood

- The Siletz Tribe does not have their own transfer station, landfill, or recycling center, but are working with the local disposal company (Dahl Disposal) to reduce waste generated and improve recycling in the tribal administration buildings and from the homes of tribal members.
- They will be having an Earth Day event on April 17 where they will showcase recycling, composting, reducing waste at the source, and have some fun games and give-a-ways promoting recycling, Earth Day, the Siletz Tribal Energy Program, and the disposal company.

Native Village of Ouzinkie – Jill Boskofsky

- Ouzinkie's IGAP program has purchased car crusher bins for every household and this has seemed to work very well as more cans are sent out of the community and not in the dump.
- They have submitted a request to EPA to get approval of purchasing a burn barrel for the dump using IGAP funds, and also a new recycle building. Sometime in May they will be doing their community cleanup to be followed by a community picnic.
- The City of Ouzinkie is in the process of having their landfill operator organize the area.

Umatilla Tribes – Bonnie Burke

Burke will report at the next meeting as she's been out of the office for several weeks after having a knee surgery.

Snoqualmie Tribe – Cindy Spiry

Currently the Tribe is finishing the IWMP, which Bailey will soon begin reviewing. Spiry hopes to have council approval in April.

They have installed a "backyard" compost bin at the Environmental and Natural Resources Building and plan to use this as an outreach tool for the community to educate Tribal members on composting.

They have partnered with King County to hold their first Household Hazardous Waste collection event. The event will occur sometime this summer (maybe July).

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Members came to order at 9:00 am for Tribal Caucus. Formal actions resulting from caucus and reported in these permanent minutes are as follows:

Lew Younger moved to amend the bylaws as submitted. Cindy Spiry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously upon vote.

A request of staff was made to seek finances and means to create solid waste codes template(s), akin to the IWMP and Alaska IWMP templates. Snowden will begin working on avenues to accomplish this.

It being the time and place for TSWAN Executive Board elections, ballots were distributed. Private balloting determined the following officers to serve the term of March 2010 to March 2012:

President: Danny Joe Stensgar, Colville Confederated Tribes

Vice President: Ronald Wassillie, Newhalen Village

Secretary: Bonnie Burke, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians

Treasurer: Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Nation

The next meeting of TSWAN will take place June 8-10, 2010 in Omak, Washington hosted by the Colville Confederated Tribes. This meeting will be lengthened by one day so the group is able to tour the Spokane Tribe reservation and the Colville Tribes reservation, followed by the general meeting and the half day caucus.

Having no further business to come before the organization, Lew Younger moved to adjourn. Bonnie Burke seconded the motion. The TSWAN tribal caucus adjourned at 10:50 a.m.