***TAMS Steering Committee Call Notes***

**January 19, 2022 @ 10AM PDT**

Attending: Chance Bentley, Andy Bessler, Christal Black, Pat Childers, Vallen Cook, Lori Howell, Carma Huseby, Josie Kamkoff, Mehrdad Khatibi, Mike King, Chris Lee, Angelique Luedeker, Mike Natchees, James Payne, Melinda Ronca-Battista, Darlene Santos, Ed Wilds

**Opening Business**

Roll Call was completed, and there was a quorum of voting members.

The agendawas approved.

**EPA Updates/ITEP Updates/Ex-Officio Updates –** Pat Childers

NTAA Update – Andy Bessler:

* Webinar starting soon; 60 people applied
* Baseline need assessment update; closed December 31; received good response
* 200 complete responses; 190 incomplete
* Contractors are in the process of getting as many completed assessments; starting to review data
* Will have a statistically significant sample of federally recognized tribes to work with; data will be helpful
* First draft sent to executive committee on March 1; eight day comment period until March 8; round of edits to complete on March 22 for peer review with TAMS SC and other partners; final draft send out on March 29; second round to provide edits or input; final copy to be done by April 12; release to public on May 3 or during NTF
* Seeing good trends; will report out
* Working with Gillian Middelstadt who is the contractor with Partnership for Air Matters along with Sydney Jensen from CDC helping to draft report with NTAA staff and the executive committee

OAR Updates – Pat Childers:

* Most put in grant applications under direct funding for APR funding
* Competitive funding opened up for the monitoring for ARP as well; all questions have to be answered in a public area on a public website so information is available to everyone
* Good news is there is $2million tribal set aside in the competitive funding; also, the request for additional funds for the TAMS loaner program is going to be supported; all great work from letter that the TAMS SC, NTAA and NTC worked on together, leading and making recommendations and having things happen
* We are in a favorable presidential budget group; may be close to 60% increase for 103/105 grants for tribes; increase could fund tribal air monitoring programs that do not get funded under ARP
* Unfortunately focus has been on ARP; Congress to focus on budget and hopefully passes a budget
* For NTAA; starting to work on the grant renewal for request for applications for people who want to bid the RFA; will be out in May
* NTAA and AIAQTP grants are both competitive grants; NTAA every three years, AIAQTP every five years; this year we will be competing the NTAA grant

OAQPS Update – James Payne:

* No updates at this time

**TAMS Center Updates/Business**

AIAQTP: Evolving plan for in-person courses. Current course schedule. Input from the Steering Committee on trainings. – Christal Black/Mehrdad Khatibi

* Planning efforts for January and February
* Review of upcoming courses
* Next week: January 25-27 Addressing Air Quality in Tribal Communities via Zoom platform; Lydia Sheer lead; 39 applicants; select 28; high demand
* USET requested assistance with IAQ covid trainings; Mansel Nelson lead; will be involved with webinar and virtual trainings; March timeframe
* Hopi and Navajo requested one day in-person training on IAQ and stoves; Mansel Nelson is lead but working part time; postponed due to high covid cases
* MET Monitoring training via Zoom platform – February 8 & 10; Mike King lead; 42 applicants; no attendance limit; 2-part webinar series; first part is introduction to meteorology and second part is the technical components of MET monitoring looking at citing criteria and maintenance and operation of equipment; Daniel Berc with National Weather Service will be presenting on day one
* Working on getting content on Scholar LMS platform; Wildland Smoke and Community Preparedness training, and other trainings; take at own pace; staff working on; hoping trainings will be available by end of February
* Replacing Air Pollution Technologies level 2 course with Webinar series: Elements of a Tribal Air Program; Chris leading; Mike King will be assisting; focus different elements of tribal programs
* Pat suggested it may be good idea to include climate change adaptation and planning courses from Nikki Cooley’s grant
* Christal mentioned in regards to the Fundamentals of Air Monitoring and Elements of a Tribal Air Program webinar series, looking for anyone interested in sharing tribal case study; she will send out information; requesting SC feedback to start discussion

New TAMS SC Member Introduction: Chance Bentley – Vallen Cook

* Vallen introduces new SC member, Chance Bentley, Air Quality Coordinator, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
* Introduction of SC members, TAMS, ITEP, Ex-officio and EPA staff

2022 TAMS Virgil Masayesva Award and TAMS SC Call for Nominations – Chris Lee

* Delbert Altaha agreed to stay on list for next SC call for nomination selection
* TAMS SC call for nomination open until end of February
* SC members are encouraged to share information with tribal contacts and provide recommendations for those that can potentially serve as SC member
* Have not yet received any nominations for the Virgil Masayesva Award; call for nomination is open until the end of February as well
* Pat mentioned NTAA celebrating 20th anniversary and planning a memorial for Bill Thompson; also TAMS and CAA anniversary; keep these events in mind for NTFAQ planning

Listserv Reminder: Information about surplus equipment can be shared on the listserv – Chris Lee

* Listserv includes people who have taken TAMS technical courses over the lasts 3 years and others that have expressed interest in tribal air monitoring issues; approximately 200-300 people on list

Building update/NCRFO TAMS Equipment Manager Position/ARP Equipment funds/Ed Wilds Retirement update – Pat Childers

* Move has been stagnant; starting to make progress; contractors working this week on IT cables and start hooking up the IT systems; planning on doing complete walkthrough of TAMS Center January 31st for final verification of what work needs to be done to get the TAMS Center operational; goal is to have that done in February
* TAMS equipment manager position; slow process due to EPA working on a new agreement with the NOWCC regarding the new pay scales; moving through review process
* EPA staff returning to facility on February 28 has been postponed due to omicron; no new date has been mentioned; will receive a 45-day advance notice when new dates will be announced
* EPA requirements for entrance to facility; need negative test strips no older than three days for non-vaccinated staff; difficult to get test results here in Las Vegas; overwhelmed with increase of individuals requesting negative results; these concerns make it difficult to open the TAMS Center; wait until testing is no longer required
* ARP funding letter for new equipment for TAMS Center was helpful; no final word yet but looks promising; thanked all tribes for support; gave tremendous help to get new equipment
* Ed announced his retirement; his last day with EPA is February 26th

**Workgroup/Subcommittee Updates** (new scheduling to start Feb 2022) – Last month SC members approved bimonthly TAMS SC calls; other months will be subcommittees call

Air Monitoring Workgroup: What happens with the old equipment and how can TAMS help with getting surplus, still useful equipment to tribes. How does the TAMS Center update the regional equipment inventory? – **Vallen Cook**

* State of Minnesota has been talking to tribes about old monitors BAM 1020; find a way to give those to tribes in need; how can TAMS center help
* Pat mentioned the TAMS listserv issue; will have conversation with Tim Hanley who is heading the ARP funding; would be great idea maybe for the monitoring workgroup; for tribes and steering committee to brainstorm and provide some formal suggestions; equipment loaner and disposal of equipment; how to properly dispose of
* Melinda reported in regards to QA Issues, the agency is working on new project; G5 is long guidance documents on how to prepare quality assurance project plans; EPA started flash/speedy workgroup to revise the guidance; this specific workgroup was requested by states, municipalities and tribes that have fewer staff; looking at ways for small agencies to include in their QAPPs what needs to be included for legally defensible data; organized by Linda Himmelbauer, Region 8; Melinda indicated her role is to present any information or ideas that SC members may have or what you think needs to be changed in EPAs guidance for writing QAPPs; real world is really different than theoretical guidance so it is very important that the guidance documents actually reflect the real world; maybe we’ll have revised guidance for QAPPs to make QAPP writing easier!
* Pat mentioned that hoping a part of that will also be working with us, states and tribes on meaningful training to explain properly how to do it, so working with us on developing that training for both tribes, states, locals as well as for EPA staff

Agenda development Workgroup – **Chris Lee**

* Proceeding fine; working off today’s agenda

AIAQTP Curriculum Workgroup – **Mehrdad Khatibi**

* Reminder email was sent to workgroup to provide their availability to schedule first subcommittee meeting in February

**NTFAQ Planning: TAMS Participation – Mehrdad Khatibi, Chris Lee**

1. How does the TAMS SC want to highlight the TAMS Center at the 2022 NTFAQ? - TAMS 20 Year Celebration, TAMS Virgil Masayesva Award Ceremony, TAMS Needs Assessment Presentation, other?

* Chris will send out information on setting up a subcommittee for the TAMS participation on NTFAQ; a lot of discussion that needs to occur; plan first meeting in February

**Suggestions/Ideas for the next meeting** – Vallen Cook

* SC members to provide suggestions or ideas for next meeting
* SC members agreed to schedule next meeting for March 8-9
* Darlene will send save-the-date notice to all

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos