***TAMS Steering Committee Call Notes***

**July 15, 2020 @ 10AM PDT**

Attending: Andy Bessler, Christal Black, Pat Childers, Vallen Cook, Tennille Denetdeel, Farshid Farsi, Ben Giwojna, Lori Howell, Carma Huseby, Mehrdad Khatibi, Mike King, Chris Lee, Mike Natchees, James Payne, Camille QuickBear, Tanda Roberts, Melinda Ronca-Battista, Darlene Santos, Sara Terry

**Opening Business**

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

The agendawas approved and additions were made.

The June call notes were approved by consensus.

**What’s Happening at the TAMS Center**

* Equipment Manager position has been vacant since June 19; one person was interviewed; position will be filled as soon as co-director position is filled.
* Application deadline for Co-Director position has been extended to July 17
* TAMS Learning Center renovation scheduled first week of August, completion by end of March 2021
* Spring 2021 In-Person Meeting: SC members agreed to schedule in-person meeting the first week of March or seek alternate locations if renovation is not complete

**AIAQTP Trainings/Courses** – Christal Black

* Review of FY20/21 Courses – not offering in-person courses due to COVID, looking at offering online modules or hybrid type content
* Intro Course – suggestion to develop course on scholarLMS; easily accessible; self-paced; ideal for new employees
* Management Course – one week cohort similar to IAQ cohort; develop hybrid and use scholar LMS
* Other Courses – possible specialized courses if COVID extends longer; two courses for Alaska; there may be band width and connectivity issues
* Request feedback from SC members; identify training priorities and other tribal needs and start to develop courses that we can assist with
* Tennille suggests training for green cleaning and proper ventilations; also indoor air and wildland smoke is important; recent fire at Navajo near Window Rock caused a lot of smoke in the area; roads in mountainous areas were shut down due to smoke; training ideal for planning ahead before wildfire season
* Pat Childers recommended to review Star Report for requests on specific training items
* May be helpful to present on what online courses are currently available; vested time and effort developing online courses; i.e. quality assurance
* Mehrdad suggested to spend time reviewing courses that have already been developed and look at additional needs based on what tribes are hearing and what is on Star Report

**Professional Assistance**- Mike/Melinda/Angelique

* AQS: onsite PA support utilizing Zoom and go-to-meeting platforms for Washoe, Morongo, Navajo and Yerington Paiute tribes
* Angelique provided Emissions Inventory and Tribal Data Toolbox support to the Catawba Tribe

**QREST Network Update** – Melinda Ronca-Battista

* + Continuing to work with contractor on a few small programming issues (level 0 flagging done on imported as well as polled data)
  + Continuing to work individually with tribes to connect; although there is an extensive Help file, it is the default plan to work one on one with tribal professionals to connect their dataloggers, map their parameters, and provide overview of features
  + Yerington Paiute Tribe is the most recently connected; Mike King conducted extensive PA meetings to decipher channels
  + Adding all connected tribes to the QREST-test environment for their own testing and training purposes, which can poll simultaneously and can send data to AQSQA, but leave their “real” data in QREST
  + Developing training videos (3 so far), with online (scholarLMS) training by February 2021
  + Planning more extensive course material for in-person training at the NTF in 2021
* Working with EPA Region 9 to develop requirements and procedures for 3rd-party independent data validation using the QREST platform suitable for regulatory monitoring data

**QA/QAPP/Emissions Inventories Updates** -

* James Payne gave kudos to Melinda; she gave a good presentation last week at the Quality Community Meeting Exchange with EPA folks; presentation covered QAPPS and work with Angelique; EPA is interested in trainings and cost; referred to ITEP website for videos and information
* Working with EPA OMS to endorse QA/QAPP trainings, and will be presented at TLEF
* Seeking funding for migrating turboQAPP to an open source, free-to-all program
* Emissions Inventories continuing with much individual assistance, especially given changes in EPA NEI data formatting changes
* Decreases in numbers of EI data submitted in Region 9 is probably an artifact of states reporting tribal data with their own

**School Flag Program** – James Payne

* SC members to decide if they want to create workgroup to get word out to tribes
* Idea to create poster contact; EPA to provide logistical support; printing posters; getting word out on distribution lists; materials, etc.
* Project can be for intern level or SC members to undertake; timing not good with COVID
* Plan to undertake in the Fall of 2020
* Mike Natchees is interested in workgroup; trying to get flag program started; want to make it work
* Mehrdad suggests to volunteer Mansel; he has resources that can help; willing to work with schools and promote air quality; has funding for interns; Mike N. can hire students and help to support internship program if workgroup develops
* James can set up with EPA coordinators and make connections
* Chris and Farshid can facilitate calls; James can reach out to Mansel
* Suggestion was made to open widely, not only SC members but others can get involved; get word out there and start workgroup to get information going; discuss further if we open up widely; reach out to more tribes

**AQS Letter to Tribes** - Chris L/Mike K.

* Support request from various tribes regarding AQS; Mike noticed pattern of inconsistencies in regards to who they have been directed to and has caused some confusion
* AQS call was last week; information was clarified; drafted two letters; specific to information being shared on AQS tribal call; clarified situations
* Big topic seemed to be the lack of understanding of tribal programs; tribes are sovereign entities; Mike suggested to develop letter to OAQPS; SC members to discuss further and send letter
* Drafted letter May 18, 2020; support role has changed; service desk provides support; guidance support from Pamela McIntyre
* Chris and Mike developed a letter in regards to the notifications
* Presented to SC members; request for EPA to work diligently to support tribes
* How to proceed is important since tribal SC committee represents technical needs for tribes
* Sara Terry reports that there is a bi-monthly tribal AQS Q&A; question was asked if it is used regularly; wants to understand process; has been going on many years; working with Pamela to get more users; Lori mentions that she has been attending the calls for years; request was made to have Chris and Andy send information to distribution lists
* Mike K reports that calls are overseen by a contractor; they don’t have support that was initially provided; support just covers AQS passwords, resets, registrations, etc.
* Tracking system is no longer there and needs to be in place
* Attended AQS call last week; question regarding ticketing; question was forwarded to AQS folks; no response received yet; checking on status and will share with Lori and everyone; looking to get more AQS folks involved; Lori’s role is tribal AQS liaison; able to identify and share questions from tribes; working pretty well
* Important that transparency is highlighted so tribes can continue to provide deliverables for AQS solutions
* Lori mentions that it seems they are backing on support that used to be provided
* Mike K highlights that it is disrespectful to tribes; tribes are trying to monitor but they are not receiving guidance
* Question was asked if there is a designated EPA person
* AQS regional contact list is available on EPA website
* Discuss all parties on future meeting; bring people to table; establish call with regional contacts etc.
* Should be fifth recommendations on letter; reinstating Indian policy
* EPA has responsibility to provide support to be treated same manner as state
* Motion to approve; add fifth bullet to attend call; setup specific tribes to states issues and help mitigate lines of communication
* Sara asked who letter is addressed to; need to discuss; OAQPS as addressee; address letter to Martin Husk; Cc: Sara Terry
* Plan to invite Martin on next call and discuss directly; introduce concept to process implications
* Discuss response and general issue
* Will add # 5 and resend to group for any final comments; SC members agreed
* SC members requested to meet separately; Chris to set up call; Camille to send out email for call tomorrow; propose 12:30 pacific time; 1:30 mountain

**Other Updates** – Pat Childers

* STAR report has lots of great stories; best seen; more participation of SC members
* Webinar: deliverables that were raised; aging of monitor systems always a concern
* Discuss at future meeting; what are thoughts to readdress concerns; prioritize; what are funding options
* Share recommendations; try to get more funding; resources are limited; how do we balance resources
* Address issues raised; can SC members take on over the next year
* As of July 1st currently working on two grants; continuation of AIAQTP grant, extended; new grant going to ITEP; parallel grants; good to have overview of what work plan is
* Set up separate call on how to prioritize regarding monitors; Vallen was working on this; take step further; what are things to consider
* Plan to discuss fall virtual meeting

**TAMS 20 Yr Anniversary Discussion** – Chris/Farshid

* Still working on list; Pat mentions he can reduce EPA list
* No updates; table for next month’s call

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos