**2021 Spring TAMS Steering Committee Meeting**

**Las Vegas**

**March 9-10, 2021**

**In attendance:**

Andy Bessler, Christal Black, Erica Bollerud, Andrew Byrne, Pat Childers, Ann Marie Chischilly, Vallen Cook, Tennille Denetdeel, Ben Giwojna, Hayden Hardie, Secody Hubbard, Carma Huseby, Josie Kamkoff, Mehrdad Khatibi, Mike King, Christopher Lee, Mike Natchees, Tina Ndoh, Mansel Nelson, James Payne, Camille QuickBear, Kris Ray, Tanda Roberts, Darlene Santos, Ed Wilds, Jr.

**Tuesday, March 9**

**Invocation, Welcoming and Introductions –**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tennille Denetdeel. Mike Natchees gave the invocation, and everyone was welcomed.

**OAR Tribal Air Programs: Faces, Funding, and Focus – Pat Childers, EPA-OAR**

* Faces – Who’s who in EPA and OAR
* Funding -103/105, DERA, NTAA, AIAQTP (i.e. TAMS)
* Focus – Training, TAS, 105, EI, Monitoring and more
* Future –Addressing aging monitors, Castnet, Sensors, Region 3
* **103/105 Tribal Allocation Factors HQ to the Regions –**

Step 1

* Start with total allocation (approximately $13,000,000.00)
* Subtract funding (approximately $1,000,000.0) for AIAQTP grant which includes TAMS, ITEP training and professional assistance and the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality
* Calculate each regions base funding – half of what they received prior year

Step 2

Regions are then allocated funds based on the following factors:

* Tribes with 105 (20K)
* Tribes with regulatory TAS (25k)
* Number of TIP's approved (35k)
* Delegated approvals (20K)
* National Network Monitors CASTNet (47k)
* National Network Monitors NCORE (75k)

Step 3

Regions are then allocated funds based on the additional factors:

* Reservation Population (18%)
* Number Tribes in non-attainment areas (11.5%)
* Number of permitted major sources/synth minor in Indian Country (7.5%)
* Tribes with non-regulatory TAS (5%)
* Number of Tribes (21.5%)
* Number of Tribes operating AQ monitors (17.5%)
* Number of Tribes with completed EI’s (12%)
* Number of Tribes actively addressing toxics (7%)

**Finished???---Not quite**10 percent Safety Factor Applied –
ensures no one region takes too large of a reduction/increase from prior year



**Other Funding Related Items –**

* GAP
* National Tribal Air Association
* American Indian Air Quality Training Program
* DERA

**Focus for Tribal Air Programs –**

* **Funding**  -making sure it is adequate and used properly, assist Tribes to move to 105 and PPGs
* **Affectively participating in rulemaking and guidance development**  -making sure Tribes are aware of and take advantage of opportunities available to them
* **TAS/Class I re-designations**  – assisting Tribes to see the advantage of TAS, work to reduce burdens on Tribes to get TAS/class 1 re-designations
* **Monitors**  – ensure Tribes are aware of opportunities, properly equipped and performing/reporting data correctly
* **Emission Inventories** – eliminate obstacles to performing EIs, provide technical support and training
* **Attainment** – assisting Tribes in program implementation or direct implementation to reduce overall number of nonattainment areas
* **Climate Change** - making sure Federal and State governments are aware of how it affects Tribes/ensuring Tribes are aware of what different agencies can and cannot do under their authorities
* **Tribal Wildfire work**  – highlight excellent tribal work and training that has occurred/maintain progress and formalize regular training
* **Woodstove**  – look for ways to address legacy stoves
* **Training on key programs**  – ensure that adequate training opportunities are given on key AQ programs. Ensure EPA staff is trained to work effectively with Tribes
* **Indoor air**   – ensure federal and state agencies are aware of how it affects Tribes/ensuring Tribes are aware of what different federal agencies can and cannot do under their authorities
* **Voluntary Programs**  – assist Tribes in pursuing voluntary and nontraditional AQ programs that do not necessarily need substantial funding.
* **Relationship with States** - making sure that federal government is working fairly with both our Tribal and state partners and assisting in their relationship with regard to Air Quality issues as well

**The Future ???????**

* Funding and current focus are a large part of the future
* Sensors
* Castnet
* Region 3

**Growth of Low Cost Sensors –** Rapid Growth of Sensors in California

Sensors include Aeroqual, AirBeam, Clarity, Purple Air, and Safecast PM2.5 sensor systems – August 2018. Reference stations include permanent sites run by local air districts and the California Air Resources Board.

**Key Points for Air Quality Measurement Strategies Using Sensors –**

* Must be selected to fit a purpose
* Requires human, institutional, and equipment systems
* Quality assurance is critical
* Partnerships and engagement with government, academia, and the public are important
* Not a replacement for regulatory grade, high quality monitors

**Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET): Tribal Partnerships –**

Network Overview:

* Ninety-six (96) monitoring sites sponsored by EPA, NPS, BLM-WY, NY DEC/NYSERDA
* Long-term rural monitoring network designed to provide ambient concentrations and estimates of dry deposition
* *CASTNET sites were established in rural, regionally representative locations away from emissions sources*
* *CASTNET was established in 1987 and was designed to assess long-term trends in pollutants under Title IX of the Clean Air Act Amendments*
* Most sites are co-located with NADP/NTN sites which provide wet deposition data. CASTNET reports dry and total deposition fluxes.
* <https://www.epa.gov/castnet>

**CASTNET Tribal Monitoring Program –**

* Three CASTNET sites have operated on Tribal land for more than ten years
	+ *CHE185, OK*
	+ *SAN189, NE*
	+ *ALC188, TX*
* Recently, through EPA’s OAR tribal program, CAMD’s outreach to Tribes and the design of a low-cost, small footprint site – EPA has expanded the network
	+ *KIC003, KS*
	+ *RED004, MN*
	+ *NPT006, ID*
* NPT006 – Started as small footprint, solar/wind powered site. Connected to grid power and added ozone monitor

**Mutual Benefits for Tribal Partners and CASTNET –**

* Partnerships are important for operating a consistent, long-term monitoring network
* Atmospheric pollutant and deposition impacts to areas important to Tribes
	+ *Negative effects to land and water quality*
	+ *Health effects due to ozone and/or PM formation*
* Current sites fill in gaps in the network within the central US region
* Many Tribes provide in-kind support for operations and land use
* Training availability
	+ *EPA provided training to Cherokee in 2002*
	+ *Cherokee has provided training to many tribal partners*
* Research opportunities available when CASTNET hosts ITEP interns
* Part of network that has been used in thousands of research articles with database accessible to public

**EPA Region 3 –**

* EPA Region 3 serves Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.
* EPA Region 3 currently has 7 federally recognized Tribes in the Commonwealth of Virginia:
	+ *Pamunkey*
	+ *Chickahominy*
	+ *Eastern Chickahominy*
	+ *Upper Mattaponi*
	+ *Rappahannock*
	+ *Monacan Nation*
	+ *Nansemond*

**TAMS SC Critical Needs and Discussion – TAMS SC Members**

Guiding questions: Are the current offering of trainings sufficient for your Tribe? When travel resumes, should ITEP continue offering the webinars that are currently being provided? What are the current and future plans for your program? What are the equipment needs of the Tribes that could be helped through the TAMS equipment loan program?

**Tennille Denetdeel, Navajo Nation:**

* ITEP goes above and beyond serving Tribes and should continue offering webinars when travel resumes
* Trainings provided are tribal specific training
* Plan to continue using GAP funding
* Request made to email document listing of equipment; simple list and reach out to Tribes on what equipment is no longer being used; share equipment with others; compile list and send to Tribes in need

**Vallen Cook, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa:**

* Online have been good; miss hands-on approach
* Current plans are well established
* Looking at installing mercury monitor

**Carma Huseby, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe:**

* Sent out mass email to Tribes but no response received

**Camille QuickBear, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate’:**

* Webinars are good; Tribe closed down again; prefer webinars; depends on topic; some things need to be in-person; other can be done thru webinar; HAZWOPER training is hands on
* Others things can be done through webinars; webinars do not get instant answers; choose not to say anything; in-person can engage more
* No need for equipment during pandemic; numbers raised; not allowed to enter homes yet
* Continue to do outreach; online, newspaper and setup FB page for more interaction with Tribes

**Mike Natchees, Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray:**

* There is a lot of oil and gas concerns
* Trainings are good for what they are; sat on a few
* Really lose in-depth personal touch and networking aspect; found to be a big bonus; meet with other tribal members; inspire each other; unfortunate situation and just go with it
* Online is working
* ITEP should continue using webinar as primer before in-person course; to prep before attending
* Good to archive to review on own time

**Tanda Roberts, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe**

* Same challenge as people in Alaska; cohorts and webinars; hard to engage; can relate; started a few but could not complete some
* When issues come up; hard to do one on one assistance; too many distractions; personally prefer in-person trainings for more interaction and engage one-on-one
* Suggest not to have multiple week trainings; hard to attend; doesn’t work well

**Report/Comments from Christal/Mehrdad and others:**

* Most support/training is hands-on; we managed to use online tools and multiple platforms
* Other support i.e., data management, EI were handled online before so we continue to provide it well; added more training; engage more people; more awareness for various topics
* ITEP still figuring out increased webinars and using other platforms; overall adding webinars has been helpful and getting out to more people; reach more people with webinars vs. in-person classes; awareness is out there; no opportunity to engage one-on-one; we make efforts during Q&A sessions
* Trainings online are short webinars; this platform reaches more people; follow-up and provides one-on-one PA training
* Other trainings are cohort; limited people; to interact more with students and instructors
* Cohorts; variety of ways; in planning; introduction to air programs; wildland smoke hosting for one week; use recordings to watch prior to taking course; meet once a day to watch videos
* Looking at different ways of engaging participants; have breakout rooms to do assignments, etc. easier to engage smaller groups; opportunity to share more information
* We are learning along the way what works and what doesn’t work; IAQ Alaska cohort; more difficult for access; more challenging
* A good thing to continue with webinars making the best it can be due to travel restrictions
* Working on general plan for 2022 in-person courses
* SC members to provide any webinar topics ideas for next fiscal year
* Focus for tribal air programs; good to help formulate course schedule
* Focus on woodstoves; take a different look/approach; with manufacture; installation and maintenance; air perspective on climate change
* Wildfires is always a big concern
* Voluntary programs and relations with the states; important due to underfunded; programs Tribes can benefit from
* Has no relationship with state; it’s important to have and make efforts; beneficial for Tribes to have discussion on how to start; ITEP can help to start and provide guidance
* Government to government relationship from tribal air program perspective; can ITEP create webinar; basic overview of policy; how it works and how can new Tribes use for agenda and programs; most Tribes are unaware; how to engage two governments
* 1998 TAR would be helpful; implementation in TAR and CAA , other programs etc.
* Definitely needed; guidance on TEK and air quality
* March 11 webinar; Pat added to chat
* ACTION: What we could do as follow-up to capture suggestions; we can put together quick needs assessment on training topics; some way to get feedback on different types of subjects for webinars, etc.; helpful to have for planning future trainings
* Come up with suggested list and prioritize; SC members to provide ideas and comments; ITEP can work together on developing schedule for tribal training needs
* What’s best way to approach?
* TAMS Needs Assessment to close end of April; before NTFAQ
* 23 people completed needs assessment thus far; always been a problem of people completing
* ACTION: SC members to reach out to your regions to get more input on the Needs Assessment
* ACTION: Mike Natchees will reach out to new Tribes in Region 3 and will provide report by October meeting
* ACTION: Mehrdad mentions Pat Childers will set up meeting with TAMS, ITEP and other programs to start conversation with Region 3 and suggests that Mike Natchees join meeting
* New section was added on Needs Assessment regarding online training
* ACTION: Pat to share on TAC calls; Andy to share with NTAA EC
* Already has been sent out on all listservs
* Chris to send information out again
* Vallen suggested that Needs Assessment should be required and completed by all participants of webinars, courses
* ACTION: Hayden shared link at last TAC call; will put out again
* ACTION: Capture training needs of individuals during NTFAQ; suggestion to add polling questions
* Post conference feedback; build into platform; allowing feedback and suggestions
* Gives insight on TAMS services and online trainings; need to promote during NTFAQ
* Make sure TAMS Needs Assessment gets out to more folks and get Tribes to participate

**Selection of incoming TAMS SC Members/VM Award Recipient** – **Tennille Denetdeel, Navajo Nation/TAMS SC Chair**

* Vallen, Carma, Mike all agreed to re-up for 2 additional years
* Tennille; can continue for now; re-up for her own 3 year term
* Camille made motion to agree to have them continue without submitting form; Carma second the motion
* Agreed by Consensus; SC members to continue serving on the committee
* For VM Award: Bill Thompson already received award last year; he will be recognized at the next NTFAQ
* SC members to discuss on how to move forward
* Deadline end of February
* Camille, Mike, Carma, Vallen, Tennille all agree to select Frank Spurgeon for 2021 VM award
* All SC members agreed to move forward with plans for Frank to receive award at next NTFAQ
* ACTION: Chris to send letter; order plaque for Frank and Bill; provide detailed information per Mehrdad

**Tribes and Regulatory Air Monitoring** – **James Payne, EPA-OAQPS & Chris Lee, TAMS Codirector**

* What can be streamlined for equal footing across the board for every Tribe and region to establish guidelines to get from informational to regulatory monitoring
* Identify who can be some of our working partners; do we set up a work group
* What would be the best option that would really make this an easy transition for Tribes; where do they begin
* Should we identify Tribes who are interested; how many Tribes looking or considering or have been denied
* SC members encouraged to get discussion going and bring information back to Tribes
* Work group can start engaging in meaningful dialog
* Most questions are included on Needs Assessment
* Monitor those currently monitoring
* Need more input for robust report
* Deadline is end of April for TAMS Needs Assessment
* Of SC members; how many are monitoring; Mike Natchees reports that his Tribe does monitoring and regulatory air monitoring; there are four monitoring stations on the Ute reservation
* Carma and Vallen both reported that their Tribes do monitoring but not regulatory monitoring
* Suggestion made to review Needs Assessment and follow-up with those Tribes
* What are guidelines for Tribes to get into regulatory air monitoring; should inform nationally for all to receive the same process, etc.
* Should EPA headquarters undertake process to assist Tribes; every region has different process; should get consistency from the agency
* Should requests from Tribes be initiated maybe in support by TAMS Steering Committee
* ACTION: SC members to develop a work group to continue discussion and provide information and guidance to Tribes, include EPA region folks (Ben other TACs); extend invite to NTAA EC since it involves regional policy so they are aware; include other Tribal organizations; Mike N interested; will do research process of how Ute Tribe got regulatory monitoring
* NTAA trying to undertake effort to do outreach to Tribes for TAS water quality programs; may be interest in exploring air quality
* Tribes taking next step in advancing their programs; coordinate efforts with others
* Action items: what are next steps; see what comes out of Needs Assessment; if follow-up is needed; SC members to assist with gathering further information collectively; if want to proceed; wait until end of April; follow-up with other Tribes
* When talking to other Tribes in meetings, etc. ask others and relay their information regarding regulatory monitoring
* Having a procedure in place is ideal
* ACTION: Chris to work with James to get first call started for initial discussion; Mehrdad volunteered to join

**TAMS Ex Officio Reports – TAMS Ex-Officios**

**Pat Childers/OAR:**

* Great meeting with OAR and NTAA; focused on topics that include tribal environmental justice, climate change and indoor air
* A lot of discussion going on about some of the Executive Orders on consultation environmental justice on rule review
* Lots of rule review going on; numerous air rules were caught up in Executive Order; rules that were passed in the last administration are being looked at to see if we’re going forward with them or if changes need to be made; stay tuned and attend policy calls
* Example: The E15 rule is a mobile source rule regarding labeling for ethanol tanks; but also require underground storage tank requirements when we originally were going to propose that rule; it has kind of a do nothing labeling rule; a nod to ethanol industry, then it became a rule that included requirements for underground storage tanks, which made it an issue for Tribes that have gas stations may want to focus on
* Now that things have changed politically, there may be consideration to not doing the labeling part of it, but still may be interest in doing the underground storage tank part of it; there is an informational webinar on that scheduled for tomorrow
* New rules coming out and old rules potentially being overturned during this transition

**James Payne, OAQPS**

* Meeting with NTAA was good
* Executive orders and what the direction with the new administration will actually mean will also be covered in tomorrow’s informational webinar
* Making sure there’s an established dialogue and have open channels of communication to create better process for when rules come out, have a better vehicle to get that information out to Tribes as early as possible
* More information on the rulemaking process will be presented at the NTFAQ breakout session for more transparency with what we do and get more engagement with Tribes to make sure that we get that information out
* Working on environmental justice strategy with the new administration; EJ is once again on the top of focus list; our division is working with other divisions to identify the most appropriate EJ strategy
* ACTION: Also working on a trial strategy, Toni Colon spearheading along with Chuck Buckler; can setup introduction on next monthly call
* Laura McKelvey retiring end of May; going through subsequent details to fill her position; on last detail person, Tina Ndoh will be on call tomorrow for introduction; taking place of Holly Wilson

**Secody Hubbard, ORIA**

* Will report out tomorrow morning

**Tribal Air Coordinator Representative – Ben Giwojna**

* Carrying out our duties and obligations with the tribal programs
* Strive for improving communications between the TACs and ITEP
* From perspective of TACs, keep in touch with ITEP and keep them better informed as to when we encounter training needs from the Tribes not only in 103/105 grants and the process of developing those work plans but also in other strategic planning; gap grants with air activities in them, among them are sampling and monitoring at some stage; and EPA tribal environmental plans
* Monitoring and the need for monitoring, assistance and training is point of emphasis for TACs
* Work more closely with ITEP and have more of a conduit to keep ITEP apprised of training needs when we encounter them in our regular dealings with the Tribes and our respective regions so ITEP can continue to refine its training curriculum and provide targeted assistance as needed in Indian country
* On flip side, is also fostering more communication between TAMS, ITEP and the regions, keeping the TACs and EPA staff, and regions apprised as to what assistance our Tribes are asking for and if they are out coordinating with the Tribes on different aspects of monitoring or QA or data entry, etc.
* Keep regions informed as to what the need is out there and what ITEP is responding to; often times we find out about it from the Tribes reporting to us as opposed to from ITEP and TAMS
* One of our goals moving forward is to improve the coordination and communication between the TACs and the regions that are working closely with the Tribes on their priorities and their grants and strategic planning and relaying those needs to ITEP and TAMS
* Response to pandemic and shifting; restructure workplans and use funds for other things without travel

**Andy Bessler, NTAA**

* Planning a webinar for region 3 Tribes; introduce them to ITEP resources both for training and for partnership group resources; including TAMS and NTAA; meet on April 14th or the 21st
* ACTION: Will share more information and draft agenda; get someone from TAMS to present
* Busy with production of STAR (Status of Tribal Air Quality Report) report; working on section related to tribal sovereignty trying to articulate how environmental management really doesn’t reinforce tribal sovereignty and add some language there to make sure EPA consults with Tribes early and often and respects that sovereignty
* Getting stories from all the regions; good coverage
* Finalizing story from region 4 using tribal healthy homes guide; help tribal residents prepare for COVID; they made health home kits for residents
* Working on NTFAQ; Chris and Hayden leading efforts for several of the work groups; assisting with break-out sessions; lots of presentations on monitoring
* Updating spreadsheet for specific monitoring sessions that have been confirmed, rejected or denied; will send to Chris and Hayden for review
* Finalized save the date flyer; hope to get out tomorrow
* NTAA EC had meeting with EPA leadership went well; look forward to responding to rule making by EPA; rescind bad rules from Trump administration
* Trying to ensure when enforcement actions occur with automakers and mitigation is part of the settlement that Tribes are included in settlement plan; expecting more settlements hoping that Tribes are part of the settlement process; we are tracking that
* NTAA EC decided to do national baseline needs assessment for Tribes to better understand their needs both monetary and programmatic needs

**Ed Wilds, NCRFO**

* Hayden has been TAMS Codirector since January 2021
* Our main focus is the La Plaza building move; major renovation of our facilities for the past year is coming to end
* Preparing to move in mid April from building C to building D
* Making plans to move TAMS equipment to new facility; goal is to do this without interruptions to our operations and continue to provide support to Tribes without delays
* COVID restrictions in place is challenging to continue with move
* Most major construction has been completed; still need to install IT equipment, phones, cubicles before we can move operationally
* GSA leased facility; reduced workstation size
* Significant effort was made to keep TAMS VM Learning Center intact with no reduction in space; upgrade infrastructure, wiring, etc.
* Planning to move as soon as furniture installed mid-April
* Change orders will cause delays for TAMS Learning Center to upgrade equipment to fully function for Tribes
* Not operational until some time in the summer
* Maintain support to Tribes and providing equipment

**Ann Marie, ITEP**

* Internal policy decision regarding in-person trainings or events was made to keep all events online
* Keep all events this year online due to travel restrictions and to protect tribal communities
* Under our strategic plan, decision was made to upgrade our social network; ITEP has a Facebook site, soon you’ll see us on Instagram, Twitter and potentially others in the future
* TAMS Center will be highlighted more

**Mehrdad, ITEP**

* Sharing Save the Date Flyer for virtual 2021 NTFAQ, May 17-21
* Planning committee meeting all invited; monthly zoom calls; keeping folks updated on progress
* Review of calendar; sharing current evolution of what the week looks like; subject to change possibly
* **Monday:**

9:30-10:30 Pre-Event Social and Soft Kickoff

11:00-12:30 Networking Event

12:30-2:30 Pre Conference Trainings (3) concurrent trainings

3:00-3:30 Cultural Event – Mariah Ashley

* **Tuesday:**

9:30-10:30 Opening General Session & Key Note Speakers

10:30-11:00 Cultural Speaker

11:30-12:30 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (3) 60 minutes

1:00-2:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (3) 60 minutes

2:30-3:00 Afternoon Social

* **Wednesday:**

9:30-10:30 Plenary Session – Wisdom from Elders & Youth

11:00-12:00 TAMS Award Ceremony & Cultural Activity

12:30-1:30 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (3) 45 minutes

2:00-3:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (3) 45 minutes

3:00-3:30 Afternoon Social

* **Thursday:**

9:30-10:30 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (3) 60 minutes

11:00-12:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (3) 60 minutes

12:30-1:00 Cultural Event / Speaker

1:00-2:00 Closing General Session

* **Friday:**
* 10:00-12:00 Post Conference Trainings (3) Trainings
* Add 10 mins tomorrow’s agenda for Camille to report out

**Wednesday, March 10**

**IAQ Discussion: Invited Mansel Nelson, ITEP, and Secody Hubbard, EPA ORIA –**

**Tribal IAQ Directory of Resources-**

* Tribal IAQ Training and Resource Directory; started in Region 8 IAQ Tool Kit; collaborating across all regions; Allison Reibach (intern) leading the project; no longer directly involved and it’s been handed off to headquarters
* A directory to help connect tribal governments and tribal staff to a variety of indoor air quality resources that aid in the creation or expansion of IAQ programs
* Collaborating with NTAA and ITEP
* A number of organizations besides EPA staff have been involved in its development including input from the TAMS Center and the Tribal Healthy Homes Network in Washington
* Topics Covered:
* Asthma
* Mold
* Radon
* Commercial Tobacco and Secondhand Smoke
* Healthy Homes, Schools, and Buildings
* Home Heating, Cooking, and Energy
* Disaster Preparedness
* Disaster Response, Recovery, and Mitigation
* COVID-19 and Other Pathogens
* Funding
* Helpful IAQ Contacts
* What are the resources?
* High-quality sources of information
* Distributable materials for various audiences
* Examples of tribal policy
* Toolkits and guides for various projects
* Training webinars and materials
* Protocols and assessment sheets
* Program implementation examples
* When possible, the resources are specifically written for tribal audiences
* Example: Healthy Homes, Schools, and Buildings
* Virtual Home Assessment Toolkit
* Healthy Homes Calendar Checklist
* IAQ Tools for Schools Materials
* Tribal Green Building Training Toolkit
* Integrated Pest Management Training and Tools
* Healthy Homes Guides and Materials for Consumers and Educators
* Green Cleaning Guides
* Collaboration:
* National Workgroup
* 9 topical workgroups
* Over 25 EPA employees across the regions and Headquarters
* Mansel Nelson from ITEP
* Andy Bessler and Ernie Grooms from NTAA
* Pat Childers OAR Tribal Program Coordinator
* Office of International and Tribal Affairs
* Timeline:
* Phase I: Gauge national EPA and tribal interest in the creation of a Tribal IAQ Training and Resource Directory, create a rough list of resources for the directory, and form a coalition of interested collaborators (August 2020).
* Phase II: With breakout workgroups focusing on each section of the directory, craft a complete draft of the directory (February 2021).
* Phase III: Feedback from tribal associations and Tribes (April 2021).
* Phase IV: Feedback from other agencies who are referenced in our directory. Develop outreach and marketing plan (May 2021).
* Phase V: Publish to the national EPA website with 508 compliance, launch outreach plan, and set an annual Schedule to update the directory (December 2021).
* Phase I and II are completed and is now in draft
* Has been handed off to Secody Hubbard for the next Phases
* Secody Hubbard, ORIA Indoor Environments Division (IED); Hubbard.Secody@EPA.gov
* Plan outreach webinars for others to review content and to provide feedback

**COVID-19 Presentations**

* ATCEM – Reducing Impacts of COVID-19, Maintaining Healthy Air Quality in Homes and Schools - <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/DMntmxzZsg>
* NTAA Webinar Series – 3 webinars – <https://www.ntaatribalair.org/indoor-air-quality/>
* Webinar #1 Overview of COVID in the Workplace and Funding for Tribes
* Webinar #2 IAQ Considerations to Assist Tribes in Re-Opening Tribal Buildings during COVID: No Silver Bullets, Practical Guidance and Messaging on Reopening Tribal Buildings
* Webinar #3 IAQ Considerations to Assist Tribes in Re-Opening Tribal Buildings during COVID

**Green Cleaning (Healthy Cleaning)**

* **Safe Cleaning** – <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/media/o_gywugqfv>
* Tribal Healthy Homes
* Safe Use of Disinfectants and Household Cleaners
* **Asthma Friendly Cleaning**
* **Article: COVID-19 Update: Cleaning Practices May Trigger Asthma –** [**https://spaces.hightail.com/space/DMntmxzZsg**](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/DMntmxzZsg)

**Current IAQ Trainings**

* Indoor Air Quality in Alaska Communities – Cohort Online Course
* Conduct simple IAQ Assessments in homes and Schools
* Explain steps for healthier homes and Schools
* Conduct education and outreach for occupants of homes or Schools

**Future IAQ Trainings**

* Bemidji Area Office (BAO)
* Serves 34 Tribes in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin
* Partnering with Ernie Grooms, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to provide Level 1 and 2 training
* Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
* Serves 43 Tribes in Idaho, Washington and Oregon

**Report on Quilt for Laura McKelvey- Camille QuickBear**

* Present at NTFAQ; part recorded and live
* Camille will do quilting; requesting assistance for donation of supplies and shipping costs
* Goal Estimated at $300
* ACTION: Camille to provide payment information via email to Chris; he will coordinate and send info to all
* Need quilt done by mid-April to send out by end of April
* Deadline date for donations set for April 9
* Organize handoff at NTF

**Regional Equipment Inventory update** – **Chris Lee, TAMS Co-Director**

* Darold and Vallen were working on getting online form developed; project that SC members took on; updated annually working with TACs
* Need more comprehensive data
* Ideas developing form; Darold shared form
* Shared form with Monika
* ACTION: TAC meeting next week, Pat can share form with Regional TACs
* Suggest no more than 10 questions
* Chris to work on structuring the language, make adjustments to the form that was discussed

and share with all to review; also share with NTAA EC

**Wildfire Issues – James Payne, EPA-OAQPS/Chris Lee, TAMS Codirector**

*Air Resource Advisor (ARA) information*

* Shared information on Cleaner Indoor Air During Wildfires Challenge webpage; already started; last day to enter is May 17
* Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program
* Technical specialist; combination of outreach specialists and analysts
* Wildfire Air Quality Tools webpage: portal.airfire.org
* Smoke Ready webpage – Under construction; lots of resources available
* Social Media Resources webpage; lots of good information on broadcasts, posters, etc.; good ideas for health messaging

*Preparing for the Next Wildfire Smoke Event – Actions to Protect our Communities Health -* Kris Ray, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

* *See Attached Presentation*
* Based on the concept of the smoke ready communities
* Smoke will happen so why not plan for it
* A lot of days of hazardous air conditions, some lasting 16 days in a row
* Plotted time when smoke happens in our area to give an idea as to when we can expect smoke; June through October
* What does smoke-ready mean:
* Community based; reservation, towns or communities within the reservation
* Include all sources of smoke
* Yearly smoke exposure
* Prevention of health problems; minimize exposure
* Develop our own education and outreach materials; produce locally
* Promote mitigation actions
* Coordination with partners; healthcare, emergency services, fire control, Okanagan County, state and federal partners
* Pre-smoke event planning (wildfire season):

Communications-

* Very important during stressful situations
* First task to get dropped during stressful situations

Establish Communication Lines Before the Event-

* In person introductions important
* Increased effectiveness

Infrastructure Issues

* Electric Outages
* Cell tower problems
* Lack of internet
* Maintain monitoring network
* Put together an indoor air quality sampling toolbox
* Develop air resource advisory factsheet which includes tribal contacts, vicinity map, monitoring network, AQI vs WAQA and Meteorological Sites Links
* AQ templates for air quality advisories, warnings and emergencies
* Documentation and record keeping to keep track of where the smoke was and where it was coming from
* Distribute a lot of outreach and education materials including visual guide to air quality
* Hand out a lot of N95 masks with instructions on how to properly use it
* Put together a fact sheet on cleaner air in your buildings, mainly focusing on air conditioning, filters and door use, air cleaners and awareness of smoke in your building
* Also distribute the air quality outdoor activity guidance for schools; emailed to superintendents on and around the reservation before smoke season
* Promote use of filters:
* Portable Air Cleaners; manufactured air cleaners are more expensive: uses in small rooms; maintain filters; don’t buy one that generates ozone in your rooms; California certified is ozone free
* DIY Air Cleaners; inexpensive, volume of air, easy to construct but there is noise level
* Cooling is essential; high ambient temperatures; managing windows and shades; cleaner air in the afternoon
* Vehicle Filters; always use recirculate option; 75% reduction while parked in 15 minutes; less reduction when driving; replace filters between 25,000 and 35,000 miles
* Decisions and problem solving when your world is on fire and full of smoke-

What you breath matters:

* High PM2.5
* Carbon Monoxide Levels
* Carbon Dioxide Levels
* Ozone Concentrations

Stress and Fatigue:

* Long Work Hours
* Bad Diet
* Preparing to Evacuate
* Helping Someone Evacuate
* Evacuating
* After the Smoke-

Clean buildings and homes

* Residuals and odors
* Wash inside walls
* Shampoo carpets
* Laundry clothes
* Wash off outside of house
* Don’t use scented candles or air fresheners, they mask smells

Service AC Units and Filters-

* Change filter
* Activated charcoal filters
* Check and clean ductworks
* Evaluate and gather up all information-

Lesson Learned:

* Write the story
* Tell what you learned
* Listen to others

Look for New Science

Gather Masks and Outreach Materials

Look at your Monitoring Data

* Wildfire smoke is the most important air quality issue we face; affects our health and communities health
* Another source of smoke is wood stove smoke due to 50% of homes heated solely by wood
* Things you can do about wood stove smoke-
* Stove buyback program
* Wood Stove Changeout
* Dry wood promotions
* Look at your smoke outreach
* Residential Vegetation Debris Burning is big problem in fall and spring
* Alternatives to Burning-
* Composting
* Chipping
* Mulching
* Landfill
* Smoke Ready Recommendations-
* Partner with EPA on the Wildfire Smoke Ready Site Content
* Work with other Federal Partners to address smoke issues
* Promote awareness of smoke from all sources
* Highlight the health impacts and long-term consequence of smoke exposure
* Add climate change as the major contributing factor to monster fire occurrence
* Consider smoke intrusion into homes, business and facilities
* Need a guide to evaluate building for smoke intrusion
* Add new category to the AQI – Catastrophic
* Air cleaners at Costco run approximately $100; check replacement filter cost
* Recommend training for environmental professionals on education and outreach and long term planning

**Air quality and climate change – Tennille Denetdeel, Navajo Nation/TAMS SC Chair**

 *Invited Erica Bollerud, EPA OAP. Update the TAMS SC on activity regarding climate change.*

* Undergoing lots of review; up-to-date information on website
* New political appointees; Office of Atmospheric Programs; restoring the ozone layer; reducing transported pollution; increasing energy efficiency and clean energy and addressing and communicating risks about climate change
* How is climate discussed in your tribal community and how is it handled?
* Action: Carma to share climate adaptation plan
* Mike Natchees mentions that climate change is not discussed or addressed a lot; welcome any information; GAP coordinator interested in climate change information to provide to Tribe; area is very conservative
* Mehrdad provided ITEP link for ITEPs Tribes and climate change program; adaptation planning tool kit; Tribes can use draft template
* Program is funded by BIA; 5 year cooperative agreement
* Offer Tribes with training on adaptation planning
* Managed by Nikki Cooley and Karen Cozetto from ITEP
* Andy Bessler reported there are 3 presentations submitted for the climate change track at NTFAQ
* Also included in plenary session
* Bollerud.erica@EPA.gov; share ideas or questions

**New administration and Tribes: Invited Andrew Byrne, EPA OITA office and Gerald Wagner, NTC.** – **Pat Childers, EPA – OAR**

* Andy Byrne, Senior Advisor, EPA American Indian Environment Office (AIEO)
* Lead policy and partnership team; working in coordination with other EPA program offices
* Team assists in the implementation across the agency of EPA consultation policy
* Work closely with our tribal partnership group the National Tribal Caucus (NTC)
* Overview of changes occurring in EPA Headquarters
* Hosting 2 informational webinars; next Monday and Wednesday eastern time
* Tribal consultation opportunities webpage: tcots.EPA.gov/apex/tcotspub
* Ongoing work with NTC
* Scheduling NTOC; include EPA administrator
* Direct feedback from leadership
* ACTION: Opportunity to chat with NTC would be good
* Pat Childers indicated NTC could share knowledge of aging monitors and funding
* Andy Bessler reported upcoming meeting regarding budget recommendation that NTC would like to make
* Draft document for SC members to review
* Key talking points; aging monitor funding needed in tribal communities

**OAQPS Group Leader introduction Tina Ndoh** – **James Payne, EPA-OAQP**

* Laura still working; her position has not yet posted
* Tina Ndoh is on detail until end of June
* Ensure keep things moving; follow new executive orders
* Community and tribal programs group: there are 3 major buckets that are encompassed under that tribal group which are tribal, environmental justice program and small business concerns
* Recently sensor work is lead by group
* Leading citizen science providing training and support
* We are a resource for training; cognizant about deliberately seeking meaningful engagement and having two way communication, hearing from our stakeholders across those 3 major buckets and hearing your concerns
* Communicate upcoming regulatory actions

**TAMS budget and/or equipment needs – Hayden Hardie, TAMS Codirector**

* Get input on equipment loan program and discuss budget
* EPA has no finalized budget
* EPA funds support TAMS VM Learning Center
* Going towards IT support; personnel support and equipment purchases, shipping, calibration
* Any additional needs
* Any suggestions from SC members for any underfunded; specific equipment needs
* Overall TAMS services; how has it been supported so far
* As far as equipment; TAMS is doing good job; going well; beneficial to Tribes; able to use equipment loan program to kickoff IAQ program
* Utilizing sensors and support from TAMS is great
* Strong need for in-person training especially for equipment and Mike providing one-on-one training
* What is priority, what training is first; what is first step
* Putting draft plans together on training curriculum for next year; will share with SC members for feedback
* Thinking about sequencing and priorities that Tribes want
* SC members to communicate with Hayden on any needs or information; develop relationship
* Hayden has expertise in public health; may think about future trainings
* Liaison to bigger operations; emergency response team; take advantage of training opportunities for Tribes; ie cleaning up uranium mines, etc.
* Working with Chris to help with developing plan to manage program better
* Lots of equipment inventory; working with Mike
* Some equipment have radioactive components; need to keep accurate inventory and tracking of equipment
* Ensure loan equipment contract is in place
* Manage effectively so equipment is ready for tribal needs
* Identify outdated equipment; what’s being used; what can be phased out
* Low request for equipment during COVID
* Working on procedures to streamline some functions within the programs such as shipping, calibration and equipment loan program for standardized approach
* Trying to get up to speed to be prepared and ready to go
* SC input for recommendations for phasing out old equipment and identify new equipment needs
* Chris and Mike continue to assist Hayden with equipment inventory
* Continuous monitors FEM, FRM, BAM 1022, TEOMS; support has been mostly for these monitors
* Inventory of sensors available but limited; did receive some requests that would utilize sensors available at hand
* No intent to replace FEM/FRM per James; should there be type of encouragement to get sensors out for loan due to shelf life; during pandemic; have tribal folks use at homes; opportunity for folks to be involved even for homes
* Have you reviewed historical data of usage? Kent identified usage and is available to refer to and will use in identifying high demand equipment
* ACTION: TAMS website has inventory of equipment available for Tribes; should we update, list all equipment (major pieces) available at TAMS
* Go over equipment; formulate list high and low use; what can be excessed
* By September have better grasp on equipment inventory; use funding for new equipment; how much is funding; Ed Wilds to share information; make efforts to spend all funds
* Would like to work towards prioritizing a list of items to spend
* Mike King reported the demand in Tribes is continuous monitoring equipment requests
* Transfer standards; primary standards cool for TAMS to have and offer service per Mike Natchees
* Good resource for Tribes to have and utilize
* James Payne can gather more information on transfer standards, and SRP and share
* Mike King mentioned it is critical in supporting monitoring projects
* Chris to work with Hayden to address needs

1:00 – 1:15 **Meeting Closeout: Action Items and determine 2021 Fall Meeting Agenda**.

* Fall Meeting date: October 5-6; online meeting due to travel restrictions; no travel for ITEP until next year

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos