**2022 Spring TAMS Steering Committee Meeting**

**March 8-9, 2022**

**In attendance:**

Chance Bentley, Christal Black, Sandra Brozusky, Pat Childers, Ann Marie Chischilly, Vallen Cook, Aunjanee Gautreaux, Hayden Hardie, Edward Holman, Lori Howell, Carma Huseby, Josie Kamkoff, Mehrdad Khatibi, Mike King, Christopher Lee, Mike Natchees, James Payne, Camille QuickBear, Tanda Roberts, Melinda Ronca-Battista, Darlene Santos, Andrea Stafford

**Tuesday, March 8**

**Invocation, Welcoming and Introductions –**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Vallen Cook. Mike Natchees gave the invocation, and everyone was welcomed. SC members approved the December and January meeting notes.

**Role of the TAMS Steering Committee (SC) – Chris Lee, ITEP TAMS Program Manager/Hayden Hardie, EPA TAMS Director**

* *Charter language and TAMS Workplan Document* - Review of charter; provides guidance for operation of TAMS center and for the TAMS Steering Committee; charter sets forth the basic goals and principles and operating procedures; provide a centralized point of contact for tribal air monitoring training, technical support, issues and information; respond to evolving tribal environmental program needs by developing and implementing recommendations reflecting current tribal air monitoring issues; promote and strengthen tribes’ efforts to manage environmental programs through technical training and support and building tribal program capacity; facilitate intertribal dialogue among environmental professionals, encouraging the exchange of knowledge and information
* *Advice/guidance from TAMS SC Members/TAMS Ex Officios/TAMS Staff* – The TAMS Center is a component of the AIAQTP grant. Pat and Mehrdad offered to provide a presentation on the overview of the AIAQTP grant and deliverables at future meeting.

**TAMS Center Activity Update – Chris Lee, ITEP TAMS Program Manager/Hayden Hardie, EPA TAMS Codirector**

*Angelique Luedeker –*

* Working with several tribes providing assistance with completing their Emissions Inventory (EI) Fundamentals online
* Would like to start EI office hours zoom sessions; an hour and a half sessions; first session is scheduled for this Thursday, 9am Mountain time; email invites were sent to 35 people; opportunity for people to ask questions those who are taking online courses; discuss spreadsheet development for estimating emissions, etc.; if there are no questions, plan to do a demonstration on mapping applications on TEISS
* Pat suggested to broaden even further; maybe come up with advertisement for NTAA weekly updates; for tribal outreach for those who haven’t started EI; get more tribes interested; spread the word; inform Andy
* Angelique mentioned her original intent was not to overwhelm the questions and answer session with too many people; observe how first session goes, then perhaps plan an introduction to emissions inventory
* TEISS tool has been around for years; working on minimal updates; deals with changes to the code systems, lots of issues with installation; consider having a cloud-based application

*Josie Kamkoff –*

* QAPP planning activities; most people enrolled are new hires who are new to air quality programs
* More students enrolled in Writing a QAPP, 44 students; majority 83% have a QAPP requirement 65% received requirements for the content of their QAPP from their project officer; mostly air quality particulate matter 2.5 and 210 ozone nitrogen species, VOC, radon; several were involving water quality in Brownfields.
* QA Fundamentals there were 40 students enrolled; mostly new hires and new to air quality; they mostly found that learning about data quality objectives for usability was incredibly useful; learned a new way to identify their needs for their specific project and programs
* The most frequent barriers were COVID restraints; other obstacles were QAPP update approvals and making edits; problems with data quality objectives third party validation; extremely problematic when they needed to undergo data usability in situations where equipment measurements were outside of the range for certain set of data
* Staff turnovers is big problem; new staff don’t have access to all files
* Platform glitches were frequent problems, as well as issues with login

*Melinda Ronca-Battista –*

* QREST updates; need to incorporate example sections and procedures for users of QREST for their QAPPs; for the description of independent data review, if done in QREST, would have to also go into their QAPPs; QREST is going well; 14 sites are polling; some tribes have more than one site; 4 tribes using manual import feature and the AQS node
* Working closely with Mike King with Campbell scientific datalogger
* Working on example reports for Tanda Roberts from Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; wants annual report; put into QREST as example template; chart and table summarizing data; making available to users of QREST
* Planning on QREST training at NTFAQ
* Ongoing work in excel; plan on working with Morongo Band of Mission Indians; managing their data in excel; plan on doing series of webinars showcasing work done in Indian country
* Participating in QAPP flash workgroups as a resource person; providing information to EPA, states and counties; revision of EPA QA guidance; specifically looking at defining more carefully the role of the independent final data validator
* Melinda to provide updates on workgroup meeting to Chris; Chris to share updates during workgroup subcommittee calls

*Mike King –*

* With assistance from Christian Kirk, Air Resource Specialist, Doug Timms with Open Environment Software, Arlyssa Sells with Ute Mtn Ute Indian Tribe, Melinda and I were able to successfully connect the Campbell scientific datalogger to QREST
* NTFAQ Breakout session for dataloggers and connection to QREST is scheduled for May 2; will provide an overview of the work done to connect datalogger; also demonstrate a step-by-step procedure on how to connect the Campbell datalogger to QREST using the QREST virtual server which is equipped with Campbell Scientific’s Loggernet, datalogger support software; training is setup to focus on the network setup equipment and the virtual Loggernet and mapping parameters into QREST
* February 8-10; collaborated with Dan Berc, National Weather Service and provided training on the Introduction to Meteorological Monitoring; provided basic meteorology concepts and equipment; looked at MET equipment monitoring siting, operation maintenance as well as data usage; recording available on ITEPs training website
* Another NTFAQ Breakout session is providing a refresher on AQS database basics; will cover basic information on how to access the database and establish a site and monitor mode and retrieve data and also correct data in database
* February 17 attended tribal Q&A webinar on potential options to improve PM 2.5 monitoring and data calculations; this is in regards to part of the notice of proposed rulemaking for the PM NAAQS reconsideration of PM 2.5; EPA will provide continued discussion on March 17 by Tim Hanley from OAQPS; high priority topic on Q&A was PM 2.5 network design and relationship to environmental justice; comments from tribes regards to their requirement to co-locate with filter based FRM sampler; make requirement flexible due to lack of resources, funding and staff; troubling efforts of identifying lab for gravimetric analysis; sensor data reporting to AQS; Tim Hanley, OAQPS indicated on the call that they are looking at establishing a parameter and method codes for sensors in AQS so sensor data can be uploaded to database
* Tribal AQS User and QA session will be taking place tomorrow afternoon with Pam McIntyre; will include discussion on data certification

*Hayden Hardie – Equipment Loan Program and facility update –*

* Granted money from ARP funding; thanks to Pat; and NTAAs support of letter
* Presented and reviewed list of equipment
* Most equipment is for particulate matter; Delta Cal, Defender 530s Flow Calibration, MetOne BAM-1020-1022, ThermalScientific 2000i, DustTrak II Enclosure, Campbell Scientific Data Logger, consumable items
* Approved for $327k; work on purchase orders; equipment will be housed in the TAMS center
* Process of interviewing equipment manager; setup next week; hope to get onboard soon
* Facility update from Andrea; announcement of acting director Andrea Cherepy, ORIA Chief of Staff and Ed Wild’s retirement
* Final selection will be made by John Edwards, ORIA Director; announced next week
* EPA return to work status: non-bargaining members/staff managers returning to work March 28 in staggered fashion; for bargaining unit members, no return date set by Agency yet; will hear soon
* EPA still under some travel limitations
* Facility update: visitor limitations; entrance requirements; no large gatherings yet; modified mask mandate; easing of COVID requirements

**Selection of 2022 Virgil Masayesva Award Recipient and 2022 steering committee members (2) – Vallen Cook, Grand Portage/TAMS SC Chair**

* Selection of VM awards; SC members selected Kris Ray for tribal program development, and Emma Ruppell for technical excellence
* Special local recognition suggested for April Hathcoat and Cherokee Nation; award can be a certificate; SC members to discuss further; Vallen will start email communication with SC members; SC members agreed to keep April’s VM nomination for next year
* James suggested justification letter for SC members travel; helpful for tribes to attend NTFAQ and other events; James has template of letter and will share with Chris
* New SC members: Cindy Duriscoe, Big Pine Paiute and Delbert Altaha, White Mountain Apache

**TAMS Needs Assessment Report** – **Chris Lee, ITEP TAMS Program Manager**

* Last needs assessment report was completed in 2017; based off of data collected in 2016
* Reviewed updated results report; come to agreement on what the data is indicating
* Chris reviewed needs assessment; noting action items on each focus group *(Attachment1)*
* Shared Needs Assessment with the TAMS listserv listing to get information out to new tribal professionals; explore the scheduled office hours EI as a mechanism to share information
* Invite Mansel to day 2 of meeting to discuss further IAQ related courses and PA; or setup separate meeting

**TAMS Workgroup/Subcommittee Report – Vallen Cook, Grand Portage/TAMS SC Chair**

*AIAQTP Subcommittee –*

* Christal presented list of proposed courses for next fiscal year *(Attachment 2)*; requested SC members to provide feedback and suggestions
* SC members to share ideas, provide feedback and suggestions within next week
* Mike K suggested Datalogger Connection to QREST webinar
* Mike N suggested an Inspection Enforcement webinar; Mehrdad responded it is on the radar
* Share draft version of list of courses with TACs for comment/input
* Vallen suggested to change language on title courses

*Air Monitoring Technical Subcommittee –*

* Discussed QA support letter; letter was developed in regards to the issue brought to the steering committee from Gila River
* Additional suggestion from Leroy Williams, Gila River expressed the need to be more focused on sovereignty for tribes; how tribes are implementing programs; idea still in discussion

*NTFAQ Subcommittee –*

* Meeting was setup but not enough participants responded
* Chris shared outline of TAMS Center participation options:

TAMS Steering Committee Participation:

* Assist with Eco Café TAMS table
* TAMS SC helping with the VM Award Ceremony & Dinner (Muscogee Nation to cover dinner expense) - Mike N to emcee; Camille to present award
* TAMS SC Presentation of the Needs Assessment Results - Mike N and Camille
* TAMS SC Chair usually asked to participate in the welcoming during the opening plenary - Mike N

TAMS Center Staff Activities:

* QREST and Datalogger Trainings
* AQS Presentation
* TAMS Center exhibitor table during conference - Melinda
* TAMS Center table at Eco Café - Melinda
* TAMS Codirector emcee the VM Award Ceremony

TAMS Virgil Masayesva Award Ceremony:

* Suggesting changes for the award ceremony this year – Have the award ceremony in conjunction with the film screening at the outdoor amphitheater
* Possible changes to previous award ceremony. Dinner? Cultural sharing from host tribe? Drum group/honor songs? Will combined activity take away from the focus on the award recipient?
* The Virgil Masayesva Award was developed by the TAMS Steering Committee and the award recipient is selected by the TAMS Steering Committee. Thus, it would be good for the steering committee to provide input on any significant changes to the award ceremony
* SC members attending in-person: Chance, Camille, Mike N,
* SC members attending online: Carma
* SC members unsure/need tribal approval: Lori, Vallen
* TAMS Staff attending in-person: Melinda, Josie
* Amanda working on developing 20-year anniversary video; Mehrdad mentioned video will be played as part of closing plenary session; NTAA may join for their celebration and include recognition for Bill Thompson
* SC members to share any ideas or suggestions for closing plenary; present video; recognize former SC members
* Chris to setup call with SC members on subcommittee to discuss further

*Agenda Planning Subcommittee –*

* Working out well
* New style of workgroup meetings every other month along with steering committee meetings going well

**Wednesday, March 9**

**Open time to continue discussion from Day 1 topics**

* Needs assessments discussion with Mansel Nelson; small portion of his time is allocated to work on IAQ issues; education/outreach and internship programs; most requests come via email
* Review focus area 3 regarding IAQ diagnostic equipment
* Support needs with highest demands include: classroom training (3.6 respondents), professional assistance (5.6 respondents), education/outreach (2.4 respondents), equipment loan (3.4 respondents)
* Pat suggested SC member to sit on NTAA IAQ workgroup; Camille volunteered
* Mehrdad commented that will await further guidance on the action items for the focus area 3.

**Ex Officio Report Out – Vallen Cook, Grand Portage/TAMS SC Chair**

*Pat Childers, EPA OAR*

* Number one issue is grants
* Review technical
* 103/105 state-tribal STAG
* President put in $8 million additional tribal specific funding amt for 103/105 STAG funding air quality
* 2022 funding for tribes will be continued resolution until the end of the year
* Regions have contacted tribes that will be receiving ARP direct funding; approximately $2 million of monitoring related ARP funding; funding for getting new and updated equipment; providing tribes with regulatory quality equipment
* TAMS will have a role in implementation process; tribes will be purchasing equipment and making changes; there may be need of PA for equipment review
* EPA is working to be flexible making sure if tribe or state defaults on their ARP funds, they can quickly get it back to purpose; if tribal funds cannot be utilized, that tribal funding remains tribal funds and not become state ARP funds
* DERA and new BIL program - dropped match on DERA emission reduction act; there is more tribal DERA grants; more grant management for tribes and EPA staff
* The Vice-President, Administrator and others mentioned the BIL and $5 billion; hopefully tribes will get a big part; going to bring up some implementation issues; how do we put in use; most of this will be for clean vehicles on the air quality side; there may be other areas of implementation
* Tribal documents will be coming out, mostly strategic planning; NPN guidance, new consultation guidance, new GAP guidance; direct implementation information on strategic plans; lot of respect was given to sovereignty; these documents, like the consultation guidance will need tribal input; tribes need to focus on this due to the effect on tribes and sovereignty and consultation issues; some documents are not geared towards tribal work

*James Payne, EPA OAQPS*

* Review of the Tribal Actions and Events Calendar ([www.epa.gov/tribal-air/tribal-actions](http://www.epa.gov/tribal-air/tribal-actions)); information on upcoming outreach activities, different meetings, regulatory dates, trainings and webinars; is now public facing; to add information send to James
* Upcoming webinar hosted by EPA: Advancing Considerations of Traditional Knowledge into Federal Decision Making, March 23
* From Office of Research and Development (ORD): Wildfire Smoke Air Monitoring Response Technology (WSMART) Pilot; a few tribes are participating; in a sensor loan program; geared towards states, locals, tribes; how they respond and get data on air quality when wildfires are in their areas and have experienced wildfire; how to utilize centers to understand data in their area; three types of sensors include: PurpleAir Sensor; ThingyAQ Sensor System; and Vehicle Add-on Mobile Monitoring System (VAMMS); complete and submit monitor request form; more information available on website: Epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox/wildfire-smoke-air-monitoring-response-technology-wsmart-pilot

*Mehrdad Khatibi, ITEP*

* Announced Ann Marie’s permanent appointment as NAU Vice President of Office of Native American Initiatives (ONAI)
* ITEP sending out NTFAQ emails; registration now open; tribal scholarships available
* ITEP covers travel expenses for all TAMS SC members who plan to attend; SC members to notify us who will be attending; we will send email with travel information
* Chris to coordinate call early next week for TAMS SC activities; presentation of TAMS services; share needs assessment; Mike Natchees and Camille to assist in person duties; get together on call; invite Mehrdad and Julie Sokol

*Andy Bessler, NTAA*

* 3 talking point documents on NTAA homepage:
* budget recommendation to the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) for FY 2024 budget; proposing to increase funding to tribes to $57.4 million, essentially $100,000 per tribe; discussed tribal air programs
* Power sector rulemaking dealing with stationery sources; coal, oil and gas
* Priorities meeting with EPA management
* Collecting stories for STAR report; deadline this Friday; VM award page added; Chris will be providing updated TAMS input to Mariah

**Discussion with EPA Tribal Air Coordinators – Vallen Cook, Grand Portage/TAMS SC Chair or Pat Childers, EPA OAR/Sandra Brozusky, EPA Region 10; Aunjanee Gautreaux; Edward Holman**

* What support needs are TACs seeing in the Regions? How can TAMS Center help?
* Pat presented Powerpoint, “Role of the Tribal Air Coordinator” *(Attachment 3)*
* Mike N suggested TACs should attend NTFAQ and introduce themselves to their region tribes and develop relationships
* Sandra suggested to share contacts list
* Chris mentioned there is contact list on our TAMS website; we can improve website with updated information/contact list
* Pat suggested for regions that are not represented, to figure out a way to utilize the TACs to help get their voices heard on the steering committee; in the past April Hathcoat would cover two regions

**TAMS NTFAQ Participation Discussion: What is the input from the TAMS SC on the following topics? – Chris Lee, ITEP TAMS Program Manager**

* Planning a separate NTFAQ subcommittee meeting for next week; discuss roles, duties and responsibilities of SC members; Chris to share
* TAMS 20 Year Anniversary update: 2 years passed now; due to COVID, plans for celebration at TAMS Center has been postponed; Amanda is working on developing 20-year anniversary video; will be played as part of the closing plenary session
* Virgil Masayesva Award Ceremony: developed draft agenda; working with Jennifer Reyher, Muscogee Nation; helpful with getting cultural presentations recorded through the tribe; host tribe plan to share tribal culture; dance or celebration ceremony
* Chris will contact VM award recipients; details in the works; will share information with workgroup
* TAMS SC Presentations to highlight the TAMS Center Services and Needs Assessment results
* Other: Certificate of recognition for Cherokee Nation/April Hathcoat

**NTFAQ: Tribes and Sovereignty Workgroup – Why the workgroup was developed and what ideas are being discussed. What input does the TAMS SC have on the topic? – Chris Lee, ITEP TAMS Program Manager**

* Recently, issue was brought to TAMS SC from Leroy Williams, Gila River Indian Community
* The tribe was having some difficulty getting their QAPPs approved; stringent requirements were being handed down to the tribe, different from how the Agency treats tribes in other regions; not just Gila River, other tribes within region 9 that are experiencing these issues; began to discuss these technical topics trying to figure out how to get through them and get them addressed; the issue that was very apparent is the sovereignty; tribes have that delegated authority provided to them under the statute of the Clean Air Act; if tribes want to do a TAS and get that record formally recognized, they can do so; a lot of technical legal jargon contained within those statements; one of those things being highlighted was the sovereignty issue and how the tribe was being treated; no recognition of the status of the tribe; Gila River is one of those progressive programs that has a well established policy; first tribe to develop a tribal implementation plan (TIP) and included a permitting program; making a statement for themselves on what things that want to do with their tribal program and how they view their air quality; yet they were told they lack the requirements to give high quality data that is necessary to do designations with and until the Tribe fulfills these requirements, the way we tell you to do them, you are not going to have that approval for your quality assurance project plan (QAPP)
* How can tribes get that support for making this case about sovereignty to the Agency; this discussion seems to be an internal discussion; this should be a discussion that occurs by the tribes
* Tribes in the workgroup suggested to have a tribal caucus discussion; tribal programs sharing information about this topic; in the process of developing agenda
* How does technical staff get support from their leadership and understanding obstacles that they are encountering; needs to be an internal discussion
* Would be good if one of the SC members or all to participate and be part of this discussion and help with planning; a lot of concerns; just tribes talking amongst themselves about these issues and how to strategize on ways to get through them
* Josie suggested to determine the means of collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination of reuse of data from or pertaining to them
* How many tribes are doing regulatory monitoring? ITEP and OAQPS should keep track of that information
* Melinda mentioned that information is in AQS but hard to get without a custom query made by EPA
* Call setup for tomorrow with the workgroup for developing the session at NTFAQ; important for TAMS SC to have a rep sit in and share their perspective; initially started with 3 tribes in region 9; 2 tribes from region 8 and representatives/leadership from Muskogee Nation and Cherokee Nation; Mike N requested to be added to the call

12:45 – 1:00 **Meeting Closeout: Action Items and determine 2022 Fall Meeting date – Vallen Cook, Grand Portage/TAMS SC Chair**

* Fall TAMS SC In-Person meeting potential dates: October 4-5 or 11-12
* Mehrdad announced plans for ITEP 30-year celebration at NAU Campus; extended invite to SC members to join
* SC members agreed to join ITEP celebration September 12-15 with Fall SC meeting in Flagstaff

**Day 1 - Action Items:**

* For Zoom Webinar: Emissions Inventory (EI) Office - Pat suggested NTAA weekly updates to broaden advertisement for tribal outreach for those who haven’t start EI; get more tribes interested; spread the word; inform Andy
* Angelique mentioned don’t want to overwhelm; observe first session; perhaps come up with an intro session
* Melinda is participating in QAPP Flash workgroup; Melinda will share dates of workgroup calls to all who would like to participate in calls
* SC members discussed local recognition for April Hathcoat; possibly present certificate; Vallen to start email communication with SC members to discuss further
* James mentioned justification letter for SC members to travel; would be helpful for tribes to travel to NTFAQ and other events; James has template and will email out to Chris
* Regarding needs assessment; Invite Mansel to day 2 meeting to discuss further IAQ related courses and PAs
* Share draft version of courses with TACs for comment/input
* Vallen suggested to change language on title courses
* Chris mentioned he will set up the next NTFAQ workgroup call/meeting; did not receive enough response from group for participation

**Day 2 - Action Items:**

* Pat suggested SC member to participate on NTAA IAQ workgroup; Camille volunteered
* James announced webinar hosted by EPA: Advancing Consideration of Traditional Knowledge into Federal Decision Making, March 23
* For NTFAQ: SC members to notify us who will be attending; we will send travel information from Avenues of the World (AOTW); Mehrdad confirmed ITEP will cover travel and hotel expenses for all SC members
* Chris to coordinate call early next week for TAMS SC activities at NTFAQ: presentation of TAMS services; needs assessment; invite Mehrdad and Julie Sokol
* Mike Natchees suggested TACs should attend NTFAQ and introduce themselves to their region tribes and develop relationships
* Sandra suggested to share contacts list
* Chris mentioned there is a TACs contact list on our TAMS website; suggestion to improve website with updated information/contact list
* Chris will contact VM award recipients; details in the works; share information with workgroup
* Certificate of recognition for host tribe Muscogee Nation and for Cherokee Nation/April Hathcoat
* Chris to send Mike Natchees invite to join NTFAQ Tribes and Sovereignty workgroup call tomorrow
* SC members agree to join ITEP 30-year celebration, September 12-15 with Fall SC Meeting in Flagstaff

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos