***TAMS Steering Committee Call Notes***

**May 17, 2023**

Attending: Christal Black, Pat Childers, Vallen Cook, Cindy Duriscoe, Hayden Hardie, Carma Huseby, Josie Kamkoff, Carolyn Kelly, Mehrdad Khatibi, Mike King, Ariel Lazore, Chris Lee, Angelique Luedeker, James Parsons, James Payne, Melinda Ronca-Battista, Tanda Roberts, Darlene Santos, Scott Underwood

**Opening Business**

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

The call notes for January 2023 was approved.

The agendawas approved.

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

OAR Updates – Pat Childers:

* NTFAQ went well; presented on 8 topics
* What are deliverables from big conferences? Hard to create a master list. However, a lot of interests and good discussions came out i.e. Alaska programs; meeting on regular basis with NTAA
* Most comments heard was IRA and special funding programs are great, but there is a need for more 103, 105 and operational funding to continue on; they don’t need special funding; that was big take home message from tribes
* Had discussion with Leroy Williams from Gila River regarding QAPPs; the agency is going out with consultation on QAPPs; making some changes, may want to focus on in the future
* With regard to IRA, big ticket item right now is Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG); Pat shared following links for more information on what grants are available:
* <https://www.epa.gov/invest/epa-funding-announcements-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-and-inflation-reduction-act>
* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/open-funding-opportunities/>
* New fact sheets coming out from the Office of Environmental Justice on their grants; there will be block grants for those interested in indoor; may have funding for construction which could lead to radon; can address it; NOFA is not out yet
* OAR has 6 consultations out; 30 consultations right now within the EPA agency

OAQPS Update – James Payne:

* Rules for consultation sent out Monday for taconite; turbine greenhouse gas; new performance standards
* Update to fire and smoke map; will share when more information is received; will also share at Wildland Smoke course next week in Boise, Idaho.

ITEP Update – Mehrdad Khatibi:

* Getting close to end of year 3 of cooperative agreement with EPA; working on budget and workplan; will get out to Pat by end of week or early next week
* Final course in Pechanga in June; another training next week Wildland Smoke, Chris Lee is lead instructor for /Wildland Smoke Course and Addressing Requirements for Regulatory Air Monitoring Courses.
* Fiscal year starts July 1st through June 30th; rounding things out for the fiscal year
* Figure out how to include resources for increase in QAPPs; the need for QAPPs and emissions inventories; discuss strategies with AIAQTP managers; figure out if we can bring in additional staff resources that are at ITEP; is there a need to get contractors involved

Other Updates – ORIA/NCRFO/Other –

* NTAA update from Carolyn Kelly
* Responding to the implementation framework related to the greenhouse gas reduction fund
* Funding is supposed to go to environmental justice communities and tribal communities as well
* There is a concern that if they are using intermediaries, who don’t have experience working with tribes, that can be a problem; money might not get to the levels that it’s supposed to; might not be as equitable for tribes to be able to apply for the funding; provided comments related to that; will keep all posted with updates
* Hayden introduced new TAMS Equipment Manager, Scott Underwood; currently working and training with Mike King

**TAMS Center Updates/Business**

AIAQTP: Current courses & planning – Christal Black/Mehrdad Khatibi

* Wildland Smoke Course, Boise Idaho – May 23-25
* Addressing Requirements for Regulatory Air Monitoring for Tribes, Pechanga CA, June 13-15
* Continue Offering office hours
* Developing online version of INTRO course; hope to be available for enrollment this summer
* FY2024 Courses: review of training schedule
* Courses proposed on schedule is based on feedback and demand from previous years:
* Introduction to Air Quality in Tribal Communities, Flagstaff AZ, July 2023
* Management of Tribal Air Programs and Grants, Research Triangle Park NC, August 2023
* Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities, Portland OR, September 2023
* Fundamentals of Air Monitoring, TAMS Center, October 2023
* Indoor Air Quality Diagnostic Tools, TAMS Center, December 2023
* Air Quality Outreach & Education in Tribal Communities, Ak-Chin AZ, January 2024
* Air Pollution Sensor Technologies, TAMS Center, February 2024
* Treatment as a State (TAS) for Air Quality, TAMS Center, April 2024
* Air Quality in Alaska Native Communities, Alaska, November 2023
* Project Planning, QAPPs, and Grants for Alaska or Indoor Air Quality Diagnostic Tools for Alaska, March 2024
* Continue office hours –
* TAMS related: emission inventories, data management and QAPPs
* Indoor Air Quality led by Mansel
* IRA and grants led by Christal and Pat Childers
* Total of 8 Self-paced online workshops remain the same; not proposing to develop new ones just yet
* Course schedule will be sent to all tribes
* Pat suggested to announce course schedule on policy call
* Vallen suggested to post course schedule on NTAA weekly update

TAMS Staff Activity – Chris Lee/TAMS Staff

Melinda Ronca-Battista –

* Moving along well with QREST
* Will provide a presentation on different levels of data review which is the structure of QREST at the virtual QA conference hosted by EPA in July
* Working on expanding materials associated with QREST; based on many requests from tribal agencies and Leroy Williams from Gila River, a validation template, so that every time a set of data is validated, a report goes with it; making that as automated as possible; people can have a record of who reviewed their data
* Working with tribal agencies on using Excel and Google Sheets; both offer a lot of options for handling large amounts of data
* Will be offering 2 office hours session for excel data management and QREST sometime in July
* 9 mini lessons available online with before and after excel files; generate monthly and quarterly reports

Josie Kamkoff –

* Remote work starting July
* Brainstorming effective ways to deal with QAPP and emission inventory (EI) for new grant coming out; have prefilled template which includes the requirements from the grant; tribal staff would get pre-approval from their EPA QAPP reviewers to use this template; provide office hours sessions for the use of templates and guide people through the process to ensure comprehension
* Offer office hours for fillable template and low cost sensors data; how to use data in non-regulatory programs for education and outreach
* Cindy Duriscoe asked if a generic QAPP is going to be developed and sent to QAPP reviewers for review and comments, possibly agreeing to generic form; are we going to do any action or move forward on idea; following up on discussion at SC meeting in DC
* Josie mentioned that making a generic QAPP may not satisfy all requirements in a particular circumstance; it may include excessive information or tasks to be completed for a smaller program that does not need those additional requirements; especially true when people are using secondary data such as emissions inventories from on and off the reservation; those circumstances are too variable to make a generic form
* Cindy mentioned that the idea of doing a generic QAPP was to send it to all QAPP reviewers to see if this is the type of format that they want to see included in any QAPP; all reviewers would need to agree
* Melinda mentioned every region has guidelines and Josie has incorporated that material into the material that we provide; every region has a checklist and template starting points; completely generic
* Josie mentioned that Fillable templates will be available and given to people who attend QAPP office hours
* Chris mentioned because we are discussing projected projects in the future, we still need to have more input from the tribes especially because these projects that are necessary to satisfy the requirements for these grants, haven’t really been fully identified yet; talking in general terms, emission inventories (EI); QAPPs are really specific to those projects; it’s up to the agency to provide the guidance to the tribes on the minimum requirements for these specific projects; any attempt to develop some sort of format starts to take away from the individual reasons an organization is implementing a particular project; over the years the TAMS Center has tried to get the tribes to take ownership on those projects that they’re developing, understanding all parameters of the project; would be ideal to get some input from Angelique

Angelique –

* Mostly working on updating the course material for EI Fundamentals to make it compatible with the 2020 NEI data; videos still need to be updated; notes document and slides are all updated
* Will also be working on a few changes and updates for EI Advanced
* Working on spreadsheets developed to calculate emissions for nonpoint sources; using the 2017 wagon wheel tool; 2020 wagon wheel tool is now available; emission factors and methodologies need to be updated
* Regarding QAPPs and EI; don’t know specifics of what is required for each region
* For EI fundamentals and EI advance, we have a template QAPP for EI that is developed using the NEI data
* We also have a separate QAPP template for EI that is developed through EI advanced which is more complex; tribes are actually gathering activity data, estimating emissions based on the activity data that they gather; considered primary data
* Mehrdad asks when grants might be issued to tribes; identify good timing to offer webinar to give tribes the right information; may be good for team to discuss further
* Pat reported the grants will be issued probably in summer; and the deliverables will be due in March; then the application for the implementation grant will be due after that
* Pat agreed to plan meeting with team and CPRG to discuss further

Mike King –

* Working with a lot of tribes; through ARP funding, tribes have purchased MET One PM equipment
* Air Resource Specialists also assisting tribes with connecting to their MET One equipment remotely; remote data acquisition
* Helping tribes establish network setup to access their data remotely with TCIP connection; also supports tribes that want to use QREST to pull and push their data into QREST using network setup
* At NTFAQ; a lot of interest from tribes on the All-in-One Air Monitoring modules; requesting comments from Steering Committee members if this is something TAMS Center may possibly pursue; acquiring the module to provide as a loan equipment for tribes to use for up to 6 months; equipment is used to identify hotspots or short-term monitoring for sensor technologies, but also have been designated as having FEM designation for some parameters; i.e. Ozone and NOX
* Supporting tribes regarding equipment purchases
* Provided breakout session at NTFAQ on sensors alongside Amanda Kaufman from OAQPS; she provided updated information on the new enhanced air sensor guidebook guidance on air sensor technologies and applications; Mike reported that he provided real world tribal applications and shared 3 case studies from Nez Perce, ongoing project with Navajo Nation and work done with Orly Stampfer, PhD Candidate at University of Washington, regarding purple air sensors on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation
* Upcoming PA with Meskwaki Nation; recently bench tested All-in-One weather station; tribe waiting on approval for their monitoring site; the tribe selected a school
* Working with Chris and planning team for upcoming Regulatory Air Monitoring for Tribes training in Pechanga

Building Update/NCRFO TAMS Equipment Manager Position/ARP Funds-Equipment Purchases – Hayden Hardie –

* Working with landlord on building plans for Fundamentals, Intro and Sensor course; work out spec plan for the building modification to help classroom environment more workable; vent classroom out better; long process
* Received several items with ARP fundings; 2 - BAM 1022; 3 - Allicats; DeltaCals, 2 – Defender from Mesa Lab; purchase order in place for 3 T101s; working on finishing up purchase order for several EBAM Plus
* Hayden introduced new equipment manager, Scott Underwood; he is working with Mike on how tribal air programs work and equipment training
* Catching up on inventory and calibration of equipment; tracking equipment out on loan
* At NTFAQ, been working with Danielle Montecalvo on support request from Pueblo of Tesuque Tribe, Abraham Brown asking for information on air monitoring for radioactive materials; NCRFO to assist with guidance; develop training exercise to help set up a radiation air monitoring program;
* Received request from Brian Davidson from ITCA and ITCN to use NCRFO facility for 40 HR Hazardous Waste Operations training
* Chris reported that he is working on 2 upcoming courses:
* Wildland Smoke; logistics are set, James Payne as EPA instructor and Nathan Kilger with Bad River Chippewa Tribe is tribal instructor; set for next week at Boise, Idaho
* Addressing Requirements for Regulatory Air Monitoring for Tribes; no instructor support from the Region due to short staff; waiting on response from OAQPS for EPA instructor; several Tribal instructors are set to present on tribal case studies; also have Yousaf Hameed from Clark County to provide a State case study; Melinda, Mike and Yousaf will provide information from the agency if OAQPS is not able to participate
* Pat requested email request for OAQPS support; Chris to send out

**Workgroup/Subcommittee Updates** – Vallen suggested to hold off on updates; short on time

**NTFAQ Debrief** – Mehrdad Khatibi

* + Feedback form now available for people to respond; deadline is Friday, May 19
  + Christal provided link to form on chat
  + Organize final debrief call with entire NTFAQ planning committee end of this month
  + Review comments and feedback received; discuss planning next year’s NTFAQ; possible locations to consider and Tribes interested in working with us
  + Send feedback/comments to Mehrdad

**Permit Review Service** – Mehrdad Khatibi – Vallen suggested to hold off; short on time

**TAMS SC Sensor Guidance (Resend to everyone)** – Mike King

* + Vallen received consensus via email from SC members and a motion to pass TAMS SC sensor guidance done by Mike King

**Response Letter to OAQPS (Vallen setting up additional meetings with Tribes) – Vallen Cook**

* + Reached out to tribes at NTFAQ; Morongo, Pechanga and Bishop Paiute Tribes; starting conversation

**TAMS Charter Discussion (Vallen has draft)** – Vallen Cook

* + Will send out as email to Chris; SC members have been working on draft; came to consensus on what it will look like

**Air Toxics/Gravimetric Laboratory Service** – Hayden Hardie

* + No update

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

* + Next meeting July 19
  + Any feedback on Mike N as SC vice chair; Vallen will reach out to Mike to confirm
  + Mike requested SC members to provide input on All-in-One module for tribes to utilize as loan equipment; sent quote to vendors; will update SC members via email
  + Vallen reported that SC members met at NTFAQ and discussed the charter; went through 2 drafts; will share via email
  + Mehrdad mentioned working on budget and workplan for year four; including travel support for SC members for 3 in-person meetings, 2 at TAMS Center and 1 to attend NTFAQ; is that adequate, too much of your time traveling; SC members to provide feedback via email; Vallen will start email chain with SC members and will provide feedback at next meeting in July

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos