***TAMS Steering Committee Call Notes***

**November 9, 2022**

Attending: Karen Beckley, Christal Black, Pat Childers, Vallen Cook, Cindy Duriscoe, Hayden Hardie, Carma Huseby, Josie Kamkoff, Carolyn Kelly, Mehrdad Khatibi, Mike King, Chris Lee, Angelique Luedeker, Mansel Nelson, James Payne, Tanda Roberts, Darlene Santos, Julie Sokol

**Opening Business**

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

The agendawas approved.

**EPA Updates/ITEP Updates/Ex-Officio Updates**

Introductions to EPA NCRFO Director – Karen Beckley:

* New Director at NCRFO since May of this year
* Retired from 30 years of Nevada State service in environmental protection and radiation control
* Appreciate the opportunity to participate in these meetings to learn more about how NCRFO can partner with the tribes and how we can provide support; Hayden is doing his best along with Pat to bring her up to speed and getting familiar with how we interface

IRA Funding and Tribal Consultation – Pat Childers

* Hoping all tribal members are registering for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) webinar; will be based upon the consultation letter that we sent out, signed by Janet McCabe, and had a 60 day comment period where you could ask for one-on-one tribal consultation; comment period ends December 27; 8 questions in that letter were unique to tribes and tribal communities; all comments will go to Pat Childers
* Last Friday, they created 6 dockets for the IRA;
* Docket 1: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (60114)
* Docket 2: Transportation Programs (60101-60102)
* Docket 3: Methane Emissions Reduction Program (60113)
* Docket 4: Funding to Address Air Pollution (60105-60106)
* Docket 5: Funding for Implementation of American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (60109)
* Docket 6: Low Emissions Electricity Program and GHG Corporate Reporting (60111)
* Shared information on website: [www.epa.gov/air-and-radiation/questions-regarding-oars-implementation-inflation-reduction-act](http://www.epa.gov/air-and-radiation/questions-regarding-oars-implementation-inflation-reduction-act)
* All dockets are full of additional questions that are not tribal specific, but some relate to the TAMS Center; informed NTAA of this and they generally will write some comments
* Tribes will have more time, more than the consultation period to review the dockets; by mid-January
* Encourage all tribes to attend webinar and send comments in on the consultation
* Webinar and consultation are intended to be an introduction to the Inflation Reduction Act; $41.5 billion dollars; 25 different programs are rolling out individually; work together to figure out which ones tribes and TAMS need to focus on; there will be pecking order when these programs come out; provide ideas, issues, comments on these dockets
* Consultation has three parts; first is the webinar, second is to offer to comment and third is to ask for individual one-on-one consultation
* There will be a lot of programs introducing topics and asking questions; there is a webinar right now on ports and a webinar tonight at 7pm eastern on greenhouse gas reduction; will keep all informed and updated
* Starting a chart, working with other offices where all EPA programs under the IRA will be listed; will provide information on who is eligible, when it is likely to come out, how much money will it have and are tribes available
* In addition to the tribal consultation, they are setting up other stakeholder meetings as well for environmental justice, states and industry
* We all need to filter information to tribes
* Mehrdad mentioned NTAA policy advisory committee will review and develop some resources for tribes
* Pat reported there are a lot of grant programs going on, school bus monitoring and others; one of the biggest areas where help is needed is writing grants and knowing how to access grants not just for tribes but also from environmental justice communities
* There will be environmental justice technical assistance centers in each region that will be established to assist community groups and tribes with doing grants and potentially other work

OAQPS Updates – James Payne:

* Sent out flyer for the National Air Toxics Conference in Chicago, April 18-20; plans to attend; currently on planning committee; good opportunity for tribes to identify any agenda items they want discussed and represented
* National Ambient Air Monitoring Conference; any tribes interested in presenting should inform James
* Rules on oil and gas; final is imminent; will have training coming out soon; once announcement goes out, consultation letters will be sent out
* Consultation letters will also be going out this month for a few other rules including secondary lead, new source performance standards, large municipal waste combustors, line manufacturing and the NAAQS for particulate matter
* Pat reported 53 million dollars in ARP/IRA monitoring money was given out; was originally going to be two million dollars for tribes; six million went to tribes for monitoring; a lot of new tribes have done monitoring and upgrading their monitoring using new equipment; informed tribal air coordinators (TACs) to keep close contact with Chris and Hayden; they need to work together and reach out to tribes and assist them with getting equipment and helping with start up and running the equipment; get tribes to start participating in the monitoring calls

**TAMS Center Updates/Business**

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

* Review of new and updated AIAQTP In-Person Course Schedule
* Last week was the Reviewing of Air Quality Permits course in Milwaukee WI; Chris Lee was lead instructor
* Next week November 15-17 is the Fundamentals of Air Monitoring course at the TAMS Center in Las Vegas; Mike King is lead instructor; Christal reports this is most popular course; received 25 applications and selected 20 people due to capacity; 7 people on wait list; due to high demand plan to offer this course a second time
* Coming up December 6-8 is the Project Planning, QAPPS & Grants for Alaska course in Anchorage; Josie Kamkoff will be going with Christal Black to help facilitate course
* Week of December 13-15 is the Sensors Technology course at the TAMS Center in Las Vegas; Mike King is lead instructor along with Mansel Nelson and Chris Lee; also Amanda Kaufman from EPA-OAQPS; tribal instructor, Johna Boulafentis, Nez Perce Tribe and others will be presenting
* Week of January 24-26, 2023 is the Introduction to Air Quality in Tribal Communities course at the TAMS Center in Las Vegas; Mansel Nelson is lead instructor who is taking the lead on reviewing the course content and making changes along with other AIAQTP staff; Mansel reported that we revamped the learning objectives; planning pre and post course assignments; copy of working agenda was emailed to all; encourage all to share feedback, thoughts and ideas; need to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the tribes

TAMS Staff Activity:

Angelique Luedeker –

* Continuing to provide support to tribes that are working through emissions inventory (EI) fundamentals course and EI advanced
* Also continuing to provide the office hour sessions; try to offer once every month
* Working on developing some exercises for future courses of Introduction, Air Pollution Technology and Computation courses; looking at some of the tools that are out there i.e. just developed an exercise for toxic release inventory (TRI) and how that tool can be used at the tribal level; an exercise where they select the tribe and look at some facility emissions that are out there using the available tools; would also like to do one for EJ screen and possibly some other tools as well
* Pat mentioned the White House version of EJ screen; will send information

Josie Kamkoff –

* Looking at QAPP development for sensor technologies and education and outreach programs; a lot has to do with ARP funding and projects and other grant funding that tribes are receiving and the need to project plans around their data collection
* Quality Assurance (QA) Fundamentals and Writing a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) On-line courses have been slow
* Hope to go to Alaska to do some quality assurance for sensors in-person; but may do some presentations on-line

Mike King –

* Completed several in-person professional assistance (PA) support with Zia Pueblo, Ute Mountain and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; these PA supports are to have the staff work hands-on with the equipment; engaging with the tribal professionals to have them gain that basic understanding of their monitoring system through hands-on work with the staff or with the tribes
* Working with Chris and instructional team for upcoming Fundamentals of Air Monitoring training course that will be offered next week; we have Nicklaus Shumake with Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Mangas Slinkey with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as tribal instructors

Melinda Ronca-Battista –

* Chris reported that she will be taking time off for the last part of this year dealing with personal issues and is on a limited work schedule; hope things will be back in order for the new year
* On extended leave but providing some service part time
* She is currently doing a presentation for region 10 meeting today

Chris Lee –

* At the Reviewing of Air Quality Permits course last week; first course since coming back from the pandemic; took a little effort to get things situated for the course; quickly pulled together the instructional team to work on some issues; EPA Region 5 Constantine Blathras assisted with technical information along with Contactor Andrew Shroads who provides permit reviews for four tribes through ITEP
* Preparing for upcoming Fundamentals of Air Monitoring course; made some adjustments to course by adding a sensor station for exposure to what sensors are about and get hands-on equipment training; added a separate optional one-day training on MET One equipment

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

* Still no applicants for the TAMS Equipment Manager Position
* For ARP funds and equipment purchases – still challenges; trying to find vendors who will submit quotes for high value equipment; the low dollar equipment under 10k is easier process; FITARA process is now easier
* Building updates – consolidated project is completed; all NCRFO offices are now in Building D which is now a secured building; building is now open for trainings and meetings; for COVID precautions, there is no requirements for mask or vaccination status

**Workgroup/Subcommittee Updates** (new scheduling to start Feb 2022) –

Air Monitoring Workgroup – Vallen Cook

* Group had call last week went well, Janice Archuleta and Emma Ruppell attended the call; shared good ideas; did not discuss proposed sensor project, may set up sensor workgroup; discussed quality assurance (QA) issues, Mike King was also on the call and can provide update
* Mike King drafted some recommendations, based on what was discussed, on the proposed sensor project guidance for tribes and will share that information with the Steering Committee (SC) per their request
* Josie indicated that she has notes on the proposed sensor project guidance and will share via email

Agenda development Workgroup – Chris Lee

* Group was unable to meet; call will be set up for next month to discuss agenda for upcoming meetings and agenda for the spring in-person meeting proposed for location in DC

AIAQTP Curriculum Workgroup – Mehrdad Khatibi

* Next meeting is December 8 at 9am PST; members include Vallen Cook and Mike Natchees; anyone is welcome to join and can be added to workgroup
* Upcoming 2-day in-person meeting in January at the TAMS Center to discuss the AIAQTP curriculum in more detail
* Purpose of 2-day meeting is to reflect on the first half of the year; how things are going in terms of implementing back to in-person trainings and to look ahead and plan for the following year, which is year four of our cooperative agreement and what types of courses and workshops we should be considering to offer; anyone is welcome to participate in-person if you are able to travel or participate remotely
* Agenda will be developed soon

**Discussion of Announcement of Newly Funded Projects – Preparation for oncoming support request – All**

* As Pat has mentioned, there are a lot of new projects that are being funded through the agency
* Chris reported that we received a significant amount of interest in our Fundamentals of Air Monitoring course with only one announcement; we anticipate that there are going to be a lot of tribes reaching out to us for support; TAMS staff and the SC will need to work together and discuss ways that we can continue to provide that support that tribes will be inquiring about; how can we prepare for addressing questions from the tribes especially if a huge number of requests start to come in
* Mehrdad shared EPA website link for ARP AQ Monitoring Grant Info: <https://www.epa.gov/arp/selections-arp-enhanced-air-quality-monitoring-competive-grant>
* Encourage everyone to review information on projects that are funded and how some of that ARP funding went out to different parts of the country to support air quality monitoring projects; 16 different projects were tribal projects as Pat mentioned earlier; some of them are tribes that have established air quality projects and some tribes have not received any significant kind of air monitoring funding in the past
* Pat reported that all these grants are going through the regions; all the regions will have to segregate to some degree these grants from their normal grants; the tribal air coordinators (TACs) were already informed to review all those who have received grants
* What do we do once tribes get grants and what can we do to help tribes get future grants; there is potential TAMS role for both; working with the TACs is good way to think about these questions
* Will be an ongoing conversation in terms of technical assistance and workshop services; would like to hear comments and feedback from SC members on how to move forward
* Tanda Roberts mentioned that she can reach out to neighboring tribes in Nevada to see what type of technical assistance they may need; also states that it is a good idea to offer Fundamentals course again for those tribes who did not have an opportunity to get in

**NTFAQ Planning and TAMS SC Input** – Julie Sokol/Mehrdad Khatibi

* Working on finalizing a contract with Gila River Indian community
* Working closely with Ryan Eberle and his staff (co-hosts)
* Dates are May 1-4, 2023; will send out save-the-date announcement as soon as contract is signed
* Would like feedback from SC on the format and the content; how much do you want to be involved
* Julie shared agenda overview to be used as a guiding document
* What are some of the priority topics and sessions
* May want to do some partnerships
* May want to submit proposals for pre-conference trainings or individual sessions
* Also suggested was a joint NTAA and TAMS session around what tribal priorities are
* A presentation on STAR and request feedback
* A session around trends and priorities
* Looking to have opportunities for funding and capacity building session
* A general high-level priorities of things you would like to see again or some changes that we need to do from a structural and schedule perspective whether that’s having a general or a plenary session every single morning or changing the structure of the closing session
* Encourage your feedback as far as how things went well and what things we’d like to look to change as well as specific topics and generating some brainstorming
* Some feedback from the chat: IRA Funding, grant writing, air sensors, schools for clean school bus program
* Julie mentioned that everyone needs to consider what the workgroup or the planning committee for NTFAQ is going to look like
* This past year we had a lot of separate workgroups; her intention would be to have a smaller, more concentrated group who will commit some time each month to make bigger and high-level decisions and move things forward more quickly and efficiently
* Once contract is signed we will send out an invite for anyone to opt in and hope someone in this group will volunteer or be voluntold so that we have a dedicated representative from each of our workgroup here from NTAA and TAMS so that everyone has their voice and can be heard and hopefully speak as a representative for the rest of your team
* Happy to have more than one person; please send thoughts and feedback
* Vallen has volunteered to be in workgroup

**Spring TAMS SC Meeting Agenda Planning, March 2023** – Chris Lee

* Chris suggested to discuss agenda planning on separate workgroup call; schedule call after Thanksgiving break, first week in December; Chris to send out doodle poll

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos