**Joint TAMS Steering Committee/NTAA Meeting**

**Flagstaff, AZ**

**September 12, 2017**

**In attendance:**

Andy Bessler, Joe Cebe, Pat Childers, Ann Marie Chischilly, Farshid Farsi, Glen Gehring, April Hathcoat, Nicole Johnson, Monika Lacka, Chris Lee, Laura McKelvey, Steve Page, James Payne, Camille QuickBear, Kris Ray, Melinda Ronca-Battista, Darlene Santos, Frank Spurgeon, Shaina White, Ed Wilds, Jr., Alfonso Yadao

NTAA EC Reps: Angela Benedict (R2), Brian Holter (AK), Tiffany Janes (R4), Carolyn Kelly (R10), Craig Kreman (R6), Carol Kriebs (R7), Wilfred Nabahe (R9), Jan Paul (R1), Brandy Toft (R5)

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

**Welcome and Introductions –**

The meeting was called to order by TAMS Outgoing Chairman Craig Kreman and NTAA Chairman Wilfred Nabahe. Chris Lee gave the invocation, and everyone was welcomed.

**Review and Approval of Agenda** –

The agenda was approved.

**Discussion with EPA OAR Office Heads -**

***OAR/Sarah Dunham:*** Acting Assistant Administrator since late January.

* Bill Wehrum nominated for the position (was in position previously from 2005-2007)
* OAR has worked on AirNow resources for wildfires and mobile air monitoring for areas affected by hurricanes; the President signed a bill for assistance effort for hurricane disaster recovery
* OAR-Budget and Planning Update – The President signed a continued resolution; continue current levels of funding through December 8th
* EPA FY19 funding request was submitted to OMB last week; also submitted draft FY2018-2022 Strategic Plan, next 4 years align with administrative priorities; plan should be available for review in the fall
* The Agency is developing an Executive Order comprehensive for reorganization for executive branch, ways to improve effectiveness for reformed plans; will be rolled into overall government reform plan (LEAN tools & permitting) efficiency, transparency
* Finalizing comments for the FY2018-2019 OAR NPM (National Project Managers) guidance by the end of September 2017

***OAQPS/Steve Page and Laura McKelvey:***

* Clean Power Plan (CPP) has pending court case at supreme court level; did EPA do good enough job of using cost; developed proposal; administer looking at the rule, Admin claims it should have stayed with facility
* Toxics - court ordered toxics rules for technology and NOx reduction / MACT (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) rule, half way through
* NSPS (New Source Performance Standards) – oil and gas; petitions for reconsiderations granted; comment period closed 2 weeks ago; the new administration does not like Federal Implementation Plan (FIP); permits are tied to that outcome; is required by the federal government
* Ozone non-attainment issues and discussion are ongoing
* Wood Heaters – implementing rule (targeted airsheds and changeout programs); legal challenges, particulate matter (PM) violations; opportunity for funding; Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) money provides changeouts; pulled by Administrator – stay tuned, don’t know future
* Regional Haze – tried to streamline implementation; under legal challenges
* NATA – air toxics inventory; coming out in spring
* Tracking Mercury Emissions – will keep us updated
* Court order rules phosphoric acid manufacturing
* Designations – SO2 is complete
* Ozone NAAQS - delayed actions by Administrator, tribes with TAS (Treatment as State); tribes should see 120-day letter soon
* Voluntary ozone advance program continues to move forward; avoid going into non-attainment
* 60 outreach/consultations were held last year
* Training for TAS and wildfire preparedness
* 3-part series on the NAAQS was conducted; want to do a 3-part series on permitting
* Want feedback on future webinars and how to give fundamentals to tribal reps
* 31 applications for community-scale air toxics grants are being reviewed
* Technical assistance - Working on how to improve the TSA-LEAN process
* Appendix W – monitoring technical guidance for NO2
* Region 8 and Tribes are discussing how to balance air quality issues with income generation by the tribes.

***OTAQ/Lee Cook:***

* VW Settlement – 600,000 vehicles affected with Defeat devices / 2.7 B dollars
* DOJ filed trust agreement, parties have not signed yet; provided to court for approval on September 6; tribes will have 90 days from the trust effective date (TED) to request funds for the first year only; thereafter, following years will have a September 1st submittal date
* Projects that reduce NOx to protect public health
* 10 eligible mitigation actions / voluntary
* Jennifer Keller or Lee Cook – let them know if webinar is needed
* ITEP will provide technical assistance for non-DERA projects
* Recipients must submit audit reports; Trustee is receiving annual audit and accountability to the court
* Can tribes request their own audit on trustee? Lee will look into it
* When will fact sheets be released? Lee doesn’t have specific knowledge but will know more after court’s finalization
* DERA program – FY2016: 1.5 Mill / Six tribal awards over three regions
* 1.5 Mill is available again, Draft of tribal DERA RFP is being reviewed; making its way through internal process; should go out Sep 26, 2017; close by Feb 2018

***OAP/Reid Harvey and Erika Wilson:***

* Cross-State Air Pollution Rule – intent to reduce summer emissions from NOx, ozone pollution, down to 2008 Ozone level; rule took effect this year (2017 ozone season), but litigation is underway and proceeding; nine reconsideration petitions
* NOx emissions down 11% lower emissions this year than last year, should be in compliance
* AQ (Air Quality) Monitoring - CASTNET (Clean Air Status and Trends Network) – 3 full tribal sites, 3 smaller footprint sites on tribes; concentration of ammonia monitoring network
* Assist communities / technical support for tribal greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting
* 5 year cooperative agreement with Morongo and Pala Band; benefits for multiple tribes
* EPA providing immediate relief for hurricane Harvey and Irma; mold prevention; IAQ info being put forth for longer term type of actions needed
* National Climate Assessment Report to be published; there is a tribal section

***ORIA/John Edwards and Dave Rowson:***

* Bill Thompson has joined ORIA EPA on a temporary assignment
* Utilize the findings and recommendations from the NTAA IAQ Needs Assessment
* Federal – Tribal Collaboration – 3 federal partners: HUD, HHS, USDA in collaboration with Native American Housing Council (NAHC); two prong collaboration project; build tribal capacity
* Access resources and collaboration - 6,000 subscribers thru social media platform; HUD’s grant announced
* Next IAQ course being held by ITEP in September is already full; 19 are on wait listed for a training course in October, to be held somewhere in Region 6
* Indoor Air Plus – Osage tribe has built 15 new energy-efficient homes
* Radon – priority for ORIA - 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year; National Radon Action Plan w/ ALA making progress; Aug 23 EPA publishes notice asking for public comment for credential radon mitigation providers; looking at administrative waivers for 40% match
* 8 tribes awarded radon grants in 2016
* Asthma – address enviro triggers; success story in upper mid-west; in collaboration with the American Lung Association (ALA); 26 tribes on asthma induced reduction project; indoor air assessment; capacity building, education and assess and remediate; 120 indoor home assessments
* 11 summits successful – 15 states and tribal nations; expanded network; stop it at source of triggers (in home)
* Navajo Wood Stoves – 2015 settlement with 4 Corners PP; $3.2 million replacement program; 700 change out stoves; additional 1.5 million to weatherize stoves; collaborate with Region 9 and TAMS; monitor pre and post work to compare results
* Radiation – Subpart W finalized; radon emissions from uranium mill tailing; upgrade old rule signed by administrator by December
* Uranium Extraction from aquifer – comment period extended to mid-October
* Kris Ray – wildfire smoke intrusion into homes/structures – how to get indoor air ready; what’s the EPA effort to address this? Answer: resource available; last week sponsored indoor PM, updating the guidance on PM in regards to wildfires; releasing public documents soon; NTAA IAQ to be tracking this

**Discussion with Felicia Wright/Andrew BACA – AIEO**

**FY18 Budget Update –**

* Original budget had deep cuts for EPA
* Some cuts in IGAP (Indian General Assistance Program)
* House appropriations committee had markup of 7.52 B; 1.7 B higher than President’s budget which would restore a lot of the EPA budget
* Full house expected to vote on EPA Appropriations Bill, part of Omnibus Bill
* Senate, mark up in mid-Sep, floor action until end of year
* Expect continuing resolution

**FY19 Budget** –

* EPA will submit to OMB (Office of Management and Budget) at any time now – looking @ February 5, 2018 submission to Congress/President
* International negotiation on budget
* Kris Ray: cautioned in using term “priority” as everything he does is a priority; additionally, National Tribal Caucus (NTC) does not always voice the opinions or perspectives of all tribes

**Strategic Plan** – there will be a new strategic plan and draft will be published for comment soon. Two calls will be set up, and letters will be sent to all tribes.

NTOC meeting on October 11, 2017 – Administrator will be attending this meeting; how to maintain momentum and leverage programs; need to define cooperative federalism from a tribal perspective; states have outlined 9 principles; EPA AIEO wants to help define this and look at tools for programs to stay strong; 32 tribes don’t receive IGAP and its failing in EPA R9; funds should stay within R9; EPA allocates based on national model; funds would stay within region. Joe Cebe: commented that air funds not be transferred over to water, etc.; GAP is stand-alone funds and can’t move it into a separate pot of funds/programs. NTAA R6 Rep: could TAMS be a partnership group to NTC? They are aware of Tribal needs in air quality and request to be added as partnership.

**Debrief with Pat/Laura on EPA updates** –

* Concerns with doing effective consultation – ORIA; OAQPS/Laura – will help out with engagement; consultation letters – sends emails to environmental department, then letter to tribal leaders
* Subpart W issue should be sent out to tribal water quality folks too
* Budget 101 webinar would be helpful
* Question #3. Pat sent out question to EPA staff to get response
* Laura: Woodstove change out – possibly form a work group; testing new stoves and will get report to NTAA and TAMS
* Steve: Tribes applied for “targeted airshed program” in non-attainment areas due to woodstoves, indoor/outdoor air issues; possibly develop new model to showcase; many would like to see a DERA like program for woodstoves
* NTAA R7 Rep: include woodstove issue in the 2018 STAR; data on how a woodstove change out will be included or addressed; partnership with state/tribal?
* Contact Mike King (Four Corners Settlement) – to inquire about best practices; Nez Perce and Oneida may also have experiences to share
* TREX – will continue to maintain service/support for a year
* Sensors – could they be used around Superfund sites?
* Laura: Policy for hardship waiver issue; she’ll look for an old draft document that was initiated by William Bradley

Joint TAMS/NTAA Meeting Adjourned.

**2017 Fall TAMS Steering Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017 - Afternoon**

**Welcome/Invocation** - The meeting was called to order by Craig Kreman; he shared his final thoughts. The agenda was approved with a minor change to add the TREX network update. The TAMS SC members elected Shaina White as Chairperson and Frank Spurgeon as Vice-Chair.

**New Member Orientation** – Farshid covered expected requirements and mentions that it is great to have representative from Region 8; the last time Region 8 was represented was 2008. Chris reviewed the SC charter. Pat reviewed how the TAMS Center is funded (AIAQTP grant) and discussed how courses are chosen. Camille mentioned the 8-hour refresher for HAZWOPER is no longer available at the local university.

**Regional Discussions and Recommendations –**

**Kris Ray, Colville Tribe – Region 10**

* Wildfire smoke issues, coastal and inland tribes affected. Working on webinar course to assist tribes on how to deal with smoke issues; James and Chris on planning committee.
* Monitoring equipment upgrades – upgraded to BAM 1022; set up takes long.
* Region 10 partnerships – How do we participate on a national scale? How do we follow through? Currently working with Mehrdad.
* Region 10 Tribal Newsletter – only air issue mentioned was a list of ITEP courses; work on expanding and mention on October meeting.
* Capacity issue – woodstove change out; small grants, etc., how to build.
* Funding – in their region, if cut 10%, they will lose some air programs.

**Shaina White, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona – Region 9**

* Gila River was dealing with guidance on setting up boundaries for ozone designations. Laura – update and put clarity on setting boundaries on 2015 policy for next round of designations; will recognize that tribes can determine their own boundaries (won’t necessarily be at the county level).
* City of Scottsdale wanted to expand their airshed to include tribal areas, but the city can’t do that… it would be the tribe or the governor.
* Funding – tribes can help other tribes – Ak-Chin has 2 dust tracks; be open and communicate with your neighboring tribes.

**Nicole Johnson, – Region 10 - AK**

* Getting communication out to Alaska villages will be a big challenge; plan on presentation of TAMS at ATCEM.
* Issues with funding due to high turnover rates. Alaska is so large, each area has its own issues, i.e., road dust, diesel for heat and power; IAQ issues.
* Pebble mine debate – concerned with mine located near Bristol Bay; looking at clean water act; air quality issues and concerns.

**April Hathcoat, Cherokee Nation – Region 6**

* Funding – rollovers
* Delaware Nation ozone shut down.
* Choctaw will get funding.
* Ozone alert for OK; sites low; may shut down one of the sites.

**Frank Spurgeon, La Jolla Band of Luisueno Indians – Region 9**

* Funding is biggest concern; most people have issues with funding.
* Manzanita needed help with audits; may be requesting equipment from TAMS for flow audits (volume metric flow calibrator)

**Joe Cebe, Forrest County Potawatomi - Region 5**

* Frack sand mining – only Ho-Chunk is monitoring for it using their own monitors. Other tribes would also like to monitor but may not be able to due to possible reduction in funds.
* Experiencing odd ozone readings; large areas report unusually low during the middle of the day.
* Mercury recycling plant had a release on July 4; cause high ozone readings and 20ng mercury readings. Glenn mentions that mercury can mess up your ozone analyzer.

**TAMS Center Activity Updates -**

**Melinda Ronca-Battista** –

* QAPP “How to Course” – include videos, examples, links; there will be 9 modules and it will be a self-paced course.
* Tribal Data Toolbox – for VW settlement; working on calculator tool for diesel retrofit/NOx emissions; on hold pending decision.
* Developing Toolbox with Angelique (New Toolbox version is amazing) – Air Vision and TREX to track data; interactive validation system; AQI calculations and completeness reports; will be the next course; self-paced; new features.

**Angelique Luedeker** –

* New Toolbox Version – allows you to import text file or spreadsheet; can name and save file.
* AQI reports – all data imported in toolbox to show value; will flag repetitive values; updated ozone NAAQS standard reports; should be done by the end of the year.
* Issues submitting data to the NEI – location field error; trying to add a location field when you submit data for tribes – EPA should have a fix soon.

**Glenn Gehring** –

* A total of five PA’s were scheduled over the next six weeks: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Leech Lake, Lower Sioux, Hualapai and Hoopa Valley Tribe.
* GIS for Air Quality Course is scheduled for April 2017; will review presentation and will need to revise exercise due to new updated software; James Payne is tribal instructor.
* Fundamentals of Air Monitoring course scheduled February 6-8, 2018.
* Announcement was made that he will be retiring June 2018 – advise people to apply for his position
* Will continue to work on videos before he retires; already completed one video.

**TAMS Equipment Loan Program -**

Farshid reported that Alfonso is working on certifying and calibrating equipment. The Navajo Wood Stove Change Out project has started; Mike King, Navajo Nation is lead; project is for two years, winter months; pretest; dual purpose burning stove; coal switch to wood; found manufacturer in England that can make stove switch from coal to wood; testing is being done for existing technology; per Laura, testing this week; working on final report. Region 9 IED/ORIA/OAR has funding for IAQ monitors, Dusttrak and particle counter; TAMS Center to prepare PR for purchase; to be done by October 1; 70 families selected; will be done in phases.

**TREX Network Update** –

Chris reported that Walker River did not get funded for their EN grant and they were funding the entire TREX network for 17 tribes. Sutron manages the network, and ITEP houses the servers. Some money was found (per Pat) to keep the network going. Chris will set up a call for early next week for agreement on how they want to continue this network moving forward.

**Tribal Caucus -** Meeting session for TAMS SC voting members.

**Joint TAMS Steering Committee/NTAA Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

**Strategic Discussion -** Tribal planning meeting/June 14th, 2017 – reviewed notes and action items. Had to apply what we’ve been doing to what EPA wants us to do, using their language. Pat – what’s missing from the NPM guidance is more telling than what is there.Laura – white paper on tribal air program and EPA priorities. Three components covered:

1. Rule of law
2. Cooperative federalism
3. Public participation

Reviewed infographic that will go along with white paper. Need to update some of the numbers; should have better numbers for monitoring sites after Frank gets the information from Region 8. Add number of tribes/individuals who have taken classes at the TAMS Center/ITEP. How will this be presented? Could be used by any of the tribal organizations as a starting point. Erika – used pictochart (free resource). Ann Marie to have Ty work with Erika Wilson on modifying and finalizing tribal graphics. Laura to finish up the numbers, and will turn over the project to Andy/Ann Marie. Core group/subcommittee – Caroline, Craig, Andy, Will, Shaina, Brandy. Want this to be completed before October 11th meeting. Scott Clow/NTC – not sure of agenda yet.

Also reviewed action item list from the meeting.

Will – need to get all of the partnership groups together, regardless of media.

Pat – how often do we want to have this joint meeting with NTAA/TAMS?

**TAC Updates –**

**Region 10 – Mehrdad:** Strong relationship and good communication with tribes in Region 10 and office; good representation on committees. Struggle with funding – not enough to go around; not able to update old monitors/equipment often, but do make that a priority when funding is available. What support would make tribal programs more successful? Will look for other funding channels elsewhere and form other partnerships where possible.

**Region 9 – Sara Bartholomew/Lauren:** Find loaner equipment from TAMS very helpful; could use more. 1. A lot of turnover, which sets the program back. Some tribes still having trouble entering data into AQS. Have ended two tribal grants due to poor performance. 2. Like to see where resources are leveraged. 3. Added two new tribes when the other two grants ended. Some tribes do work under GAP funding. 4. Not productive to speculate. Wilfred: were the two tribes whose grant ended monitoring? They were supposed to be; had procured equipment a while ago. Don’t have a condition for equipment return. Region 7 was told that they have to return old equipment when it is replaced. Region 1 questions – how many tribes actually want to monitor? Some tribes in southern California collaborate to share equipment. Laura – the need outstrips the funding

**Region 8 – Kyle Olson**: No tribes outright failing, but some struggling. QAPPs – currently low rate and will start getting some through. Most successful tribes have been trained and know their projects and their needs. Fear that we’ll have less funding in the future… not sure where they would cut. Have a lot of indoor air issues; IAQ is a huge priority.

**Region 7 – Paula Higbee**: Nine recognized tribes, seven with grant. Two are struggling, and was not refunded for the following year. Working to update QAPPs and get them approved. Most tribes have equipment that they need and have MET stations. No capacity under GAP at all. Capacity building is built into their air grant. Only speculation about funding; will deal with it when it comes. Brandon – have looked to other agencies for funding opportunities – have received funding from ANTHC.

Are other tribes aware of why the other tribe was unsuccessful so they could avoid the same pitfalls?

**Region 6 – Aunjanee:** Issue with one tribe not submitting progress reports. 18 grants application received, generally able to fund 11-14 grants. Roll money when possible. Not able to tap into additional funds in GAP this year. Future funding approach: haven’t had issues yet… if they have to prioritize, it will be 105 grants and then those that are monitoring. Region 6 lets everyone keep their monitoring equipment.

**Region 5 – Ben/Avi/Monica:** Small tribal team in Region 5. 17 active air grants, 7 are 105 grants (these are considered monitoring programs). Lot of demands for funds – far exceeds the funding available. Two or three tribes struggle due to turnover/inability to recruit new staff. Support - Training and leveraging resources is important – have the inter-tribal council of Michigan, leveraging resources. Tribes with best programs tend to collaborate with state programs. The tighter the work plan, the easier to follow and track their progress. Also, they need to be realistic. Made best attempt in FY17 to keep 105 grants funded.

**Region 4 – Anna Oquendo/Mario:** 6 federally recognized tribes – 5 have air programs. 2-3 tribes are struggling due to turnover or decreased funding. Issues with training new personnel and passing on information. Tribe in region 4 could use trainings about how to work with other departments or other organizations. Continue to provide networking opportunities. Some tribes are having trouble getting their grant application packages together. Mostly funding building capacity and training for new tribes, but this has impacted the original tribe (which is 105). Will likely become more competitive. Ultimately award below what is requested. Not sure how they would manage a 30% cut. Brandon/Region 10 – tribes can join a conservation district for more funding opportunities

**Region 2/Brian:** Only one tribe active in air monitoring – older relationship. Support – a lot of topics deal with indoor air pollution; mold; demo of older homes; need more support with IAQ issues. Had discussion with tribe regarding grant reduction. Two or three tribes with GAP have air goals written into them, but don’t receive CAA funding.

**Region1/Eugene Benoit:** 10 tribes – funded 6 to 7. One tribe has failed due to governance issues, but other tribes doing a great job. Run a non-competitive program. Want 103 programs to apply for 105, but most are not interested. Air funds have gone down. Loss of funding in other areas put strain on air funds as well. Thinks every tribe should evaluate data every 5 years, but most won’t do it without additional funds (say it will cost around $60K to do one).

**Review of FY2018 Courses – Pat Ellsworth**

* Discussion of changes and additions to FY2018 schedule
* IAQ course has 20 in class and 19 on the waitlist. Because of this, will hold the course again in Albuquerque (possibly) Didn’t want to impose on Creek Nation twice by holding it in OK again
* May have to move management course depending on NTF
* Virtual Mode: any environmental data that is used, only St. Regis using it now; training on this was discussed
* Are there training resources available for radiation exposure from Fukishima and N. Korea in AK? Tribal leaders were asking about how they could prepare for that. Tribes in R6 asked about exposure from radiation due to Jackpile mine being listed as a superfund site. Ed: lab will make equipment available
* How could tribes monitor for radioactive releases? Ute Mountain Ute does it
* AK tribes are interested in this; TAMS offered this kind of training in the part – Fundamentals of Radiation Exposure
* Not all tribes have enough bandwidth for online courses, but a lot of tribes really appreciate them due to lack of travel dollars
* Laura – NM tribes would like some webinars on the CAA, but would like in-person meeting on permits
* Angela – need course on submitting to AQS via the virtual node. Person who built their node is no longer there
* Lydia Scheer discussed ideas for NTF and asked for feedback on any training ideas for the future. Monday trainings have strained the conference budget so may alter funding for that extra day. NTAA R5 Rep heard feedback that folks found the Monday trainings helpful.
* Laura – Talked about upcoming trainings on policy based issues; National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), budget training, etc.

**Opportunities to Provide Services to Tribal Air Programs –**

**How can ITEP, NTAA and TAMS continue to meet the needs of tribal programs in the context of perceived changes?**

**IAQ Discussion/Update –**

TAMS updates – in 2008, people indicated that IAQ was becoming an issue on reservations. Everyone really likes the hands-on training in homes, but it is hard to find homes to use. In 2012, Jed became tribal liaison for ORIA and worked with the TAMS Center. Ordered equipment and offered first level II course in 2013. Have developed quick-start guide for equipment, and it has gone so well that they are loaning more IAQ tools than ambient. Camille – some of the reservation homes have way more issues than the homes used during the course. Angela – how do you present your finding to the homeowner? Farshid – communication is an art, numbers are not usually good. They do have some sessions that address this. Mansel has done several walk-throughs that have been helpful. Camille – Mansel suggested opening windows at the school to let in fresh air, but the windows didn’t open. Mansel does PAs when requested. Pat – are PAs more important than the class? But you may not know that you need a PA without the class.

Carol/NTAA update – October 19th webinar – meth in homes. Presenter said he also would be interested in going to NTF. Camille – you can test home with test strips – it measures several things along with meth.

What should NTAA do now? See questionnaire results paper. Will revamp webpage.

Pat sees a disconnect between our priorities and what he hears from regions. Wil – sometimes when things need to be done, they just get done and aren’t reported. Pat – IAQ not being funded on pres bud, but war on drugs is important. Need to relate IAQ to the drug problem (cleaning up meth houses). Carol – hoarding is also an issue.

**VW settlement partnership –**

Workgroup actions – insurance letter and tax on income issue letter. Insurance was covered by the state… not an issue anymore. Pilar is going to tackle the tax question. IRS told DOJ they had to tax it this way. We just want clarification on this issue. Andy – settlement can be amended down the road if necessary. Ann-Marie - ITEP to meet with trustee this Friday at 1:00; it has been delayed because the funding wasn’t there for the meeting. Let Carolyn or Andy know if there are any questions.

Tribal Advisory Council - $30K for the whole six years

What is goal of TAC? What is the makeup? Is there a conflict of interest for tribes that serve on the TAC? Goal of TAC will be different than the workgroup. Will wait until after the meeting on Friday to determine who will be on the TAC.

Would be good to know which tribes have applied for funding and what they have done. Dana – there is a placeholder on the website for this.

**What is working and what is not? –**

* Funding has been trending downward
* High turnover in Indian Country
* In Region 9, 1 in 5 tribes won’t receive GAP funds.
* What can we do differently? How can we show a need? Have we done a needs assessment for air programs? Laura – we ask regions to let us know how many tribes have applied and did not get funded, but did not get very far.
* Inconsistencies among the EPA regions; need to have regional consistency for EPA to do a better job training their staff (TACs) in how to work effectively with tribes
* Seek funds from other entities outside EPA such as HUD for IAQ funds (Tribal liaison is Hilary Atkin), non-profits (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), USDA Tribal Conservation District, Fish and Wildlife, BLM; ask these other entities and say that we used to do all these things until this administration, can you help?
* Seek other resources (partnering with NACAA (National Association of Clean Air Agencies)/states)
* Nowhere in the guidance does it reflect the 1984 Indian policy
* Could tribes set up an equipment fund in each region?
* Is the ETEP (EPA Tribal Environmental Plan) helpful to tribes in filling the need for AQ programs? It’s an unfunded mandate; AK: put all possible tasks/activities into ETEP; uses sections of it for grant applications; ETEPs beneficial to some, others ignore them all, pick challenges, find they don’t use the documents at all; too many unknowns, not enough flexibility; strategic plans don’t always reflect; budget and planning not linked or aligned
* How to get tribes new monitors – are there ways we can do monitoring jobs more effectively; possibly funding a particular state/tribe within a region, on a rotational system (has been used in infrastructure funding)

Meeting adjourned.

**Thursday, September 14, 2017**

**TAMS SC Joint Meeting Debrief** –

**What was good about the meeting, and what can be improved?**

* Joe – what is the plan for replacing Glenn? Are we going to try and hire someone before he leaves? Chris – they’ve been on the lookout for someone who could potentially replace him. They’ve made contact with a few people; they don’t want to pull anyone away from a tribe. They want this person to shadow Glenn before he leaves. Also, Glenn has offered to come back as a contractor for more difficult PAs if necessary.
* Kris - TAC call was really good, was good to see how the NTAA EC functions, and they really appreciated the TAC call. Not all TACs seemed to have good relationships with their tribal partners. Pat – there are some things that you can’t teach. Farshid – Many TACs have their hearts in the right place, but they don’t have the skill to work with tribes.
* Maybe provide PA for grant assistance/management? But would really need another person.
* James – helps if TACs can visit your tribe.
* Some regions have cooperative agreements instead of grants.
* Ann Marie – could we have answers in writing ahead of time before the TAC conversation? Ed – anything in writing could potentially be FOIA’d.
* Shaina – worries that TACs weren’t communicating with the tribes that were cut in Region 9.
* It was a bit much for a new SC member to come in to this joint meeting versus just a TAMS SC meeting; should have separate TAMS meeting the first day, especially for new members before joint meeting; need prep calls prior to meeting to prepare new members

**Ex-Officio Discussion and recommendations –**

Pat Childers **–**Not much further advance on our budget than we were in June. Staff is still doing their job until they are specifically told not to (indoor air, climate change).

Ed Wilds– with the latest natural disasters, it has put EPA in a different light.

James Payne – technical guidance update – still waiting on update from AQS team and modeling team. Issue with Dropbox. Would be good to have more tribal stories… created questionnaire to distribute through the TAMS Center. This will be a living document; could we possible host a webpage with more stories? Chris – can host on the TAMS website.

James – NPAP/PEP field scientists program through the TAMS Center – would receive some equipment from Region 9 to use for audits. Trying to figure out status of equipment. Certification training for Region 9 PQAO members.

James – new trends report: <https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2017/#highlights>

How can Arthur Zuco incorporate tribes into this report? Also, can access source code through GITHUB (link on webpage).

Tribal webpage – could this be a tribal E-Enterprise project? Would need formal request to Lydia. What is web address?

James – good to have Amanda Kaufman on next TAMS SC call and have her present on sensors. She is planning on int’l conference in Southern California in Sept. 2018. Would like a tribal professional on the planning committee. 919-541-2388 kaufman.amanda@epa.gov. Could put out a question on the listserv.

Working on disposal of old BAM instruments. Ask state if they’ve ever dispose of a Thermo instrument. Ed – compact law will not allow you ship across compact lines. Could find vendors that recycle the source.

Woodstove studies – report pending.

Chris – working on Dropbox issue

Ann Marie Chischilly – looking at courses and the way we deliver services. More hybrid courses may be offered.

Writing is powerful; continue to develop documents. ITEP had a workshop on Monday; had exercise where they gave affirmations to each other. Staff later told her that was exactly what they needed, and she had no idea.

Monika Lacka – may get request to modify your workplan; there are certain trigger words you cannot use (climate change, indoor air, etc.).

Ed – TEISS program has been funded; will be moved to the cloud. Working on a PO for $50K for the woodstove study; also wanted to buy equipment that can be used by tribe after the study. Updated computers in the learning center; working on purchasing new furniture. NCRFO is pulling in Farshid on calls where remediation involves tribes.

Needs assessment – Shaina

Need to come up with appropriate action items gleaned from needs assessment information. Kris – need a draft report. Shaina – still working on the report, should have draft soon.

Farshid – Alfonso started July 5th

Equipment loan webpage – ready to get back on the project. Want to be live by the end of the year.

**Direction of the TAMS Center –**

* Make sure current services are going in the right direction; keep current and update any changes and add to TAMS to do list i.e. VW Settlement
* Adding or changing current TAMS services
* Succession planning for SC members and Glenn’s position (June 2018); Pat Ellsworth, Dennis Wall will also be leaving June 2018
* James to eventually succeed Laura
* 3 SC member positions ending term Sept, 30, 2018; Joe, April, Kris; suggestion to start recruiting; Cherylyn Atcitty, Taos Pueblo, Melanie Larson, Choctaw; Monika suggest TACs to recruit; need reps from Region 2 (Angela Benedict suggest her new assistant to take ITEP courses and apply for SC)
* How to Promote TAMS services more effectively; usually known through ITEP
* Suggestion for coordinating mini satellite TAMS center in Alaska (Nicole) offer specialized training courses specific to Alaska; partner with ANTHC to reach out to 229 tribes
* Need for more PA for Alaska
* Training in Alaska more specific to tribes; need more advance courses applicable to their work plan
* Suggestion for TAMS to provide post webinar training for how to communicate IAQ data report to homeowners per Angela Benedict’s question; PA support on data mgmt., analysis available for tribes find ways how to best report out to homeowners; possibly have a page you fill out that will populate graphs; Jed might be able to assist with this; Ed – can’t really have a template for risk
* Request ORIA for more support work on IAQ needs; find IAQ expert; get IED engaged with tribal work; use TAMS for other tribal work suggested by Pat

**Meeting Closeout –**

Caucus report out – mostly discussed the joint meeting, which we discussed earlier today. With the change in administration, it seemed timely to have one. May not be necessary to have one very several more years.

**Final Business and Set Fall 2017 Meeting Date-**

**Action Items:**

* Send email invite to NTAA EC for next TAMS SC Call, September 20
* Recommendations for Tribal Advisory Council: define roles; negotiating all summer.
* Write up EPA success story for NCRFO for Star report.

Spring 2018 In-person meeting date set for March 6-8.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos