**Spring TAMS Steering Committee Meeting**

**Las Vegas**

**March 6-8, 2018**

**In attendance:**

Joe Cebe, Pat Childers, Ann Marie Chischilly, Farshid Farsi, April Hathcoat, Nicole Johnson, Monika Lacka, Chris Lee, James Payne, Camille QuickBear, Kris Ray, Darlene Santos, Shaina White, Ed Wilds, Jr.

**Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

**Welcome and Introductions –**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shaina White. Chris Lee gave the invocation, and everyone was welcomed.

**Review and Approval of Agenda** –

The agenda was approved.

**Regional Discussions and Recommendations –**

* What are the needs in the next 1 ½ years?
* What can we do differently?

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

* Fon du Lac would like to do some VOC monitoring (issues with odor); beginning to implement project
* Filter based monitoring is going the way of the dinosaur; continuous data is much more valuable
* State is going to switch to Teledyne 640s, which means the tribes will switch as well
* How much does TAMS spend to do gravimetric work?
* Could those funds be better suited for use somewhere else?
* What can TAMS do to help situation with pm 2.5; actions of TAMS and SC members; decide which direction we want to see TAMS move; gravimetric lab funding should be used for pm 2.5

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

* **Draft EPA Policy on Direct Charges for Proposal Preparation Costs –** The draft policy does not allow for direct charges of proposal preparation costs for intertribal consortia GAP recipients. However, a consortium could provide assistance to member tribes with proposal preparation as a form of technical assistance (potential conflict?). Individual tribes may charge proposal preparation costs directly to the GAP assistance agreement with prior approval.
* **Ambient air monitoring**
* AQS – Cherokee Nation Environmental Program (CNEP) still provides assistance with AQS issues, but these are typically problems related with errors. EPA hosts a quarterly AQS tribal call; if you are registered in AQS and identify as a tribal user, you should be on the invite. If you are not receiving invites, contact Pamela McIntyre at [Mcintyre.pamela@epa.gov](mailto:Mcintyre.pamela@epa.gov) or 919-294-0114.
* Proposals were due on February 16th; I really have no idea what to expect this year with funding.
* Several tribes attended the Region 6 Air Monitoring Partners Workshop in October in Dallas.
* **State of OK NESHAP Delegation Request –** Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) requested in the delegation of authority that non-reservation areas of Indian country be included.
* **Grants.gov -** Applicants are no longer able to download the older, single PDF application package of forms for submission as of December 2017; they must now use grants.gov Workspace. For any funding opportunities where applicants have downloaded the legacy PDF application package, they will be able to continue to submit that package until March 31st, 2018. For now, the Cherokee Nation grants office will fill out the online forms and submit the application for us, rather than granting us access. The information can be found on the following page: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/grants-gov-notices.html>.
* **Ambient Air Protocol Gas Verification Program (AA-PGVP)** – This only applies to organizations that use gas cylinders. The recently signed monitoring rule (published on 03-28-2016; effective 04-27-2016) contained two revisions that directly impact the AA-PGVP:
* The **required** completion of an annual survey of the gas standards used by monitoring organizations in their program through the Battelle website.
* The **required** participation in the program by sending one unused gas standard to one of the two regional air verification laboratories (RAVLs) **once every 5 years**. When the program was first implemented, monitoring organizations were allowed to volunteer to send standards to the RAVLs.
* **VW settlement** – The first round of funding closed on January 2nd, but tribes can apply for the next round that closes on September 1st. Twenty-nine tribes were designated as beneficiaries in the first round of funding, including several in region 6. The NTAA VW Settlement Work Group webpage can be accessed at <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntaa/VWSettlement/Index/>.
* **Sensor technology** – CNEP completed a sensor study using the Aeroqual units; initially, two were set up at our Pryor site, and two were set up at the Cherokee Nation Vinita Health Clinic. One of the units at the Pryor site malfunctioned and had to be returned to the manufacturer. The other units performed well. We have asked for two PurpleAir sensors in next year’s grant; Quapaw already runs one at their air monitoring site.
* **Exchange Network (EN)/E-Enterprise (EE)** – CNEP has an Exchange Network grant and participates on the EN Tribal Governance Group (TGG) and the Interoperability and Operations Team (IOT). Micco Emarthla is the Region 6 EELC (E-Enterprise Leadership Council) representative.

**Camille QuickBear, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate – Region 8**

* No updates at this time.

**Frank Spurgeon, La Jolla Band of Luisueno Indians – Region 9 (given by Shaina)**

* Turnover is an issue in Region 9, 140 tribes
* Developed an SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) for his program for smooth transition if he ever leaves
* Does TAMS have SOP courses?
* Could TAMS have different tracks for beginning courses (air, program management, etc.)? Perhaps provide examples on the website
* AQS (Air Quality System) and data validation – some new people working with AQS and tribal data toolbox feel that some of the videos are too advanced; some of these people will need PA (professional assistance) support; good idea to have a list of mentors available
* Update on PQAO (Primary Quality Assurance Organization) – moving slow due to work schedule, but still moving forward; hope to have document submitted to EPA by end of fiscal year
* Southern California Air Monitoring Collaborative – tribes meet quarterly and provide PA when needed (monitor maintenance, data validation, etc.); this collaborative could cut down on some of the PA requests; has TAMS offered course on how to collaborate, or is this part of another course?

**Action Item**: Melinda Ronca-Battista to contact Frank and work together to clarify assistance. TAMS to make effort to put tribal professional in contact with TAMS staff for assistance. Also, direct people to TAMS listserv to share information.

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

* Funding is big unknown; good for two more years; worried about 10% cut; cut with programs
* Technical EPA staff are going extinct; need better interactions with EPA; there’s a need to find out who is new at EPA; positions change often and no notice sent; figure out how TAMS can help with getting information out; Pat suggests to contact him if no one else is providing information on regional contacts
* Tribal programs rely on TAMS and EPA for capacity building, especially when there’s one person in tribe
* Need technical background assistance
* National partnerships – can be unrealistic for tribal partnerships, but local partnerships work well; also, education outreach
* Use of sensors could be a good screening tool; James mentioned that Gerald Jones BIA/Forestry (Pacific Region) is a good tribal advocate
* NACAA (National Association of Clean Air Agencies) starting a sensors workgroup; Pat suggests that NACAA join TAMS SC calls

**Nicole Johnson, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska– Region 10**

* Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) – 75 and 30 people attended her TAMS presentation at two different meetings
* Feedback received from tribes:
* no funding; how can we do more;
* need more local trainings; only one air quality course offered per year;
* northwest: what are diesel and crude oil plants?
* Lots of lung conditions; not sure what pollutants to look for or ask for
* tundra starting to melt; is there concern?
* Health concern issues with heavy metals along road side; how do we measure that
* issues are different in every area
* fishing communities: boats not meeting standards
* how do we address haze from idling boats?
* concerns with processing plants; what are they putting out? What are Emissions levels; how can we address concerns?
* Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is sole regional technical assistant; not enough local assistance.
* Can more programs be offered online? Ann Marie: which technology works best for Alaska tribes? Flash-drive?
* there are bandwidth limits in Alaska
* ITEP planning more hybrid courses; jump drive/disc will work best per Nicole
* Could there be a database created for Alaska tribes?
* Maybe use LEO (Local Environmental Observers) network as a model? (LEO is now international, not just Alaska specific). University of Fairbanks could be a good partner. Fairbanks is only area in non-attainment.
* Chris: Melinda went the effort of putting QA support resources into an on-line course; She has attempted to develop a self-installing/running program to take you thru progression of course, however, need more in-house expertise to develop this type of resource; help to facilitate information with states; could develop the Introduction to Air Quality for Alaska tribes as a regional course
* Chris: There’s a gap in technical support due to funding; Alaska villages don’t have land base to exert regulatory authority; need to work with local state office; could develop process to work cooperatively with states; help tribes to address issues; have information available in central data base accessible to tribes;

**Ex-Officio Discussion and Recommendations –**

**ORIA (Office of Radiation and Indoor Air)/Jon Edwards –**

* Bill Wehrum. has a very strong interest in tribal work; he spent over an hour sharing his thoughts at the NTAA meeting, and wanted to know more about the work ORIA does with tribes
* Acknowledged work with Navajo Nation on woodstove changeout project
* Minimizing indoor air quality triggers are also important
* Still on continuing resolution until March 23rd
* FY18 budget did not include indoor air/radon, but Congress proposals do include these programs
* Appreciates the indoor air quality and technical services needs assessments that NTAA and TAMS have conducted

**OAR (Office of Air and Radiation)/Pat Childers –**

* This has been a long transition
* Bill Wehrum does know the CAA and advocates for staff
* Have two budgets, neither are great – hoping Congress will pass a budget that is better
* Strategic plan is reflective of the president’s budget
* Needs to know what should be in the new RFP… should TREX (Tribal Exchange Network) be in there? Other things? What works and what doesn’t?
* Will be putting out RFP in another year
* Take products we are working on a put them out front (monitor list, monitoring guide, needs assessment)
* Joint NTAA/TAMS meeting was beneficial, but not necessary to have every year

**NCRFO (National Center for Radiation Field Operations)/Ed Wilds** –

* Getting ready to onboard a new technical position - because it is a contract, don’t have issues that would occur with an EPA employee (under hiring freeze right now)
* Kent Bartholomew will be returning as TAMS Equipment Manager
* Gravimetric service program – have not had a lot of tribes participate in the program; few years back, certain amount of funding; put into TAMS funding; prioritize use of funding; looking for recommendations with funding moving forward
* Consider other priorities that tribes have
* May have solution for the Met One EBAM disposal; some companies have a recycling license; tribes to send back to company for disposal; should post on website to inform tribes
* Making concerted efforts in including TAMS Center information whenever NCRFO advertises with other entities, i.e. banners for conferences, etc.

**EPA Regional TAC (Tribal Air Coordinator)/Monika Lacka -**

* Encourage tribes to communicate with the regional TACs regarding certain issues or when they attend a course
* Need to be aware of TACs assistance; inform TACs when a tribe requests PA
* Provide technical support from TACs; regional IAQ teams
* Helping to develop a grants course for NTF
* Workgroup that works with other agencies to find out other resources
* Rejuvenate relationship with TACs and tribes
* Improve communication to become more efficient

**ITEP/Ann Marie Chischilly –**

* Mehrdad working on Fy19 work plan budget
* VW has been a tough task; took 2 months to sign contract; can’t hire anyone; 33 tribes applying had to be onboard; first round done; second round in September
* Workforce for ITEP - three people retiring: Pat Ellsworth (late August), Glenn Gehring (end of June), and Dennis Wall (end of June); putting together a succession plan internally at ITEP; preparing for transition
* Status of Tribal Air (STAR) report - encourage SC members to get involved; deadline is end of March for a draft in April; share stories to capture tribal issues; how do we address issues
* ITEP courses being planned for next fiscal year – what are your needs; separate call for Alaska; hard with less funding; how we can improve what we do; hybrid courses, 2 days webinar and class course for 2 days, etc.
* Recommendations from TAMS SC members are needed!

**NTAA/Andy Bessler -**

* NTAA EC met in DC last month
* Bill Wehrum; biggest takeaway was getting movement on creating a new workgroup for wood smoke with James Payne
* NTAA continue to work on STAR report – need stories to hit on the need for funding; STAR workgroup call tomorrow (have calls every other Wednesday)
* Look forward to input on TAMS needs assessment and monitoring stories
* Big national publication; how tribal air programs are doing
* NTF planning; policy work on the Clean Power Plan (CPP) repeal and replacement; big shift on policy; reforming air quality policy, CPP is big; resource review; methane reduction, etc, could use input on how the policies affect monitoring work
* Elaine Wilson will be leading the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC), so will be posting a position for a coordinator… hoping to hire by April

**E-Enterprise Discussion –** Lydia Scheer

* 55 tribes; started 5 years ago on how to improve management business processes regarding application and processing
* Standardizing Data Exchange; Environmental Information Exchange Network (States, EPA and Tribes)
* Partners create agreements; data publishers maintain nodes; XML provides standard data structure; partners exchange information
* Shared governance and cooperative federalism; streamlining processes (lean culture); optimizing technology (E-reporting, shared services, portal development, advanced monitoring)
* EN – technology innovations, solutions, and services; EE – improved business processes and environmental management approaches; supporting the business of environmental protection (enables and demands)
* Currently six active EELC members
* Network of regional E-Enterprise coordinators is a new effort – Lydia can make this information available
* 93 attendees at Tribal EN conference last week, over 50 tribes represented
* Pat – Henry Darwin/CFO – he is “Mr. Lean.”

**Importance of Tribal Monitoring -**

**Tribal Case Study – Navajo Nation – Michael King, Sr. Environmental Specialist –**

* Funded by Section 105 Clean Air Act Grant; ambient air monitoring; open burn of household waste; indoor air quality
* Operating Permit Program with 13 Title V facilities
* 2010 study performed by USGS “Navajo Coal Combustion and Respiratory Health Near Shiprock, NM.” Study looked at coal combustion and respiratory health – 130 homes surveyed; study found high levels of respiratory diseases within communities; many homes used old outdated stoves
* How to address the problem? Outreach materials, indoor air quality measurements, developed partnerships with universities; developed public service announcements (PSAs) and Navajo-language specific flyers; added IAQ information to their website; summer interns developed a 5 minute video.
* 2010 EPA Settlement Agreement with Four Corner Power Plant for Clean Air Act (CAA) violations provided $4.7 million to replace older wood and coal stoves with cleaner burning heating appliances and to weatherize homes on the Navajo Nation
* 750 stove change-outs will occur in a five year period in the Shiprock Agency
* Burnwise contacts: Kathleen Stewart/Region 9, Larry Brockman/all others
* Priority for changeout goes to homes with elderly or children with respiratory ailments, also must meet income requirements.

**Tools to Assist Tribes – Gila River Indian Community – eSIMS tool**

* handle everything for your monitoring site (repairs, audits, calibrations, etc.); designed and built for the end user; E-signatures has not been integrated yet; system and database is hosted at STI (software as a service); access eSIMS through a web browser; dashboard has map of air monitoring sites; cost benefit of system realized at our five sites, which will not be relevant to most tribes
* Would like to work with TAMS Center to provide annual license, and then they could work with agencies to issue subscriptions; base cost for annual license is $9600/year; looking at adding a tool for export/AQS data upload
* Ryan – thought that TAMS hosting this might be a good business model (like BIA hosting ESRI)

**TAMS Needs Assessment Report** –

* Need to table this agenda item; Chris was unable to finalize work on report last week
* Shaina will need to redo graphs as well
* Will also need something for Andy to put in the STAR report

**Regional Summary of Tribal Air Monitors** –

* Biggest holdup is still region 8
* Ann Marie - could we do a splash page in the STAR report instead of putting it on the jump drive?
* Monica - might want to consider tracking sensor information in the future

**OAQPS (Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards)/James Payne –**

**Materials/Products-**

* The new layout/format for the tribal guidance monitoring document looks really good; need to pull alternate information for Figure 1.1. This will be a TAMS document. Will put a link to the document in the STAR report.
* Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) manual due for revision – was originally released in 2002.
* Air pollution control strategy document – draft document under review – release to SC for review sometime late March or early April.
* New Source Review (NSR) document released in 2012 will be revised/reviewed because of the Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) and the General Permits.
* OTS (OAR Tribal System) document – OAR tribal tracking strategy; working with Regions to ensure update accurately and timely so that OAR can better determine state and local air grant (STAG) funding and dissemination

**Training-**

* Webinars planned for near future: 103/105 Grants and Funding; TAS (Treatment as State); Budget 101; National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)
* Training Requests: Modeling (via NAQC)- Has TAMS SC heard this request; Health Impacts (via NTAA/Shoshone-Bannock Tribe)-work on planning this after smoke series; Permits – Reviewing – Last week in August in Albuquerque, NM

**Sensor Projects** –

* Air Sensors International Conference- September 12-14, Oakland
* Recent/Current Research Activities:
* Data sharing w/States & Tribes/stakeholders, and summarize state of the science
* 19 different ORD-Region Research projects
* Village Green Technical Movie available at https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox or https://youtu.be/iF7Cr33S0zM
* Instruction guide now available for evaluating sensors vs. regulatory monitors
* Everything on toolbox website by April 30th
* Performance Targets- Purpose is to provide an in-depth review and analysis of a broad array of information related to the determining performance targets and test methods that would support eventual third-party certification of air sensor technology.
* Performance Target Workshop for PM2.5 and O3 in RTP June, 2018
* Sensor Technology and Network Activity Monitoring- Purpose is to remain current on emerging sensor technologies and sensor networks and to pass this information to the Sensor Team and Management
* Phoenix Pilot Project- Arizona State University is developing a sensors project for the Phoenix area. OAQPS and ORD are going to provide technical guidance in the project design and implementation. Region 9 has been reaching out to the Phoenix area tribes (per Ron Williams)
* BigMAP- Imagine a world where everyone has access to individualized, fine-scale air quality maps, where they could pinpoint their AQ at any given moment. Maps: Quality Control vs Extreme Accuracy; Real-Time Model/Measurement Fusion

**Intern –**

* Working to get another intern at OAQPS.
* The proposed internship project will focus on three specific air related topics: ambient and indoor air monitoring equipment, particulate matter and emission reduction, and financing energy efficiency/renewable energy projects. Information on each topic will be researched, cataloged, assembled, and distributed as a resource packet for tribes.

**Other -**

* NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Dept. of Energy)
* NREL interest in presenting their technical assistance program to tribes on a National Tribal Association (Laura M. coordinates these calls). Recommend discussing on TAMS SC call
* We’d be happy to discuss ways we can support tribes on VW Settlement efforts in an upcoming call. Is there something specific you’d like us to discuss? We can offer examples of projects we’ve done that could be useful/related. Examples include efforts to electrify fleets in National Parks and Clean Cities Coalitions and the corresponding lessons learned, analysis to identify an optimal number of EV charging stations and locations based on anticipated EV adoption projections, technical considerations of EV adoption and electrification, efforts to measure and quantify impacts of increased adoption of alternative fuel vehicles as it relates to petroleum savings and emissions reductions, or we could speak to and answer some specific technical questions tribes are asking regarding the VW settlement and their efforts if those are already identified. I am happy to go into more detail about these options should you be interested.
* Research priorities
* OAQPS communicates to ORD what research is needed to help with policy goals
* “improve ability to estimate future trends in energy use and pollutant emissions”
* Adoption of EVs and hybrids
* Pairing renewables with storage
* Tribal considerations – Tribes whose land has wind/solar potential, but who do not have access to the grid.
* NAQC
* 2018 National Air Quality Conference – Informal Tribal Feedback; was curious to see tribal response – 20 tribal members attended – reached out to those members individually to see how tribes could be better represented. Lot of the conference geared toward cities or large municipalities.
* Air Quality Flag Template
* Creation of a tribal template for advertising the flag program within a tribal community.
* Proposed to be ready by NTF
* Poster request
* Request sent to TACs and conference organizers in order to receive tribal air related posters for display at RTP in halls and possibly during events (Native American Heritage Month)
* C14 Disposal – Ed Wilds and Farshid Farsi to address costs/bill for disposal?
* BGI Samplers-Dennis Crumpler has nine, not sure of condition.
* Wood Stove workgroup
* At the request of NTAA, Laura McKelvey drafted a Straw Proposal for Creating a Residential Wood Smoke WorkGroup
* NTAA will push request to tribes to see who wants to join
* OAQPS’ Holly Wilson & James Payne will provide staff support when WorkGroup is formed
* Inspector Credentials –
* Background on CAA inspections
* Discussions with NTAA and OECA (Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance) to determine the procedure and applicability of credentialing tribal staff for EPA inspections.
* NTAA and OECA drafted a list of questions for OECA Counsel to answer
* RTP (Research Triangle Park) Laboratory-Scott Moore
* Willing to provide services to tribes in the way of calibration of ozone equipment and delta/tri-cals at no charge.
* Happy and willing to provide tours of his lab to tribal folks in the area.
* Can present to the SC regarding these services, and provide information regarding the calibration process overall. He could potentially come out and/or teleconference in whenever is convenient.
* CTPG Retreat
* Identify CTPG’s Vision & Purpose
* By determining what OID/EPA needs from us and;
* Identifying ourselves by our strengths, purposes and who we serve and;
* Identifying our skills in order to add value and prepare for successful growth
* Serve our customers by
* effective communication and identifying how we are represented and;
* shifting our priorities and strategies in order to fulfil the Agency mission while meeting customer needs.
* School flag program – working on template where tribes can add their own language/pictures – should be rolled out by NTF.

**Tribal Caucus -** Meeting session for TAMS SC voting members – held in hotel lobby.

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

**Sensor Technology/Amanda Kaufman – EPA/OAQPS –**

* PM (Particulate Matter) sensors – low cost considered under $2500, but typically closer to $200. Many not meant to be exposed to elements (need enclosure).
* Gas sensors – cost does not equal quality.
* VOC (volatile organic compound) sensor are slightly lacking behind PM and gas phase sensors – measure total VOCs, not specific VOCs like benzene.
* Multipollutant sensors and “others” – elm, AQ mesh, canary sensors
* Potential applications – personalized health information/personal exposures, empower communities to gather information, raise awareness, supplement monitoring networks, monitoring during acute events (wildfires).
* Working on sensor tiers – indicate best use. Should be ready by workshop in June.
* Consider QA (quality assurance) parameters – check out information for sensor on toolbox website and scaqmd.org site. High temp and humidity (over 90%) will affect sensor reading.
* EPA’s sensor scale – help the public understand 1-minute data from Village Green stations. Working to finalize messaging for ozone and PM2.5.
* Direct collocation with FEMs (Federal Equivalent Method) air monitors to see how well they perform. Also performed community-led sensor evaluation (Clean Air Carolina and Eastern Band of Cherokee). Used Excel macro to compare data. See guide “How to Evaluate Low-Cost Sensors by Collocation with Federal Reference Monitors”. Macro Analysis Tool – MAT
* Air Sensor International Conference – September 12-14 – Oakland. There will be a training day on the 11th. https://sehall4.wixsite.com/asic/program
* Sensor Performance Targets Workshop – June 25-26 in RTP – more technical
* Air Sensor Toolbox web page – launch June 2014
* Scan and Screen Technology Clearinghouse – release last week – share information about sensors, including testing – can organize by pollutant, media, etc.
* Laura – some regions have sensor loan programs
* Review of different sensors
* TAMS Center role regarding sensor technology – Chris thinks SC should draft some sensor guidance/policy. Melinda – should provide a “whole package” when we loan equipment (SOPs, QA guidance, data management guidance)

**National Performance Audit Program (NPAP) – Greg Noah – EPA/OAQPS**

* NPAP – side by side audit of a monitoring site – quality check of ambient air monitoring activities of a PQAO. NPAP requirements found in 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix A Section 3.1.3
* Frequency – 20% of all site in a PQAO per year, 100% of all site in 6 years. All should be done in 5 years, but every 6 years gives room to audit sites of concern more frequently.
* PEAT – PC based application that automates the majority of the audit processes – scheduling, review of AQS metadata, automatic calculations of audit concentrations, automatic uploads to AQS with going into AQS or the ENSC directly.
* NPAP self-implementation – (a) equipment must be separate from that used in annual performance evaluation, and (b) the system must be tested against an independent EPA lab or equivalent. (c) evaluate the system with the EPA NPAP program through collocated auditing at several sites each year (d) incorporate NPAP in the PQAO QAPP (e) be reviewed by independent, EPA-trained personnel (f) participate in initial and update training/certification sessions. More detail is provided in the annual self-implementation letter https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/npepqa/html
* Finally, EPA must approve your quality system.

**IAQ/Elisa Smith – Indoor Environments Division (IED) –**

* Pay particular attention to radon exposure and reducing asthma triggers in home and schools. State radon proposed for elimination in president’s budget, but was reinstated by congressional appropriations committee. (Same for IAQ program).
* Chris – still inadequate tribal resources for addressing IAQ issues. Created federal/tribal collaboration through Bill. Three federal agencies have come onboard: HUD, USGA, HHS. Native American Indian Housing Council has been added as well. Want to create an IAQ grant template to assist tribes with applications. Will be attending the NTF and other conferences to reach out to tribes and other groups. Want to organize guidance documents and provide trainings.
* Pat (for Andy) NTAA IAQ workgroup is collaborating with the Tribal Healthy Homes Network (THHN). Next call on the 15th. Working on project document.
* Bill – people had more questions about issues inside their home rather than ambient air. Has six highlights that he will send by email.

**Regional Tribal Air Coordinators (TACs) Discussion -**

**Region 10 – Erin McTigue –** accepting grant applications April 2nd from existing grantees; new grantees due in March. TAS – nothing new, working with Kalispell Tribe on Class I request. Having smoke management meeting on March 21st. Projects of interest – O. Air Partnership is very active.

**Region 9 – Sara Bartholomew -** proposals received from 30 tribes currently funded, plus three new tribes. La Jolla granted TAS; reviewing draft of La Posta TAS. Retiring on March 30th, so will not be attending regional meeting.

**Region 2 – Gavin Lau –** accepting grants from any tribes at this time; no recent or pending TAS applications. Planning summer annual meeting with all tribes. Have ongoing grant with St. Regis Mohawk researching indoor dust.

**Region 8 –** no report

**Region 6 – Aunjanee Gautreaux –** RTOC (Regional Tribal Operations Committee) coming up April 11th in Dallas. Received 16 proposals in February; not competitive, but have to prioritize. One 105 grant in place and another tribe has come in for it. $1.9M requested, but they only get around $1M.

**Region 5 – Monica Lacka and Avi Lapp -** Proposals due October 30th. Project begin April 1st. RTOC will be held in April. Will be able to attend NTF since it will be close by. Updating ETEP (EPA Tribal Environmental Plan) agreements. TAS – no pending applications right now, but expecting a few to be submitted from Michigan tribes and one supplemental from Wisconsin. Air standalone PPG (Performance Partnership Grant) for tribe that wants to include radon with their air program, as well as one that uses solar to operate their monitoring equipment. Have been lead region for TACs for air quality for four years.

**Region 4 – Ana Oquendo -** Submittals due March 1st. Received four total proposals (two monitoring now, two new). TAS – working with one tribe applying for section 105 and another for lead-based program.

**Region 3 –** no report

**Region 7 – Paula Higbee -** proposals due end of April. TAS – two tribes have non-regulatory TAS, two tribe interested in TAS, but are in the beginning stages. RTOC coming up the week or Earth Day. Have been making site visits to each of the tribes. Most tribes don’t do anything with the data; have been working with tribes to assist them with ways to use their data.

**Region 1 – Eugene Benoit –** will be sending target letters to all tribes receiving air funding – hope to be level funded for tribal programs. One tribe applying for TAS (non-regulatory) – Passamaquoddy Tribe. Trying to pilot Sharepoint for all workplans and reporting so it is all in one place. Are other regions doing this? One tribe decided to do away with ozone monitoring and concentrate on indoor air (state runs a monitor only 10 miles away).

TACs now providing an update to NTAA as well.

**ORD (Office of Research and Development) Tribal Priorities/ David Jewett located in Ada, OK –**

* focused on groundwater issues; ORD – provides scientific foundation for EPA – long-term research, research on specific environmental challenges, technical and emergency support. Several locations throughout the US.
* STAR (Science to Achieve Results) grantees – examples of tribal grantees – ANTHC, Swinomish, Yurok Tribe, Little Big Horn College, University of Tulsa, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
* ORD’s National Research Programs – Air & Energy, Human Health Risk Assessment, Chemical Safety for Sustainability, Safe and Sustainable Water Resources, Sustainable and Healthy Communities, Homeland Security. Strategic Research Action Plans (StRAPs) for ORD’s six programs describes research in each area over the coming years.
* Tribal Partnership groups – A&E - NTAA, CSS - NTTC & TPPC, SHC - TWRAP &TSWG, SSWR - NTWC, ORD - TSC (National Tribal Science Council)
* Tribal Science Council – established in 2001 at National Tribal Caucus – supported by ORD. Current co-chairs are Carol Kriebs (Sac and Fox of Missouri) and Jose Zambrana, ORD-NERL
* Monica Rodia and Jose Zambrana serve as central resources for ORD’s National Program Directors and their interactions with tribes.

**QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) Review Process Streamlining – Jessica Snyder, Kristen/Ross Strategic, Rebecca Moser**

* Jessica was at the Tribal EN meeting last week and received tribal input at that time. EELC has agreed that this project should move forward. General feel was that most issues were with submittal and approval process… there was a “black box” after QAPP submitted. Sometimes questions generated after review process did not make any sense. Less concern about QAPP development. Lots of variation between regions. People want to see a diagram of what happens to their QAPP after it is submitted.
* **Melinda -** TurboQAPP is on hold pending funding and needs a complete overhaul. It currently required a lot of updates; would like to transfer it to the cloud so updates could be pushed out when necessary. Would also like to use open-source software. Currently have a course that uses data from TurboQAPP in the interim. Biggest request is for indoor air monitoring. Funding for TurboQAPP originally came from OAQPS about 10 years ago; Mike Papp assisted with QAPP development. Rebecca would like to see a demo of TurboQAPP, even if the information is outdated.
* **Kris –** does EPA train people how to review QAPPs? EPA offers basic G5 training.
* **Jessica –** in discovery phase right now; still need some input from states. Will need to develop a strategy/roadmap to iron out steps. On hook to report out to E-enterprise meeting in April. Have been working with a few workgroup members – will be meeting in a few weeks.

**TAMS Center Activity Updates -**

**Melinda Ronca-Battista** –

* Working to assemble nine QAPP courses; nearly done but still adding a few methods
* Offering ongoing EI (Emissions Inventory) support to tribes that missed the instructor-led courses
* Will have a Tribal Data Toolbox instructor-led course in April; lots of new features such as AQI (Air Quality Index) reports and reports on completeness, AirVision, on-line data analysis
* Planning an online data analysis course (long-term project)

**Angelique Luedeker** –

* Working with Melinda on new version of Tribal Data Toolbox
* Completed the migration of data from old toolbox to new toolbox for several people
* Should have online training available soon which will use your own data
* Assisted people with EI fundamentals course

**Glenn Gehring (Chris reported) –**

* Completed PAs: September – Pyramid Lake, Leech Lake; October – Lower Sioux, Hualapai (at TAMS Center), Hoopa Tribe; February – Morongo, Catawba
* Lead instructor for Fundamentals of Air Monitoring course at the TAMS Center, December 4-6; course went well; received good responses; a few PA’s were requested; 15 tribal professionals attended
* Glenn is concerned about lack of support for equipment manager position
* Retiring at end of fiscal year (June) and concerned about providing quality assistance to tribes when he leaves
* Chris has been in contact with some potential candidates; will be seeking assistance with selection process. Would prefer that the new employee be located in Las Vegas
* Farshid reported that Glenn will continue to make videos until he retires

**Other Discussion–**

* Pat is hoping to work part time if that is possible. Pat was faculty, but we don’t have to hire at that level.
* Filter weighing discussion – filter weighing is about $60,000 for three tribes. Use a national contract lab – piggyback on a national contract managed by OAQPS.
* Farshid – don’t want to eliminate program for tribes that are not on the “fast track”, or those that use the service for comparison to continuous.
* Would be good to know what actual expenditures are, and may be able to use additional funding for another purpose. Do we need to construct a letter to Ed?

**TREX Network/Chris Lee -**

* ITEP developed first proposal back in 2003 with IPS Meteostar to develop the software.
* The data is displayed on the website, and is also loaded to AirNow and EPA AQS.
* Grant was changed where ITEP could no longer apply for the funding, so Walker River Paiute Tribe applied for the grant instead.
* Network servers are still housed at NAU.
* IPS Meteostar bought out by Sutron.
* Was made aware in August that Walker River’s grant proposal was not going to be funded, so ITEP stepped up to see what could be done since about ten tribes still use TREX.
* Sutron proposed a rate per tribe to keep the network going, and ITEP came up with a budget of $35,000.
* EPA found two years of funding to keep network going.
* Was going to have another tribe apply for the NEIEN grant, but decided this was not a good vehicle to fund the TREX Network operation.
* Was also discussed to have another contractor build open source code software to build a similar network. If this does not occur, may go to a subscription service.
* Pat – do not expect a third year of funding.
* Chris – need to get tribes to investigate other tools that are out there.

**Selection of TAMS SC members and VM award:**

* Membership terms for Joe Cebe, April Hathcoat, Kris Ray and Frank Spurgeon will expire September 30, 2018.
* Five nominations were received to fill the four upcoming vacancies
* Five nominees are: Vallen Cook, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa; Carma Huseby, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Mike Natchees, Ute Indian Tribe; Crystal Romero, Otoe-Missouria Tribe; and Taylor Smoke, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
* All nominees have supervisor approval to serve, if elected.
* After discussion regarding regional representation, the TAMS SC members elected Vallen Cook, Carma Huseby, Mike Natchees and Taylor Smoke.
* Their terms will run October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021.
* Two nominations were received for the Virgil Masayesva Award
* Two nominees are: Joe Hostler, Tribal Program Development; Pam Atcitty and Jon Castillo - Morongo Tribal AQ Program
* The TAMS SC members agreed by consensus to select Pam Atcitty and Jon Castillo – Morongo Tribal AQ Program

**Thursday, March 8, 2018**

**AIAQTP –**

**Wildland Smoke Course Report – Kris Ray**

* Had a smoke-ready community training at last year’s NTF (20 -25 people attended).
* Have put together a webinar series: health effects, what is in smoke, outreach, case studies, using filters (homemade and industrial), how does smoke effect livestock/pets?
* Will have a hands-on class in Boise, ID – Kris to show how to set up box fans. The hands-on class is only for tribes, and attendees must have listened to all the webinars and completed a listening guide.

**Input for FY19 Trainings - Pat Ellsworth**

* Community training on CPP was a great success; budgeted for an additional course in FY19.
* Pat E. would like to see a warm-climate IAQ course developed in the next fiscal year.
* Would like to get some input from the TACs.
* Chris – offer course in collaborating efforts with tribes and other agencies to assist with various projects
* Nicole – there is not enough bandwidth for many Alaska tribes to attend online webinar; should provide flash drive containing course material.

***Action Item***: Nicole to consult with Pat to create solid plan for Alaska issues

**NTF Planning and Participation –**

* Over the years TAMS co-directors oversee and develop the ambient air quality technical track/sessions
* Will send email on listserv requesting tribal case studies; Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa air toxics monitoring project could be a good tribal case study as the Tribe is willing to provide presentation; need to identify other tribal case studies; sensors will be on one of the sessions.
* SC member participation:
* Joe will participant in the VW discussion, present tribal viewpoint; attending workgroup calls
* April, James and Kris to assist with lab type sensor session
* Kris involved with plenary session; 4 speakers; Shaina, Delbert with two others (not asked yet) concept perception on air quality from younger folks; Kris to emcee
* Shaina speaking for 5 minutes at plenary session; Karen Diver will be the keynote
* James/Kris to head poster session at ECO Cafe; mine map; diagram on connection to wildland smoke; dress up as firefighters.
* Shaina: opening intro TAMS SC members
* VM award presentation (Action Item: Chris to contact); Pam to speak/present on VM award.
* Last session on tech tract; review presentations submitted to Lydia; Chris to check listserv
* Plan location to meet new SC members
* Camille will participate in IAQ workgroup with Mansel; IED folks, Bill, Chris Griffith.
* Pat – determine how many of the new members will be there. Two are local so they should definitely be there. Let Lydia know if we need a space.

***Action Item***: Send fact sheet to SC members for NTF travel. Inform new SC members.

**EPA Funding Discussion -**

* Pat Childers: still on continuing resolution; there will be a session at NTFAQ on how funding works; AIAQTP grant pending fourth year plan from Mehrdad; submit full amount of grant; support to keep management going and utilize TAMS; many people don’t realize this is a competitive grant.
* NCRFO/Andrea Stafford: continuing resolution until March 23; received funding from previous year; overall budget $225k, funding covers infrastructure, operational expenses (IT, Lab); $75k-$100k is set aside for tribal priorities (new equipment, gravimetric lab services, special studies, computer upgrades); Farshid – costs around $1000 per tribe per month for filter weighing service.

**Meeting Closeout –**

**Tribal Caucus report** –

* Plan for smooth travel arrangements; send fact sheet in advance for lower rates; should be able to book reservations sooner

***Action Item***: Ann Marie – discuss with Melinda and Darlene issues with Avenues of the World

* Notes from meetings are sometimes received at the last minute; not a lot of time to review.
* Contact information needs to be updated in a timely manner; Nicole’s contact information changed and she did not receive meeting notices for the last call
* Consider writing a letter to determine the direction of the filter-weighing service; could revise guidance that was written a few years ago; need to determine how much was put into the contract and how much remains; may want to contact tribes that are using filter-weighing service to see what their plans are for future monitoring; however, there hasn’t been much interest in continuous monitoring; continue to discuss further in future calls

**Action Items –**

* Continue more discussion regarding funding for filter based weighing; possible meeting with Andrea to discuss actual costs per tribe; TAMS Staff to draft letter to tribes to address issue with filter based weighing to continuous pm 2.5; provide options, introduce new cost-effective device, etc.; hold off on letter/educational flyer; per Joe no longer need discussion; continuous monitoring is best for baseline measures
* For STAR report for the NTAA – need information on needs assessment and technical guidance document (James); splash page for regional equipment information
* Need input from Pat for FY19 courses list
* James requesting old posters on listserv to be displayed in his office
* Nicole to work with Ann Marie to determine best way to distribute course information to Alaska tribes
* Frank to discuss with Melinda AQS videos (some too advanced)
* New SC members need to be informed of NTF
* Keep track of involvement with NTF
* Chris to set up meeting with member tribes using TREX to discuss options after funding runs out

**Final Business and Set Fall 2018 Meeting Date-**

Fall 2018 In-person meeting date set for October 9-11, 2018

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Darlene Santos