

RTOC Air Workgroup Conference Call Summary

January 31, 2011

The RTOC Air Workgroup held one conference call during this quarter. The following is a summary of that discussion. The workgroup is also sent information out to Tribal representatives throughout the quarter.

Attendees:

Rod Watkins, Pala Band of Mission Indians
Erica Helms-Schenk, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
Kim Miller, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
Chris Horan, Salt River Indian Community
Elaina Osife, Salt River Indian Community
Melody Sees, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians
Maureen Perkins, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona
James Payne, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Jason Manbly, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Aaran Lopez, Tohono O'odham Nation
Dan Catlin, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
Tia Chullakorn, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
Nelletta Aguilar, Walker River Paiute Tribe
Helen Waquiu-Salazar, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
Syndi Smallwood, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Workgroup Tribal Lead)
Sara Bartholomew, EPA R9 Air Division (Workgroup EPA Lead)
Ken Cronin, National Tribal Air Association
Christopher Lee, Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center
Mehrdad Khatibi, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

1. TAMS Update: Christopher Lee, TAMS Co-Director

- The TAMS (Tribal Air Monitoring Support) Steering Committee <http://www4.nau.edu/tams> will hold its next face-to-face meeting in March. If you need to have anything addressed you can either send an email directly to Christopher Lee Christopher.Lee@nau.edu or to Syndi Smallwood ssmallwood@pechanga-nsn.gov. The TAMS Steering Committee (SC) Members are chosen from nominations made to the SC; at times not all regions may be represented on the TAMS, this is due to how nominees are chosen which is on background and what they bring to the table not by the region they are in, however the SC and staff work very hard to make sure that Tribes across the country have information and access to TAMS training, equipment loans, and information. Syndi Smallwood is a TAMS SC Member. TAMS is part of ITEP (Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals). <http://www4.nau.edu/itep> TAMS is seeking input on upcoming courses which will be listed on the web and sent to Syndi for distribution.
- At this time there are two upcoming openings on the SC and nomination forms and information can be found on the website, the deadline is February 25, 2011.

- The Virgil Masayesva Excellence Award is open for nominations and the form can be found at the website and is due February 25, 2011. This award will be given to the recipient at the National Tribal Air forum which will be held in June.
 - A “Talk to the Experts” call on 40 CFR Appendix A, QA Monitoring Requirements for Tribes on March 10 @ 11 PST, please contact Christopher Lee for more information Christopher.Lee@nau.edu. Melinda Ronca-Battista and Mike Papp will be on the call to give information and answer questions.
2. ITEP Update: Mehrdad Khatibi, ITEP Interim Director
- March 8-10, 2011 ITEP will be holding a Climate Change Adaptation Planning Training which still has seats left; if you are interested in attending please contact Mehrdad directly Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu
 - ITEP has 2 new grants – Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities and Facilitating Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Planning and communicating Climate Change Impacts. Both facts sheets were included with the call information and are included with this summary.
 - Please visit ITEP’s website for current information on training and upcoming events. <http://www4.nau.edu/itep>
3. NTAA Update: Ken Cronin, Interim Program Coordinator
- NTAA is different from the TAMS Steering Committee in that the RTOC’s choose the representative and the alternate to the NTAA Executive Committee. Syndi Smallwood is the delegate and Erica Helms-Schenk is the alternate.
 - NTAA is in a transitional period; the former Project Manager is no longer with the organization and the job will be flown soon as a part-time Project Coordinator position.
 - The Senior Policy Analyst, Bob Gruenig has left NTEC and this position is also vacant. NTAA is working on the budget and a new job description.
 - NTAA handles Air Policy and TAMS handles air technical and training.
 - NTEC (National Tribal Environmental Council) holds the grant for the NTAA and handles the staff and finances for the grant. A new three-year grant just began in September 2010.
 - The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality will be held in June at the Northern Quest Resort in Spokane, Washington and is co-hosted by NTAA and ITEP.
 - On January 25th Gina McCarthy, AA for EPA’s Air Division requested a call with Syndi Smallwood (CAAAC), Erika Helms-Schenk (NTC), and Bill Thompson (NTAA). She gave a brief description of plans to hold five pre-rule making listening sessions on New Source Performance Standards rule-making process. The five meetings will be as follows: Utilities, Refineries, Environmental Consortia (groups), States and Tribes, and Public. Ms. McCarthy requested 3 tribal participants for the State/Tribal meeting; we did let her know that is not how representatives are sought for meetings and that at the very least the same number of Tribal Reps should be included as there will be State Reps. Ms. Stated she is in a time crunch since the meeting will be in Chicago on February 17th and needed assistance; therefore we began sending out emails looking for representatives.
 - Conference calls on the Transport Rule have been taking place – these calls have been for consultation.
 - Please check NTAA’s website for information on upcoming policy issues, <http://www.ntatribalair.org>. NTAA also sends out a weekly newsletter and you can contact Ken to be added to the list serve at KCronin@ntec.org

4. WRAP Updates:

- WRAP (Western Regional Air Partnership) is a voluntary partnership of States, Tribes, Federal Land Managers, Local Air Agencies and the US EPA whose purpose is to understand current and evolving regional air quality issues in the West <http://wrapair2.org>. 14 States, 15 Tribes, 5 Local Air Agencies, and 5 federal agencies make up the WRAP. Please go to the website for further information.
- The WRAP Board is made up of five State reps, five Tribal reps, five federal reps, and two local reps. The WRAP is an RPO (Regional Planning Organization) which is funded by state funding at this time; EPA used to fund all of the RPO's nationally however the funding was cut a little over a year ago. The WRAP has a new Charter and is working on technical issues specifically modeling.
- A meeting has not been held since September.
- At this time the WRAP is only funded with state funds. NTAA wrote a letter to Gina McCarthy requesting that RPO's be funded again and a white paper was developed and several Tribal Letters were also sent requesting the same.
- At the January CAAAC meeting the Tribal Representatives were asked to be part of an interview process to find out if RPO's were still needed. It seems that Ms. McCarthy likes the way the NGO's such as LAPCO work and thinks this may be a better use of funding, however NGO's are state organizations and Tribes are not included. The interview will consist on a specific set of questions; nine Tribal reps will be questioned. Syndi asked if a Tribal Organization could facilitate getting input from Tribes and have it put in as a summary under one of the Tribal interviews and she was told yes. She has asked NTAA to organize and facilitate these discussions; once again this will be a very short turn around with calls taking place within the next month.

5. CAAAC Updates:

- CAAAC (Clean Air Act Advisory Committee) met in Washington, DC in January. CAAAC is a senior-level policy committee established in 1990 to advise the U.S. EPA on issues related to implementing the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The committee is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and has been renewed every two years since its creation. The membership is approximately 40 members and experts representing state and local government, environmental and public interest groups, academic institutions, unions, trade associations, utilities, industry, and other experts <http://www.epa.gov/air/caaac>. the representatives are chosen by EPA.
- This is the first time that there has been four seats for Tribes on the CAAAC previously there were two seats one of which was held by the NTAA Program Director. Syndi Smallwood, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Julie Simpson, Nez Perce Tribe, Joy Wiecks, Fond du Lac Reservation, and Jason Walker, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation are the new Tribal representatives. CAAAC meets three times per year and has several subcommittees that meet more frequently – please visit the website for more information.

6. EPA Updates:

EPA Air Division staff gave an update which is attached to this summary.

7. Nomination of NTAA Primary and Alternate Positions:

- Every two years the RTOC Air worked nominates a primary and alternate for the NTAA Executive Committee; these are then taken to the full RTOC to be confirmed.

- The nominations are as follows:
 - Syndi Smallwood, Primary
 - Helen Waqui-Salazar and Erica Helms-Schenk, Alternate
- Discussion: the group should decide on one alternate to take to the RTOC.
- Helen will be the nominated alternate.

8. Budget Presentation Update:

- This year the presentation to the Regional Administrator will be in a video format.
- The Budget Workgroup will need footage sent to Marta Burg whose husband has volunteered to edit the video. Footage should be sent on DVD or CD to Marta or can be brought to the RTOC.
- All footage is due at the end of March.
- The Budget Workgroup will also need assistance with developing the funding request for 2013.
- The group was reminded that the President's budget is not out yet and there are rumors that it may be cut back to FY10 or even FY 08 numbers.

Announcements:

- RTOC Meeting - Budget Presentation April 26-28, San Francisco, CA
- Air NOW Conference, March 7-10, San Diego, CA
- TAMS Steering Committee Meeting March 15-17 – please send any needs to Chris or Syndi
- NTAA Executive Committee Meeting March 29-31 – please send any needs to Ken or Syndi