

Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Steering Committee Call – Meeting Minutes

Date: November 30, 2010

Participants: Kathy Lynn, Ellen Donoghue, Raj Vable, Siena Lopez-Johnston, Justin Spenillo (EPA-Region 10), John DeGroot (Nez Perce Tribe), Don Motanic (ITC), Sue Wotkyns, Preston Hardison (Tulalip Tribes), Kari Neumeyer (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), Rita Asgeirsson (NW Indian College), Steve Pavlik (NW Indian College), Bill Snyder (Coquille Tribe), Roy Sampsel (Portland State University, Institute for Tribal Government)

Key Action Items:

Issue	Task	Timeline	Lead
Project Profiles	Send ideas for possible tribal climate change profiles to Kathy.	December – January	All Committee Members
American Indian Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group	Learn more about the working committees that will be forming	Ongoing	Steve Pavlik (<i>will share list of committees with us</i>)
NASA Summer Research Experience	Kathy will summarize opportunities for Government and NGOs to work with NASA's program and identify Native American students to work on projects	December – January	Kathy
BLM Outreach to Tribes	Kathy will contact the State office of the BLM to let them know about the efforts of the PNW Tribal Climate Change Committee, and to learn more about intended follow-up after Rita's research.	December	Kathy

Meeting Notes

Welcome and General Notes

Kathy introduced Raj Vable, University of Oregon Environmental Studies graduate student, and Siena Lopez-Johnston, Environmental Science undergraduate student, as student researchers on the Tribal Climate Change Project. Kathy also introduced Kari Neumeyer, the new representative on our committee for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Kathy identified the importance of the Steering Committee (Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Committee) in creating a network and in sharing information so that efforts are not duplicated and resources are leveraged and shared as effectively as possible.

Tribal Climate Change Resource Inventory

Kathy explained that Raj and Siena have been adding to the resource inventory database and that they plan to extend research to a more broad scope (find information through agencies working with tribes) and begin working closely with Sue to post profiles to ITEP's Tribal Climate Change website. Our goal over the next 6 – 9 months is to identify and produce 10-12 more profiles. We hope to diversify examples of mitigation and adaptations across the country. Kathy requested that committee members contact her with ideas for future profiles.

A website is currently being created where all of the information and work done related to the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change committee will be posted. This includes project publications, as well as committee meeting minutes and other resources. We will send out the website link to the committee by the end of the month.

Update: Legal Considerations for Climate Change Impacts on Tribes' Off-Reservation Resources.

Kathy briefly spoke about her legal briefing receiving comments, which were largely positive, including positive feedback from Howie Arnett on the protection of off-reservation and on-reservation resources. We also received feedback from Rebecca Tsoie and CHI Xapkaid Michael Pavel, Professor in the University of Oregon's Education Studies program.

Update: Climate Change and Social Vulnerability Literature synthesis.

The climate change and social vulnerability literature synthesis is in the final stages of publication with the Forest Service. The synthesis is broader than the issues our group covers and includes literature related to rural and urban communities, as well as a section on American Indian/Alaskan Native communities and climate change. Ellen added that the synthesis is with station editors now. It is expected back in 2-3 weeks, it will be in electronic form after the first of the year, and then in hard back from 3-4 months after the first of the year.

Other Updates:

Ellen shared that she has put together a proposal for next year to extend research to the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain and Northern Research stations. The research would focus on new profiles, distribution and rights/management of cultural resources, etc. She also shared that she made a proposal to DC and won't hear back until around February on whether more funding will be made available.

Sue Wotkyns gave an update on ITEP's activities. She shared that the NAU website is being updated continually including with funding opportunities and upcoming events, also that the monthly newsletter distribution continues to grow. She will be teaching a climate change adaptation-planning course in March in Tucson. In May she will travel to Alaska and be working with the University of Alaska Bristol Bay. She is working on a Southwest Climate Change Project and will begin steering committee calls in January.

Updates from recent meetings

Nov 8-9, 2010: American Indian/Alaskan Native Climate Change Working Group Mtg: Bellingham, WA

Steve Pavlik gave a brief summary of the AI/AN Climate Change Working Group meeting held in Bellingham, WA in November at the Northwest Indian College. Around 120 people attend. At the meeting participants discussed accomplishments, building of partnerships and relationships, networking, and a need to coordinate efforts. The group's next steps include a proposal by Dan to divide the group into working committee groups/tasks. Steve Pavlik will share information on the committees that are being formed when it is made available.

Steve highlighted that last year the Native Homelands Conference in Minneapolis was financed primarily by NASA and was the first meeting since 10 years ago, so he pointed out that there is a need to not wait another 10 years, and there is talk of a conference next year, possibly in Fairbanks, AK.

Steve noted that there are numerous Tribal colleges doing great work in climate change including Salish Kootenai and Haskell among many others. The students who attended the meeting were able to because of scholarships provided, some scholarships were provided by NASA and Nancy Maynard, and 16 tribal colleges were represented at the meeting. Kathy mentioned that NASA's Summer Research Experience program offers opportunities for agencies and non-governmental organizations to post positions and work with students on research projects. NASA has a portal on their website dedicated to describing these opportunities for Native American students. The next AI/AN Climate Change Working Group meeting is scheduled for April 2011 and is expected to be held at the Salish Kootenai Indian College.

Oct 25, 2010: Regional Approaches to Climate Change in Western Conifers: Vancouver, WA

Don attended the Regional Approaches to Climate Change in Western Conifers meeting in November. The next workshop was held on December 3rd at the University of Idaho. John DeGroot attended that workshop. John also mentioned that the University of Idaho Forestry extension is interested in outreach to tribes and he expected to talk with them at the Western Conifers meeting.

Upcoming Events and Grant Opportunities

Dec 6-8, 2010: Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition Annual Policy Meeting: Portland, OR

Kathy shared information on her plans to attend this meeting next week. She will be using a poster created by herself, Raj, and Siena, that includes key information from each of the 3 current profiles (Coquille, Swinomish, Nez Perce) and will also be presenting opportunities for tribes concerning climate change initiatives. She expressed that there will be a lot of federal agency representatives attending. The poster that was created for this event will be put in pdf form and sent out in the next few days as well as eventually put up on our website with the University of Oregon.

Feb 16-18: National Workshop (Western Conifers): Portland, OR

Don shared that this event is taking place and that there will be over 100 attendees many of who are researchers. Timber corporations sent out an 8-page survey for the conference on where to prioritize tree physiology, education, non-forest carbon, genetics and tree improvement, forest modeling and a possible need for change in forest modeling, etc.

BLM Outreach to Oregon Tribes

Rita Asgeirsson

During the summer of 2010, Rita conducted outreach to all of the Oregon tribes on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management to identify tribal concerns and thoughts related to climate change. Rita shared that the BLM state office plans for Oregon and Washington to be in charge nationally in heading climate change adaptation work. To summarize and share Rita's findings, the BLM plans to hold a tribal meeting in December, which will include representatives from all Oregon tribes and give them an opportunity to sit and discuss concerns with renewable energy, tribal land uses not being considered. The BLM will also offer all GIS baseline data to the tribes as basic inventory and a way to look at areas of concern and areas of interest. (Rita also mentioned that she met with two women from the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission to look at maps in comparison with wind turbine sites.)

Umatilla is currently doing climate change work with funding from the BLM of \$100,000. She encourages other tribes to seek funding from the BLM as well as work with the BLM on learning the maps system so that the BLM can better help them.

Kathy asked if Rita could provide here with information from the BLM and the contact there (Kim). And also that she would provide Kim with information on our efforts so she knows that there is a broader effort in place.

Kathy also asked Rita what the response from the BLM was on all of the information they were provided with. Rita responded that the BLM is trying to figure out how they should begin networking with tribes and what consulting with them would entail (should they meet with staff or tribal council, etc) and that they were surprised by the information provided by the DOE and CRITFC but showed interest. The BLM hasn't been historically involved so they want to take it slow to make sure they're going about it the right way. Currently taking the process slow with CRITFC, ITTC, Warm Springs, and Tulalip. The tribes asked for a statement from the BLM on their stance in this process, this statement is being developed.

She shared that wind energy and biomass are the main areas of interest for the tribes and that there is a map coming out which will show areas to establish conservation as well as to map tribal concerns.

Ellen asked what of this work could be provided to us. Rita shared that she gave a report to the BLM with a PowerPoint and recommendations, which she could send to Kathy and Ellen.

Wrap-up

Kathy said that the next steering committee call will be in mid to late January and she will have updates on the Forest Inventory and Analysis of off reservation species as well as resource inventories and new profiles.