

PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Call

Date: January 25, 2011

Meeting materials also online at: <http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/network/>

Meeting Participants:

Kari Neumeyer, Justin Spenillo, Sue Wotkyns, John DeGroot, Ellen Donoghue, Don Motanic, Angelique Slade Shantz, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), Ed Knight,

Meeting Notes:

American Indian Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group Updates:

- Next AIAN Climate Change Working Group Meeting:
 - The tentative date for the next meeting is April 28, 2011 in Montana. Rita will send out confirmed details when they are available.

- Mini-grants to Tribal Colleges and Universities:
 - The American Indian Alaskan Native Climate Change Working Group (AI AN CCWG), through support from the NASA Tribal Colleges & Universities Program, has mini-grant funds available for faculty and students at Tribal Colleges and Universities to further climate change related education and research activities at their schools and with their tribal communities. Study Grants are available for up to \$15,000.00. Deadline is February 15th, 2011. More information is available at: <http://www.haskell.edu/climate/index.html>.

- NASA Summer Internship program
 - Applications for the 2011 NASA Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in Geospatial Technology and Climate Change are open and due March 1st. Funded by NASA Higher Education Tribal Colleges and Universities Program, this 10-week Internship REU is focused on building research capacity and training for TCU students and faculty in GIS, remote sensing, and climate change research specific to tribal lands. For more information, visit: (<http://intern.nasa.gov>).

- Oregon Tribal Climate Change Project—BLM State Office
 - The PowerPoint presentation developed by Rita Asgeirsson gives overview of tribal renewable energy interests and projects in Oregon, and outlines tribal concerns and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management. September 2010.
http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/resources/mitigation.asp#rsm_otcc

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals – Updates

- Sue announced that the Southwest Climate Change Network would have their first conference call on January 26 and begin moving forward with their efforts.
- ITEP has entered a 4-year cooperative agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to facilitate tribal climate change adaptation planning and to communicate climate change impacts. The four main tasks of the project are:
 1. Training: provide training that will build the capacity of tribes to engage in climate change adaptation planning
 2. Tools and Technical Assistance: research and recommend tools that will assist tribes in the planning process; provide assistance to tribes through conference calls that will provide a forum

- for tribes to ask questions and seek guidance on climate change adaptation planning
 - 3. Tribal Profiles: provide written profiles highlighting tribes that are actively working to address current and projected climate change impacts;
 - 4. Outreach and Communication: provide climate change outreach and communication materials.
- **ITEP Training: Climate Change Adaptation Planning** - March 8-10, Tucson, AZ. This training provides an introduction to climate change adaptation and adaptation planning, highlighting what local tribes are doing. This course is intended for tribal environmental professionals who expect to be involved in climate change adaptation planning. More information and registration form are available at: www4.nau.edu/itep/air/training_aq.asp
 - **Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources** (<http://www.cier.ca/>). Angelique Slade Shantz joined our call for the first time and shared brief information on her project to develop case studies on indigenous experiences in carbon markets to provide lessons learned and best practices. She talked about the need for indigenous communities to have access to unbiased information not provided by carbon developers and help indigenous communities be a part of the conversation about carbon markets. Angelique also mentioned that there will be a series of April lunchtime webinars focused on aspects of indigenous participation in carbon markets. While these webinars will be focused on Canadian First Nations, they may be of great interest to tribes in the U.S. Angelique asked if anyone on the call knew of innovative ways to make webinars more interactive. She will continue to share resources and information as they are made available.

Other Updates

- The National Wildlife Foundation has just released a Guide to CC Vulnerability Assessments entitled: Scanning the Conservation Horizon. <http://www.nwf.org/vulnerabilityguide>
- More information on the National Climate Assessment and the US Global Change Research Program and more info on that can be found at <http://assessment.globalchange.gov>
- **National Workshop on Climate and Forests: Planning Tools and Perspectives on Adaptation and Mitigation Options** - May 18-20, Flagstaff, AZ. Society of American Foresters. Purpose: To extend greater understanding of the current adaptation and mitigation options (Resistance, Resilience, Response, Realignment and Reduction, or the 5-Rs) for forest management; to make state-of-the-art climatic and ecological planning tools accessible and useful for decision makers, forest resource managers and extension educators at all levels; to explore how to make these options and tools better utilized by the various forest resource managers and extension educators across the country; and to foster understanding of where scientific research and practitioners' expectations intersect to generate the best management decisions. www.safnet.org/natworkshop11/index.cfm
- **Tribal Energy Program Issues Funding Opportunity - Energy Efficiency Development and Deployment in Indian Country** (US Dept. of Energy) Under this announcement, DOE is soliciting applications Feasibility studies to assess and determine the technical and economic feasibility of energy efficiency improvements to existing tribally owned buildings and installation of energy efficiency improvements to existing tribally owned buildings. http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/government_grants.cfm

University of Oregon/USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station Project Update

- **Project Website:**
 - The Project website is now up at: <http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/>. Please email Kathy if you have comments or suggestion on the structure or content of the site.

- **Research Initiative (*revised overview attached*)**
 - Kathy and Ellen described the general initiative to conduct in-depth research on key climate change issues for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The research approach and potential research areas are described in the attached research initiative document.
 - Don noted the importance of including traditional knowledge and cultural perspectives in research. He mentioned that the Intertribal Timber Council developed a research subcommittee is working on a tribal agenda for research and offered to share that with this Network when it was adopted by the ITC.
 - Ed asked how we will connect to the many other tribes involved in different aspects of adaptation planning. Kathy talked about outreach through the Network to make sure we aren't duplicating efforts and are instead well coordinated. Kathy also mentioned the two other FS Research Stations that are engaged in facilitating similar efforts in the Southwest and through the Northern Research Station.
 - Angelique asked about how the research initiative and our examination of adaptation and mitigation programs will overlap with sustainable economic development. This is an important issue that we agreed should be included in our research questions and approach.

- **Project Profiles**
 - The University of Oregon is working on two profiles right now. One is focused on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation First Foods Project. The second is a broader profile examining relocation issues among Alaska Native Communities. We attached a first draft outline for the relocation profile in advance of the call and Raj gave an overview of key themes and issues that we plan to address in the profile. Rita shared her perspectives as someone who was raised in an Alaska Native village at the mouth of the Yukon River. She talked about one of the key concerns being the economic realities facing villagers vs. the extraordinary costs of relocation. She suggested it may be hard for people to think about the millions of dollars required to relocate when they are struggling to put food on the table.

- **Future profile ideas**
 - Kari Neumeyer with the Northwest Indian Fisheries commission shared some information on the Lummi Nation wind power project - <http://nwifc.org/2011/01/lummi-nation-looks-at-wind-power/>. The Lummi Nation received a grant to study possibility of implementing wind power on their reservation. Currently, they are measuring wind speeds to see if it is enough to be cost effective. They are also looking at affects on the environment on the reservation. If there are positive results, they will move forward with funding applications to implement the project. Kari said she would be happy to facilitate contact with the tribe if we want to move forward with a profile. Angelique mentioned that renewable energy case studies are a big part of CIER's work and should would be happy to talk with people about their process. They are currently working with the Swan Lake First Nation in Canada to examine the feasibility of a 10MW wind farm.