

Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network Call

Date: May 3, 2011

PARTICIPANTS

- Rita Asgeirsson, Northwest Indian College
- Chris Baum, Institute for Tribal Government
- Bull Bennett, Kiksapa Consulting
- Mark Carey, Univ. Oregon Clark Honors College
- Daniel Cordalis, Univ. Colorado School of Law
- Brian Kummet, Nez Perce Tribe
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Roy Sampsel, Institute for Tribal Government
- Patricia Tillmen, National Wildlife Federation
- Garrit Vogesser, National Wildlife Federation
- Sue Wotkyns, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Kathy Lynn, Univ. Oregon Environmental Studies Program

MEETING MINUTES

I. Our Natural Resources: Honoring the Natural Legacy of Indian Country

Don Motanic provided an overview of Our Natural Resources (<http://www.ournaturalresources.org/intertribal-organizations/>). The mission of ONR is to protect and utilize the health and productivity of the natural resources to ensure the well-being of tribal cultures, communities, economies, health of future generations while enhancing sovereignty. ONR is convened by the National Congress of American Indians and funded through the DOI Fish and Wildlife and the USDA. ONR has five goals:

1. Establish and advance tribal government involvement in the development and implementation of laws, programs and policies that affect tribal interests in natural resources.
 2. Obtain increased base funding and equitable participation in funding, programs, and initiatives that affect tribal interests in natural resources.
 3. Establish and advance the role of Tribal wisdom and beliefs in natural resources research and management.
 4. Identify, enhance and establish educational programs that promote the participation of all sectors of the tribal community in natural resources management programs and professions.
 5. Support 'ONR Our Natural Resources' alliance's work in the service of tribal governments and communities.
- ONR is currently developing an action plan, which should be available sometime soon.

Next Steps:

- We will continue to include updates about the *Our Natural Resources* work on future Network agendas to stay apprised of ongoing efforts.

II. Intertribal Timber Council Research Sub-Committee

Don presented information on the ITC Research sub-committee, which has developed as a result of the National Indian Forest Research Management Act authority for the DOI to help support research. ITC is working with BIA decided to develop a research committee, which includes the Forest Service, BIA, FS, Salish Kootenai College and University of Washington. The two co-chairs are Adrian Leighton with Salish Kootenai College and Laurel James from the Yakama Tribe who is pursuing her Ph.D at the University of Washington. The committee developed and implemented a survey that has been completed by over 100 people thus far. The results from the survey will be presented at the ITC Symposium in June. They would like more feedback from tribal leaders as currently, only five or six tribal leaders have responded. They would like to get 20% of responses from tribal leaders.

Other efforts that the ITC research sub-committee are engaged in include:

- Developing an MOU with the Forest Service or University of Washington to increase online access to research databases and journals.
- Initiating the 10-year assessment of Indian forest lands (3rd iteration of the Indian Forestry Management Assessment Team report.) There will be a planning meeting for this process during the ITC symposium.
- Re-applying to the DOI Joint Fire Science program for funding for traditional knowledge and fire use.

Next Steps:

- ITC would like assistance in getting more tribal leaders to respond to the survey. The direct link to the survey is: http://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/research.html.
- Roy will outreach to tribal leaders at the ATNI meeting in Coeur d'Alene the week of May 15.

III. Climate Change Effects on Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems in the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Patricia Tillman with the National Wildlife Federation discussed their efforts to develop reports on climate change impacts on the Pacific coast. She is reaching out to the network to increase her knowledge about climate change impacts for tribes and first nations as she would like to incorporate as much tribal information as possible within the reports. Currently, she has no information on British Columbia First Nations or Alaskan Tribes. She is particularly interested in climate change adaptation planning that is in progress and wants to learn more about traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and what TEK is saying about climate change for tribes. She hopes to have draft reports completed by July. They are applying for funding for the second phase of the project, which would enable NWF to convene focus groups to confirm and augment report findings and take a look at what the impacts in the report mean for the future.

Next Steps:

- If you would like to contribute information related to tribal climate change efforts to the National Wildlife Federation reports on **Climate Change Effects on Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems in the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative**, contact: Patricia Tillmann, Research Associate, National Wildlife Federation, Pacific Region, 206.577.7824, tillmannp@nwf.org / www.nwf.org / www.nwf.org/pacific.

IV. AIAN Climate Change Working Group April Meeting (<http://aianclimatechange.com/>)

The Spring AIAN climate change working group meeting was held April 28-29 at the Salish Kootenai College in Montana. The meeting was followed by a one-day symposium at the University of Montana on climate change, indigenous peoples and adaptation. Rita Asgeirsson and Bull Bennet shared their perspectives on key outcomes from the conference. A number of tribal colleges are focusing on renewable energy projects, and tribal college students are turning school training into what can be done in their own communities. Rita suggested that there may be an opportunity to incorporate student research on forest and marine environments with NWF's efforts.

Rita mentioned that Nancy Maynard with NASA is working on a project for NASA to summarize tribal efforts with climate change adaptation in the polar region. Bull mentioned that Dr. Steve Running, a member of the 2007 IPCC, led a good discussion on global climate change and tailored it to the PNW and the western Montana region. Key discussion points from Dr. Running's talk included:

- A change in the water balance because of climate change will affect available water to forest ecosystems and increases the probability of wildfire potential.
- Trees will endure longer summers increasing fire fuel load. Survival of insect populations will be easier in a milder winter. Temperature increases in the PNW and western Rockies may result in dryer, longer summers.
- Part of a transition strategy must include a transition to more renewable energy.

Discussions about adaptation at the meeting focused on the need for more work and solutions for adaptive measures at a local scale. Tribal values in terms of sense of place and resource utilization are going to come to the forefront. Rita said that all of the presentations will be on the website soon. We will send out a link as soon as they are available. The next AIAN meeting will likely be in November 2011 at the College of Menominee or Tohono O'odham community college.

V. National Climate Assessment - <http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment>

Bull Bennett with Kiksapa Consulting has recently been appointed to work on the National Climate Assessment (NCA) and ensure that tribal voices will be included in assessment findings, particularly as it relates to resiliency and adaptive members. He invited the PNW Tribal Climate Change Network to contribute to this process; specifically, examples of tribal resiliency, sense of place and climate change adaptation measures. There will be clear and concise pathways for tribal input. Bull suggested that there is an opportunity now to fold into and shape the trajectory of climate change adaptation through native values and place-based knowledge into the overall NCA. The draft NCA is targeted for June 2012, and will be presented to President Obama and Congress in 2013. Mark Carey asked if they would be interested in examples of tribal resiliency from indigenous populations in other parts of the world; Bull responded that he would be very interested in those examples as well.

Next Steps:

- Kathy will work directly with Bull to contribute information gathered thus far through our inventory and profile development in the PNW. Kathy will also include this as a standing item for discussion on future Network calls and coordinate on additional ways to contribute information to the NCA.

VI. Center for Energy and Environmental Security at the University of Colorado Law School – Online database for Tribal Climate Change issues.

Daniel Cordalis with the Center for Energy and Environmental Security at the University of Colorado Law School shared information on their efforts to develop an online, searchable database on tribal climate change issues. This project is funded through the Western Water Assessment and coordinated through the Climate Decision Support Consortium and Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment (RISA).

Next Steps:

- Kathy will work with Julie Teel and Daniel Cordalis at the Univ. of Colorado to contribute profiles and inventory information through our efforts in the PNW.

VII. NASA Tribal Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program

Bull shared information on the NASA Tribal REU program (<http://www.kiksapa.com/Nasatribal.html>). They are providing tribal college students with an opportunity to learn about geo-spatial technology and climate impacts on a local scale and encourage students to connect their research to needs of their own communities in the context of climate change. There are summer and academic year REU opportunities.

VIII. PNW Tribal Climate Change Project Updates

Supporting Tribal Student Research

Kathy and Ellen have developed a strategy for mentoring tribal college students that are working on social science research related to tribal climate change issues. They are piloting this approach with Rita Asgeirsson from Northwest Indian College. We will include time for Rita to share her research proposal on our June 2011 conference call.

University of Oregon student course and symposium on Indigenous peoples and climate change - May 2012

Mark Carey, and Environmental historian with the Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon shared information on a course he is working on for next spring on indigenous peoples and climate change. This course will be tied to a one-day conference. Goals of this project include facilitating more interaction between native and non-native students. He is planning to bring out one or two keynote speakers – one from the U.S. and one from South America. Mark and Kathy are exploring the possibility of bringing out three tribal college students that could participate in a day of the class and present during the conference. Mark is also interested in

identifying more practical outcomes from the course that might make a contribution to tribal needs related to climate change.

Roy Sampsel suggested that he and Mark should talk further so that Roy can get a better sense of what is envisioned for the meeting. One idea for a keynote was Oren Lyons. Oren recently presented at Northwest Indian College, and Rita will send out a link if his presentation is made available online. Roy also mentioned the Yukon River Tribal Watershed Council is proposing to put together an international meeting on climate change in late fall 2011 or early winter 2012. They want to bring in folks from Central and South America, and he'd be interested in ideas that Mark may have. There are also a team of administrators heading to Peru in August for a World Indigenous meeting that Mark also might have suggestions for.

Next Steps:

- Kathy will work with Mark to identify funding for the tribal college students. If funding becomes available, Kathy will coordinate with AIAN Climate Change working group to identify/nominate three tribal college students that could participate.
- If you have ideas for an indigenous leader from the United States that could be a keynote speaker at the indigenous peoples and climate change conference in May 2012, please send an email to kathy@uoregon.edu and carey@uoregon.edu.

Additional Project Updates

- Ellen and Kathy have been invited to present on the PNW Tribal Climate Change project at a Forest Service Research Executive Team Meeting - July 27-28, 2011 in Portland. They will identify one tribal member to participate as well.
- Kathy is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Coquille Indian Tribe to pilot the Forest Inventory and Analysis project.
- We are preparing a Tribal Leader's Guide on Agency Climate Change Programs. (*see attached outline*)
- New profiles on Alaska Relocation Issues and the Lummi Nation Renewable Energy projects are available at: <http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/tribal-profiles/>
- Sue is organizing the National Tribal Forum June 14-16 in Spokane, WA. It is still possible to submit a proposal for a presentation. The conference website is on the ITEP website.