

PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Call

Date: March 15, 2011

Participants: Kathy Lynn, Ellen Donoghue, Cindy West, Kari Neumeyer, Jessi Kirshner, Jennie Hoffman, Siena, Kate Sloan, Sue Wotkyns, Rita Asgeirsson...

CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Partner Updates:

EcoAdapt (<http://ecoadapt.org/>)

Jennie Hoffman and Jessi Kirshner gave a short presentation about the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (www.CAKEX.org) and a new project on coastal and marine spatial planning in Washington State.

The Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) is aimed at building a shared knowledge base for managing natural systems in the face of rapid climate change and includes well over 200 case studies to date, including several case studies from tribes & First Nations. EcoAdapt is also working on a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning in Washington State. They are interested in understanding needs related to climate change in coastal marine environments and they hope to garner involvement from tribes in their planning process.

EcoAdapt also conducts webinars and has funding to develop specific modules on climate change; a tribes and climate change module would be something that they would potentially pursue funding for if there were potential partners and tribal interest.

2011 National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) (Kate Sloan)

The 2011 National Tribal Environmental Council annual conference will be held at the Blue Lake Rancheria May 1-4: <http://ntec.org/annualmeeting.html>. Kate Sloan is organizing a panel on climate change, as well as a session on the new executive order for protecting marine environments and how that relates to climate change. She is very interested in getting suggestions about possible panelists for both sessions. They are particularly interested in learning about what tribes are doing related to adaptation and how that affects tribal sovereignty. They have limited travel funds, but they can waive the registration fee and comp rooms for speakers. Sessions are Monday through Wednesday w/ meet and greet on Sunday.

Suggestions for panelists include:

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Eric Quaempts)
- Coquille Indian Tribe (Bill Snyder, Jason Younkens, or Don Ivy)
- Makah Nation (Mike McCarty)
- Preston Hardison or Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes
- Dennis Martinez

American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN) Climate Change Working Group

The next AIAN Climate Change Working Group Meeting will be April 28-29, 2011 at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana - <http://aianclimatechange.com/>. There is some travel

support available for Tribal College faculty and students The travel award request deadline has been extended to Friday, March 18th. Email Shereena Baker (shereena_rose@hotmail.com) for a registration form and travel fund requests.

This year the University of Montana is hosting an additional one-day symposium April 30th at the Univ. of Montana, Missoula, Montana. <http://www.indigenouseideas.org/>. The University of Montana symposium will have a Tribal College student poster session. Contact: Michael Price, PhD candidate, University of Montana: michael.price@ntsg.umt.edu; or [406-544-9391](tel:406-544-9391).

Rita also mentioned that the NASA Summer Research Experience for Tribal College Students is interested in partnering with agencies and organizations with climate change research efforts that tribal college students could engage in. Kathy will connect with Bo Bennet from Kiksapa Consulting to explore how we might make these connections further.

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

The National Tribal Forum is June 14-16, Spokane, WA; www4.nau.edu/itep/air/aq_ntfl1.asp. There will be a climate change track; email Sue Wotkyns (Susan.Wotkyns@nau.edu) if you have panel suggestions or interest in attending the meeting. Sue also provide a brief update about the creation of the Southwest Tribal Climate Change Network.

Project Updates and Discussion Items:

Current Project Profiles underway include:

- Relocation issues among Alaska Native Communities
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation First Foods Project
- Lummi Nation Renewable Energy Projects

Forest Inventory and Analysis Pilot Project

The Forest Inventory and Analysis Project is aimed at understanding changes in the quantity and distribution of off-reservation, culturally important species. We will work with the Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program to provide tribes with access to customized Forest Inventory Database Reports through the FIA program. Customized reports will provide information to tribes interested in participating in this project about changing composition and distribution of selected species on selected National Forests. This may also lead to discussions about opportunities to include additional species of cultural importance to the forest inventory list.

We are hoping to pilot this effort with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and are currently working on a data sharing agreement.

Tribal Consultation - Implications for Climate Change Policy and Programs

Ellen discussed the need for stronger understanding of consultation by all levels of the Forest Service as well as a need to strengthen tribal and federal relationships and consultation in the context of climate change. There may be grant opportunities to explore this issue further.

Needs and opportunities for biophysical research

Ellen discussed how the focus of our project to date has been centered on the social sciences, and there is a need to think about how we might better integrate biophysical sciences within our efforts. We would like to begin talking with tribes about where there are needs for increased biophysical research (this may be related to climate vulnerability assessments, monitoring change in culturally important species, as well as other data and information needs). We also discussed the importance of including traditional knowledge and oral histories in examining scientific data.

Other Issues

National Rural Assesmbly

The National Rural Assembly will be held June 28-30 in Minneapolis, MN.

(<http://www.ruralassembly.org/events/2011-national-rural-assembly-gathering>) Kathy is proposing a work session with a number of other coalitions on climate change.

Tribal reactions to current legislation related to EPA Clean Air Act

Currently, there are numerous congressional proposals to remove the EPA's authority to regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions under the Clean Air Act. Kate suggested that Region 9 EPA is very concerned about this, as are Region 9 tribes. Kate talked about meetings she attended in Atlanta convened by the White House Office of Science and Policy and the EPA. She said that the message from the meetings were that in spite of current Congressional proposals (or lack of climate legislation), the Administration is being strategic about using federal authority to direct federal agencies to deal with climate change. There is an opportunity for tribes to advocate for the issues through consultation; it's a good place to start. We will start including a legislative policy item on our future agendas so that we can further discuss tribal reactions to current policies and explore how we might engage in policy issues in the future.