

**Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project
DRAFT Meeting Notes – Wednesday, September 26, 2012**

Call Participants

- Carol Craig, Wisdom of the Elders
- Kimberly Craven, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
- Josh Foster, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute
- Laura Gephart, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
- Oliver Grah, Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Keith Hatch, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Marijke van Heeswijk, USGS and the Northwest Climate Science Center
- Jennie Hoffman, EcoAdapt
- Linda Kruger, USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station, Juneau Forestry Sciences Lab
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
- John Mankowski, North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Gary Morishima, Technical Advisor to the Quinault Indian Nation
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Steve Robinson, Independent Consultant
- Kirsten Vinyeta, University of Oregon

Table of Contents

CSC/LCC Tribal Engagement Discussion Paper 2
Interface of coastal tribes, sea level rise and freshwater 3
Tribal Climate Change Project - Draft Climate Change Adaptation Planning Framework 3
General Updates 4
 Climatic Change Journal..... 4
 American Indian Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group..... 4
 New Tribal Climate Change Profiles:..... 4
 Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide..... 5
 Recap of the Traditional Knowledge and Healthy Ecosystems Summit -..... 5
 ITEP Fact Sheets and Southwest Tribal Climate Change Network 5
 National Adaptation Forum Action today for a better tomorrow 5

2012 PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates:

- October 24, 2012
 - November 28, 2012
- Call-in Information:*
Call Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 Pacific
Call-in #: 1-888-858-2144
Pass code: 50647

CSC/LCC Tribal Engagement Discussion Paper

The Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project developed this paper to foster dialogue about the need for and opportunities to meaningfully engage tribes in Climate Science Centers (CSC) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). The paper describes the policy language related to tribal engagement in CSCs and LCCs and examines the Government-to-Government relationship in context of CSCs and LCCs. The paper also discusses the importance of incorporating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into CSC and LCC initiatives, and discusses the need for protecting culturally-sensitive information and respecting indigenous knowledge holders.

In regards to the use of this paper, Don Motanic shared information on the draft proposal for the development of a National LCC Council. In 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested that the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) convene and host a third-party neutral collaborative process to support the development of an effective and broad-based national LCC network and leadership. The USIECR is also conducting a survey of tribal engagement in LCCs across the country.

John Mankowski suggested that feedback on the usefulness and accuracy of the paper from the network would be valuable in assisting LCCs in understanding how to appropriately and respectfully engage tribes and First Nations.

Keith suggested that the paper could be more specific when summarizing what is stated in agency consultation policies or executive orders. He stated that it was important to make clear that consultation is being addressed at the highest federal and tribal levels. Gary discussed the importance of providing high-level information to tribal leadership. He suggested there is a need for a more formal mechanism for keeping tribal leadership involved and informed in respect to CSCs, LCCs and other regional and national initiatives.

In the section of the paper on contributions tribes can make to CSC and LCC events, Kimberly suggested that it may be helpful to add a consideration related to tribal interest to engage treaty protected rights and request consultation with tribal leaders and tribal organizations, such as the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission.

Josh asked about the distinction between formal consultation and informal interactions. OCCRI's experience with engaging tribes in discussions about climate science has been through informal dialogues as opposed to formal consultation. While federal agencies have a government-to-government relationship with tribes that includes formal consultation. State and non-governmental agencies may have different approaches. There is also a place for collaboration and partnerships between national and regional initiatives and tribes. John described the North Pacific LCC's relationship with tribes as a full partnership. The LCC engages with tribes on its steering committee, through a tribal/First Nations committee and through a sub-committee on Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Marijke stated that the Northwest Climate Science Center is early on in their process, but working towards engaging tribes through their Executive Stakeholder Advisory Committee and other initiatives.

Jeff talked about his perspectives on the importance moving beyond consultation and look at the outcomes from consultation. Are agencies formally consulting with tribes, and changing behavior based on those interactions? If communication occurs appropriately, but behavior is not changed, then the government-to-government relationship may not be effective. Jeff mentioned Secretarial Order #3206: American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act

(<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/tribal-faq.html>). This order clarifies responsibilities of the Departments of Commerce and the Interior when the implementation of the ESA affects (or may affect) Indian lands, tribal trust resources, or the exercise of tribal rights. Jeff suggested that this order illustrated the form some agencies, the process to implement the ESA was good, but that enforcement of activities didn't necessarily occur. Jeff emphasized the importance of meaningful interactions between agencies and tribes in addition to consultation processes.

Gary suggested that it would be helpful to set up a process that provides high level information and many of the issues discussed in these kinds of forums for tribal leaders in a way that is easy for them to understand. Keeping tribal leadership informed on climate change and climate science is critical, as is making sure that the information presented to them is relevant and through efficient communication channels.

Kathy will reflect comments and suggestions from the discussion into the next draft of the paper. Please email additional comments to kathy@uoregon.edu.

Interface of coastal tribes, sea level rise and freshwater

Keith Hatch led a brief discussion about the interface of coastal tribes, sea level rise and impacts on freshwater. There seems to be a lack of information or dialogue on this issue, so we used the discussion to gauge the kind of work or research in this area to date, and to identify interest and opportunities for future discussion. Jennie Hoffman from EcoAdapt mentioned that while she wasn't familiar with tribal examples, she is aware of a number of studies related to municipal and industrial issues, as well as agriculture and hydropower. There may be some examples conducted in the region or around the country that may be relevant to tribal interest. Jennie suggested that as more tribes embark on planning, there is an opportunities to build a set of resources and identify research priorities based on tribal input. Public health issues related to impacts on freshwater ecosystems and salt water intrusion may be interesting starting places for research.

Tribal Climate Change Project - Draft Climate Change Adaptation Planning Framework

This framework is intended to serve as a resource for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes developing tribal climate change adaptation plans or incorporating climate change adaptation strategies into existing tribal plans and initiatives, including strategic plans or natural resource management plans. The PNW Tribal Climate Change Project initially developed a framework for the Coquille Indian Tribe of Oregon to serve as a reference for the Tribe as they updated their Tribal Strategic Plan. We are broadening the framework to serve as a resource for other tribes in the region and potentially around the country. Please contact Kathy (kathy@uoregon.edu) with any questions or feedback, or if you would like a copy of the framework to review. This framework can be used in concert with other tools, such as ITEP's Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Plan Template (for more information on the ITEP template, go to: <http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/resources/adaptation.asp>.) Jennie suggested additional resources, including some information clearinghouses and tools, such as:

- Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange: <http://www.cakex.org/>
- Georgetown Adaptation Clearinghouse: <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/clearinghouse>
- Digital Coast: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/>
- Coastal Climate Adaptation: <http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/climateadaptation/default.aspx>
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Climate Change Learning Center: http://training.fws.gov/EC/Resources/climate_change/home.html

General Updates

Climatic Change Journal

The call for abstracts for the special issue of the Climatic Change Journal resulted in a wide range of articles proposed. The proposal for the special issues includes about 15 articles covering specific challenges and impacts affecting tribes across the country in a climate change context. These articles represent the contributions of over 100 authors. The CCJ has accepted the proposal. The electronic publication is expected by March 1, 2013.

American Indian Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group (<http://aianccwg.ning.com/>)

The American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN) Climate Change Working Group has a new website (<http://aianccwg.ning.com/>). The next AIAN meeting is scheduled for November 5-6 in Anchorage, Alaska at the BP Energy Center. Travel awards are available for students and faculty members at Tribal Colleges or Tribal Universities. For more information on the meeting and how to apply for travel awards, send an email to: shereena_rose@hotmail.com.

New Tribal Climate Change Profiles:

[First Stewards Symposium - http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/tribes/tdk_firststwrds.asp](http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/tribes/tdk_firststwrds.asp)

In July 2012, four coastal treaty tribes from Washington State, the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation, hosted the First Stewards Symposium at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC in recognition of the rapid changes coastal tribes are experiencing from climate change and changes in marine ecosystems. The Symposium convened coastal people from across the United States to discuss the impacts of climate change and strategies for mitigation and adaptation. Tribal leaders, governmental and non-governmental agency representatives, academics, and non-profit indigenous advocates came together to demonstrate the impacts of climate change in regions throughout the U.S. and its territories and how indigenous adaptations to climate change can guide society moving forward. The Symposium emphasized strategies to promote actions in society-at-large to adapt to climate change and discussed the opportunity for native people to be leaders and provide models for other native and non-native communities. The First Stewards Symposium led to a resolution illustrating the impacts of climate change on traditional ways of life and culture and calling for the formal recognition and inclusion of indigenous communities in the formation of policies, management and other government action. This First Stewards Symposium profile highlights the speakers, issues and outcomes, as well as a direct link to the resolution, links to videos from the Symposium.

[Vulnerability of Coastal Louisiana Tribes in a Climate Change Context -](http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/tribes/gulfcoast_lacoastal.asp)

http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/tribes/gulfcoast_lacoastal.asp

Living among the bayous in southern Louisiana, coastal tribes have a long history of vulnerability to and impacts from a range of environmental and human-caused events, including storms, subsidence, land sinking and shrinking, sea-level rise and oil spills. These events have posed uncommon challenges to these indigenous communities. In January 2012, several tribal communities from coastal Louisiana (including Grand Bayou Village, Grand Caillou/Dulac, Isle de Jean Charles and Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribes) met to “share knowledge, support, cultural connectivity and adaptation strategies” in response to the significant environmental changes they face. This meeting, convened by the tribes and attended by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), brought together local tribal members, national tribal leaders, faith leaders, government agency representatives, and resource specialists to share information on the various opportunities, resources, and programs available to tribal communities experiencing the impacts of large-scale environmental change. This profile explores the ways in which

climate change may exacerbate the challenges already facing coastal Louisiana tribes and potential strategies to assist these tribes in addressing their vulnerability.

Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide

(<http://envs.uoregon.edu/tribal-climate/>)

We are continuing to make updates to the online funding guide, including creating hyperlinks to each grant, so that the searches are comprehensive. We are working on creating drop-down menus for the geography and agency sections. Please contact Kathy (kathy@uoregon.edu) with any additional formatting or content-related feedback you may once you have a chance to explore the updated database at the link listed above.

Recap of the Traditional Knowledge and Healthy Ecosystems Summit:

(<http://snoqualmietkssummit2012.wordpress.com/>)

In late August 2012, the Snoqualmie Tribe hosted the Traditional Knowledge and Healthy Ecosystems Summit at the Skamania Lodge near Stevenson, WA. The Summit convened indigenous leaders, tribal members, land managers, educators, and students to teach and learn about the historic and present-day use of traditional knowledge to improve the health of ecosystems and indigenous communities. This was achieved via a number of presentations, workshops, roundtables and field trips over a three-day period. Kirsten Vinyeta, the Tribal Climate Change Project's (TCCP) graduate student researcher, attended the Summit and presented the findings of the TCCP's publication titled "Exploring the Role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Climate Change Initiatives." Kirsten is developing a profile on the summit, which will be posted to the TCCP website in the next few weeks.

ITEP Fact Sheets and Southwest Tribal Climate Change Network

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals has developed several Fact Sheets about climate change, with a Southwest focus. The Fact Sheets can be downloaded as PDFs from:

http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_SWProj.asp (scroll down to Outreach Materials section)

- Climate Change and Drought
- Climate Change and Invasive Species
- Climate Change and Wildfire

ITEP also developed a profile about the Southwest Tribal Climate Change Project (which this Network is part of). It is available on the Tribes & Climate Change website at:

http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/tribes/southwest_itep.asp.

National Adaptation Forum: Action today for a better tomorrow

The first *National Adaptation Forum (NAF)* is taking place April 2-3, 2013 in Denver Colorado.

www.nationaladaptationforum.org. Goals of the NAF include:

- Provide a professional development opportunity for the adaptation inclined.
- Contribute to the development of a community of practice around climate change adaptation.
- Create a venue for practitioners to share information, progress, and strategies, in order to build the capacity of their community.
- Supporting on the ground implementation by providing managers and regional experts with a venue to exchange knowledge of and tools for incorporating climate change into their work.