

San Francisco Meeting – December 9-10, 2002
Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf
Final Version

Attendees: Patricia Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission (ANSC)
Phil Robinson, EPA, OPPTS Env
Caren Rothstein-Robinson, EPA, Indian Program Coordinator, Pollution Prevention and
Toxics
Roland Shanks, Contractor working for ANSC on this project
Fred Corey, Chair of FOSTTA, Aroostook Band of
Micmacs
Art Ivanoff, member of TPPC Native Village of Unalakleet
Kesner Flores, Cortina Rancheria
Jean Gamache, EPA
Lisa Gover, NTEC
Lydia Olympic- Vice Chair NTOC and member of Igiuguk Tribal Council
Barbara Cunningham, OPPTS, Environmental Assistance

Agenda for meeting

Meeting Opens
Agenda-Opening Prayer
Introductions
Discussion of the Scope of Work
Discussion of the Contractor's Role
Discussion of the upcoming meeting technical workshop
 Name of the Project
 Date/Location
 Representation
Communications Issue
Meeting of Planning Board

Scope of Work is on ANSC website.

Beginning – ANSC work over last 8 yrs. Traditional knowledge and Contaminants
Project – Alaska Tribes, mtg /issues/
Mini-grants program newsletter has info on science that is ongoing;
This project grew out of federal safety concerns and concerns about the confusion
caused by EPA Fish Advisories.

The technical meeting scheduled to be held in March is to:
 Define the issues
 Identify what is going on
 Identify gaps in coverage

Other things going on Nationally, impacts of contaminants on everyone, expanding across Indian Country. Native communities needed to come together on the issues.

Approached EPA to help integrate the Tribes across the nation; 1) Part of what was put together – Technical meeting to gather from across the nation; what programs are operational, 2) Bring together communities from across the nation.

Discussed the meeting that took place in Choctaw Mississippi in September. The main conclusions from the Choctaw meeting were

- Tribes need more input
- Need to standardize and define terms
- Broaden who is participating in the project
- Need to clarify the goal
- Better safeguard tribal lifeways/subsistence

ANSC participates in a monthly meeting with the State Dept. and the Arctic Council. Tribes need to be more involved in this. State Dept getting in business of asking for tribal input on different issues, for example Mercury, etc,

EPA Region 10 is developing an Arctic Strategy that will include protection of tribal lifeways. They will assess across the Region to determine EPA's role. They are trying to nationalize the issue in American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO). Administrator Whitman is trying to break down the stovepipes within EPA and develop multi-office projects.

During the upcoming meeting the tribes need to caucus to determine the structure and communication. Products include:

- Primary issues and concerns that tribes have about contaminant issues
- Programs that currently exist to address these issues.
- The gaps that exist between existing programs and programs needed to address the issues.

The technical meeting will take place March 15-18 in Anchorage, Alaska

Need to develop an Information Packet for tribes including:

- Cover letter
- Report from this meeting in San Francisco and the Choctaw meeting
- Letter asking for input.

Need to develop a list of addressees including:

- NTEC
- NTOC
- RTOC
- TASWER-Marcie Phillips

- FOSTTA
- TPPC
- TSC
- Choctaw attendees
- California Basket Weavers Association
- Native Village of King Island
- Jim Sappier
- Elaine Abraham
- Terry Williams
- Navajo Nation
- Angelo Joaquin
- Stellar Sea Lion Commission
- Northern Contaminant Program
- Trevor White – Moose Liver study –Passamaquoddy Indian Township
- Simon Claire –Aroostook Micmac
- Fish – John Persell
- AK Traditional Diet Project
- Stuart Harris, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Akwesasne

ANCS has a \$125K grant from EPA to put on the workshop – “Subsistence Workshop”. As part of that project they have hired Roland Shanks, formerly with Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, to write a preliminary report that talks about the primary issues and concerns about contaminants in Indian Country; what programs and resources already exist to address those concerns and what gaps exist that require the development of new programs. This report will be a draft that will be presented at the meeting and additional information will be gathered to supplement the draft report and develop a final report from the meeting.

ANSC will contract with NTEC to provide logistics for travel and lodging for the Tribes.

The name of the meeting will be:

“A Subsistence Technical/Planning Meeting, for the Protection of Traditional/Tribal Lifeways” a national workshop being presented in Anchorage.

Purpose:

- To identify issues and concerns in Indian Country regarding contaminants in Traditional Foods.
- Discuss issues, resources, and gaps concerning contaminants and how they effect tribal ways of life.

- Share stories, information, and knowledge to develop a process and structure to protect traditional ways of life.

Goals:

- To develop recommendations.
- To develop a process for understanding, naming and defining a tribal way of life/ traditional lifeways/ subsistence, or finding an appropriate term to identify the issue.
- To determine the need for and to plan for future tribal gatherings

Expectations:

- To effect change within the agency and tribes
- Share stories, information, and knowledge
- Develop recommendations
- Develop process for understanding, naming, and defining the issue
- Begin to plan for a National gathering in 2004
- To better understand national tribal concerns.
- Improve communications between all the Tribes, agencies, and organizations working on the issue.

Next Conference Call:

There will be a follow-up conference call Jan. 16 at 3:00 EST.