



NTWC CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2009

Present: Michael Bolt (*Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation*), Nancy Schuldt (*Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*), Nancy John (*Cherokee Nation*), Ken Norton (*Hoopla Valley Tribe*), Alex Cabillo (*Hualapi Tribe*), David Fuller (*Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe*), Kathleen Hill (*NTWC Project Manager*) and Joseph Dupris (*NTWC Project Administrator*).

Excused: Daniel Kusnierz (*Penobscot Indian Nation*), René Rickard (*Tuscarora Nation/Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force*), Denise Jensen (*Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska*), Carlyle Ducheneaux (*Cheyenne River Sioux*), Daniel Chythlook (*Aleknagik Traditional Council*), Ann Marie Chischilly (*Gila River Indian Community*), Steve Crawford (*Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point*), Satya “Deb” Misra (*Navajo Nation*), and Phillip Cernerla (*Coeur d’Alene Tribe*).

1. Open Meeting

Chair Ken Norton opened the meeting.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Michael Bolt conducted roll call.

3. Review/Amend/Approve Minutes

There was not a quorum so review of the minutes was postponed.

4. Reports and Updates

Tribal Caucus - Ken Norton/Nancy John

The NTOC and AIEO met in Las Vegas November 17-19. AIEO Acting Director Chris Hoff discussed the need for improved coordination of efforts between the two entities, and discussed the development of a strategy to meet that goal. There was a commitment to re-evaluate past initiatives, including budget planning and recommendations. The NTOC received an update on the reorganization of AIEO, and the status of the Director search. The NTOC committed to engage in outreach and coordination with other EPA Tribal organizations such as the Tribal Science Council, the NTWC and the National Tribal Air Association.

It is anticipated that the AIEO will transfer from the Office of Water to the Office of International Affairs as early as January 2010.

Science Council – Daniel Kusnierz/Denise Jensen

Both Daniel and Denise were attending the National EPA-Tribal Science Council meeting in Washington, D.C. Nancy Schuldt noted that the 2010 National Tribal Science Forum is

scheduled for June 6-10.

National Water Quality Monitoring Council – Dave Fuller

Dave Fuller reminded the NTWC that the National Water Quality Monitoring Council has scheduled its seventh national conference for April 25-29. Dave, who represents the NTWC on the NTWQMC, would assist in the review of proposals for the upcoming conference.

Climate Change Conference Call – Steve Crawford

Steve Crawford was excused from the call, so others briefly discussed the first STC3 conference call, which took place on November 17. The call was primarily introductory and informational.

NTWC 2010 Meeting Schedule

In the course of discussing various meetings, Council members briefly moved to the topic of the NTWC's 2010 face-to-face meetings. Those present expressed interest in an April or May meeting with the EPA Headquarters Office of Water to follow up on the October 2009 fall meeting. Ken suggested that it would be good if the NTWC could follow up on the NTOC meeting. Dave Fuller reported that the Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit would take place in Juneau, Alaska in August or September. Council members expressed interest in scheduling the fall NTWC meeting to coincide with the Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit so that they can become better informed about Alaska Native water issues and serve as more informed advocates with regard to water quality concerns affecting Alaska Native Tribes and Villages.

5. Meeting Topics

Tribal Water Infrastructure Meeting & White House Forum on Clean Energy and Public Health – Deb Misra

Deb was excused, so did not give an update at this time.

Council Member Replacement – Kathy Hill & Joseph Dupris

Joseph and Kathy discussed the need to replace two Council members. NTWC bylaws require that Council members be employed by a Tribe or Tribally-authorized organization. Deb Misra is retiring from his employment with the Navajo Nation, so no longer meets those requirements for serving on the Council. Joeneal Hicks left Tribal employment, so also had to resign from the Council.

OWOW Tribal Wetlands Training Travel – Kathy Hill & Joseph Dupris

Joseph and Kathy informed Council member that they had made travel arrangement for over 30 Tribal participants in two OWOW-sponsored Wetlands training events, one in Region 10 (Spokane, WA) and the other in Region 9 (San Francisco).

6. Announcements

There were no additional announcements.

7. Setting of Next Conference Call Meeting Date and Time

The next conference call is scheduled for January 13, 2010. (NTWC-Only 1:00 Eastern; NTWC-EPA 2:00 Eastern).

8. Closing of the NTWC-Only Conference Call

The conference call ended at approximately 11:00 Pacific time.