Tribal EELC Representatives Report Out

E-ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2020

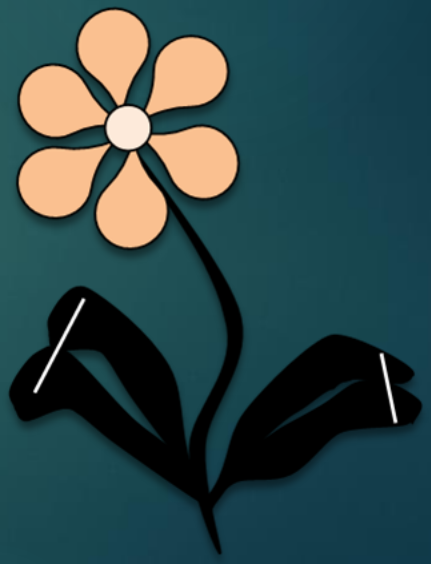
KARI HEDIN AND CYNTHIA NAHA

Shared Governance

- EELC's strengths come from collaboration, negotiation and collective goal-setting. It is a safe-space for difficult dialogue.
  - Cooperative Agreement
- Tribal sovereignty refers to the inherent authority of indigenous Tribes to govern themselves (Tribal self-determination)
  - Tribes occupy the unique space of being co-regulators with EPA and regulated by EPA.
- Early engagement and meaningful consultation with Tribes is critical for success in all EELC efforts and decisions.
- Cherokee Nation has been vital in ensuring tribal participants are included on governance and project teams.

Challenges & Opportunities

- Tribes are at different levels of capacity and environmental program implementation.
- Data sovereignty is vital to Tribal data collection, management and sharing.
- Tribes vary in their technical ability to incorporate new initiatives/process improvements into their day-to-day operations
  - Exchange Network grant
- Building trust and collaborating effectively and meaningfully.



Project Updates

- Citizen Science
  - Tribes are working with EPA and ELI (contract support) have developed a draft White Paper on Tribal Citizen Science examples
  - Outreach Events
    - EE2020 October Webinar, TLEF and ITEC conferences, summer round-table
- ATTAINS
  - Pilot is graduating to a national roll out
  - Conversations with Region 1 and 2 RTOCS about expanding training and use of ATTAINS for tribes in those regions.

Looking Ahead

- Continuing to work with Cherokee Nation to improve coordination, communication and onboarding for new tribes on governance groups and project teams.

- Overcoming technology barriers
  - Better coordinating with TGG, specifically using the Tribal Environmental Data Management Capacity and Needs Assessment results.
  - Leveraging grant dollars to expand internet access/infrastructure (i.e. Santa Domingo Pueblo/CARE funds)

- Ensuring strong tribal participation and perspectives in EE
  - Project leads can better coordinate with tribes and states as projects commence (i.e. improved communication, stronger membership, tribal project liaisons/sponsors)
  - Include tribal consultation materials in EELC onboarding packages

Adaptations during COVID: *Tribal Consultation*

- Tribal leadership focus has shifted to health and safety
  - Tribal governments vary in terms of ability to work remotely; some Tribal governments are closed
  - Limitations to site visits/in-person engagement
- Meaningful and early engagement
  - Notification letters are sent to tribal leaders; often environmental staff may not be aware of opportunities
  - Multiple agencies and offices within EPA and states have different consultation processes and opportunities
  - Difficult for Tribes with poor internet access to consult virtually
  - Face to face consultation is more meaningful

Questions for the EELC

- What can we do to make sure consultation is more effective and meaningful during this time?
- How are projects being adjusted when external input is difficult to obtain?
- What mitigation/adaptation activities are seen in rural areas that may be applicable to Tribes?
- How are communities managing public health over environmental program management?

EELC Tribal Contacts

Regional Tribal Operation Council Officials
Kari Jacobson Hedin, Fond du Lac Reservation, RTOC 5, Tribal Co-Chair
Marvin Cling, Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, RTOC 1
RTOC 2, vacant
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Jerry Cain, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, RTOC 4
Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Pueblo, RTOC 6
Alisha Bartling, Santee Sioux Nation, RTOC 7
Gerald Wagner, Blackfeet Tribe, RTOC 8
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