

Alaska Solid Waste Workgroup Meeting Minutes March 29, 2005

Attended by

Joe Sarcone - EPA
Ray Paddock – CCTHITA
Jennifer Williams – ITEP
Roland Shanks – RCAC
Lynn Zender – Zender Environmental
Simone Sebalo – Zender Environmental
Greg Magee – VSW
Jerry Sam – TCC
Jon Ward – Simpatico
Cindy Roberts – Denali Commission
Dan Lund – UAF
Kim Stricklan – DEC
Ellen Kazary – RuralCap

Joe

Introduced himself and Ray Paddock – the hosts of the Alaska Solid Waste Workgroup. Talked about the Tribal open dump grant – there were 60 proposals from Tribes across the US and 20 proposals were from Alaska Villages. The review and scoring of the proposals should take place by the end of April and letters should go out in May. The total funding available this year is \$3million. Last year 5 Alaska Villages received a total of \$600,000. These grants can be used for a variety of activities including: closure of old dumps, and construction, planning etc. of new site. Also the Tribal haz waste grant is due pretty quick – March 31st. Contact Joe for further information.

EPA received about 60 IGAP proposals and about half of them were “unmet needs” proposals. Should know about proposal selection in about a month.

Ray

Update on the SWAN website – We applied for Year 4 funds through the EPA NEIEN program for SWAN and are waiting to hear back. We are still constantly updating the website with solid waste information. When we add new information we note it in our “what’s new” section off the home page.

At CCTHITA we are also working on a junk auto recycling project in SE. Funding for this project is through IGAP. The barge was in Angoon last week and it’s getting ready to head out to other SE communities.

Cindy

We have \$1.5 million for this year’s solid waste funding from USDA rural development. The RFP will be posted on the Denali Commission’s website on April 1st. Last years RFP is still on the site so people can check that out to be prepared- this years rfp will be 90% similar to last years. The proposals will either be due May 13th or June 1st this year. Last years awards are also posted on their site <http://www.denali.gov/> This years grant will still require a business plan and an action/community plan. Since this year’s grant will still require a technical partner, they’re not requiring the ANTHC/VSW requirements (that you’d have to be on their lists).

There was a question from Lynn asking if honeybucket projects would be considered for this program if honeybucket wastes are mixed with solid wastes in the community: This should be fine – will just need to write it out and explain the situation.

There was another question about community plans – could a petition signed by community members that shows support be used in place of a plan? Probably not. A plan will be required but if the plan isn’t finished and is in program, you could submit a petition or resolution to say that it is being worked on. Again, see the website for details of what exactly needs to be submitted.

Kim

Not a whole lot of updates from DEC since the last meeting. DEC will be giving a briefing of the new sw regs at the Sitka Tribal Leader’s Summit. The majority of the regulation changes will affect class 3 landfills. The regs will go out for public comment in August.

Jerry

Had a question about the regs...how will the state lend assistance to communities that aren't in compliance?

Kim

Along with the new regs, we are producing very detailed sw manuals for design and operation of class 3 landfills. The manuals will give the communities what they need to address issues.

Jerry

Another question- will DEC be able assist communities in need financially?

Kim

The manuals will give creative ideas on how to protect health. Greg at VSW will have more information about funding.

Greg

The CIP application has changed. 25% of funding now has to go to hub communities (which are communities with over 1000 people, not on road system – bethel, kotz, etc). 14 communities qualified for hub status and they've narrowed it to 5 (bethel, kota, hooper bay, metlakatla). Apps are being reviewed by the workgroup (epa, usda, denali, vsw etc.). The apps will now have a solid waste needs section which they will use to collect sw database and add to their database. This data will then be used for future grant info (Denali etc.).

Roland

Wanted to point out that some groups don't qualify for CIP (e.g. some recycling groups).

Cindy

But it's open to 501 c3 etc.

Greg

The CIP app is coming out early this year – letters will be sent next week and the apps put in the mail by mid april. Apps will be due July 1st. Last year they would score apps and then get back to the community with their score and let them ask questions and find out how they can make adjustments. This process was rushed last yr and they're trying to allow more time so that's why the apps are coming out earlier (typically due in sept/oct, but now due july 1st). The apps will be on-line. The scoring procedure will be the same, but what has changed is the hub communities and the 3 yr list.

Jennifer

We had a training in Craig (with AITC), and hosted a RALO training in St. Mary's with SWANA. There are trainings coming up in Venetie (with CATG, TCC, YITWC) and King Cove (APIA). These are all regionalized trainings that really focus on regional needs. Next year we are hoping to hold trainings in Cheforak, Togiak, Nome, a road system community and possibly others (assuming grant funds come through).

We evaluated the RALO training and since it really is a different type of training (for operators), it can't be swapped for planning training. They need to remain separate trainings. For information on RALO training contact Kurt Eilo at 230 9805 and for ITEP training contact Jennifer at 349 2163.

Jerry

We're holding a TCC solid waste training Apr 19-21 in Fairbanks. Right now there are 13-16 people signed up. TCC might also do an IGAP management training in the spring

Roland

We are following up on the Recycling Summit that occurred at the Forum. We've had one conf call since the summit and will have another on March 31st –contact me if you would like to join or would like information. We're hoping to get together at Tribal Leaders Summit. At the forum about 25 people took a tour of the Valley recycling center, regional composting center, a glass recycling center, and a newspaper recycling center.

Ellen

This year they have 20 Raven Americorps workers and 15 BIRCH full time, representing 28 communities total. They ran statistics on work complete this last year and found that:

800,000 lbs of batteries were shipped out
300,000 lbs of aluminum were shipped out
200,000 hrs were worked
100,000 hrs of local volunteer work.

June 6-10 is the Rural Provider's Conference in Bethel. They will hopefully do some solid waste training in Bethel.

Jon Ward

Talked about waste oil blenders (WOTEC's) and will put together a list of communities in Alaska using them.

Lynn

We are working with CCTHITA on an ordinance research project with SWAN. Examples and information will be posted on the SWAN site. We are also working with the Native Village of Selawik on a Hazardous Waste Guide that will be complete later this summer. The message board on SWAN is being used more and more by Villages and some Agencies. We are continuing to add new solid waste tutorials to SWAN and will post them on our "what's new" page off the home page.

Ellen

Americorps workers use SWAN more and more and have found it really helpful. They also have yahoo chat groups for their own use as well.

Dan

I'm trying to find a solid waste related masters project through my UAF program and am looking for funding.

Ray

Just want to remind everyone of the Tribal Leader's Summit in Sitka April 17-22. Wed is the SW day. Perhaps we can get together down there and have another meeting with everyone in person.