

**Alaska Solid Waste Workgroup Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2004**

Attended by

Joe Sarcone - EPA
Ray Paddock – CCTHITA
Jennifer Williams – ITEP
Bill Stokes – ITEP
Steve Sumida – AITC
Roland Shanks – RCAC
Mollie Boyer- Valley Community Recycling Solutions
Lynn Zender – Zender Environmental
Simone Sebalo – Zender Environmental
Vickie Thomas – Native Village of Ft. Yukon
Andy – Native Village of Chefornak
Leslie Simmons – DEC
Kim Stricklan – DEC
Ellen Kazary – RuralCap
Malcolm Ford – UAF
Greg Magee – VSW
Kurt Eilo – AK Forum
Gerry Sam – TCC
Pete Wallis – TCC
Kyle Wright – TCC
Chris – TCC
Kerri Sheakley– CCTHITA
Stephanie Gold – ASCG
Jon Ward – Simpatico
Rob Rosenfeld – YITWC
Ed Alexander – YITWC
Jon Waterhouse – YITWC
Lance Whitwell – Native Village of Venetie
Jacqueline Agnew – ANHB
Michelle Davis – EPA IGAP

Joe

Introduced himself and Ray Paddock – the hosts of the Alaska Solid Waste Workgroup. Then asked if everyone could share the solid waste projects they are working on.

Ray

Update on the SWAN website – We are constantly updating the website with solid waste information. In particular our solid waste calendar is updated with grant deadlines, training, and conference dates. If anyone has an event or deadline that we don't have up there, please contact us and let us know. We also just created our Village messaging system and it's available on the SWAN site. This is a way for Villages to share solid waste stories with one another but can also be used by Agencies and other organizations to ask for or share solid waste information.

Kerri

Also CCTHITA is working on a car crushing project with SW Villages. Through special igap funding we will be hosting a hazwoper training in Juneau for 2 people from each Tribe to attend, to become certified to deal with draining fluids from junk cars. A car crusher (city of Sitka) will then be sent around to SE Tribes.

Kurt

I have forms for people to fill out to request sessions at the Forum. There will be a solid waste and recycling tract at the 2005 Forum and Shawn Skaling and Joe Sarcone are the contacts for the tract. We are 50% towards identifying sessions for the tract.

Steve

AITC has funding and is doing a solid waste tract at the Forum. Funding is through EPA IGAP and it will fund two solid waste trainings. The first training is for env. coordinators from Villages and will get everyone together and find out what the priorities are. The second training is a follow up to the first and to also bring in non-Tribal folks.

Roland

RCAC is a non-profit organization and provides technical assistance. Funding comes from Dept of Ag and Health and Human Services and they are looking for more funding. They are working with a couple Villages on solid waste projects. They are also working with the Valley Community Recycling Solutions to expand their recycling center and with the Copper River area on regional recycling which is on more of a local level with Tribes to collect materials. They are also working on coordinating recycling across the state. A recycling assessment was preformed statewide to determine what's currently going on with recycling. A recycling session was held at ANHB to get ideas for the recycling tract at the Forum. They will be producing around 3 newsletters in the next year about recycling activities going on around the state.

Joe

The Valley Community Recycling Solutions is a much better rural recycling model than say the Anchorage recycling center. It really could become an education center for rural recyclers.

Roland

There is also talk of arranging a bus to take people out to tour the Valley Community Recycling Solutions at the Forum. The Valley Community Recycling Solutions takes in twice as many recycling materials as the Anchorage recycling center and accepts goods for reuse. They don't necessarily just focus on materials that bring in \$ for buy back.

Jennifer

ITEP funding is through Fred Hanson money. Bill Stokes was recently hired as a technical service provider to go to Villages to work on issues on a one-to-one basis. There are 3 trainings being planned in the following possible locations: POW, Venetie, and St. Mary's. Would like to join efforts for RALO training.

Kurt

The Forum will have sessions on all types of environmental issues. There will be 12 different tracts with 80-100 breakout sessions, 10 on solid waste. We are working on having RALO training at the Forum on the Th and Fri in partnership with SWANA. Thus far 10 RALO trainings have taken place in AK. A RALO manual has been completed and is going to print. We'd like to take more RALO trainings out to Villages.

Leslie

At the last SWANA meeting RALO came up as a topic. Here's the history on RALO training. In the past SWANA and DEC funded trainings. In the recent past Dept of Labor paid for all travel and instructor time. Now there is no \$ but if a community (like Sitka) wanted to have a training held there and could help with logistics and getting people there, travel and time for instructors could be provided.

Kurt

We are trying to shoot for RALO trainings in Fairbanks in Dec. and Anchorage as mentioned earlier at the Forum.

Lynn

We are working on a Hazardous Waste Guide for Alaska Native Villages which is funded through the Native Village of Selawik by the EPA Tribal Hazardous Waste Grant. We've been talking to people to find out what they'd like to see in the Guide. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for information you'd like to see in the Guide.

Kurt

Also wanted to note that hazwoper training is being offered, at no extra cost for people registered for the conference, on the Friday at the Forum. It will count as 8-hr hazwoper certification.

Bill

There will be 10-12 7 Gen trainings over the next year in AK with APIA. Trainings last 3 days. There may be a good opportunity to partner up with us for RALO training. If RALO was held after 7 Gen training, Bill's instruction time could be free of charge.

Kim

DEC is re-writing sw regulations and simplifying them. The regs should be completed in a year. They are doing away with sw plan requirements. You can email or write us and we can send you a waiver for having to do sw plans. We still will strongly encourage everyone to do plans, they just won't be a roadblock anymore for permitting. Under the new system we're developing, communities under 200 people will have a manual to follow for best management practices. For communities over 200 people, we will have a location calculator that people can work through. An operation manual for class 3 landfills as well as a site closure manual are being worked on over the next year as further guidelines for communities. We will talk to CCTHITA about their site closure guide for information when we work on our closure manual.

Pete

The problem is that once you have a plan there's no \$ to implement your plan.

Joe

Many people are using IGAP funds for sw implementation. IGAP \$ can pay operators for example. For the open dump cleanup grant you still need a plan. When we review IGAP grants we specifically look to make sure the proposed work is what's best for the long term.

Kim

Note that with sw plans, bigger isn't necessarily better. We've had 100 page plans that didn't cover what we require. And 6 page plans that have been perfect.

Leslie

When the regs change, the RALO manuals will need to be updated. To answer the question about where the statewide sw plan is at – it's not happening. We have shifted gears to the calculator and BMP's mentioned earlier.

Stephanie

ASCG is working on sw plans with 2 communities in Alaska.

Jon

I'm a distributor for WOTEC's – equipment to blend used oil to diesel fuel. Great way to reduce disposal costs of oil and get back a valuable product. Several communities in Alaska are currently using WOTEC's. Units run from \$17,000-\$65,000. If you have any questions or would like further information see our website at <http://www.simpaticoalaska.com>

Gerry

TCC solid waste is funded under a USDA grant. They will be holding a solid waste training sometime next year (perhaps Feb or March). TCC does assessments in communities and finds ways to help out. Trainings are open to all AK communities and are 3 days long. They put together a thick manual for the

trainings and half is on regulations (for reference). The USDA grant is year-to-year. TCC is partnering with YITWC.

Rob

Through YITWC, an Inter-Tribal Accord has been signed by 58 communities in the region to keep the watershed clean. They will work to let tribes know about trainings, env ed, and to share lessons learned and will pick up monitoring in the future as well. There are 3 sw coordinators and they will find out where they can do training and collaborate with TCC and ITEP.

John

Yutana Barge was going to stop backhauling haz waste because of problems and fines, but YITWC is partnering with the company to keep it going. YITWC will help be on-site for the pick up to help with coordination, labeling etc. They plan to visit all communities and schedule backhaul. Also would like to expand flying cans program and work with the Bethel Recycling Program.

Ed

Yutana looked at the backhauling as a problem, but YITWC is looking at it as an opportunity.

Vickie

Ft. Yukon has a haz waste and recycling center. They would like to set up a haz waste hub in Ft. Yukon for other communities to take their wastes to. They will be holding a haz waste training for local residents. They used to rent their thrift store building but they now have it free of charge! However the building is still a bit small and they would like to move to the City Garage. They are doing plastic and glass recycling and the Tribe and City work together. They passed an ordinance with the city that the stores can't use plastic bags. They also banned Styrofoam. They are working on a controlled fenced dumpsite and are also working with students to build trash bins.

Greg

VSW funds \$110 million/yr for water sewer projects. There are few landfill projects. Most \$ goes to water and sewer. Out of \$110 million, 40% is administered by VSW and 60% by ANTHC. VSW has 12 engineers and contracts services, accounting, engineering and construction. ANTHC has 30+ engineers and they design in-house.

VSW tries to use local labor when possible. They are currently addressing accounting problems. Their main funding source is EPA Rural Development funds. (95% EPA funds, 5% IHS, Denali funds). The program is currently undergoing some changes and rewriting statutes.

Joe

It would be great if communities could leverage heavy equipment brought in by VSW.

Greg

That might be possible.

White Mountain

Able to partner with ANTHC, City, etc. It takes the community to speak up and ask for leveraging

Kim

There's many other possible sharing opportunities – for example BIA roads. Get creative!

Leslie

Back to burning solid waste. DEC wants to stop the open burning of garbage on the ground. BIA, BLM, and DNR firefighters are upset by open garbage burning because of the cost and hazards. DEC however wants to encourage the use of burnboxes. The firefighting agencies listed above may even divert money to burnboxes instead of cutting back the vegetation which grows back anyways.

Malcolm

Careful about slow burning of garbage! We are working with a graduate student who may do some research on burning garbage with burnboxes.

Leslie

The new BMP's will talk about good burning and bad burning.

Jacqueline

A question to VSW. Solid waste is linked with water and sewer – they're not separate.

Greg

VSW is working on re-writing the statutes from 1973.

Leslie and Joe

All the workgroup members should have input on the rewriting.

Greg

Bill Griffith is heading the re-write and not sure on the timeline.

Andy

At Chefnak we are working with Zender Environmental on a BIA, IGAP, and Special IGAP grant. The TC recently chose me to hold the Env. Assnt. Position. I plan to get involved with our school to educate kids on solid and hazardous waste – kids will then teach their parents. We are also working on a Special IGAP project with Nelson Island communities. This is a unique grant that will use traditional decision-making on solid waste planning and improvement.

Lance

At Venetie we use used oil! We try to take advantage of technologies and utilizing resources. We have researched WOTEC's and are interested in them. Did a spill inventory and want to do a targeted brownfields assessment. They took samples and put together a regional tba. Would like to partner with YITWC. They may host the Yukon flats sw ITEP training in the spring.

Ellen Kazary

We are recruiting for Raven and Birch Americorps positions now and deadlines are Oct 29. (20 raven and 15 birch positions). We are working to put together a resource hub for everyone to have a place to post info and do trainings. Don't want to duplicate swan efforts but collaborate. We didn't have the raven americorps last year – it was a national cut – but it's back!

Michelle

The IGAP rfp was sent out to all Villages. The deadline this year is December 1st! Much earlier! EPA encourages Special IGAP projects.

Jacqueline

ANHB sw is moving to ANTHC. ANHB will go back to political advocacy and policy. SW plan funding may still be available next year through ANTHC. Advise that use ANTHC funds for planning and IGAP funds for implementation.

Malcolm

We gave a talk here at the conference on our latest research on Protecting Family Drinking Water in Rural Alaska (pathogen travel around the community of Eek). We have cd's available for anyone to pickup on the research and we also have cd's on the Alaska Native Village Drinking Water Protection Outreach Project.

Molly

Back to the Recycling Summit planned for the Forum.... We are planning on having recycling sessions for 5 days at the forum. The fourth day will hopefully be fieldtrips to various recycling companies around

Anchorage and maybe to the Valley Community Recycling Solutions. The fifth day will be a session about how everyone can work together on a statewide solution for recycling.

Rob

I just wanted to end the meeting with a story – when I worked in Haiti, there was a lot of money coming in from all sorts of organizations to assist in development. There were over 700 different organizations and it was getting confusing to rural individuals to figure out who's who and what was actually available to people. We're in a somewhat similar situation here where there are many different groups working on and funding a variety of sw projects throughout the state. The situation really speaks to the need for these kinds of meetings and discussions. It's great to have everyone together sharing information. The more we can do of this sharing will multiple the good we'll all be able to do.

Joe

I agree. We will shoot for having our next meeting at the Forum in February. Ray and I will send out a notice when a date has been selected and the date will also be posted on the SWAN site under the Alaska Workgroup link.

Jacqueline

I also wanted to add that if I coordinate future ATCEM conferences, this group will always be given the time and space to meet because I think this coming together is so important.

Leslie

Yes I just wanted to add that I really appreciate the efforts to coordinate these meetings.