

Alaska Solid Waste Workgroup Meeting – ATCEM October 2014

Attendees

Simone Sebalò, Zender Environmental
Sean Peterson, Zender Environmental
Evelyn Agnus, Zender Environmental
La'ona Dewilde, TCC
Josh Liles, ANTHC
Harvey Hoffman, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council
Sherry Kimmons, EPA Tribal Coordinator
Heather Cannon, RCAC
Alaska Energy Authority
Riley, Total Reclaim
Trisha Bower, ADEC
Sandy Woods, ADEC
Desirae Roehl, ANTHC
Anahma Shannon, Kawerak
Billy Maines, Dillingham
Brian Abraham, Togiak
Peter Gumlickpuk, New Stuyahok

Opening Statements

- **Simone Sebalò (Zender)** – The purpose of the Alaska Solid Waste Workgroup is to have solid waste service providers come together and exchange project information, avoid duplication and waste of effort, share funding opportunities, and discuss needs and strategies in moving rural Alaska solid waste conditions forward. Through USDA Rural Development, Zender Environmental is able to help organize the meetings once again and compile notes. After everyone gets a chance to share information, the topic for discussion for this meeting will be “sustainable backhaul”. With the IGAP changes coming soon for solid waste activities, we can discuss as a group sustainable solutions for backhaul in the future, for funding and operation.

Group discussion with everyone in the room to share what services they provide, grants available, and resources available to solid waste.

- **Simone Sebalò (Zender)** – We are a non-profit organization. Funded for solid waste technical assistance and training program through USDA– we can provide free technical assistance statewide. We provide around 4 solid waste trainings per year. Our next training will be held December 10-12, and will be focusing on Solid Waste Current Topics. We also hold an annual water quality training, usually in May, and this upcoming year we will also be conducting a one week boot camp style training for Integrated Solid Waste Management Practices (ISWMP) and Solid Waste Management (SWM). Our office also assists in finding funding and providing technical assistance in a variety of areas - we can help in a broad way – from grantwriting, to helping with igap, researching how to recycle or backhaul, help with solid waste plans, and

beyond. We also assist in putting together applications for USDA grant. In addition, we also manage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded Community Environmental Demonstration Project (CEDP) grant (co-manage with ANTHC). The CEDP allows for several small grants (\$5,000 to \$20,000) to be distributed to projects on an annual basis. We also offer the Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training Program (RACEJT) where we provide a variety of training including HAZWOPER, confined space, etc. for unemployed or underemployed community members. We also assist with placing our trainees into jobs. Applications are due November 5th for that program.

- **La'ona DeWilde (TCC)** – We help communities apply for grants. We are using GIS software to map existing, landfills locating sites for new landfills, and keeping track for storage locations for backhaul items. Free GIS available for federally recognized tribes. We can provide free training for GIS use. Applications for any interested. We also provide annual solid waste trainings.
- **Josh Liles (ANTHC)** – **We are looking to conduct public health infrastructure** surveys in the Anchorage Service Unit; primarily road system communities. We are also looking at aligning our surveys with DEC's Solid Waste Index.
- **Harvey Hoffman (Kuskokwim River Watershed Council, Solid Waste Coordinator)** – I will be assisting communities with Landfills, backhaul, and water quality. I have attended two trainings with Zender this summer to prepare for this role.
- **Sherry Kimmons (EPA Tribal Coordinator)** – I wanted to discuss IGAP changes that are planned for the near future. We will be operating under a new GAP guidance and we are in the first of two years of transition period. EPA headquarters decided to switch from exceptions to transition period. FY15 and FY16 solid waste spending will be allowed but beginning October 1st 2016 no longer allowed. Exceptions will still be allowed, however, only in rare circumstances. Will still be able to perform test drive of a program (trying a collection program), initial purchases of equipment (vehicles, burn units, crushers, balers, etc.), construction equipment used to run program, construct/repair/upgrade equipment and facilities (transfer station, recycling center, etc.). Potential ways to create sustainable solid waste programs
 - Develop IWMP
 - Partnering with other tribes, entities
 - Implementing a fee structure
 - In-kind word service options
 - Investment of revenues to pay for solid waste program
 - Bundle solid waste bills with utility bills

We are looking for more ideas and creative solutions.

- **Heather Cannon (RCAC)** – We offer solid waste technical assistance and funding opportunities for approximately 4 projects annually. We also have recycling grant applications.
- **Alaska Energy Authority** – We are looking at how to get cardboard made into heating pellets and how to get funding for this type of recycling program resource development.

- **Riley, Total Reclaim** – We are Recyclers of a variety of items (electronic waste, lights, batteries, and more). We can also point you in the right direction to find answers. We can help a little on logistical support to ship out recyclable items, packaging guidelines, and training.
- **Trisha Bower (ADEC)** – We provide a variety of technical assistance. Solid Waste Index provides ideas on how to make improvements. We can also help by writing support letters for Grants and provide direction for questions if we can't help. We review design and engineering plans for new landfills and can help with recycling questions. Additionally, we can help track down unknown hazardous substances at landfills.
- **Sandy Woods (ADEC)** – We can help you figure out new ideas. Help get your landfills permitted. Help you fill out applications and compile associated documents. Your inspection score does not reflect if you are landfill is able to get a permit.
- **Desirae Roehl (ANTHC)** – We provide technical support and training services to tribes. We also provide IGAP support, LEO, climate change health assessments, and are delving into solid waste work this upcoming year. We will work with tribes about collection methods and will study what works as far as fee systems.

Backhaul Discussion

- **Simone Sebalò (Zender)** – We have worked with several communities over the last few years assisting with backhaul. *Backhaul Lessons Learned handed out*. Planning for backhaul for next summer should start now, the earlier the better. Our website provides several backhaul documents and videos to assist with backhaul planning and implementation (i.e. packaging, labels, contacts, etc.). Unmet need grants (IGAP) could be applied for to help with backhaul before IGAP rules change. RuralCap has a solid waste grant out now ending Nov 17th, which can be used for a variety of needs for solid waste (including backhaul). This is the last year of the grant (Ruralcap) and they need to spend out all of their money. With that I will turn it over to the group to discuss ideas for sustainable backhaul.
- **Desirae Roehl (ANTHC)** – To answer the question concerning the CEDP Grant that ANTHC and Zender co-manage - funding is provided by the EPA and the final year for that grant is this coming year. We are not sure if the EPA is going to continue to provide that set of funding. We are hopeful and optimistic but the funding levels have been reduced and we cannot guarantee that the funding will be available next year. Keep checking in with ANTHC and Zender. The project has to be a demonstration project. We cannot help you form those projects once funding has been announced. We can work with you prior to the announcement but not after. Funding amounts have varied and depends on the funding available.
- **Comment from attendee** – Perhaps a coordinated backhaul with several communities backhauling and stockpiling in one area until it is worth the recycler's time and then have them collect the items. If there is enough metal and scrap metal to make money they will pick it up. One village might not have enough material but if the backhaul material from several communities is staged at a central location it may be worthwhile for Schnitzer.
- **Simone Sebalò (Zender)** – Agreed. Inventories are important to know how much material you have and are important for transport and to coordinate efforts with other communities. And can

help you figure out if you have enough materials that you can get money back from and off-set your transport or recycling fees. Has anyone been able to reduce costs and shipping?

- **Anahma Shannon (Nome)** – We started our program 5 years ago. I started by approaching all the transporters and negotiated lower rates. Appealed to them until they agreed. Bering air has been backhauling from villages into Nome for free. I collect and consolidate the materials in connexs and then prepare them for shipping when I have enough material. I then approached the barge companies and negotiated 2 free vans and ½ off a battery van. I make back the money from sending batteries. By negotiating with transporters and recyclers I have been able to have a successful backhaul program. Everetts Air Cargo has provided lower rates and are looking at a pilot program for free backhaul. Make sure you talk to the right person at the company, and keep trying. Alaska Logistics is the barge company that works with Nome, but Northland has also been known to provide deals. You have to talk to the right person and develop a positive relationship.
- **Billy Maines (Dillingham)** – I have gotten free vans from Northland for recycling (e-waste and fish web). I ship them to Seattle, and Northland provides vans and they pay 50% of the shipping costs. Fish web gets money back (plastic) to offset costs. Also Total Reclaim gives discounts due to continued business. Maintenance backhaul versus large backhaul can be cheaper if you are getting free shipping from carriers. Depends on the partnerships you deal with. Little bit of work but it is worth it. Linden is not selling connexs right now; they are inventorying assets before making decisions.
- **Brian Abraham (Togiak)** – I need to connect with Barges and Tenders.
- **Billy Maines (Dillingham)** – If you know Tenders are coming up you can get equipment shipped up and down from Seattle for free.
- **Simone Seballo (Zender)** – Similar experience, worked with several communities and Northland. Called Northland and they were able to donate connexs after paying for the first one.
- **Anahma Shannon (Nome)** – It is important to get deals in writing so you don't get burned later on. Send an email saying you are following up on your previous conversation.
- **Simone Seballo (Zender)** – Example MOAs, including one of Anahma's, are available on our Zender website if anyone is looking for example wording.
- **Peter Gumplickpuk (New Stuyahok)** – You can also get connexs from companies doing work in the villages. It is always good to ask company what they are going to do with the Connexs and then ask for a letter stating that they are giving it to you. Same with Pallet barges. You have to ask to get free items. Doesn't hurt to ask.
- **Anahma Shannon (Nome)** – Another good suggestion, you can suggest that they can write off the connexs as a loss or as a donation.
- **Billy Maines (Dillingham)** – Remember the Plenary Session, and what Lisa Murkowski said (adopt-a-barge). Remind her of what she said. She talked about backhaul. This is a country wide problem. Keep reminding her of her comments. Write letters and reach out. Remember we are the ones who put her in there and we have to remind our people in DC of our needs. Phones calls, emails, letters, etc. Squeaky wheel gets the grease. Another thing, numerous

agencies are looking at these issues. Keep that in mind that there are numerous agencies looking at solutions.