

## **Alaska Solid Waste Workgroup Meeting – ATCEM October 2015**

### **Attendees**

Kristin Keit, Zender Environmental

Sean Peterson, Zender Environmental

Cathy Villa, EPA

Angel Ip, EPA

Sherry Kimmons, EPA

Fatima Ochante, ADEC

Rebecca Colvin, ADEC

Sandra Woods, ADEC

Jonathan Boessler, Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Desirae Roehl, ANTHC

Anahma Shannon, Kawerak

Bertha Pavilla, Tuluksak

Emmalyn Townsend, Tuluksak

Ann Wyatt, Klawock

Arlene Shimanek, Goodnews Bay

Thomas Nukwak, Aleknagik

Joann Slats, Napakiak

Sharon Slim, AVCP

Leonard Fitka, Marshall

Brian Barger, Kivalina

Jolene Bante, TCC

Mark McNelas, Nelson Lagoon

Hans Apokedak, Levelock

James Manumik, Nunam Iquq

Carl Snyder, Kobuk

Fred Hurley, Ekwok

Ethan Knighton, Pedro Bay

Emma Hill, Iliamna

Fred Shanagin, Quzinkie

Lincoln Shanagin, Quzinkie

Tyler Kornelis, Kodiak

Hazel Peterson, Mekoryuk

### **Opening Statements**

- **Kristin Keit (Zender)** – Good Afternoon everyone, I will be facilitating this afternoon. Hopefully people will strangle in. Today we are in the Solid Waste Workgroup discussion. Agencies that provide service to villages and communities will start by introducing themselves and the services they provide. Afterwards we will have questions and discussions. I am with Zender Environmental. I worked with BIA for 14 years previously. Right now we can provide free technical assistance through two grants through the USDA. Our website has contact information. Also we can help with applying for grants with the USDA, specifically PPG and

WWG grants for new landfills. Allows us to provide training on SSWM. One in 2016 and another one, SSM/ISWMP. Fiscal year 17 need ISWMP to apply for supplemental funding through IGAP. Water quality training also provided for a fee depending on the interest. Solid waste trainings are free and we do offer a stipend for those. We also have RACEJT program through the USDA, 4 week training, completely funded training (no cost to applicant) for unemployed and underemployed people. Intensive training over 6 weeks. Graduates receive college credit, WQ, 40-Hour Hazwoper, etc. Information is also on the website. Applications are due November 20<sup>th</sup>. They can be faxed, emailed, or sent through USPS. We also have the Community Demonstration Grants Program with ANTHC. We are hoping to receive additional funds to continue the program next fiscal year. The CDGP are all about lessons learned and demonstration of ideas/technology etc. that other communities can use. Leads to networking and sharing resources. Last thing is the backhaul work that we have been helping with. We have been doing a lot of hands on TA. Also conducting a state wide backhaul assessment, to gather information on how backhaul is being done in different regions of the state. Potential finance meeting during AFE where we will talk about funding and resources to continue backhaul. Also two of our staff are on the SWAT to help share information that we gather.

### Group discussion

- **Sherry Kimmons (EPA)** – I work with EPA. Changes to gap guidance 2013, and things will no longer be allowed. Some solid waste still allowed. However, no more collection/pickup programs, disposal services. Bright spot, we have received an extension to use IGAP funds for those things through FY17. Another good thing the FY17 funding announcement has supplemental funding for all tribes and consortia. No separate workplan or budget. Need to have an ISWMP in place. If you are developing one in the FY17 should be okay to apply for supplemental funding for that same year. Lots of things will be allowed, purchase repair supplies equipment (even heavy equipment) depends on how you describe it in the workplan. Construction projects, depending on how they are worded, may also be fundable, but will require EPA HQ approval. We would take the request to the HQ office.
- **Question** – How come they are stopping the trash collection?
  - **Sherry Kimmons (EPA)** – Because it is supposed to be a duty of local government, as viewed by headquarters. We have been through this with headquarters and we have received extensions but it is not a function of a capacity building program. It was meant to help create a self-sustaining program. Will take partnerships and a lot of work to make it work. MOA, MOUs, etc. A lot of possibilities.
  - **Anahma (Kawerak)** – I wouldn't wait until FY18. Go to your council and say this is coming and we need a plan. IGAP will help the city find ways to pay for a position.
  - **Sherry Kimmons (EPA)** – Put planning and implementation and a commitment to strategize to make the program sustainability in the workplan.
  - **Sandra Woods (ADEC)** – RUBA was a very good resource. Sitting down with budget managers and figure out the true cost of the solid waste services and come up with a budget.

- **Desirae Roehl (ANTHC)** – Over the last couple years ANTHC has received funding to work on solid waste activities. We are working with a lot of solid waste service providers to piece together the question “how do we make our solid waste services sustainable”? We are working on a document with fee structures. We will call every community and work with DEC, Zender, Anahma. Also doing climate change assessments on solid waste sites in 3 at risk communities that are having difficulties due to climate change consequences. Will use these as a model for other communities. We are also working on putting together through SWAT. We are working with Angel on her roadmap. A lot of these are pieces of a larger effort being undertaken. The Alaska Multi-Media grant and the Community Demonstration grant. We will have an RFP for Climate resiliency funding ready soon. You can tie in solid waste and climate resiliency. Call us anytime we are always willing to help. We don’t always have the answers but we will point you in the right direction. Shout out to the SWAT team. A lot of good people on the team. We work closely with a lot of other providers that are sub providers. Working together to find solutions.
  
- **Question** – What is sustainable waste?
  - **Desirae Roehl (ANTHC)** – Basically you are able to operate and deal with waste in the proper way without being dependent on outside funding. We are just trying to find a way for communities to be able to manage their waste, have the proper equipment, landfills, and technologies. And to get hazardous materials out of the community. How we do that, is different for every single community and region?
  - **Sherry Kimmons (EPA)** - Locally financed. The program generates income so that it can depend on itself.
  
- **Sandra Woods (ADEC)** – We have a distinction between collection fees and solid waste fees. Collection fees are for collection. Also should have solid waste fees to pay for Landfill caretaker.
- **Rebecca Colvin (ADEC)** – A lot of people think solid waste fees and only think about trash the collector, but we also need to think about the Landfill Operator. Collection programs are great but everyone needs to be paying for that.
- **Sandra Woods (ADEC)** – I work out of the Juneau office, Yakutat down. I also have 5 communities in the Northwest Arctic borough. I work with communities to help them improve or maintain their landfills. Keep them operating within regulations. Lots of outreach. I will find answers for all questions. More outreach than penalizing.
- **Rebecca Colvin (ADEC)** – I work out of the Anchorage office. The DEC solid waste program. We regulate all of the landfills in the whole state. We inspect and permit along with outreach. Large landfills are inspected every year but the rural landfills are inspected every 3 or 4 years.
  
- **Question** – Are these inspection reports public?
  - **Rebecca Colvin (ADEC)** – Reports are public if you ask for them. We can email them if needed.
  - **Sandra Woods (ADEC)** – we are always avail be. Please use our website to find your contact or rep.
  
- **Question** – Can you come to communities more often?

- **Sandra Woods (ADEC)** – If you call the person who is in charge of your landfill you can ask them additional questions.
  - **Kristin Keit (Zender)** – I will pass out the list of solid waste providers with their contact information.
  - **ADEC Commissioners Office** – just launched a webpage as a single point of contact. Any issues regarding DEC come to me and I will make sure your questions are resolved.
- **Tyler Kornelis (Regional Backhaul Coordinator for Kodiak)** – Running logistics for backhaul project. You can do anything with enough money. Working to be done fast and efficiently. 450 tons of material backhauled out of 3 communities on Kodiak Island; not even a quarter of the materials.
  - **Anahma Shannon (Kawerak)** – Nome serves as the hub community for our 15 villages. Northwest side of Alaska with no roads. We fly out to our villages. We face logistical challenges. Last 6 years we put together a regional program to backhaul and recycle household hazardous waste items. We have negotiated with transporters and we sell our lead acid batteries to pay for our services. We have tried to get rid of legacy scrap metal. We are looking for new ways to do things. Just learning about RUBA for fee structures. Conferences like this are important. If you are brand new to IGAP check who your Project Officer is at the EPA. Figure out your ADEC person and find out who is your RUBA person. Just asking the right question is important.
  - **Todd (UAF)** – New program Occupational Endorsement, training on how to operate rural landfills. Accredited worldwide, can work in any rural landfill. We work very closely with Zender on their accelerated program.
  - **Angel Ip (EPA)** – Solid waste management. Comments needed on the roadmap. Goals steps to implement a solid waste management program and finding funding. Need comments soon. Part of the Alaska Interagency Coordination meetings. Useful tool but funding resources do change.
  - **Anahma Shannon (Kawerak)** – If you are new and there are words or terms you don't understand please speak up because no one means to say a bunch of acronyms or words people don't understand or know.
  - **Desirae Roehl (ANTHC)** – Are there sustainable practices that people use?
    - **Anahma Shannon (Kawerak)** – One thing I heard yesterday, was a guy from Old Harbor tribe cooperates with the city of Old Harbor to get paid by the city for 2 days a week. So those 2 days a week they can handle hazardous waste and solid waste. Great sustainable practice.
    - **Cathy Villa (EPA)** – I was thinking that too if they have communities that are close, maybe they have a remote landfill worker who travels between communities? Especially in small communities.
    - **Sherry Kimmons (EPA)** – There needs to be creative thinking to make this work.

- **Sandra Woods (ADEC)** – If you are sitting at your desk and you feel like you have no one to talk about you can always call your ADEC person to bounce ideas off of.
- **Rebecca Colvin** – Our Anchorage office gets those calls quite a bit.
  
- **Question** – What is the contact information for backhaul in Seattle?
  - **Anahma Shannon (Kawerak)** – I use total reclaim for my e-waste, West Seattle Recycling for my batteries. Look online, google Seattle Recyclers and you can find many. Transportation of it, I work with AK Marine Lines and AK logistics. I get free vans from Nome to Seattle. You can call me and I can help. Also Total Reclaim can help you learn how to package the items.
  - **Rebecca Colvin (ADEC)** – AVCP just finished a pilot project where they backhauled items to Bethel and shipped out to other communities. Contact AVCP. AVCP were in the SWAT meeting and the successful nature of the project.