

## Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

November 03-04, 2021

### MS Teams Meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 594 360 860#

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November 03, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Central Time

#### Welcome and Introductions

Debra Shore; Region 5 Regional Administrator  
Allison Smart; RTOC Tribal Co-Chair; Little River Band

#### RTOC Administrative Business

Alan Walts; TMPO Director

- Approval of RTOC meeting summary from July 14, 2021
- Review RTOC Action Item Tracking Matrix
- Update on Taconite Rule (John Mooney, Region 5 Air and Radiation Division Director)

#### IEGAP Grant Guidance Evaluation (GGE) Initiative

JoAnn Chase; AIEO Director  
Lisa Berrios; AIEO Senior Advisor  
Regional Tribal Caucus

- The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) will provide an update on the deliverables from the GGE work groups, projected next steps and schedule for completing revisions to the Guidance.
- The RTOC will discuss whether there are areas of consensus on the National GAP Allocation Consultation Questions that the Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee would like to communicate to AIEO.

#### Highlighting Tribal Environmental Protection and Restoration Projects

A video will be shown featuring work that the staff from the Grand Portage Band are doing to understand climate change impacts to the moose population in Minnesota.

“The Anishnaabe, or Ojibwe, have lived on the land we now call Minnesota since long before European settlers arrived. For as long as they can remember, their lives have been intertwined with that of the moose. It’s more than a source of food — it’s also a way of staying in touch with their ancestors, who carved game pieces from the antlers, fashioned elaborate clothing from the hides, and used the hair to embroider intricate designs on everything from stockings to cradleboards. But this relationship between the Anishnaabe and the moose is in danger. The moose population has been in free fall for the past two decades. Something else is killing the moose.”

#### Identifying Partnership Opportunities for Climate Change

Regional Tribal Caucus  
EPA TBD

At the last RTOC meeting, the Office of International and Tribal Affairs reported on national climate initiatives and the Regional Tribal Caucus provided information on current activities related to climate change in Indian country in Region 5. This session will continue the RTOC climate change discussion.

- RTC report on efforts to further characterize the current/past climate change related activities in Indian country in Region 5.
- Discuss the climate change activities identified in the new *EPA Strategic Plan*, the recently issued *EPA Climate Adaptation Action Plan* and the *Region 5 Climate Adaptation Plan* that is under development.

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**November 03, 2021**  
**1:00-3:00 pm Central Time**

**National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC)** Mark Parrish; Council Member, Pokagon Band  
April McCormick; Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Portage Band

Standing agenda item to enhance coordination between the RTOC and the NTOC by providing a forum to receive a report on current NTOC activities from the Region 5 representatives, prepare for upcoming meetings/initiatives, and identify topics of interest to raise at the national level.

**National Tribal Operations Committee Budget Document** NTOC and RTC representatives  
The meeting packet includes a copy of the National Tribal Caucus Budget Priority Guidance – Fiscal Year 2023.

#### **Tribal Partnership Group (TPG) Reports**

Written updates from the tribal representatives are included in the meeting packet. This session will provide an opportunity for TPG representatives to engage with the tribal staff attending the RTOC.

- Kari Hedin, E-Enterprise for the Environment
- TBD, Tribal Science Council
- Victoria Flowers, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee
- Brandy Toft, Midwest Tribal Energy Association
- Brandy Toft, National Tribal Air Association

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**November 04, 2021**  
**9:00 am – 12:00 noon Central Time**

#### **Region 5 Division Director Roundtable**

Brief reports from each Division Director on current issues, priority actions, announcements, etc.

**Protection of Ceded Territories/Treaty Rights** Alan Walts; TMPO Director

At the March 2021 RTOC meeting, the RTC indicated that protection of ceded territories/treaty rights is one of their priorities for working with EPA. The RTOC will continue that discussion with a “tabletop exercise” that walks through a hypothetical situation where the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights* might be used and how EPA and impacted tribes would work together.

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**Wrap-up and Adjourn**