

Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

March 18, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 am Central Time

MS Teams Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Dial-In Number: (312) 667-5632; 616 335 798#

and

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Central Time

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Welcome and Introductions

Cheryl Newton; Region 5 Acting Regional Administrator
Allison Smart; Acting R5TOC Tribal Co-Chair; Little River Band

Presentation of the 2020 Taimi Lynne Hoag Award for Environmental Stewardship

Cheryl Newton; Region 5 Acting Regional Administrator
Allison Smart; Acting R5TOC Tribal Co-Chair; Little River Band

R5TOC Administrative Business

Alan Walts; TMPO Director

- Approval of R5TOC meeting summary from October 15, 2020
- Review R5TOC Action Item Tracking Matrix

Taking Stock: Discussion of Key Tribal Priorities and Issues

Regional Tribal Caucus

The R5TOC will discuss the status of key tribal priorities and identify where the R5TOC could focus its efforts under the new Administration. The Regional Tribal Caucus has identified nine priorities which are included in the meeting packet. For this meeting, our discussion will focus on the Treatment-as-State process, Ceded Territories/Treaty Rights, Performance Partnership Grants, and Direct Implementation in Indian Country/Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements (covered below under Direct Implementation).

Highlighting Tribal Environmental Protection and Restoration Projects

- Passive Solar Greenhouse Project at Prairie Island Indian Community – Tiyoḱhata is a pilot project of the Prairie Island Food Sovereignty Program, housing an aquaponics system that can provide year-around fresh produce and fish for the community. The greenhouse remains between 50-85° F throughout an average day without a single BTU of additional heating.
- Partnerships Between Red Lake Nation and EPA – An overview of the expansive trust resources at Red Lake Reservation and a few examples of how EPA and the Red Lake Nation Water Resources Program are working together to preserve them.

EPA National and Regional Priorities

Cheryl Newton; Region 5 Acting Regional Administrator
JoAnn Chase, Director, American Indian Environmental Office (invited)
Alan Walts; TMPO Director

EPA representatives will provide a report on the initial priorities of the new Administration and specific focus areas for Region 5, including significant activities for the Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office during the remainder of Fiscal Year 2021.

EPA Direct Implementation (DI) Activities in Indian Country

Paul Winters; Tribal Liaison

This standing agenda item will provide an opportunity to discuss planning and implementation of EPA DI responsibilities in Indian country, including documenting accomplishments, communicating to tribal partners, and increasing tribal involvement in DI activities. Initially, we will focus on EPA DI responsibilities under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The objectives for this meeting are to establish a shared understanding of DI and the scope of EPA's responsibilities for those statutes and begin discussions on options for tribal involvement and enhancing related tribal program capacities.

National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC)

Mark Parrish; Council Member, Pokagon Band

This is a standing agenda item to enhance coordination between the R5TOC 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.

Tribal Advisory Group Reports

5-minute updates from representatives to Tribal advisory groups including: National Tribal Water Council, National Tribal Air Association, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, National Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Pesticides Council, E-Enterprise, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association.

Wrap-up and Adjourn