

Nez Perce Tribe Energy Group  
July 12, 2011

Attending: Ann McCormack, Anthony Broncheau, Jon Paisano, Terry Kinder

#### TSS Consulting – Waste-to-Energy Feasibility Study

Jon outlined the visit by TSS Consulting who is conducting the waste to energy study. Visiting from TSS were Fred Tornatore and Todd Hansen. Jon gave them a tour of possible plant sites from At' Way Plaza to Kamiah. The best possibilities they encountered were immediately adjacent to the casino and it's need for a large amount of operating power and on the hill, by the water tank, on the west side of Lapwai where it could produce electricity to power both Tribal buildings and the two school buildings.

Fred and Todd visited with a wide variety of people that could play a part in a waste to energy plant. They talked with, among others, Valda Sue Steele, John DeGroot, Dwight Williams, Clearwater Paper, Avista, Jeff Cronce, Kim Cannon, Chris St. Germaine, John Wheaton, Julie Simpson and the Forest Service. From the [Water Resources Program](#), they got a copy of the 2006 waste stream analysis that will help identify [the amount of solid waste in the region for a possible incinerator for burning solid waste to produce electricity](#).

TSS found that there appears to be no problems in complying with existing environmental regulations for the plant. Todd also visited with a forestry professor at the U of I. He helped explain the current status of forest products in the region. Everyone felt comfortable talking with Todd and Fred and were impressed by their knowledge of environmental law. The one reoccurring statement, by both members of the TSS team, was that the challenge was going to be to produce electricity at a rate that would be competitive with [current electricity rates from Hydro](#).

Ann: While conducting this study, it would be a good time to consider partnering with a company or companies in the market for energy tax credits. Robert Uhrich is promoting solar. He knows of a company in the Tri-Cities that wants to test its own product and we could do that here or perhaps at Hanford in the area designated as an energy park. Jon agreed that we should be sure to feature solar along with low impact hydro power in the Strategic Energy Plan (SEP).

#### RCI Consulting and the Strategic Energy Plan

Jon has provided copies of a draft scope of work that will be issued to RCI and two other firms in an effort to find a professional firm to complete the strategic energy plan the Committee outlined in depth earlier this year. Committee members are to work today to "flesh-out" the scope and Jon will try to get it out to the various firms tomorrow.

#### Atoms for Peace to Energy for Peace Conference

Jon attended a work shop in Washington DC late last month. The emphasis was heavy on nuclear energy because of the recent fears generated by the failure of the Fukushima plant in Japan. Approximately 30 people attended. Most were independent grass roots activists but there were also speakers from the Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Sierra Club. Part of the presentation was a breakdown of exactly how the national grid works.

At the end, each participant had to make a presentation. Jon's was "Making the Case for Renewable Energy When We Have the Lowest Energy Rates in the Country". He based his talk

on the Tribe's desire for natural, sustainable energy with little or no environmental impact. The delegation from the Physicians for Social Responsibility was very impressed with the presentation and have extended an invitation for Jon to attend their meeting in Nebraska in September.

#### Energy Use Update and Other Energy Work

Ann has been working with Professor Murray to develop business direction. She's also working with a specialist on "branding" the Tribe. It is hope that TSS will be ready to present a draft of their study on the waste to energy and that we will be well underway (maybe even in the draft stage) of the Strategic Energy Plan and all these parties can present at the third Economic Summit in September.

#### Grants for 2011 ?

Everyone understands that budgets are being scraped bare. Even those that still have grant funding are cutting back drastically. Jon says we need to concentrate on anything that may help study the best case scenario for solar and/or low-impact hydro.

Ann feels we should also address energy conservation – it is the most cost effective and easiest way to save energy costs. It should also be part of our Strategic Energy Plan. One idea we should give serious consideration is the four day work week. We should seriously study other agencies, like the State of Utah and the Spokane Tribe that have gone to a four day week. They've found amazing results from this action. We might look at their numbers and, if we have another all-staff meeting in the fall, present the idea at that time.

Ann wanted to report that her grant to the Nez Perce Tribe's education fund was rejected. She had proposed inviting Roger Taylor to come and talk to Tribal members about energy conservation.

#### Other Energy Business/Discussion

Jon followed up on the e-mail from Terry about a DOE workshop in Salt Lake City later this month. It will be to help develop energy codes. The DOE offered travel assistance from any Tribal program that wanted to attend.

Respectfully Submitted  
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