

Tribal Transportation Planning Organization
Quarterly Meeting
12 Tribes Resort, Omak, WA
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
March 3, 2016

Minutes

1. **Introductions** – Michael Cardwell, President, TTPO called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He introduced the host tribe representative Jason Palmer, CCT Planning, who in turn introduced Colville Tribal elder Michael Friedlander Sr. with the Tribe’s Peacemaker Circle. Mr. Friedlander welcomed the TTPO with a few comments and a prayer. Everyone introduced themselves. Jason Palmer, CCT Planning/Project Manager welcomed everyone and gave an orientation to the new facility. There were twenty - seven in attendance representing 13 Tribes. Keri Shepherd, TTPO Secretary clarified that Shawn Desautel would be voting member for Colville Tribe

2. **Recognition Presentation** (Tribal Transportation/Transit Project)
Colville Tribe Project Presentation - Jason Palmer, CCT Planning provided an overview of the Colville Tribe focusing on the challenges the tribe faced during the summer of 2015 and the major fires that affected the tribe. He noted the major issues with connectivity due to the limited major road system, the numerous jurisdictions involved in responded to the emergency and the coordination of tribal and other resources in the face of the fires. Jason responded to questions and there were a number of comments regarding the loss of timber and livestock resources, the importance of transit and transit facilities that could be brought to assist in emergencies and the need for the TTPO and member tribe to do more coordination with emergency response agencies. It was noted that the Interagency fire team came in and led the coordination with WSDOT, the tribes and counties ** Action Item, need for TTPO to look at intertribal coordination of emergency response (training item?). Various resources for tribes were mentioned including the ERFO program and the fact that MAP-21 removed the Tribal Transportation Program emergency response funds from highway trust fund financing to Department of Interior. The new FAST Act eliminated the program entirely removing a \$30 million tribal program. Jason concluded his presentation with an announcement from the Transportation Unity Caucus and an upcoming teleconference that will provide further explanation of FAST Act impacts on the Tribal Transportation Program.

3. **Tribal Project Advocacy** (Tribal Transportation/Transit project)

SR 155/111 Spur Bridge in Omak – Cindy McGlothem, WSDOT North Central Region, Wenatchee presented on Tribal Coordination and Success of the SR155/111 Spur Bridge Rehabilitation project. This project was awarded \$11 million in the 2015 Connecting Washington Revenue package. This bridge provides the only pedestrian access across the Omak River. The process started in 2003 when WSDOT rated the bridge functionally obsolete. After various studies and attempts to secure funding, it was determined to build a separate pedestrian bridge (non-motorized multi use) and to rehabilitate the old bridge including removal of sidewalks and widening of travel lanes on the Spur Bridge. CTCR lead the effort to bring all parties together to reach consensus on the winning project strategy.

4. **Training Opportunities** (Capacity & Training)

Tribal Transportation Program Bid Process, Design and Construction – Casey Stevens, Stillaguamish Tribe. Casey lead the group through a series of Stillaguamish Road Projects focusing on the tribe’s experience with the bid process for planning and design work. Casey discussed the tribe’s procurement policies before and after a recent internal audit identified some areas that needed attention. He also shared the Tribes Request for Qualifications for Civil Engineering and non-engineering Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantities or IDIQ process recently added to the tribe’s standard procurement processes. Casey noted that the Stillaguamish Tribe has grown considerably over the last several years, similar to many other tribes and that a review and update of procurement and accounting systems and procedures is highly recommended.

5. **Tribal Transit**

WSDOT Public Transportation Plan, Stan Suchan, WSDOT, Public Transportation
Stan began his presentation by commending Michael Cardwell for his many hours of work and participation and constructive criticism in development of the Statewide 20-year public transportation plan as a member of the working group. Stan noted that we now have a draft plan and it will be available on the WSDOT website. He also provided a handout detailing “Proposed Revised Early Actions” and encouraged everyone to review the draft and assure that things like Tribal interests, rural needs, and other important emphasis areas are included adequately. The plan is intended to include everything but driving alone. Work continues with stakeholders on the review and WSDOT still needs our help. The plan needs to integrate bike/ped with other modes, there needs to be more on climate, more rural integration and more about tribal transit systems and services. COMMENT PLEASE. Comments back by Monday the 21st. (See handout of revised early actions, plan at

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Transit/TransportationPlan> and contact Sarah Shannon, sshannon@prrbiz.com).

6. **Safety** – No presentation

7. Interagency Coordination

NW TTAP UPDATE - Michele Siedenburg, provided an update on the NW TTAP Advisory Board meeting and activities over the last quarter. Michele handed out copies of the 2016 Instruction Request Assessment a needs assessment for Northwest Tribes training interests. She also reviewed upcoming training and other calendared events. All information is readily available on the NW TTAP website at www.ewu.edu/nwttap.

WSDOT Update – Megan Nicodemus, brought everyone up to date on the Tribal State Conference coming up September 28 & 29, 2016 at Suquamish Tribe. Specifically, the call for presentations is out and we need nominations so that the planning committee can start to prioritize and schedule the agenda. There are calls each 3rd Thursday of the month for those that would like to participate in the planning effort. All information is available at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/tribal/2016Conference.htm>.

8. TTPO Business

Treasurer's Report – Annette Nesse, TTPO Treasurer provided a written TTPO Financial Report as of February 29, 2016, summarizing activities and provided a 2015 Annual Summary. Annette identified the yearend balance of \$34,217.95. Annette brought attention to the 2015 Annual Summary that showed how the membership dues collected related to the total expenses and what a positive move initiation of dues was. She also announced that she is preparing the invoices for 2016 dues will be mailed out soon. Annette also suggested that the board consider the healthy balance and think about possible investing a portion of the balance in an interest bearing account. This could be considered at the next meeting. ** Action Item. Annette was asked about the \$10,000 that WSDOT provides for tribal representative's travel to TTPO meetings. Annette clarified that the WSDOT amount is not included in the TTPO financial report as those dollars are handled directly by WSDOT.

9. **Announcements/Good of the Order**

Keri Shepherd announced that she had just met with a new BIA representative and was informed that tribes are going to be required to establish separate bank accounts for Tribal Transportation Program funds. Annette noted that FHWA sent out a similar notice and then a subsequent notice that tribes could set up accounts however they wanted as long as they could show that they had adequate accounting systems in place. Keri

continued that she was told the BIA is still working on the details and that they would like to come to the next TTPO meeting to share this with everyone. She assured them that they could be on the agenda. **Action Item. Michael C. noted that this maybe a case of the federal agencies possibly jumping the gun prior to coordinating their efforts and coming out with a clear policy. Richard Rolland reminded tribes of the Tribal Transportation Unity Caucus call and the opportunity to put issues like this on the agenda for national discussion.

Next meeting dates were discussed with May and June dates considered at Muckleshoot or PSRC in Seattle. (Since this meeting it has been determined that the meeting will be May 17, 2016 at PSRC).

Meeting Adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. TTPO to look at intertribal coordination of emergency response
2. Look at investing a portion of funds in interest bearing account.
3. Invite BIA (FHWA) to discuss TTP required financial systems.

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Nominations and Elections for the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization Board

Michael Cardwell, President, called the Annual Meeting to Order. Michael noted the three primary agenda items, Nominations and Elections for the TTPO Board, Election of Officers, and a discussion of the TTPO Bylaws.

Keri Shepherd rose to comment on the dysfunctional bylaws, the need for a complete revision and a recommendation to suspend the election of board members, elect officers and let the new officers rewrite the bylaws for approval at the next meeting. After some discussion, Keri made a motion to Suspend rules and hold elections for Officers, seconded by Andrew Strobel, Puallup. The question was called and the motion passed.

Next a motion to have the officers simplify the bylaws for vote by the next meeting was made by Keri and seconded by Dezeræ Hayes, Muckleshoot. This motion also passed.

With the nominations and the elections for the TTPO Board suspended, Michael moved to the Election of Officers.

Election of Officers – it was noted that there were no electronic nominations received.

Treasurer – Annette Nesse, Jamestown S’Klallam was asked if she would consider continuing in the position of Treasurer. She agreed and was nominated by Hedi Thomas, Nisqually. Annette was elected by unanimous consent.

Secretary - Keri Shepherd, Nooksack was nominated to continue as Secretary by Hedi Thomas. Keri was elected by unanimous consent.

Vice President - How TTPO came to have two vice presidents, Julia Whitford and Andrew Strobel was discussed. Each talked about their involvement in TTPO and the importance of the organization. Andrew felt that he would rather not continue as he had considerable additional responsibilities this coming year and hoped to allow

someone new the opportunity to join the leadership of the organization. Annette noted that WSDOT still provided considerable support to the TTPO through the services of Megan Nicodemus and how Megan really helped take the load off of the TTPO officers. Casey brought up the issue of a current operating budget and work plan and the need for more support to guide the organization. Annette agreed that the new officers could be more diligent in bringing budgets before the group for approval and that yes there were dollars available to support TTPO efforts such as the contract with Bill Ramos to write the White Paper on Tribal Transit. All agreed that current budgets and work plans were necessary and that would be a charge for the new officers. With no further discussion Julia Whitford was nominated by Dezerae Hayes for the Vice President position. Julia was elected unanimously.

President – Casey Stevens was nominated by Keri, Matt Jensen, Lummi was nominated by Dezerae, Dezerae was nominated by Julia. Casey asked to withdraw. Michael called for a secret ballot and a short speech by each nominee. After paper ballots were passed out, collected and counted Matt Jensen was elected President.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:17 p.m.