

**Nevada Tribal Interagency Solid Waste Workgroup Meeting  
Valhalla, South Lake Tahoe  
Wednesday, July 16, 2008  
1:00pm – 4:30pm**

**Attendees:**

**Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation:** Ed Naranjo  
**Duckwater Shoshone Tribe:** Annette George-Harris  
**Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe:** Richard Black  
**Fort McDermitt:** Duane Masters Sr.  
**Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe:** John Mosley  
**Reno-Sparks Indian Colony:** Bruce D. Sanchez Jr., Johni Bill, Russell Brigham and Scott Nebesky  
**South Fork Band Environmental:** Emiliano McLane  
**Summit Lake Paiute Tribe:** Ron Johnny  
**Walker River Paiute Tribe:** Roxanne L. Ellignson  
**Washoe Tribe:** Carol Anacker-Hubbard, David Schlessinger and Marie Barry  
**Wells Band:** Aurora Aboite and Tara Enos  
**Yerington Paiute Tribe:** Albert Roberts  
**Yomba Shoshone Tribe:** Teola Brady  
**Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc.:** Tansey Smith  
**Bureau of Indian Affairs:** Matt Spaulding  
**Nevada Division of Environmental Protection:** Chester Sergent, Ed Glick and Eric Noack  
**Nevada Rural Water Association:** Dave Willard  
**Environmental Finance Center Region 9:** Sarah Diefendorf and Susan Blachman  
**U.S. EPA Region 9:** Nancy Sockabasin

**Agency Presentations:**

**EPA:** There is a lack of recycling infrastructure throughout the state of Nevada. We will be working with the Environmental Finance Center Region 9 on a project to look at new ways of increasing recycling in the state such as sending recyclables in empty trucks traveling from California to Utah and working with local and commercial partners such as Wal-Mart.

**Environmental Finance Center Region 9 (EFC9):** Sarah and Susan are with Dominican University, and the EFC9 was founded by, and currently funded by, EPA. They have worked in the past with the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to research technologies and financing opportunities to address illegal dumping, develop ideas for green businesses and green technologies, and to help communities promote green technologies. They are currently working with EPA Region 9 to develop a research document for tribes in Nevada that will include options for making recycling economically feasible for their communities.

**Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP):** See attached presentation. The only funding for recycling and solid waste programs in Nevada comes from the tire program, which is a \$1 tax on all new tires sold. There is no federal or state grant funding. Washoe & Clark Counties have their own recycling authority funded by tipping fees. The remaining 15 counties are covered by state services.

There is major infrastructure in Reno and Las Vegas, and they have begun offering single stream recycling as pilot programs. This has doubled recycling rates. Nevada Recyclers Association is most active in Clark County. Much of the focus is on Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste. Reno is promoting zero waste at special events. NDEP continues to promote single stream recycling where feasible.

To promote recycling through young people, the state has developed a 5<sup>th</sup> grade 12 week curriculum that can be adapted to other grades focusing on recycling. It meets state and federal standards. NDEP will hold teacher workshops and teachers can receive continuing education credit for attending the training. The recycling curriculum should be available on their website ([www.nevadarecycles.gov](http://www.nevadarecycles.gov)) soon.

Rural Water Association has had funding to assist with recycling. NDEP is also encouraging and assisting local businesses to start and expand recycling programs. See attached list of Nevada Small Business Development Centers.

The city of Winnemucca has a recycling program that takes bailed cardboard and mixed paper. They also take all plastics, that they outsource to another broker. The city of Elko is expanding their residential drop-off recycling center. City of Ely is collecting cardboard from mines and local businesses. City of Caliente started a program with elementary school and made bins available to the community.

NDEP continues to participate in Earth Day and American Recycles Day. The recycling rate for 2007 was 21.6%, which was an increase of 4.4% from 2006. The state recycling goal is 25%.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a Green Up Program that reimburses communities for landfill tipping fees to encourage folks to bring waste to landfills rather than dump it illegally.

A comment was made that the recycling programs need to start taking plastics that are #3 and higher, as well as plastic bags. It was noted that ease of movement is the major reason why many numbered plastics may not be recycled currently. Plastics #1 and #2 have the most value and can be recycled in to clothes and other products.

A recommendation was made that tribes look into bailing partnerships.

Waste Management (WM) has 3 franchises in state – Reno, Sparks & ?. They are offering to do recycling, but this requires standardizing agreements between WM &

cities. Because many contracts aren't up for renewal, this probably won't start until 2009.

Rawhide Landfill has a permit for a Class 1, but is not operating because it's not economically viable because the landfill is not near a rail line. The local tribe (Walker River) opposed putting rail lines across their land. This was in part because the concept was tied to the Yucca Mountain project, which they oppose. Information is available on the NDEP website (<http://ndep.nv.gov/>).

Norcal has permitted a large landfill outside Winnemucca which is on a rail line. It accepts waste from San Francisco.

There is a composting facility on I-80 near West Wendover, on the Nevada/Utah border that needs help marketing its output. The plant was funded by USDA and processes casino food waste & biosolid sludge. It is midway between Salt Lake City, UT and Elko, NV.

### **Tribal Discussion:**

Questions for discussion:

- 1) What recycling programs is your tribe currently implementing?
- 2) How many community members does your program serve?
- 3) What are the key waste streams that you would like to start or add to your program?
- 4) Have you established partnerships to further your recycling goals?
- 5) Do you know of any model programs you would like to emulate in your community?
- 6) Are you interesting in making this an economic venture?

**South Fork:** They have eight 95 gallon bins at the admin building and transfer station. They collect glass, all paper, #1 plastics, metals (copper and aluminum) and cardboard, but no cars. There are 200 members and 52 homes on the reservation. Not everyone goes to the transfer station. A small number use the bins and they will do workshop to encourage bin use. Tribal employee transports recyclables to California. They are talking to Wal-Mart about a possible bin unload. They want to start a recycling program. They had Green Up/Clean Up event in mid March where they collected recyclables including 15 bags of plastic, 150 lbs of cans, 700 lbs of paper; 300 lbs of cardboard, 75 lbs of plastic bottles, grocery bags and misc. metals.

Home Depot in Elko is accepting CFLs. Elko Auto Wreckage shut down. They used to collect big appliances. Pacific Recyclers will replace them, but not yet. There is a contract with a company in Idaho (Western Metals) to collect abandoned cars. There is no policy regarding abandoned vehicles. Grants of small business loans to build a recycling center are available. It is feasible to take recyclables out of state to Sacramento. The tribe is developing their Solid Waste Management Plan.

**Summit Lake:** Most remote and most primitive reservation in Nevada. Located 86 miles east of Burning Man. Roads not cleared of snow in the winter. There are 12

residences on reservation. Have remnants of tribal employees leaving trash there, and there is a small open pit dump. Currently recycling aluminum cans and plastic bottles collected at admin office. Tribal employee takes the recycling to California. Waste stream is primarily tribal government and employees, not the residents. Have junked vehicles on top of the mountain. BIA Nevada gave crushing equipment to the tribes. Trying to get rid of abandoned cars, that were state vehicles. Tribe does not have the equipment needed to move the cars.

Looked into composting toilet, which costs \$45,000 for a two seater, and is too expensive. There are outhouses on the creek for campers. Effluent runs into stream. Nevada collects fees for hunting in the area, but tribe suffers the consequences with no assistance. Lots of ATVs, etc and the riders ignore no trespassing signs. Lots of EJ issues.

**Walker River:** The tribe has no formal recycling program right now, but people in community recycle cans. Residents sell to tribal employee, who takes the cans to California. Had paper recycling but it was a fire hazard and a transportation and logistics problem getting it to town (Fallon). Did auto recycling in the past. One person collects cars and arranges transportation, and another arranged to crush them. No partners or transfer station currently. Have a transfer station in the works, and would like to take batteries and used oil. The main issues right now are logistics and space. Have curbside pick up for residents (1,100-1,200 people). People also burn trash or take trash to landfill. Don't know what's happening in Hawthorne right now. They have a transfer station for batteries & white goods.

**Wells Band:** The tribe has no formal recycling program, only a small amount of cans. A volunteer gave them bins, but only 2 people used them. The colony has 24 homes. Interested in oil recycling. Have offered to pick up oil from mechanics and take to oil store. Tires are not an issue for the tribe. Curbside pick up of solid waste by City of Elko. Have roll offs since earthquake.

**Yerington Paiute:** The tribe has no recycling program. There are 90 homes and 300 people in the remote community. There is curbside waste collection and a transfer station nearby. Community clean up in fall and spring with 60 yd roll-offs. Community outreach on composting and recycling, but not many people using these services. When they had recycling programs, there was little tribal participation. They have cleaned up illegal dumps and people continue to burn trash and dump all over. The tribe has put ordinances in place and they try to reach the kids via summer program.

**Yomba:** There are 100 people on the reservation, located 112 miles from Fallon, which is the nearest town. No recycling program, but they collected cans, tires and appliances several years ago. The material is still sitting as organized trash. Have done an auto recycling, and recently recycled 40 cars. They were paid \$50/car. Lots of tires, chairs and plastic and they don't know what to do with them. Summer tutor program with kids. Contracted 10 hours/week to teach about recycling and environmental issues so they've been recycling.

US EPA will prepare auto dismantling guide that will be available soon.

**Reno-Sparks Indian Colony:** Recycling at Tribal Admin offices, including: office paper recycling by administration (300 lbs/2 weeks) overseen by Public Works Department. Recycle inkjet cartridges and they found company in Reno that would pay for them but don't have the money yet. For admin offices, they purchased bins for plastic, cans and glass recycling. Not sure who will pick up the material, but will track amounts recycled. For admin, they recycle e-waste and take it to Computer Core in Carson City and a place in Sparks that will try to provide them for reuse to non-profits, low-income families, families with disabilities, etc. IT person would take it to Computer Core.

They have 300 residences in the community, and for them they provide services for recycling Christmas trees (40-50 trees/year). They partner with Keep Nevada Beautiful for mulching green waste. Mulching requires lots of water so it's not an option for the tribe. Motor oil recycling program began in 2006, last year about 45 containers were recycled or about 55 gallons. Have had problems in the past with dumping of used motor oil. Have containers that hold oil filters and oil (about 2 changes) which are dropped off at homes. Residents call to have tribe pick material up when it's full. This goes into a 55 gallon drum. Staff is dropping off about 1 bucket/week. When the drum is full they call to have it picked up

A Wal-Mart is being sited on the reservation. Not sure when they will build. The national program is creating opportunities for recycling centers. This store is in the design stage and planning to incorporate more green elements

**Fallon:** Began recycling 4-5 years ago for departments and expanded to the community. Set up at mini recycling facilities at the senior center, convenience store and tribal office. They are looking to expand this program. Interested in used oil collection as well as composting, e-waste, and tires, but the question is where to take them. Requested US EPA funding for used oil grant. Partnering with Naval Air Station to collect cardboard, but no longer doing that. City of Fallon recycling center takes cardboard, but not paper. Got funding for a baler for the office from NDEP grant. Held a community clean up day on Earth Day and it did well. The community looks forward to it, but the tribe is short on funding. Want to get rid of junk cars & white goods. There are 1,200 people on 2 areas of reservation/colony which consists of about 8,000 acres, located 10 miles east of the city of Fallon

**Goshute:** Tribe currently has no recycling program, since the cost is too high. They are 200 miles from Salt Lake City. They have 200 community members, and batteries and tires collected in some places. Would like to recycle aluminum cans, and target the kids and schools. They do collect aluminum cans during pow wow. On August 1-2 will introduce folks to recycling and educate on how to separate. Want to deal with used oil, since at present people pour it into the ground

Partnerships with Toole County Solid Waste Department and Wendover, Utah to pick up abandoned cars. Removed 250 cars last year and received a grant this year to remove 60 cars. No one wants to get rid of cars. The tribe leases a tribal trash truck to Toole County and Wendover, Utah to collect trash once/week. They haul the material 70 miles to Wendover on paved and dirt road, which is problematic in winter. Just started in January 2008 and want to get something off the ground. The tribe has 200 trash cans for sale, as well as a honey wagon and porta potties for lease.

**Duckwater:** Located in north-central Nevada. Recycled aluminum cans through schools for field trips, but this was primarily done by one teacher. Bought recycling bins for health department and admin building and will give to school also. Want to expand, but the problem is cost of fuel. There is a guy in Ely who will collect junked equipment from tribal yards, but locals want to save cars. Nearby city of Elko offers other services. Community of 150 people, is open to recycling, especially to help kids. Would like to expand to recycle plastic and paper.

**Washoe:** Began program in 1999 with a small recycling plan and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) management plan. Reservation consists of 4 separate communities: Alpine County, CA about 70 households with 175 people that has a transfer station; Dresserville in Douglas County about 147 households with 514 people that has transfer station; Carson, near Carson City, NV about 85 households with 280 people and work with Carson City landfill and transfer station; and Stewart near Carson City, NV about 53 households with 175 people and work with Carson City landfill and transfer station.

Started recycling 2001 and an East Coast group donated multi-compartment bins and placed them in each community, in the senior center, and at tribal headquarters. One year later purchased small recycle trailer to service tribal office and businesses. Didn't have a lot of participation at first, and it fluctuated. Received NDEP grant and EPA funding to purchase stackable bins so everyone could have curbside pick up and as a result recycling increased. Their current program currently includes collection of: aluminum cans, #1 & #2 bottles, tin cans, newspaper and magazines, glass, office paper, cardboard, paper, CFLs, empty propane canisters, e-waste (for free to Computer Core), cell phones, and printer cartridges (pays for itself-green school). In addition, an auto recycling program began in 2001/02. They have a Tribal parcel with 230 cars. They set up area in each community to store material and bring in crusher and they now have a trailer to move cars. They also pick up white goods and have started composting program which collects material in old soap barrels. Conducted community survey regarding what they liked and wanted. Based on survey results decided to collect waste oil, paints and cleaners (take to the city), and car batteries (worth money now). They do lots of community outreach and community clean up events. Offer services at pow wows and will do pick up at other community events such as basketball tournaments, etc. At community clean up events bins fill up quickly. Lots of people don't use curbside and instead they hoard. Community clean up event has evolved into a dumping event; not sure how to change this. Head Start does paper making activity to introduce kids to recycling. Would like to make program a little more economically feasible. It is expensive for curbside pickup, since it uses lots of gas.

Plan for recycling/transfer station/oil change/reuse center/trading center, so they are working towards this goal. They have an Environmental Hotline for residents for issues and appliance pick up. Initially had lots of activity but not as much now. Trying for grease/used cooking oil recycling/biofuel at senior center. Learned a lot from other tribes. The key is to get kids into it. They hold a trash treasure hunt with their Earth Day events, and the kids are very into it. Prizes are awarded for most amount collected, including one prize of free trash pick up for 6 months and computers.

**Pyramid Lake:** Very ambitious initially, but still need to know where to take material that was collected, but never recycled or disposed, such as mattresses, white goods, bottles, and batteries. Collect mixed paper (\$45/ton), cardboard (\$80/bale), white goods and they have a bailer and scales for paper collection. Got biofuels recycling started (100 gallons) as well as bottles and batteries and they want to get paid to recycle these items. Put in bins in tribal offices for paper. Lots of scrap metal has disappeared since the price increased.

The community consists of 1,800 members and they have 3 transfer sites that have two 30 yard bins/site. They have problems with construction and demolition (C&D) debris, as well as green waste. According to SWM Plan collect 128 tons/year of solid waste which averages out to 2.5 lbs/person/day (average American 4 lbs/person/day). Would like to add recycling of C&D and green waste since 98% of what they transport to the landfill is C&D waste & green waste (large limbs). No partners yet, but would like to establish pay as you throw landfill. It would be a tribally managed and operated landfill with a recycling facility.

### **Future Meetings:**

Solid waste is a common problem and there is agreement that meetings should continue. Twice per year was identified as useful. May need to have a meeting in southern Nevada in order to have the southern Nevada tribes attend. EPA will help coordinate the next meeting with the Aurora Aboite, who will contact the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, in the hopes of having the meeting there.

Once the location is finalized, Nancy Sockabasin will send out an email to tribes to request topics for the next meeting.