

**Regional Tribal Operations Committee**

**Tribal Caucus**

**December 1, 2021**

**9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. MT**

I. Opening – *Blane Sanchez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Governor, Pueblo of Isleta, Tribal Co-Chair*

II. Invocation – *Virgil Lucero, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Governor, Pueblo of Isleta, Tribal Co-Chair*

III. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum – *Victoria Atencio, Pueblo of Santo Domingo, RTOC Secretary*

<b>Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas</b>		<b>Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana</b>		<b>Wyandotte Nation</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Caddo Nation of Oklahoma</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Pueblo of Isleta</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Cherokee Nation</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Pueblo of Laguna</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Chickasaw Nation</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Pueblo of Santa Clara</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Citizen Potawatomi Nation</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Pueblo of San Felipe</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Muscogee (Creek) Nation</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Pueblo of Santo Domingo</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Pueblo of Zia</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma</b>	<b>X</b>		

IV. Welcome and Introductions – Tribal Leaders, Tribal Caucus, and Meeting Participants  
*James Naranjo, Lt Governor, Pueblo of Santa Clara*

V. Approval of Agenda

*Victoria Atencio, Pueblo of Santo Domingo will be serving as Secretary  
Pueblo of Isleta moves to approve the agenda. Ottawa Tribe seconds.  
MOTION CARRIES*

VI. Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2021, Tribal Caucus Virtual Meeting

*Randy Gee distributed this morning.*

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of July Meeting Minutes were tabled to allow sufficient time for review.**

VII. New Business

1) Clean Water Action Plan

*Presenter – Tabitha Langston, Ottawa Tribe*

*Tabitha gave a slide presentation on the Focus Areas and proposed actions in each.*

*EPA will be giving a presentation during tomorrow's meeting*

2) PFAS Strategic Roadmap

*Discussion on the new newly released Strategic Roadmap.*

*Suggestion to add to the Tribal Summit agenda in April when there will hopefully be more information available.*

3) RTOC Executive Committee Elections

a) Incoming RTOC tribes for 2022

i) NM – Santa Clara, Isleta, & Santa Ana (new)

ii) OK – Caddo, Citizen Potawatomi, Ottawa, & Wyandotte were all reelected

iii) The standard operating procedures for virtual RTOC/NTOC election process reviewed.

(1) Co-Chair

(a) Wyandotte nominates Ottawa Tribe. San Felipe seconds.

(i) Citizen Potawatomi moves to elect Ottawa by acclamation. Cherokee seconds.  
MOTION CARRIES.

(2) Vice-Chair

(a) Citizen Potawatomi nominates Pueblo of Isleta. Wyandotte seconds.

(i) Citizen Potawatomi moves to elect Isleta by acclamation. Ottawa seconds.  
MOTION CARRIES.

(3) Secretary

(a) Laguna nominates Citizen Potawatomi Nation. San Felipe nominates Pueblo of Santo Domingo. Santa Clara seconds both nominations.

(i) Straw Poll link distributed. Citizen Potawatomi wins poll.

1. Motion to accept voting results - Citizen Potawatomi Nation as Secretary.  
Muscogee seconds. MOTION CARRIES.

4) NTC Representative Elections

a) Requirements and obligations of the two representatives and one alternate were reviewed. Grants funds cannot be used to serve.

b) Pueblo of San Felipe is willing to continue serving.

c) Wyandotte nominates Ottawa Tribe. Caddo seconds.

d) San Felipe and Ottawa will serve as NTC representatives for 2022. MOTION CARRIES by acclamation.

e) Several nominations for alternate were declined. Caddo Nation will accept the position tentatively with a confirmation vote at the next monthly call/meeting.

**ACTION ITEM: NTC Alternate selection at the January monthly call/meeting.**

5) Joint RTOC Meetings

a) Discussion on continuing "joint RTOC meetings" with Regions 9 and 10 and expanding the group to include all the RTOCs across the country.

i) Support from the Tribal Caucus for the Executive Committee to continue these efforts.

**ACTION ITEM: Executive Committee continue efforts for Joint RTOC Meeting(s).**

6) Region 6's Variable Funding Processes

a) Discussion on Region 6's Variable Funding Processes; specifically, the CWA §106 variable funding process.

i) How does EPA make the decision of how much each Tribe receives?

ii) What are the funding priorities? Are they announced in the funding announcement?

iii) Requesting process be transparent to the tribes.

b) EPA will be giving a presentation during tomorrow's meeting.

VIII. Old Business

1) Transition Document

a) Isleta moves to approve the revised Transition Document. Fort Sill Apache seconds. MOTION CARRIES.

b) The Document will be presented to EPA during tomorrow's meeting.

- 2) GAP Guidance Revisions & GAP Allocation
  - a) Discussion on the Revision Workgroups process and the continued Workgroup input.
  - b) Cautiously optimistic that the new revisions will be more transparent and provide clarity for tribes.

**ACTION ITEM: Thank all the EPA Region 6 staff that participated in the Workgroup process.**

- 3) SAFETEA Update
  - a) Michael Freeman, outside counsel for Pawnee Nation, gave an update on their lawsuit and requested a separate call for the Oklahoma tribal nations to have a more in-depth discussion. A special TECO Meeting will be held for this purpose.
- 4) LANL
  - a) Discussion concerning the November 17<sup>th</sup> informational call on transuranic waste.
  - b) Second meeting will be convened to discuss the new application, issues, and concerns.
  - c) Discussion regarding US Forest Service expediting the NEPA review for a new power transmission line to bring additional power to LANL.
- 5) RTOC Charter Workgroup
  - a) The workgroup will be reconvening in the new year to work on the Charter. The following tribes volunteered to participate: Wyandotte, Fort Sill Apache, Isleta, Santo Domingo, Caddo, Cherokee, and Ottawa

#### IX. Progress Reports – See Written Reports

- 1) National Tribal Caucus (NTC)
  - a) Report given by Pinu’u Stout, Pueblo of San Felipe. Report will be sent to Mark Allen for distribution to the tribes.
- 2) National Tribal Air Association (NTAA)
  - a) Report by Craig Kreman, Quapaw Nation was previously distributed to the tribes.
- 3) Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma (TECO)
  - a) Report given by Jaclyn McCasland, Delaware Nation. Report will be sent to Mark Allen for distribution to the tribes.
- 4) Inter-Tribal Resource Advisory Committee (IRAC)
  - a) Report given by Karmen Billey-Badonie, Eight Northern. Report will be sent to Mark Allen for distribution to the tribes.
- 5) Texas and Louisiana Tribes
  - a) Report given by Barbara Valdivieso, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.
  - b) Discussion regarding the correct contact information for the RTOC members from Texas.

**ACTION ITEM: Contact information for Louisiana and Texas RTOC representatives.**

- 6) Tribal Governance Group (TGG)
  - a) Report given by April Hathcoat, Cherokee Nation. The group met on November 9<sup>th</sup> and “re-branded”. New name is Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG). Frank Harjo, Muscogee Nation, is the Chair.

- 7) E-Enterprise Leadership Council (EELC)
  - a) Report given by Josh Worcester, Caddo Nation. Report will be sent to Mark Allen for distribution to the tribes.
- 8) National Tribal Water Council (NTWC)
  - a) Region 6 seat is vacant. Discussion on the need to fill the seat as soon as possible. Interested tribes must apply. More information is available on the Council's website. Eastern Shawnee Tribe applied.
- 9) Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee
  - a) No report given. Tracy Horst, Choctaw Nation is absent.
- 10) Tribal Science Council (TSC)
  - a) Report by Craig Kreman, Quapaw Nation was previously distributed to the tribes.
- 11) National Tribal Toxics Council
  - a) Discussion on who the Region 6 representatives are and how they are selected.

**ACTION ITEM: Request list of all Tribal Partnership Groups that includes contact information, etc.**

X. Review of Action Items – *Victoria Atencio*, Pueblo of Santo Domingo, RTOC Secretary

- 1) NTC Alternate Selection tabled
- 2) TPG List
- 3) Joint RTOC Meeting Coordination
- 4) July Meeting Minutes tabled
- 5) Thank EPA Region 6 staff who participated in the GAP Guidance Revisions Workgroups
- 6) Contact information for Louisiana and Texas RTOC representatives

XI. Workshop, Training, and General Announcements

- 1) Children's Health Symposium – planning for Fall (October) 2022
- 2) Region 6 Non-Point Source Workshop – February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>
  - a) Seeking agenda items and volunteers to present or participate on a panel

XII. Location and Date of Next Meeting

- 1) April 26 – 28
  - a) Pre-Caucus 26<sup>th</sup> (if needed)
  - b) Tribal Caucus 27<sup>th</sup>
  - c) Full RTOC 28<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Alternate Dates – April 19 – 21

XIII. Closing – *Blane Sanchez*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Governor, Pueblo of Isleta, Tribal Co-Chair

XIV. Benediction – *Virgil Lucero*, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Governor, Pueblo of Isleta, Tribal Co-Chair

XV. Adjournment – *Blane Sanchez*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Governor, Pueblo of Isleta, Tribal Co-Chair