To: Edmondson, Lucy[Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov]
Cc: Murchie, Peter[Murchie.Peter@epa.gov]; Gockel, Catherine[Gockel.Catherine@epa.gov]; Bonifacino, Gina[Bonifacino.Gina@epa.gov]; Bonifaci, Angela[Bonifaci.Angela@epa.gov]
From: Chang, Lisa
Sent: Tue 12/8/2015 12:26:06 AM
Subject: Final draft talking points, What's Upstream

Hi Lucy,

Here are my final draft background/talking points on the Swinomish Tribe's "Whatsupstream.com." Please let me know if you need anything else.

Lisa

Briefing/Talking Points – Whatsupstream.com

Issue:

•□□□□□□□□ A revised version of the Whatsupstream.com website went live on Thursday 12/3. Developed by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (SITC) under the NEP Tribal Lead Organization (LO) award, it spotlights nonpoint source agricultural pollution and is accompanied by social/media outreach driving traffic to the website.

•□□□□□□□□ As anticipated, the website provides a link enabling readers to send letters to state legislators generally urging stronger regulation to protect water quality from agricultural NPS.

•□□□□□□□□ R10/OWW had provided extensive input to SITC prior to website launch to ensure its factual accuracy and its alignment with the Action Agenda and Management Conference. Many, but not all, EPA comments were addressed.

•□□□□□□□□ The final website will likely be controversial; an earlier version of the website which did not even include the letter to state legislators caused unease in the agricultural community in the Skagit Basin.

Background:

•□□□□□□□□ In 2011 the Swinomish Tribe used NEP Tribal LO funding to launch a "public outreach" project to evaluate public perceptions of water quality in the Skagit Basin and conduct a public education effort to promote protective practices and regulation.

•□□□□□□□□ As with the other LOs, NWIFC, which administers the Tribal LO, makes final decisions on subaward proposals and products, with EPA input.

•□□□□□□□□ The project was clearly tied to the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan (SCRP) which like all Recovery Plans is a central component of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. For example, the SCRP calls for "a vigorous public information effort, and by providing the technical information to assist landowners and others in their efforts to comply with existing regulations."

•□□□□□□□□ The project has been approved and funded in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 under the NWIFC. Under the Tribal LO, tribes must re-apply each year for funding and provide a workplan for the work they intend to do with each year of funding.

•□□□□□□□□ Over the life of the project, as it has evolved, we have raised several key concerns.

o First, we raised concerns with potential violations of anti-lobbying grant conditions. Based on discussions with ORC, we determined that the proposal did NOT violate anti-lobbying conditions.

o Second, in 2013, SITC proposed to add a local "ballot initiative" component to the project. Although ORC continued to find that the project did not violate anti-lobbying conditions, SITC decided to eliminate the ballot initiative component from the NEP-funded workplan.

o Third, and most recently (2015), SITC proposed to significantly increase the "public education" element of the project. In evaluating the draft outreach materials, we expressed concern that they appeared to negatively target a Management Conference sector and diverge from the spirit and substance of the Action Agenda and Management Conference.

•□□□□□□□□ With respect to these 2015 concerns, Puget Sound team staff, in consultation with WRU, NPU, and ORC staff and OWW management, engaged in extensive discussions directly with SITC regarding the proposed content. We provided extensive specific comment and language to address our concerns with the content.

Messages:

•□□□□□□□□ EPA has been aware of and provided extensive comment on this project. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) is the grant administrator with direct oversight of this work. EPA has more limited ability to oversee and intervene with a subaward than if we directly oversee an award.

•□□□□□□□□ As indicated on the website, while EPA funds were used to support development of the website, it does not necessarily reflect EPA views and policies.

•□□□□□□□□ The purpose of the NEP Tribal LO program is to fund projects that are (1) in or consistent with the Puget Sound Action Agenda, and (2) are of high tribal priority. The project is intended to support an element of the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan, which is an important part of the Puget Sound Action Agenda as well as a high priority to SITC. The intent of the project is thus consistent with the goals of the funding program.

•□□□□□□□□ EPA continues to urge all entities who have an interest in the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem to work through the Puget Sound Management Conference to protect and restore the ecosystem.

From: Edmondson, Lucy
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 9:48 AM
To: Chang, Lisa <Chang.Lisa@epa.gov>
Cc: Murchie, Peter <Murchie.Peter@epa.gov>
Subject: ECY WQ Check in Meeting - information needed

Hi Lisa

ECY is holding a "water quality" check in meeting next Thurdsay (12/10). This meeting is mostly a roundtable discussion for principles (WA Conservation Commission, WA DFW, NRCS, PSP, WA Dept of Ag, NOAA and EPA).

Dennis and I will participate from EPA. (and possibly Dan O.)

Dan O suggested that Dennis could use some background on the Swinomish Tribe's "What up stream. Com" campaign/program and that you could provide some background/talking points on that. Can you send me something by COB Monday?

Thanks

Lucy

Lucy Edmondson

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