Workshop Summary

On behalf of the workshop organizers, thank you for making this month’s Sustainable Tribal Construction Workshop such a success. The following summary is provided for attendees to supplement the attached electronic versions of the power point presentations. The summary is also provided for those who were not able to attend but who wrote or called to express interest in the workshop outcomes.

Perhaps the most significant outcome was a commitment made by the three primary organizers to continue working together to offer informational as well as more advanced sessions on sustainability topics. We received very positive feedback from attendees through the evaluations as well as through conversation. The workshop received an average score of 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 indicating excellent. We also received requests for additional information or training on the following specific topics – master planning, weatherization, project coordination and green design standards.

Finally, we were impressed by the diversity of attendees. It is clear that the topic of sustainability cuts across a broad range of disciplines as attendees represented the following tribal program areas – housing, environmental protection, construction services (TERO), planning and economic development. We also had elected tribal leadership from four tribal communities.

The following provides just a few of the key points each of the presenters made – for more information please refer to the presenters’ power point presentation or contact them directly (see attached speaker biographies).

Welcome

Ann Marie Chischilly, Executive Director, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
Ms. Chischilly welcomed the assembled group and provided an overview of the training services ITEP provides on a national basis and its record of serving more than 500 of the 566 tribes over its 20 year history. For more information on ITEP: www.nau.edu/itep. Other key points include:

- ITEP has five programs: 1) Air Quality; 2) Environmental Outreach; 3) Solid Waste; 4) Climate Change; and
- Tribal Clean Energy Resource Center – Launched in October 2012 at NCAI (Resolution PDX-11-064)
- TCERC is being developed to assist tribes transition into sustainable and clean energy solutions.

Presentation: Sustainable Design Standards Enterprise Green Communities (EGC)

Ray Demers, Program Officer, Enterprise Community Partners
Mr. Demers provided a brief overview of Enterprise Green Communities (EGC) - a residential certification design standard program crafted for affordable housing. Participants were provided examples of design standards and how they could benefit the cost of a project, the comfort of residents as well as the environmental sustainability of the project. Given the breadth and depth of the EGC program, participants were encouraged to explore the written materials as well as those available online at www.greencommunitiesonline.org and to attend the full version of the workshops for a more complete understanding of how EGC can increase tribal project sustainability. Other key points include:

- Integrative design meetings (charrettes) are the most effective way to imbed sustainable building practices into your projects
- The most sustainable building practices are not expensive materials or systems, but tried-and-true practices like proper solar orientation, adequate natural ventilation, and air sealing details.
- Education (and re-education) of building residents and O+M (operations + maintenance) staff is critical to the health and safety of residents, as well as the ongoing energy performance of the building.
Presentation: Sustainable Design Case Studies
Jamie Blosser, Atkin Olshin Schade Architects

Ms. Blosser provided an overview of projects that received technical assistance through the Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative (SNCC) – see www.sustainablenativecommunities.org and the tribal work of Atkin Olshin Schade Architects. She reviewed methods for gathering community input and developing a roadmap for achieving sustainable projects, defined elements of sustainable/green projects, identified common barriers and solutions to collaborative community design efforts, and showcased specific tribal projects. Other key points include:

- Funding is Available to Support Community Design Charrettes through the SNCC
- SNCC will co-host an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow starting in January, and he is the first American Indian Rose Fellow to date
- Building Blocks of Culturally Appropriate, Green Tribal Projects

Tribal Project Presentations
David Lewis, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Environmental Specialist

Mr. Lewis reviewed the work he and other staff and tribal leadership engaged in to establish an energy vision for his tribe. He also reviewed several renewable energy projects that were developed as well as the challenges associated with staffing, maintenance of project hardware as well as sustaining the tribe’s energy program. The tribe has had a mix of project successes and lessons learned however the vision they’ve set remains and continues to guide renewed efforts towards the tribe’s vision for energy self-sufficiency.

Jonathan Robertson, JSR Design Studios

Mr. Roberts reviewed several urban based sustainable communities developed under the concept of “New Urbanism”. His experience with these projects inspired development of his thinking around a New Ruralism based on traditional Navajo concepts of harmony that have their corollaries in popular concepts of sustainability. He discussed how while working for the Navajo Housing Authority he helped develop affordable housing planning criteria as well as project management tools that integrate harmony/sustainability concepts. He also discussed how the establishment of Navajo Flexcrete - a building material product - has sustainability at its core by promoting a reciprocal cycle where communities build green as well as support a sustainable industry.

Bill Marks, Native Village of Kwinhagak

Mr. Marks discussed an extremely dire need for housing in a small Alaska Native Village that would only be partially resolved over 55 years if federal Indian housing funds were relied upon alone. A community-based planning process and collaboration with multiple agencies resulted in a project that is sustainable on at least three fronts – 1. Efficiency and Cultural Relevance were achieved by designing a super-energy efficient home and a second expandable model that addresses local conditions and community preferences; 2. The local economy was enhanced by adapting construction methods to use local labor and reduce the need for heavy equipment; 3. A financing model and education program were designed and implemented that promote homeownership and establishes a revolving loan fund to better leverage federal funds with private sector capital.

Resources Presentations
Paul Dearhouse, NAU ITEP Tribal Clean Energy Resource Center Program Director

Mr. Dearhouse provided an overview of the various current and potential partnerships TCERC has developed or is expecting to develop in support of TCERC’s mission “To serve tribes with exceptional quality and culturally relevant training and educational programs to build environmental capacity and strengthen tribal sovereignty. He invited participants to submit their requests and recommendations online for TCERC’s future training and technical assistance service offerings by visiting the following URL: http://tinyurl.com/TCERCform In addition, Mr. Dearhouse identified the following potential areas of emphasis that will be refined within the early part of 2013:

- Internships & Scholarships & K12 Outreach
- Training & Certificate programs
Patrick McMullen, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

Mr. McMullen provided a program history as well as administrative and technical information about federal funding available through the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona to pay for energy efficiency retrofits (i.e. weatherization) of tribal homes. Although funding is currently limited funding has historically peaked through special initiatives (i.e. advocacy through the Arizona Corporation Commission, ARRA, etc). Tribes are encouraged to consider the funding available through ITCA as well as the training available through the Department of Energy and related groups – see http://www.waptac.org/ and http://www.energyoutwest.org/

Roger Clark, Grand Canyon Trust

Mr. Clark provided a history of how the Grand Canyon Trust has worked with tribes as well as how it has engaged public utility companies in order to advocate and secure resources to support renewable energy initiatives through the creation of a $5MM Renewable Energy Investment Fund (REIF). He discussed the criteria to apply for the REIF, who the review committee represented as well as how the grant awards have been used. He profiled a number of tribal projects as well as partners citing the lessons learned related to installing renewable energy technologies in remote, rural tribal communities. New proposals are not being accepted at this time but the Grand Canyon Trust remains a committed partner for tribal communities looking to advance the use of renewable energy.

Dave Castillo, Native Home Capital

Mr. Castillo raised the question of how all the exciting projects presented throughout the day get paid for in an environment where federal funds are being reduced. He suggested financing at least part of the project cost must be considered. He discussed the establishment of Native Home Capital as well as the Southwest Native Green Loan Fund as initiatives originating with tribal leaders requesting access to private-sector capital. He proposed that the concept of sustainability can be thought of in terms of decisions we all make that affect the well-being of our economy, community, environment and even the future of Indian Nations. He showcased several successful projects that used financing. Although each project - like anything that is attempted for the first time – was difficult, tribes do have tribal project financing models to emulate. Finally, he posed a challenge – now that private sector funds (both from banks and Foundations) are becoming available, tribes must put forward more financially sustainable projects to take advantage of this new source of capital. Finally, he noted how his organization is actively working with tribes to make sure tribes have the technical assistance to make use of and have equitable access to such financing.

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Sustainable Tribal Construction
Construction Practices, Funding & Resources in Indian Country
December 7, 2012

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ann Marie Chischilly
Ann Marie Chischilly, Esq. serves as the executive director for the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and coordinates ITEP’s work with NAU, state and federal agencies, tribes and Alaska Native villages.

Before coming to ITEP she served for over ten years as Sr. Asst. General Counsel to the Gila River Indian Community, where she assisted the tribe in implementing the historic Arizona Water Settlement Act and founded the Gila River Indian Community Renewable Energy Team.

She serves on the Arizona Attorney magazine Editorial Board, Indian Law Section of the Arizona State Bar. She recently served on the National Tribal Water Council and as a board member for Native American Connections, Inc. and is a graduate of the Arizona Bar Leadership Institute.

She is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who earned her Juris Doctorate degree from St. Mary’s University School of Law, and a Masters in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. She is licensed in Arizona and has practiced in state, district, and federal courts.

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Paul Dearhouse
Paul Dearhouse is Mohawk and Ojibwe from Detroit, Michigan. He received his BS and MS Degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from Michigan State University and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively.

Mr. Dearhouse’s passion lies in connecting Native American Tribes to resources that support Tribal goals and self-determination through the vehicles of energy efficiency, clean energy, housing and economic development.

Prior to joining the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) as Program Director for the Tribal Clean Energy Resource Center (TCERC), Mr. Dearhouse’s work experience included the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, US Department of Energy, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Intel Corporation, Red Mountain Tribal Energy, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.
Last but not least, Paul currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Native Home Capital, a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution dedicated to increasing the amount of affordable housing in Tribal communities.

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Ray Demers
Ray Demers is a program officer with Enterprise Green Communities. He is a member of the technical team that developed 2011 Enterprise Green Communities Criteria. Ray also performs technical reviews for Enterprise Green Communities Certification, assists with green training development and delivery, and supports Enterprise’s Asset Management group in integrating green practices and technologies into core business functions.

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Jamie Blosser
Jamie Blosser is the director of Atkin Olshin Schade Architects’ Santa Fe office and specializes in tribal advocacy and sustainable community development projects. She leads many of the projects in the southwest region, including the Center for Contemporary Arts Expansion and Renovation in Santa Fe, the Baca County Courthouse renovation in Springfield CO, and the Owe'neh Bupingeh Rehabilitation Project at Ohkay Owingeh.

Jamie received her Master of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and is the recipient of the Frederick P. Rose Architectural Fellowship. She is active in national and regional organizations promoting the public participation process, and serves on the design review committee at the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. Jamie has lectured on cultural and environmental sustainable building methods throughout the country. She recently founded the Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative, a new initiative of Enterprise Community Partners, which received a National Endowment of the Arts grant to conduct research with tribal leaders to develop best practices for sustainable development in Native American communities in the Southwest.

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David E. Lewis
David E. Lewis is the EPA Environmental Specialist for the Yavapai-Apache Nation and also serves as the Chairman of the Business Board. Dave was the Compliance Manager for the Gaming Commission for several years, before that he was the Tribal Energy Program Manager for the Nation and helped to develop and implement the solar installations and weatherization program on the reservation. His background prior to coming to work for the Nation in 96’ is a
welder as a trade and he worked in the oil and gas industry and worked for Martin Marietta for many years. His work in the aerospace industry is what gave him valuable experience and knowledge to accomplish the work he has done for the Nation.

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Jonathan Robertson
Mr. Robertson is Principal of JSR Design Studios, PLLC (JSRDS) and focuses his practice on culturally responsive approach and design. Jonathan is keenly aware of the needs of community development, housing and project planning in Indian Country. Prior to starting JSRDS, Jonathan led the Navajo Housing Authority’s initiatives for Sustainability and Community Development. He continues to collaborate with the organization as it embarks to implement its first planned communities and establish a set of Green Building Standards. Jonathan has over 15 years of diverse experience in the Architecture/Engineering Industry (A/E) with project experience throughout the Southwest ranging from Transportation, Streetscape, Urban Design, Campus Planning, Cultural Landscapes to Community Master Planning and Housing.

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William (Bill) Marks
William (Bill) Marks is the Owner/Projects Director of Rural Community Development Consultants (RCDC) a Service Disability Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVSBA). Bill retired from HUD in 2003 after serving as Realty Specialist, Grants Management Specialist and finally as Lead Grants Evaluation Specialist in the Anchorage Office of Native American Programs. Since retiring from HUD Bill has provided management and technical assistance to Tribes and Housing Entities and assists their staff with their housing department issues. Bill assisted in getting the HUD Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program off the ground, and was presented with a national award from the HUD Secretary for his efforts. Bill has assisted tribes and Housing Authorities from Barrow Alaska to the Mountain Ute tribe in achieving safe, sound, and energy efficient homes for their members.

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Patrick McMullen, PhD
Dr. McMullen serves as the Community Development Director for the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. He brings over 18 years of experience working with tribal communities with practical experience ranging from coordinating the weatherization program, developing and providing on-site training for lead in paint, radon, emergency response, indoor air quality and environmental sampling and assessment, to project management and grant writing, to drafting
federal legislation employed as personal staff for Senate John McCain, and as professional staff on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Dr. McMullen received his doctorate researching tribal jurisdictional authority under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Act, focusing on environmental regulation and implementation environmental programs on tribal lands.

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Roger Clark
Roger Clark is the Grand Canyon program director for the Grand Canyon Trust, a regional conservation organization founded in 1985. In 2007, the Grand Canyon Trust helped to establish a $5 million Renewable Energy Investment Fund (REIF) that provides partial funding for projects in partnership with native people and organizations. Mr. Clark works closely with the Trust’s Native America program director Tony Skrelunas in supporting community-based economic development such as the Shonto Economic Development Corporation. He is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and Yale University and has been working as an educator and advocate in non-profit organizations based in Flagstaff since 1981.

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Dave Castillo
Dave serves as the CEO for Native Home Capital (NHC). Incorporated in 2005, today NHC is a not-for-profit, certified, Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). NHC provides technical assistance and financial capital primarily for tribal housing and community facilities. Prior contributions to the field of tribal community development occurred through work as Senior Deputy Director for Fannie Mae in Arizona, Economic Development Division Manager for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as well as Community Development Director for the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

Mr. Castillo holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stanford University and an MBA from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. His board appointments include the Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs, Arizona Housing Alliance, Arizona Native Assets Coalition and the Construction In Indian Country Conference Executive Committee. Mr. Castillo is of Nahua Indian descent.

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