

Second Annual Water and Sanitation Innovations in the Arctic Workshop, Afternoon Breakout Sessions, January 26, 2012

Feedback last year said cross-pollination was very beneficial. This year, three groups with representatives from many areas will formulate a plan to find decentralized solutions that provide in-home water in appropriate quantity and quality and remove waste at affordable capital and operating costs. The ultimate goal is to improve health outcomes.

University		Agency		Tribe	
Dennis Wagner		Bill Griffith		Cheryl Rosa	
Tom Hennessy	Mike Brubaker	Brian Lefferts	Troy Ritter	Greg Magee	Steve Bolan
Ed Lohr	John Olofsson	Alan Parkinson	Carrie Bohan	Tasha Deardorff	Steve Colt
Doug Poage	John Warren	Jay Butler	Aaron Dotson	Eric Lespin	Nancy Nix
Deb Caldera	Dan White	Jack Hebert	John Nichols	Tim Thomas	Bob White
Mike Black	Steve Konkel	John Nickels			

Q1: Lay out an approach your group could follow to advance R&D to find decentralized/sustainable solutions (see Charge to Group).

First, understand our history so we don't repeat mistakes and can build on successes.	Complete a state of affairs assessment. Define goals from a public health perspective. Encourage collaboration.	Enable ANTHC to conduct R&D. Improve communication. Set realistic expectations with villages. Increase local needs' visibility.
---	---	---

Q2: List specific collaborative relationships/partnerships that may be beneficial to your effort.

Universities, agencies, and outside groups: housing authorities, communities, RHOs, corporations. Take a holistic community view and involve everyone.	All stakeholders, ANTHC, VSW, SOA, EPA, UAF, UAA, drinking water labs, international partners like Water Canada, end users, community partners, RHOs, and THOs.	The University could compile past and future data. Agencies could help with plans, applications, and directing tribal groups to the right entities. Tribes should collaborate with corporations and ANTHC.
--	---	--

Q3: How would you organize your group?

This should be a program run by someone full time (Denali Commission?). The program would seek many grants over time.	A small committee of stakeholders would put out the RFP. A larger group would review; the smaller group would make final decisions.	Have central organization with regional groups to determine needs and solutions. A local person representing a village would contact the project manager with needs.
---	---	--

Q4: What would your group's research priorities be?

Compile the history. Conduct user-focused R&D. Decrease water use acceptably. Gather performance data. Define parameters up front. Evaluate RFP response options.	Develop a system to meet local needs and considerations, optimize health, and be sustainable.	Research water use/behaviors and how to build credibility. Study energy use and system needs. Consider core values. Increase ANTHC/VSW R&D capacity.
---	---	--

Q5: How would you take local users' needs and issues into consideration?

Define priorities for local users on finances, water usage, etc. first.	Consider spending a longer time with them at several points in the design process.	(This group represents the local user.)
---	--	---

Q6: What are your group's ideas for strategies to approach long-term data collection and local monitoring?

Establish parameters and funding. Study in a controlled environment and through pilot testing considering health behaviors, economics, and weather. Bring in climate change issues. Use remote monitoring. Create an endowment to fund research and monitoring. Develop a research center.	Conduct local monitoring. Identify partners in the community, such as part-time local residents we hire. Install remote monitoring devices in projects.	The group expressed reluctance with tribal groups engaging the University. It's better for the tribe to contact ANTHC to act as liaison with the University. ANTHC has the Center for Climate and Health with UAF and the Institute for Circumpolar Health with UAA.
--	---	---

Q7: What initial steps need to be taken to get this effort off the ground and keep it going?

Diverse groups must share a holistic view. Bring together stakeholders and educate on the R&D need, health benefits, and current risks. Sustain the effort. This is our opportunity to innovate, not stagnate. It has commercial interest and national interest.	We need money. Identify a pre-project group. People at this meeting would go back and start working on Step 1 and start defining goals and parameters for the RFP.	ANTHC should complete R&D. Create a better overall relationship between ANTHC, the University, and communities. Convene communities that will not get pipes to start a dialog and encourage central organization.
--	--	---

Discussion: The University will need funding for research. Package requests in terms of immediate State needs. Multiple collaborators from many fields help, but other than political lobbying efforts, it's not clear how to get State attention. Get ideas from RMWs. They have low turnover, long-term firsthand experience, and a wealth of knowledge we could tap into.

Q8: What ideas do you have for funding an effort like this?

<p>This requires a broad-based effort to piece funding together from many sources with sustained organization, leadership, and vision. We need a Center for Sanitation. The Center for Climate and Health is overseen by a wide range of people, has a web site, works closely with communities, completes assessments and plans, and collaborates with the University and others.</p> <p>Long-term commitment is required to engage agencies, the University, and communities. Challenge others like the Denali Commission and our delegation. The Governor still has 6,000 households unserved, so this should be a key issue for the State.</p> <p>Be prepared to answer questions: How would you organize the effort? What are you doing with this money? How will you address the needs of <i>my</i> constituency? Offer whatever we conclude to the Legislature. Show them consensus and long-term plans.</p> <p>Themes include assessing need, reaching out to engineers and problem-solvers, evaluating, monitoring, engaging the University, and conducting concurrent efforts that cross-pollinate to provide different solutions to different problems. Our efforts must be sustained.</p>
