

Climate Change Task Force Webinar Series
Natural Resources and Agriculture
April 24, 2014 11:00 am MDT

Webinar Script

Randy: Good morning or good afternoon where ever you may be and welcome to the third of four Climate Change Task Force Webinars, today's is on "**Natural Resources and Agriculture**". I'm Randy Manion, Manager of Western Area Power Administration's Renewable Resource Program and have the privilege of chairing this webinar.

Let's go over some event details. Today's webinar is being recorded and all lines have been muted for this purpose. The webinar recording and copy of the PowerPoints will be made available on Western's website within a few days – that link will be sent to everyone that registered for this webinar. Additionally, the recording and Powerpoints will be available on the DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs website set up to support the President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience – that URL will be shown on the last slide of this webinar.

We will open the webinar up for questions and comments at the end of all presentations. However, you can submit a written question or comment at any time by clicking on the question Icon located in the Webinar control box on your screen and typing in your question or comment.

At the end of the presentations, you can ask a verbal question or make verbal comment to our panel by clicking on the "raise your hand" icon and I

will un-mute for your specific question or comment. Please note, in order to unmute you, you will need to have enter your audio PIN which was displayed when you clicked on the Go-To-Webinar link. The link and your audio PIN are unique to you. If you didn't enter your audio PIN, I will be unable to unmute.

Our goal is to keep this webinar to no more than one and one half hours, so if we run out of time we will address all unanswered written questions and comments through this process at a later date.

Our first speaker today is Ms. Rain-a Thiele, Associate Director in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this role, Ms. Thiele helps the Director oversee the Obama Administration's relationship with state, city, county, and tribal elected officials across the country. Ms. Thiele, thanks again for giving the opening remarks for this webinar.

Rain-a: Thank you Randy and hello everyone. I join Randy in welcoming you to the third webinar in the four part "Climate Change Impacts and Indian Country webinar series." The series is supported by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Council on Environmental Quality, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy, Agriculture, the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Health and Human Services.

This webinar and the remaining webinar in the series will focus on topics and issues related to the President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task

Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, established by Executive Order in November, 2013. Indian Country is represented on this Task Force by two tribal leaders: Chairwoman Karen Diver, Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa Indians (MN) and Mayor Reggie Joule, Northwest Arctic Borough (AK). The Task Force is charged by the President to provide recommendations on “removing barriers to resilient investments, modernizing Federal grant and loan programs to better support local efforts, and developing the information and tools they need to prepare, among other measures.” This webinar series is an effort to support education and outreach to Indian Country, and an opportunity for tribal leaders to give feedback to the two tribal leaders on the Task Force.

Today’s webinar will focus on Natural Resources and Agriculture Subgroup of the Climate Change Task Force. The purpose of this subgroup is to address climate change impacts that are felt first in our natural world, and the challenges to protecting those natural resources that are shared across all of Indian Country..

I would now like to introduce Chairwoman Diver and Mayor Reggie Joule to make some brief remarks about the Task Force and their goals to obtain feedback from Indian Country for their work on the Task Force.

Chairwoman Diver is in her third term as Chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the 2nd largest employer in northern Minnesota with over 2,200 employees. She serves as chair of the tribal government and CEO of the reservation’s corporate boards. She is also the Vice-President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT).

Mayor Joule is a native Alaskan, born in Nome and raised in Kotzebue. He served as a state representative from 1996 to 2012 representing a majority of the Alaskan Arctic. While in office, he chaired the Bush Caucus, a coalition of rural lawmakers, and was a member of the House Finance Committee. Mayor Joule also chaired the Alaska Northern Waters task Force, which examined the changing Arctic, and currently serves as a commissioner on the Arctic Policy Commission for the State of Alaska. In October 2012, Joule was elected to be the Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough. One of his key initiatives is to build the Borough's science and research capacity.

Chairwoman Diver, the virtual floor is yours and then you can turn it over to Mayor Joule

Chairwoman Diver and Mayor Joule:

We can't over-stress the need for your feedback. We are very interested in your comments, questions, and opinions on how the federal government can:

- remove barriers to resilient investments in Indian Country;
- modernize Federal grant and loan programs to better support tribal efforts, and
- develop the information and tools you need to prepare for climate change

With that, I will now turn the microphone back over to Randy. Randy . . .

Randy: Thank you Chairwoman Diver and Mayor Joule. We appreciate your staying on to participate in the question and answer and discussion session later at the end of the presentations. We have five remaining speakers for the webinar today. In the order of presenting, they include Chad McNutt, Randy Johnson, Jeff White, Sean Hart, and Whisper Camel-Means. I'll provide a brief professional biographical introduction for each person now and then get started with Chad.

Chad McNutt is a member of the National Integrated Drought Information System Program Office that is housed at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. He has been involved in working with federal, state, and local governments, as well as individuals to improve capacity for responding to drought - drawing on personnel, accumulated experiences, and networks to develop regional drought early warning systems around the U.S.

Randy Johnson is the National Lead for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Climate Hubs. Previously he was National Program Leader for climate change and genetics research with the USDA Forest Service in Washington D.C. where he coordinated research at research stations involving issues of climate change, biofuels, biotechnology, breeding, genomics, gene conservation and forest health.

Sharing the presentation with Randy is Jeff White who currently serves as the national Environmental Quality Incentives Program team leader with the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, D.C.

Sean Hart is the Bureau of Indian Affairs National Change Coordinator and is responsible for Bureau and tribal support for climate change adaptation. The responsibilities include the Tribal Adaptation Grant Program, development of internal policy and engagement to ensure the mainstreaming of climate adaptation considerations across all programs, and the development of an Ocean and Coastal planning program.

Whisper Camel-Means is a Certified Wildlife Biologist working for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Wildlife Management Program. She earned her Master's degree from Montana State University looking at large landscape connectivity and U.S. Highway 93 on the Flathead Indian Reservation as a barrier to successful wildlife movements. In the last year she has started to immerse herself in global climate change concepts, language, and is participating in local committees and partnerships. She sees climate change as a major environmental factor that will affect Tribal Natural Resources and management now and into the future.

And with those collective impressive backgrounds, Chad, the virtual floor is yours.

Randy: Thanks Chad, Randy, Jeff, Sean, and Whisper. We now invite comments and questions from the audience, starting first with tribal

leaders, then tribal staff, and finally any other participants. As a reminder, you can submit comments or questions in two ways: You can submit a written comment or question by clicking on the question icon located in the Webinar control box on your screen and typing your comment or question. If you have entered your audio PIN, you can also raise your hand by clicking on the raise your hand icon and I will un-mute you so you can direct your comment or question to the panel. We'll start with the verbal comments and questions, and then move to the written comments and questions.

Randy: Unfortunately, we need to end the webinar at this time. Please note the Tribal Leader Task Force will be accepting comments until May 2nd. Using the comment form available at the Indian Energy Website shown on this slide, please submit any additional comments or questions to IndianCountry@who.eop.gov .

Here's the information on the last webinar of the series. Please mark your calendars for, **“Communities: Human Health and Community Development” on May 1 beginning at 11 am MDT – 1:00 pm EDT.**

Chairwoman Diver and Mayor Joule, any closing remarks?

And again, the last day for submitting comments to the task force has been extended to close of business Thursday, May 2, 2014. Your comments will be used to develop strategies on Climate Change impacts and mitigation in Indian country. Your comments are very important to us and Indian Country.

Thanks again for your attendance and attention. Good day.

Ms. Rain-a Thiele

Chairwoman Diver

Mayor Joule

Chad McNutt

Randy Johnson

Jeff White

Sean Hart

Whisper Camel-Means.