***Northwest Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities***

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 2 – 3:30 pm (Pacific)

HUD Regional Office, 909 1st Ave, Room 135C, Seattle, WA 98104

Remote Access Via Conference Call and Skype Meeting

**Meeting Notes**

Participants:

On Phone: Tuana Jones, USDA-RD; Patty Grant, USDA-RD; Jeremy Stroud, USDA-RD; Jacob Macias, EDA; Mike Grady, NOAA; Dave Olszyk, EPA; Brandon Perkins, EPA; Mary Goolie, EPA; Bevin Horn, EPA; Cathy Adams-Bomar, HHS-ACF; Joan Rave, FEMA; Colleen Bickford, HUD; Roy Scholl, HUD; Elizabeth Hoffman, FHWA; Terry Stripes, Spokane; Andre Wicks, Spokane; Jonathan Mallahan, Spokane

In Room: Sarah Lindsley, HUD; Judith Leckrone-Lee, EPA; Ann Williamson, EPA; Paige Morris, EPA; Tim O’Connell, USDA-RD; Renee Bouvion, HHS; Esmerelda Pereira, HHS; Jack Peters, HUD; Frances Sakaguchi, EDA; Stephanie Potts, HUD; Michael Clyburn, HUD; John Demboski, HUD; Andra Bosneag, EPA; Sue Abbot, NPS; Viccy Salazar, EPA; Tom Donnelly, FEMA; Frank Metlow, Spokane Tribe; Michael Look, HUD; Kim McCollim, HUD; Patty Leong, HUD; Lisa Stewart, HUD; Justin Traughber, HUD

Welcome and Introductions:

All participants introduced themselves. Sarah Lindsley welcomed the group and introduced the topic of the meeting, a conversation with representatives of the City of Spokane and the Spokane Tribe about community initiatives underway and how federal resources can be leveraged to support community-driven projects. The Spokane Tribe is one of 22 federally-designated “Promise Zones,” while the City of Spokane was a Promise Zone finalist in the 2016 “Round Three” Promise Zone competition. Promise Zones are high poverty communities where the federal government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, enhance public health and address other priorities identified by the community.

Presentation on The Zone Project (City of Spokane)

Jonathan Mallahan, Director of Neighborhood and Business Services and Andre Wicks, Director of The Zone Project, spoke about The Zone Project in the City of Spokane. The Zone Project is a place-based project focused on City of Spokane District 1. This area in the northeast quadrant of the city of Spokane is largely represented by zip code 99207, among the highest poverty zip codes in the state. In addition, the district has many assets—13 K-12 schools, including 2 charter schools and a trade high school, a university district, parks, river, North/South corridor. The problems faced in the area are all social problems that are “reversible issues.” The timing of investment in this neighborhood is also an asset—people are ready for change; there is a shift in mindset underway and community will to move forward. The Zone Project is 1) place-based in one Spokane neighborhood (with the potential to replicate lessons learned elsewhere in the city), 2) holistic—looking at the problem from many angles, and focused on interdependence between individuals and their communities and 3) collaborative—created out of diverse cross-sector partnerships. The goal is transformational change in the human environment. The city sees this initiative as an opportunity to solve problems in a more collaborative way, both across city partners and with federal partners. They are using a GIS tool to overlay data onto neighborhood maps, providing new ways of seeing issues and focusing investments. An overarching question that the city is asking with each initiative is, “How can we make this holistic?” Each project is designed to address more than one issue area.

Presentation on the Spokane Tribe Promise Zone

Frank Metlow, Assistant Planning Director at the Spokane Tribe spoke about the tribe’s Promise Zone. The Spokane Tribe reservation encompasses 159,000 acres; 2100 residents live on the reservation with a total of 2900 enrollees in the tribe. Frank identified the goals of the Promise Zone, as well as assets and barriers, as follows:

* Goal 1: Create Quality Jobs
* Create a business center; currently the businesses and tribal services that exist are located haphazardly.
* Invest in renewable energy; “sovereign power,” a solar power energy company, can provide job training for tribal members in solar panel installation and help address power outages (which are frequent) by providing the tribe with its own means of generating power.
* Invest in technology, particularly broadband internet access. Broadband access will improve the tribe’s access to medicine, particularly remote telemedicine, and online college courses.
* Provide training in construction and create construction jobs. There is an EPA Superfund site and tribal members could be trained to do the remediation and redevelopment work.
* Goal 2: Expand Educational Opportunities
* Connect Spokane Tribal College to the six colleges and universities located in Spokane and make the resources of those schools accessible to students at the Tribal College.
* Seek formal accreditation for Spokane Tribal College.
* Goal 3: Boost Innovation
* Create an entrepreneur lab—provide office and meeting space to enable entrepreneurs to build new businesses.
* Build community wealth by providing opportunities for tribal members to fill professional roles within the tribal structure.
* Goal 4: Reduce Crime
* Use a community policing and collective efficacy strategy to reduce crime; increasing trust and relationship building is key in encouraging tribal members to report crimes and work with police.
* Revise and update the “law and order code,” which hasn’t been updated since the 1980s. These are challenging because they require constitutional changes.
* Goal 5: Increase Affordable Housing
* Create multifamily housing to provide new housing options on the reservation.
* Create high quality single-family housing, to attract professionals to the area. (Lack of broadband in any of the residences is a barrier to attracting professionals to live there).
* Revitalize Wellpinit with a new urban design plan. This redistricting will prioritize new quality low-income housing and create districts to put “like” services and amenities near each other.

Discussion:

During the discussion portion of the meeting, both the tribe and city identified areas of particular need and/or opportunity, and federal partners responded with some initial ideas about resources. The following table captures the issues and resources that were discussed. (Please note that some of the resources could be used for multiple issues/needs, but this is an attempt to simply capture how they were discussed at this meeting).

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| **Entity** | **Need/Opportunity** | **Resource Identified** |
| Tribe | There is an immediate need for improved infrastructure. (Wastewater lagoons are failing, for instance). In particular, there is a need for funding to cover the engineering expense to plan infrastructure projects. | Corporation for National and Community Service: can provide VISTA volunteers to do capacity building projects. VISTA volunteers could help create plan for how to approach infrastructure needs, write grants to pay for engineers, etc.  HUD Office of Native American Programs—can provide technical assistance through the I-CDBG program.  University-community partnerships. The Educational Partners in Communities program—this program offers faculty and students to work on particular projects identified by a local community. An engineering class could create project plans. Eastern Washington University’s Master’s in Urban Planning program could also be a resource. |
| Tribe | Lack of urban planning concepts in laying out Wellpinnit core—interested in, for example, safe routes to school. | National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance: can provide concept plans for safe routes to school, for example |
| Tribe | The lack of broadband infrastructure inhibits economic development, access to online educational opportunities, etc. | EPA Cool and Connected is a planning assistance program that helps community members develop strategies and an action plan for using broadband to create walkable, connected, economically vibrant main streets and small-town neighborhoods that improve human health and the environment. |
| City | Former railroad areas are contaminated; the city is interested in acquiring and remediating these to make room for development. | EPA has provided a grant to the Center for Land Recycling, and they can provide assistance from start to finish on Brownfields redevelopment projects. EPA can also provide resources for job training that would enable local residents to become skilled at tasks related to remediation; targeted Brownfields assessment assistance; visioning assistance. EPA strongly suggests doing due diligence on what toxic materials are on site before purchasing—if due diligence is not done prior to acquisition, city would not be eligible for Brownfields funding.  HUD can provide technical assistance through the Community Development Block Grant program. CDBG funds can be used for demolition and land clearance on Brownfields by designating either the area or specific “spots” as “slum and blight” areas. |
| City | There is a need for funding to acquire vacant, foreclosed homes. | The City is already exploring the possibility of HUD designated “Single Family Revitalization Zones,” which would enable the city and certain non-profits to buy FHA-insured foreclosed homes at a deep discount. The City is also working with Craig Nolte at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco to put together a lender convening to address this issue. |
| City & Tribe | Both entities identified food security/food sovereignty issues.  NE Spokane has 4 grocery stores but most easily accessible food comes from convenience stores and lacks nutrition. City is putting out a grant RFP for $65K to develop a mobile food security program on-board a former city bus. Spokane is also working on “green schoolyards” programs that focus on teaching kids about both nutrition and gardening.  Tribe does not have any grocery stores on the reservation; Spokane is the closest location of grocery stores. The tribe lacks basic infrastructure such as adequate freezers/refrigerators to store and sell fresh food. The tribe has tried to create community gardens but the future of the garden is currently an unknown; there is a need for a champion to keep the project going. | EPA’s Local Foods Local Places was identified as one possible resource; EPA offered to discuss further resources after the meeting. |
| City & Tribe | Economic development needs (as presented during both presentations). | EDA’s University Centers can help with economic development planning. |

Closing and Next Steps

Now that the federal partners have heard about these community initiatives in the Spokane area, city and tribal staff and federal partners can continue to share information about how federal resources can be engaged locally.

The next NIPSC meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2-3:30 p.m. Pacific. Further information will be forthcoming about meeting agenda, location and other details.

**Attachments:**

1. Power Point: TZP Presentation for Interagency Meeting (City of Spokane)
2. PDF: TZP Background Information
3. PDF: National Park Service Latah/Hangman Corridor Trail Brochure
4. PDF: R10 NIPSC Contact List\_Updated 20170406