September 9, 2022

Kenaitze Indian Tribe  
150 N Willow St  
Kenai, AK 99611

Dear staff of Kenaitze Indian Tribe,

Since the year 2000 Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) has led efforts to monitor, maintain, and improve water quality in the Kenai River. We rely on partnerships with many entities including state, federal, municipal, tribal, and non-profit organizations to make these efforts successful. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to renew collaboration with Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT) on this project.

Details of our collaboration with KIT continue to evolve, with some important steps already completed. A first step for projects involving tribal participation in water quality monitoring work is EPA approval of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). In August 2022 technical staff at the EPA Region 10 office reviewed and approved our existing QAPP, clearing the opportunity for formal participation by Kenaitze staff.

Having cleared this important technical hurdle, KWF is able to provide opportunities for hands-on experience and training to KIT staff. Additionally, funds originally allocated in 2018 for KWF to support this collaboration are now able to be invoiced.

The opportunity to formalize our collaboration with Kenaitze Indian Tribe is a meaningful and valuable mileposts in the life of this project. We look forward to continuing to provide important environmental data to our community. For the most current news on KWF’s water quality monitoring efforts, see the “Latest News” section on the water quality section of our website[[1]](#footnote-1).

Thank you for your assistance and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any additional questions.

Sincerely,  


Benjamin Meyer, Water Quality Coordinator  
[hydrology@kenaiwatershed.org](mailto:hydrology@kenaiwatershed.org)  
(907) 232-0280

CC: Moses Jordan, Environmental Coordinator  
 Jennifer Anderson, Accounting Manager  
 Tami Murray, Procurement Manager

**Services supported with funding from Kenaitze Indian Tribe**

A total of $13,000 will support Kenai Watershed Forum’s ongoing Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Program, including training provided to Kenaitze Indian Tribe staff. Invoice for services rendered includes the following:

* Complete update of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
* Two annual training sessions on water quality sampling procedures
* Support in interpretation of research and results for Kenaitze staff and tribal members

The above services will be provided by KWF to KIT for the perpetuity of Kenaitze staff participation in water quality monitoring activities, renewed annually.

**Addendum to memo to Katherine Brown from Kenai Watershed Forum, July 20, 2022**

The following list reflects the both currently in progress and completed to the “Kenai River Water Quality Multi-Agency Baseline QAPP.” Completed items have a checkmark, while items in progress have a bullet point.

**Updates Requested by EPA to QAPP**

* Add Kenaitze Indian Tribe and Salamatof Native Association and EPA to the distribution list
* Add Kenaitze and Salamatof Environmental Programs to Field Monitoring staff pool/agencies that receive training
* Add KIT to pre-public notification if results exceed Water Quality Standards
* Have KIT collect samples at nearby or additional site(s)?
  + *Response: this potential addition would best benefit from completing the review of existing water quality results 2000 - present, then choosing where additional sampling sites would be best located if deemed necessary. Data review is anticipated to be complete by Spring 2023.*
* Resume temperature monitoring element?
  + *Response: local scientists have expressed a strong need for water temperature monitoring beyond the few currently existing sites. The process of choosing which monitoring locations to include will require additional discussion and planning to execute. We look forward to these conversations in Fall 2022.*

**KWF Technical Updates Currently in Progress**  
\**Note that some technical updates are currently reflected in the draft QAPP, while others are still in the editing process. The most current draft QAPP document may be accessed with the “download” button at* [*https://bit.ly/draft\_qapp\_2022*](https://bit.ly/draft_qapp_2022)*.*

* Modify field collection SOP to reflect that sample filtration for dissolved metals sample will be performed in the laboratory rather than in the field by sampling crews
* Update fieldwork SOP to most current version (July 2022)
* Transition data management SOP to use the Ambient Water Quality Management System (AQWMS) (<https://www.awqms.com/>)
* Remove language specific to a previously concluded project (2019-2020) that focused on collecting copper and zinc data specifically
* Outline in greater detail steps of action if some results do not fully meet QA/QC standards (e.g. results from duplicate samples > 20% relative percent difference; others)
* Finalize list of references
* Update software descriptions of Hydrolab / Minisonde calibration from Hyperterminal to Hydras
* Remove Winkler method for measuring dissolved oxygen
* Full revision and expansion of section A6 for clarification
* Miscellaneous copyediting and formatting improvements

1. <https://www.kenaiwatershed.org/science-in-action/research-information/water-quality/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)