**Environmental Services Department Updates**

* Anthony Rinna is starting to assist Bill Bernier with the Environmental Health Services program and will be taking the Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian Accreditation Exam through the National Environmental Health Association within the next few months.  He will still be involved with GIS mapping if Tribes need assistance.
* We have received more funding for our B-WET program through NOAA.  The B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes place-based experiential learning for K–12 students and related professional development for teachers. B-WET fosters the growth of new, innovative programs and encourages capacity-building and environmental education partnerships.  ITC is currently working with the Ojibwe Charter School in Bay Mills Indian Community to create more meaningful watershed education experiences and is looking to be able to expand the program to other Tribal schools throughout the state if interested.
* Underground Storage Tank program - The new work plan and budget have been submitted to EPA and we are expecting to receive more funding for this program.  The Underground Storage Tank program provides direct assistance to the owners and operators of underground storage tanks (fuel service stations), to ensure that RCRA Subtitle I is fully implemented within Tribal lands. The compliance inspector travels to the stations located within the exterior boundaries of the reservations, and provides education and recommendations to make sure the station is following the federal regulations for underground storage tanks. These site visits include a check for proper record keeping, as well as a physical inspection of the equipment on-site.
* We are working with EPA to create a Certified Water Operator Program.  This program will allow ITC to staff a certified water operator to assist Michigan Tribal community water systems and operators during emergencies and travel to Tribal communities to offer the training needed by water operators at each Tribe.
* We have submitted two Community Change Grant application to EPA. Both of these have made it through the initial review and are now in the merit review process.
  + One will assist Tribes with all of our efforts to manage and protect wild rice by providing funding to each Tribe that collaborated on the project and provide funds for meetings and annual meetings (Track II EPA CCG application for $3,000,000).
  + The other application is designed to provide weatherization assistance, install geothermal or heat pump units and electrify housing for Tribal homeowners.  This project, if awarded, will also work with MTERA who received Solar For All funding to assist Tribal homeowners on installing solar and battery storage at their homes.  Funding will be sub awarded to each partnering Tribe to hire a staff person to help coordinate these efforts, and to contract with local contractors to weatherize and/or install equipment.  Training for these newly hired staff will be provided by ITC and Slipstream (Track I CCG application for $20,000,000).
* We have submitted a Notice of Intent to EPA to apply for the Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing and Reduction Tribal Grant Program (WIIN 2107).  We were part of this program a few years ago and tested Tribal childcare facilities and schools throughout Michigan.  EPA has since dropped the minimum threshold of lead in drinking water to zero, so we are planning to do this again to make sure there is no lead in our children's drinking water.  This funding will also be able to be used for remediation at these facilities if lead is found.
* We partnered with Slipstream, Inc and applied for a Department of Energy Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation funding opportunity. This project is still in the review process, but if awarded, ITCMI and Slipstream will work with Tribal utilities and Tribal governments to offer technical assistance and workforce development related to updating building energy codes, making amendments to existing codes, or adopting energy codes for the first time.