

TTCD NEWSLETTER

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

April 2013

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How Does Your Garden Grow?



Students in the Tebughna School planting vegetable starts for the Tyonek Garden 2013 season.

The Native Village of Tyonek, the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, and the Tebughna School are once again partnering for another year of working together on the Tyonek Community Garden—and we have big plans for 2013!

Through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP cost-share program, this year TTCD will be assisting with the installation of two 20'x48' seasonal high tunnels (also called hoop houses) in the Tyonek garden. A seasonal high tunnel is a polyethylene (plastic) covered structure that is used to cover crops to extend the growing season. These structures increase the temperature surrounding crops and minimize heat loss during the night, allowing for more production.

Tyonek Environmental Plan

The Native Village of Tyonek recently selected the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District to assist with the development of a long term environmental plan for Tyonek.

As part of this project, TTCD will assess the large-scale environmental and natural

resource issues surrounding the village, and develop plans to assess and monitor natural resources, including water, forest, and subsistence resources.

To accomplish these goals, TTCD will be holding public meetings in Tyonek to obtain community input. The first of these meetings

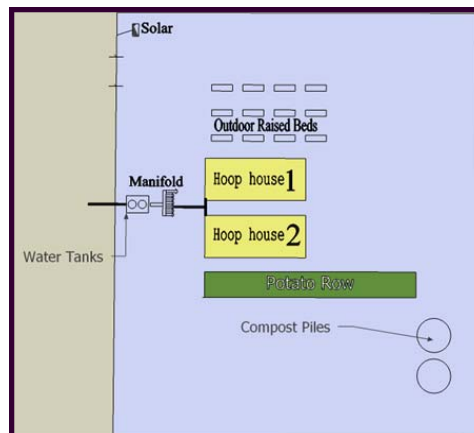
is planned for mid-May, with two other meetings scheduled for later in the summer.

The time and place for the first meeting in Tyonek will be announced shortly. We encourage all residents to attend and share your thoughts with us!

To power the ventilation systems within the high tunnels, TTCD and partners will install an eight panel solar power system to provide a source of renewable energy on site. TTCD anticipates an installation date (for both solar panels and high tunnels) of mid June 2013.

TTCD and the Native Village of Tyonek are planning to have several community planting days throughout the spring and summer. These dates will be announced throughout the season. Make sure to stop by and see the new additions throughout the year, and to taste the results!

Tyonek Garden diagram showing plans for 2013, including two new hoop houses to increase production.



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Subsistence is our Agriculture.



Above: Mtn Village TCD Board meeting with TTCD.
Below: Kwethluk joint meeting with TTCD.



TTCD Outreach

In November 2012, TTCD received funding through the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach to begin working with two other Tribal Conservation Districts in Alaska: Mountain Village and Kwethluk. The purpose of this program is to increase availability of USDA financial and technical assistance in these communities, as well as in the Native Village of Tyonek.

In March of this year, TTCD staff Christy Cincotta and Erin Hoffman traveled with Angela Sandstol (Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance) to each community. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Biologist Ryan Maroney also attended visits to both communities to share information on USDA programs.

In both Kwethluk and Mountain Village, TTCD and ATCA staff spent a full week working with the local TCD board, as well as

other involved entities such as the tribal council, native corporation, and city to assist with project planning and increasing organizational sustainability.

As part of this grant, TTCD has received USDA funds to provide funding for a garden staff position in both Tyonek and Kwethluk for the summer of 2013. The Native Village of Tyonek recently hired Norma Chickalusion to fill this position and to work with the Tyonek Community Health Representative Annabell Gozmer on the Tyonek Community Garden.

TTCD staff will continue to work with both Tribal Conservation Districts, providing technical support including project planning and grant writing. In addition, TTCD staff will visit Mountain Village and Kwethluk two more times within the next year to provide continued assistance.