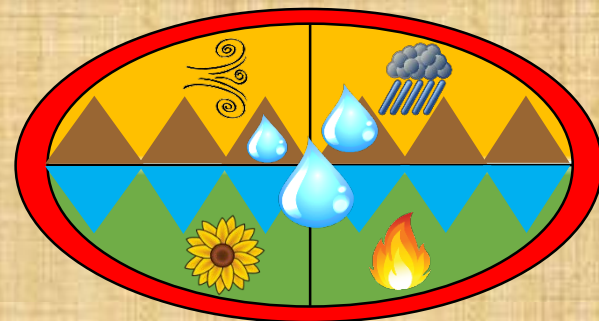


# United States Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Nations Technical Center Of Expertise (TNTCX)



## TNTCX NEWSLETTER December 2018 Issue No. 3



### TNTCX Director's Message

Well, here we are again, approaching another New Year at what seems like the speed of light. In this December edition, we have news from our colleagues in Seattle and St. Paul districts. More opportunities for us to hone our skills and network with our teammates from around the country. The TNTCX continues its efforts to support USACE in Indian Country. The center added contracting capacity to multiply the agency's capacity to deliver water resources projects to Native American communities.

This time of year is great for reflecting on our activities and accomplishments over the past year and organize our thoughts about where we want to be in the coming year. In 2018, TNTCX brought on additional staff to help meet our goals of self-sufficiency and effectiveness. The center expanded our relationships with Native American communities around the country as well as our connections with educational institutions.

In 2019, the Center looks forward to continued success and expanding partnerships around the country. As always, I want to encourage you to send us news of your activities so that we can amplify your successes across the enterprise. From all of us at the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise, we wish you a safe and happy new year.

**Ron Kneebone, Ph.D.**  
**Director**  
**Tribal Nations Technical Center**



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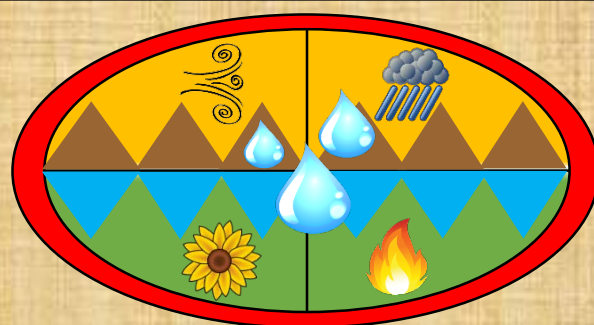
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## District 2018 Spotlight

### St. Paul District

Submitted by Mr. Nathan Campbell and Ms. Vanessa Alberto

### St. Paul District Civil Works Highlights of Partnering with Tribes 2018

Over the course of the last year the St. Paul District Civil Works Tribal Liaison, Vanessa Alberto, and Civil Works Project Manager, Nathan Campbell, have been dedicated to ensuring tribes with the St. Paul District are aware of the Civil Works program opportunities and that the St. Paul District is here to assist them with their water resource and water infrastructure needs. Outreach efforts have included; presentations with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (in cooperation with Detroit District), Minnesota Tribal Environmental Council, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Partners in Action Conference, in-person discussions with tribes, as well as the generation and dissemination of USACE Civil Works program outreach material specific to tribes. All of these efforts have led to increased awareness within tribal communities of the St. Paul District, civil works programs for assistance, and the initiation of studies and projects, including the first study for the Mississippi Valley Division under the Tribal Partnership Program. Most importantly, these efforts continue to build upon the district's tribal relationships and partnerships. A few of these efforts are highlighted here:



*St. Paul District PDT meets with Tribal Staff and leadership during an October 30, 2018 project site visit.*

### **St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin – Big Sand Lake Shoreline Erosion**

The St. Croix people were known as "The Lost Tribe" after the Treaty of LaPointe in 1854. St. Croix was not a federally recognized Tribe until the passing of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, when federal lands were finally established for St. Croix. The St. Croix people had endured over 200 years of struggle to reclaim their original homelands. The Sand Lake St. Croix Tribal Community of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians are situated along the southeast shoreline of Big Sand Lake. In addition to a swimming beach and winter boat landing, tribal members fish for a variety of species in Big Sand Lake including bluegill, black crappie, walleye, largemouth bass, yellow perch, and northern pike. Wild rice beds also exist on the lake. Approximately 2,000 lineal feet of shoreline is actively eroding into tribal land along the southeastern bank of Big Sand Lake. The eroded area is progressing towards a roadway, approximately 50 feet away at the nearest point. The major factors contributing to the erosion progression are ice heave and wave action.

On September 6, 2018 the Corps and the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin entered feasibility cost share agreement to address tribal concerns. The feasibility study will evaluate various alternatives for the permanent stabilization of the lake shoreline and the protection of the structural integrity of affected roadway.



## District Spotlight

### Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate – Little Minnesota Fish Passage Assessment

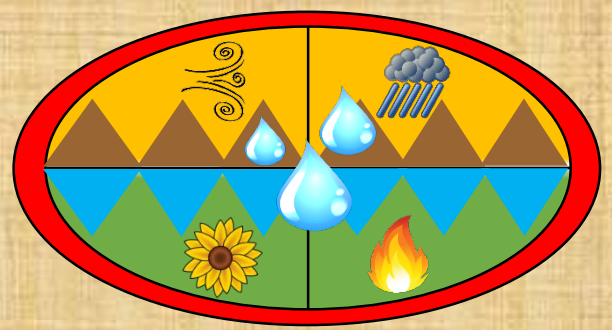
Spearfishing plays a significant role in Dakota culture and way of life specifically for the Sisseton band of the Dakota. The name Sisseton or (Sisithunwan) actually translates into "Dwellers of the Fish Grounds". Spearing began on the Little Minnesota River as soon as the Lake Traverse Treaty was signed in 1867. Historically, groups of Dakota people would travel to the rivers during the spring and find a narrow spot for spearing. This would help sustain the community during the often unpredictable spring months that North and South Dakotas and Minnesota are known to have. This tradition continues today where every spring, tribal members travel to the traditional spearing grounds and use this method of fishing. Their catch is then often shared with the surrounding community members, especially the elderly who may not be able to spear for themselves anymore.

In the last decade fish migration up the Little Minnesota River has ceased. On March 15, 2018 the Corps and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate entered into a feasibility cost share agreement to study the cause of the cessation in fish migration and outline solutions to fix the problem. That study is well underway and a final report is expected in early 2019.



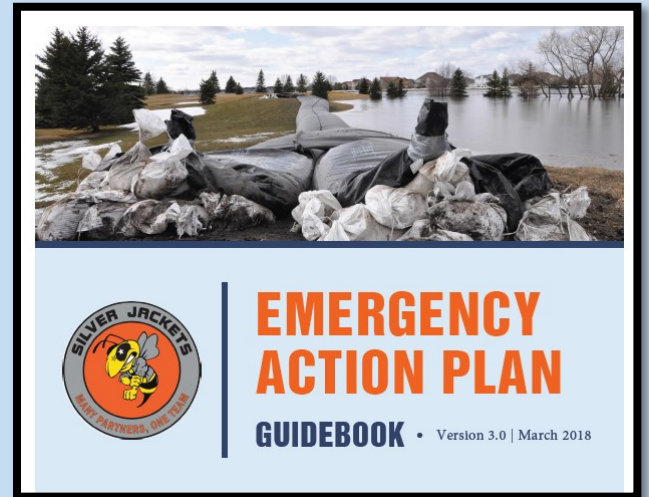
*St. Paul District staff collect stream data to analyze potential barriers to fish migration*





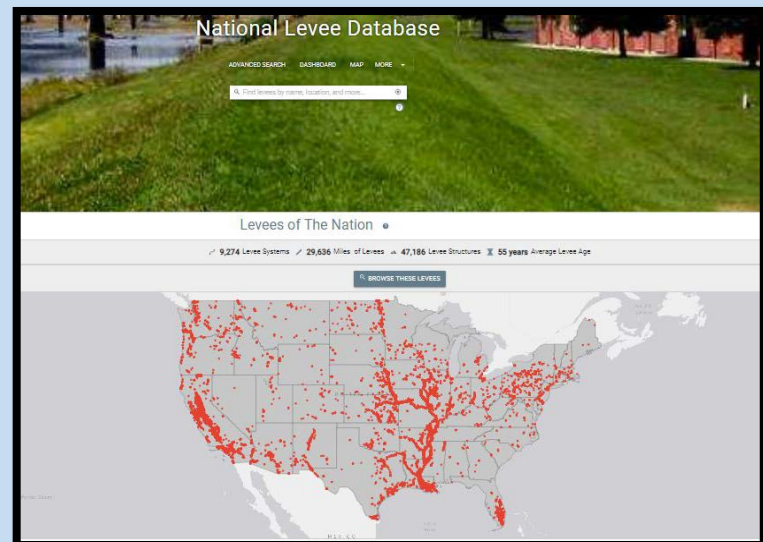
### Emergency Action Planning with the Oneida Nation and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

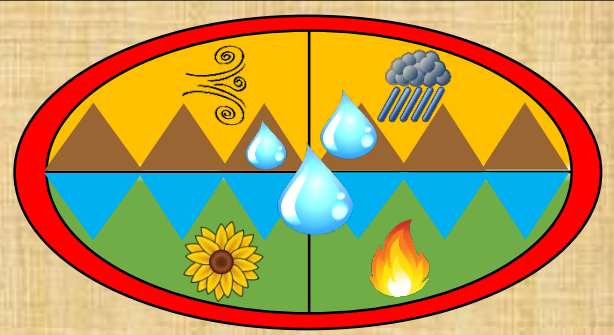
The Corps of Engineers has developed a guidebook to assist communities with preparing and documenting a flood emergency action plan. St. Paul District staff put on one-day workshops with the tribal communities of the Oneida Nation and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. The workshops were held on July 12, 2018 at the Oneida Social Services Building and on September 13, 2018 at the Ojibwe Community College. The workshops were utilized to help the tribes and local communities develop their Flood Emergency Action Plan. Funding through the Silver Jackets was provided to facilitate the workshops.



### National Levee Database Tribal Engagement with Mille Lacs Band

Congress authorized the Corps of Engineers to work with interested tribes to conduct an inventory and review of levees across the nation. The purpose of the inventory and review is to collect available levee information and assess the condition and flood risks associated with levees. This information can be used by tribes to make informed decisions on managing flood risks. St. Paul District staff, with support from New Orleans Levee Safety Program, has been reaching out to those federally recognized tribes within our area of responsibility. On October 18, 2018, St. Paul District had its first Tribal meeting with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The meeting provided Mille Lacs Band information on the levee inventory program and helped identify levees within their reservation boundaries. Tribal engagement continues for the levee safety program. St. Paul District anticipates all tribal outreach being completed in the year 2019.





### District Spotlight

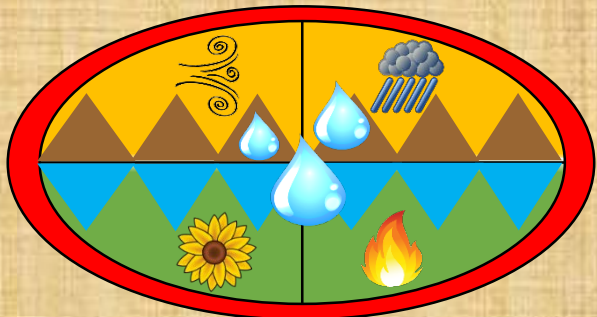
#### Prairie Island Indian Community – Kickoff Meeting for Tribal Partnership

Prairie Island Indian Community is located on Pool 3 of the Mississippi River. Prairie Island Indian Community members are descendants of the Mdewakanton Band of Eastern Dakota, also known as the Mississippi or Minnesota Sioux, who were parties to treaties with the United States from 1805 to 1863. The Mdewakanton, "those who were born of the waters," have lived on Prairie Island for countless generations. Tribal lands include islands within and surrounding a backwater lake. High rate of sedimentation coupled with recent increases in flow have impacted bathymetric diversity, vegetation growth, and increased shoreline erosion. St. Paul District is partnering with Prairie Island Community to complete a study to address this shoreline erosion, improve and restore floodplain forest habitat, aquatic habitat, and assist in their wild rice restoration program.



*Prairie Island Tribal Lands*

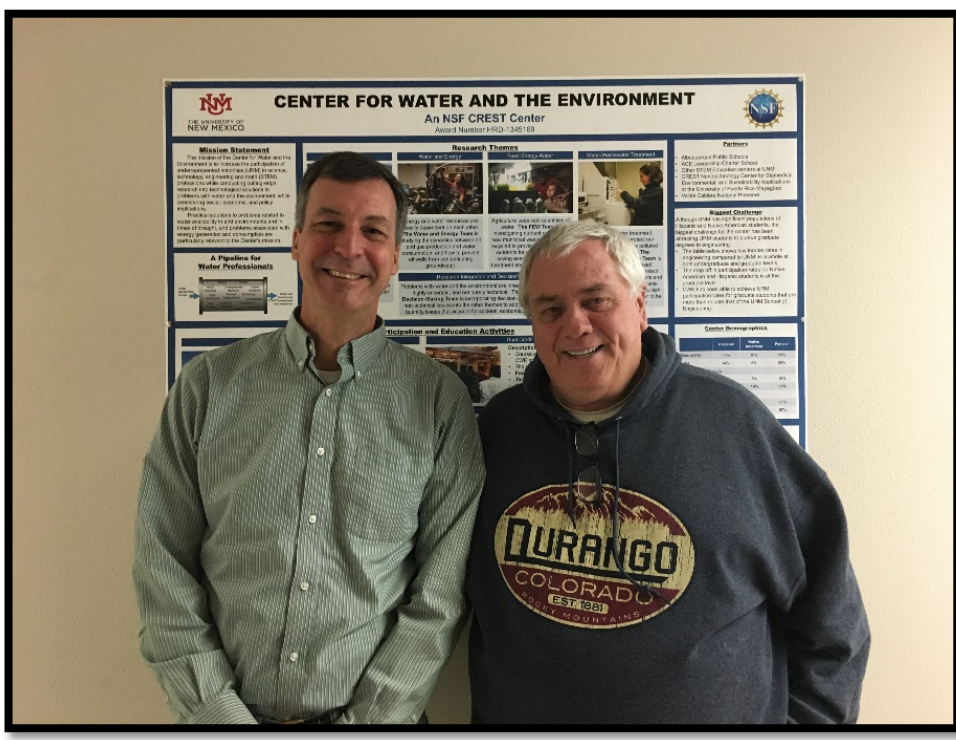




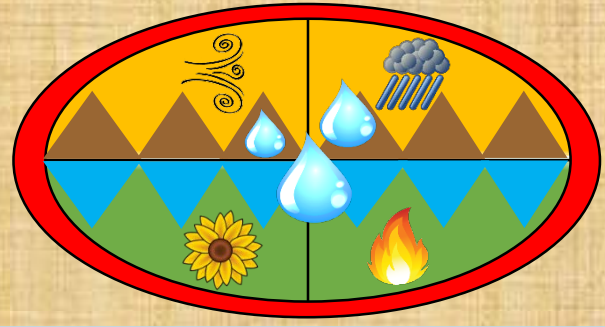
## December TNTCX Update

Michael P. Fedoroff  
TNTCX Deputy Director

On December 19, Dr. Ron Kneebone, Director of the TNTCX, met with Dr. Kerry Howe Director of the University of New Mexico's Center for Water and the Environment (CWE). The meeting was a continuation of discussions exploring opportunities for collaboration and partnering between the two organizations. CWE, part of the University's Department of Engineering, and the TNTCX are meeting in hopes of establishing a partnership to pursue an outreach initiative to Native American communities regarding the application of science and engineering in addressing water resources challenges. Both organizations recognize the incredible synergy that can be developed through partnership and collaboration. Additional meetings are planned in 2019



*TNTCX Director, Dr. Ron Kneebone and UNM CWE Director Dr. Kerry Howe*



### December TNTCX Update continued



TNTCX Deputy Director, Mr. Michael Fedoroff, has spent the larger part of December conducting fieldwork in Georgia to help assess and protect sites that are part of tribal ancestral homelands. Once the initial investigations are completed, tribes with ties to the site will assist in determining management and preservation strategies for the site. This type of work illustrates the USACE federal trust responsibility to remain stewards of tribal resources on federal property.

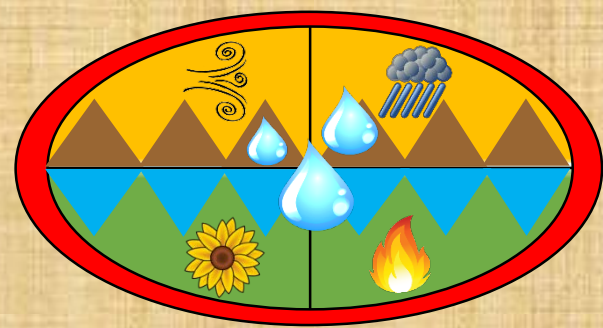


Materials recovered from the site will be curated at a repository that meets federal standards. This provides access for tribes to research and analyze the artifacts. Tribal people are an important voice in the narrative of archaeological work, and the TNTCX strives to amplify the voice of Tribal Nations in the management of these important resources.

*TNTCX Deputy, Mr. Mike Fedoroff works with SEARCH archaeologist Bryan Harrell to conduct damage assessment of an ancestral homeland site of import to tribes located in the Mobile District*







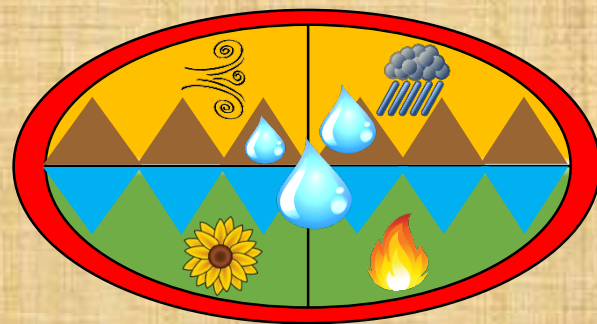
### Partnering Tips

- Become familiar with taboo subjects such as natural disasters. This can bridge gaps in disaster planning and emergency operation discussions.
- Avoid using agency jargon that is hard to understand.
- Get to know which agencies hold regional tribal consultations near your location and partner when possible.
- Avoid using patronizing language when working with tribes.
- Understand that Tribes may have different priorities for a project than the agency. Strive to outline the Tribal perspective on goals and milestones early in the process.



*Tribal stickball exhibition game at Moundville Festival (photo courtesy of University of Alabama, Moundville)*





With contributions from our Tribal Partners, USACE Tribal Liaisons, and TNTCX Staff

### Upcoming Events

#### **The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Winter Convention**

Jan 28-31, 2019

Portland, Oregon

*Tribes from the Pacific Northwest will be in attendance*

<https://www.atnitribes.org/>

#### **The United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) SPF Impact Week**

March 3rd -7th 2019

Washington, DC

*Tribes from the Southern and Eastern United States will be in attendance; this is primarily a policy meeting, however networking opportunities for command staff are possible*

<http://www.usetinc.org/>

#### **Society of American Archaeology**

April 10 - 14, 2019

Albuquerque, NM

*Tribes from all over the Americas will be in attendance.*

<http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/AnnualMeeting/tabid/138/Default.aspx>

#### **2019 Reservation Economic Summit (RES)**

March 25-28, 2019

Las Vegas, Nevada

*RES is the premier economic development event in Indian Country, bringing together business experts, tribes, Native entrepreneurs, inspiring speakers, and many others in a collaborative environment.*

<https://res.ncaied.org/>

### Training Opportunities:

#### **Advanced Historic Preservation Law & Section 106 Compliance**

4/9/2019 - 4/11/2019

Norfolk, Virginia

<https://www.public.navy.mil/netc/centers/csfe/cecos/coursedetail.aspx?crsid=24>

#### **ACHP Section 106 Training**

Listings

<https://www.achp.gov/training>

#### **National Register of Historic Places Webinars**

Virtual

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/guidance/webinars.htm>

#### **National Preservation Institute Seminar**

Listings

[www.npi.org/seminars](http://www.npi.org/seminars)

**With today's busy schedule it can be tough to find time for professional development. One way to increase knowledge and awareness of tribal matters is through reading!**

**What are you reading????**

**Feel free to share in the Newsletter!!!**

### Publications:

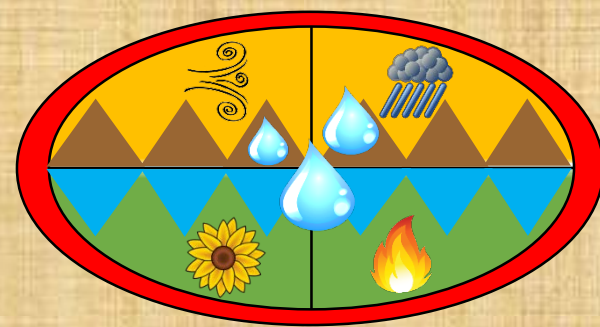
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#### **Reservation "Capitalism": Economic Development in Indian Country**

*By Robert J. Miller*

*Foreword by Tom Daschle*

**Reservation "Capitalism": Economic Development in Indian Country**, describes present-day circumstances in Indian Country and sketches the potential future of Indian communities and economics. It provides key background information on indigenous economic systems and property-rights. Robert J. Miller focuses on strategies for establishing public and private economic activities on reservations and for creating economies in which reservation inhabitants can be employed, live, and have access to the necessities of life, circumstances ultimately promoting complete tribal self-sufficiency.



## SHOALWATER BAY TRIBE TSUNAMI PLANNING

34TH EN DET (FEST-A), SEATTLE DISTRICT, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

### Tribal Engagement Focus Seattle District

Submitted by: Ms. Lori Morris  
Seattle District Tribal Liaison



*Meeting Shoalwater Bay Tribe leaders including The Honorable Charlene Nelson, Lee Shipman Michael Rogers, Larissa Pfleeger, Troy Colley, NWS Tribal Liaison, Lori Morris, and 34th FEST-A.*



*34th FEST-A posing with Madam Chair (Charlene Nelson) under pictures of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe's first signers.*

#### SUMMARY

The Shoalwater Bay Tribe already maintains a robust evacuation plan, but requested the assistance of the 34th FEST-A focused on four priorities. The team, along with the NWS Tribal Liaison, Lori Morris, were able to visit tribal leaders and ask questions to better understand what the tribe already had and how to assist. Once the meeting with the Tribe was complete, the team conducted a structural assessment of a multipurpose building and then reviewed the other priority items to better provide recommendations on the evacuation site layout, water tower stability, and road improvements. Also while on site, the team was able to utilize the Automated Route Reconnaissance Kit (ARRK) along the evacuation route to obtain a better understanding of the road conditions.

**WHO:** Shoalwater Bay Tribe (SWB Tribe)  
**WHAT:** Tsunami planning effort focused on evacuation site plan, existing structure assessment and evacuation route recommendations  
**WHEN:** 27 November – 07 December, 2018  
**WHERE:** Tokeland, Washington  
**WHY:** Shoalwater Bay Tribe desired augmentation of their existing evacuation plan. Specifically, the SWB Tribe requested assistance on four priorities; recommendations for securing and stabilizing their water tower during a seismic event, recommendations for improvement and maintenance of the unimproved road surface to the evacuation location, development of an evacuation site layout, and a structural assessment of a multipurpose building they plan to use for children/injured citizens in the event of a tsunami.

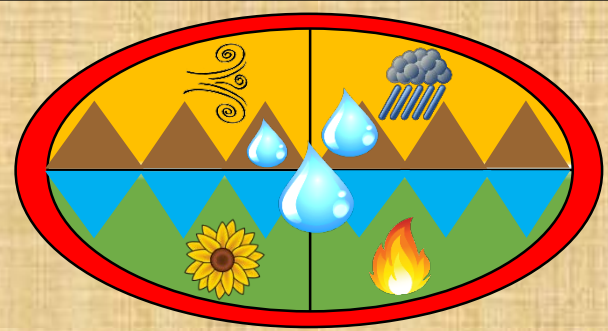


*Robert Killey takes measurements of the SWB Tribe's water tower to better recommend any stabilizing options.*



*Lawrence Pico (NWK), Joseph Groetsch (NWW), Paul Phelan (NAVFAC), Michael Rogers (SWB Tribe), Justin Nixon (SPL), and Robert Killey (NWW) review elevation data of the proposed evacuation site.*





## HOW TO REACH US

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