



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

April 2007

A newsletter keeping you informed about upcoming meetings and providing updates as the Corps continues Celilo Village redevelopment.

Celilo Falls long served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. When The Dalles Dam was constructed, the falls were flooded. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a new location near the original falls, where about 50 people live in Celilo Village. Inadequate maintenance, as well as sanitary and water systems, caused public health and safety concerns to village residents.

To resolve these problems, the Tribes requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. Congress authorized the reconstruction of the village in March 2004, and the Corps expects construction to be completed by 2009.



Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, left, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presents Nez Perce Chair Rebecca Miles with a U.S. Army certificate of appreciation at the commemoration ceremony of the inundation of Celilo Falls March 10. Celilo Village Chief Olson Meanus, Jr., second from right, looks on. Between 3,000 and 5,000 visitors came from all over the Northwest for this historic event.

Construction in Celilo Village

Phase One of Celilo redevelopment will be completed by July 2007, Corps project manager George Miller told the Wy-Am Board at the March 22 meeting. The new sewage lagoons are in operation. The contractor is constructing the water system components (water lines, pump house, storage tank) and preparing the temporary homes' site. Residents are still scheduled to move into their new temporary homes in July and August, before the fall fishing season.



The Corps will award the construction contract for the permanent houses, the water and sewer lines and the village roads in July. Miller estimates the work will take six to nine months.

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Longhouse administration transfer

The Corps is waiting for the BIA to sign the transfer documents for the Celilo longhouse. Once signed, Miller said, the Corps will transfer \$334,000 to the BIA for operations and maintenance purposes.

Because the BIA has had the agreement for over two months, the board voted to send a letter to Stan Speaks recommending he accept the longhouse, develop a scope of work and a 638 contract, then have them reviewed by the Wy-Am Board.

When village construction is complete in 2008, the Corps will transfer additional funding, estimated at nearly \$1.7 million dollars, to the BIA, who will then award a contract to a tribal entity to manage the funds, invest them and use the interest to operate and maintain the village infrastructure.

Umatilla planner Jim Beard said it is important to invest the money as soon as possible. He estimated the \$334,000 alone could generate \$1,500 a month in interest income.

Construction in Celilo (continued from page 1)

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works has approved the FY 2007 work plan which includes \$13.95 million for the Columbia River Treaty Access Fishing Sites project, with the entire amount applied to Celilo Village reconstruction.

That amount secures the entire funding needed for reconstruction of the permanent housing, Miller said. An additional budget request will be submitted for FY 2009 to complete site restoration and replacement of the BIA administration and school building.



Contractors install utility lines (in the mounds behind the lifter) and prepare the area for new temporary homes

Disposition of temporary homes

After the permanent homes are constructed and residents relocated from the temporary housing, the Corps will have the contractor dispose of the temporary homes off site, Miller said. The government will then get credit for the remarket dollar value, if any.

Residents asked if it would be possible to leave some of the temporary homes onsite for people who did not get one of the permanent homes, but who have ties to Celilo Village.

Miller said the BIA allocated the 14 permanent houses to the current legal residents. In this context, *current* means people who have lived in the village in the past eight years. "There are a range of technical questions that should be addressed before considering additional permanent housing at Celilo," Miller said. Issues include water and sewer capacity, use of open space, operations and maintenance, and others. "These are questions for the BIA, Tribal Governments and the Wy-Am Board and not the Corps," he said.

Next Wy-Am Board meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2007, 10 a.m.

Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall

- BIA report to board on housing allocation
- BIA lease agreements

The Wy-Am Board invites Celilo Village residents to attend meetings, participate in the process and provide comments.

Wy-Am Board Members

Celilo Village: Bobby Begay, Delilah Heemsah

CTUIR: Antone Minthorn, Leo Stuart

CTWS: Ron Suppah, Reuben Henry

YIN: Ray James, Sam Jim, Sr.

April construction activities

Colville Tribal Services project supervisor Denny Senters gave the board a construction update:

- Water line installation will be complete by the first of April. The system will be activated once it is tested and sterilized.
- The pump house concrete walls are up; roofing it is next.
- The new sewer lagoon area is being fenced.
- 24 soil samples taken at different elevations in the old sewer lagoon area were tested for bacteria and metals. Test results were below applicable Federal and state standards for clean-up and therefore no soil cleanup or remediation is needed.
- The temporary housing sub-grade will be finished mid-April. Work has begun on the temporary homes' electrical system.
- The temporary houses will arrive in mid-May.



Work crews compact the soil base and concrete footings in preparation for installation of the new water tank

Transportation grant for bus service

Jim Beard wrote a grant to the Federal Transit Administration, Tribal Transit Program. The grant is to fund a once- or twice-a-week bus trip between Celilo Village and The Dalles, operated under contract with the Mid-Columbia Council of Government's bus service. He expects to hear soon whether they won the grant. He asked Chief Olsen Meanus, Jr. and village residents to discuss the best days and times for the bus to come to Celilo and the desired destinations in The Dalles.

In other news

Chairman Minthorn asked the board and residents to begin developing plans for both village governance and economic development.

Mark Conley, an independent landscape architect, presented an alternative village design at the March board meeting.

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, to keep residents and other interested members of the public informed of the Celilo Village redevelopment.

For more information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or email george.j.miller@usace.army.mil.

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