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Portland District

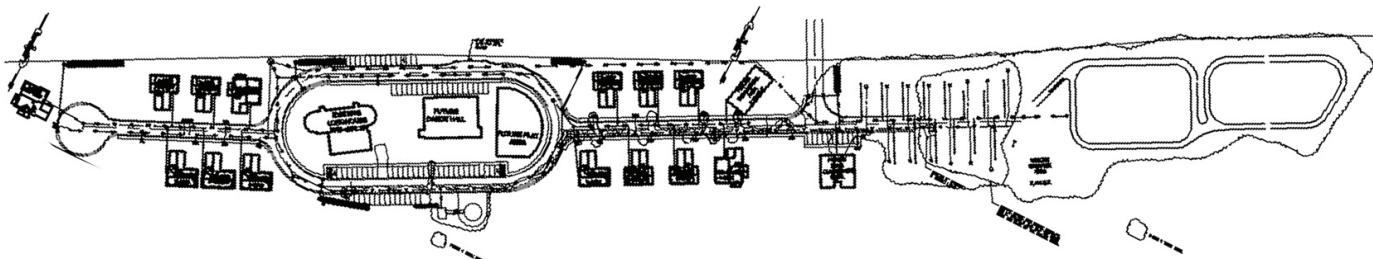
August 2006

# Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

*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 2008.



**Designers revised the site plan for redeveloping Celilo Village based on board and resident' comments. The Corps is seeking comment on it and the Phase II work (see below). Drawing provided courtesy of Cooper Zeitz Engineering.**

## Rebuilding a Village

Rebuilding an entire village is somewhat like remodeling your house: you have to do it in stages or you'll be camping in your yard. For Celilo Village, construction will be done in two phases.

During the first phase, contractors will build a new sewage lagoon. When the new lagoon is operational, the old site will be reclaimed and cleaned. Residents will be moved from their current homes into temporary modular units placed on the reclaimed land. Water from a new well – also being constructed in phase one – will be available in the temporary quarters and at the longhouse. Resident relocations are planned for October 2007 after completion of phase one, said George Miller, Corps project manager.

Phase two includes installing new water and sewer distribution lines, roads and storm sewers. The Corps plans to award contracts for the first phase this month.

Plans for the second phase of construction are more than 50 percent complete. Cooper Zeitz project manager Dwight Gray reviewed the plan with the Wy-Am Board at their July 27 meeting. A loop road will encircle the longhouse and a new dance shed.

Although not part of the Corps' construction contract, planners recommended relocating the dance shed 15 feet east of its current location. Homes will be built at the

east and west ends of the loop. Gail Lovell, Corps design lead, says a plan for storm water runoff has been incorporated into the site design to direct runoff where it will be absorbed into the ground; there is no direct path into the Columbia River. A new building near the entry road will house a classroom and the BIA office. Miller wants to hear from people on what other uses the building could accommodate.

Board Chair Antone Minthorn said it is important for residents to see and understand the site plan. Gray will post a copy in the longhouse for residents to mark up.

Louie Pitt, Warm Springs Governmental Affairs Director, thanked the design team for taking the extra step of asking for and considering the residents' views in the designs.

## Comments sought on Phase II

The 60 percent design document, including a site plan, is available for review. People may submit comments until September 14, 2006 to:

US Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: Gail Lovell  
Civil and Environmental Design Section  
PO Box 2946  
Portland, OR 97208-2946

## Foundation representatives attend July Wy-Am Board meeting



**From left Tom Gallagher, John Chess, Chuck Archer, and Karen Whitford review the site plan.**

they might help the village get a new dance shed, which is not part of the Corps' rebuilding project. Gallagher said the Ford foundation might fund a design charrette and getting a design grant can lead into a capital grant application.

The dance shed was originally called The Arbor when it was built 17 years ago, Celilo resident Karen Whitford said. Due to concerns about youth alcohol and drug abuse, her father, the former chief, wanted a building where the village could sponsor powwows and help carry on the culture. Her father, mother and sister raised \$20,000; they themselves contributed \$7,000. She added that the village also needs new computers for the classroom and the office. Pitt offered to ask some grant writers to come and talk with village residents about their needs.

### Cultural resources

The Corps is negotiating the award of a field investigations contract. The contractor, Warm Springs GeoVisions Environmental Services, will conduct testing and obtain cultural resources clearances prior to construction's start. Since the village land has been occupied for thousands of years, the village residents, tribes, BIA and Corps want to protect significant cultural artifacts or human remains prior to and during construction. The first step is testing places where earthmoving will occur.

Over the past year, the parties wrote a plan — methods to be used, where to test, and what will be done with any findings. The plan has not yet been signed by all parties; at the June Wy-Am Board meeting, additional changes were requested. Corps archeologist Michael Martin said those changes have been included and the plan returned to the parties for signatures.

### Next Wy-Am Board meeting

**Thursday, August 24, 2006, 10 a.m.**

**Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall**

- Status of Cultural Resources MOA
- Confluence Project update
- Relocation program

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

### Wyam Board Members

*Celilo Village:* Delilah Heemsah & Bobby Begay

*CTUIR:* Antone Minthorn & Leo Stuart

*CTWS:* Ron Suppah & Reuben Henry

*YIN:* Leo Aleck

John Chess and Tom Gallagher gave presentations to the board on how their organizations might be involved with Celilo Village reconstruction. Chess is a Potlatch Foundation board member, a Seattle based tribal organization helping tribes and Native American organizations apply for grants. It can also encourage the Federal government to provide funds, Chess said.

Gallagher is Director of the Ford Institute for Community Building, an initiative of the Ford Family Foundation, which gives assistance grants to Oregon non-profit organizations. In order to be considered, the community must support the project and provide some combination of money and work. Chess offered to write the application if the residents would like him to.

Jim Beard, Umatilla Tribal Planner, invited the two foundations, hoping



**Antone Minthorn and Ron Suppah**

### PL 93-638 Contract Report

Lori Anderson, Warm Springs BIA Administration Officer, is drafting the statement of work for the 638 contract. Miller offered the Corps' help in writing technical sections.

Wy-Am Board member Ron Suppah thanked Miller for getting funds for Celilo. He asked Miller to give the board a report of the Corps' past expenditures on Celilo Village, as well as new money coming in 2007. The board asked for assurance that funds will be available for years after 2007, so that operations and maintenance needs or problems can be taken care of quickly.

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published monthly by the Celilo Village Redevelopment Delivery Team of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 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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