



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

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# 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 2009.

## Law enforcement

Residents, tribal leaders and the Corps knew that a governance plan would be key to making the Celilo Village redevelopment successful. One part of governance is law enforcement.

"Who and when to call is confusing," said resident Karen Jim Whitford, at the November Wy-Am Board meeting. Representatives from county, state, federal, and four tribal police agencies agree that Celilo Village faces overlapping jurisdictions.

An interagency task force of law enforcement officials has started to develop a plan. At the November Wy-Am meeting, representatives from the Wasco County Sheriff's office, Warm Springs Police Department, Umatilla Tribal Police, Bureau of Indian Affairs police, Oregon State Police, FBI, and Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Enforcement came to explain jurisdictions and authorities.

"The treaty tribes do not have criminal jurisdiction within Celilo Village," said Ron Harnden, Chief of Police for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and head of the task force. All Oregon treaty tribe law enforcement is comprised of Oregon-certified police officers, Harnden said. "This provides an avenue for tribal law enforcement officers to have enforcement capabilities using Oregon law."



Rick Eiesland,  
Wasco County sheriff



*CRITFE Capt. Jerry Ekker addresses the Wy-Am Board as members Bobby Begay (left), Reuben Henry, OSP officer Katzensten, Sheriff Eiesland, OSP Lt. Ashmore listen.*

However, the tribal police, BIA or CRITFE police are not the primary contact for the residents. The officers agreed that the residents' primary contact is the Wasco County Sheriff's Department. Residents should call 911 during emergencies; non-emergency calls should be routed through the county's regular published number.

Whitford asked if someone could patrol at Celilo Village. In response, OSP Lt. Patrick Ashmore promised he would have an officer regularly drive through the village. The task force will meet again and return with a report for the board.



Ron Harnden, police chief of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

## **Construction: Phase II**

The shed between the longhouse and dance shed is scheduled for demolition, Corps design lead Gail Lovell said. Therefore, anything stored in the shed needs to be moved, she said, and anything not claimed will be moved into the dance shed or the longhouse. The building functions as the community storage shed and holds the dance shed's power panel, Begay said.

Lovell distributed the 'Draft Five Year Plan for Operations & Maintenance.' The Corps prepared the draft as part of their support for the BIA as the BIA will assume operations and maintenance functions once construction is complete. The Corps also prepared drawings of the completed Phase I construction work and for Phase II work. (*See attached drawings*).



**Naameh Nomie, Corps Project Engineer, stands next to the first permanent home foundation poured in November.**



**Nomie and Lucy Begay discuss the new water line at the west end of the village.**

## **Board looking into land sale near Celilo**

A landowner has put up for sale a 210-acre parcel atop the cliffs southeast of Celilo Village, which includes the village cemetery.

The board asked Trust for Public Land to inquire about the land. TPL is a national non-profit land conservation organization that works with landowners, government agencies, community groups and tribes to protect natural and cultural resources.

At the November board meeting, TPL's Tribal and Native Lands Program Coordinator Laura Baxter explained how TPL could help. It can, she said, act as the board's agent, raise funds, get money from agencies and tribes to either purchase the land or a conservation easement.

The land is currently leased for grazing. Because this land is not adjacent to a public road, it's unclear whether a legal vehicular right-of-way is included. Board member Bobby Begay said for many years adjacent landowners have given residents verbal permission to cross their land to access the cemetery.

The board voted to authorize TPL to work with the landowner and undertake due diligence and research funding sources for possible acquisition.

The land could provide a place for future housing and allow expansion of the cemetery, said board advisor Louie Pitt. In the meantime, Whitford asked for help in getting the cemetery fenced to protect it from cattle.

## **Next Wy-Am Board meeting**

### **Agenda for Jan. 24, 2008 Wy-Am Board Meeting**

#### **No meeting in December**

- Law enforcement agencies' report
- Dance Shed update
- Construction update

*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.

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](mailto:george.j.miller@usace.army.mil).

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