



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®  
Portland District

July 2006

# Celilo Village

## Redevelopment Newsletter

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

### Redevelopment background

Celilo Falls long served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for 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 and sanitary and water systems, caused public health and safety concerns to village residents.



**Hanging nets to dry after a day fishing on the Columbia River**

To resolve these problems, the tribes requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. President George W. Bush authorized the reconstruction of the village in March 2004, and the Corps expects construction to be completed by 2008.

### Maya Lin interested in Celilo Village

The Confluence Project wants to honor Celilo Falls and its Native American history. This non-profit is working with tribes and organizations to create public artworks at seven sites along the Columbia River basin.

They have hired artist and architect Maya Lin (who designed the Vietnam Memorial) to create the art. Her Celilo artwork may include a native fishing legend.

Wy-Am Board Chair Antone Minthorn sits on the Project's board of directors. Through him they asked if they could come to a Wy-Am Board meeting. With agreement from those at the June meeting, Minthorn will invite them to come to a future meeting.



**Petroglyphs lie beside Celilo Village Road**

### Cultural resources plan close to signing

The key to starting construction is agreement between the Tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on how to protect cultural resources during construction. Specific testing methods and the treatment of inadvertent discovery of human remains and cultural items are being set out in a Memorandum of Agreement.

Corps archeologist Michael Martin told those attending the Wy-Am Board's June 22 meeting, "The Corps has been in intense daily discussions with the Umatilla, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and we are close to finalizing the agreement with a possible signing next week." BIA has already signed the agreement.

"According to Federal Law, Native American Graves and Repatriation Act and sacred law, village residents are the lineal descendants and owners of any human remains found during village redevelopment," Louie Pitt, Jr. who provides administrative support told the board. "But right now that language is not in the MOA."

George Miller, Corps project manager, suggested that since the THPO's have electronic copies of the MOA, they can add that provision directly into the document. "If the document is signed this month, construction can stay on schedule," Miller said.

At the board meeting it was decided to add the Wy-Am Board, and the village's traditional leader, Olsen Meanus, or his designee as an 'invited signatory' to the MOA.

## Funding operations and maintenance

To insure facilities the Corps builds are maintained, the Corps provides a one-time up-front payment for O&M. For Celilo Village, the amount set out in the Corps' 2003 Post Authorization Change report was around \$1.6 million dollars, according to Miller.

When construction is complete, the Department of the Army will transfer ownership of the facilities to the Department of Interior for O&M. When Interior accepts ownership, Army will transfer the O&M funds. "That money is to be invested and the interest used to maintain the village over time," Miller said. The Corps will be diligent in transferring those funds.

Paul Young, Warm Springs BIA Superintendent, has the responsibility of developing a contract outlining the scope of work. When the BIA receives the funds, Young said he will send out requests for proposals. He recently hired a new contract specialist and plans to bring her to the July 27 board meeting.

John Breiling, Corps' Portland District attorney, suggested the board set up a trust that could receive and distribute funds – particularly since the Ford Family Foundation and Potlatch Foundation have expressed interest in the village.



*In June, drying fishing nets hung throughout the village*

## Board chair seeks participation

Wy-AM Board Chair Antone Minthorn plans to report the village's redevelopment progress to the Yakama Tribal Council and ask for their participation at future board meetings.

## Next Wy-Am Board meeting

**Thursday, July 27, 2006, 10 a.m.**

### Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall

- Presentation of color samples for the permanent housing interiors & exteriors
- Status of Cultural Resource MOA
- Summary of the 60 percent design for Phase II
- Report of the Corps' May house by house visit to permanent residents
- BIA 638 Contract Specialist presentation

*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

## Phase I redevelopment moving forward

Village reconstruction will be done in phases. Phase I includes the water system, sewage lagoons, temporary housing and some fire protection.

"September 1 is the projected date to break ground for the sewage lagoon," Cooper Zietz Project Manager Dwight Gray said.

The Corps is close to a final contract package and moving to advertise the contracts, according to Miller. "The Corps only needs a signed Cultural Resources Protection Plan to begin," he said.

"Meanwhile work on Phase II, which includes the permanent houses and road system, has already begun," Gray said. At the July board meeting, the architect will bring color selections for the houses' interiors and exteriors and leave them at Celilo Village in order to get a decision on the colors at the August meeting.



*Gail Lovell, left, Corps design lead and Celilo resident Ada Frank, who will get one of the new houses*

## Village governance

At their June meeting, the board began discussing how to find a good fit for the village's governance structure.

"Blending the old and new ways may be the best," Young said. "We need to help village residents get the services they need, but not lose the hierarchy developed over 10,000 years."

"It is important to honor the lineal descendants," Pitt said. "The Tribes have ignored Celilo, but they are back and trying to help." He said the challenge is that "we don't have a governance model that fits the structure of Celilo."

The Corps' John Breiling suggested and the board agreed to create an advisory group made up of representatives from entities like the local school districts and health departments.

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

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