



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

June 2008

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.

It takes great people to rebuild a village

Since the Celilo Village Redevelopment Project was authorized March 2, 2004, designers, contractors, engineers, planners, attorneys, real estate specialists, tribal and federal agencies worked together to rebuild the traditional fishing village.

Resident Delilah Heemsah cut the ceremonial ribbon on May 23, after which she invited visitors into the newly completed home; residents are moving into their new homes throughout June.

In this issue we're putting the spotlight on some of those people and jobs they carried out. Here's a list of project accomplishments:

- Water system, including well, water lines, water storage tower, two well pumps, remotely controlled booster pump, back up pump
- Resolved real estate claims and updated housing permits
- Sewer system—two lagoons, storm and sanitary lines
- Reclaimed area on the site of the old sewage lagoons
- Site grading to improve storm water runoff
- Underground electrical system
- Longhouse with commercial kitchen and elders' dining hall
- Street lights, sidewalks, parking lotsParking lots for community events
- A road system that supports emergency vehicle access and fire suppression equipment (hydrants)
- Cooperation from railroad companies to keep the road into the village open while trains wait for drawbridge to lower
- Modular homes brought in for residents while contractors built the new homes. Each house provided with a cargo-sized storage container (The contractor will remove the modular homes and containers in July)
- Awarded the contract option to construct the Celilo Village administration and classroom building
- Fifteen homes with carports, outside storage, heating/cooling pumps, stoves, dishwashers, washers and dryers, refrigerators and wood stoves. Each house sited to provide a view of the Columbia River



Antone Minthorn and George Miller provided vital leadership during the multi-year project to revitalize Celilo Village

"It became clear as we progressed that everyone involved in the project recognized the importance of this place and our mission. Everyone stepped up. It was a pleasure working with people so committed to the project, its purpose and intent."

George Miller
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager

The teams that helped rebuild Celilo Village

"It is a moment of history where something good is happening, something good that can help lift some people out of poverty. With the cooperation of the Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, and other stakeholder interests, we have reached that goal together."

Antone Minthorn, Chairman, Wy-Am Board

Wy-Am Board Members

Antone Minthorn, Chairman
Ron Suppah, Vice-Chairman
Bobby Begay
Ruth Jim
Delilah Heemsah,
Leo Stuart, alternate



Bobby Begay



Reuben Henry

Wy-Am Board

Celilo Village is the only tribal land in the United States held in trust for three tribes (the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), as well as other Columbia River Indians who traditionally visited Celilo Falls.

The land is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. The interests of all the tribes and organizations needed to be represented as redevelopment decisions were discussed, so a pre-existing organization, the Wy-Am Board, was reconstituted. The board met monthly in open meetings to advise the Corps on redevelopment issues. Each tribe provided a representative and an alternate member and two village representatives were selected by the community to serve on the board.

"The Wy-Am Board's challenge was to balance representing village residents with the broader interests of Celilo in Indian country and of tribal governments," said Miller. With so many interests Celilo was a complicated project. "The senior leadership and authority of Chairman Minthorn and Vice-Chairman Suppah kept people focused on reaching the goal. Their efforts kept the project from getting derailed," he added.



Antone Minthorn and Ron Suppah



Ruth Jim



Delilah Heemsah invites visitors into her new home after the ribbon cutting ceremony

Corps Chief of Engineers visits Celilo



From left, Portland District commander Col. Steven R. Miles, former District commander Col. Tom O'Donovan, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp and George Miller received Pendleton blankets from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, the Corps' Chief of Engineers, visited Celilo Village May 1 to review the work in progress. During his visit, he was briefed on the project's milestones, walked through one of the nearly constructed homes and shared a traditional meal with residents and tribal leaders.

Corps project manager George Miller and Warm Springs Chairman and Wy-Am board member Ron Suppah explained the importance of funding the final portion Celilo Village's redevelopment, including operations and maintenance, the playground and landscaping. Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp said he would support it.

Wy-Am Board Support Staff

Jim Beard, CTUIR Planning Director
JD Williams, CTUIR Legal Council
Louie Pitt, Warm Springs Intergovernmental Affairs

These three individuals provided professional and technical advice to the board, the Corps and BIA. Their knowledge of tribal and federal regulations helped guide the board; they also brought in outside resources, such as grant writers and leadership trainers. In 1998, Beard completed a report on the condition of Celilo Village that offered recommendations for improvement and provided a foundation for beginning the current redevelopment.



Louie Pitt

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Bureau of Indian Affairs

Stephanie Lynch, Regional Solicitor's Office
Alida Gulley, Real Estate
Greg Argel, Real Estate
Stan Speaks, Regional Director
Lyle Fox, Realty Specialist, Warm Springs Agency
Paul Young, Superintendent, Warm Springs Agency

The BIA worked through the complicated process of determining who was eligible to receive the new homes. They also developed the occupancy permit required for each home, outlining the residents' and the BIA's rights and responsibilities. Young was the link between the residents and the BIA.

"The BIA staff worked on very important and difficult issues," Miller said. "Stephanie Lynch provided the insight and leadership that allowed the BIA to make these difficult decisions."



Paul Young, left, with Stan Speaks



Greg Argel



The permit working group: George Miller, Jim Beard, Stephanie Lynch, Alida Gulley, Lyle Fox (not pictured: Paul Young, JD Williams and Doug Craner)

Completion of new Celilo Village homes celebrated at ribbon cutting

The Wy-Am Board, tribal leaders, the Corps of Engineers and the BIA celebrated the completion of the Celilo Village redevelopment project with a tribal blessing and ribbon cutting ceremony May 23. Tribal leaders Olson Meanus (Celilo Village) and Ray Colfax (Yakama Nation) addressed the audience, as did BIA regional supervisor Stan Speaks, Chairman Ron Suppah (Warm Springs) and Wy-Am Board chairman Antone Minthorn (Umatilla). Staff members working with Sen. Ron Wyden and Sen. Gordon Smith presented the village with a flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol Building.

Then-Portland District commander Col. Tom O'Donovan presented the residents with a framed letter thanking them for their patience with all the construction in the village for the past three years. Afterward resident and Wy-Am Board member Delilah Heemsah cut the ceremonial ribbon and invited the guests into her newly completed home. The Corps of Engineers transferred the homes to the BIA in early June and keys were issued to the residents, Miller said.



Delilah Heemsah cuts a ribbon before inviting guests into her new home. Pictured with Heemsah are, from left, Ron Suppah, Chief Olsen Meanus, Stan Speaks, Col. Tom O'Donovan, Antone Minthorn, Reuben Henry, Kathleen Cathey, Sen. Ron Wyden representative and Richard Krikiva, Sen. Gordon Smith's representative.

Cooper Zietz Engineering

Dwight Gray, Project manager/mechanical/electrical designer
Jim Smith, Engineer technician
Fred Cooper, principal, civil engineer
Tom Kreshon, Specification writer
Amber Schulz, Project assistant/ intern
Myhre Group Architects
Carrie McIntyre, Architect
Roger Binschus, Architectural intern
Cascade Design Professionals
Lynn Harnisch, Civil engineer
Paul Kluvers, Structural engineer
Herb Fricke, Civil engineer/ mechanical designer
Chuck Archer, Architect

Cooper Zietz provided engineering consulting and prepared the designs, plans and specifications during construction. They were the technical team throughout the project's life. "Dwight Gray is heads above most architectural engineers, in both competency and cooperativeness," said Corps quality assurance representative Ed Saldaña.

"This project was a bright spot; there were fun, good people to work with," said Gray. The firm's project work ranged from geo-technical studies, locating existing utilities, site layouts, design-build for the longhouse, to developing the standards for the new homes.

"What makes or breaks a home is the quality of the materials," said Gray. "The sewer pipe is cast iron, like commercial construction. The water pipes inside the walls and under the slabs are copper. The houses all have high-speed internet capabilities."

Amber Schultz, a descendent of traditional Celilo Chief Tommy Thompson, was hired at the start of the project and has become a fulltime Cooper Zietz employee.



Cooper Zietz team., from left : Dwight Gray, Roger Binschus, Amber Schulz, Lynn Harnisch, Jim Smith, Paul Kluvers, Carrie McIntyre and Herb Fricke.

Colville Tribal Services Corporation

Art Harding, Project Manager
Rocky Saylor, Site Superintendent
Dave Whitelaw, Quality Control and Safety
Denny Senters, Phase I project superintendent
Lonnie Simpson, Phase II project superintendent

CTSC was the prime contractor for the Celilo Village redevelopment project. They were responsible for constructing the project in compliance with plans and specifications, including site work, water and sewer systems, utilities, roads, and houses.

During the four years of this work, they were the day-to-day builders on the ground that also interacted with the community residents. "With CTSC, we got good value on this project for the public's dollar," Saldaña said.



Dave Whitelaw



Rocky Saylor, left, and Art Harding

Advanced Native Construction

Greg Bybee, Project Manager
Mikes Miles, Superintendent
Joe Ziebart, Superintendent

ANC, a subcontractor to CTSC, was responsible for building the fifteen houses, inside and out, from the foundations to roofing.



Mike Miles, ANC, left, Naameh Nomie, Corps, Joe Ziebart, ANC, right.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project team

Redeveloping Celilo Village was a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project. Throughout the entire project, Miller led and directed the all aspects of the work. He represented the Corps and the federal government, as well as upholding and integrating its laws and policies into the planning, design, and construction of the project.

George Miller, project manager
Gail Lovell, design lead
Naameh Nomie, Project engineer
Ed Saldaña, quality assurance representative
Michael Martin, coordinating archeologist
Susan Hill, relocations specialist
Wayne Kieffer, real estate specialist
Jim Tupper, civil design
John Breiling and Doug Craner, legal council
Paul Cloutier, tribal liaison
Diana Fredlund, public affairs specialist

Miller coordinated with tribal governments, the Wy-Am Board, Celilo residents, external interests like the railroad and making sure the project passed all environmental clearances and met applicable federal laws.

Miller assembled a team of interdisciplinary experts who offered guidance and expertise. The team developed, awarded and managed the planning, design and construction contracts. "The project manager is possibly the most visible of the team, but these folks were the heart and soul of this project," Miller said. "Without them, this project would have been impossible to accomplish."



Members gather during the May 23 visit of Lt. Gen. Richard Van Antwerp to Celilo Village. From left: George Miller, Susan Hill, Ed Saldaña, Gail Lovell, Mike Miles, Amber Schultz, Dwight Gray, Dave Whitelaw, Art Harding, Van Antwerp, Joe Ziebart, Carrie McIntyre, Naameh Nomie.

Special thanks to the following people:

Chief Delvis Heath, Warm Springs
Lynda Walker and Barbara Creel, former tribal liaisons
Yakama Nation Tribal Council
Umatilla Tribal Board of Trustees
Warm Springs Tribal Council
Karen Jim Whitford, Celilo resident
Celilo Village residents
Susan Hess, Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter
Jeremy Aliason, Attorney, Native American Program
Legal Aid Services



*At right:
Ed Saldaña*



*At left:
Naameh Nomie*

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, to keep residents and interested members of the public informed of Celilo Village redevelopment. Project Manager: George Miller
Portland District Commander: Col. Steven R. Miles
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