



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

March
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.

Construction in Celilo Village

The Corps expects the new water and sewer systems and temporary housing to be completed July 20, with the housing ready for occupancy at that time, Corps project manager George Miller told the Wy-Am Board at its Feb. 22 meeting. Residents will begin moving into temporary housing July and August. The goal is to complete the moving process before the fall fishing season starts.

The Corps plans to award the Phase II construction contract in July 2007, Miller said. In Phase II, contractors will build the permanent homes, the remaining infrastructure, including roads, the BIA administrative building, and the classroom.

Longhouse administration transfers from Corps to BIA



This month the Corps will transfer administration of longhouse operations and maintenance to the BIA. Along with the transfer of authority, the Corps will transfer approximately \$334,000, Miller told the Wy-Am board. He added that there is an urgent need to have a PL 93-638 contracting entity established

so that funds can be invested and earn interest over time. The Corps is waiting for documentation from the BIA to start the funds transfer process.

When BIA receives the funds, they will be administered by the Area Agency (BIA regional office), said Paul Young, BIA Warm Springs superintendent. The BIA will then issue a request for proposal for an entity to take over the operations and maintenance under a 638 contract; the funds will then be transferred to the winning bidder.

Young is working on getting the Celilo water and sewer systems on the BIA inventory; so they will

receive ongoing BIA funding. He is pursuing a blanket insurance policy for the infrastructure and community facilities, including the longhouse.

Lease agreements for new homes

The BIA has prepared a draft of the lease agreements for the new residences. Lyle Fox presented a summary at the Wy-Am Board meeting emphasizing that it is still a draft; the BIA is seeking comments on it.



Ed Saldaña, left, and Gail Lovell Corps design leader stand at the new sewage lagoons.

March construction activities

Ed Saldaña, the Corps' onsite quality assurance representative, outlined the upcoming construction schedule:

- Colville Tribal Services will install a new water main and route it to the temporary housing area.
- The new pump house foundation has been poured and CTS is building the concrete block walls.
- Construction of the new sewage lagoons is complete; the old lagoons are emptied into the new lagoons.
- CTS will remove the old sewage lagoons linings and prepare the old lagoon area for temporary housing.
- Work on new water stand pipe foundations should begin in the next few weeks.
- CTS assisted the village in preparing for the Mar. 10 and 11 commemoration event.

Cultural resources

After the board meeting, Corps archeologist Michael Martin took board members to the construction site and showed them where cultural resources have been found during the sewage lagoons construction. Only a few small items have been found, Martin said.



The current dance shed with longhouse in background

Dance Shed design charrette

A Ford Family Foundation grant provided money for a Feb. 6 meeting where residents spoke with an architect about elements they would like included in a new dance shed. John Chess, from the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute and the Potlatch Foundation, obtained the grant and facilitated the discussion.

Meeting attendees suggested a larger structure that can function as a multi-use building, more seating for elders, heating and cooling, as well as space for the dancers to change into their regalia, for vendors, space at each end of the building for drummers, and electrical wiring that is up to code.

Chess said the architect will develop preliminary sketches to show residents. Because a number of residents were out of town on Feb. 6, another session will be held in mid-March.

Next Wy-Am Board meeting

Thursday, Mar. 22, 2007, 10 a.m.

Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall

- Construction update
- Design presentation: Mark Conley
- BIA intent to accept longhouse administration
- BIA plans for PL 93-638 Contract for operations and maintenance of Celilo
- Wy-Am Board governance planning
- Commemoration event report

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, alternate
CTWS: Ron Suppah; Reuben Henry, alternate
YIN: Ray James; Sam Jim, Sr.

Relocation

With relocation into the temporary homes only a few months away, BIA and Corps staffs held a community meeting Feb. 6 to explain the relocation process and answer residents' questions.

Both agencies brought specialists who talked about many aspects of the relocations— moving timetables, the choice of moving their own belongings or having the government hire someone to move them, which utilities the Corps will pay for while residents are in the temporary homes, storage units, expense reimbursements and any special arrangements for those needing medical assistance.

Corps relocation specialist Susan Hill and BIA realty specialist Lyle Fox have met individually with residents to help them plan for the upcoming relocations.

Hill will be coming to Celilo more often as the relocation date approaches. Residents may call her at (206) 450-3777 or (206) 764-3302, or email her at susan.m.hill@usace.army.mil.

Acquiring the A, B, C, D and 7 houses is the responsibility of the BIA; the Corps will acquire the remaining residences, their related sheds, and outbuildings, Miller said. Louie Pitt, CTWS, encouraged residents to ask questions during their meetings with the relocation staff and to ask for help if they need it. Miller encouraged residents to bring anyone they choose with them to the meetings.



New Wy-Am Board member Ray James, left, represents Yakama Indian Nation Tribal Council; Delvis Heath, Warm Springs Tribal Chief; and Barbara Creel Corps Tribal Liaison.

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.

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