



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.



**New Celilo Village homes** feature log facing and pole supports to create a unique architectural style. All homes include a carport as shown at the right side of this house. Siding is concrete board for durability.

## 2009 Redevelopment budget

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget for FY 2009 does not include funding for completion of Celilo Village redevelopment, said George Miller, Corps Project Manager.

According to budgetary guidance issued by the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Corp's budget for 2009 is restricted to working on Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites and is not available for use at Celilo Village. Congress will have to appropriate funding to complete Celilo.

Additional funding in the amount of 2.9 million dollars is required to complete construction (irrigation, landscaping, and the playground area) and to make the Corps' final contribution to the BIA for operations and maintenance funding at Celilo.

The Corps has already transferred \$334,000 to the BIA for operations and maintenance purposes under the terms of a 1995 Memorandum of Understanding for operations and maintenance of the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites, which includes Celilo Village.

## New Wy-Am Board members

Ruth Jim and Yvonne Colfax have been elected to the Wy-Am Board by the Yakama Nation Tribal Council.



**Ruth Jim** Wy-Am Board

Lavina Washines, vice chairwoman of the Council, made the announcement at the February Wy-Am meeting. Jim is the board representative and Colfax the alternate. Jim chairs the Yakama Nation Land Committee; Colfax is the tribe's watershed specialist.

## Celilo Village construction timeline

- May 2008: finish construction of new houses
- June 2008: complete relocation of residents to new homes
- June 2008: end relocations benefits
- December 2008: complete BIA Administration/School Building.

## Message from the Corps's new Tribal Liaison G. Paul Cloutier



**G. Paul Cloutier** Corps Tribal Liaison

Boozhoo beshwaji (Ojibwe for hello friends),

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you. I am G. Paul Cloutier, the new Tribal Liaison for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District. Please feel free to call me Paul.

As an advocate for positive relationships between the Corps and the treaty tribes, I will work to encourage and enhance the Corps' ability to effectively interact with, and meet its trust obligations to, the tribes. The United States government has a unique legal relationship with Native American tribal governments as set forth in federal law. I am committed to helping the Portland District maintain strong and successful relationships with our tribal neighbors.

I believe I bring a wealth of knowledge and sensitivity to the position based upon my personal and professional experience. I am a descendent of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan; I was raised in an Army family. Prior to joining the Corps, I served as the Native American Affairs

director for the Michigan Department of Human Services, where I managed department interactions between the State of Michigan and Native American communities and tribes. Prior to state service, I was Health and Human Services Director for the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Pottawatomi, and led the tribe's Education and Legislative Affairs programs.

The Corps of Engineers is committed to building effective day-to-day working relationships reflecting the Corps' respect for tribal sovereignty and the rights of self-government. The tribal liaison has direct access to the commanding officer and senior leaders in the District to ensure that tribal inquiries are channeled appropriately and responded to in an effective manner. Please feel free to contact me at 503-808-4508 or at [G.Paul.Cloutier@usace.army.mil](mailto:G.Paul.Cloutier@usace.army.mil).

## Property above Celilo

Nelson Mathews has taken over The Trust for Public Land's efforts to acquire the Strong Capital property south of Celilo Village. "TPL has entered into a letter of intent with Strong Capital during which time we will have the property appraised and negotiate a purchase agreement," Mathews says. "I have asked Dave Groth of PGP to appraise the property and hope to have the appraisal and negotiations completed by April 30th."

## Occupancy permit hearing



**Lavina Washines**

The Wy-Am Board's Feb. 28 meeting was the second hearing on the BIA's proposed occupancy permit. Jim Beard, CTUIR planner, said that after the March board meeting all comments will be forwarded to BIA superintendent at Warm Springs Paul Young to draft into a final document.

Lavina Washines asked Corps project manager George Miller to set up a mandatory meeting before the end of March with Stan Speaks, Wy-Am Board, tribal chairs, and the three tribes' BIA superintendents to talk about the permit. Miller referred this action to the Wy-Am Board and the BIA, since the permit is a BIA action.

## Next Wy-Am Board meeting

**Mar. 27, 2008, 10 a.m., Gorge Discovery Center**

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



**Leroy Gregory** Site Foreman for Colville Tribal Services Corporation setting grade for curbs and gutters along the main street of Celilo Village. Gregory is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

## Wy-Am Board Members

*Celilo Village:* Bobby Begay, Delilah Heemsah

*CTUIR:* Antone Minthorn, Leo Stuart

*CTWS:* Ron Suppah, Reuben Henry

*YIN:* Ruth Jim, Yvonne Colfax

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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