



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

May 2006

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

Cultural Resources Plan

At its April 27 meeting, the Wy-Am Board delayed a decision on the plan until the May meeting. The Board is considering its recommendation to the three Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

Before construction can begin, the THPOs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must sign the plan the parties worked out last fall. The BIA and Corps have signed; only signatures from the THPOs are needed.

The agreement addresses how investigations and surveys will be done prior to construction. How artifacts or human remains inadvertently uncovered during construction will be treated is also addressed. The plan includes oral histories and meets federal requirements for protecting cultural resources.

If all goes according to schedule, contracts for water, sewers, sewer lagoons and temporary housing will be awarded in June or July.



George Miller, right, and Gail Lovell, left, from the Corps listen to residents' comments after the Wy-Am Board meeting.

Design Styles for Permanent Homes

Architect Chuck Archer presented the exteriors and floor plans for two housing styles. Residents narrowed the housing style choices to National and Craftsman. Corps design lead Gail Lovell asked if the Board could select the preferred style at the next meeting. "Using a single style will make Celilo Village appear as a cohesive community," Lovell said.

Plans for both housing styles include compositional shingle roofs, wood stoves, chimneys and cementitious siding, which will hold up to the climate conditions at Celilo, Archer said.

The drawings are now displayed in the Longhouse meeting room.

Relocation to Temporary Homes

"Moving people is about a year away," Corps project manager George Miller said. "There is a lot to do to prepare." Beginning May 15, Corps relocation specialist Susan Hill and Warm Spring Agency realty specialist Lyle Fox will visit each home to answer residents' questions.

Hill is mailing an information packet to each resident. During the meetings, she and Fox will begin working out a moving plan with each resident. They will also count rooms and sheds to help plan for compensation. "While residents are in temporary housing the Corps will pay electrical bills on a reimbursement basis," Hill said. "It also will pay phone hookup and cable transfer fees."

Each temporary home is 14 feet by 60 feet with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, electrical heating and air conditioning. Five units will include ramps, outdoor concrete pads and handicapped-accessible interiors.

Corps relocation specialist Susan Hill welcomes calls or emails from residents. She can be reached by telephone at 206-764-3302 (residents may call her collect) or by email at susan.m.hill@usace.army.mil.

Employment

Cooper Zietzhired Amber Schultz as an intern. Schultz, a descendent of Chief Tommy Thompson, recently completed a one-month training with Cooper Zietz. She produced the site drawings now on display in the Longhouse.

Board members will invite Tribal Employment Rights Office staff and Corps personnel to Celilo to discuss construction and other related employment opportunities.



Aerial view of Celilo Village with Interstate 5 in the foreground.

Site Design Changes

The loop road originally planned for the temporary home area will now be a straight-line road with the homes aligned on both sides.

The area east of the village was originally planned as a campground, but will now house a new BIA office and classroom building. "The remaining open space can be used for overflow parking, large events at the village, or as an open playfield," said Corps design lead Gail Lovell.

She and Cooper Zietz project manager Dwight Gray said concerns from residents and the BIA prompted the changes. Moving the existing BIA building also offers better fire protection to the Longhouse.

Next Wy-Am Board meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2006, 10 a.m.

Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall

- Occupancy permits
- Village operations and maintenance
- Cultural Resource Protection MOA
- Celilo Village Cemetery
- Housing style recommendation
- Confluence project: Maya Lin

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

Railroad

Trains often block the lone access road while waiting for the Columbia River bridge to lower, a serious hardship for residents. The Corps has asked the railroad to install the signal that lowers the bridge east of the road thus leaving the road open.

Although railroad officials have not replied, the companies appear to have changed procedures.

According to Wy-Am Board member and Celilo resident Delilah Heemsah, trains have begun waiting east of the road.



Trains passing the village sound their horns at all hours of the day and night, resident Karen Whitford told the Wy-Am Board and Corps representatives.

Miller told the board that Portland District Commander Col. Thomas O'Donovan is interested in meeting with the railroads to enlist their help in solving access and noise problems.

Dance Shed

A representative from the Ford Family Foundation is coming to the June Wy-Am Board meeting to explain how they might help with improvements to the Dance Shed, since it is not included in either the Corps or BIA redevelopment plans.

CTUIR planner Jim Beard said a recent inspection showed some code and safety problems with the building.



Ron Suppah and Reuben Henry represent the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs on the Wy-Am Board

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.

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