



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

May 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.

New temporary homes arrive at Celilo Village

The new temporary homes and storage units arrived at Celilo Village right on schedule. The 14 homes, sited at the village's east end, are already connected to water, sewer and electric lines, Colville Tribal Services project manager Art Harding said. An open house is planned this month to give residents a preview.

Phase I rebuilding is proceeding on schedule and should be completed in July, Corps project manager George Miller said. The water tower and lines will be operational once the system is pressure tested and sterilized. The BIA and Corps will have completed the purchase of residents' personal property by the end of May.

The Corps will begin relocating residents to their temporary houses in July and August and negotiations should start for the Phase II construction contract, Miller said. With \$13.9 million in hand, the redevelopment is fully funded and by April 2008 the permanent homes should be ready for occupancy. The final components—the classroom, BIA office and playground—will be built in fiscal year 2009.



UPPER: New modular homes, storage units, and street lights line the gravel road at Celilo Village. Crews are installing stairs or ramps and skirting around the bases of the homes.

MIDDLE: CTSC project manager Art Harding stands in the kitchen of one of the new homes. All are equipped with refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers.

LEFT: New water tower holds 238,000 gallons. The pump building will contain equipment for the water, sewer and electrical systems.



Basis of new home allocations

Demand for homes at Celilo Village exceeds the 14 planned units. The demand stems from decisions regarding who will or will not receive a home. People are also asking that additional homes be built.

The BIA determined those who will receive a new house. The board asked BIA Warm Springs Agency Superintendent Paul Young to come to their April meeting and tell them how the BIA reached its decisions.



BIA Warm Springs Agency Superintendent Paul Young discusses the home allocation process with a meeting participant.

Young started by saying the 34 acres Celilo Village occupies is held in trust for three sovereign nations: the Yakama, the Warm Springs, and the Umatilla, in addition to other river Indians. This joint ownership makes Celilo unique. The purpose of redeveloping the village, he said, is to provide safe and decent housing for the permanent year-round residents who have lived at Celilo from 1998 through the 2004 project authorization.

The BIA, Young said, considered many factors, the administrative records of permits and occupancy on file at the BIA, USACE and tribal governments, "The BIA staff tried to weigh all the factors. The decision weighs heavily on us. If we could recreate what was here 10,000 years ago we would, but there is not enough funding and the 34 acres are pretty much used up."

The issue of who got a home weighed heavily on the Corps as well, Miller said. Sewage lagoon capacity is one limiting factor, it is sized for 14 permanent homes (with limited flexibility for additional houses), the longhouse, classroom, BIA office, dance shed and storm events.

Satisfying the demand for homes may come by developing another site. The Yakamas have been looking for another village site along the river, Miller said. "Just because we can't solve all the problems now doesn't mean we can't look for additional resources, more authority and funding in the future."

If Celilo redevelopment project goes well, Young said, it could provide leverage to ask Congress for more funding to address housing issues along the Columbia River.

The most important thing now is to keep the current progress at Celilo moving forward, Warm Springs Tribal Chief Delvis Heath told the group.

Alternative energy and water conservation

Native rights and environmental activist Wynona LaDuke is interested in donating \$2,000 to \$5,000 to Celilo for alternative energy such as solar or wind power. Al Thienie, LaDuke's representative, presented her offer at the April Wy-Am Board meeting and said it may also be possible to get a \$50,000 to \$100,000 energy grant from the Northwest Environmental Defense Center.

"Residents would be generating their own power," Thienie said. "Any extra could be sold to Wasco County PUD." Accompanying Thienie was Ernie Wisner, who spoke about using gray water and bioswales to increase the capacity of the lagoons.

Wy-Am Board chairman Antone Minthorn and board advisor Louie Pitt thought that both these ideas would save on operations and maintenance over the long term. Miller said the Corps would be willing to work with Thienie and Wisner on those concepts and tie them to the existing designs.



Louie Pitt

Dance shed

Architect Chuck Archer drew preliminary sketches for a new dance shed based on residents' input. The sketches are on display at the longhouse.

The tribes often need meeting spaces in the Gorge, Pitt said. If the dance shed was sized to accommodate meetings it could generate rental income for the village.

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.

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Next Wy-Am Board meeting

Thursday, May 24, 2007, 10 a.m.

Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall

- Construction update

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

CTWS: Ron Suppah, Reuben Henry

YIN: Ray James, Sam Jim, Sr.