

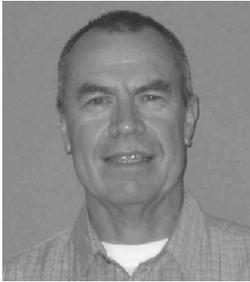


Cowlitz Indian Tribe

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 2
2014 FALL NEWSLETTER

YOOYOOLAH!

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Saturday November 1-

In working with BIA Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn we have pushed the Department of the Interior to move forward with its decision to acquire the Cowlitz parcel in trust without further delay, asking that they take the steps necessary to complete the trust acquisition process. The delay resulting from the BIA's self-stay in the litigation relating to that decision is causing the Tribe significant harm. In April 2013 the DOI issued a decision to take into trust the Tribe's 152-acre parcel, now pending litigation. The federal government filed a self-stay in the litigation, by which it agreed not to take the land in trust until after May 31, 2014, and not before providing a 30-day notice. Because three full months have passed since the expiration of the self-stay date, and because the Cowlitz Tribe increasingly suffers demonstrable harm from the delay, we have demanded that the federal government issue the required 30-day notice, and that the Department complete the remaining title and other requirements so that it can take the land into trust as required by the rules.

Our partner, Salishan/Mohegan, provides the funding for moving our reservation land through the federal court's process. The Grand Ronde Tribe, the La Center Card Rooms, Clark County, the city of Vancouver, CARS, and local land owners filed their new lawsuits.

In addition to the need for compliance with the clear requirements of the law, there are several additional reasons why it is essential that the Department act now to acquire the Cowlitz parcel in trust. First, in the spirit of "justice delayed is justice denied," we submitted our fee-to-trust application on the same day our recognition was restored; twelve years later we are still landless. It took eight years for the Department to

make its original decision to take the land into trust in December 2010, which now is nearly four years ago. We have been waiting for more than twelve years since we filed the trust application -- more than eight years for a decision on the application, 2 years litigating the case on the 2010 Record Of Decision (ROD), and another year and a half litigating the Department's April 2013 ROD -- and we still have no land in trust.

The continued delay in taking the land into trust has imposed real hardships on the Cowlitz Tribe and the region as a whole. Because the Tribe continues to be landless, our tribal government does not have a central location to provide adequate administrative functions and provide additional services for the large, under-served native population of the region. We continue to be ineligible to apply for or receive a large number of federal grants, we have had very little opportunity to generate revenue, we continue to have to pay taxes on our land, legal fees continue to accrue, and as a result, our members and the Cowlitz community continue to be adversely affected due to the lack of a land base. The tribe will benefit greatly for having our land in trust even before litigation for gaming is complete in many other areas:

- Property taxes burden will be reduced
- Interest-free or low interest-rate loans from USDA
- Rural Development Program for housing-related infrastructure, water, sewer, improvements; tribal members would be able to access these if parcel were in trust
- Households purchasing cars without sales tax if the land were in trust

We will be eligible for a number of reservation-based federal grants, including:

- Natural resources grant funding -- Tribal Wildlife Grant Program (wildlife restoration grants);

- ✦ Indian Business Development program
- ✦ Numerous financial assistance and social services programs (e.g., tribal burial assistance, tribal work experience program, disaster assistance, emergency assistance, adult care assistance)
- ✦ Employment Assistance for Adult Indians
- ✦ Vocational Training for Adult Indians
- ✦ Tribal court grants
- ✦ DOT expansion grants -- to expand tribal transportation programs
- ✦ Emergency management grants for police and fire department
- ✦ Education grants
- ✦ USDA Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

The Department should act now to take the Cowlitz parcel into trust.

Economic development opportunities as follows;

- ✦ Convenience Stores - if the parcel were in trust;
- ✦ Gas/fuel compact - if the Cowlitz parcel were in trust, the Tribe could operate a gas station;
- ✦ Tobacco compact - if the Cowlitz parcel were in trust, the Tribe could sell cigarettes;
- ✦ Alcohol compact - if the Cowlitz parcel were in trust, the Tribe could sell alcohol;
- ✦ Transportation - if the Tribe had land in trust, it could expand transportation service delivery area and provide better service to its members; it also could buy its own facility instead of leasing a facility, and would have more funding options

The Tribe faces many more hurdles and additional time delays in attempting to prepare the land for development because of its non-trust status, all of which would be remedied by federal action placing the Cowlitz parcel in trust. Finally, both the Tribe and the federal government actually would benefit from the resulting case law on its Carciere test case stemming from the litigation.

For all these reasons, the Department should act now to take the Cowlitz parcel in trust -- it would help to alleviate the significant delays and attendant costs that the Cowlitz Tribe has suffered since making its trust application, it would be consistent with Departmental policy, regulations, and practice, it would be legally prudent, and it would provide the Cowlitz Tribe, which has been attempting to reestablish its

homeland for over a century, with some small measure of justice now. Once the land is placed in trust, we can exercise sovereignty through initial use and development in advance of full development of the reservation.

Governor Jay Inslee, the State Gambling Commission and the BIA approved our gaming compact that will allow the Cowlitz to receive some new revenue by leasing its machine allocation to other tribes, while we wait for our casino to open. Approval of the Class III Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the

Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the State of Washington is effective August 7, 2014 as published in the Federal Register by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was established in 1849 to fulfill its trust responsibilities and to promote self-determination by providing contracts, grants and compacts, as well as direct services to 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives enrolled in 562 federally recognized tribal governments.

The Cowlitz Gaming Compact was approved by the State Gaming Commission in May 2014 and soon after was signed by Governor Jay Inslee and me on June 16, 2014. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Kevin Washburn, approved and signed the compact on behalf of the federal government on July 31, 2014 and with the publication in the Federal Register today, it is now in effect. The notice of approval is a significant marker in the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's history.

The Columbia River Treaty was implemented in 1964, as an agreement with Canada. The treaty was developed to benefit flood protection and power production. We are urging the State Department to reopen discussions with Canada with a new emphasis to modernize the Treaty to benefit more than just power production and flood control. The Cowlitz Tribe is a major participant in this potentially historic endeavor.

The revised Treaty must incorporate a comprehensive ecosystem-based function approach throughout the Columbia Basin watershed in the U.S. and Canada. To address ecosystem-based function, the CRT must be revised to:

- ✦ Reduce flood risk reservoir drafts in all but the highest water years;
- ✦ Adjust winter power operations and increase

- spills to improve fish migration and survival
- ✦ Gain long term assurance of ecosystem-based function;
- ✦ Reconnect floodplains and wetlands throughout the basin;
- ✦ Provide clean and abundant water that is sufficient to sustain healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and plants; this is vital to holistic ecosystem-based function and life itself.
- ✦ Restore fish passage which is integral to ecosystem-based function;
- ✦ Ensure that both US and Canada share in the benefits from ecosystem-based functions and develop a joint program to analyze the feasibility of fish passage restoration on the main stem Columbia to Canadian spawning grounds.

Congress passed the *Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014*. This bill will amend the Tax Code to clarify that the programs and services provided by Tribal Governments to protect our citizens are not subject to federal income taxation. Passage of this bill will help align federal tax laws with federal Indian law and policy, strengthen Indian self-determination, and respect the local decisions of tribal governments to improve the general welfare of our community.

The Tribal Council has forwarded a proposal to General Council to enroll eligible children who were under 18 years of age as of January 1, 2006. Please contact the enrollment office for further information.

AMR

Chairman Bill Iyall



FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

2014 continues to bring change, challenge, and progress for the Cowlitz Tribe. As we grow, it continues to be important that the Cowlitz People be involved and informed. I hope that as many as possible of our Tribal Members will attend our November General Council meeting and the many other Tribal events that we have during the year. Our First Salm-

on Ceremony this last June was another great event for our Tribe. It was attended by former Mohegan Chairman Mark Brown, and his brother Kevin Brown, the current Mohegan Chairman. We are very fortunate to have the Mohegan Tribe as our gaming partner.

While we still wait for the Federal Court decision on our Reservation appeal, we now officially have a gaming compact with the State of Washington. Soon we will have some new revenue coming directly to the Tribe from leasing slot machines to other Tribes, while we wait to open our own Casino.

The Tribe is moving forward with the purchase of a building in Clark County, to move our programs from leased space in the Clark County Health Center. The Tribe has also purchased the building we leased in Tukwila for our Seattle Health Clinic. We were able to borrow money at a favorable rate and make the loan payment instead of the lease payments. This will provide the Tribe with valuable property to our north and to our south. The Tribe continues to work with the Federal and State governments on many issues. We have now reached a settlement agreement with the Indian Health Services to recover over \$800,000 that was withheld from the Tribe for back contract support costs for the years of 2006-2010.

Finally, we are in the process of planning a Wapato gathering ceremony for some time in October. Details will be available on the Cowlitz website.

It has always been an honor and a privilege to represent and work for the Cowlitz Tribe. As I like to say, when the Cowlitz People work together, we will succeed. The Cowlitz Tribe is not out to make a difference, we out to make history! Take care.

Philip Harju



FROM TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

Have you heard about the Hazelnut Project? This project will develop a plan for expansion of services to Cowlitz Tribal members and the urban Indian community in King and Pierce Counties from our existing IHS facility located at 15455 65th Ave. South, Tukwila, WA (<http://cowlitz.org/index.php/>)

resources/health-and-human-services/health-human-services-seattle). We are calling it the Hazelnut Project because Tukwila is the Chinook Jargon word for Hazelnut. After leasing the building for two years and establishing a sustainable behavioral health program, Cowlitz acquired this facility in August 2014. The Health and Human Services Department of the Tribe contracts with King County to provide services to Native youth and adults. The Tukwila site, called Cowlitz Tribal Health Seattle because it serves the Seattle metropolitan area, also provides services to Native youth through Agreements with 8 different school districts.

The health care industry is changing throughout the U.S. In Washington State there is momentum to integrate health services with the first shift focused on the integration of mental health and chemical dependency services into Behavioral Health systems. In King County the target for this integration is 2016 with the full integration of all medical and behavioral health services, mandated by Senate Bill 6312, is on track for implementation by 2020. To continue to provide the highest quality, fully integrated clinical services to our members and the Seattle metropolitan Indian community requires that we plan for and build additional programming and facility space on site, and develop a capital plan to support this purpose.

The Tulalip Tribe's Charity Board donated \$10,000 to support initial pre-development work. With these funds the Tribe hired architects from Environmental Works, and a communications professional from Red Hummingbird. Two planning Charrettes have been hosted one on October 8th and another on October 11th to gather input from Tribal members and the community. At the meetings community members shared their vision for programming that would benefit them and their families. Participants' thoughts were recorded and will help the Tribe identify the kinds of services that will best serve our community. The results of the planning charrettes will be developed into a report that will be available to the Membership.

However, continued development of a plan requires additional funding, outside expertise to develop preliminary design work, and development of a capital budget for review and action by the Health Board, the Tribal Council and the General Council.

I am available to speak to any questions or concerns you may have about this project at (360) 353-

9997. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact Elizabeth Tail at (206) 466-5401 or Chairman Bill Iyall at (360) 577-8140.

Vancouver Office: The Tribe acquired a new facility at 7700 NE 26th Avenue in Vancouver, WA. The Cowlitz Health and Human Services Department currently occupies office space in the Clark County Center for Community Health and will relocate this November to the new location, as well as Natural Resources, Administration, and other essential governmental services. .

Child Care: The Child Care and Development Program (CCDP) are now serving families. The program pays a portion of full or half day child care costs to families. Washington residents who are federally recognized tribal members living in Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and Lewis County and who meet the income requirements may apply.

If you are interested in the program, please contact the Administration Office at 360-577-8140 or online at Cowlitz.org (<http://cowlitz.org/index.php/resources/other-services/ccdp>).

Facebook: The Tribe's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cowlitzindiantribe>) has continued to receive positive reviews for professionalism and informative posts about the Tribe, as well as our neighboring Tribes. The page was set up in July 2013 to connect social media with tribal members and our community. We welcome you to "like" the page and follow our posts.

Website: Cowlitz.org provides information on events, special announcements, resources and services for the Cowlitz Community. I encourage you to read about the resources provided to the community and at our campuses in Tukwila, Toledo, Longview and Vancouver Washington.

Other services offered: Burial Assistance is offered to any enrolled tribal member or immediate family member, no matter where they live. The Tribe will pay up to \$4,000 directly to the facility handling the arrangements that will be applied to the disposition of the decedent and tomb. The assistance is managed by Randy Russell in the Administration Department.

Thank You for your time.

*Whitney Devlin,
Executive Administrative Assistant*

TRIBAL GAMING AUTHORITY

The CTGA continues to move forward and work with our partner, Salishan/Mohegan, on planning for the casino development as we wait for the federal court's decision on our trust land application and our initial reservation proclamation.

On June 15th we took a major step forward when we signed our Class III Gaming Compact with the state of Washington. The Secretary of the Interior approved the Compact on August 1st. With the compact approved we have an allocation of 975 gaming devices which we can now lease to other Tribes while we wait for our own casino to open. As of this writing we have leased 200 machines and are hard at work at reaching agreement on leasing the rest. Revenue from these machine leases should start arriving in the next few months. Decisions on the use of these new funds will be made by the Tribal Council.

Updating the lawsuits (filed by the Grand Ronde Tribe, the La Center Card Rooms, Clark County, the City of Vancouver, CARS, and local land owners), as of January all the briefs in the case have been filed with the U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. We continue to wait for Judge Rothstein to issue her opinion in the case. There is no time deadline for the court to act, but we expect that her opinion will be issued very soon. There are four amicus briefs supporting our side, filed by the City of La Center, the Warm Springs Tribe, the Samish Tribe, and USET/the Jamestown Tribe. The one amicus brief filed against us was filed by the "Chinook Nation". (The Chinook Nation is a different group than the Chinook Tribe.)

The lawsuits challenge the Secretary's decisions on several grounds: lack of Secretarial authority to take the land into trust under the Carcieri decision; NEPA violations; lack of historical connection to the land; errors in approval of the tribal gaming ordinance; and the accuracy of the Cowlitz enrollment rolls. The case has fallen behind the schedule we hoped for last spring, but we hope to have a decision very soon. We expect that will be followed by an appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington D.C.

The federal government had previously agreed to hold off taking the land into trust until the end of May. Since that deadline expired, we have been working with the Secretary to get him to publish his 30 day notice to take the land into trust and issue the Res-

ervation Proclamation for our land. We now expect that the Secretary will most likely put the land into trust once the lower court decision is issued and while the appeals are pending. However, we expect that the Plaintiffs would fight any such action by the Secretary. While the tribe would not start casino construction until the lawsuit is resolved, having trust land earlier would open the door for land based grants, and would be a positive step towards reestablishing our homeland.

On the congressional front, regrettably there has been no action by congress on a Carcieri fix, although the Chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Senator Tester of Montana, is a good friend of Indian Country remains supportive of such legislation. A clean Carcieri fix is the congressional solution that Cowlitz and most other tribes support. It would reverse the Supreme Court's Carcieri decision and restore the Secretary of the Interior's authority to take land into trust for all federally recognized. This would eliminate one of the major issues in our lawsuit.

While the federal legal process goes on, we continue to work on project planning for the casino infrastructure including the sewer system and improvements to the I-5 interchange. The planning of the I-5 intersection improvements is well underway by the state Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. We expect their work on the Intersection Justification Report will be completed early next year. Once that is completed, the state and federal permit process will move forward. We continue to work with the city of La Center on an off-site sewer option, have held discussions on a third option - joining the new Clark County regional sewer system.

We recently began the architect selection process for the casino. The Request for Proposals went out to six architectural firms last month, and we plan to start the final architect selection process this November.

Sonny Bridges, Chairman

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Fire and Ice Scenic Loop:

dAVE burlingame and I continue to attend the Fire and Ice Scenic Loop steering committee meetings. Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Council of Governments over-

sees the steering committee meetings and the Corridor Management Plan grant. Last year the COG staff did a revision of the scope of work and reviewing the work that had been completed by the former consultants which was presented to the Steering Committee at their January meeting.

The Fire and Ice Scenic Loop, referred to as FISL, is a Corridor Management Plan that combines the White Pass and Lewis and Clark Scenic Byways (State Routes 12 and 14 respectively), Wind River Ridge, Forest Road 90 and 99 from Stevenson to Randle, State Routes 503 and 504, and Interstate 5.

Committee members identified two areas of focus for the project: (1) the SR 504 corridor; (2) the Stevenson-to-Randle corridor. Efforts for the SR 504 corridor will focus on the international and national traveler looking at the Mount St. Helens' experience, typically as an overnight visitor, while efforts along the Stevenson to Randle route will focus on the regional, recreationally focused visitor looking at a longer visit and potentially an "off-the-grid" experience. The emphasis of the committee's work will be to identify the services, transportation, infrastructure and needs of these types of visitors on these two routes.

The Steering Committee met to discuss access concerns on SR 504, and land use on both the SR 504 route and the Stevenson to Randle route.

Committee members drafted a Vision Statement and Project Goals as follows:

Vision Statement: "In conjunction with other regional tourism related partners, create, promote and enhance a tourism loop around Mount St. Helens that encompasses Skamania, Lewis and Cowlitz Counties to encourage economic opportunities presented by the monument in Southwest Washington."

Project Goals:

- Identify current and additional road and site locations that would provide the visitor's expanded recreational opportunities and enhance economic vitality.
- Identify tourism opportunities to expand seasonal recreation, visitor services, tourism infrastructure and marketing.
- Develop shared priorities and a long-term partnership to coordinate economic development and

tourism opportunities for the region.

- Examine and pursue funding opportunities for recommended investments.

2014 Road Maintenance Projects:

This summer the Transportation Department put out to bid for two maintenance projects, but did not receive any bids. I did not get this project out for bid until late August due to the funding coming to the tribe late from BIADOT. The two projects will go back out for bid early spring.

1. 1055 9th Ave., Longview will be doing a traffic calming project, cleaning and restriping parking area and additional safety issues.
2. 107 Spencer Rd, Toledo (St. Mary's) has ADA compliant issues that need to be addressed, clean and restripe access roads and parking lots. Paint wheel stops for better visibility and ADA access points.

Cowlitz Tribe Transit Program:

The Transit Program for the tribe has been a huge success. Being a Demand Response program CTTS is usually booked out, up to 2 weeks. It's nice to see the tribal members using the system more and more. We do life sustaining trips 5 days a week for dialysis, shopping trips, taking elder's to the mall to their mall walks for exercise, shopping, medical trips and many other activities.

It's that time of year again when the department will be applying for transit grants to sustain the program. We currently received funding to purchase a new ADA van from Federal Transit Administration/Tribal Transportation Program. Washington State Department of Transportation's Public Transportation Division announced their funding for FY 2015-2017. The program will also be applying for a planning grant with WSDOT to look at putting in a fixed route between St. Mary's and Longview and expanding towards the tribal property in Vancouver. Those grant applications are due November 19, 2014. Federal Transit Administration Tribal Transportation Program funds should be awarded by March 2015, this is formula funds and BIADOT should be something in February.

Currently the Long Range Transportation Plan is being updated. The goal is to have it to Tribal Council by the December meeting to review and approved

by January, 2015. I know in 2015 I will still have to have amendments to the plan, but this is a requirement from the BIA to have a new document in place for any transportation projects and tribal/non-tribal roads.

Kim Stube
Transportation Director



GRANTS UPDATE

Jan Healy, Grant Writer

It's been a fruitful six months, with grants arriving to support the Tribe's vital work!

GRANTS AWARDED:

Natural Resources Department:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund awarded the Tribe a grant for a habitat improvement project on Abernathy Creek in Cowlitz County. The department's restoration ecologist, Eli Asher, will manage the project, continuing work on the creek that the Tribe began several years ago. The purpose is to increase the quality and quantity of spawning, rearing and adult holding habitat for salmon and steelhead. Awards will be announced in late summer.

Administration Department:

The Tribe received a cancer prevention grant from the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. Our proposal, developed by Youth Board and managed through the Administration Department, focused on sun protection and exercise promotion. Youth Board distributed hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen to Elders and Cowlitz children and held a t-shirt design contest with a cancer prevention theme. The grant also paid for exercise mats, jump ropes, and exercise balls.

Health and Human Services Department:

The Tribe's Pathways to Healing (PTH) program, for those who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual assault, received the first of three years of funding from the state's Office of Crime Victims Advocacy for sexual assault victims services. PTH Program Manager Debbie Hassler will manage the grant from the Tribe's new office building on 78th street, just

north of Vancouver. PTH staff will also continue serving clients from the Longview office.

Cowlitz County has awarded the Tribe a contract to help prevent mental health and substance abuse problems in American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Therapy for the county youth will feature the Healing of the Canoe curriculum, developed by the Suquamish Tribe, in cooperation with a research project of the University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. The program uses values and behaviors that are important in canoe journeys to convey life skills to children from 14-18 years old to give them a sense of cultural belonging, optimism, resilience, and to help prevent substance abuse and the development of behavioral health problems.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Indian Health Service recently awarded two grants that continue funding for current programs: The Special Diabetes Program for Indians and the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI). Maggie Miller continues as the diabetes program manager and clinic manager Rob Allen will manage the MSPI grant, which focuses on providing mental health counseling and related services.

We were also successful with our application for five more years of funding for the Tribe's vocational rehabilitation program. Shari Hughes will continue managing the program.

Another application was under consideration at press time by Indian Health Service. Their Joint Venture Construction Program requires that tribes commit to building, or buying and renovating, a health care facility that meets IHS design criteria and approval. IHS provides no funding but in exchange for leasing the facility back to IHS for 20 years, the agency requests appropriations from Congress for 85% of the maintenance and operation costs during the lease, excluding existing staff. The highly-competitive program favors tribes that are trying to replace or renovate medical buildings that are in poor condition and isolated from hospitals. We applied to create a new primary care clinic in Clark County.

GRANTS IN PROGRESS:

I'm working with Transportation Department Director Kim Stube on a grant application to the Washington Department of Transportation to operate

and conduct planning for Cowlitz Tribal Transit Service (CTTS). The 2015-2017 Public Transportation Consolidated Grant requires that regional transportation planning organizations have approved and ranked our proposed projects. The WSDOT grants continue to be a vital part of CTTS's service in rural parts of Cowlitz and Lewis counties, near I-5. Funding would begin next July. The application is due November 19.

GRANTS DENIED:

We had requested a grant from the Charlotte Martin Foundation to cover most of the costs for the Cowlitz Youth Camp, *Traveling with Our Ancestors*, held this August at Battle Ground Lake State Park. A previous grant from the foundation helped fund last year's Youth Language Camp. The foundation does not favor repeat applications. Another grant application to help cover camp costs was to the Association on American Indian Affairs. The organization has very limited funds and did not approve our proposal.

Unfortunately, our application to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a five-year grant to reduce and prevent diabetes, heart disease, and stroke in a defined "target population" was not selected for funding.

ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT

Our current enrollment criteria have been in effect since January 01, 2006. Applicant must be a direct lineal descendant of a Cowlitz Indian and Applicant must have a parent (mother/father) on Cowlitz Tribal Roll and Applicant shall be no older than 12 months of age. In February of this year the Tribe enrolled 22 infants, in May there were 15 infants enrolled. As I write this in mid-September to forward to the Newsletter Committee there are 28 pending applications with 19 out in the mail, some of which will be returned for review at the October enrollment committee meeting. The office has been notified of ten tribal member deaths so far this year. The current total enrolled population of the Tribe is 3851.

Does the enrollment office have your current contact information? Have you moved or changed your phone number? Have you legally changed your name? If so please be sure you have notified the office so we can update your information.

Randy Russell
Enrollment Officer
 (360) 575-3310 Direct



HEALTH BOARD REPORT

By Cassandra Sellards Reck

The Health Board (HB) continues advocate for our Tribal members' Healthcare needs.

There are many who volunteer on State and Federal committees. Cassandra Sellards Reck is the Chair and represents the Cowlitz Tribe at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC), National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health (NTAC), Clark County Cultural Committee, Southwest Behavioral Health Committee, and is the Cowlitz Youth Board Vice Chair. Steve Kutz is the Cowlitz Tribe's Health and Human Services Deputy Director. He has been representing the Board on behalf of the Tribe nationally at the Health Advisory Committee, HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, Indian Health Service Budget Advisory Committee, Washington State Board of Health, Governors Health Disparities Council, Behavioral Health Advisory Council, Indian Policy Advisory Committee, Public Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee, American Indian Health Commission, Tribal Mental Health Advisory Committee, IHS Facilities Advisory Committee (PFAC), Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance and Cowlitz County Mental Health Advisory Committee. In addition, he is alternate to the NPAIHB, alternate to All Tribes of Northwest Indians, and to the National Congress of American Indians. Patty Kinswa-Gaiser attends the Native Indian Child Welfare Association meetings, NPAIHB as a representative on the Elders Committee, is a Cowlitz Youth Board member, National Indian Health Board (NIHB) conferences and so many more. John De Nobrega attends many of the American Indian Health Commission meetings, NIHB conferences and NPAIHB. Charity Sabido-Hodges is involved with the Cowlitz Veterans Program, Cowlitz Youth Board member, and is the Vice Chair of the Southwest Be-

havioral Health. Melody Pfeifer is the Cowlitz Youth Department Chair. Debbie Hassler is the program manager for the Pathways to Healing and is a member of the Cowlitz Youth Board. We are blessed to have such hard working Cowlitz Health Board members with such diverse interests. With so much happening in health care it is vital to stay on top of the issues and stay informed. The Health Board is actively involved with health care reform and advocating in Washington for no-cost health care for Tribal members.

Contact Support Costs:

The Tribe was able to negotiate our Contract Support Costs settlement with the Indian Health Service. We were able to receive over \$840,000 that can be used for the healthcare of our people. A big Thank you to Bill Iyall, Phil Harju, Dan Meyer, Jess Groll, Whitney Devlin, and Steve Kutz for attending this important meeting.

Surveys:

We are reviewing the surveys we conducted at the June General Council. Moving forward we will be having a strategic planning session in October. We are always looking for input from our Tribal members. With a significant amount of savings, we are looking to expand services. Please always feel free to tell us what you need for yourself, your family and our community.

IHS Listening Session:

On August 27 Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director of Indian Health Service (IHS), held a listening session in Portland, Oregon. Cassandra Sellards Reck, Steve Kutz and Chairman Iyall were able to attend and give advice regarding the needs in the Cowlitz community. Bill and Steve were able to provide feedback regarding the difficult process of negotiating the recovery of the Contract Support Costs. Cassandra as the NPAIHB representative was able to advocate for the TLDC and NTAC needs across the nation, and our contingent was able to advocate for the Cowlitz need for an increase in health care funding for our people.

A Brief Legislative Update:

At the Federal level we remind the government of the federal trust responsibility and the chronic and severe underfunding of the Indian health system—along with the significant health disparities of Indian people. Congress and Administration should exempt the IHS appropriation from discretionary funding budget reductions, and enact an Amendment to the Budget Control Act of 2011 to fully exempt the IHS

budget from sequestration. This would allow IHS to have the funding it needed. Indian Health is only funded at about 50% of the actual need. This level is unacceptable, and it's very important that we continue to work with Tribes across the nation to remind Congress of the underfunding and of their obligations.

The reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) makes improvements to the Indian health care system in several ways. The legislation sets to improve workforce development and recruitment of health professionals, provides new authorities to fund facilities construction as well as maintenance and improvement funds to address priority facility needs, and creates opportunities to improve access and financing of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Increasing funding for Substance Abuse in Mental Health and Alcohol Dependency continues to be a focus for our Cowlitz Health Board and every other Native Health organization. The President's budget proposes a \$7.4 million increase in funding for alcohol and substance abuse programs. More needs to be done to address the behavioral health needs of tribal communities. The circle of violence, depression, and substance abuse continues to plague tribal communities. Methamphetamine use is on the rise resulting in tremendous costs to the Indian health care system. Currently, there are no Tribal programs in the Northwest that provide for this type of treatment for adults. The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board recommends an additional \$17.5 million for the IHS alcohol/substance abuse line item.

The Cowlitz Indian Tribal mental health program is continuing to grow. However the need is great all across the nation. We continue to advocate for increasing Mental Health funding for Tribes. The President's budget reduces mental health funding by \$8.5 million to phase in staffing and fund new Tribes. The reprogramming of mental health funds will result in budgets being reduced for all Tribes because the President's requested increase of \$4 million is not sufficient to cover the costs of IHS reprogramming mental health funds.

Diabetes Update: Just recently Cassandra Sellards Reck attended the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As Tribal leaders across the nation we were being asked to discuss the \$150 million that is given to fight diabetes in our community. We were able to make some unanimous recom-

mendations to forward to Dr. Roubideaux. These recommendations will be forwarded to all Tribal Chairs and Boards across the nation. Just recently the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, John Tester (D-MT) introduced S. 2830, a bill that would authorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) permanently. Currently it is set to expire on September 30, 2015. We are grateful for his courage to introduce a permanent authorization for SDPI. This program is saving lives in Indian Country and making great strides to reduce the trend of Type 2 Diabetes in our community. A permanent authorization is absolutely the right move for promoting better patient care.

Conclusion:

As always it's an absolute pleasure to be able to represent the Tribe in our community. We advocate for your healthcare and we are making plans to expand your health care benefits. The dental benefit was just expanded for all in the contract services (CHS) area, physical therapy visits increased, medical equipment coverage expanded, speech therapy was authorized, eye glasses yearly were approved, and an increase to hearing aid benefits. At the September Cowlitz Health Board meeting we approved starting with Tribal members in the CHS areas of Clark, Skamania, Cowlitz Wahkiakum, Lewis Thurston, Pierce, King, Kittitas and Columbia County in Oregon to provide for payment of membership to a quality fitness center of your choice. The HB will review and keep track of costs. The goal is to promote wellness and prevent health problems in our Tribal members. Attendance at least 2 times a week is the only requirement. Every 3 months the participants will be required to show their attendance and have it reviewed by Cowlitz HHS. Accounting will pay the membership fees. This is an exciting new opportunity and we hope to improve the quality of life of our Tribal members.

With the changes and improvements coming, if you have any questions please contact the Health and Human Service Department or Contract Health Services representatives. We do this work from the heart and for the next seven generations.

Health Board

Chair: Cassandra Sellards Reck

Vice Chair: John De Nobrega

Secretary: Linda Foley

Patty Kinswa-Gaiser

Steve Kutz
Melody Pfeifer
Carolee Morris
Cathy Raphael
Charity Sabido-Hodges

Committee Members

Debbie Hassler
Sheryl Bertucci



EDUCATION AND TRIBAL COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

In January, the Education Committee had elections. Mike Iyall is Chair, Karissa Lowe is Vice-Chair, and Becky Lowe is Secretary. Committee members are Suzanne Donaldson-Stephens, Celine Cloquet, Lenny Bridges, and David Iyall.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Washington State University for their generous scholarships. There are two Memorandum of Understanding scholarships reserved for Cowlitz at the Pullman campus. Cowlitz may also apply for two scholarships available at the Tri-Cities and Vancouver campuses.

We continue to work to find more scholarships for our members and will add new scholarships to the website as we receive information about them. Please check the Tribal website often, and follow the links to scholarships available from other organizations.

Special thanks to the web-masters past and present for their help in making this service available to our tribal members.

As Tribal Council Vice-Chair, I am working to build closer relationship for the Tribe with Washington Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, National Parks, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Lewis County Department of Emergency Management. This is necessary and aids us in delivery of services for our tribal members. Thank You.

Mike Iyall

**HONORING THE SPIRIT OF ALL
COWLITZ PEOPLE
15TH ANNUAL COWLITZ
POW WOW
SEPTEMBER 20, 2014**

*By Suzanne Donaldson-Stephens,
Pow Wow Committee Chair Woman*

I would like to acknowledge our hard working Committee Members, without whom this event would not be possible! The Pow Wow Committee is 100% volunteers and we do not receive a stipend.

Vice Chair: Larry Knutson
Secretary: Linda Foley
Treasurer: Jane Meyer
Lenny Bridges
Celine Cloquet
Lindsey Foley
Jennifer Johnson
Patty Kinswa-Gaiser
Kevin King
Teona Kinswa
Don Ryan
Curt Stephens

In addition to our committee we have several 'Key Volunteers' who are always on hand to help! They are Karisa Powers, Coleen Bridges, Cameron Knutson, Shirley Ward (smoked salmon), Fred Gaiser (fish transportation), Clint Bublitz (Graphic Design), Cowlitz Canoe Family (Serve Dinner).

We have an excellent relationship with Green Hill School staff members, who bring students who volunteer and participate in the Pow Wow. We are so very grateful for their help as they are young and strong!

We are not funded by the tribe nor are we grant recipients. We receive donations of cash and food items from a number of individuals and businesses in our local area. In addition, many of the committee members donate personal funds and resources. We also generate revenue by selling Pow Wow and Cowlitz Indian Tribe Merchandise. You can find us in the lobby at St. Mary's at the June and November General Council Meetings. At this time we do not have an online store but we can ship merchandise anywhere in the US.

This was our best Pow Wow yet! We had a total of 8 drums including 5 that had never been to our pow wow and more dancers attended. We have had excellent feedback from attendees who said that they love our pow wow because of the positive energy that makes them feel good.

Headman and Headwoman dancers were Ed and Vickie Wulf, along with Kevin King as Arena Director and Don Ryan (Cowlitz) as Master of Ceremonies.

Events for the day included honoring Veterans with handmade gifts at grand entries, over 30 vendor booths,



Shana Lombard

competition dancing, smoked salmon, salmon dinner, raffles, and the program for kids during the dinner break. We were honored to have Aztec Dancers also perform during the dinner break. Krispy Kreme Doughnuts

were available for purchase through their Fund Raising Program. We sold out and plan to have them again next year.

In part, this event is possible due to the variety of merchandise, including this year's shirts, and Cowlitz Tribal logo-wear purchased at the General Council meetings in June and November and again at the Pow Wow. Please continue to support us by purchasing items, as your assistance is important in funding our annual Pow Wow for a number of years. Another fund-raiser that will also be of help is the homemade cinnamon rolls with juice or coffee just prior to the General Council meeting in June. Monetary donations are also welcomed. We accept cash, check,

and debit/credit.

Follow updates related to our pow wow at the Cowlitz tribal website (cowlitz.org/events) or “Like” us at Cowlitz Indian Tribe Pow Wow on Facebook! There you can find information about vendor details and registration forms as well as contact information for some of the Committee members. This is a tremendous cultural event to be a part of and we welcome your interest, your help, and your support throughout the year, including the day of the pow wow, to continue to help offer our community a full flavor of Cowlitz culture.

We have already started planning for the 2015 Cowlitz Indian Tribe Pow Wow! We are considering hosting an Outdoor Pow Wow in the future if we can secure a location and raise additional funds. In addition, we are accepting submissions of designs for next year’s t-shirts, due in early April 2015. The creator of the design chosen by the committee receives \$200.

We are a small Pow Wow but we are growing and we are still learning. We welcome suggestions and comments.

We welcome new Committee Members to pass our wisdom to! Specific information on who to contact in order to help your tribe present this annual, successful event is located on the Tribe’s website or contact Pow Wow Chair Woman Suzanne Donaldson Stephens at suzanne@donaldson-enterprises.com.

PATHWAYS TO HEALING PROGRAM

Debbie Hassler, Program Manager

It has been a busy six months! Since the last newsletter the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Pathways to Healing Program (PTH) took on new approaches with innovative strategies, which led to an amazing success with our community organizing. We planned, reflected, and evaluated our program and grant deliverables to create a yearlong project to evaluate, train, and provide resources to our Health and Human Services (HHS) department staff. PTH staff worked to create these trainings for HHS after our successful community development process last year and guidance from our stakeholders.

Amanda Workman and Debbie Hassler provided training to Mental Health staff, Tribal Treatment staff, Seattle Staff (youth mental health and treatment)

and Vocational Rehabilitation staff. The trainings were three hours and done by individual programs. The training included topics around high rates of victimization for Native communities, responding to disclosures of victimization, screening for violence, and program specific topics to the population they serve. This was a huge undertaking. Staff wrote, developed, and created training curriculum that was specific to each program’s discipline and links victimization to substance abuse, mental health, disabilities, physical health, and youth.

Along with the trainings we implemented a screening tool that asks a series of questions around victimization to clients of each program. Clients/patients had the option to not participate if they wanted and this is kept confidential and anonymous. We asked each program to collect screening tools for 30 days to get a snapshot of their client’s victimization. We are currently in the process of going back into each program and presenting them their results, challenges, successes, and additional training if needed/requested. Some programs have decided they would continue collecting the data as it has proven to be effective in working with their clients/patients. The trainings were well received.

We have sent out our post training survey as well as the screening tool results to share with the Health Board. We have also spent some time evaluating the effectiveness of all our publications and how we can help streamline the information we are delivering to our community. We recreated, discontinued, and revamped several of our publications!

If you are interested in any information from PTH please contact our office at 360-397-8228 or via email pathwaystohealing@cowlitz.org. We have spent some time reflecting on last year’s accomplishments and struggles to guide us through this year.





KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Kelso Indian Education Program began in the late 1970's with approximately 50 students with Native American heritage and has grown to well-developed academic and cultural program with 400 students who represent 63 of the 566 tribes in the United States. Students are identified through the district's student record system as American Indian/Alaska Native, and once our federal form is completed and returned to our program, we are able to count/serve the student. Our program is totally federally funded based on our student count window chosen for Part I of our Federal Grant Application which we apply for each year. For more information about enrolling students who are in the Kelso School District, please contact Shelley Hamrick at 501-1655.

We provide academic help for 67 students in our tutoring program at 5 of our elementary buildings, both middle schools and the high school. Students are selected for tutoring based on academic need, principal and teacher input and based on student's attendance.

Since the beginning of this school year, over 70 students and their families have attended our cultural activities which include Culture Classes, Native American club meetings and other evening events at Wallace Elementary where our program is housed.

We have a wonderful classroom full of resources for teachers, parents, students and community members. Our children's library of 512 books of various reading levels and includes fiction and non-fiction books alike. Accelerated Reading levels are labeled on each book to allow students to find books at their level and to take the AR test upon completion.

Our adult library houses 472 books from general information about Native Americans to specific tribes and tribal leaders. We also have a section on Tribal Arts and Crafts.

We have 6 Cultural Curriculum Kits for teacher check-out to be used in the classroom. These kits are listed on our eBoard that is linked to our program website under programs on the District webpage. We are excited to soon have one specific to the Cowlitz

Indian Tribe. Another resource for teachers to access free of charge that is also listed on our eBoard tab for teachers is the OSPI sponsored tribal sovereignty curriculum.

Our big event for the year is our "In Honor of Our Children" Powwow held the 3rd Sat. of May each year at Kelso High. Between 700-1000 people attend the powwow each year and the proceeds from the powwow go to fund our American Indian Hand in Hand Scholarship that our eligible students who attend LCC are able to receive. This event is open to the public and a wonderful cultural experience for all to enjoy. We are thankful to the Cowlitz Tribe who supports us each year in various ways.

CULTURAL RESOURCES BOARD

By Cassandra Sellards Reck

We have had a very busy year with activities and cultural gatherings. To look back, the Youth Board had very successful Spring and Summer Gatherings. The Salmon Ceremony was beautiful with perfectly made salmon. The 2014 Canoe Journey was special pulling in the Columbia and then celebrating at Ft. Vancouver. In August were able to take the youth to camp at Battle Ground Lake State Park and Grace Therapeutic Horse Program. Roy Wilson completed his Long House and many have come to gather and learn there. The gathering at Ike Kinswa State Park and Cowlitz Canoe Honoring dinner was a huge success. The Huckleberries were ripe in Indian Heaven as the Canoe was honoring our villages on the river. The Health Board sponsored a group of youth and Elders to attend the Northwest Native American Weavers conference. We will be offering a class to teach beginners. We have so much to be grateful for. There are just so many ways for our community to come together. Here are the upcoming events that all are welcome to:

November 15- Youth and Family Language Gathering at St. Mary's 1-3:30pm. From 3:30-6pm, there will be a free cedar weaving class available for beginning weavers. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome.

November 21- Thanksgiving Drumming Dinner and Bingo- All are welcome to the potluck at St. Mary's. Just bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

December 13- Youth Board's Christmas Party- starts at 1pm. We will have an early dinner open to all. Santa Clause always comes to see the youth. There will be lots of crafts and activities for the whole family.

December 18- Drum Group Christmas Gathering- Potluck dinner and Dice game. Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.



**NATURAL
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT**

Taylor Aalvik, Director

Restoration Program

Our restoration crew has done a wonderful job with implementing several restoration projects last summer. They continue to do great work to restore salmon for the region. We recently were approved by the Lower Columbia Fish recovery Board for approximately 1 million dollars for new projects beginning next year. We have been successful in receiving federal grants to implement additional projects. Our Department is now a multi-million dollar program. This is due in large part to the dedicated-professional staff who works hard to do a great job for the Tribe.

US Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

We are finalizing a revision to our MOU with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The revision clarifies and sets forth processes for our traditional use rights within the Forest. Once signed, there will be a number of other agreements to be developed that will allow for our free use and harvest of botanical products such as huckleberries, without going through public permitting processes. We also will be working to secure the opportunity for commercial harvest permits to be administered by our Tribe. This is a huge positive step for further restoration for our Tribe and traditional life-ways. It will provide for a significant boost toward cultural restoration for the Tribe and our co-management authority. Additional information will be provided to tribal members on the progress of subsequent harvest agreements. We are working to have more specifics on harvest opportunities for tribal members by Spring 2015.

Toutle River Sediment Retention Structure (SRS)

The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have come out with plans to raise the Sediment Retention structure (Dam) on the North Fork of the Toutle River, WA. The purpose of the original dam was to hold back sediment due to the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. The dam is currently full with sediment and actions are needed in order to protect downstream communities from the potential of flooding. We have tribal members and government facilities that will need flood protection in the future. They have released a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) which outlines options toward the future management of this river system. Their preferred option is to raise the structure by as much as 23 feet. This will carry significant impacts to fish and wildlife habitat upstream of the SRS. We have been and will continue to coordinate with the Corps to try and get them to do the right thing in regards to fish passage for salmon and other mitigation measures for their proposed actions. It may be necessary to also reach out to officials and elected representatives at the Washington DC level. There are current problems with their original mitigation measures they originally put in place for fish passage. They built a fish collection facility that was poorly designed and is currently negatively impacted by the sediment deposition coming from the SRS. The upper Toutle River has the potential to have a significant positive impact for fish restoration if there was an adequate way to get fish past the SRS. We will do our best to try and convince them for the need to improve upon fish passage at the SRS and continue to engage on this important issue.

Columbia River Treaty (CRT)

We continue to pressure the Federal Government to move forward to reopen discussions and hopeful changes to the CRT with Canada to benefit important resources to the Tribe such as salmon and smelt. Currently, the treaty only is designed to benefit flood protection and power production. The Cowlitz Tribe continues as a major participant in this potentially historic endeavor. September 2014 has passed and the Federal Government has yet to make a decision on what they plan to do in regard to the Treaty. The Columbia Basin Tribes continue to work tirelessly to convince the Federal Government that the Treaty needs to change; to include provisions for the health of the river environment for fish and wildlife. I will be going to Washington DC the last week of October to

again try and convince the Government to do the right thing and pressure Canada to re-negotiate the Treaty. This issue will likely continue years into the future. We will continue to work with 14 other Columbia Tribes that have unified to address the need for change to protect our environment.

Other

We continue efforts on restoring Columbian White-tailed deer, fish passage on the Lewis River, and numerous other projects including prairie habitat restoration and policy representation on many natural resources issues within our homelands. Please contact me if you would like to understand more about the projects and programs we implement for the Tribe.

360-577-8140

COWLITZ YOUTH BOARD

Melody Pfeifer, Chair

Summer Camp was held at Battle Ground Lake State Park, August 15-17 Nathan Reynolds, ecologist for the Natural Resource Department, led youth on a hike through trails and around the lake which at one time was an active volcano. 40 kids were educated about the resources our ancestors used in their daily life: plants and animals from the forest to the prairies where horses roamed. From there the kids were bused to Lucia Falls, about fifteen minutes from camp. Archaeologists date these falls back thousands of years, a gathering place for fishing.



Youth spent Saturday afternoon at Grace Therapeutic Horse stables; there they received teachings from Cowlitz Elder Tanna Engdahl, horseback riding stories about these beautiful four legged majes-

tic animals. How powerful!

Crafts were provided throughout camp, swimming was a blast in the thousand-year-old volcano.

Evenings by the fire we drummed, and youth danced to Cowlitz songs. We began to notice neighboring campers were drawn to our camp; they enjoyed our culture.

Summer camp was a great adventure for all. Receiving a small grant from the Northwest Portland Area Indian health Board Cancer Campaign we purchased youth sunglasses, UV protection head cover, sun screen, and Camp T-shirts promoting cancer awareness for all youth. Best artist chosen for camp T-shirt logo was Oceana McKenzie; her art featured traveling with our ancestors.

Cowlitz Youth Board would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers and youth helpers without you, gatherings would not be possible. Are you interested in Cowlitz youth programs? Please contact (360) 577-8140.

Thank you,
Melody Pfeifer

Youth Board Members:

- Melody Pfeifer – Chair
- Cassandra Sellards-Reck –Vice Chair
- Charity Sabido-Hodges – Secretary
- Devin Reck – Youth Advocate
- Claudia Tenney
- Patty Kinswa-Gaiser
- Debbie Hassler
- Jennifer McCauley

**COWLITZ RIVER
FLOAT 2014**

Friday August 29, eight Cowlitz Tribal Members in four canoes and one drift boat departed Barrier Dam on the Cowlitz River, traveling the waters of our ancestors for four days and three nights, honoring each of the twenty-seven lower Cowlitz village sites.

Twenty-seven years ago, give or take a year,

four young Cowlitz men (Randy Cottonware, Greg LaDue Grove, Michael Hubbs, and dAVE burlingame) set out Labor Day weekend for the experience of a lifetime that continues to this day.

Greg, Michael, and dAVE attended Friday morning with Roy Wilson as the float prepared for the four day journey. Prayer and smudging of the canoes took place as the float party joined, standing in the water for prayer, asking Creator for guidance and protection, uniting us one with the water.

Day two we set off from our first night camp along the river bank where previous night we exchanged stories with the land owner. His wife's family settled the Cowlitz prairie around 1885.

Second night, Cowlitz Landing were welcomed with drumming singing. Our Cowlitz brother

out, Cowlitz skipper JerAmiah Wallace put our big canoe in the water with eight Cowlitz Elders and four additional pullers making the four and a half hour trip down the Cowlitz River from Castle Rock to Longview. Elders were able to witness Ceremony at the remaining village sites, and had a picnic lunch on the big canoe.

The River float was greeted by tribal members and friends; at Gerhardt Gardens. There we shared stories and pizza.

I would like to thank Gary & Marie McGee for providing their boat for support on our last day for our elders and all the wonderful friends we met along our journey.

*Melody Pfeifer
John & Linda O'Brien*



Cowlitz Elders taking part in this year's River Float.

Randy Cottonware cleared tall-standing brush that had overtaken the path. Randy served delicious home-made chili--what an honor to be welcomed in the traditional ways of our ancestors years ago they traveled the river trading, visiting family holding ceremony.

Saturday evening twenty five tribal members gathered for dinner story telling drumming and time around the camp fire.

Day three on the water we understood the knowledge and endurance our ancestors held.

We have traveled down river with the dam at our backs, while the ancestors had no dam to cushion the fast running waters and many times their travels took them up river their strength and fight was very strong.

Day four, Labor Day, Sa ho ee titla was brought



Four of the five vessels leaving on the Float Friday morning.

3rd ANNUAL R.A.I.N. Reaching American Indian Nations

Friday, February 6 | 9am-2pm | Mobius Hall

BE
empowered
WITH
US

Join us for a day dedicated to preparing American Indian, Alaskan Native and First Nations students with the tools needed to access higher education. Students will interact with UW Bothell and Cascadia Community College students, alumni, staff and faculty, engage with speakers, and participate in

cultural and educational workshops. Food provided! FREE Event! Arrange your own transportation.

Contact:

Rachael Meares

rmeares@uwb.edu

(425) 352-3852

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOTHELL



**CULTURAL
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT**

culture@cowlitz.org

Cultural Resource Protection Summit: I traveled to Suquamish for the 7th CRP

Summit. Although this is an excellent place to get back in touch and catch up with Cultural Resources personnel from other Tribes and archaeological firms, I still feel this should be more heavily attended by municipalities and contractors who need a better grasp of what is expected by Tribes as permitting and construction continues. There is always a good dose of cases involving conflict resolution and project detail to show what can be accomplished.

THPO/SHPO Conference: The first acronym stands for “Tribal Historic Preservation Office;” the second “State HPO.” Allyson Brooks, Washington State’s archaeologist, asked Tribes to attend this year’s conference, which was held in Portland on June 4 and 5. For a SHPO, all permits, proposals, etc., that may involve ground disturbing activity within the state are funneled through the office to check the proximity for possible archaeology and/or cultural resources. The



Tanna Engdahl and the Chairman at the Wapato harvest.

project proponent, if the likelihood of a resource can be shown, must then consult with Tribe(s) to arrive at agreement regarding how the resource is to be treated. This is the system under which we currently operate.

The same is true for a THPO, but the Tribe controls the information and the conditions or exceptions that may apply to a permit being granted. This

gives Tribes more leverage in protecting its cultural resources and heritage, and ensuring facets of Tribal life and history remain in our hands. Establishing a THPO is one of the goals of my department.

Youth Mental Health Program Sweat: I was approached by Kara and Chris from Behavioral Health, asking if I would teach some of the children about Sweat Lodge. Kara and Chris arranged for me to meet with the kids and their families at the BH offices the previous week, and I went over the reasons why we sweat and what they could expect during the ceremony. I made sure everyone had opportunity to ask their questions, which were numerous and insightful. The following week (29 July) we held a small, slightly toned-down sweat for the kids, doing our best to keep everyone focused; I invited Randy Cottonware and Greg LaDue Grove to teach, as the three of us were among those reintroduced to the Cowlitz Sweat Lodge. The Ceremony went very well, and I hope the children and families will be able to learn more and use the sweat as part of their well-being.

Rick McClure’s Retirement: After more than 30 years working for the US Forest Service, Rick McClure has retired. Rick was an Archaeologist for the USFS, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest was his primary stomping ground.

I first met Rick about 25 years ago, when we first began talking about returning to the Forest to gather Cedar for basket and mat weaving (Wendy Kin-swa and Michael Hubbs led the discussion). Since that day we have communicated and consulted on countless issues and projects, always with great results. Rick has been a tireless advocate for Tribal involvement in natural and cultural resource issues, and his devotion should serve as a model for other Forest Service personnel.

Steve Kutz and I made the trip to Trout Lake on September 20 to attend his retirement gathering, which was attended by at least a hundred people. We gifted him a Pendleton blanket, a Health Walk shirt, a cedar headband woven by our youth, and a drum on which I will be painting an original design.

Rick once told me once he retires he plans to continue working in archaeology, with the difference being he’ll get to work on the projects he wants, instead of what was dictated by his job. With that in mind, he also said he’s looking forward to continuing work with the Cowlitz on an assortment of issues, including

Huckleberry restoration.

Wapato Harvest: On October 16, a small group, led by David Morgan, harvested Wapato.

The Morgan family, which owns the land (located near Ridgefield) where we harvested, has been most cooperative with the Tribe over the years, helping out with various projects. Rhidian, the Elder Morgan, granted us access, and we were led out by his Son David. The window of opportunity was small, so we couldn't send out notice well in advance; we were dancing around the few days when hunting was not allowed in the area.

Wapato, sometimes called "Indian Potato," is a tuber topped by an arrow-shaped leaf. The plant is dug up and the bulb is extracted. It can then be processed in a number of ways.

Roy gave some opening remarks and a prayer, as well as telling a flood story once told him by a Cowlitz Elder. Tanna and the Chairman also gave words, and all thanked the Morgan family for allowing this Ceremony to take place on their property.

Almost everyone took part in digging the plants and sorting through the dirt to find the bulbs. We built a fire, washed the Wapato in the river, wrapped and cooked it.

Once the cooking was done, the rewards could then be reaped, which was the eating of the Wapato. It has an interesting, almost nutty taste, and I can easily see myself eating this often. We are looking forward to future Harvesting Ceremonies, when more people will be able to participate.

Thank You for your time.

*All My Relations,
dAVE burlingame*

Director, Cultural Resources Department.



Top bit of a Wapato plant.



David Morgan digging for Wapato



The tasty bit of the Wapato plant, ready for processing.





Cowlitz Indian Tribe

P.O. Box 2547
Longview, WA 98632

Address service requested

LATE BREAKING ANNOUNCEMENT

It's time to celebrate! We have pressed on for 12 years in an effort to service Tribal Members fully with services only available with trust land. The Department of Justice has just issued a 90 day notice of their intent to acquire our land in trust, providing our people the resources necessary to thrive. This is a most significant moment in Cowlitz history. Check the website for a Trust Land celebration!

Don't forget our November General Council Meeting, Sat. Nov.1 at St. Mary's, starting at 10 AM. Lunch is potluck, so please bring something to share!
St. Mary's is located at 107 Spencer Rd., at the intersection of Jackson Hwy. with the flashing light near Toledo.

The Pow Wow Committee will be selling smoked Salmon at Saturday's meeting.

Please come to the Holiday Potlatch Bazaar,
Saturday, December 6, 9AM to 5PM. at St. Mary's
Native Art, Vintage Collectables, Kids Craft Corner, Baked Goods,
Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Raffle Items, Child Care Provided for Shoppers
Food: Indian Taco (\$3), Fry Bread (\$2), Hot Dogs (\$1), Soda, Coffee, or Juice (\$.50)
Vendor Tables \$10. Please call Sandy (360-864-4057) or Deb (864-7006) with questions.
Sponsored by Cowlitz Elders