



Cowlitz Indian Tribe

2014 SPRING NEWSLETTER

YOOYOOLAH!



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Klahowya –It's time for our largest gathering of the year - June 7th - The Annual General Council Meeting starts at 10 am at St Mary's. It is a time that we can all look forward to. The Youth Board

hosts the Youth Day Gathering at St. Mary's so that parents can be in the meeting. The First Salmon Ceremony will be held on Sunday June 8th at 10 am.

We will be welcoming special guests, including Mohegan Tribal Chairman Kevin Brown and other Mohegan Tribal Council members who are coming to share the weekend events. We are thankful for their diligent work in support of our casino project. We are seeing movement in the reservation law suit. It is important to know that the court is holding to a schedule. On April 22nd 2013 the Department of Interior approved the Tribe's request to take 151 acres of land in Clark County into federal trust for the initial reservation of the Cowlitz Tribe Clark County, Wash. The federal government is currently defending our reservation determination in a lawsuit in a Washington DC federal court. The challenge to the 2013 BIA approval of our reservation is expected to be through the federal courts by the end of this summer. We are confident of an affirmative decision emerging from the lengthy process, so we can then further advance our reservation development. Our partner, Salishan/Mohegan, remains steadfast through the federal court's process. The Grand Ronde Tribe, the La Center Card Rooms, Clark County, Vancouver, CARS, and local land owners have delayed our opportunity for lands and economic self-determination that come with our initial reservation. We also continue to work with the Senate Indians Affairs Committee to achieve a legislative fix for the disastrous 2009 Carcieri decision by the Supreme Court. Senator Testor is the new committee chair and he has released a bill to yield a level playing field for all tribes.

I met with Senator Testor's staff and with Alaska Senator Mark Begich, a supportive committee member prior to release of the bill when I was in DC in March.

The land will be put in trust when the lawsuit is final or when the Department of Interior exercises an option to do so before the final court appeals are resolved, which would open the door for land based grants, and would be a positive step towards reestablishing our homeland. Once the land is placed in trust, we can exercise sovereignty through initial use and development in advance of full development of the reservation. This is a very important step for the Cowlitz People. We stand up for our ancestors while standing up for each other and protecting the resting place those long gone.

The planning for the casino infrastructure for a sewer system and improvements for the I-5 interchange is moving forward with the city of La Center. The Washington State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration are working with our consultants on planning for the interchange.

We have been working with Governor Jay Inslee and the State Gambling Commission on a 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 development. We have reached agreement with the Washington State Gambling Commission on a proposed gaming compact., and they voted to approve it on May 8. The compact with the State should be signed by the Governor by June and will allow the tribe to lease its machine allocation until we are nearing the opening of our casino. This is one more step closer in gaining economic prosperity for the tribe.

The consolidation of operations in Longview is working well as the majority of the employees are there, reducing costs and improving efficiency. We have completed an analysis in the Health and Human Services Department

Billing and tribal accounting systems that show updates to billing systems have improved revenue. We have hired a consultant who is working on more ways to improve service and efficiency at the clinics in Seattle, Vancouver and Longview. Elder's program manager Patty Kinswa-Gaiser has retired and we wish her well in a long and well deserved retirement.

The tribe is working with other tribes on the Columbia River and Puget Sound to improve water quality for everyone. Modern societal needs stress aquatic systems with pollution that is diminishing our fisheries and the life ways that rely on those fisheries and their natural environment. All of these systems are facing global climate change as well.

Industry, development, land and water use practices are regulated by outdated standards in Washington State. Water quality regulations are no longer adequate and allow discharge of mercury, PCBs, lead and other toxins at levels that threaten public health. In Washington State high levels of toxic pollution is limiting how much seafood we should be allowed to eat. Washington is known for its seafood. Water quality is regulated by an assumed safe fish consumption level. The state's current consumption rate is a minuscule rate of 6.5 grams of seafood per day — about one 8-ounce serving a month, one small meal of fish per month. American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, sport fishermen or anyone else who eats fish or shellfish more than once a month are at risk.

After working with tribes for modeling fish consumption for their state, Oregon recently increased its fish consumption rate to 175 grams per day, the most protective rate in the country.

Citizens of Washington deserve at least that same level of protection.

Washington is faced with the need for updating its water quality standards. EPA is now forcing Idaho to adopt a stricter standard, too. Last year, the agency shot down Idaho's newly proposed rate of 17.5 grams per day, arguing it wasn't enough to protect members of the Nez Perce tribe.

The Cowlitz Tribe supports protecting the resources we hold most sacred from pollution. We also aim to restore the past damages that have occurred. It is important that we all work together in the region in the effort to clean up our environment and keep it clean for generations to come.

An ancient way of life for Salmon People must not be a lost legacy.

The Cowlitz Tribe received a new Child Care and Development Fund Grant and will be operating a child care subsidy program for those who are members of Federally-recognized Tribes who reside in Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz and South Lewis Counties. Whitney Devlin and Shawn Mancilla Smiley are the Child Care and Development Program Co-Administrators for the Cowlitz Tribe. We all thank the Youth Board for their work on procuring the grant and their work at Youth Camp and other Youth programs.

Steve Kutz heads up the Canoe Family on the journey on the river and the Salish Sea. Thanks to the skippers, the pullers and the ground crews for this important cultural event. This year's journey is to Bella Bella in Canada.

We thank all our volunteers for their work on all the boards and committees that do the hard work for our services. The Housing Board ensures quality services for Housing assistance and Elder Housing. The Health Board provides guidance for tribal health services. The Youth Board develops vital youth programs and youth activities. The Audit Review Committee has been formed to oversee the annual audit of our financial systems to protect the financial security of our government. The Cultural Resource Board supports our ever expanding cultural programs. The Drum Group and Canoe Family are integral to our cultural activities. We look forward to all the cultural and spiritual events throughout the year.

Good things are happening now, and more good will follow with the determination and good will of the Cowlitz people.

AMR

Bill Iyall, Chairman



**FROM THE
VICE-CHAIR**

Spring 2014 is here and it is again time for our newsletter. We are all still frustrated by the long wait for a Federal Court decision on our Reservation appeal. I hope that we will get a decision from the Judge this summer. The good news is, the Cowlitz Tribe has finally completed a tentative gaming compact with the State of Washington. This process has been ongoing since 2004! I trust that the gaming compact will have been signed by the time you read this newsletter. With some additional steps, we will finally have some revenue coming directly to the Tribe from leasing our slot machines to other Tribes, while we wait to open our own Casino.

There are many other important issues moving forward for the Cowlitz Tribe, as set forth in this newsletter. As a member of the Cowlitz Cultural Board, I enjoy working with everyone on all of our important Cultural events. Recently we have acquired three old Cowlitz Baskets for the Tribe. Also, after years of work, I was able to get Federal Officials at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to allow us last November a ceremonial gathering of Wapato, at Boot Lake on the Refuge. We were too late in the season to get much Wapato, but we will be back earlier this year.



Phil at the HB 2724 Bill Signing

This was an important first step to regain some of our traditions and enforce our sovereign rights with the Federal Government. In April, we again completed our Smelt Ceremony and Celebration. The hard work of our Cultural and Natural Resources Departments made the gathering on the Cowlitz River a great event. Smelt returning to our historic waters is a wonderful happening. I will be leaving

later this afternoon to go to St. Marys and help with our Youth Board and other volunteers at the Cowlitz Spring Kid's Camp.

The photograph that I have included was taken in April 2014 as Governor Inslee signed HB 2724 into law. This new law will help protect Tribal Historical and Archaeological sites by not allowing disclosure of their locations by state and local governments. I worked with Cultural Director dAVE burlingame in providing written testimony to the Legislature in support of this bill. I was pleased to be able to attend the signing Ceremony in Olympia on behalf of our Tribe. We can also thank the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the Yakama Tribe for their work on passing this important law.

I am working with Mike Iyall as we begin talking with the State Parks and Recreation Commission to rename Lewis and Clark State Park, to Cowlitz Trail State Park. As many of you know, Lewis and Clark were never near this area. The current State Park does have remnants from the old Cowlitz Trail within its boundaries, which should help the State in giving our historic name to this park. In this regard, I also want to let everyone know that working with Chairman Iyall, Mike Iyall, and Taylor Aalvik, we were finally able to obtain Discover Passes for our members to use at all of our State Parks. Members should contact Randy Russell at the Longview office to get their Discover Passes.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to work and serve for our Tribe. You continue to have my commitment to do my best for all the Cowlitz People. I am always amazed by the commitment, drive and passion of the Cowlitz People. I look forward to seeing many of you at the General Council Meeting and First Salmon Ceremony in June.

Phil Harju, Vice-Chair



**FROM THE
ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT**

Our Administration Department continues to expand with the growth of our tribe. Dan Meyer has joined our staff as our IT lead. As an enrolled Cowlitz

Tribal Member, I am proud to be giving back to my tribe as the Administrative Executive Assistant and Child Care and Development Program (CCDP) Administrator. My position covers many aspects for the tribal government, community, and tribal programs.

Child Care: I am the Administrator of the Child Care and Development Program (CCDP), Shawn Mancilla Smiley is the Co-Administrator and Melody Pfeifer is the Quality Coordinator. Together we work hard so that CCDP is successful in providing quality child care services for eligible families in our community.

The Tribe will begin offering this voucher-based program in May 2014. It will pay for child care for Washington residents who are federally recognized tribal members living in Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and half of Lewis County and who meet the low income requirements.

Services are funded by the Child Care and Development Block Grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Chairman Iyall and Tribal Council approved the grant as an Administration Department program to help leverage these tribal child care dollars. We will work with local agencies to enhance quality child care that is both affordable and attainable for families. The Tribe also regards this grant as an opportunity to promote school readiness for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and economic self-sufficiency for their families.

If you are interested in the program and would like more information, please contact the Administration Office at 360-577-8140.

Tribal Community Survey: The Cowlitz Tribe, in partnership with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) received a broadband planning grant from Washington State. After the initial needs assessment in December, the next step is a community broadband technology survey analysis that is now underway.

The survey collects detailed information from community members regarding communications and technology. Responses are being used to prepare a technology plan for the future and create awareness of current needs for our tribal community.

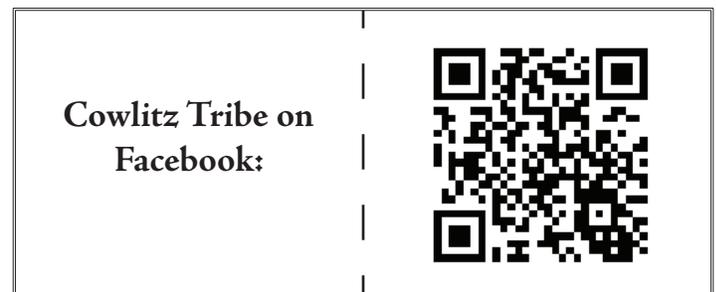
Facebook: The Tribe's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cowlitzindiantribe>) has continued to receive positive reviews for professional and informative posts about the Tribe, as well as our neighboring tribes' happenings. The page was set up last July to connect social media with many tribal members and others in our com-

munity. We welcome you to "like" the page and follow our posts.

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

Thank you.

Whitney Devlin, 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.

In April, we took a major step forward when we reached tentative agreement on a Class III **Gaming Compact** with the state of Washington. The Gambling Commission voted to approve our Compact on May 8th. Then it will be presented to Governor Inslee for his approval and then on to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval. We hope this approval process will be completed by July. In addition to allowing gambling at our casino once it is built, the compact will allocate 975 gaming devices to the Tribe which we can lease to other Tribes while we wait for our own casino. Revenue from these machine leases should start in the fall of 2014.

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. The next step will be

for Judge Rothstein to schedule oral argument in the case. There is no time deadline for the court to act, but we expect the judge will schedule argument soon, hopefully before our June General Council meeting. Judge Rothstein granted all of the requests to file amicus briefs in the case. 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 fall for several reasons, including the government shutdown last winter. We now hope to have a decision by the end of the summer. 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 March 31st or until there is a court decision, whichever comes first. They have now extended this stay until the end of May, but hopefully, the Secretary will stick to this new timeline and publish his 30 day notice to take the land into trust and issue the Reservation Proclamation in early June. This could mean that the land would be put into trust this summer, before the lawsuit is final. However, we expect that the Plaintiffs would ask the court for an injunction to prevent the land from going into trust. 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, Senator John Tester from Montana was appointed to replace Senator Cantwell as the Chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Senator Tester is a good friend of Indian Country. Senator Tester quickly introduced a bill to provide a clean Carcieri fix within weeks after his appointment. Senator Murray also signed on the clean fix bill. 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 author-

ity 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. We hope to advance this process concurrent with the court process. This should facilitate progress of the development. We continue to work with the city of La Center on an off-site sewer option, and have held discussions on a third option—joining the new Clark County regional sewer system. This fall we plan to start the architect selection process and get to work on casino design.

We expect members of the Mohegan Tribal Council to join us at the June General Council meeting. We look forward to that visit and to making significant progress on the project in the coming year.

Sonny Bridges, Chairman



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

There have been a number of new openings in HHS due to the increase in patient/client numbers and the upcoming Health Reform. We have had to add additional billing and coding staff as well as staff to assist with the new patient registration. There has also been an increase in Natural Resources Staff as new funding has become available.

The Tribe is a member of Western Washington Indian Employment Training Program (WWIETP) and frequently utilizes the Program to hire temporary staff. This program is designed to train financially disadvantaged youth and adults who meet the eligibility criteria. In order to be eligible to participate in the program an individual must be a documented Native American\Alaskan or Hawaiian Native and must meet the federal poverty guidelines. The participant is trained by Tribal staff on Tribal projects but is paid through WWIETP for a period of up to four (4) months. There is no guarantee the participant will transition into employment with the Tribe.

When there is a new or vacant position we recruit for that position by posting on the website for seven (7) days and in all the Tribal offices. If we feel we did not

receive enough applicants or qualified applicants through in-house advertising we will then advertise through other recruiting sources. Generally we do not need to recruit for an open position in other means of advertisement.

Nancy Osborne, THRP

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 oversees 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 will be conducting two maintenance projects.

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.

Kim Stube – Transportation Director



GRANTS UPDATE

Grants awarded—

We've had mostly good grants news in the last six months.

One of the big grants we received is for a program to provide child care vouchers and other services for lower income American Indian and Alaska Native families who live in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, or Lewis counties and meet requirements for working, searching for work, or being in school. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children

and Families provides the funding. The Tribe's Administration Department will manage the program, with Whitney Devlin as the administrator. The program will open as soon as all the background work is done, including writing the program's policies and procedures and contacting child care providers and social service agencies in the counties.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration awarded the Tribe a grant to buy a minivan for Cowlitz Tribal Transit to replace the 2007 Dodge Sprinter with a 2014 ADA-compliant Dodge Caravan. The Sprinter will be used by Tribal Transit as a back-up vehicle.

Our Health and Human Services Department has received increased funding for Senior Nutrition and Caregiver Support. Among other services, the grants fund group lunches at St. Mary's and at our Longview site, meals delivered to homebound Elders, and information and some support for those who are personal caregivers. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services bases these awards on the number of American Indian and Alaska Native Elders in a defined service area. Using the 2010 Census, we were able to show there are more Elders in our area than in the previous three-year grant cycle. Former program manager Patty Kinswa-Gaiser has retired and the hiring process is underway for the position.

The Natural Resources Department was awarded a grant from the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Species Recovery Fund. It's for a eulachon (smelt) project to better estimate the annual spawning populations in the Cowlitz River. The project will start this November and continue through July 2015.

Grants denied—

We were not successful with a few of our grant requests.

Our proposal to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for an Indian Community Development Block Grant was denied. We wanted funding to renovate the big vacant building at St. Mary's into a cultural community center. Reviewers suggested that our information about the design and construction phases was inadequate. They also were doubtful that most of the "beneficiaries" of the project would be the lower income people that HUD funding is meant to help. Nevertheless, we know more now about the planning process and requirements of such projects.

We had asked the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Native Americans for three years of funding to set up a tribal economic development department that would have focused on starting non-casino related businesses and provide business counseling services for tribal members. However, HHS reviewers did not score our application high enough for funding. They were confused about how the Tribe would coordinate the proposed department's activities with the still-pending casino development and they wanted to see a broader tribal planning process that showed our proposed project as one of the Tribe's highest priorities.

Grants pending—

We have several grant applications submitted and should get decisions from the funders by early summer.

We're waiting to hear if NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund will award the Tribe a grant for \$321,813 for a habitat improvement project on Abernathy Creek in Cowlitz County. The Natural Resources Department's restoration ecologist, Eli Asher, would manage the project, continuing work on the creek 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.

We requested a grant from the Charlotte Martin Foundation to cover most of the costs for the Cowlitz Youth Camp, Traveling with Our Ancestors, to be held in August at Battle Ground Lake State Park. Youth Board Chair Melody Pfeifer in the Administration Department would manage the grant. This year's camp will feature a visit to an equestrian therapy center, natural resources hikes, Cowlitz-Salish language and genealogy sessions, campfire storytelling, and short field trips. A previous grant from the foundation helped fund last year's Youth Language Camp.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board's Northwest Tribal Comprehensive Cancer Program offers small grants for cancer prevention projects. Our proposal is for items aimed at sun protection and encouraging more exercise as ways to prevent some cancers. We propose buying hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, exercise mats and jump ropes, and exercise balls, and some of the cost of t-shirts with a cancer prevention message as well as providing cancer prevention brochures. Projects must be completed by the end of June, so we would buy and distribute the items through Youth Board and at the Tribe's General Council meeting in June. Melody Pfeifer in the Administration De-

partment would manage the grant through the Administration Department.

Washington's Office of Crime Victims Advocacy offers three more years of funding for sexual assault victims services. We have been successful with these multi-year grants in gaining funding for the Pathways to Healing program. Program Manager Debbie Hassler would manage the grant. We should hear by June if we will receive the first year's funding.

We have applied for a contract with Cowlitz County to help prevent mental health and substance abuse problems for American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Our Health and Human Services Department proposes using 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. We should hear soon about our application.

On the horizon—

Other grant application periods will open soon.

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians and the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service. The Tribe's Health and Human Services Department has received and successfully managed grants from the programs for years, with Maggie Miller as program manager. The 2015 federal budget continues the funding, so we will apply when the announcements come out.

We should hear soon about any changes in the grant program for our vocational rehabilitation program. The funding agency, the U.S. Department of Education, has been reviewing its program regulations. When they are published, we will decide about applying for another five year grant.

The Potlatch Fund's Community Building program's theme this year is developing youth leadership. I'll work with Youth Board and the Cultural Resources Department to plan a project. Awards are made in mid-summer.



REPORT OF TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR

I want to take this opportunity on the behalf of Tribal Council to thank Mike Caso for his many years of service to the Tribe. Mike started serving on Tribal Council in 2000 so has dedicated 14 years to the service of the Tribe. He has served as a member of the Tribal Council Executive Committee for numerous terms, Chair of the Enrollment Committee, Sergeant at Arms at all our Tribal Council and General Council meetings, participating on many committees such as Economic Development, Cultural Board, and others over the years. During the years that his election was not involved, he selected the vote counters and monitors for our elections and always ensured that the posting and retirement of the colors was performed. He also participated in several canoe journeys with the Canoe Family beginning in 2008 and organized a Veterans Encampment at the Tribal Property. My small description of some of his activities does not begin to chronicle all of his service to the Tribe nor begin to describe the wisdom and insight he brought to our discussions and actions we have taken over the years. When you see Mike at one of our upcoming meetings please thank him for his service to the Tribe.

In addition, members of the Tribal Council have stayed involved in the now defunct Columbia River Crossing project over the Columbia River between Vancouver and Portland. Even though that project is now cancelled, we engaged the Washington Department of Transportation and additionally Oregon Department of Transportation in taking into account our concerns regarding our Cowlitz Tribal cultural concerns that would be impacted by the project. In addition, during this process we continued to build on our strong relationship with the National Park Service at Fort Vancouver. We are prepared to continue this work when this or another similar project of this magnitude starts in our area.

We have also started work on the renovation and restoration of the Swift Schoolhouse property the Tribe owns near the Pine Creek Ranger station to the south of Mt St Helens in Skamania County. We have replaced the roof and removed the interior drywall and insulation in preparation to replacing it. The Tribe has used this property as a base for accessing the Huckleberry Fields

each year for the past few years and we are looking for ways to increase its usage so the Tribe can access our natural resources in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

In addition, this year the Tribal Council nominated me to Serve on the Advisory Council to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (STAC) in Washington DC and was accepted as a National Member at Large to advise the secretary on the numerous programs that are so important to many of our Tribal members.

It has been my pleasure to serve you and the members of Tribal Council this past year as the Chair of our Tribal Council.

Stephen Kutz – Cowlitz Tribal Council Chair



CULTURAL RESOURCES BOARD

The Cultural Resources Board has been planning the 2014 gatherings. The Board meets the morning of Tribal Council at 7am to discuss the cultural issues of our Nation. Roy Wilson is the Chair. We are always looking for people who would like to join as Board and Committee members. Currently there is an opening for a Youth representative. If your child is interested please contact Roy at 1-360-990-4265 or Vice Chair- Steve Kutz at 1-360-731-2885.

May 17 is the Kelso Pow Wow. Grand Entry is at 1pm and 7pm. Bring your drum and join the Cowlitz Drum Group.

June 6-8 is the Cowlitz Encampment at the Cowlitz Landing also known as the Vader property that has the sweat lodge. Friday night dinner will be provided, Saturday breakfast will be provided before General Council and dinner afterwards. Sunday there will be breakfast provided before the Salmon Ceremony. All are welcome.

June 8 is the Salmon Ceremony at Miekler Road Boat launch on the east side of the Cowlitz River at 10am. Lunch will follow at St. Mary's. Please bring your drum to sing our Salmon Honor Song.

Cowlitz Canoe Journey is still being planned. There will be many opportunities to paddle in the canoe or join

ground crew and learn the ways of the water. Our Skippers Jerimiah Wallace, John O'Brien and Steve Kutz will be determining the length of pulls. Information will be on the Cowlitz website and Cowlitz Canoe Facebook page. Please call for more information, Chair, Steve- 1-360-731-2885, Vice Chair, Devin Reck-1-360-513-5886, Ground crew co- chair, Melody- 1-360-353-9192 or Treasurer, Cassandra Sellards Reck- 1-360-513-1243.

August 15-17 is the Youth Summer gathering at Battle Ground Lake State Park. Pre-Registration is mandatory. Please contact Melody-1360-353-9192 or Cassandra- 1-360-513-1243 for more information. This will be a youth event focused on traveling with our ancestors.

August 29- September 1 is Huckleberry Camp at Swift School House. This is our annual gathering up to Indian Heaven to gather huckleberries and traditional foods. This is a family camp. All meals are provided and limited transportation. Please contact Cassy at 1-360-513-1243 for more information.

August 29-September 1 is the Spiritual River Float. This river journey honors our river villages. Please contact Melody at 1-360-353-9192.

September 20 is the Cowlitz Pow Wow at Toledo High School. This is an amazing event that has grown every year. There are always lots of vendors and fresh made fry bread with Indian tacos for sale. They have donation dinner at 5pm available for all.

October 3-5 is the Cowlitz Youth Board trip to the Northwest Native American Basketry Weavers gathering sponsored by the Cowlitz Health Board. Please contact Melody or Cassy for an application. Youth must be ages 12-17.

November 15 is a Youth Board sponsored Family Language Gathering at St. Mary's from 1-4pm. Snacks are provided. All are welcome.

December 13 is the Youth and Family Christmas Party at St. Mary's. This event is fun for the whole family. A light lunch will be served. Santa Claus always visits and brings presents to our Cowlitz Youth.

Throughout the year there will be additional drumming practices at Longview HHS and St. Mary's in Toledo Washington. Please see the website and Cowlitz Canoe on Facebook for announcements. We try to have them at least twice a month. For more information please contact Cassandra at 1-360-513-1243.

PATHWAYS TO HEALING PROGRAM

2013 Annual Report

2013 was a really busy year for the Pathways to Healing Program (PTH)! We have included parts of our annual report in this newsletter article. If you would like a copy of the entire annual report please contact Debbie Hassler at dhassler@cowlitz.org or 360-397-8228.

It is the mission of the Pathways to Healing Program is to honor traditional values and beliefs that promote safety and well-being for Native American/Alaska Native families by providing a holistic approach to inform, educate and heal our communities affected by violence.

Pathways to Healing values

- **Integrity:** Through honesty and integrity we respect the rights and choices of individuals and families affected by violence.
- **Community:** We demonstrate our commitment to social change and an end to violence within our community, through our leadership, words, and actions.
- **Safety:** We help provide a safe non-threatening environment free from abuse, violence and judgment.
- **Empowerment:** Through advocacy we empower individuals and communities to heal from abuse and speak out against all forms of violence.

Client Services

PTH provides advocacy services to Native people who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We provide these services in Clark, Cowlitz, and Lewis counties.

PTH Completed 65 New Client Intakes, of our new intakes 9 were Cowlitz Members (17.8%) Our intakes included 27 for Sexual Assault and 38 for Domestic Violence. We provided services to a total of 106

individuals. These individuals were 98 women and 8 men.

PTH provides a variety of advocacy services to our clients. In total for the year we provided 2154 services! PTH also operates a 24 hour access line. This service is available to clients who have crisis after normal work hours, on holidays, or weekends. PTH staff answered a total of 139 calls.

Transitional Housing

The Pathways to Healing program provides transitional housing to individuals and families that are unsafe in their current living situation. We are able to provide financial assistance for rent, deposits, application fees, relocation expenses, and other financials that will foster a healthy and safe environment for our clients. This year we provided transitional housing to 10 clients and 9 children. We spent a total of Total \$47,825.72 on client services in 2013.



While several Elders braved the water in search of Wapato, the photographer stuck to dry land.

Community Education and Awareness

Raising awareness in our community has been a top priority for Pathways to Healing. It is through community empowerment, education, and trust we are able to break the silence of abuse, empower survivors, and challenge the belief that violence is acceptable.

There are several ways PTH stays connected and distributes information to our community. Do you like us on Facebook? This past year we added 331 new likes (friends) on our Facebook page. Social media has given us an avenue to reach our community in a "real time" effort. PTH has an electronic newsletter that we publish 6 times a year. We added 92 new subscribers this year during community outreach events. PTH produced our first ever

PSA titled Footprints of our Elders! We have had 221 views of our video on YouTube.

Each year Pathways to Healing hosts an awareness event themed For All Generations. This event focuses on the courage and resiliency it takes for individuals and families to healing after trauma and abuse. This October we were blessed to have a young women share her story of hope and finding her voice after it has been lost for so many years. It was a very powerful event for honoring those affected by violence. This year we had 90 people in attendance.

State Involvement

Pathways to Healing continues to be a leader in Tribal communities around victim services in WA state. This year we provided 3 workshops at the Washington Sate Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference. We contributed to the creation of the State practice guidelines for reproductive coercion, in collaboration with Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, and the Attorney General's Office.

Looking Forward

In 2014 Pathways to Healing will be taking on many new adventures! We are focusing on training for Health and Human Services staff members, redesigning our program publications, and looking for new funding opportunities.

The foundation that we have created around anti-violence messaging in our community has been a wonderful experience to see unfold. PTH staff continues to be humbled by the support from our community, leadership, and Tribe.

*Sometimes the only answer that people are looking for
when they ask for help,
Is that they won't have to face the problem alone.*

~ Mark Amend

Debbie Hassler, Program Manager, Pathways to Healing

HEALTH BOARD REPORT

The Cowlitz Health Board has remained committed to standing strong and advocating for Indian Health funding and expanding services. We continue to watch the budgets and federal funding. It was reported for the Indian Health

Service the President requested \$6 billion, and increase of \$228 million or 4 percent over FY 2014. The budget fully funds contract support costs and provides increases for Purchased/referred care (aka contract health service) for medial inflation (5%); and clinical services. The budget also restores the cuts that were made to the Indian Health professions; tribal management and self-governance accounts in the FY 2014 operating plan in order to fully fund contract support costs. President Obama has continued to support Indian healthcare with this proposal.

Recently the Board met and expanded services in many areas of contract health. We were able to increase dental funding, optical, increase physical therapy visits, authorized speech and occupational therapy. We also looked at what alternative medicine we could bring to HHS. Spiritual care, massage therapy, and acupuncture were all discussed.

We brainstormed health care priorities asking what would make Cowlitz healthcare excellent. We will have a raffle at the General Council. We will have a quick survey we would like all of our people to complete. This will enter you in the raffle and give us your valuable opinion. You can help us know what road we should go down.

Please feel free to contact the Chair Cassandra Sellards Reck with ideas or anything needed at csellardsreck@hotmail.com or 360-513-1243.

Cassandra Sellards Reck, Chair



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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, Celine Cloquet, Lenny Bridges, and David Iyall.

As you read this, we will be ready to announce Cowlitz Scholarship winners for the 2014-15 school year. Congratulations to the Cowlitz Scholars!

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.

Mike Iyall, Education Committee Chair

YOUTH BOARD

2014 Youth Gatherings are in motion. The Youth Board has been planning and continues working for ways to make great things happen. Several grant applications have been submitted to help support our activities and preserve our Docket 218 funds. We are excited to be able to do more for our people. The Youth Board is planning for the future and in doing that has taken Youth Department bylaws to Tribal Council for approval. With the support of the Cowlitz people and Tribal Council we will be able to grow a Youth Department that can meet the needs of our children and families.

April 11-13 was the Spring Break gathering at St. Mary's in Toledo, Washington. On Friday the youth participated in a We are Native program from the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and then watched the movie, More than Bows and Arrows. On Saturday we were honored to have Umatilla Tribal members Shawna Gavin and Michael Ray Johnson who teach the children stick games. Our Cowlitz carver Bob Harju made stick game sets for all youth who attended to decorate and customized their sets. Tanna Engdahl, a Cowlitz Elder and Spiritual Leader was there to participate in and facilitate teachings, as well as Michael Hubbs for language courses. We are grateful Patty Kinswa-Gaiser a Youth Board member and the head cook for the Senior Nutrition Program Jennifer Johnson coordinated the nutritious meals and snacks funded by the Health and Human Services Department. The Cowlitz Housing Department provided the space for camp in an effort to promote alcohol and drug free activities. We are grateful for donations from the Vocational Rehabilitation, Tribal Treatment, and Pathways to Healing programs. Together we are able to provide the

best for your youth.

August 15-17 will be our Cowlitz Summer gathering. We have planned a weekend camping trip at Battle Ground Lake State Park. This event will require prior registration due to space limitations, so please contact Melody Pfeifer at 1-360-353-9192 or Cassandra Sellards Reck 1-360-513-1243. Youth can arrive Friday, August 15th as early as 10am for registration. All Youth will need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows, flash light, swimming attire, walking shoes, warm and cold clothes including a warm jacket. We will provide everything else including meals, life jackets and tents for all.

On Friday, there will be swimming at the lake, a hike with traditional plant and food teaching with Tanna Engdahl and Nathan Reynolds from Natural Resources. On Saturday, the entire group will go to Grace Therapeutic Horse Program run by Robin Nelson. Tanna Engdahl will be teaching our youth Cowlitz history and traditions with the horse. Michael Hubbs will be teaching language and youth will be able to practice what they have learned. Sunday the Youth will depart home.

August 21-25 is the National Indian Health Board. For the 3rd year in a row the Health Board is funding a group of Youth with chaperones to attend and learn about healthcare. There is a requirement for interested Youth to write a letter to the Health Board telling of their future interest in healthcare. Letter can be submitted to: Cowlitz Youth Board c/o Chair Melody Pfeifer at 1055 9th Ave suite #B Longview, WA 98632. Feel free to call Melody with questions at (360) 353-9192.

October 3-5 is the Northwest Native American Weavers gathering at Squaxin Island Casino. The Health Board sponsored this wellness gathering for Youth ages 12-17. This event is important to the Youth Board because promoting our future Cowlitz cedar weavers is a way of continuing our traditions. Please contact Melody at 1-360-353-9192 or Cassy at 1-360-513-1243 if you are interested.

November 15 will be our Cowlitz Family Language gathering at St. Mary's from 1-4pm with Michael Hubbs. Michael has committed years of learning to our Cowlitz language and continues to teach our people. Snacks will be provided and all are welcome.

December 13 is our annual Family Christmas Party at St. Mary's from 10am-3pm. A light lunch will be provided. Santa Claus has made this his annual stop and he hands out presents to all children. We have planned

for Patty to coordinate a sugar cookie and decorating table. Last year hundreds of cookies were made and decorated. Additional fun crafts will be available for all in the family.

Update on Child Care Development Fund. The Tribe was successfully awarded the Child Care Development Fund that is for childcare and will be available in the summer of 2014. Currently the Policies and Procedures are being developed. The Youth Board helped submit the plans for this grant and is looking forward to the benefits to income eligible Native families in the service delivery area. Read more about this program in the Administration Department article of this newsletter submitted by the Program Administrator Whitney Devlin.

Youth Board Update. The Youth Board is always looking for donations and volunteers. Donations of craft supplies, beads, and cedar are always appreciated. Money donations are tax deductible. There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year, such as, volunteering for event coordination, chaperones for camps, attending Board meeting, and assisting in developing craft projects and activities. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Melody. We are excited to announce that we have two new Board members Shawn Mancilla Smiley and Jennifer McCauley. They will make great addition to the Board with their personal experience and strength. Our Youth and Elders are the greatest asset to our Nation. Come get involved and be a part of the Cowlitz Youth Board. We do this work for the next seven generations.

Submitted by Cassandra Sellards Reck and Melody Pfeifer



NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Washington DC Testimony

It was an honor and a privilege to be invited to testify before Congress on April 8, 2014 by Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler.

She is the District 3 or SW Washington representative. The purpose of the testimony was to speak on behalf of American Indian federal program funding for proposed fiscal year 2015. Since we continue to struggle establishing our reservation to base much needed economic development, funding through the federal government is critical for us to keep governmental services operating. On behalf

of the Tribe, there were 7 areas of federal funding I advocated for during the testimony: 1) Bureau of Indian Affairs funding for tribal government; 2) Indian Health Service funding; 3) Environmental Protection Agency funding to tribes; 4) Columbia River Treaty funding; 5) National Park Service cultural resources funding; 6) US Fish and Wildlife Tribal funding; and 7) Transportation funding. The testimony was well received and I believe we made a strong impact in regards to our landless situation, and the federal government needing to meet its trust obligations to provide for our essential services. There are additional federal programs we rely on, but the ones mentioned are the primary ones as it pertains to the Congressional committee we testified at (US House subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and related agencies). If you are interested in viewing the entire written testimony, it can be found on the following website link:

<http://appropriations.house.gov/calendararchive/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=371189>

After the testimony, there were several other meetings that took place to both follow up in regards to the testimony and to address other areas important to the Tribe. I met with Senator Patty Murray's top aids, personal meeting with Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler, and I met with one of the lead individuals on policy issues with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. I also met with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries service's (NOAA fisheries) regarding smelt and salmon recovery, the Department of Interior and the Department of State regarding the future of the Columbia River Treaty between the US and Canada.

In summary, this important trip to the Nation's Capital went very well. I will work with Tribal Council to continue with follow up in regards to getting our message across on the importance of getting a reservation, federal funding for programs, and to continue restoring services for our people.

Smelt

Similar to the last two years, we have seen large runs of smelt come back to the Columbia and the Cowlitz River. This year, smelt were documented getting past the Bonneville Dam, which hasn't been seen for many years. For our technical personnel, it has been puzzling to understand why smelt virtually vanished for about ten years and now seem to be rebounding. There remains to be a lot of

questions that we seek to answer as we continue to study this unique and elusive fish.

We were fortunate to receive another NOAA fisheries grant to begin this fall. We also have been working with a Columbia River dredging company to monitor smelt activities in the Sandy River, Oregon. This work is a positive partnership to both reduce/eliminate any harm to smelt during dredging activities, and also allow for responsible operations for the river dredgers. We are also engaged with state and federal regulators to develop sound policies for the protection and recovery of smelt within our homelands.

Salmon Restoration

We continue great efforts to restore salmon in the Lower Columbia region. We have completed five restoration projects funded in part through Washington State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). We have 11 additional projects approved for funding through the SFRB to be implemented over the next two years. We have developed our salmon recovery program to one of the leading recovery organizations in the region. We also have additional projects being developed with funding through the Bonneville Power administration and NOAA fisheries' Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. We conduct recovery efforts in partnership with the local community and also work on land acquisition for tribal ownership and protection. Our goal is to acquire and/or secure safe habitats for salmon for a long time into the future.

Columbia River Treaty (CRT) Review

We continue to work with 14 other Columbia Basin Tribes in marching forward on CRT issues. In February, we had a successful workshop in Spokane, WA with the Canadian first Nations. Fish passage past Columbia River Dams was a major topic at this workshop. The tribes and Canadian first nations developed a joint fish passage paper calling for reintroduction of salmon throughout their historic habitats and range. Currently, the Grand Coulee Dam is an impediment to fish passage into Canada. New technologies are being developed to make fish passage more feasible. There is another workshop in June and we will be hosting in the Lower Columbia River region. It will be a great opportunity to showcase how important the Columbia River Estuary is in the life-cycle of salmon. This is a transition zone that the entire salmon population needs to utilize before going to sea and returning to spawn.

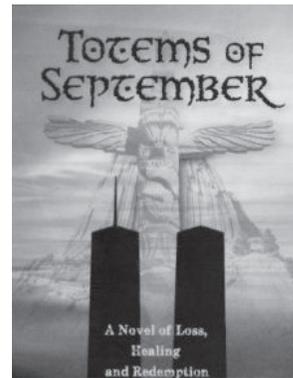
In regards to the Columbia River Treaty (first implemented in 1964), we have been pressuring the federal

government to move forward to reopen discussions and hopeful changes to this agreement with Canada to benefit important resources to the tribes. Currently, the treaty only is designed to benefit flood protection and power production. Senators and Congressional representatives from the Northwest recently came out with a statement similar to the tribes, calling on the President to reopen discussions with Canada in regards to the need 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.

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.

*Taylor Aalvik, Director
Natural Resources Department
360-575-3306, taylor.a@cowlitz.org*



TOTEMS OF SEPTEMBER

In their first historical novel, *Totems of September* (full title *Totems of September: A Novel of Loss, Healing and Redemption*), Native American Emmy-nominated author Robin LaDue and journalist Mary Kay Voss use the Native American storytelling tradition of circles on circles and lives on lives. It is interspersed with the culture of the Northwest and Plains tribes through the use of animal legends and myths.

The juxtaposition of Wyoming's Devils Tower and the tragedy of September 11 brings to light little-known Native American history as well as current themes: US soldiers' struggle through the fog of war, PTSD stemming from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the devastating health risks of 9/11 rescue workers.

Three memorable characters--dating from the early 1900s to 2006--their lineage and their families are

woven together through the threads of history, human connections, hope and redemption. (*truncated from the description.*)

Robin, as you may know, is a Cowlitz Member, whose grandfather and great-uncles were survivors of the Cushman Boarding School, having been removed from their parents and experienced the horrors of having their hair cut, not being able to speak their language, and losing their culture.

She has lectured worldwide on the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure and historical trauma in Native American communities, as well as the treatment for and consequences of psychological trauma, including traditional Native methods of treatment.

Robin's first historical novel has garnered glowingly positive ratings on goodreads.com and amazon.com (where it can be purchased as a paperback or kindle download), including a five-star review from an Amazon "Hall of Fame" heavyweight!

HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

Due to lack of funds, Cowlitz Tribal Housing now has a waiting list for assistance. Many tribes have a 5-10 year waiting list, ours is about 9 months. We have not received our 2014 grant yet; when we receive it we will begin working through the waiting list in the order received.

Elder Housing Complex: Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing Welcomes you to the tribes beautiful new low income Elder Housing Complex, located in Toledo, WA. A variety of accommodations are available, from efficiency apartments to 2 bedroom condo-type units. Rents range from 0- to \$550.00 per month, depending on size, amenities, and resident income. All buildings are protected by a closed circuit camera security system and state of the art fire protection. All apartments are served by elevators. Small pets (dog or cat) are welcome. Please call (360) 864-8720 for info or application.

Rental and Mortgage Assistance: Your Tribal Housing offers help with rent or mortgage to qualified tribal members for up to 6 months.

Student Rental Assistance: College students enrolled in a minimum 12 credits per quarter may receive rental assistance.

Down Payment Assistance: Tribal housing is thrilled that more and more tribal members are applying for down payment assistance, thereby allowing CITH to help members realize their dream of homeownership. Qualifying members can receive up to \$20,000 for the down payment on a home.

Home Rehab: Roof leak? Porch wobbly? Need wheelchair ramps? Qualifying members can receive help with home rehabilitation needs that affect the health and safety of occupants.

Help to avoid foreclosure: Tribal members affected by the current mortgage crisis should call the following number to get help to avoid foreclosure:

1-888-995-HOPE (4673). The website for the Making Home Affordable Program is: www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/. This website is VERY informational and will explain new options such as HARP – Home Affordable Refinance Program and HAMP – Home Affordable Modification Program. It also explains other foreclosure alternatives such as a short sale and a deed-in-lieu.

Well and Sewer Repair or Replacement: By coordinating with Indian Health Services we are able to bring clean water and sanitary living conditions to members in need.

Homeownership or Financial Counseling: For free homebuyer education classes conveniently located in your own city, go to Washington Homeowners Resource Center: website: <http://www.homeownership-wa.org>.

Do I Qualify for Assistance? Qualifications are based on family size & income, and are different in each county.

Who do I call for help?
Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing: 360-864-8720

Sheryl Bertucci, Assistant Housing Director

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. October 2013 there were 32 infants enrolled and in February 2014 we enrolled 22 infants. The Enrollment Committee will meet May 02 of this year to review pending applications;

currently there are 11 applications that have been returned and are pending review and 10 out that have not yet been returned. The office has been notified of the deaths of four (4) tribal members since the fall 2013 issue of the newsletter. The current total enrolled population of the Tribe is 3846.

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.

The Tribe does have Discover Passes, for use in Washington State, available at not charge. We have this



due to the efforts of Mike Iyall, tribal member and tribal council member. Mike was able to work out an MOU with the Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Parks. The passes are valid on DNR, WDFW and State Park Lands. The passes are available one per family. If you would like one please contact Randy Russell in the Enrollment Office.

Randy Russell
Enrollment Officer
(360) 575-3310 Direct

CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES (CHS)

(Also referred to as RCS,
Referred Care Services (by IHS))

Additional CHS benefits approved by the Health Board in March include:

1. 18 occupational therapy visits
2. speech therapy
3. dentures allowed every five years
4. annual eye exams and glasses

5. increase in sleep apnea funds
6. expansion of the CHS drug formulary
7. annual dental limit increased to \$4000

CHS Goals for 2014

1. Improve access to health care by means of the Affordable Care Act.
2. Outreach to CHS eligible members regarding available services
3. Improve response time for annual registration by providing membership education and outreach

Important Reminders...

1. You must reside within the CHS delivery area and be registered for services,
2. You must complete the annual registration each year thereafter ,
3. You will be assisted with applying for health care under the new Affordable Care Act which will be required if you are uninsured,
4. Unless the needed medical service is life threatening, you must call CHS to request prior authorization of your visit with at least 48 hours notice

Please contact staff at 360-575-3304 if your CHS card is expiring and/or you would like assistance with applying for health insurance through the Health Plan Finder (Affordable Care Act).

Affordable Care Act

Health Care for Natives has forever been over promised and underfunded by the federal government. Recent improvements allow for "special provisions" that provide additional benefits to Native American/Alaskan Natives.

As a member of a federally recognized tribe you have the right to DECLINE coverage without a tax penalty. You will be required to submit a form IRS (OMB #0938-1190), in turn you will be provided with certification that you are Native. This certification must be provided to the IRS when submitting your tax return. This certification will be on file with the IRS for future filing.

Tribal members are not bound by the March 31 deadline and can sign up at any time.

If your income is below 300% FPL you will qualify for zero out of pocket beyond the monthly premium.

We encourage you to take advantage of these special provisions.

If you live in Washington State we can help you

apply over the phone.

If you live outside the State we can help you find a certified person to help you.

Please call 360-575-8275 if you DO NOT have health care and ask to speak to a Tribal Assistor. We are anxious and enthusiastic about helping you gain access to much needed medical care.

submitted by Lori Morris



CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Planning: Met with personnel from the Lewis County Planning Department to discuss upcoming projects we have a cultural or archaeological interest in.

WDFW: Taylor and I met with Guy Norman regarding the upcoming Smelt Ceremony. We came to an agreement that met all our interests, including how much Eulachon we would take.

Newaukum Bridge: A saga brewing for almost eight years now (or is it nine?), a new Damage Assessment was issued to the Tribes, WSDOT, and DAHP. A DA is supposed to address the cost of performing proper archaeology when a site, feature, or other cultural resource is damaged during ground-disturbing activity. The latest document sent by Lewis County still tries to avoid responsibility, as well as arriving at a dollar amount without explaining the rationale. I sent my final comments in mid-February, mostly regarding the inadequacy of the document and the questions that remain unanswered, as well as new questions brought up by this unacceptable report. This is a project we are engaged in with the Chehalis Tribe, and it is not appreciated because both Tribes are in total agreement regarding how to hold the county responsible.

Smelt Ceremony and Celebration: We dipped for Eulachon the first weekend in March, catching the limit agreed to by the Tribe and WDFW. The fish were separated into bags and stored securely in our freezer. Or so we thought...

On Monday, 10 March, employees arrived to a smell that could only be described as horrible. Upon opening the garage, the source of the smell became obvious—the same freezer in which we had stored our Smelt just barely a week earlier. The fan motor had quit, so there was no way for the freezer to keep cold. The entire lot was destroyed, and the Celebration was coming up on 5 April.

Fortunately, we were saved by Dalton Fry of the Natural Resources Department. He was able, with a couple buddies, to dip some fish from the Sandy River; he took them home and smoked them for us, meaning we had Eulachon for the Celebration. Thank you, Dalton.

Environmental Protection Agency: Several people from the EPA came at the end of March to meet with us. The main topic of discussion was how they could work better with the CRD on cultural and archaeological issues. I raised this possibility a couple years ago as a result of the damage Phil Smith visited upon the land at I-5's exit 63. You might remember Smith terraformed the landscape in an attempt to house a proposed equestrian center, and he did so without having a single permit in place. As the case neared resolution, EPA became the lead agency for further talks regarding other plans to develop the land, because Smith destroyed many acres of wetland with his failed project. There still remains unstudied archaeology, and I wanted to be sure the Tribe would be able to address this and other situations when they come up. Previously, the EPA



Cowlitz basket recently acquired by the Tribe.

wasn't overly concerned with cultural resources or archaeology; I think we've begun to bridge that oversight.

Further Frustration with protecting Cultural Resources: Back in 2008 I mentioned my concerns with Washington Administrative Code 222-20-120. This WAC

dictates what is supposed to happen when a cultural or archaeological resource is found or is known to exist on a specific plot of land associated with a proposed forest action, be it logging, tree thinning, etc. My interest was piqued, particularly by the sentence in 2, which stated:

"Where an application involves cultural resources the landowner shall meet with the affected tribe(s) with the objec-



Our wall at the new visitors center.

...tive of agreeing on a plan for protecting the archaeological or cultural value.”

The implication was the State was dictating the Tribe had to meet with the landowner, which is illegal under Federal law. So we made them change it.

Here’s where this is going: a certain State agency is now interpreting the code to mean that as long as the landowner and the Tribe(s) agree, the agreement doesn’t need to be an operating condition of the permit. This leads to a possible scenario where a cultural resource could be damaged, and the Tribe would not have immediate recourse via DNR, as the agency never made it a condition, and the Tribe would probably have to take the landowner to court, prove damages, etc.

We are keeping on top of this.

Cowlitz County Visitors Center: A few months ago the Tribe was contacted by the county’s Chamber of Commerce, inviting us to put up a display on one of the walls of the new visitors center, which is located in Kelso, where the trailer for the Mount St. Helens info center was located. The wall holds several pictures, an old poster with some info about the Tribe, and a very nice paddle I asked Robert Harju to make for the display.

This is just a start, as we have more plans for the space, but I think it is just going to get better.

Thank you for your time.

All My Relations,
dAVE burlingame
Director, Cultural Resources Department
culture@cowlitz.org



COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE

(parentheses denote term expiration)

General Council Officers

Chair: William Iyall (2015)

Vice-Chair: Philip Harju (2014)

Secretary: Nancy Osborne (2015)

Treasurer: Dan Meyer (2014)

Tribal Council Members (2014)

Lenny Bridges; William "Bill" Ellis; Linda Foley;
Debbie Hassler; Mike Iyall; Karissa Lowe

Tribal Council Members (2015)

Katherine Iyall Vasquez; Patty Kinswa-Gaiser; Steve Kutz;
John O'Brien; Randy Russell; Cassandra Sellards-Reck

Tribal Council Members (2016)

Taylor Aalvik; Celine Cloquet; Jerry Iyall;
Carolee Morris; Cathy Raphael; Tim Van Mechelen

Tribal Council Officers (July 2015)

Chair: Steve Kutz; Vice-Chair: Mike Iyall; Secretary: Randy Russell

Executive Council Members

William Iyall; Philip Harju; Mike Iyall;
Steve Kutz; Dan Meyer; Nancy Osborne; Randy Russell

Elected At-Large Positions

Celine Cloquet

1 vacancy effective 4/24/2014



Cowlitz Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 2547
Longview, WA 98632



**GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING: SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2014, 10:00 AM,
ST. MARY'S, TOLEDO, WA -- 107 SPENCER RD, AT INTERSECTION OF
FLASHING LIGHT ON JACKSON HWY.**

**LUNCH WILL BE POTLUCK.
PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE!**