



APRIL'S CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During the last few months the Tribe has been involved in critical issues facing our Government. One issue concerns the BIA's plan to drastically reduce the Siletz Agency.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs plan to reduce the Agency budget to the point that the Agency would no longer have the staff capable of providing services to the tribes of the Agency.

As you might have heard, the Grand Ronde Tribe has chosen to get its services directly from the Area Office under what is called an Accord and to take their funding with them. However, the four remaining tribes, including the Siletz have chosen to continue to get our services from the Siletz Agency.

Although we are a Self-Governance tribe and have contracted almost all our Bureau services, we continue a government-to-government relationship and continue to rely on the Siletz Agency for trust services.

Neither we, nor the other tribes, were ever consulted about the Bureau's planned reduction which is in direct conflict with Vice President Gore's effort to streamline the Government. It's also contrary to the basic principles adopted by the Task Force on BIA Reorganization. The major principles adopted by that Task Force are that maximum delegations of authority and maximum distribution of funds should be made to the local tribe/agency level.

The Bureau's plan would reduce the funds and authority of our Agency and increase the funding and authority of the Area Office level, in direct opposition to the Task Force principles and Vice President Gore.

We have made our objections known to Congress and have requested congressional help in preventing this outrage.

As for our gaming project, we are involved in negotiating with the State of Oregon for a Class III Compact as required by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

We have had two sessions so far. Our second was held in Siletz to give the Governor's Team a first hand view of Siletz.

In addition, to myself, Jessie Davis, Craig Dorsay, and Scott Crowell a consultant with gaming experience serves on the Tribal Team. Crowell is a legal consultant to the National Indian Gaming Association and to several tribes including the Coquille in Oregon.

We will keep you informed as we move forward with our compact negotiations.

As for our legal suit against the U.S., we filed a notice to appeal the U.S. District Court's decision to the Ninth Circuit Court.

To obtain input on how the decision impacts other tribes, we hosted a meeting of Oregon tribes for this purpose on February 21st. We also sent letters to interested attorneys asking for their input.

The court will set dates for the filing of briefs. A number of tribes have indicated their intent to file amicus briefs.

As a result of General Council action, six new members have been added to the Ad Hoc Gaming Commission. On March 18th, Jessie Davis welcomed the new members, distributed and discussed background materials pertaining to Indian gaming.

In addition to recapping the status of various aspects of our gaming project, Jessie informed the new members of the many tasks still to be carried out. Two major tasks will be assigned to the new members: (1) Prepare and finalize a tribal gaming ordinance with supplemental rules and regulations, and (2) develop tribal standards and priorities for the use of gaming revenues.

Jessie reminded the group that the role of the Ad Hoc Commission is to work on issues and make recommendations to the Council for final decisions.

At the Tribal Council Meeting in Siletz, the Council approved (by majority vote) a request to the Secretary of Interior to hold a special election. The membership will decide whether to approve or disapprove lowering the blood quantum to 1/16 degree.

The May General Council Meeting will be held in Salem, Oregon, the place has not yet been determined. Hope to see you all there.

East County Communities

Task Force

"Working together so families, children, and individuals have safe and healthy places to live and grow"

Chair, Anne Swinehart, 336-2356

Alternate, Mike O'Donnell, 336-3262

Staff, Kiko Denzer, 336-5833

Six groups from Toledo, Siletz, Eddyville and Harlan received special grants and recognition from the East County Communities Task Force on Wednesday, March 9th.

The Toledo Grad Nite Committee, a group of parents and concerned community members, received \$200 to support their Drug & Alcohol free, all night graduation party for the Seniors at Toledo High.

The Title V Indian Education Parent Committee, made up of parents and community members primarily from Siletz, received \$175 to help provide lunch for students at the First Coastal Drug & Alcohol Conference which was held at the Shilo on March 19.

The Toledo Police Department D.A.R.E. Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) received \$300 to support their efforts to provide 5th and 6th grade youth with skills and knowledge to avoid alcohol and other drug abuse and negative peer pressure.

The East Lincoln County Quick Response Team received \$400 to provide medical kits to four volunteer responders who respond to emergency medical calls in the Eddyville area.

The Harlan Community Hall received \$368 for insurance, postage, and supplies to support their efforts to draw their community together, provide recreation, information, assistance, and healthy places where community members and their families can have fun.

And finally, Choice Times, a free community newspaper about healthy alternatives to alcohol and drugs, received \$250 for general support and an ad.

The grants support the East County Communities Task Force goals of 1) developing resources for families, 2) developing services for at-risk children, 3) working with individuals and communities to identify common interests, and 4) developing community centers. The Task Force welcomes requests from other groups. For more information, contact Kiko Denzer at 336-5833. Meetings are at the Toledo Library every second Wednesday from 3-5:00 pm.