

Grant sought for improved Simnasho water system

The prevailing opinion at the Planning Department's public hearings on expanding the water system for the Simnasho-Schoolie Flat area was "It's about time." Although a number of concerns were raised at the two hearings held December 28 at Simnasho and January 3 in Warm Springs, the proposal to apply for federal funds was given ample support.

Underlying the proposed water system is anticipation of the residential and commercial growth of Simnasho and Schoolie Flat in the next twenty-five years. It is expected that at least 150 medium

and low density home sites will be developed in the area, as well as such commercial and public facilities as a general store and a community center.

Individual wells are suffering because of insufficient ground water.

Such growth necessitates the construction of a larger, more efficient water system, say the planners.

The present system, which includes a 15,000 gallon reser-

voir at Simnasho and a separate 12,000 gallon reservoir at Schoolie, is barely adequate for the existing residents. Individual wells are suffering because of insufficient ground water.

As proposed, the new system would involve at least one and probably two reservoirs with a total capacity of 300,000 gallons, utilizing gravity flow aided by one or two pumping stations. The source of the water would be Beaver creek, west of Simnasho.

"We've been meeting on this for 20-30 years and I've never heard any objections."

Because the Public Health Service cannot expand a water system until actual residential development begins, other funds are being sought. A Community Development block Grant from HUD for \$500,000 is felt by the Planning Department to be a fair request for what may become a two-phase project.

As a result of the public hearings, pre-applications for the grant can now be made.

The idea of Simnasho-Schoolie flat development appeared to be popular at the

hearings. Neda Greene, who acted as spokesperson for Simnasho, pointed to evidence that people wanted to move back to the area. "Land applications have had to be denied due to the lack of water," she said.

Verbena Greene, speaking as an interested person, expressed concern that unless the Simnasho school receives more students, it may have to close. She felt that more water would encourage people to repopulate the area.

Delbert Frank pointed to the fact that people have hung onto their land at Schoolie and are waiting for the opportunity to become residents. He summed up the feelings on development by saying, "We've been meeting on this for 20-30 years and I've never heard any objections."

In addition to encouraging the controlled development of the area, the proposed water system would serve two other purposes, according to Tribal Planner Ray Rangila. They are: 1) to provide better fire protection, 2) to minimize the chance of water shortage and the need for rationing water.

Several concerns were voiced at the sparsely attended but productive hearings. One issue raised at the first hearing and responded to at the second was the impact of the new water system on fish,

particularly on salmon spawning, in Beaver Creek. The response from the Fish and Wildlife Service was that "withdrawal (of water) would have little if any impact" on the fish population.

Another concern was maintenance. Tribal Engineer Satish Puri reminded those at the 2nd meeting that maintenance was a hidden and continual expense for the Tribe, not included in a federal construction grant. He said that in order to make this expense worthwhile, a substantial number of homes should be serviced.

Other concerns were sewage, construction materials and location, and zoning for future development.

Rangila described the costs involved in the proposed water system which includes the construction of an intake structure, the water line, a filtration treatment system, pumping stations and reservoirs, as well as administrative and contingent costs.

If the Grants Department is asked to submit a formal application as a result of its pre-application, and then receives the grant, Rangila predicts that it would take 60 days for engineering input to be made. Construction could then start in the summer with a tentative completion date of fall or winter.

An Essay The creative math of Council representation:

By Olney Patt, Jr.

Democracy is a great institution for politicians and people alike, and it probably existed at some time or another in Warm Springs' distant past. But no more. At least not for the last 40 or so years.

All of the trappings of democracy are present: regular elections, polling places, ballot boxes and ballots - everything you need.

Not quite. In order for a democracy to function properly each person, or groups of people, must be represented equally. That is, one man - one vote. The present breakdown of the voter-to-representative ratio doesn't quite shape up that way. In fact, it's downright cockeyed: and to prove that this is not just idle teeth-gnashing, consider the following:

By districts, council delegation (not including chiefs) comes out to 37.5 per cent for the Agency district, 37.5 per cent for the Simnasho district, and 25 per cent for the Seekseequa District.

This might not seem terribly askew until you examine this fact: The Agency's 37.5 per cent of the representation is for 60.6 per cent of the eligible voters, Simnasho's 37.5 per cent is for 32.2 of the voters, and - here's the one that's a little out of line - Seekseequa's 25 per cent is for 7.2 per cent of the reservation's eligible voters.

This discrepancy runs completely counter to the principles of the system that allegedly governs us all, and it can't be allowed to continue (it may someday be passed off as "the traditional way". Then it'll be too late to change it).

But how can it be righted? (Better yet, WILL it be righted?)

There are many ways, none of which should cause anyone undue mental anguish or effort.

One way would be to change the number of representatives from each district to make them proportionate to the number of total voters they represent. Including chiefs, that would be 5 for the Agency district, 3 for the Simnasho district, and 1 for the Seekseequa district. That would provide a more even 55-33-11 per cent ratio.

Before proposing the next solution, this question should be asked of the reader: Why Is There A Seekseequa District? How is it justifiable that such a small group of people hold council positions when there are more eligible voters in the West Hills subdivision of Warm Springs?

With that in mind, wouldn't it be feasible to simply combine the Seekseequa district with the Agency district? If the present trend persists then the third and final solution would be to allow West Hills a couple of representatives, Miller Heights a couple, Elliot Heights a couple, Greenville a couple, Kah-Nee-Ta Hamlet a couple, the mobile home park a couple, etc. In this way, a lot of hard feelings could be spared for the cost of a larger council room.

But for practical reasons, one of the first two should be considered. It would make a nice "New Year's Resolution" for the Council to consider. That is, of course, unless the resolution is voted down by one oversized faction.

Okay. Let's assume that the Seekseequa District has hit on the right formula: 1 representative for each 24 voters. Let's see . . . , that would mean 13 representatives from Simnasho and 25 for the Agency. Ridiculous, you say? Well, who said democracy can't be a little ridiculous sometimes? It is, after all, the system that brought you Tricky Dicky and the Republican Party. But that's another story.

Have Funds, Will Travel

Johnson O'Malley

Part of the Johnson O'Malley funds for the Enrichment Program for the Warm Springs Indian students is planned for a two-day visitation to Portland to visit Roosevelt or Jefferson High School, Urban Indian Center Programs and Bassitt Institute. This trip is planned for the M.J.H.S. students February 3 through February 5, 1977.

Students will have the opportunity to sign up at the Jr. High Counselor's office and then be selected according to attendance, participation, attitude in classes, and some in grade.

This would be an enrichment for our Indian students to visit another school and to compare Madras-Warm Springs Schools to urban schools. It is hoped that our students will have a chance to meet with other Indian students from the Portland area.

Visiting the Bassitt Institute would allow the students added awareness of personal grooming and learning to feel good about ones self.

On this trip the students will be asked to give up their favorite hamburgers and to be exposed to different cultures, environments, foods, and, of course, to practice their manners.

Hopefully, this trip would offer encouragement, and be a good learning experience for

Warm Springs students both educationally and socially.

If any parents or guardians have any questions they may contact Mr. Doyle Whipple,

Title 4 Counselor (475-3131) or Marie Calica, Johnson O'Malley Community Liaison. Her office number is 475-3405 and her home phone is 553-1488.

Indian funds cut in 1977 EDA Budget

The 1977 budget of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) shows a \$4.27 million cut in Indian programs, including monies for planning.

Although the overall EDA budget will increase from just over \$354 million to \$360 million, each category of Indian programming will decrease.

In 1976, \$3,898,000 was spent for Indian planning, technical assistance and research. That amount is cut to \$3,740,000 in the EDA budget for fiscal year 1977.

\$1,591,000 was spent in 1976 for Indian business development. No monies were allocated for that purpose in the 1977 budget.

Grants for public works for Native Americans are cut from the \$25 million spent in 1976 to \$22.5 million in the new budget.

Ray Tanner of the EDA Indian Desk told UIPA he requested that the monies allocated for Indian projects remain at the 1976 level.

But, he said, "Those on the

hill are asking why 14 per cent of the budget is going to less than 1 per cent of the population."

"I don't like what is happening. I think Indian people need that money," Tanner asserted. But he is of the opinion that the Indian organizations will have to act, if funds are to continue to go to Indian people.

"I know it is my duty to represent the Indian people, but Indian organizations also have to speak for themselves. In the Spring when EDA held budget hearings there were no Indians testifying that they needed that money. And the funds will be allotted to people who ask for them," he said.

However, Tanner is hopeful that the local public works funds, which will likely be allocated in January, will help fill the gap for any whose programs would be hindered by the cutbacks.

He said an excess of \$2 billion will be distributed and he is hopeful that close to \$100 million could go to special Indian programs.