

Meeting to discuss youth advisory council

The OSU Extension 4-H Office and the Workforce Development Office are inviting representatives of other youth-serving organizations and interested community members to attend an informal meeting to provide input into the creation of new youth advisory councils in Warm Springs.

The meeting will be hosted by the OSU Extension 4-H Office on Wednesday, January 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The meeting will be located on the second floor training room in the Education Building.

The meeting is designed to get feedback on an idea of creating two community-wide youth advisory councils consisting of

selected middle school and high school youth that would meet regularly to advise local youth-serving organizations about the needs of youth in the community.

Input from the community is sought regarding decisions such as the process for selecting the advisory council members, length of service, which organi-

zations will serve as the sponsor, the job description of a youth advisory member, and sources of funds to support the activities of the councils.

For more information, contact Shawn Morford at 553-3238 or Corey Clements at 553-3324.

Safe drinking water always a top priority

(Note: This article is continued from the previous paper.)

By Jonathan Smith
Environmental Technician

Making the community drinking water safe is a top priority for the operators of the water system and they have identified the fluoride program as a potential risk.

For the Warm Springs Agency, the distribution system starts at the Warm Springs Water Treatment Plant and continues through reservoirs, vaults, and miles of pipeline.

There are a total of 1,356 service connections that serve approximately 3,800 individuals. There are 24 commercial service connections and Kah-Nee-Ta has an additional 346 connections. The water system has a total storage capacity of 5,855 Million Gallons a Day (MGD).

The SDWA also states there are monitoring and reporting requirements for public drinking water systems. The Warm Springs Water Treatment Plant performs laboratory analysis on the source water (raw water), chemically treated water (sub-basin water), and finish water (tap water).

The staff performs laboratory analysis of water quality approximately every two hours.

They check water temperature, turbidity (clarity), chlorine residual, pH, color, hardness, alkalinity, and can do many other tests that are documented on a daily log. If any of the tests go over the EPA established Maximum Containment Levels then the facility would take required action and then report and document each occurrence.

Water samples from residences are sent to an independent state certified lab to test for contamination and water quality.

Tests can include detection for: nitrates, lead, copper, bac-

teria, organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals, total trihalomethanes (TTHM), or radioactivity.

Steve Courtney Sr. also produces the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) for the department, which are required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The reports specify each water system's official results from independent state-certified third-party labs and also contain important information regarding water quality. The reports are posted at various locations in the community and are available in July of each year.

The Warm Springs Water Distribution staff operates the Sidwalter and Simnasho/Schoolie Flats Water Systems.

They perform analysis to ensure the water complies with the SDWA. The distribution staff members are state-certified operators as required by EPA's SDWA.

The supervisor is Kanim Smith, who has over thirty years experience. The other two operators are Lee Johnson and Steve Governor who are currently in training to become state-certified.

The distribution staff is responsible for maintenance, installation, water samples and also the day-to-day operations of the distribution system.

We all know how important and precious our water is. Without water we couldn't survive. Water is sacred.

That's why it is important to conserve as much as you can, especially during this time of global warming.

If you see a distribution staff member turning off your outside water faucet when it's running down the street, it's because treating the water is expensive. Please help us protect our water for this generation and the next generation to come.

So, what does this all mean? It means that the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

have personnel specifically trained to operate the local water systems. And that they are required to test water quality and are following national standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

So, how will you know the water is safe to drink?

The water is tested in-house by certified operators and also tested by independent certified labs to ensure clean, safe, high quality drinking water.

How come the water tastes funny, appears dirty, or smells funny?

Sometimes when maintenance is done on the distribution system it can have an effect on water quality. There are many things that affect water quality. Water is treated with chlorine and is adjusted to have a minimum residual of 0.2 mg/l (ppm) at service connection tap, as required by the SDWA.

Therefore, you may notice a chlorine odor in the water. When in doubt, flush the water for three minutes and check for a difference.

If you still think the water is questionable, contact your local water operator to report it.

If you have any questions or concerns, the following contact information is provided:

For Warm Springs Water Works, call Paul Henderson, engineer, at 553-2234 or Kanim Smith, foreman, at 553-2234.

For Warm Springs Water Treatment Plant, call Steve Courtney Sr., chief operator, at 553-1472.

For the Warm Springs Water Board, call Roy Spino, chairman, at 553-3257. Protecting our drinking water is everyone's responsibility. Repairing equipment due to vandalism can be very expensive. If you know of, or see somebody vandalizing our community's drinking water system you should report it immediately. Call 911 or the Warm Springs Police Department at 553-1171.

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Kay Baker, superintendent of the Jefferson County School District 509-J, will be in Warm Springs twice each month to meet with parents or other community members regarding the school system. Baker will be in the tribal administration building, conference room 2, on the first Tuesday of every month from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and on the third Tuesday of each month from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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