

To the Agency District Wasco people regarding the Wasco Chief

Agency District Wasco People:
After holding nine dinner meetings at the Agency Longhouse in 2010 and 2011, and reviewing the results of a survey mailed out to the Agency District Wascos

in January, 2012, we have determined that an election be conducted to select the next Wasco Chief.

Four of the six candidates have agreed to an election. At informal polls conducted dur-

ing two separate Wasco meetings in 2011, a majority were in favor of going forward with an election to determine the next Wasco Chief.

As Agency district Wasco representatives to the Tribal

Council, we agree that the process to choose a Wasco Chief should proceed with a vote among the Agency District Wasco people. The vote will be organized and conducted by the Vital Statistics

Department.
We suggest that this happen immediately following the posting for 30 days of the current list of registered Agency District members of Wasco descent who are eli-

gible to vote.
Let the Creator guide our choice in these difficult times.

**Stanley "Buck" Smith Jr.
Eugene Austin Greene Jr.
Lola Sohapp.**

Addressing objections raised to Chieftainship vote, and supporting Council members

The Agency District representatives to the Tribal Council have called for an election to determine the next Wasco Chief.

It is a courageous decision and may not be readily understood or immediately accepted by some Agency District members.

This letter addresses many of the objections that have been raised concerning a vote and is written in support of their action.

1. There are six announced candidates for the Wasco Chieftainship, all of who claim a hereditary connection to the chieftainship and who have their respective supporters in the Agency District.

a. Each candidate's family has followed tribal custom(s) by different means, in bringing their nominee forward to be acknowledged as a candidate for our next Wasco Chief.

b. The selection process has been discussed in nine public meetings.

c. Prior to the seventh meeting Wasco people were informed, by KWSO announcements and flyers posted, that the deadline to nominate a Wasco Chief candidate was the September 12, 2011 meeting.

2. Why should Agency District Wascos vote to determine the next Wasco Chief?

a. The Wasco people and the Agency District have been led for the past 60 years by two Wasco Chiefs selected by

a vote of the Wasco people.

b. During the tenure of the two previous chiefs, no Wasco objected that their selection by vote was "unconstitutional" or not "in accordance with tribal custom".

c. After nine public meetings, Agency District members could not agree on the specifics of a "customary" selection process. During the first meetings Wasco elders discussed how the three previous Wasco Chiefs were selected.

d. The previous Wasco Chief didn't appoint or announce a successor.

e. A majority of the attendees polled at two of these nine meetings on the chieftainship issue supported a vote.

f. The Wasco Chieftainship survey indicates that a majority of Agency District Wasco's support a Wasco Chieftainship vote.

g. Four of the six nominees support a vote to determine the next "recognized chief" of the Agency District.

h. A vote will serve to confirm one of the 6 nominees as the next legitimate Wasco Chief.

i. There is no more fair process than a properly conducted election.

3. Who will be able to vote in a Wasco Chieftainship election?

a. Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs members who are recognized as Wasco descendants and who were registered to vote in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Agency District on

July 10, 2012, per vital statistics records. (As identified in the Constitution and Bylaws the Wasco Chief serves as part of the Governing body.)

4. Why should only Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs members be eligible to vote?

a. The Wasco Chief will serve as a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council, the Tribes' governing body. By the Tribes' Constitution and By-Laws, non-members have no voice in the selection of members of the CTWS Tribal Council.

5. Why is registration in the Agency District required to be eligible to vote in the Wasco Chieftainship election?

a. The Wasco Chief serves as a permanent representative to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council from the Agency District. Wasco descendants who are registered to vote in one of the other two districts have had more than one year to re-register in the Agency District to be able to vote in the Wasco Chieftainship election.

b. Elimination of the re-

quirement that eligible Wasco voters be registered in the Agency District would enable members who are primarily associated with either the Seekseequa or Simnasho District to vote on the selection of the Agency District (Wasco) Chief.

6. How will the winner of the Wasco Chieftainship election be determined?

a. The nominee who obtains the most votes cast will be declared the winner and the next Wasco Chief.

b. Should there be a tie; then a runoff election will be conducted within a month.

c. If, in the future, the Wasco Chief falls ill or otherwise can no longer fulfill his duties, then the runner-up will act as Interim Chief until the Wasco Chief can resume his duties or until a permanent successor can be selected.

7. The Wasco Chieftainship vote, while not a Tribal governmental election, will be conducted in a manner consistent with procedures for Tribal elections.

a. A list of Tribal members of Wasco descent who were registered to vote in the

most recent Tribal election on July 10, 2012 will be posted by the Vital Statistics Department at the main Tribal Administration Building 6 weeks prior to the election.

b. A member whose name doesn't appear on the list but believes that he/she meets the qualifications and wants to vote in the Wasco Chieftainship election may challenge the listing by submitting a letter and any supporting documentation to the Vital Statistics Department at least 4 weeks prior to the election. The decision whether a member is eligible to vote in the election shall be made by the Vital Statistics Enrollment Officer at least 3 weeks prior to the election.

c. The election will be conducted by secret ballot. Ballots shall be printed listing all six candidates and shall be available for off-Reservation and Absentee Ballot requests at least two weeks prior to the Election. Write-in votes will not be allowed, to be in compliance with paragraph #1 above.

d. Wasco people will appoint a 3-5 person "Special Wasco Chieftainship Election panel" of Wasco elders who shall monitor all aspects of

the election to ensure its fairness.

e. On the day of the election voting will be conducted at the Agency Community Center from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

f. Ballots will be deposited into a ballot box. Ballots will be counted after the polls have closed. Once the ballots have been counted and the election results certified by the special election panel, the ballots shall be secured and stored in a vault for a period of 90 days.

g. The special election panel will announce the results of the election the next regular weekday morning. The special election panel and the Director, Vital Statistics, will advise the Tribal Council of the results of the election at the next regular Tribal Council meeting. The Wasco Chief shall be sworn in to office at that time by the BIA Superintendent.

An Agency District meeting will be held during the last week of August, 2012 to notify Agency District members of the upcoming Wasco Chieftainship vote.

Charles V. Jackson

Teepee Arcade open at Plaza

The Teepee Arcade is open Sunday thru Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11


til 11 at the Warm Springs Plaza. The arcade has games, air hockey and pool tables, espresso and smoothies.

MHS 40 Year Class Reunion

You are invited to the Madras High School 40-year class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Juniper Hills Park (top of Ashwood Rd./B St and Bean Drive. This will be a potluck.

RSVP Lola Freeman Hagman, 541-546-6423, or Loretta Toothman Williams, 541-410-4602. (Friday night - No host at The Pumphouse in Terrebonne, 6 p.m.

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