



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

July 17, 2019 - Vol. 43, No. 15

July - Pat'ak-Pt'akni - Summer - Shatm

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State bill includes \$7.8 million for water work

The Oregon legislature has approved \$7.8 million in funding to the Confederated Tribes for three key water projects on the reservation. With Gov. Brown's signature the bill becomes law.

The \$7.8 million is part of 2019 House Bill 5030, a so-called 'Christmas tree' bill, allocating more than \$270 million for many projects across the state.

The \$7.8 million is apparently much more than the tribes have ever received in a state bill of this kind.

The revenue comes from the Oregon Lottery. The state plans to issue the Lottery bonds for the HB5030 projects in 2021. For this reason the funding would be avail-

able sometime after the bond issuance.

Still, the appropriation to the tribes could be used now as a match to leverage other funding—from federal agencies or other sources—for the reservation water system. And in occasional rare cases—based on immediacy of need, for instance—some of the state funding could possibly be made available before the actual 2021 bond issuance.

Oregon Sen. Cliff Bentz and Rep. Daniel Bonham were advocates for the tribes' inclusion in HB5030.

Sen. Bentz, R-District 30, and Rep. Bonham, R-District 59, represent the reservation area in the

Oregon legislature.

They've been aware of the tribal water situation for some time, corresponding with tribal Chief Operations Officer Alyssa Macy. In a letter earlier this year to Sen. Bentz and Rep. Bonham, Ms. Macy summarized the situation:

"The Confederated Tribes has been challenged for decades with aging water and sewer systems which are major barriers to economic and community growth, housing development, and job creation on the Warm Springs Reservation.

"While there has been progress to address major deficiencies at the Warm Springs Water Treat-

ment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, large capital infrastructure investments are needed in order for the tribe to have a strong utility foundation to build upon."

Ms. Macy listed five of the most important projects—Downtown public works, industrial park public works, a wastewater treatment plant update, the water meter project, and the water distribution project—with a total cost of \$13 million.

HB5030 provides \$7.8 million for three of these projects:

The wastewater plant update (\$1.3 million); the water meter project (\$2.5 million); and the water distribution project (\$4 million).

The water distribution problem in the Agency area has become the most noticeable, especially since last fall. And then in May a worst-case scenario happened with the 14-inch water-line break up Shitike Creek.

The break was the most critical, though not the only major problem: The old water pressure regulating system serving the area is a related element of the overall situation.

The Agency area water meter project has been an idea for the last few years, with a preliminary engineering report complete in 2017.

Metering and a rate system can be required in order to obtain funding for water improvements; and metering would help resolve the extensive water system leakage.

Clearing way for small business incubator center



The Warm Springs Construction crew removed the trees from the future home of the Small Business Incubator building.

The tribes and Community Action Team are getting ready for the move of the old Commissary building, from its current location beside the police station to the new site by Highway 26.

Through a series of grant opportunities, the Community Action Team has secured funding to move and then wholly re-

model the structure, creating the Warm Springs Small Business Incubator center. There will be occupancy space for artists, a cafe, and other local small businesses.

Another component of the incubator is the adjacent food court; and WSCAT is now recruiting for a person to manage the future court, and train potential new food

court vendors.

The food cart trainer and manager will be responsible for providing training to Warm Springs tribal and community members in how to operate a food cart.

The position is a contract position, at 35 hours per week. Fund-

ing for the position is in place through June 30, 2020.

This Community Action Team project is made possible by a grant from the East Cascades Works Workforce Development program. (Job description continues on page 8.)

Conserve, boil water

The Branch of Public Utilities continues this week was continuing work on repairs at the George Street station.

As work continues, residents can continue to expect low water pressure, and potential water outages. For this reason the tribes stress the importance of water conservation.

The boil water order for the Agency Water System remains in effect, and burn restrictions are in place on the reservation.

The water distribution station is open at the former elementary school library area Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In order to conserve, please refrain from watering lawns or washing cars, and take steps to ensure that all outdoor faucets at your residence are shut off.

The Warm Springs Agency water system has been unstable, as Utilities staff and the tribes worked last week with engineers to identify another failure in the George Street station.

This resulted again in water pressure reduction and water flows from the Tewee Reservoir to the South East reservoir.

In a related topic:

Consumer Confidence Reports

The 2018 Water Quality Reports for the Simnasho-Schoolie, Sidwalter and Warm Springs Water Systems are available.

These reports are available on the tribal website; and in this edition of the *Spilyay Tymoo* (see pages 10 and 11).



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The Early Childhood Education Center remained closed to children this week. Due to low water pressure and potential water outages, the center was unable to allow the children to return as earlier planned. Staff returned this week, though. Some of the ECE teachers had been helping out at the water distribution center, at Emergency Management. On hand last week helping distribute bottled water were Johnson Bill, Paulette Henry, Angelina SiJohn, Alaina Jones and Chris Talifson (back row from left); and Dot Thurby, Marella VanPelt and Tiana Northrup (at table from left).



Thousands of gallons of bottled water fill classrooms (above and below) and hallways at the former elementary school. The water for now looks plentiful but could run out in about a month.



PLEASE CONSERVE WATER!

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