



Spilyay Tymoo

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Weighing possible groundwater option

The domestic water source for much of the reservation is the Deschutes River. Water is drawn from the river at the treatment plant in the Dry Creek area. The water is treated, and then pumped to the storage towers and customers.

The use of treated surface water as the source of domestic drinking water is common, especially for larger communities. Groundwater, though, has advantages: Filtration through the earth helps clean groundwater.

Groundwater, then, can require much less treatment before distribution, said Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water.

The tribes are planning for the future of the domestic water system serving the Agency and Kah-Nee-Ta areas of the reservation. A study presented last year by Indian Head Service engineers identified the Deschutes River as the most practical source for future domestic water.

This would involve replacement

of the existing treatment plant, with construction of a new one nearby, according to the report. Cost of a new plant could be up to \$30 million.

Power and Water has applied for a \$200,000 grant to assess the potential of groundwater resources on tribal land. Results of the study could help determine the potential use of groundwater for domestic service, or a commercial potential such as a water bottling business. The grant would come from the Bureau of Reclamation Native American Division.

A benefit of the use of groundwater would be the reduction in the treatment requirements, creating a long-term savings, Mr. Manion said.

The assessment would look at the sources of groundwater on the reservation. Distribution is a wholly separate question, Manion said. He anticipates the report could be concluded in the springs of next year, at which point it would be a membership and Council decision as to a future course of action.

Organization review at Council

Tribal Council this week is meeting with its committees—Fish and Wildlife, both On- and Off-Reservation; Timber, Health and Welfare, Land Use, Range and Ag, during this week.

Council review continues next week with Human Resources, Finance, Governmental Affairs, Managed Care, Administrative Services and Procurement.

Branches are up next, on Wednesday, January 22, with Tribal Court and Public Safety, Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Education and Utilities.

This month will see the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians winter convention. Some items on the ATNI winter convention agenda are a 'Youth Forum: Culturally Based Leadership Training'; a 2020 Census Tribal Liaison training, and a session with the Northwest Tribal Educators Alliance.

Some other ATNI items are the General Assembly leaders discussion; State of ATNI with president Leonard forsman; and the executive director update with Terri Parr. More items include tribal natural resources assessments; and reports on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), the National Congress of American Indians, and White House inter-governmental affairs.

Tribal solar power, and a Bonneville Power Administration update fill out the winter conference agenda.

Meanwhile at Tribal Council in January, the Warm Springs Tribal Employment Rights Office will give their update; and there will be a talk with the Water Board, and the Development office.

There will be a Columbia River Housing open house in January, and a meeting with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

MMIP January meeting in Warm Springs

The team working on the state Missing and Murdered Indigenous People initiative will meet soon with the Warm Springs tribal community.

Terri Davie of the Oregon State Police, and Mitch Sparks, of the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services are planning a Warm Springs MMIP meeting in Warm Springs on Tuesday, January 28.

The state legislature in 2019 created with the MMIP task force, providing resources to help address one of the most serious problems among tribes.

More options, better food

The work is rewarding—challenging for sure, and for this reason rewarding. Starla Green has a lifetime of cooking experience—from a longhouse helper as a child, to her successful commercial food business.

Starla joined the Warm Springs Community Action Team last fall, working now as the WSCAT Food Cart manager and trainer. The food cart—the Twisted Teepee—is by the Action Team office on campus. For now Starla opens for lunch Wednesdays through Fridays.

She and the Community Action Team are currently seeking a food cart trainee. This position would allow for more hours of service, while giving the trainee hands-on experience in the food service business. The Community Action Team is working on this project with the Warm Springs Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WOIA) office. (See page 4 of this publication for a complete trainee job description.)



Twisted Teepee food cart coordinator Starla Green, at the cart by the WSCAT office.

The Twisted Teepee is a first step in a longer-term plan to create a food court by Highway 26—at the future site of the Commissary business incubator. The food court and pavilion could host up to half-a-dozen or more food carts, serving all kinds of foods, traditional and otherwise.

Clearly, there will be new employment opportunities for tribal members, a main goal of the over-

all program, said Christ Watson, WSCAT executive director.

Mr. Watson secured a grant from East Cascade Works to purchase the Twisted Teepee cart, and funding for staffing.

Starla tries to add new items to the Twisted Teepee menu each week. Some of the items are familiar tribal items—Indian burgers and fry bread, for instance—while other choices in-

clude items that people here may not have yet tried.

Customers are welcome to stop by the cart and enjoy a lunch at one of the picnic tables by the Action Team office. Or you can call in and pick up an order. The number is easy to remember, 541-300-1000. Visit the Twisted Teepee site on Facebook for the week's menu.

— Dave McMechan

Getting around with Cascade East Transit

As a rural community, Warm Springs relies greatly on public transportation. Cascade East Transit Route 20 serves the reservation, with service to Madras. The Cascade East route in Warm Springs includes nine stops, plus to and from the tribes' Plateau Travel Plaza.

Funding for Cascade East Transit, partnering with the Central Oregon Inter-Governmental Council, comes from a fraction of a percent of the state payroll tax, excluding tribal members. The funding—the State Transportation Improvement Fund—is disbursed to transit districts, counties and tribes.

As there is no transit district in Central Oregon, the regional funding goes to the tribes and the coun-

ties, who work in partnership to provide the best service possible.

The tribes and the counties all have transportation improvement advisory committees. The tribal committee is planning to meet for discussion this month. A public meeting for community input would happen shortly after.

This will be a good time to provide comments on change or improvement to Route 20, or any other STIF related issue, said Theresa Conley, regional transit coordinator. A new draft route plan can be expected in the spring or summer; followed by public comment and implementation in coming years.

The tribes' transportation improvement—or STIF—advisory



Snowy weather is a great time to take the CET bus.

committee members are Rose Mary Alarcon, Lorien Stacona, Melinda Poitra, Tom Estimo Jr., Lyle Katchia, Andrea Breault, Janell Smith; and alternates Frances Martinez and Michele Stacona. Louie Pitt of Govern-

mental Affairs, and James Halliday, Land Services administrator, have been active in the STIF process.

You can see the Route 20 schedule at kws.org

— Dave McMechan

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