

31 year legacy with CRITFC service

After 31 years of dedicated service, Police Chief Mitch Hicks is retiring from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Enforcement Department.

His enforcement career began in 1993, and has been marked by significant contributions to the protection and enforcement of treaty-reserved natural resources, tribal fishing rights, and broader community safety.

“Chief Hicks has honorably served CRITFC and its member tribes for three of the four decades CRITFC has been on the Columbia River,” said Aja DeCoteau, CRITFC executive director.

“I appreciate his commitment to fisheries and law enforcement that he combined with his dedication to incorporating traditional values and sensitivity to create a team dedicated to community service policing.”

Chief Hicks will be



CRITFC Police Chief Hicks

missed, Ms. DeCoteau said, adding, “His contributions and legacy will continue to guide our intertribal work of protecting salmon, treaty-reserved fishing rights, and the tribal community living and fishing along the Columbia River.”

Chief Hicks’ journey with CRITFC started in 1993, dur-

ing a time of growth and change for the department. “When I started the department had about 10 or 12 officers and four or five dispatchers,” he said. “It was a smaller staff than currently.” This period saw an influx of funding from the Bonneville Power Administration for fish and wildlife conservation, which facilitated the expansion of the patrol force, including Hicks’ own hiring.

Throughout the 1990s, Hicks witnessed and contributed to the department’s evolution. A brief interruption in BPA funding was resolved in 1999, leading to the creation of a new Sergeant position to oversee field operations related to the BPA contract. Hicks was promoted to this role, working alongside Sergeant Ted Lamebull, Captain Jerry Ekker, and Chief John Johnson.

The early 2000s brought further challenges and responsibilities. The develop-

ment of treaty fishing access sites increased calls for policing service, prompting CRITFC to seek a 638 contract with the BIA to provide comprehensive law enforcement at these sites. This contract was secured in 2010, marking a significant expansion of the department mission. In 2013, Hicks was promoted to police chief, overseeing a period of substantial growth.

Hicks’ tenure has seen its share of challenges, including dealing with the loss of life in the Big River and responding to various emergencies. However, he also cherishes the moments when he was able to help those in need and hold offenders accountable, providing a sense of justice and peace for victims. “Seeing the best in people and doing what I could to alleviate some of the sorrow has been incredibly meaningful,” he reflects.

Summaries of Tribal Council

April 15

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jonathan W. Smith Sr. Roll call: Vice Chairman Raymond ‘Captain’ Moody, James ‘Jim’ Manion, Alvis Smith III, Lincoln Jay Suppah, Chairman Jonathan W Smith Sr., Chief Joseph Moses, Rosa Graybael, Carlos Calica, Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Secretary-Treasurer update with Robert Brunoe.

May agenda:

Motion by Jim approving the May agenda. Second by Alvis. Question: Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Alvis/yes, Rosa/yes, Jay/yes, Carlos/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Motion by Alvis approving Jonathan’s request to attend the Tribal Leadership Program on the Harvard Campus, June 23-28, 2024. Second by Rosa. Question: Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Alvis/yes, Rosa/yes, Jay/yes, Carlos/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Draft resolutions:

Warm Springs Composite Products BIRF Request:

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,146, that the Tribal Council hereby: 1.) Authorizes the Secretary-Treasurer to provide funding in the amount of \$1,500,000 to Warm Springs Composite Products for the WSCP Expansion project from the Business Investment Revolving Fund in accordance with terms and conditions agreed to by the BIRF Committee and as consistent with the attached Exhibit A and directs that as provided in funding terms. And conditions any interest and earnings on such funding shall be reinvested in the BIRF fund. Authorizes the Chair, Vice Chair, or Secretary-Treasurer to develop and execute loan agreements and associated documentation for the above BIRF loan authorization in a manner consistent with the BIRF Committee recommendations and as consistent with the attached Exhibit A. Authorizes the Tribal Council Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary-Treasurer to execute and deliver on behalf of the tribe any other documents and take such further and additional action as the Authorized Representative reasonably determines to be necessary or appropriate to

carry out the foregoing resolutions, with understanding to give an annual update to Tribal Council. Second by Jim. Question: Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Alvis/yes, Rosa/yes, Jay/yes, Carlos/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

The Museum at Warm Springs board reappointments:

Motion by Jim adopting Resolution No. 13,147, that the following persons be reappointed to the Board of Directors with terms expiring August 1, 2027: Bill Nicholson, non-tribal member; Olney Patt Jr. and Garland Brunoe, tribal members; Beulah Tsumpti and Ruth Beymer, tribal members, with amendments. Second by Carlos. Question: Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Alvis/yes, Rosa/yes, Jay/yes, Carlos/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Grazing District resolutions:

Motion by Captain adopting Resolution No. 13,148, that the Metolius Grazing Group be given a Grazing Authorization pursuant to WSTC 460.106 for a period of five years subject to conditions set forth

in the grazing group rules and grazing plan attached hereto as Exhibit A. Second by Jim. Question: Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Alvis/yes, Rosa/yes, Jay/yes, 5/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,149, that the Boulder/Miller Flat/Webster Flat and Dry Creek Grazing Group be given a Grazing Authorization pursuant to WSTC 460.106 for the period of five years subject to conditions set forth in the grazing group rules and grazing plan attached hereto as Exhibit. Second by Captain. Question: Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Alvis/yes, Rosa/yes, Jay/yes, 5/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Tribal Council requested a list of enterprise boards and committees compensation rates, and an estimation of meeting hours.

Enrollments and relinquishments with Lucille Suppach-Sampson:

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,150, enrolling two individuals. Second by Captain. Question: Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Alvis/yes, Rosa/yes, Jay/yes, 5/0/0, Chairman not

voting. Motion carried.

Indian Health Services update with Diane Fuller and Tammy Wilson.

Health and Human Services update with Taw Foltz.

Motion by Captain to adjourn at 4:29 p.m.

Summaries continue on 7

Pi-ume-Sha Health Fair



Date: June 26, 2024
Time: 9AM to 1PM
Warm Springs Community Wellness Center front lawn.

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Information: Community Health @ 541.553.2352



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