
FROM THE COUNCIL

During the Fiscal Year '78-'79 the Tribal Council has been involved with various programs. Among them are Transportation/Outreach for the Elderly, three Green Thumb Community Workers, and a Title IV-A Indian Education program. These are programs currently operating.

In May of 1979 the Tribal Council entered into an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz to implement a five month project beginning on May 18, 1979 and ending September 30, 1979. Funding was in the amount of \$20,567.00. This project funded four positions; an Enrollment Clerk, Area Researcher, Job Developer and an Administrator. The Council looked very seriously at the shortness of the project and the amount of funds available. Our thoughts were directed on the time period and funding. There was no excess money to implement the type of program we would like to have had. A program for five months and \$20,567.00 seemed to insure only one thing, to fail.

We discussed alternatives and resolved to update the tribal roll and gather statistics among our tribal members. To become restored as at tribe once again, this data is necessary. The small staff worked very hard and these activities occurred: The Enrollment Clerk documented almost one third of the tribal roll by documenting 704 members of a projected 2,200. Enrollments are still coming in and also being requested. Employment barriers were identified. Cultural activities were renewed.

Development of a sound, productive program is slow and we have had only fragmented programs to work with. We are negotiating at the present time to implement a seven month project, five months short of a full year.

Our ultimate goal is tribal restoration and social and economic development to provide leadership and management as well as employment for our tribal members.

Grand Ronde should not become a waste land of uncoordinated, fragmented programs, resulting in a non-productive community.

With the millions of federal monies available, one would think a portion would be directed to Grand Ronde to enhance the potential of a tribal organization's attempt to economic development. It isn't because we haven't applied. We've submitted several proposals and have received denials.

Historically the most economically advanced tribes have been terminated and almost destroyed. It is quite evident that nobody bothers a poor tribe. It is unlikely we would enter into economic development unless it is linked intrinsically with social development and self determination.

We have worked very hard at social development through the piece meal programs we have received in the past. We are making measurable progress and feel we are competent enough to proceed with economic development. Economic development without social development leads to exploitation; social development without economic development leads to dependency. We need a balanced approach that includes both social and economic development. Federal money has been doled out for projects that are absurd to start with such as climbing rocks (that was never completed), a grant to study the daytime antics of squirrels, and there are many more too numerous to mention.

Our hope is that one day we will impress someone that has the authority to give us the help we need to provide employment in our area that has practically a forty-eight percent unemployment rate.

Respectively,
Marv Kimsey, Tribal Chairman
