

— Tribal Life —

Housing staff visits Wash. Housing Authorities

Linda Layden, Housing Program Director, Lonnie Leno, Housing Improvement Coordinator, and John Mercier, Public Works Division Manager, traveled to three Washington Tribal Housing Authorities in early August to learn more about how various housing programs are developing and managing housing.

Their first stop was at the Southern Puget Sound Intertribal Housing Authority (SPSIHA) in Shelton, which serves the Squaxin Island, Skokomish, Shoalwater, Nesqually, Snoqualmish, and Hoh tribes in western Washington.

They have also developed a corporation, Sound Development Association (SDA), that makes loans to these tribal homebuyers and sells the mortgages to Fannie Mae.

They are working with other tribes in the area, making loans to homebuyers, and are considering opening up their business to all of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. If this is done, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde would be able to access the program, which would be a valuable resource. Our housing staff will be following this closely!

Marysville. They seem to be quite successful with their housing efforts. They are using a long history of HUD Mutual Help units as a basis for their creative new programs. Because we do not have any Mutual Help units with equity over time, this model will not work for us. They also have HUD rental units, and stressed that (1) it is important to have solid policies and enforcement of the policies, and (2) Tribal Council must be supportive of the housing staff in order to make it work.

Overall, the staff learned a lot about various programs and saw

The staff saw examples of both desirable and undesirable housing developments.

SPSIHA is currently building single family homes in Shelton and Skokomish that are made with Insulspan foam panel walls and meets the Super Good Cents program specifications. These homes are roomy, modest in design, but attractive in appearance. Some will be sold to tribal members and others are for rent. They have developed a homebuyer program with large down payment grants which enable the purchaser to afford a conventional mortgage.

The second visit was with the Lower Elwah Housing Authority in Port Angeles. They do not have any rental units because of the amount of paperwork and administration necessary to carry out a HUD rental program. They participate in HUD's Mutual Help Homeownership Program, which will soon be replaced and not available as it is currently structured.

The last visit was at the Tulalip Housing Authority near

examples of both desirable and undesirable housing developments.

This information was presented to the Housing Advisory Board at the August 11 meeting, and will be considered when recommendations are made for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Housing Plan.

Additionally, some useful professional contacts were made that will be helpful as we develop programs in the future.

Tribe signs agreement with Polk County Sheriff's Office

On August 2, 1995, Tribal Chairman Mark Mercier and Polk County Sheriff Ray Steele met with the Board of Commissioners in the Polk County Courthouse, requesting their approval for two agreements for added police protection for the Grand Ronde area. The first agreement was to renew the annual contract between the Tribe and County for the Deputy position now held by Tom O'Brien. You may recall that the Tribal Council met with the County Sheriff to see what would be required to bring a deputy to Grand Ronde, due to the discovery of discarded syringe needles in early 1994. Overall, people residing within Grand Ronde were happy with the presence of having Tom patrolling the local area. The second agreement was to pursue funding from the U.S. Department of Justice for a possible extra deputy.



Tribal Chairman Mark Mercier and Polk County Sheriff Ray Steele signed an agreement August 2.

Commissioner Mike Propes said he was happy with the Tribe taking the initiative in providing the financial assistance to have a deputy available, since the County was unable to do so. "The amount of money plowed back into the County by the Tribe, far exceeds the amount of loss of revenue due to fee to trust transactions." He was referring to the fact that

whenever the Tribe has the Bureau of Indian Affairs take lands into trust for the Tribe, the lands are removed from the county tax rolls. Mercier told the Board that with the gaming operation soon to begin, the Tribe expects an increased need for law enforcement, since State Route 18 is already the busiest two-lane road in Oregon.

Cultural Gatherings

August 18 to 20: GRAND RONDE POW-WOW. Powwow grounds, Grand Ronde, OR. Contact: 1-800-422-0232 or (503) 879-5211.

August 18 to 20: KLAMATH TREATY DAYS CELEBRATION. Chiloquin, OR. Contact: (503) 783-2005.

August 18 to 20: ANNUAL CHIEF SEATTLE DAYS. Downtown Suquamish, WA. Contact: (206) 598-3311.

August 18 to 20: MUCKLESHOOT ANNUAL POW-WOW. Ballfield behind the Gym, Auburn, WA. Contact: Mary Ross or Jeannette Morrison at (206) 939-3311.

August 25 to 27: SPOKANE FALLS NORTHWEST INDIAN ENCAMPMENT & POW-WOW. Riverfront Park, Spokane, WA. Contact: (509) 535-0886 or (509) 634-4711.

August 25 to 27: ANNUAL MAKAH DAYS. Bay View Ave., Neah Bay, WA. Contact: (206) 645-2201.

August 26 from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: LAKOTA OYATEKI INDIAN CULTURE CLUB POW-WOW. Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem, OR. Call for clearance and approval at (503) 378-2289, please leave message on voice mail.

August 26 and 27: CELEBRATING TRADITIONS. Alton Baker Park, Eugene, OR. Contact: (503) 984-1454.

August 26 and 27: ALL-INDIAN FAST-PITCH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. Sacramento, CA. Contact: (916) 421-0657.

August 31 to Sept. 4: SPOKANE INDIAN DAYS. Powwow grounds, Wellpinit, WA. Contact: (509) 258-4060.

Sept. 1 to 3: CALIFORNIA ALL-INDIAN POW-WOW. San Juan Bautista, CA. Contact: (408) 623-2379.

Sept. 1 to 4: LEBANON POW-WOW. Lebanon, OR. Contact: (503) 258-6193.

Sept. 1 to 4: KLA HOW WA DAYS. Tulalip Tribal Grounds, Marysville, WA. Contact: (260) 653-4585.

Sept. 1 to 4: PUYALLUP TRIBE'S ANNUAL POW-WOW AND SALMON BAKE. 2002 E. 28th St., Exit 135 off I-5, Tacoma, WA.

Sept. 8 to 10: 1st ANNUAL MILL-LUCK POW-WOW. Mill Casino, North Bend, OR. Contact: 1-800-953-4800.