

# Engineering and Community Development Reports During May General Council Meeting

By Ron Karten

The May General Council meeting was held on Sunday, May 2, at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. Here are the highlights:

Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno called the meeting to order; Tribal Council member Jan D. Reibach offered the invocation.

The report from Eric Scott, the Tribe's Engineer, included a look at some of the major projects completed last year and those expected to be completed in 2004 and 2005.

Among those for 2003, Scott cited the Spirit Mountain Water Treatment facility, the Grand Ronde Station and convenience store, new RV and valet parking lots, the Yoncalla Creek bridge replacement that opened up two more miles to migrating salmon, the Rogue River bridge replacement, a Natural Resources equipment shed and the Ft. Yamhill access road and bridge design.

In progress for this year and next are: the Grand Ronde Road widening and sewer main upgrade, a day-use public park on the Tribal campus that will feature camp grounds, access to the river in two places and restrooms, the Fort Yamhill access road, design work for improvements at the Highway 22/Ft. Yamhill intersection and the 15.4 acre Chemawa Station project, a campus-style business park Tribally owned in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and the Spirit Mountain lodge expansion, due to be completed in March of 2005.

Tribal Council member Val Grout said that the sadness brought to the

Tribe in recent weeks by much illness and many deaths perhaps called for a little break, which she said was inspired by Eric Scott's discussion of the road-widening



Photo by Ron Karten

**Eric Scott**  
Tribal Engineer

plans for Highway 22 where it passes by Kissing Rock.

"How many recall parking at Kissing Rock?" she asked. Somehow, the names and red faces of a few Elders emerged. On the heels of that pitch, Grout asked the same question about Bloomers Lane.

"We've had so much sadness," she said into the laughter. "We needed a good laugh."

Tribal member Gene LaBonte and members of the Veterans' Memorial Ad Hoc Committee

raised \$1,500 in a garage sale that will be used to add names to the West Valley Veterans' Memorial.

Tribal member Candy Robertson asked whether Tribal Council approves or edits information passed to the public through the Tribe's Public Information Office. Generally, but not always, replied Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno. Often, the whole council discusses issues and proposes or approves official Tribal replies to the public.

Tribal member Linda Olson sought to have implementation of the Public Safety ordinance postponed until October, following public meetings, because many Tribal members were not yet aware of its provisions and fines.

Parts of the ordinance have been in effect since 2002, according to Tribal Attorney Rob Greene. Some amendments, however, are new, he said.

Tribal member Betty Bly asked for clarification about the Tribe's decision to delay payments to the Community Fund until after an official audit next year, as specified in the Tribe-State Gaming Compact.

"There was a lot of miscommunication" about the roles played by Tribal Council and the Community Fund Board of Directors, said Tribal Vice Chair Leno. "We believe we have it back on track and the board will again be disbursing money in the near future."

Discussion followed about the cost to the Tribe of disbursing money monthly vs annually and the negative publicity the misunderstanding generated.

"We didn't make a mistake," said Leno. "When we're bleeding, we've got to stop it."

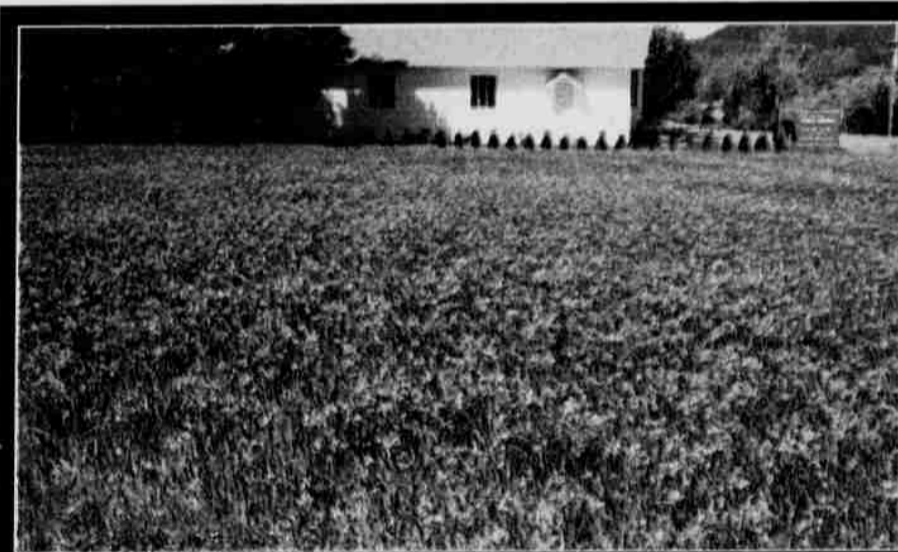
"The Tribal Council is not perfect," said Tribal Council member Val Grout, "but I don't think we made a mistake. We're just trying to save money for the Tribal membership."

"People are saying they have to wait a year for this money," said Tribal member Arlene Beck. "We waited 150 years for help and we survived."

Door prize winners included \$50 winners: Tribal members Shaylyn Shandy, and Tribal Elders Clarice Ellison and Charles D. Haller; and the \$100 winner was Dennis Hicks. Dolores West won a cedar chest raffled by the Elders' Committee.

Other announcements:

The last of three Community Meetings seeking input and ideas from the membership will be held from 6 — 8:30 p.m. on May 25 at the Community Center in Grand Ronde. Memorial Day Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, May 29, 2004 at noon in the Tribal Community Center; a Memorial Day ceremony is scheduled for Monday, May 31, 2004 at the Tribal Cemetery followed by the unveiling of some 150 names to be added to the West Valley Veterans' Memorial; nominations for Tribal Council will be heard on Sunday, June 27, 2004 at 11 a.m. at a Special General Council meeting in the Community Center; and the next general Council Meeting will be Sunday, September 12 at the Tribal Community Center.



**Local Color —**

Tribal Elder Merle Holmes provided *Smoke Signals* with these pictures of the beautiful Camas Lilly growing in Grand Ronde at the Church of the Nazarene across from the school. The Camas Lilly is a sure sign of early summer.

Photos by Merle Holmes



**Commitment —**

Tribal member Gary and his wife Linda LaChance (left) danced at their 37th wedding anniversary. Tribal Council member Jan D. Reibach performed the ceremony where the couple also renewed their wedding vows. Dozens of family and community members were on hand to help the couple with the celebration, held in the Community Center on Saturday, April 17.



Photos by Brent Merrill