

Council Members Attend Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments Event

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By Toby McClary

On Wednesday, January 25, the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) held their Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation at Roth's Hospitality Center in Salem.

Tribal Council members Chris Mercier and Kathleen Tom and Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor were in attendance for the presentation. In December of 2005, Mercier and Tom were appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the MWVCOG.

After getting better acquainted over dinner, those in attendance listened to welcoming statements from Marion County Commissioner and the 2006 Chair of the MWVCOG Board of Directors Sam Brentano. Executive Director David Galati then held a MWVCOG staff recognition ceremony and gave 2005 in review statements. Keynote Speaker Ray Naff was then introduced.

Naff is the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Governor Ted Kulongoski. He has served in that position since March of 2003. Naff stressed the importance of partnerships between cities,

governments and the governor's office. He also addressed the crisis of methamphetamine abuse in our

his re-election campaign.

According to the awards presentation brochure, The MWVCOG cur-

address common problems affecting the region

2. Coordinate regional programs and planning activities either mandated by the state or federal government or requested through a consensus among local governments within the region

3. Provide technical assistance and local services tailored to the individual needs of member governments

4. Create cost savings for member governments by pooling resources and utilizing economies of scale

The MWVCOG is made up of 41 local governments. Members include Yamhill, Polk and Marion counties, 31 cities, six special districts and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The origin of this group dates back to 1967 when two local government councils merged to create the MWVCOG.

"This is a great opportunity for local governments to work together," said Tribal Council Secretary Chris Mercier. "I seen how closely the other governments were working together and I wanted ours to be part of that." ■



Let's Talk — Willamette Partnership's David Primozich (left) in conversation with Tribal Council member Chris Mercier and Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor at the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Government's Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation held on Wednesday, January 25th at Roth's Hospitality Center in Salem.

communities, the need for family wage jobs, and the governor's education platform he is addressing in

rently has four major objectives:

1. Enhance interaction and dialogue among local governments and



Planners — Tribal Members address the Annual Committee Summit held this year on Monday, February 6 at the Spirit Mountain Casino. Clockwise from top left: Tribal Elder Bob Mercier, Chairman of the Timber Committee; Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy, who is the Council Liaison to a number of committees; Tribal Elder Pat Allen, Culture Committee member; Tribal member Dana Ainam, Chairwoman of the Pow Wow Special Event Board; and Tribal Elder Bob Tom, Culture Committee member.