

Tribal Community M

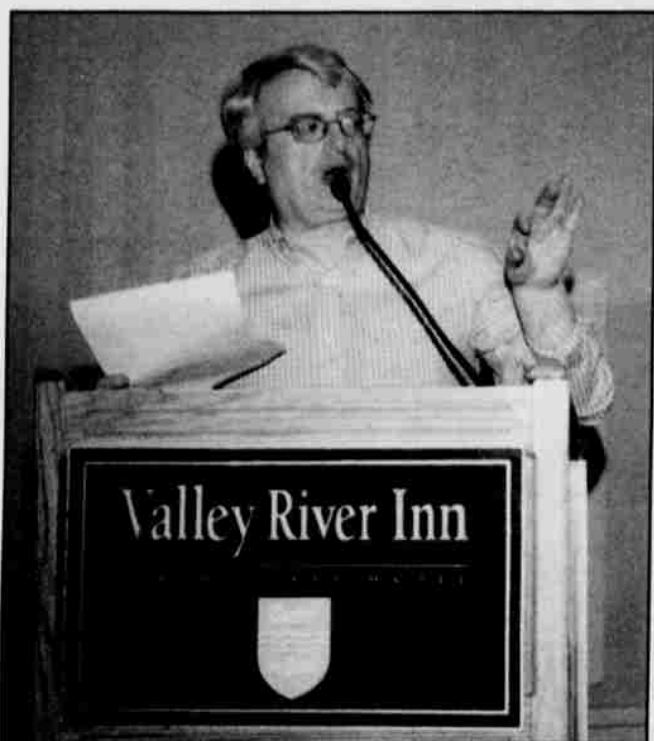


Photo by Ron Kanten

**Tribal Planning & Grants Development
Manager Kim Rogers**

MEETINGS continued from front page

The groups also heard from the Chairwoman and the Vice Chair about recent Tribal efforts in many areas.

In Eugene, Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy named "revitalizing our culture," as a priority, and noted that the Tribe had entered into an agreement with Oregon State University for the return of the 3,000-plus Horner Collection of local Native artifacts.

"Other Tribes have also made claims," said Kennedy, "and some items remain to be negotiated."

The Tribe also has been active in efforts to mitigate fish losses throughout its ceded lands. The ceded lands extend from California to Washington and include almost all of western Oregon. Recently, Tribal Council members met with the governors of the four Northwest states in this effort.

"We're being made to look like we're holding out," said Kennedy, "but we are standing strong (for our beliefs

and culture)."

Other matters of current importance to the Tribe, said Kennedy, include growth of the Tribe and the development and acquisition of land.

Also in Eugene, Tribal Council Vice Chair Angie Blackwell addressed efforts to bring non-Indian gaming and off-reservation gaming to Oregon.

"What do we do if our income stream goes down significantly?" she asked. A new non-Indian casino in the Portland area would likely take three years to build and make operational, she said, so "we have

three years to plan. It's not something we have to panic about, but we want to do some forecasting."

Completing the endowments is one way for the Tribe to be ready, she said.

The Tribal Council also has asked a consulting firm "to help us work better," she said, referring to a contract with ECONorthwest. ECONorthwest will evaluate and make recommendations for how the Tribal Council works, and also how Tribal departments work.

The council also updated the groups on the progress the Tribe has made on fulfilling the priorities expressed in last year's community meetings.

In Grand Ronde, the council said that in response to 2004 requests, an Ethics ordinance was being drafted, a youth recreation grant of \$500,000 had been awarded to the Tribe to build baseball fields and basketball courts, and an enrollment ordinance had been approved.

While the main meetings went on, a side room was made available for "Finance Summits" for Tribal mem-

bers only. The summits enabled Tribal members to ask questions about Tribe finances in private.

In Eugene, Tribal Elder Gloria Sundall asked the Tribal Council to make Tribal friend Sonny Ryan "an honorary member" of the Tribe.

"I would really appreciate it, too," said Ryan. "I have no children and I'm pretty old, but it would close the circle for me." Ryan was born in Grand Ronde.

"We have discussed adoption in your case," said Tribal Council member Wesley West, "and hopefully, we'll continue to work out the details."

The agendas also included an update by Tribal member Debbie Larsen, speaking for the Ad Hoc

members preferred funding first for Per capita and Endowments. Member Services was also among the top choices in the first three meetings.

Other major areas receiving membership attention included Tribal member health insurance and health insurance for non-Tribal spouses. Education, Social Services, Housing programs, Culture and Wellness were further down the list.

It was the first year that the Tribe held a meeting in Canyonville, or anywhere south of Eugene. At that meeting, a Tribal member said that she was "very happy so many council (members) came. Makes me feel counted."



Photo by Toby McClary

Your Vote Counts — Tribal members in Canyonville used fake money to vote for Tribal priorities. Each of the community meetings used this exercise to give Tribal Council guidance in setting the Tribe's priorities.

Committee studying Enrollment requirements. The committee was ahead of schedule, she said, and expected to have recommendations for the Tribal Council by September 4.

Although the meeting agenda was not seeking input on alternative programs and wish lists, Tribal Elder Rebecca Crocker, speaking for one of the breakout groups in Eugene (a group that called itself, "The Eugene Quacker Group") said that they would like to see the Tribal service area increased to include Linn, Lane and Douglas counties. They also wanted a Tribal housing development affordable to Elders in the Eugene area. And finally, they wanted Employment and Training services "with no income eligibility."

A primary exercise in these meetings asked members "to review how Tribal funds are currently being allocated and to decide how they would prioritize those services," said Rogers.

In all of the first meetings, Tribal

Blackwell and Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg attended all of the first three sessions. Wesley West, Jack Giffen Jr. and Kathleen Tom attended the first two, while Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy, Secretary Chris Mercier and Council member Reyn Leno were in attendance at both Eugene and Grand Ronde meetings.

About 70 Tribal members attended the Canyonville meeting on Sunday afternoon and about 55 attended in Eugene the following evening. One hundred thirty three signed in in Grand Ronde.

Time was reserved for visiting staffed, "open house" tables from Tribal departments providing direct service to members and for prioritizing Tribal services. ■

Meetings Still To Come

- ◆ Federal Way, Washington at the LaQuinta Inn on Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m.: Open House; 12 noon: lunch; 1 p.m.: meeting.
- ◆ Portland at the Portland Airport Embassy Suites Hotel on Monday, May 22, 5 p.m.: open house; 6 p.m.: dinner; 7 p.m.: meeting.



Photo by Ron Kanten

Family Gathering — At the community meeting in Eugene, (l to r) Trinity Minahan, College & Career Counseling Program Coordinator for Education, Tribal member Brenda Tuomi, former Services Representative for the Eugene Satellite office and Tuomi's foster daughter, Alina.