

Tribal Council OKs grant applications for EPA funds in jeopardy

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved three grant applications during its Wednesday, April 19, meeting, including one to the Environmental Protection Agency that might be in peril considering the Trump administration's announced plans to scale back funding for the federal entity.

Tribal Council approved applying for a two-year grant that would, if approved, bring the Tribe approximately \$248,000 annually to help ensure clean water on the Reservation.

The grant funds would be used for staff wages, equipment, supplies, materials, environmental stewardship actions, water quality monitoring and staff development. The Tribe has received the grant since 1998.

However, in response to Tribal Council member Denise Harvey's question during the Tuesday, April 18, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Fish and Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen said the funding might disappear if President Trump's proposed federal budget, which slashes funding to the agency, is adopted by Congress.

"Anything related to water quality is slated to be cut," Dirksen said.

Not knowing what will happen with Trump's proposal, Dirksen said it is prudent for the Tribe to apply for the grant just in case some or all of the funding remains in place.

Tribal Council also approved applying for a grant not to exceed \$255,000 to the Environmental

Protection Agency to continue the Tribe's involvement in the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup process. The money will fund the work of the Tribe's technical consultant, Tribal employee participation and Tribal employee expenses, such as mileage.

The other approved grant application was to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Recreational Trails Program that would award a maximum of \$33,367 to help fund the Natural Resources Department's summer youth crew.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved the Portland Harbor Phase 2 funding and participation agreement because the Tribe is a trustee on the Natural Resources Trustee Council;
- Appointed Alex Drake as the Tribe's remote pilot in accordance with the new Unmanned Aircraft Systems policy (See story on Page 1 for more information);
- Appointed Monty Herron to Tribal Court's Tribal Member Review Board;
- Approved the Natural Resources Department purchasing a new Kenworth dump truck chassis and Lane dump box to replace a 1998 Peterbuilt dump truck that is becoming too expensive to maintain;
- Approved letting the Tribe be responsible for any costs and assessments, including road maintenance, to the Doumard Association with its acquisition of the Rattlesnake Butte property in Lane County. The association is responsible for maintenance of

the northern access route to the property;

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with the University of Oregon that will establish a process for government-to-government consultation between the school and Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes;
- And approved the enrollment of one infant into the Tribe because the child meets the enrollment requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Also included in the April 19 Tribal Council packet was a staff directive declassifying a July 2015 staff directive that provided former Economic Development Director Titu Asghar with up to \$25,000 in Tribal funds to pay for legal fees when he sued Tribal member Ann Lewis, who used to work for him in Economic Development and was a


vocal critic during public meetings and on social media.

"The Tribe has historically supported employees who have been sued in the course and scope of their employment," the July 2015 directive stated. "Tribal Council believes employees who are harmed by personal attacks based on their employment should also be supported."

The packet also included an authorization to proceed that dedicates \$20,000 to the Willamina School District that will fund staff development for handling students with high behavior needs.

Cultural Resources staff members Bobby and Jordan Mercier were joined by Jade Unger in performing the cultural drumming and singing to open the meeting.

The meeting, in its entirety, can be viewed on the Tribal website, www.grandronde.org, by clicking on the News tab and then Video. ■



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2017 Community Input Meeting

The Grand Ronde Tribe's annual Community Input meeting will be held at the Tribal gym on Wednesday, May 31, starting with dinner at 6 p.m. After a brief introduction the meeting mostly involves visiting open house tables with their posters and photos on programs and projects and providing your comments. Open house tables will include:

- ~ Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center Phase II construction – floor plan drawings
- ~ New Tribal drone and drone pilot (Tribal member Alex Drake)
- ~ New Police Station – photos of the interior and other information
- ~ Willamette Falls Ceremonial Fishing & lamprey harvest opportunities – pictures & video
- ~ Preschool Addition construction project – floor plan drawings
- ~ Tribal Hunting Tag results
- ~ Behavioral Health Addition project application – floor plan drawings
- ~ Changes coming with Cherriots Grand Ronde 2X and Transit services
- ~ Other departments/programs with Health, Housing, Education, Social Services, Emergency Management, and others will be there as well.

The meeting will end with door prizes including a Pendleton blanket.

This meeting is offered as an opportunity for members to provide comments and suggestions that will help guide Tribal programs and grant applications (i.e. ANA, ICDBG, CCDF, Head Start, CSBG and others). Those unable to attend can submit written comments and suggestions to: Mr. Kim Rogers, Planning & Grants manager, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. For additional information please contact Mr. Rogers at 503-879-2250.

