

(Wildhorse) ATNI Culture and Elders Committee Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2014

1:30 pm

Update on Celilo Park Project of the Confluence Project by Colin Fogarty and Meaghan Stetzik

The Confluence Project update was provided by Colin Fogarty, Executive Director; and Meaghan Stetzik, Project Manager. Some background information on the Confluence Project is that it was initiated during the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery (2005-2006). The tribes (CTUIR) have restored sovereignty and established self-government, built an economy, restored natural resources, and is continuing to grow. This is considered a positive legacy for Indian tribes and should be acknowledged by the general public. That is when Maya Lin, nationally recognized artist and architect, engaged to develop the idea of the Confluence Project. There are six Confluence Project sites:

- Cape Disappointment (Ilwaco WA)
- Fort Vancouver (Vancouver WA)
- Sandy River Delta (Troutdale OR)
- Sacajawea State Park (Pasco WA)
- Chief Timothy Park (Clarkston WA)
- Celilo Park (The Dalles OR)

These places explore the confluence history, culture, and ecology in the region as experienced and noted in the Lewis and Clark journals. As a part of Confluence Project's mission to create moments of insight about the confluence of culture, history, and ecology along the Columbia River system, stories are shared of the river through educational programs, community engagement and a rich digital experience. "Gifts of Our Ancestors" connects Native artists and storytellers with K-12 schools. Confluence is also preparing to add online experience of the sites by developing an interactive experience driven by first person storytelling and interpretation available to all devices.

The Confluence Project is working with tribal members, such as, Lillian Pitt, Warm Springs, Native artist; and Patsy Whitefoot, Yakama, education.

Nez Perce Language Program on Colville Indian Reservation by Milton "Jewie" Davis, Jr

There are three Indian Reservations along the Columbia River that speak the Nez Perce language: Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Colville. The concern is the loss of the language and that the three tribal programs on the reservations need to work together to preserve and revitalize the Nez Perce languages. Jewie Davis, Jr. is a language instructor for the Colville Nez Perce and he is working on a curriculum development project using a Salish model. Jewie Davis, Jr. started his presentation speaking the Nez Perce language; Jewie is proposing that we find a way to better work together; in that respect, the Nez Perce bands on the three reservations have been meeting and discussing plans for helping each other.

CTUIR Sahaptin Language Immersion Project by Modesta Minthorn, Linguist

Modesta Minthorn is the staff linguist for the CTUIR-Tribal Language Program and made a presentation using a video/DVD recording of a recently completed language immersion project titled "Tamaluut Skulitpama." That is the Umatilla dialect. The age group was 3-5 year old children from the local community; there were 10 students in the program. The DVD showed the children performing formal longhouse cultural activities. Also, the recently completed Umatilla Dictionary was noted as an accomplishment of the CTUIR-Tribal Language Program.

Native Language Loss and Recovery and Best Practices by Tachini Pete, Potlatch Fund

Tachini Pete is a program director for the Potlatch Fund a non-profit organization located in Seattle WA. Tachini has an extensive back ground in native language development. The best native language program Tachini encountered is the Rough Rock Community School in Chinle, Arizona. It covers grades K-12 and uses Rosetta Stone Language Learning methods. "The objective of the school and the community as a whole is to teach and instill the sacred Navajo language and way of life into each of the Navajo children who attends school there." Teaching the language is a very important responsibility. Tachini uses the term "best practices" to develop a course of study (e.g. curriculum) to learn your languages.

New Wanapum Museum Relocation from Wanapum Dam to Priest Rapids Dam by Rex Buck, Priest Rapids Longhouse.

There is a native cultural museum located at the Wanapum Dam on the upper Columbia River. However, that museum has been closed due to problems of safety with the dam. The museum is unique because it relates the history of the prophet Smohalla and the Seven Drum Indian Religion (Washat). All of the tribes of the mid-Columbia River are followers of that longhouse religion. The museum at the Wanapum dam is being moved to the Priest Rapids Dam which is several miles downriver. A new museum facility has just been completed but the move has not yet taken place. Rex Buck is the longhouse leader at the Priest Rapids Indian Village (Wanapum) and was to give an update on the new facility. Of interest was how the new museum facility is to include a design for supporting a tribal language program.

Other:

There was a visitor that came to the Culture and Elders Committee meeting representing an organization known as "Apple." His name is Jamie Peterson and he has knowledge of new advances in Native language development on the new I Phone.

These are events that are taking place in preserving tribal culture and language.

3:00 pm Adjourn