

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCHC**  
**Coquille Community Plank House, Coos Bay Oregon**  
**October 4, 2007**  
**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Chairman, Robert Keeler, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and gave the opening comments. All Commissioners and staff introduced themselves Chairman Keeler thanked the Coquille Tribe for hosting our meeting in the Community Plank House.

**Present:** Nick Eddy, Robert Keeler-Chair, Diana LaSarge, Dirk Siedlecki, Roger Roper, Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill, Kimarie Lamb

**Absent:** Judy Juntunen-Vice Chair

**Guests:** Don Ivy – Host, Ed Zeck, Bob Biswell, Linda Van Orden, Jack Jory, Todd Tonkin, Lynne Pagan, Alice DeSoto, Mary Ellen Robertson, Derrol & Lesta Hockett, Edgar Zick, Becky Soules, Cricket Soules, Leanne Lane, Vic Morris

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Keeler mentioned that the July 20<sup>th</sup> minutes were in Oregon City and not in Salem. Corrections were noted by Staff. **Mr. Ivan moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Siedlecki seconded. It passed unanimously.**

**Additions to the Agenda:**

No additions were made to the Agenda

**Tribal Host welcome and introduction – Don Ivy:**

The Coquille Tribal Services Program has 8,000 acres of Tribal land holdings and the Mill Casino is its biggest Enterprise. He explained the purposes of the Community Plank House and who it will serve. The beams, columns and roof hatch of the house are made of 140 year old Douglas Fir and the walls are of Red Cedar (known as the “Tree of Life”.) The exterior is 100% Port Orford cedar.

Mr. Ivy acknowledged the Coos Lower Umpqua Tribes as also being in the area and mentioned that the Coos and Coquille Tribes share the same ancestry. He spoke out an appreciation for State Parks of the Coos area, for BLM and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. He shared of his recent travels to China and how he views Preservation as Appreciation - it means to preserve, protect and to document history.

He introduced Denise Hokima-Cultural Anthropologist for the Tribes. He also spoke of the partnership between the Coast Historical Society in North Bend and the Coquille Tribes. Ms. Hawkima works with the Coast Historical Society to

curate and display their N/A collection which Jack Jory has donated a match in-kind to. Also introduced was Jack Lenox and Nicole Norris who is the Staff Archaeologist.

### **Workshops:**

There were 35 attendants of the Records and Archiving Workshop which took place in Oregon City in July, 2007. Staff will work to firm up workshop dates and Chairman Keeler advised Commissioners to contact Ms. Gill for suggestions and ideas. Handouts will be available online to go with the workshops. OPRD is interested in what the Commissions are doing and looking for opportunities to see what's in Heritage that is outside of Parks.

### **Grants Update:**

The grants deadline was September 15, 2007. There were 50 applicants and out of those, 35 applicants were selected but not all were fully funded. Commissioners were sent those results for discussion and approval. Among the projects were: direct and administrative costs, requiring a bid resume, funding capital, computers, sheds, etc. Discussion of percentages of the types of projects will happen at the planning meeting in November. Mr. Eddy moved to approve the selection of grant applicants and Ms. Lane seconded. Mr. Siedlecki mentioned that he applied for a grant for the Jacksonville Booster club and abstained from voting. Ms. LaSarge abstained from voting as well.

**A motion was made to approve the award of the grants as the grant committee had approved. All were in favor and it passed unanimously.**

Ms. Gill read the list of awarded grantees, their awarded amounts and their projects. The grant process is being streamlined to make it better for applicants.

### Sub-Committees:

The Sub-Committees had nothing to report.

### **Current Projects and Legislation:**

The cemetery list is now available on-line and is continually being updated. The Contractor and Consultant database will be available on-line during the winter of 2008.

The statewide burial index will be coming up soon on the website. Most of eastern Oregon has been covered and most people are ready to participate but others are unsure and hesitant to give their support to this index. Ms. Gill will be meeting with people in the Willamette Valley during the winter. A proposal write-up will go out during January and/or February to groups who will be in support of the database.

Educational bulletins have now been printed up and there is more to come that is heritage related. One of the bulletins will be regarding symbols on markers. Current bulletins are up on the website at [www.Oregonheritage.org](http://www.Oregonheritage.org) and these bulletins will be available at future workshops, meetings, conferences, etc.

The “Tombstone Symbolism” bulletin will be discussed at the November meeting for future conferences. Another workshop coming up is “How to pick your contractor”.

The seminar is still in the works. UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History won't be able to host the exhibit but the Museum Association may know of someone that can host the exhibit. The Lane County Museum may have a facility and that will be pursued November.

The October gatherings will be an informal time with people in each Commissioners area for an opportunity to share issues, resources and ideas.

The 2008 Heritage Conference brings together all different heritage sites together from all over the state: archivists, preservationists, archaeologists and others. This year the conference will be held on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in Eugene. Those dates have been chosen due to hotel space and due to the Olympic Track & Field Trials happening. The Theme will be: “Going the distance; sustaining Oregon's heritage”. The Oregon Heritage Excellence Award dinner will be on the opening night. This conference will also be a great source of contacts and fun.

#### **Partnership Updates:**

Ms. Gill is excited to be meeting the some genealogy folks and they are excited as well. Wallowa County is very coordinated and excited to work with her which helps in the long run and is very important to have a face-to-face contact.

The Juniper Branch Family Finders in Madras are also excited to work with Ms. Gill on the burial index as well.

#### **Public Comment:**

Bob Biswell and Linda Van Orden of Milliorn Pioneer Cemetery gave an update on his latest happenings with the cemetery. He found out that the cemetery was originally part of a donation land claim. They've been in touch with a descendant of the pioneer family and land owners hope to have something consummated by the year's end. The assisting Attorney has drawn up a draft letter for the descendant to sign. He thanked commissioners for all their assistance through this process.

Todd Tonkin mentioned that he applied for a grant and was upset that he was only awarded a partial grant. Headstones are being stolen from the cemetery and with only a partial grant he feels that he fell through the cracks and people will start vandalizing the cemetery. Mr. Eddy commented that once the awarding of the grant has gone through the newspaper and people know what is going on with the cemetery, he would begin to receive other funds and support from people throughout the community.

Becky Soules said she likes to see all the forward movement that this group has made. October is cemetery education month and usually programs get sponsored. She asked for resources of sponsors that may be available for her.

A gentleman in the audience asked for information on volunteer resources that might be available for him within his own community. Commissioners made various suggestions: running an Ad in the newspaper, asking the community for support, flyers asking for Volunteer assistance, the Volunteer Center in Salem, SAHL and the Corrections Dept with good supervision. Mr. Jansson also mentioned that the Oregon 150 program is planning a "Take care of Oregon" day where all Oregonians go out within their own communities to volunteer their services by helping their community. That will be on May 16, 2009.

Becky Soules suggested to keep encouraging the youth because with them being Educated they can help save and bring up cemeteries instead of vandalizing them.

Don Ivy – Host mentioned that it is a challenge that Tribal folks have is how to seek out Burials that have not been recognized as well as how much information to reveal that helps to do the job without putting at risk the very thing that's wanted to be protected. Being an advocate yet protecting with signage since that can stop vandalism.

Ms. Gill mentioned her workshop. The first part will be directed toward elementary youth curriculum planning and things to present to teachers. The second part will be presented by Becky Soules of her work and the SAHL program. All handouts from the workshop will be on the website.

Chairman Keeler mentioned the 2008 meeting schedule. No Commission comment was made.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

## Sub-Committee Discussion

### **Abandoned Plots**

Selling of abandoned Plots: there needs to be more data collected on the laws of this issue as well as public relations and the impact of the law on this. Mr. Ivan suggested tabling this issue until Ms. Juntunen came back at the next meeting to give her input on this matter.

Purchasing of a plot or lot: plots can only be sold back to the cemetery by the purchaser but not by the purchaser's family according to the Oregon Mortuary Board. Another issue to discuss is looking at cemeteries running out of space.

If someone else made a proposal to the Legislature, the Commission would like to discuss this further. There was concern with changing the historic story and that becomes an issue when family members are allowed to sell family plots.

Diana LaSarge's term: her term expires in July of 2008 and she won't be able to re-up as she has already been appointed on the Commission for the allowable term of two years.