

Tribe gets \$42 Million in Stimulus Funds

Front page headline in the *Cherokee Phoenix*, April 2009 edition.

Time is of the Essence.

The front page headline in the *Osage News*, April 2009 edition

No truer words have been printed in the *Osage News* than these. The only problem is-- the article was regarding a Free Press rather than the much more monumental issue of the HUD REPORTS. Time is certainly of the essence with regard to these reports. Perhaps the blatant inaction on the part of the Osage Nation Administration to respond to the Department of Housing and Urban Development has caused us to lose future grant monies as well as stimulus monies?

What are the HUD REPORTS? These are reports from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) indicating non-compliance due to fraudulent actions practiced by the Osage Nation. This Administration has been unable to account for block grant funds and Indian Community Development Grant funds.

Examples of findings by the Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs (SPONAP): (August 2007)

- ❖ The construction manager did not retain proper supporting documents (such as contracts, vendor invoices and competitive bids) for expenses charged to NAHASDA and Housing Improvements.
- ❖ Expenses were charged to client's accounts when no work was actually done for the client. The wrong client account was charged.
- ❖ Clients had expenses charged to their account but no actual work was done for their homes.
- ❖ A vendor admitted performing work on a home and billing it to another home.
- ❖ Vendors have admitted to receiving payments for work that was not done. The program manager has notified HUD and the BIA to inform them of the fraud.

A sample of 30 expenses from the rehabilitation homeownership program was tested and it was noted that the following information was missing from the client files:

- ❖ 24 were missing contracts to specify the work to be performed;

- ❖ 29 expenses did not have a vendor invoice to support payment;
- ❖ 25 were missing evidence of a final inspection;
- ❖ 11 files did not contain evidence that competitive bids were obtained

Of 30 clients tested for the homeowner's rehabilitation program, the auditor noted the following information to support eligibility was missing:

- ❖ 10 files were missing utility commitments;
- ❖ One (1) of the clients selected did not have a client file at all, as such; they were missing all documentation to support eligibility.

These are just a few findings from the SPONAP monitoring review conducted from August 13, 2007 through August 17, 2007.

The **recommended corrective action** by SPONAP was for the Osage Nation to hire an Independent Public Accountant (IPA) to review its accounting records and costs charged to all HUD programs listed in the 2005 audit. **To this day, the Osage Nation Administration has not met this requirement.**

So yes, **Time "was" of the Essence** for the Osage Nation in April

2009. Jim Gray was given 30 days to respond with complete and accurate documentation regarding these HUD reports. Thirty days from March 02, 2009, when he received the "Past Due Notice/Letter of Warning" from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Two years prior to this letter, many were the times that Gray was allowed to extend the deadline to report to HUD.

I have spoken with the Housing and Urban Development Department. From what I understand, they have made a decision to turn this over to the Attorney General.

In my view, it would be common to expect negative results for the Osage Nation with regard to future grants to include Indian Health.

Dr. Ron Shaw, Chair of the Osage Nation Health and Wellness Advisory Board should read this letter from HUD. His good intentions and dreams to better the healthcare situation are appreciated and admirable, but how can you soar with the eagles?

Failure to handle our own affairs in a responsible manner is a clear indication to the United States Government that we may not be capable of self determination. This could lead to a major set-back and reversal of roles played by the Osage as a Nation and the U.S. Government.

The responsibility of contracting, compacting, and dispersing grant monies as we see fit for our particular tribe may be reverted back into the hands of the U.S. Government.

I spoke with a Cherokee friend last month. Their Housing Rehabilitation program received \$5.5 million dollars from the Stimulus package. I wonder when or if we will ever see a headline in the *OSAGE NEWS* regarding our stimulus funds? Yes, time was truly of the essence in April 2009 for the Osage.

Now – about that Free Press!

If we truly have a “Free Press,” why am I informing you of the HUD facts? I just received my May 2009 edition of the *Osage News* and there it was on page 3 and 14.

All I can say from here is: I’m leaving the information in this Newsletter as is. You have the attachment telling the REAL story.

?? “We didn’t know we were behind (on the requirements) when we got the letter.”??

AND

What a switch! Gray is now taking credit for wanting a free press? Wasn’t it he who sued Congress for wanting a free press? Yes, I believe it was. This took place after he sued Congress for wanting an audit. Now

we find out that it isn’t only the Osage Nation Congress who wants an audit but the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development too?

It seems to me that the closest thing any of us outside the walls of the great Osage Nation Congress and the Osage Nation Executive Branch are going to get to a “Free Press,” is right here in this Newsletter.

Me, being here on the outside with you, looking in, causes me to remind you of my platform and plan for election in 2010. This wondering and guessing that we go through today will not be an issue when I’m in office.

I will strongly encourage Congress to communicate with the people. I absolutely will communicate with you and if I decide to run for the Executive office, I will still communicate with you even if I end up being as important as Jim Gray is!

Congress and the Legal Election Question

Since the “communication” issue is on the table, I may as well report that I still have not received a response from Congress members other than Red Corn and Edwards with regard to efforts to ensure a legal election process.

For the life of me, I don't understand what or how they think. Not answering a constituent's question only leads to speculation on the part of the people. Questions that go through my mind are: Do they not know we're apt to have an illegal election? Do they not care? Did they not understand my question? Do they have no respect at all for the constituents? Are they in collusion with Jim Gray? Are they simply not doing anything? As a candidate for office in 2010, do I frighten them?

Well, the last one may be the case. Keep in mind, I will call on and encourage Congress to accept a \$10,000.00 decrease in salary. I suspect they don't like this idea very much. This leads me to a fairly significant point. Should these Congress people and soon to be 2010 candidates have less than favorable responses about me, don't forget, I'm threatening a decrease in their salaries!

To defend my stand on this issue visit:

http://www.empirecenter.org/html/legislative_salaries.cfm

This website tells us that Oklahoma State Legislatures are only paid \$38,400.00 yearly with a \$122.00 a day per diem while in session.

For the Osage Nation Congress, the maximum this could come to would be something around \$45,000.00 considering they only meet two times a year and to my knowledge have never met a total of 30 days at each session.

They are being paid \$65,000.00 a year! Not to mention, they meet in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. Even at a \$10,000.00 reduction in salary, they will still be drawing \$55,000.00 a year which is still \$10,000.00 more than an Oklahoma State Legislature. And all the while, they can't even type up a short e-mail to answer my question about a legal election process? Surely you agree that this is over the top!

\$65,000.00 a year for two months worth of work is a pretty good deal. Don't you agree? The more I think about it the more I'm leaning toward a larger decrease! How many members of Congress do you think will vote to decrease their salaries? I only know of one and that would be me.

Candidates planning to run for Chief and Assistant Chief will not be pleased with me either. I will encourage these positions to accept a \$20,000.00 decrease. Who among these would agree to accept a \$20,000.00 decrease in salary? I only know of one and that would be me.

Tough Pill to Swallow!

See page four (4) of the *Osage News* - May 2009 edition.

This is a perfect example as to why we have to ban together and work hard to support particular individuals in this next election. Gray plays the game well and uses his position and OUR money to secure his believed to be “place” in this world.

Here he is pictured giving John Echohawk a \$10,000.00 contribution to the Native American Rights Fund.

Now go to:

<http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/archive/43175137.html>

Now, I don't know if John is Larry's brother, cousin, dad, son or what but – I find this all very interesting.

No doubt you realize my true compassion on the issues of the Osage Nation. My intent was to offer a monthly Newsletter and here we are into the June letter and you just received May.

These will slow down soon. I am between spring and summer semesters at the college so I've had time to delve into the current issues more freely.

My first classes begin Tuesday, June 2. Between the In-Lon-Schka dances and school, I most likely would have had a huge struggle to provide good information such as this.

I hope you find this letter beneficial!

I have attached a copy of the Past Due Notice/Letter of Warning from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for your files.

Remember to file this newsletter in a safe place. You may need it for future reference. Please share it with friends and family to help them become informed voters.

I would also ask that you make a copy for those who don't have computers.

If you would like to receive this newsletter, e-mail me at jenny2010@cox.net or call 918-260-5712.

If you haven't visited my campaign website please do so: www.jenny2010.com

Until next time, be safe and be happy!

Jenny Miller

May 19, 2009

