

Osage Nation 25-Year Visioning Session
January 3, 2007
Osage Nation – Governance & Justice Departments
Afternoon Session

Attending:

Police –John Drexil, Angela Thomas, Martha Barnett, Ryan Cox, Dan Hively, Jake Webb, Marvin Rist;
Human Resources – Theresa Dawahoya, Donna Gray; Planning – Otto Hamilton, Chris Standingbear;
Grants Management – Penny Estes; Maintenance – Wayne Wilson, Harrison Shackelford, Frank Red Corn

A 200-Year History of the Osage Nation

In 1806 Osages controlled trade on Mississippi and Missouri rivers with French. Soon they were forced to move out of Missouri. In 1808 they signed their first treaty with the United States, negotiated by Meriwether Lewis himself. By 1831, the Osage were at war with both the eastern Indian Tribes and the Europeans. Within 25 years, by 1856, this included settlers in Kansas and Missouri and the plains Indians. While the U.S. was engaged in a Civil War, they were also moving Tribes to reservations.

1881 the Osage signed their first Constitution. This was shortly after their 1872 move from Kansas and the purchase of the Oklahoma reservation from the Cherokees.

Allotment act in 1906 made 2,229 Osages shareholders in the mineral estate underneath the reservation. This was at the same time an oil boom was underway and just before Oklahoma statehood in 1907. While the U.S. overall was still in the great depression that had begun in 1929, Osages were still extremely wealthy. By 1931, the Osages saw what has been termed a “reign of terror” due to many suspicious murders related to shareholders and their oil money.

Two forms of government were confusing when the Osage enacted another Constitution in 1994, initiating a national government where there had been a Tribal Council. In 1995, the Osage Police Department was launched. Tribal Court started in 1996, following a CFR Court for a short period.

Osage gaming was established between 1999 and 2000, with the 21st century ushering in casinos. In 2006 the Osage new Constitution was established and non-shareholders were allowed to vote.

Expanding on the Story

Osages fought all those Tribes it made it hectic because the Osages were also killing Americans. It had become hard to distinguish the English and the French. Osages were punished and moved to Missouri and Kansas. If you pay attention, you will see the Osages were fierce people. In 1818 they raided the Cherokees a lot, also killing Americans. So they had to relinquish more lands. Between 1818 and the 1830s they were in many wars over the land. In addition, small pox hit the first time in 1806. The wars and disease took a toll on Osages. Bandwagon Osages had enemies with a lot of Tribes. With all the Tribes moving, it seemed the only way to make them stop was picking fights. This was a big thing for the Kiowa. Osages picked on them because they knew the Kiowa would fight back. Some Kiowa still hold grudges to this day against the Osage. The Osage were hoping the U.S. government would intervene. Others feel these were tactics the U.S. used for Indians to destroy each other. The Osage population dropped down from 18,000 to 900. This was before the roll started in 1906 when the U.S. government set membership with 1906 allotment act.

The Poncas said that the Osages were really beaten down, both in Spirit and physically. So they showed Osages how to use commodities and set up the dances for the Osages, to boost the Osage pride back up.

Unlike other Tribes, they got a \$1.25 per acre for their land in Kansas when they were moved to Oklahoma, while other Tribes just had their lands taken away from them. The first oil well was discovered in 1880's. 1906 is when Osages started receiving allotment money. They would help a lot of other Tribes that had nothing. They would invite Tribes to the dances; give them groceries, horses, and other things. They shared what they had.

Telling of stories heard from their grandparents' generation:

“Culturally speaking, every time we moved we lost some of our culture. For the last move I wouldn't say beat down; we just lost some culture along the trail. The old ones and the young ones were lost during the various moves because they could not handle the hardship. And that is why we done away with a lot of our old ways. We had 24 clans at one time and each clan had its own distinct purpose. We got a drum off of the Kaws. A lot of people don't understand the relationships between these Tribes. These were called the cousin Tribes while in Missouri. Missouri included a big camp for the Sioux. They would come down in the fall. We grew squash and pumpkin. We even had agriculture way back then. I don't know how many camped there, but it was huge. If you figure we had contact with the Sioux all the way to Missouri, it was a big chunk of the U.S. A lot of feuding went on, but we knew a lot of people and Tribes that we did not quarrel with.

“In 1906 the U.S. government gave us the allotment, the idea being to get rid of us eventually. We were set up to fail. Today, there is one original allottee still living. The way it was written up was when the last allottee passed away, the Tribe would not exist any longer. We were not meant to survive after 1931. But we have the new Constitution in 2006.

“Back then there was land stealing. Each family had been allotted about 640 acre in 1906. Then the crooked lawyers came in with Guardianship over Osage money. And there was the reign of terror. We lost most of our land and wealth through crooked judges, lawyers, and politicians. Local authorities wouldn't help, so we went to state for help. The Governor was no help. Like it was okay to kill Indians. In a meeting at Gray Horse, being tired of watching our people die, one chief said there is a group in Washington to help. If not, we will go to war. So the FBI came down. One of the FBI's first big cases was the Osage murders. This made the FBI reputation. That took care of the Osage murders. They ceased.

“In the 1950s, there was a lot of alcoholism due to so much money. If a car ran out of gas they would just leave it and buy a new one. When the ford first came out they were all black. If the Osage wanted a new care they would go to Tulsa. An elder lady wanted a car but wanted it in a certain color, to match a stripe in her blanket. And after that cars started coming in different colors. Osages influenced colors for cars. In the late 70s until the early 80s was another good oil boom. After that it dipped down and stayed for years.

“Some Osages went over to tour France. And some Osages got left and had to stay 10 years before coming back. The French come here every year, like sister cities. This actually started in the 1820s. They come here because they helped the Osages come back home. It's called Montelban.

“A national council came in 1994 with a federal law suit, U.S. vs. Fletcher. A Federal judge said you can set up own government. They did establish a membership in 1995 had an election for a government that went on for about 3 years. Then an appellate judge said no, you can't do this, it is wrong. It cost the Tribe between \$50 and \$80 million. So we went back to a tribal council in 1997 and we were under that until 2006. Then a new constitution was written, everyone voted and it was approved.

“Around '86 and '87 we tried different things – an Industrial park in Hominy, all set up with gas, electric, and water. It's still down there, but all we have is a casino and Shadlow Welding. Those placed are there for economic development. We sell water and gas to the prison. We need the management training coming in to build a base of people to manage Tribal enterprises. And we have some great programs. WIC and Head Start are good programs.

“It's a long history of a proud and powerful Tribe. You don't get this kind of education in schools. We need to pay attention to how the three districts are different and how each one plays a role in the Osage. In 1894 Kaws presented Pawhuska a drum and it really meant a lot to us because we didn't have anything at that time. Language class started in 2005. In 1910 or 1915, the Tribe adopted the Native American church. And we were veterans in WWI and WWII. In WWI Osage donated an entire oil field and they weren't even citizens at that time but it was donated for the war. They also gave the U.S. the land for the naval base in Fairfax.”

A 25-Year Vision for the Osage Nation:

The second group of Departmental employees within the areas of Governance & Judicial envisioned the future in seven areas:

1. Expanded Law Enforcement Capacity to Serve
2. Professional, Educated, Confident, Competent Workforce
3. Self-Sufficient Sovereign Nation
4. Well-Managed, Diversified Economic Base for the Tribe
5. Osage-Owned Health Care Facilities
6. Well Funded, High Quality Education, and
7. Strong Departmental Cooperation

To allow for an **Expanded Law Enforcement Capacity to Serve** will require expanded facilities to house and cater to a rapidly growing department. These will include 24 hour radio dispatch and a correction facility including space for juveniles, a building owned by and designed for law enforcement. There will also be specialized officers for the Tribal Court and for other needs— such as probation, criminal focus, and drugs—as well as increased clerical support.

In 25 years, there will be a **Professional, Educated, Confident, Competent Workforce**. Osages can come back to good-paying jobs where there is a Tribal transportation system to support the workers, a lower unemployment rate, better benefits, and continued job training through Tribe. In addition, there will be a smoother flowing working relationship among all the departments and a high tech infrastructure to support enterprises and public systems. To encourage Osages living on the reservation, there will be more affordable housing, repairs, etc.

By the year 2032, the Osage Tribe will be a **Self-Sufficient, Sovereign Nation** with respect on a national level in all factions and total independence from U.S. government. It will be a better organized Tribe with a revised, non-vague Constitution, and better working relationships with Tribal, non-Tribal, local and national entities, i.e. city, county, state.

A **Well-Managed, Diversified Economic Base for the Tribe** will include businesses besides casinos and oil, thus many established, successful business enterprises, ensuring the Tribe is rich in economic development. The Tribe itself will be self-sufficient financially. Some of the ideas that might lead to such economic success include continuing in the meantime with better grants from the Federal government and more grant funded programs, buying Bells Amusement Park, opening casinos in Missouri, having a more effective oil industry, completing the Sand Creek reservoir, initiating a water cleansing industry, and supporting tourism. These types of business ventures will lead to having all three districts prosper.

To support residents will require **Osage-Owned Health Care Facilities** that include a fully functional hospital, having more alcohol & drug information for families and how it effects generations to come, and a good nursing home.

Of course, in order to have Osages in charge of their destiny, the Tribe will need **Well Funded, High Quality Education**. This means higher education made easier for everyone, a Tribal Community College, affordable day care, and higher-paid educators. Tribal language will be available in the public school system. This will allow the Tribe to remain culturally intact and to thrive, encouraging better community services and volunteerism

For the Tribal government to support such measures will require **Strong Departmental Cooperation**. This means, for example, having good working agreements with other police departments and sheriff's office and more hands on relationship with field officers. In the future, all employees can continue to be part of a growing and successful Tribal venture.

Original Brainstorm Data

Governance & Judicial Departments								January 3, 2007 PM session
Osage Nation 200-Year History								
1806-	1831-	1856-	1881-	1906-	1931-	1956-	1981-	2006
<p>1806 – forced to move out of Missouri</p> <p>Osages controlled trade on Mississippi & Missouri rivers with French</p> <p>Sioux came to Missouri for Osage foods</p> <p>1808 – first treaty with USA (with Meriwether Lewis)</p> <p>Old warriors “little old men” governed</p>	<p>Wars – Eastern Indians and Europeans. Lands relinquished because of raids on them.</p>	<p>Wars with settlers in Kansas, Missouri, and plains Indians</p> <p>Tribes moved to reservations 1856-1906</p> <p>U.S. Civil War – 1860s</p> <p>Osages moved to present location from Kansas – 1871</p> <p>Purchased Oklahoma Reservation from Cherokees – 1872</p>	<p>1881 – Constitution</p> <p>1894 – Kaw presented drum to Pawhuska</p>	<p>Oil boom in the Osage 1906 – 1931</p> <p>Allotment Act (Osage) – 1906, not meant to survive</p> <p>2,229 Allottees in 1906</p> <p>1910-1915 – Tribe adopted the Native American Church</p> <p>Oklahoma statehood 1907</p> <p>With so much oil, car out gas, just bought a new car – Osages started cars in colors</p> <p>1925 – Osages become citizens</p> <p>1929 – Great Depression</p>	<p>Reign of Terror</p>	<p>1981 – continued</p> <p><i>1982 Walter Wilson</i> <i>1990 Martha Barnett</i> <i>1990 Dan Hively</i> <i>1996 John Drexil</i> <i>1997 Theresa Dawahoya</i> <i>2001 Otto Hamilton</i> <i>2002 Penny Estes</i> <i>2002 Donna Gray</i> <i>2005 Ryan Gray</i> <i>2005 Marvin Rist</i></p>	<p>2 Forums of Government – Tribal Council & National Council 1994-1997</p> <p>ONPD started in 1995</p> <p>1996 – started Tribal Court</p> <p>1999-2000 Osage Gaming established</p> <p>21st Century – started casinos</p> <p>2005 – language class</p> <p>Montelban - French come to sister city</p>	<p>Osage new Constitution</p> <p>2006 – non-shareholders vote</p> <p>2006 - Mining explosion in Virginia</p> <p>2006 - Saddam’s execution</p> <p><i>2006 Frank Red Corn</i> <i>Angie Thomas</i> <i>Jake Webb</i> <i>Chris Standingbear</i></p>

Osage Nation 200-Year History – Telling the Story

1806-	1831-	1856-	1881-	1906-	1931-	1956-	1981-	2006
<p>Osage, influenced by the French, didn't help the British</p> <p>The English armed other Great Lakes Tribes to fight the Osage</p> <p>Osage lost Mississippi, Arkansas, etc. due to raids – led to 1st treaty in 1808 (Kansas)</p> <p>1818-1825/30 – warring as U.S. moved Tribes to Osage land</p> <p>Population dropped from 18,000 due to war & small pox</p>	<p>Osages got \$1.25 acre for KS land</p> <p>With each of the forced moves, the Tribe lost the oldest and the youngest, so lost cultural knowledge</p>	<p>After raid on Kiowa in an attempt to engage U.S. forces, entered into Medicine Lodge treaty (1867)</p> <p>Moved to Oklahoma among enemies</p> <p>According to the Poncas, at some point the Osage spirit was beaten down and they were helped back up by the Poncas</p>	<p>1880s – oil brought wealth, helped other Tribes</p>	<p>U.S. government decided membership with 1906 Act</p> <p>During WWI, Osage gave an entire oilfield to the war effort</p> <p>Got drum (very important!) from one of the Osage Missouri “cousin” Tribes - the Kaw</p>	<p>Exploitation with guardians appointed who were corrupt</p> <p>Murders – the FBI took this on as one of their first cases</p> <p>Land stealing occurred (original allotment was over 640 acres)</p>	<p>Late 1970s to 1981, there was another oil boom, then the price dropped very <u>low</u></p> <p>There were good times with ranching, but this was marred by the alcoholism that came with so much money</p>	<p>Osage worked to get their own government and had it from 1994 – 1997</p>	<p>Again in 2006, the Osage have their own government</p>

Osage Nation 25-Year Vision

In the year 2032, what do you see in place for the Tribe, especially in your departments, as a result of your actions?

<p>Expanded Law Enforcement Capacity to Serve</p>	<p>Professional, Educated, Confident, Competent Workforce</p>	<p>Self-Sufficient, Sovereign Nation</p>	<p>Well-Managed, Diversified Economic Base for the Tribe</p>	<p>Osage-Owned Health Care Facilities</p>	<p>Well Funded, High Quality Education</p>	<p>Strong Departmental Cooperation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Facilities to House and cater to a rapidly growing department • “Radio” and “Correction Facility” • Own building, dispatch 24 hours, Jail/Juvenile facility • Specialized officers for the Tribal Court etc. – Probation, Criminal/Drug • Increased clerical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osages can come back to good-paying jobs • Tribal transportation system to support the workers • Lower unemployment rate, better benefits, continued job training through Tribe • Smoother flowing working relationship with other departments • High tech infrastructure to support enterprises and public systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect on national level in all factions • Total independence from U.S. government • Better organized Tribe • A revised, non-vague Constitution • Better working relationships with Tribal, non-Tribal, local and national entities, i.e. city, county, state • Affordable housing, repairs, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribe has business, besides casinos and oil • Successful business enterprise, rich in economic development • Established, successful businesses • Self-sufficient Tribe, financially • Buy Bells Amusement Park • Better grants from government • More grant funded programs • Casinos in Missouri • More effective oil industry • Sand Creek reservoir • Have all three districts prosper • Business venture • Water cleansing industry • Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully functional hospital • More alcohol & drug information for families and how it effects generations to come • Good nursing home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher education made easier for everyone • Tribal Community College • Affordable day care • Higher-paid educators • Culturally intact and thriving • Tribal language in public school system • Better community services and volunteerism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good working agreements with other police departments and sheriff’s office • More hands on relationship with field officers • Continue to be part of a growing and successful Tribal venture • Increased clerical support