



Press Release

4th Great Plains Tribal Water Rights Conference set for Civic Center December 21 & 22.

Conference promotes opportunity for newly formed Cultural Resources (Historic Preservation) Committee.

Rapid City SD December 10, 2007: The 4th annual Indian Water Rights conference, hosted by the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance, will convene on Friday and Saturday December 21 & 22, 2007 in the Alpine/Ponderosa conference Room of the Rapid City Civic Center. This year's event promises to provide priceless knowledge for both novice and the experienced tribal water rights activist.

Guests invited to this year's conference include Bob Gaddis, a Retired engineer dedicating himself to helping tribal water rights. Gaddis will be keynote speaker for Saturday.

Chief Terrance Nelson is from the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation in southern Manitoba nine miles north of the Minnesota/North Dakota border crossing at Pembina North Dakota. Nelson currently leads protection efforts for his Canadian native nation. Nelson will give Friday's Keynote Address at the Civic Center. Nelson is the only Canadian side member of the American Indian Movement Board of Directors of the National AIM chapter from Minneapolis Minnesota. Nelson is a long time activist, an author, a producer and writer of various video documentaries. Some of the books written by Nelson, include Genocide in Canada, Okijijida, the Warrior Society, Sovereignty and Sovereign Immunity in Treaty # One, Anishinabe Aki, The Ojibway Moccasin Game, and Tie Creek, Petroforms in the White shell.

Nelson has traveled extensively, all over United States, and has been in Europe, China, India, Bolivia and after traveling to Iraq in 1998, did a video documentary on the effect of economic sanctions

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in Iraq. Nelson graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1980 and has been a prolific writer and researcher on indigenous issues. Nelson was born in 1953.

The tribal water alliance will also formally introduce a newly formed committee to unite Tribal Historic Preservation Offices across the Great Plains. Recent developments regarding International border crossing issues as well as trans national energy projects such as the Keystone Pipeline Project have prompted the development of tribal historic preservation efforts on aboriginal traditional hunting and fishing territories along the pipeline route. Non-Indians in eastern South Dakota are also feeling threatened with forced relocation as a result of such massive undertakings as the pipeline project. The Pipeline project would extend 1,371.4 miles from its originating point in Hardesty, Alberta, Canada to destinations in Patoka Illinois and Cushing Oklahoma, and will pump up to 591,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil. The rapid deployment of an Environmental Impact Statement regarding the pipeline is what provoked concerns from Tribal Historic Preservation and Water Rights advocates.

Oglala Sioux Tribal Attorneys Mr. Mario Gonzalez (venerated Black Hills land claims attorney) and Peter Capossela, (lead counsel for Missouri River tribal litigation opposing the 1999 Land Transfer of Treaty lands to the State of South Dakota) will also join the lineup to discuss impacts of water quantification on Missouri River Basin tribes.

The alliance also welcomes back Mr. Harvey White Woman, former Oglala Sioux Tribal official; and Faith Spotted Eagle joined by younger Cultural Resources officials from the Ihanktowan (Yankton Sioux) band of the Great Sioux Nation, are among the lineup of presenters. Black Hills Sioux Treaty Council Vice Chairman Rick Thomas, of the Santee Sioux Delegation, will serve as Moderator.

Making a very special guest appearance is the honorable Mr. Johnson Holy Rock, former chairman of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, who also served more recently as the tribes' fifth member. Mr. Holy Rock will present his concerns about the water rights issues for the Great Sioux reservation.

The conference is dedicated to the memory of the late William H. Veeder, former BIA Water Resources Coordinator whose advocacy for Indian water rights went well beyond the realm of policy and regulatory domination most often the trademark of undermining federal fiduciary responsibility toward tribal nations. Veeder often advocated that tribes should question the power and authority of the Secretary of Interior to take immediate action toward "protecting Indian Nations, tribes and people against the seizure and monopolization of the water resources by non-Indians who have obtained title to Indian lands..."

Conference Registration begins Friday afternoon December 21, at 1:30 p.m., MST, in the Alpine/Ponderosa Room of the Rapid City Civic Center, and Ends Saturday Afternoon.

For More Information Contact the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance at (605) 867-5624 (phone) or email at gptwa2006@yahoo.com. Or go to our website at:

<http://www.geocities.com/gptwa2006/index.html>

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