

PLATFORM SUBMITTED BY VALERIE WELSH - TAHBO

I am Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, I was raised on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, graduated from Parker High went onto to study Social Work at Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, KS. From there I transferred to the University of KS school of Social Welfare for several years. I came home without regret as I got to spend time with my beloved late father before his passing in 1989. I am of the Welsh & Cleveland families (Mohave) and from the Wiley family of San Carlos, AZ, (Apache).

I began my work for CRIT at the Auto Shop in 1988, which is where I met my husband and we married in 1996. I went on to work for CRIT Headstart as the Health Coordinator where my biggest accomplishment was reducing 60 audit findings in my component to 7. I loved working with the children and families of the program but found the need to move on. After I left Headstart I went to work as the director for the CRIT Career Development department where I served as specialist from about 1994 to 2007 again serving students who were post-secondary bound for a higher education.

In 2007 I was appointed as the CRIT Secretary vacating my Career Development position and served in this capacity for two years continuing on as a Council member until my appointment to the Treasurer's seat in 2014 until April 28' 2018.

Our Constitution speaks of our most valuable resource as being our people, the land and its water. Going forward we must know and understand our people, what lies on our lands and certainly understand how our water came to be, how it's to serve us, its value and quantifications. Factually speaking here are CRIT's Water Allocations:

- CRIT's Water Rights AZ: 662,402 ac ft. with 99,375 acres
 CA: 56,846 ac ft. with 7,657 acres
 Totals: 719,248 ac. ft. with 107,903 acres overall
- Irrigation, 771 miles of laterals
- Marshlands, backwaters, riparian areas & revegetation
- Mesquite Bosque
- Ancestral/sacred sites

...to name a few, must all be protected by creating stronger meaningful policies. To aggressively work toward provisions to transfer the irrigation management from BIA over to CRIT. The BIA has sorely failed the maintenance systems causing low historical leasing rates and difficult to diversify crops, this affects our revenue!

Capturing solar energy off already disturbed lands is a start, after all we are considered as part of the "solar belt-way". Our homes should already be built with panels to lessen utility payments or establishing a program to capture the natural energy. In addition to assuming management over the BIA Electrical Services as well something that has been discussed over the years.

The following list is based partly on discussion I have had as an active Council member, they are certainly not in preference, but should be considered to a Planning Administration/Zoning Committee so that they could be accomplished based on real timelines:

- * Irrigation Improvements
- * Headstart facility
- * Fire Department – in progress
- * Long Term Care facility
- * I.T. (Information Technology.) Dept.
- * Post millennial focus
- * New Housing/Transition homes
- * Degree Student Bridge Programs (employment)
- * Apprentice/Journeymen Programs
- * Road Improvements
- * Demand for quality health care

Not until 2014 has the 2003 Tribal Council action been realized identifying what the monthly Financial Reports should contain which are the income statements, balance sheets, cash flows, incoming/outgoing wire transfers (now done by resolutions), income vs. expenses, 638 Contract flows, enterprise revenue & variance reporting, insurance coverage, etc., with the monthly reconciliation of all tribal bank accounts. Additional audit & policy work to help protect the assets of the Tribe have been incorporated. At my departure there were no audit sanctions, no outstanding loans and a budget that did not fall into deficit for four years with a financial report that's shown to the membership monthly. I would ensure that oversight is continued.

I can't articulate enough the need to have a communicative and cohesive council that can hold discussions with respect. No, we don't always agree, but that's healthy too as long as we're able to have our voices heard. This is the only way we dare to accomplish our unmet goals. I would continue to dedicate myself to being fair, understanding and compassionate about our people's needs on and off the reservation. We must break that "culture" of the crabs in the bucket, pulling each other down. Instead tipping the bucket so that we can go forth as an unrelenting positive force.