

Cemetery Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

from December 18, 2013 Community Meeting

For Questions please contact Julie Denny at (920) 869-6212 or (920) 606-3944

Question	Response	
1	How can community members help during the entire process?	The community may assist by coming to Cemetery Community Meetings and accurately disseminating information given at the meeting.
2	Heard there is thought of requiring "vaults"?	At the December 18, 2013 Community Meeting-Community members were requested to forward their ideas to Cheryl Skolaski and she would share your ideas with LOC. Community notices will be posted on tribal websites and in the Kalihwisaks to identify deadlines for any additional ideas needing to be submitted in order to be considered in any Cemetery Law, policy or procedural change.
3	Heard there have been blanket burials (2-3), what is the impact of chemicals from such burials to the "Where the Water Birds Nest and the ground water?"	Based on research there are no documented records of blanket burials having been done in the cemetery. There is information available about blanket burials and if you wish to receive a copy of that information please contact Julie Denny.
4	Are their Federal Laws that need to be complied with?	NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Relocation Act)
5	Will there be an alternative cemetery site?	At this time, no. The corrective measures being taken should not require an alternative site be identified. However, if at any time the data from the monitoring wells indicate these efforts are not working, the Technical Team will formulate a new strategy for corrective actions.
6	Can the 3 ugly Cemetery signs be removed, other cemeteries don't have these?	The Oneida Trust/Enrollment Committee approved for the cemetery signs to be put in the Oneida Cemetery to inform visitors rules exist and identify prohibited items that should not be left in the cemetery. We feel the signs help visitors understand some items are not allowed and may be subject to removal..
7	At the time of excavating, can any water in the grave be removed prior to burial?	We will make every effort to request any water be removed prior to burials.
8	Identify who contacts are: BC liaison and BC Chair role?	Greg Matson remains the OBC liaison. He is tasked with sharing information with OBC, including the OBC Chair.
9	Who is responsible for the work being done and performing any follow-up work?	Ultimately, the Technical Team is in the position of proposing engineering solutions based on the most scientific, realistic and reliable resources it can gather and endorse. All proposed solutions will be validated (negatively or positively) by the data collected by the various monitoring wells. If the problems are not fixed, it will be the Technical Team's responsibility to continue to pursue the corrective measures necessary to fulfill the expectations of the Oneida Trust/Enrollment Committee.
10	What information was received that supported lifting the moratorium?	The decision to lift the moratorium was based on the information provided by the Technical Team.
11	Fears that in 3-5-7 years remedies don't continue to work, what is the next plan?	If the remedies don't continue to work, it will be the Technical Team's responsibility to continue to pursue the corrective measures necessary to fulfill the expectations of the Oneida Trust/Enrollment Committee.
12	What guarantee is there to address the concerns by spring 2014?	In general, we are unable to guarantee the results of our efforts at this time. We are and will continue to make every effort to address any concerns brought forward.
13	How long will it take to know results of monitoring wells?	Data collection begins as soon as the monitoring wells have been installed. Over time, as the data is collected, we will have better analytical results which will help us in determining how successful the work on this Project has been. Long Term Results roughly begin after (1) to (2) years of data have been collected and basically improves the longer the data accumulates, which could go on indefinitely or as long as data collection is desired or is necessary.
14	Will the cemetery require additional monitoring wells to be installed besides those identified today?	Yes, as needed.
15	Where will the future funding come from to pay for future work that has yet to be completed?	Once the budget for Phase II of the Project has been identified and confirmed by the Cemetery Working Group, the budget will then be submitted to the CFO/Finance Dept. for assessment and approval. The CFO has indicated that a funding source has been identified.
16	What are the costs for Phase II? (comments 43 & 58)	The Technical Team is working on the budget for phase II and plans to have it prepared by the end of January 2014.
17	Where will the water being discharged go?	Naturally flows northwest and eventually filters into Silver Creek.
18	Has any research been done on how the discharge water will impact surrounding areas and homes?	There should be no impact on any existing homes.

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19	<p>Did the establishment of the "Where the Water Bird's Nest" create more problems for the cemetery? (comments: 41 & 55)</p> <p>It's hard to be certain the effect the pond has. However, theoretically it would seem the higher the pond water is the higher the ground water would be surrounding the pond. Therefore, as a precaution one of the first and immediate steps was to lower the pond level. The wetland pond level will continue to be monitored to prevent any future potential impacts to the cemetery.</p>
20	<p>Will the water run-off from the Cemetery road be corrected w/French drain tile installed? (comments: 42 & 82)</p> <p>Yes, drain tile installed during Phase I and Phase II, as well as additional grading will address the Cemetery Road run-off. No plots will be affected.</p>
21	<p>When the grading is done will it affect any plots?</p> <p>No plots will be affected.</p>
22	<p>Where is the communication and cultural components?</p> <p>In response to the cultural component concern; the Cemetery Working Group has made contact with cultural advisors and will be working with them to ensure any cultural practices or ways are recognized. In regards to the communication concern, there was an initial letter mailed to families letting them know the strategies of the Cemetery Working Group to address the cemetery concerns. In addition, there have and will be articles in the Kalihwisaks and as well as community meetings through the remainder of 2014.</p>
23	<p>Would like the original perspective on establishment of cemetery shared.</p> <p>At the December 18, 2013 Community Meeting. Mark A. Powless gave an oral presentation on the origins of the cemetery.</p>
24	<p>How can we get the roadway access changed to the sweatlodge and the site of "Where the Water Birds Nest"? (comments: 26 & 63)</p> <p>The Cemetery Working Group's primary focus is to develop short & long term remedies for cemetery concerns. Concerns about access to the sweatlodge & the Wetland Pond maybe addressed in future CIP (Capital Improvement Process).</p>
25	<p>Has it been considered of taking the cemetery road out?</p> <p>No.</p>
26	<p>Due to the recent GTC action regarding 7 Gens an OBC member commented the cemetery project would be pushed aside. Is this true?</p> <p>The Cemetery Working Group is not able to respond to this question. We suggest that this be discussed with the OBC member in question.</p>
27	<p>Will there be a Q/A document at the next meeting so we aren't asking the same questions over and over?</p> <p>Yes</p>
28	<p>Will hunting back by "Where the Water birds Nest" present problems?</p> <p>The Cemetery Working Group is not able to respond to this question. We suggest that this be discussed with Natural Resources Director of the Oneida Conservation Department .</p>
29	<p>Can people attend the working group sessions?</p> <p>The working group sessions are closed to the public, however, you can voice any concerns you have by contacting Julie Denny at (920) 869-6212 or (920) 606-3944 and Julie can bring your concerns to the group for resolution. You can also bring your concerns to the Community Meetings that will be held through the remainder of 2014.</p>
30	<p>What is the impact of the casino dumping to the birds as there is huge pile of tarp and plastic?</p> <p>This inquiry requires clarification and needs to be more specific in order to be answered correctly.</p>
32	<p>Is the French Drain Tile going to work?</p> <p>Since the cemetery was established It has been recommended that drain tile be installed to alleviate water issues. The technical team has confidence in the tile system however monitoring wells and future graves will determine the effectiveness of the tile.</p>
33	<p>Why isn't DPW at meeting tonight?</p> <p>The Cemetery Working Group will determine the appropriate staff that need to be present for the Community Meetings.</p>

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34	Can the Cemetery section names be removed?	Yes. The section titles have been discontinued.
35	Can the prohibited items in the law be removed?	At the December 18, 2013 Community Meeting-Community members were requested to forward their ideas to Cheryl Skolaski and she would share your ideas with LOC. Community notices will be posted on tribal websites and in the Kalihwisaks to identify deadlines for any additional ideas needing to be submitted in order to be considered in any Cemetery Law, policy or procedural change. There is a deadline of 2/21/2014 for cemetery law changes. After this date members will have to work with LOC to request changes.
36	Can statistical data on cemetery burials be provided?	Yes. The information will be available at the community meetings, on the website and mailed by request.
37	Who is going to be liable if I pull my son out and move him?	This question has been sent for a legal opinion by the Enrollment Department. Waiting for response.
38	Can a list of families who have family buried in cemetery be provided for purposes of contacting them to sign a petition?	Release of Information is an internal decision for the Enrollment Department and the CWG cannot respond.
39	Who determined where the water should be discharged to?	The Technical Team. This was based on the existing drainage patterns in the area.
40	How long before we know if the corrective measures work?	It is not possible to provide a single response to this question, since there are multiple corrective measures being done in the cemetery. Please keep in mind that some tasks may overlap each other. The first corrective measure was to install drain tile along the wooded area. This work was completed and it showed immediate and continuing results with water flowing out of the cemetery. The next corrective measure is to install additional drain tile throughout the cemetery this work is in progress with no update available. The installation of the monitoring wells is expected to begin shortly. All work is weather dependent. A vendor will be selected for cemetery maintenance and is expected to begin work in Spring 2014. It is important to know that the measure of success is dependent on weather conditions. So if there is a lot of rain in the spring, the ground conditions will reflect that.
41	What if everything done doesn't work	If the remedies don't continue to work, it will be the Technical Team's responsibility to continue to pursue the corrective measures necessary to fulfill the expectations of the Oneida Trust/Enrollment Committee.
42	Where is Pat Pelky?	The Cemetery Working Group will determine the appropriate staff or departments that need to be present for the Community Meetings.
43	What was Department of Land Management's role in establishing the cemetery?	The Department of Land Management was one department of several that participated in the LUTU (Land Use Technical Unit) process which identified potential cemetery locations.
44	Is the cemetery salvageable?	Yes.