

# A Sad, Sad Attitude

<http://www.Osages-You-Need-To-Know.com>

May 28, 2013

Last Thursday, Osage Minerals Council Chairman Andrew Yates asked the Council staff to do a telephone poll of the Council, trying to gain approval of the Council to make \$10,000 available to the Osage Indian families directly affected by the tornados occurring in central Oklahoma on Monday, May 20, 2013.

This money was to go to any Osage family affected, regardless whether they were Shareholders or not. Because the Council has no established policy and procedure for disasters and emergencies such as this, the money was to be channeled through a distribution system being set up by the Osage Nation's Emergency Management Department for all affected Osage families. This is not "co-mingling" funds. This is helping our people. It would have very likely cost another \$10,000 in administrative expenses and taken a lot of extra time just to seek out each family and fairly distribute the funds if the Council had tried to do it directly. This was the quickest, most practical way to get the money to the people. "QUICKEST" is the operative word here. These people are hurting and we are already a week late. But, I guess if you are a week late with NOTHING, then it really doesn't matter. And NOTHING is exactly what the "no voters" on the Osage Minerals Council have done for our Osage brothers and sisters displaced from their homes by this horrific storm, some likely to be suffering injuries, and possibly dealing with the loss of some of their family.

As of Monday morning, 5/27/13, over 200 Osage individuals had been identified by the ONG as living in Moore, Shawnee, Norman, Edmond, Carney, Luther, and Bethel Acres. ONG has a database of all Osages and their addresses whereby individuals and families and their phone numbers and cell numbers can be sorted out by zip code, and then by address. They do not know as yet, just how many Osages suffered losses, but this database has made quick work of locating and contacting all of them in the area. Emergency Management Director Bobby Tall Chief will be in the Moore area early Tuesday. He has located 2 Osages, both living within a mile of the affected areas, who have volunteered to operate local contact and distribution points right on the scene. This will help assure that 100% of anything donated will go straight to Osages in need of help.

**And it only goes to Osages.** There is no plan for the Red Cross or the Salvation Army to be involved in distributing any Osage contributions.

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As for Ms. Boone's spin on things, once again she fails to tell the whole story, and, she suggests that the ONG had asked the MC for this money. **This is not true!!** And also, Osage disaster victims would have gotten 100% of the money. I'm afraid that her incorrect, misleading statements on the OSA Blog may have been believed by others on the Council, thus influencing their vote.

The ONG did not request that the MC do this!! Councilman Abbott had contacted Chairman Yates and asked that the Council try to help these Osage disaster victims by making a donation. I don't know how the amount of \$10,000 was determined, but that is less than \$4.49 per full Headright. Each Headright paid over \$40,000 last year. \$4.49 is less than 1/100<sup>th</sup> of 1% of \$40,000. This shouldn't be a burden on anyone. No wonder Sonny Abbott said "that's not enough."

Listed below are the votes on this issue and the comments accompanying the votes:

- **Cynthia Boone—NO--**"No, because that money will not go to just Osages. Another request should have gone through Congress or exec. branch not to use shareholder money."
- **Sonny Abbott—YES—**"Should be double. It should be \$20,000."
- **Myron Red Eagle—NO—**"would have voted "yes" for \$5,000." (*that would be less than \$2.25 per full Headright.*)
- **Galen Crum—YES—**no comment
- **Dudley Whitethorn—NO—**no comment
- **Andrew Yates—YES—**no comment
- **Melvin Core—YES—**no comment
- **Curtis Bear—NO—**"If it went straight to Osages, then yes.—But no, not a lump sum."

**This was 4 yes, and 4 no. A tie vote is always a "no" vote.**

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However this got done, it needed to be done quickly. Policy and Procedure concerning natural disasters should have been established long ago. This could have been Fairfax or Hominy or Pawhuska or Barnsdall or Owasso just as easily as it was Moore and Shawnee. From the way we are prepared, you would think we never have tornados here or anywhere else. We need to be ready to help in these disaster situations where ever there are Osages, whether it be just one or several hundred.

How many Osages would be affected if a one mile wide tornado ripped through Pawhuska? If that happened, I wonder how this Council would react then? What if the Moore Osage victims had to make that decision for Pawhuska? How would they react, now that they see how much we care? This is an absolutely pitiful way to treat our people. A sad day in the Osage.

I'm not saying we should assume a bunch of responsibility here, but we darn sure could have done something more than just say "NO". If this Council needs to argue about something, they should be arguing about what else could be done to help. What ARE they thinking? I would be very surprised and very disappointed if a large majority of the Shareholders didn't support our Osage Minerals Council giving a helping hand to our own people in this desperate situation and I hope that every one of you let them know what you think.

Let's hope they will reconsider their decision at the June 14, 2013 meeting.

Ray McClain; so far, a very lucky Osage Shareholder