

APRIL 26, 2015 OREGON HISTORIC TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING Minutes

Council Members in Attendance: Jim Ford, Lindon Hilton, Loren Irving, Dick Seymour, Billy Symms

Council Members Absent: Glenn Harrison, Pat Davis, Jennifer Karson Engum, John Hayes.

Guests: Wendell Baskins, Joe and Leta Nederheiser, Bob Black, Erica Risberg, Stephen Spain.

Call to Order: Meeting opened by Chair Jim Ford

Review and Approve Minutes from September 7, 2014 meeting

Moved to approve by Loren Irving, seconded by Lindon Hilton.

Review Field Notes: Bonneville Trail trip to Mc Donald Crossing and Cottonwood State Park. Approved.

Treasure Report: OHTAC reviewed Glenn Harrison's written report. Wendell reviewed OCF OHTAC funds. Discussion was had regarding potential usage and setting guidelines for judicious usage. Requests are made for funds each September for annual dispersal of approximately \$4,600.

Old Business

B2H - Glenn Harrison: Written evaluation of proposed project changes and threat. Report will be included with the minutes. This project will impact 8 of the 16 Historic Trails in Oregon. Included with this report is an OCTA review. In general the Idaho Power route is acceptable. The BLM route proposed contains segments that are negative regarding view shed and integrity of the known trails. The Council will continue to review this project.

Iberdtola/Renewables/Montague Wind project

There has been a project time extension and is generally acceptable. There does not appear that there has been any change of the project, just the extension of time.

Cedar Springs Sign Project: There is a telephone conference on April 27 for interested parties and discuss the sign design. The Council intends to support OCTA in the design and suggested verbage and will do so with member Billy Symms and will rely on advice by Stafford Hazelett.

Barlow Trail Interactive Multimedia Project Grant – Verbal report from Erica Risberg. Erica has accompanied several sites on the Barlow being guided by Wendell Baskins and Stafford Hazelett. There will be two historical reenactments as well as voice-overs of diary excerpts, photos, historical maps, and interviews from trail experts.

Erica needed guidance on selecting journal entries that will be included several segments of the multi-media project. Several pages of suggested journal entries were passed out to members for the purpose of asking to help decide which ones might be used.

Members and guest will respond with suggestions to:

erica.l.risberg@gmail.com

Erica is affiliated with History Research Associates who has developed an app under the name of “Next Exit History” and is an example of a possible direction of marketing information on the 16 Historic Trails.

One of the primary audiences for this project will be students and the potential for telling the real story is exciting. We would like to think

that all the teachers in the U.S. might benefit from this multi-media project.

Wendell is in the process of putting together access to the Edge of Palmer Glacier and revisit the view that Palmer suggests in his journal and may ask the Council for a letter of support in the making of this multi-media project with Erica Risberg.

Rock Fort Repair: Written report - Written Report included

Site of Jedidiah Smith Massacre: Written Report. Edited by Lancaster Pollard. The Council suggested the sign be positioned at the old weigh station location but the sign was placed back at the original location near Highway 101.

Umatilla Chemical Depot: Billy Symms provided information that the government will be breaking up the property for different uses. There are 3 different sections of Class 1 swales of the Oregon Trail. NW OCTA will be providing effort in protecting these sections. Billy will be keeping the Council apprised of developments. The Curlew birds in the area are protected.

New Business

Meek Cutoff update - Loren/Wendell Baskins. Jim Hambleton (author of "Wood Water and Grass" The Meek Cutoff Party") noticed while doing field work that the BLM was in the process of doing a Juniper eradication program and the cutting of firelanes and fire treatments directly on the known Meek Cutoff trail segment near New Pine Creek and other locations. With a trip to Portland then a trip to the BLM office in Hines Jim was able to

persuade the field manager to protect the segment by showing him the route from his research and book. We owe all involved a thank you for protecting this section. Wendell Baskins will send a draft letter to Jim Ford for consideration of a formal letter from OHTAC to Jim Hambleton, and Scott Thomas with the BLM in Hines. Member Lindon Hylton offered to assist in contacting Government managers regarding the routes of the trails.

Outreach to Agencies. Discussion included the possibility of providing agencies with solid information on the location of the 16 trails. Wendell suggested further planning might be in order to facilitate the providing of information. Wendell volunteered to work with the Council in pursuing a plan of outreach. An example of a near miss with great potential to damage or eradicate a section of the Applegate Trail at the Sexton Mountain I-5 recent improvement. Joe and Leta Neiderheiser noticed the work and was able to contact the right folks and saved the section.

Announcement of Fremont Exhibit: Loren. Loren announced the Opening of the John C. Fremont exhibit “Finding Fremont” at the Deschutes Historical Museum in Bend, Oregon on May 1, 2015. The exhibit will run from May 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015 in Bend. Then it is likely to travel to another location, possibly OHS in Portland or Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas.

Auto Signs, Nez Perce Trail, Dick Seymour: Dick Seymour alerted the Council that the Nez Perce Foundation may need a letter of support for the placement of these signs. OHTAC will follow through with a letter of support to agencies involved. Dick will provide Jim with the information needed. The Nez Perce Foundation will be holding their annual meeting on July 17, 2015.

Dug Bar Signage Project: Dick Seymour provided information including a photo of the new sign installed by the Forest Service.

History Heritage Fair, Salem: Wendell volunteered to help Glenn Harrison at the OHTAC booth.

Box R Ranch Trail preservation: Decision on supporting The BLM in applying for **National Register of Historic Places** status. Our BLM contact person is Cheryl Foster-Curley. Cheryl Foster-Curley, District Archaeologist/Tribal Liaison, Bureau of Land management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, Phone: 541-618-2335, Cell: 530-233-0628.

The chair will write a letter of support of the project. Motion was made by Dick Seymour and seconded by Billy Symms to approve this action by OHTAC.