

I-OCTA Board Meeting Minutes, March 29, 2008, Hagerman, ID

1. **Call to Order 10:00 AM:** I-OCTA President, Doug Jenson (Idaho Falls) at Snake River Grill, Hagerman, Idaho; 14 attending: Lyle Lambert, Eastern VP (Pocatello); Jerry Eichhorst, Western VP & Web Master (Boise); Bill Wilson, Treasurer (Boise); Kay Coffman, Secretary (Boise); James McGill, Preservation Officer (Nampa); Board of Directors, Fred Dykes (Pocatello), Peg Cristobal, BOD & Historian (Filer), Norma Dart (Middleton), Dell Mangum (Blackfoot). Also: Patti McGill (Nampa), Lynn Porter (Pocatello), and Jay Ward (Burley), Marian Posey from Stricker Station (Jerome).

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Doug emailed the Fall Board Minutes for reading prior to the meeting. Doug asked for abridged versions of the minutes to be emailed to Jim McGill in time for inclusion in the *Trail Dust* issue following each meeting, keeping the complete versions as the official minutes of the meetings. Peg moved to accept the minutes as is, Jerry seconded and it carried.

3. **Reports:**
 - A. **Treasurer:** Bill read the treasurer's report and provided a handout showing deposits, expenditure with a checking account balance of \$4,830.28 and CD balance of \$2,321.23. There were two large deposits for donations of expense money received from BLM projects overseen by Jim & Jerry; Jim has a copy of all the receipts donated by the volunteers. People wanting reimbursed for their expenses on the projects should submit them to Marley or send a note to Bill if you want to donate the money to the Idaho Chapter. Jim said that the BLM is writing some grants now so that expenses for trail projects on their land can either be reimbursed to volunteers or donated to I-OCTA, using the forms provided for that purpose. There's still some money left in the 2007 grant and now there's a new 2008 grant that they're hoping to use for the Lander Road project. Jerry's grant for the BLM Byway project is separate. Bill asked for emails to document who has donated their reimbursements for expenses to I-OCTA. Jerry asked Jim if he would write up instructions for Jerry to post on the web with the forms to help volunteers understand the procedures for reporting time/mileage/expenses to Doug for the annual volunteer report, getting reimbursement for expenses, and donating the money to I-OCTA when working on projects and activities. Jerry suggested a committee be appointed to work on this and Peg agreed that it's needed and suggested it be done by the Fall Board meeting; Jim & Jerry agreed that they would work it up together since they're also working on the grants. Doug asked if the confusion is cleared up on the different grants and Bill and Jim said that the BLM has tightened their controls on the grants and straightened out the documenting and reporting of the grant monies. Jim assured Bill that he will get copies of the paperwork concerning the grant money to Bill for the treasury record. Bill also handed out the membership list showing 175 currently paid members with 39 new this fiscal year (indicated by an "N" after the due date), many of the new ones brought in by Jim, plus 11 Trail Dust only subscriptions. Jerry moved to approve the treasurer's report as is, Lyle seconded and it carried.

- B. Preservation: Jim reported that he keeps us abreast of marking and other activities in the *Trail Dust*. He will be rechecking markers on the tour routes before the convention. Much of the Goodale Cutoff is covered to its completion in Oregon and he is working with the BLM in Baker and Tom Gray of the Malheur Historical Society on what's left of marking over there. The Preservation Officer for the NW Chapter, Chuck Hornbuckle, is much more interested in it now that he's gone out with Jim to see the Cutoff. Jerry is working on some things on the North Alternate and there's a loop of that trail nobody has ever paid any attention to. Jim said that it's nice to work with everyone to get an interest in parts of the trail. Peg stated that the North Rim Park issue is stable. Peg told Jim that the markers have been checked on the North Alternate in the area and Jim asked for an email to document that for the record. There was discussion about the North Alternate Trail and Peg said that even though they don't have diaries written on the North Alternate trail there are other records, such as surveyor's notes, that they're using to document it and that's being taken care of now. Jim said that they met with Stan McDonald, one of the leaders of BLM in Idaho, and they're thinking about redoing *Emigrant Trails of Idaho* and I-OCTA wants to contribute everything we've got to update that publication. One of the guides they like to use is the BLM plats of the oldest records of the trails and they are now online so you can look up the townships and see where the oldest trails are located. They are adding the surveyor's notes where they don't have them already. Bill said that several years ago Fred sent him a diary written from the South Side Trail that referred to seeing a wagon train on the north side of the river. Jim said that all that information could be added into the revised BLM book. The North Side Trail is still listed on the bill to be considered as a National Historic Trail; if that ever passes Congress then there will be more detailed study by others who will want our data to prove or disprove what we have. Fred asked if the false Goodale Trail toward the Big Butte that goes almost into Blackfoot will be eliminated in the revised book and Jim replied that it will be called McTucker Road. That entire route has been replaced with McTucker Road decals. Peg said that it might have also been called Market Road at one time and to watch for that reference also. Jim asked everyone to channel all the trail information to him so he can keep it together and continue to provide the information to the BLM to include with marking maps he has already sent to them through the last several years. All that information will contribute to the revision of the *Emigrant Trails of Idaho* book. Doug read from the "National Trails System Act", providing for the identification of high potential sites and segments along national historic trails; typically these are features that will probably qualify for National Register nomination. Jim stated that one of the high interest areas is the power line corridor coming down from Montana that involves quite a bit of the Goodale Cutoff, especially around the Crater's of the Moon. Jim is communicating with NPS on it and they're on top of that. The NW Chapter also put together some of the wind machine corridors that follow some of the trails closely; some of them come close to Idaho trails, but not as much as in Oregon. They can't stop them but they're trying to work with them to protect the trails.
- C. Mapping: Jim reported that we didn't plan any GIS'ng last fall because of everything that's going on. They're still trying to figure out with NPS on whether they're going to have enough communication to make it worth doing it; Jim still hasn't gotten word from the 2006 work to confirm that they even received it. It's too involved to not even know if

they're getting it or if time is being wasted doing the GIS'ng. No one else in OCTA is doing much with it either because it's too time-consuming for volunteers; the work needs to be hired done. Jim is going to resign the National Mapping Chairman position and it will be taken over by Dave Welch who is resigning his National Preservation Officer position. Jim plans on completing the marking in Idaho and keeping the markers in good shape and working on the Lander marking. Meanwhile, everything is being revamped toward working with the convention. Jerry mentioned that he and Jim are working with Dick Hill at BLM to get more North and South Alternate decals made up. Jerry received three boxes of Carsonite markers from BLM.

- D. Website: Jerry reported that the web site is up to date and the link is there for the 2008 National Convention and is being kept updated; the registration link will be available for anyone's use on April 1. Jerry will have the volunteer forms and other things previously talked about on the site also. Doug said the web site is great and is commendable. This is the link to it: <http://www.idahoocta.org/>
- E. National Board Meeting: Bill reported on the National Board Meeting in Sacramento CA (Dave Welch's home town) on March 7 & 8, reading the list of motions that will be printed in *News From the Plains*. Bill mentioned that the COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) web site at <http://www.paper-trail.org/> is now online. A method is needed for members to access it without paying since it is a membership benefit as stated in the OCTA Strategic Plan. Doug reported that Elderhostel tours will be done again this year; first in July and then in September. He said that NPS has established a library in Salt Lake City; you can call ahead to say you're coming and they will let you in to use the resources they have available. Aaron Mahr, the NPS Trails Superintendent, said they have quite a bit of money available this year to help with getting Carsonite markers and other things. Jim said that the BLM has been providing those and Jerry asked if they could get us another pounder and puller. Jim said he would work with Dick Hall to get those for I-OCTA and that the preferred narrow ones are now available.
- F. '08 Convention: Jim reported that he will keep us updated on Convention plans as the *Trail Dust* comes out. He passed around a copy of the Convention Book that will be online and members will receive by hard-copy in early April. Jim said that some old activities are being renewed, like the live auction during the Award Banquet. The motels are all set and there are plenty of rooms available. Everyone is excited and anticipating a great convention. The registration book has come out earlier than it has in a long time. Jim has done what OCTA has recommended several years ago in finding people in other agencies and organizations that have common interests to help out with the convention. We have four local historical societies and some other really talented people. Cheryl Tussy, head of the State AARP, is our Communications Specialist who is doing all the advertising to the media sources. We have Cathy Bourner who is with the State Tourism Department and she has pulled together some really good things for us. We have groups across the State planning some pre and post-convention tours and activities. Susan Doyle is working on the Trail History in Idaho Convention Booklet, so send history of the trail to her to include in it. NPS approved \$12,000 for the Convention, which is the most OCTA has received for a Convention. They are also looking at the possibility of another little grant to add some extra signs along some of the tour routes. The biggest factor is time to

do things. Jim will let people know when he's doing a dry run on the tour routes so you can go if interested. The Convention is coming together well and Jim said to let him know if you have any ideas to use for it. Jim sent out an email about nominating "Friends of the Trail" awards; Doug sent one in on Dick Hill of the BLM and we need one sent in on Jeff Ross who has done a lot for the trails and any other people we've worked with on the trails who have provided lots of help and support. Jim asked about the Affinity VISA card and Bill explained that it is for individuals to use for OCTA expenses that will also benefit OCTA. Jim said that the motel reservation system through the OCTA web site isn't working out as good as it should because it costs more to reserve the rooms that way and OCTA gets very little money from it. He suggested that they should carefully check out the VISA card program costs and benefits before going with it. Doug explained the details and statistics of what National has learned about it and that there is no obligation to use it. The Convention web site is here: http://www.idahocta.org/2008_Convention.html

4. Old Business:

- A. Montpelier sign: Doug reported that he contacted Randy Brown who replied to go ahead and do the sign and National will pick up the balance of the approximate \$650 cost. Doug submitted the text to him and he said he could live with it. It takes two to three months to get the sign made, so it's not likely that it will be up in time for the Convention wagon train. There was further discussion on other possible sources of money to pay for the sign. Lyle said that we need to start working with Dr. Dane who owns 3-4 acres of property at the bottom of Big Hill that he was willing to donate, since his health is failing. Jim moved to appoint Lyle, Dell and Fred to be a committee to encourage the Montpelier Trail Center to work with Dr. Danes in acquiring the acreage at the bottom of Big Hill as a donation; Bill seconded and it carried. Lyle said that he got permission for us to put up private property trail markers south of Soda Springs where the trail crossed Bear River, if we can get it done this spring before they sell the property. Jim said that Dave Welch told him that there's a clause that property owners can put into their sale for a perpetual historical access easement to the trail site when the property is sold.
- B. BLM Byway Agreement: Jerry showed us a copy of the BLM Byway Booklet for the trail from Three Island Crossing at Glens Ferry to Bonneville Point, southeast of Boise, which will be 32 pages of text and maps plus a cover, divided into three parts. Jerry explained how the booklet is organized for a driving tour of the trail and that BLM expects to print 2,000 to 5,000 copies, depending on the cost. They're hoping to have it done in time for the Convention and to give it to everyone who takes the Saturday Three Island Trail Tour. It will be sold at BLM offices for about \$4.00 to cover the cost of printing. Jerry said that it has been a lot of work and research and when he first compiled it he had 85 pages and edited it back to 50 pages for his presentation of it to BLM last week; it was then decided to edit it to 32 pages. It has been going very well and BLM is pleased with it; Wally has had some involvement in terms of proofreading it. Jim said that Wally sent a note that he is pretty impressed and that Jerry really did a good job on it. Jim suggested that we encourage the BLM to have a table at the Convention where they can sell this booklet; Peg mentioned that the BLM has a booklet on the South Alternate Trail that could be sold at the Convention also, along with other books they might have. Jerry said he's exploring the possibility of selling the byway booklet at our table if BLM doesn't have a table. Jim

said that NPS is going to have a large table and he would like to see a table for BLM also, since they're such a good partner in Idaho. Jerry said that the booklet is only the first part of the byway process. This coming year we'll get funding for installing, over time, the BLM interpretive signs of a flat panel with plexi-glass over the top and the billboard type signs that show the route at both ends and the middle of the byway. Jerry said that he is now in favor of not marking the graves east of Canyon Creek to keep from drawing attention to them by vandals; whereas, in a prior meeting he indicated he would like to see them marked. Jim suggested we follow up on getting the MOU with the BLM finalized in order to simplify working with them on projects.

- C. E. Clampus Vitus Sign: Doug asked about the status of the signs and Jim reported that E. Clampus Vitus is working with the City of Boise in putting up the Fairbanks Medallion and a monument at the Staples store on the corner of Chinden Blvd and Eagle Road where the Oregon Trail came over the top and went down. They're also putting up a monument and medallion at Canyon Creek Station and are working with the Elmore County HS in planning the BBQ and auction when the wagon train comes thru. We haven't done anything thing as far as cooperative money, but they come to the convention planning meetings and report on their progress.
- D. NPS Auto Tour Route: Doug reported that the Idaho section of the auto tour route is finished and will be available at the convention.
- E. Utter Tour Brochures: Doug inquired about the status of the brochures for which I-OCTA allocated \$200 and Jim reported that 6,000 copies have been reprinted. The Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff ordered 1,000 for \$100 in addition to purchases by the Malheur and Owyhee County HS's and Don Shannon.
- F. Additional Old Business - Raft River Sign: Doug asked if there was anything else under old business and Lyle brought up that the OCTA sign, that was dedicated in 1997, at the bottom of Raft River where the graves are needs to be fixed before the California Trail pre-convention tour goes there. Jim made a motion that Lyle does what he needs to do to repair the sign and send us the bill, Peg seconded and it carried. Jim mentioned that they cleaned up the trail except for a couple of cement posts; Doug, Lynn and Lyle will go back to remove the posts. Jim said that there are still concrete posts available to use where needed in cattle grazing areas and possibly next year they will be doing some more of that work.

5. New Business:

- A. Lander Project: Doug reported that he talked to Dick Hill and that he has \$4,100 for mapping the upper Snake River region; the money carries over for use next year also. There is money available to use for the Lander Project by talking to Amy Lapp in Pocatello; the \$8,000 is not a real figure, but there is some money available. In order to avoid early snow storms and hunting season, Jim suggested we start the last week of August or first week of September. It will likely be a 4-5 day project going from the Idaho border to Ft. Hall.

B. 2008 Activity Schedule: Doug said he didn't get much input for activities because of the convention, but asked if there's dry runs needed for the tours. Jim said that each person conducting a tour will work out what they want to do; otherwise nothing is scheduled. Everyone is set up once the weather permits; Tom Gray is set up to take care of his part in the Malheur country which is the second part of the Utter tour. Jim has covered the South Alternate part and is getting two people from Cambridge to do the Goodale route in that area. Don Shannon is taking two people from Owyhee County to do his tour through the valley. Jim is working with the bus company to get road maps together that they want for the tours rather than sending anyone out on the routes ahead of time. On a nice gravel road that can be traveled at 50 mph, they can keep the air conditioning on; otherwise there will be shut downs of the AC. Jim will send emails as soon as possible before trips are planned on the tour routes; Jerry recommended that anyone interested in participating in these trips also contact Jim so he will know who they are. Jim said that he will also put in the *Trail Dust* which dry run tours will be done and to contact him if interested; the dry runs will be in private vehicles, not the buses, to check mileages and make sure the tours fit in the allocated time frames. Jim clarified with Marian that the Friends of Sticker group will supply the lunch and I-OCTA will supply the buy the snacks and drinks for that pre-convention tour. Peg told Marian that the Shoshone Falls bus fee of \$25 should be covered with the Golden Age Pass and Marian said she would find out; Bill said he would work with her if there's a charge to be paid. The *Trail Dust* can be accessed here: http://www.idahoocta.org/Trail_Dust_Index.html

C. Additional New Business:

Ft. Hall: Lyle said he talked to Mr. Farmer and Mr. House from the reservation at Ft. Hall about bringing them to the April convention planning meeting and they're interested. There was discussion about marking the trail on the reservation and they would prefer the decals have Shoshone-Bannock on them, but Lyle said they might settle for the ones that say "Private". Jim said that since the reservation is under the Department of Interior, he could supply Lyle with those decals and some extra markers. Lyle said that they're interested in getting their festival tied in with the convention and Jim said that it's being advertised as a post-convention event; Cathy Bournier is working with the Ft. Hall Replica contact person about it. The Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival web site is: <http://www.shoshonebannocktribes.com/festival.html>

National Heritage Area: Marian said that she recently attended a meeting about a National Park Service program to establish a National Heritage Area in Twin Falls County. They're looking for geographical features and historical sites that make the area unique. It's a long planning process that is being spear-headed by Mary Inman who is a retired NPS Interpreter along with two NPS employees out of Seattle. Doug asked Marian to keep her finger on it and let us know if we need to have any involvement in it.

6. Closing the Meeting: At 12:11 PM, Bill moved to adjourn, Peg seconded and it carried with the meeting adjourned by Doug. Lunch was eaten in the room followed by a tour of the North Alternate Trail, north of Bliss. Ruts were recently discovered by Bill Wilson and Jerry Eichhorst and Jim placed a marker on the north side of the Clover Creek Road.

Everyone interested walked a mile or so section of the trail downhill from the road. After the hike down, a side trip was taken further down Clover Creek Road to the location of the creek flowing through lava tubes. While others hiked, Lynn Porter and Kay Coffman went to the Clover Creek Cemetery so Lynn could take photographs for a presentation she is making at Sticker Station. Lynn and her search dog had previously located some unmarked graves in the cemetery; the first one being an 1852 pioneer grave.

Post Meeting Discussions:

- A. Convention Wagon Train: Dell reported that the wagon train idea started with a trip around Big Butte and evolved into a trip from Montpelier to Nampa, egged on by Jim McGill, utilizing as much of the Goodale trail as possible. It was discovered that the train should be covered by \$1,000,000 of liability insurance and Norma got a grant to cover it. OCTA helped work with the insurance and right now Dell is waiting on receiving a copy of the insurance policy in order to apply for the permits to drive horses and wagons on State highways. He is working with Dan Haralson of the Pocatello District and made copies of the maps for him that shows the places where they will be on State highways, which are about 13 spots on 20 miles out of the 456 miles of trail. Two pilot cars with flashers and signs will be needed on these highway sections to warn cars to slow down for horse-drawn equipment. Dell has notified the emergency services and law enforcement at places along the route so they can be prepared ahead of time for the wagon train being in their area. Dell has been in contact with the Pocatello office of BLM to show them the route so they will know where the train will be camped on BLM ground, which are about three spots across the desert to Big Butte. Also, the NPS and FS need permits; Norma is taking care of the permit with the FS at Little Camas Reservoir. Both Dell and Norma have had verbal and email communication about camp spots along the route. There will be a water truck and a trailer with a water tank from Blackfoot that will trail with the train all the way so there will be water for firefighting or whatever they need. There have been several historical societies, individuals, and civic organizations that will help with meals, for a small donation, so they don't have to do all the cooking. Western Stockman is going to contribute a little feed and necessary shots for horses that need some; also some pellets at cost through the Burley store. The pellets will be sold and replenished as needed along the route and Jerry reminded Dell to charge sales tax. After discussion it was decided that Bill would bring it up at the next convention planning meeting to provide Dell with some funds by July 1 to help with purchasing the pellets out of convention funds rather than providing the money from chapter funds; therefore, Jim's motion to provide money from chapter funds died for lack of a second. The Convention wagon train web site is: http://members.cox.net/ice_man1/index.htm.
- B. Documentaries on Oregon Trail: Lynn Porter said that Candy Moulton hired her to be an EMT on the film crew for the National OCTA documentary on the Oregon Trail that will cover the trail in various states except Idaho; Idaho doesn't have any perks for filming. Dell said that he sent a pledge to Idaho Public TV and they may show up to document the OCTA Convention wagon train.

C. Snake River Heritage Days: Dell introduced visitor Jay Ward, the Snake River Heritage Days Chairman. The festival will include a wagon train starting at Montpelier on June 2 and arriving at Burley on June 19, followed by activities on the 20th and 21st including a cookout. A public television station will document 3-4 days on the wagon train. Jay said that he and 4-5 others from their organization will become OCTA members; Jim gave him membership forms to use. The full schedule of the festival and wagon train can be viewed on this web site: <http://snakeriverheritagedays.com/>.