

**Nez Perce Trail Foundation
Board of Directors and Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn
West Yellowstone, Montana
September 26, 27, 2008**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Charlie Moses.
Quorum present.

Frank Halfmoon opened the meeting with a song.

Greetings from the President: *At this time of year in 1877 the Nez Perce were almost to Bear Paw. As we meet every year along the trail, the only way to get to know the trail is to be on the trail. Tomorrow we will be going to some of the sites in the Yellowstone National Park led by Rosemary Sucec and Lee Whittlesey.*

Executive Director's Annual Review: Thanks to Jim Evans for his hard work. We continue to make progress on our relationships with our federal, state and local partners and gaining national recognition from the National Trails. After lengthy debate we have agreed to work with the museums along the trail to try to get some kind of display in all of the museums to get the most possible exposure to the Nez Perce story. One thing we have to do is somehow involve people more in the organization other than just paying their dues and to continue to increase our membership.

Special guests included Dr. J. Diana Pearson, Native American Studies Program, University of California, Berkeley and author of The Nez Percés in the Indian Territory; Frank Halfmoon, Nez Perce Elder, Nespelem; Scott Eckberg, National Park Service; and Gary Somers, Superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park;

Secretary's Report

Paul Wapato moved that we accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Ruth Wapato. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lynn Fleming presented quarterly reports for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of FY 2008. Second quarter income was \$1,637 and expenses of \$9,621 for a net change of minus \$7,984. Third quarter income was \$23,072 and expenses of \$16,930 for a net change of plus \$6,142. Typically in the 2nd quarter we have not yet received the new fiscal year funds and are using funds from the previous fiscal year so expenses will often exceed income. Current bank account balances as of 9/24/08 are: checking \$19,352 and savings \$17,825 for a total of \$37,177. Our fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30 so we are coming near to the end. Although not all the funds have been spent, they have been obligated. Dick Seymour moved to approve the Treasurers report, Paul Wapato seconded. Report approved.

Discussion of suggestions for getting more money from corporation grants and also from the tribes. Charlie will go visit the tribes that have money and encourage them to support us in the effort to extend the trail formally through Congress.

Executive Director's Report

Special thanks to Diana Pearson for her generous donation of ten of her books, The Nez Perces in the Indian Territory, to our Trading Post. All proceeds from the sales of these books will go directly to NPTF. Books are available on our website for \$35

In the August meeting with Tom, Maureen and Sandi we requested that they give us some basic monies (\$3000/mo.) to keep going so that we can have that until Congress gets monies allocated. Funding is an ongoing struggle. The new trend in fund raising is called capacity building – to hire people to help organizations to go out and raise money. We need to find out who is issuing capacity building funding

Jim reported the status of ongoing projects:

- The kiosks at Camas Meadows and Birch Creek are waiting for signature. The City of Dubois gave us \$4,000 for the Birch Creek kiosk. It will cost us \$600 out of our grant to do this. After accidental burn at Camas Meadows battle sites were revealed and now we are doing GPS readings of where these sites are.
- We are working in partnership with Friends of the Big Hole to raise some funds to do a memorial sculpture at the Big Hole for the first Indian who was killed there, the Palouse Hatahlekín. Jim took a nationally known sculptor to see the site. She was inspired to do some work having the children in this collage of bronzes as well.
- Trail work from Gibbons Pass to Big Hole is completed. Our signage will be put at the trailhead on Gibbons Pass at 93.
- At Big Hole the hitching racks, 3 signs on west entrance as well as a new gate to the park were completed with the help of 42 students from University of San Diego Sacramento Extension office whose class studies the Nez Perce trail.
- Lewistown trading post signage is ongoing. From Lewistown to Cow Island through the prairie we are working with BLM and State on marking the corridor. The “trail” isn’t a single tread but more of a corridor where the horses and people spread out and travel.
- At the Appaloosa Horse Club Museum there is signage telling about the Chief Joseph Trail Ride along with our two signs of the exodus and war trail.

Next spring there will be dedications of these new places and we hope to have Nez Perce members there to take part in the dedications.

- At Clarks Fork signage is in process. Paul questioned title Battle of Clark Fork Canyon as there was no real battle there. After discussion we recommend the title, Escape at Clark Fork. Also an error was noted in the third paragraph second line change “cound” to “could” on sign of Bernard A. Brooks. Jim is working on getting a new headstone for Bugler Brooks to replace one from 1937 that has been damaged. This sign will go inside the enclosure of the fence around the grave. Idaho National Guard will do an Honor Guard at the burial site.
- Jim noted that Canyon Creek site is hard to find. Most of the signage on the autoroute of the Nez Perce Trail has disappeared. There was some discussion of putting a sign on the highway at Laurel.
- Rest stop at Nespelem is well underway and is ongoing, Money is allocated in this year’s budget to take care of that.
- Our website will be up in a couple of weeks. The group discussed as to the efficacy of a blog on the website. Focus it on travelers to give their impressions and express some of their emotions as they experience the trail and other feedback that can assist the foundation and its partners. Someone would have to monitor the info

coming in to decide whether to put it on the site and would need to respond to the person who sent in. We would need a volunteer who would be willing to do this monitoring. Many felt the priority is to get the basic site going.

In November Jim will attend the American Trails Foundation – US Wide meeting at Little Rock, Arkansas. Sandi has offered to pay Jim's way to go to the conference. The National Trails Partnership will be at this meeting and Jim will be giving 10 min presentation of our work on the trail.

It was decided that Jim should move out of the office space in the Sacajawea Center as the rent continues to go up. We owe from January of this year an extra \$25/month that was tacked on retroactively. Jim will rent a storage unit close to his house.

Nominating Committee Report

Paul Wapato reported that all officers have accepted nomination for the next term except for 1st Vice President. Myrna Tovey has agreed to accept nomination for Vice President.

- Slate of officers:
- President: Charlie Moses, Jr.
- 1st Vice President: Myrna Tovey
- 2nd Vice President: Dick Seymour
- Secretary: Carolynne Merrell
- Treasurer: Lynn Fleming

Lynn moved we accept the slate with Dick Seymour seconding. Members unanimously voted to elect the slate of officers.

There are two Vacancies for Board of Directors. Charlie will work on filling these two vacancies.

New Business:

Dick Seymour proposed that we mark the trail down to Eureka Bar the existing old road up the Snake River a mile and connect to existing trail that goes to Cow Creek. We will make an alternative marking down through the private property line. We now have seven more miles of trail that wasn't previously marked.

Agencies' Reports:

Report by Scott Eckberg representing Sandi McFarland, Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Sandi sent sincerest regrets due to death in the family. .

Scott presented a summary review of the NPNHT budget:

- Presently advertising to fill staffing role of a new Public Affairs person (GS11); Challenge Cost Share Program - \$39,500 to the NPTF for our work; Maintenance/Construction/Reconstruction Projects of the NPTF \$21,600 Members voiced concern regarding the question as to accountability for the \$53,000 to National Forests Trail 1 and particularly \$10,000 to Tolo Lake.
- Scott noted there is a benefit to having Foundation members at or near the sites on the trail who can develop relationships with the Forest Service supervisors to get accountability for the funds for these sites.
- Next year \$612,000 is allocated from the US Govt. for the trail,, depending upon how things work out as we face financial crisis.

- Foundation may consider assuming the Traveling Trunk program and other kinds of visitor information requests that go to the Administrator's office as there is no Assistant to the Administrator there to cover these requests. We could be contracted out to do the jobs.
- As soon as the new Public Affairs person is hired on, the CMP review will be accelerated. Our role requires us to have some awareness as to where allocated monies are going. The CMP process may help to revisit some of this.

Report Dr. Gary Somers, Superintendent, Nez Perce National Historical Park

- New Ranger at Bear Paw is Stephanie Martin, extraordinary enthusiastic person, and as of Oct. 12 Mark Blackburn will be acting Supt at Big Hole for 6 months.
- 62 acres that bordered the Old Chief Joseph Cemetery in Joseph, Oregon has been purchased by State of Oregon Nez Perce, Umatilla and Colville and Oregon State Trust purchased the land for \$4.2 million. After a two year fight over the remaining 1.8 acres that was thought to be owned by the National Park, KNB Enterprises settled for \$12,000 giving clear title to the land. It is now a State Park
- Have purchased scenic easements on Clearwater Battlefield and 120 SRB Ranch that borders Big Hole.
- NPHP is in negotiations for scenic easements near Bear Paw.
 - Bear Paw Battlefield Environmental Plan has been sent out for approval.
- New exhibits at the Big Hole Battlefield – four bids to design and fabricate the exhibits are being reviewed this week. Then consultation with the three tribes will begin in earnest again. Contract will be awarded early next year.
- New wall mural at Spalding – village scene down Lapwai Creek is completed. Scene will actually go from the painting to the river with artifacts there.
- Agreement between Dir National Park Service and Winchester Lake State Park to get youth involved in the trail. Have targeted children in Lapwai to engage in a two day event involving plant/animal identifications, Nez Perce teachings about mother Earth, etc. Was a big success and hope to do this on an annual basis.
- Citizen Scientist Project– camas lily – There is ongoing scientific monitoring effects of climate change at Weippe prairie – labor is all local high school students who work in the field for a week at a time
- New compact storage units are being installed in the Park Service vaults making a major improvement in storage vaults. Members are invited to come and visit.
- There are opportunities for Foundation and Tribes for collaboration work with the new orientation movie at Spalding Visitors Center and for all new exhibits at Spalding Visitor Center which will be installed 2010 and 2011. Challenge at Spalding is to tell 10,000 years of Nez Perce history.

Concluding the meeting Frank Halfmoon, Nez Perce Elder, spoke of Nez Perce culture reflecting on the old ways of being named, his journey to find his name and on the practice in Nespelem in Longhouse ways. He sees the trail as a puzzle, as sacred ground to the Nez Perce people, voicing the concern of the elders, yet he observed the attitude of respect shown by those interested in preserving the trail.

Closing remarks by Jim Evans. Adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Meeting to continue with tour of Nez Perce sites in Yellowstone National Park, See slide show for pictures. Meeting adjourned Saturday September 27, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Fleming