

SIHA Board Meeting - April 18

Stanley Meeting Room

Present: President Stewart Wilder; Vice-president Terry Clark; Treasurer Liesl Shernthanner; Directors Gary Gadwa, Ed Cannady, Paul Hill, Susan Kim, Jenny MacNichol, Dave Pinney, Caitlin Straubinger; Executive Director Lin Gray; Business Manager Erica Cole; SNF Partnerships Steve Frost.

Lin Introduced Steve Frost and Alicia Lindbom. Steve is sitting in for Sarin. He's the new Sawtooth National Forest Partnership coordinator for the whole forest. Alicia Lindbom is our new summer programs coordinator, so she's listening in to start learning about SIHA. She starts work April 29th.

Stewart Wilder called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed Alicia and Steve. He asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. There was a request to add an executive session regarding CeSaw with an action item.

Stewart asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Susan Kim stated she pointed out a couple of areas where she wasn't sure what was being indicated. On page one, change wording to state 'that Terry asked if the next phase was the internal trails, and Sarin said no, that it's not, that was included in that phase. The redfish internal trails would be another project and she doesn't think they have any funding for it'. On page four it should read 'Laurii Gadwa speaking for the city stated because the city was going to have the survey there shouldn't be a cost to SIHA.'

[Susan Kim Moved to approve the agenda and the minutes with those corrections.](#)
[LieslShernthanner seconded the motion.](#)

A request was made for clarification on page four concerning the term 'jump' used by Paul Hall. Paul clarified the word as referring to an increase in legal fees.

[The motion Passed unanimously.](#)

Gary Gadwa commented that legal minutes only require motions and approvals. Anything beyond that is for the benefit of the members so they can keep tabs on what's going on so they can be very vague. Terry suggested additional information in the minutes is helpful when future board members are looking back at past decisions made.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Stewart Wilder

He thanked Lin for keeping up the Board Resource page and hoped all the board members were utilizing it. The hyperlinks make it very easy to get to the right documents to review for board meetings and questions and committee updates.

SNRA LIAISON REPORT: Steve Frost

Steve introduced himself as the Forest Partnership Coordinator. He has been in the position for about a month. Before that, he was a recreation program manager here on the South Zone for the last 15 years. He explained a bit about the partnership coordinator position. Sarin is the north zone partnership coordinator. Steve Hosier covers Fairfield. His job is to oversee work for

the program. He will work on some of the multi-district partnerships. He reports to the Forest Supervisor. He came to the meeting to introduce himself and to cover for Sarin while she is out. He was asked about the Resource Advisory Committees (RAC). He explained the Sawtooth has three resource advisory committees. There's one in Southwest, the Payette and Camas County portion of Fairfield. South Central Idaho would be Blaine County and then Central Idaho is the NRA. The positions have term limits which all expired when COVID happened. Julie Thompson retired. She ran the RAC so the South-Central Idaho section has gone a few years without the RACs. It will be great to have them back. Jessica Shick is the new public affairs officer.

As far as reports concern, Sarin asked Steve to touch on the Redfish project. The road opens on May 1. The Forest is going to get in there a couple of days ahead of that. The contractors will start working on the water line. He talked to Braidy Richins, the engineer in charge of the project, he said the main water line goes along the shore from the lodge to outlet. They hoped to have it done by the 22nd of May to give the concessioners a little bit time to get the water on. Glacier View opens May 28. So, prior to May 28, the farthest anyone will be able to drive is probably the Redfish trailhead. There will be only walk-in access from that point moving forward from the Redfish trailhead. He said to work through Brady for driving access beyond that. Ed asked if the Lodge would have water before that work. Steve was pretty sure they would because most of the work is past the lodge. He will verify that. The paving is to be done on the estimated date of June 21st. Access to the Redfish Cabin will need to be coordinated with Brady.

Beyond that, Steve said the plan is to replace the bridge at Frenchmen that burned up in the Ross Fire. The Bridge is in place and just needs the ramps. They are doing another bridge on Stanley Creek.

C/T LIAISON REPORT: Kathy Atchley is not present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Lin Gray (See attached report)

Lin thanked Erica, Liesl, Michael and Jeff Ballas for their help keeping the museum sump pump functioning while she was gone. She has been talking with Sarin and Doug Baughmann (forest archeologist) about the Doc Day cabin. They potentially have some funding coming in for partial roof replacement. SIHA might jump in and try to get the rest of the funding so that the entire roof can be replaced. Lin might be submitting to Idaho Heritage Trust this fall cycle for that. She thinks it's worthwhile for SIHA to spend the time on the project.

Lin is planning to open the museum Memorial Day weekend and the first weekend in June. She will be reaching out to locals for volunteer help. She doesn't have a second historic specialist yet. So right now, there is only one museum person. She has two interviews tomorrow. Lin wanted the board to know they may have to be thinking about how we can keep the museum open seven days a week this year or if a seven-day schedule is even possible.

There was a discussion on hiring issues which seem to be a problem for the government, many businesses, and fellow non-profits. Lin was asked about volunteer staffing like last year at Redfish. She doesn't believe there is a second Forest Service RV space available this year.

All other positions (minus the second historic specialist) are full.

Alicia's husband Jeff is going to be living in the cabin with her, and to do that he does have to be a volunteer, and the details will have to be worked out. He will be volunteering and will work out his schedule with Lin as needed.

Lin reported on the Forest Service request for assistance with trash pick-up on the dog beach. It is unclear if they would provide SIHA with a vehicle, so no decision has been made yet about assisting Rec. The question asked was what are they going to give us in return? To her knowledge, right now, just supplies. Steve said he would follow up on the truck situation.

Terry Clark asked if the mention of grants referred to the Browning Grant? Lin said yes, and we did get funding from the Winterfest Community Grant for signage. She feels it is unlikely SIHA will get license plate monies to fund salary for crew members. Things are changing at the state level, and funding priority is going more to infrastructure. Trail license plate funding was basically always used for interpretive signage and smaller projects or equipment. If we pivot and start requesting funds for infrastructure, building, maintenance, etc., SIHA may be more likely to receive these types of grants.

Lin spoke with Kathryn Grohusky, from the Sawtooth Society, yesterday about this funding, and she suggested that SIHA put in for funds. Kathryn could probably get the funding into the first quarter cycle, because she hasn't submitted that group yet. She gave the example of if a load of gravel was needed somewhere. Lin thought maybe SIHA should request funding for the roofs of the museum buildings that still need repair. Discussion of the need for gravel ensued.

Liesl asked if we could submit requests for maintenance needs at the visitor center, like the bathrooms, even though the Forest Service is supposed to do maintenance at the visitor center. Lin shared that we likely could but would need to be working with our FS partners to submit the request, so everyone was on board.

Terry reported the state's also pressuring to change the grant cycle to an annual submission instead of quarterly. SIHA will have to get our requests together well in advanced.

Terry asked about getting authorization to move the accounts to another bank. He was wondering if that could be done in advance, authorizing Lin to do the research and switch the bank at her discretion instead of waiting for the Board to approve it.

Lin stated the bank needs to see our minutes to allow the change and we also potentially need it to state who is allowed to be on those accounts. The board motion may need to be very clear regarding the specific banks at which to be opening and closing accounts.

Ed Cannady moved to authorize Lin Gray to research and change bank accounts and signatures. Terry Clark seconded the motion. Passed Unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Liesl (See attached report): Liesl stated the report is basic as it is early in the year or the annual cycle so there is not a lot to report. The style has changed a little bit again. With our new accountants, the board can start comparing years, but it takes some of Excel finesse to get it all in the right format.

Gary Gadwa moved to approve the financial report as provided. Susan Kim seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

OUTLET REPORT: Erica Cole; (see attached report): She has purchased most of the products ahead of time, so they are ready for the summer. She scheduled the purchasing to take advantage of all the vendor discounts and free shipping and ordered enough to get through the whole year. This eliminates the need to order in July or August when shipping charges increase dramatically.

Erica is still unsure about what will happen with the Redfish VC and the possibility of losing at least two weeks of sales there due to construction. She is optimistic that Stanley Ranger Station will be busier, so her hope is to stock the ranger station to a higher point. Unfortunately, the station doesn't have the same amount of space as Redfish. She may just keep an eye on what they're going to need daily, versus just once a week.

Erica put in a t-shirt order based on last year's sales which were close to 400. There was a period of three weeks in the middle of summer, July into August, when the t-shirt stock was completely out. She is hoping that she ordered enough to get through the entire summer without having those inventory breaks and the accompanying loss of revenue.

Erica would appreciate everyone's help in locating books for the Cariboo/Targhee area. Several suggestions were made such as checking with the Mesa Falls Visitors Center and the Teton Science School.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Caitlin Straubinger: (See attached report) Caitlin reported there are 23 membership donations for \$5,800. Last year, with the same number of donors SIHA received \$3,500, so people are giving more. 3 Bricks sold and the 2023 newsletter brought in 92 donations for \$10,550. She said Idaho Gives is coming up April 29 through May 2. Last year SIHA raised \$4,340 with 30 donors so maybe this year we can bring in \$5,000. Lin asked the Board to spread the word about Idaho Gives. Share emails or social media about Idaho Gives to people outside the state, because anyone can give during the Idaho Give campaign.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE: Susan Kim: Sue reported on the fifth oral history unveiling at the library. All have been very, very successful. There's been a lot of interest from the community, and they've been very well attended. Some of the people featured in and who participated in the oral histories and/or their family members have attended the presentations. Last night Willy and Joanne Braun attended. There will be a break in the oral history events now until next fall. The committee met this morning just before this meeting and we don't foresee any significant changes to the content or the way that we're doing the partnership.

Ed said he has not been able to get with Emmy Bleckman yet. She keeps putting him off, so he brought the SIHA camera back for now.

Susan suggested part of the protocol going forward when people are being interviewed should be doing little bit of the background, to help capture location and context better included in the videos. Lin and Susan discussed whether inserting more historical information. Susan will have

to see how best do to it without infringing on any copyright. Gary sent a list for future oral history interviews and will try to identify some of the higher priorities to be interviewed. Susan would like to have a concerted team that would be willing to perform those interviews.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UUPDATE: It was announced that Ron Gillette passed away recently. Terry Clark reported that Amy did finally contact Lexi Pregasstis, and she is interested. She asked for some documents explaining about SIHA. She will respond to Terry for more detail to determine if she's interested. If so, he will ask for a resume and additional information from her. If not, the committee will have to get together again and start building a new list of people.

CENTER FOR THE SAWTOOTHs: Stewart Wilder: Information came back to the fundraising committee over the last couple of months concerning a challenge grant from a donor thus the need for an executive session. Ed asked Steve Frost is he was aware of the Center for the Sawtooths. Stewart proceeded to explain the project—describing how SIHA has been working with land donors for the Obsidian property (the former Sessions Lodge property) for a donation of that site and its facilities to SIHA for development into a non-profit education center, which would be a jewel for the valley, and quite an opportunity. The board is at a pivotal point now of moving forward with executing the donation agreement. It's an exciting project, Kirk has been very supportive of it.

Stewart updated the board on a call with the land donors two weeks ago. They're very happy with everything where it sits. They did say that the one question was getting an updated appraisal now that with the environmental underground storage tanks are out.

Amy Jones joined the meeting. Alicia Lindbom left the meeting.

Stewart asked Amy if she had anything she would like to share with the board at this point regarding Obsidian?

Amy said the main thing is she talked to the accountant, and they said basically the appraisal should be dated (for tax reasons) concurrent with the transfer. Tom contacted the appraiser to see if he can just update that appraisal effective for when the transfer will occur. The appraiser does not have to do a “from scratch” appraisal again. He could just amend. The closer we can get to knowing the transfer date, the better.

Paul asked if she was comfortable with aiming for some kind of a closing in by mid-May, the transfer?

Amy said yes if SIHA have the money for project expenses identified in the donation agreement.

Amy left the meeting.

Susan Kim made a motion to go into executive session for discussion of the Center for the Sawtooths negotiations. Gary Gadwa seconded the motion. Passed Unanimously by roll call vote. 11:15 a.m.

Erica Cole, Steve Frost, and Caitlin Straubinger left the meeting.

The meeting returned to regular session at 12:17 p.m.

Gary Gadwa made a motion to obtain the needed \$6,000 by the end of May and progress toward closing. Susan Kin seconded the motion.

Discussion: Jenny MacNichol wished to add the need for a serious business plan and long term planning/vision. She stated the fundraising and CeSaw committees should meet on a weekly basis to keep moving forward on the concerns expressed.

Gary Gadwa amended his motion stating that a concerted effort will be made toward a detailed business plan. Susan Kim seconded the amendment. The motion passed with 9 votes and one pass.

Discussion continued on the funding issue with several people agreeing to move forward to help secure the needed fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.