

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
February 29, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Dick Kohler, President – at 10:10 AM. Those present were:

Mike Empey – Field Representative for US Congressman Jim Matheson  
Marren Casper – Director, Southern Utah Office of US Senator Orrin G. Hatch  
Ellen Schunk – Southern Utah Director – Office of US Senator Michael S. Lee  
Shirlene Hall (Old Church Committee, Virgin, UT)  
Bobbi Wan-Kier (Silver Reef Museum)  
Susan Savage (came for LoAnne Barnes)  
Jennifer Kohler, Elaine Tyler, Ian Crowe, Lyman Platt, L. Karen Platt, George Cannon,  
Darlene Odenwalder, Lynne Johnston, Dick Kohler, and Doug Alder.

**MINUTES – Lynne Johnston**

Dick asked the members of the Board if they had read the Minutes from the November 2011 and January 2012 meetings. There were a few copies of the January Minutes which Lynne passed around. \_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to approve the November 2011 Minutes and the January 2012 Minutes as read. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the Motion and all the members present said “aye”.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – Carol Christensen**

Carol was excused and so we did not have a report.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Doug Alder made a Motion to elect Dick Kohler (remain) as the President of WCHS for the next year – 2012-2013. Lynne Johnston seconded the Motion. All of the Board members present said “Aye”. **Thank you Dick, for a job well done!**

**SPECIAL GUESTS – SUSAN CROOK**

Susan invited three special guests who were Marren Casper (Director, Southern Utah Offices of Senator Orrin Hatch), Ellen Schunk (Southern Utah Director for Senator Michael S. Lee) and Michael Empey (Field Representative for Congressman Jim Matheson) to join our WCHS meeting.

Our local congressional liaisons Mike Empey (Jim Matheson), Ellen Schunk (Mike Lee) and Marreen Casper (Orrin Hatch), gave tips on how to effectively communicate with our members of congress about historic preservation-related issues, legislation and appropriations.

## Susan Crook continued

All three visitors – Marreen Casper, Ellen Schunk, and Michael Empey talked about the proper way to contact our elected officials. The following steps work best to make a call:

- List the points you would like to discuss before making the phone call
- Identify yourself, include your full name, and that you are a constituent in their legislative district
- Be courteous, concise, and consistent
- Include specific information about your request or position on a bill
- Thank your contact for their time

To write or e-mail:

- Make the letter personal (hint: avoid forwarding form letters or emails)
- Identify yourself and include your full name, address, and phone number.
- This information lets the legislator know you are a constituent
- In an email message identify the topic you want to discuss in the subject line such as bill number
- Be brief and keep the communication short and to the point. Be direct and ask for a specific action or vote and offer to answer any question regarding your position
- Make an effort to know which congressional staffer is assigned to your issue
- Try to get the email address of that person
- A page or two of concise material is more likely to be read and get attention than a huge packet of material
- Please see attached list of the addresses for our Senators and Congressmen

## **PRESERVATION ACTION ADVOCACY DAY – Susan Crook**

Susan gave a brief presentation on the priorities she will be discussing with our legislators during her visits with them in Washington, D.C. on Preservation Action Advocacy Day, Thursday, March 8, 2012. These include tax credits for restoring historic buildings, funding for national heritage areas, continuation of funding for transportation enhancements in the National Transportation Bill, and funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF).

The Historic Preservation Fund provides money to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) that is matched by the states and passed through to cities and counties with preservation commissions that qualify as Certified Local Governments (CLGs) for local historic preservation projects such as historic building surveys, building rehabs and nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Transportation enhancements include many programs that provide funding for historic preservation. The Transportation Bill is overdue for reauthorization and is being delayed by attempts to eliminate enhancements funding and other issues that are prompting heated debate. To learn more about these issues and bills, visit the Preservation Action website:

[www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org)

Susan Crook continued

**UTAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRESERVATION CONFERENCE – Susan Crook**

The State Historic Utah Preservation Conference will be May 3-5, 2012. It was suggested that the WCHS host a conference here in the fall. This would involve builders, public works departments, city planners, etc.

**UNITED STATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (USGBC) – Dick Kohler**

Dick had an opportunity to work with a school bill for green schools. He sent an email to Senator Lee explaining that it is not cost effective to tear down a historical building to build a new school. “Green” isn’t cheaper. It is cheaper to rehabilitate the historical building. The “greenest” building is one that is already built.

Dick also went to a meeting in regard to the “Bluff Street Freeway”. He is not in favor of UDOT’s program. He thinks there is an oversight by the local government. Dick thinks that UDOT and the Federal Highway System have the idea that they can do what they want – no matter what. This new freeway system would have a direct impact on the Sunstone Condominiums’ and their historic flagpole.

**MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (MPNHA) – US HWY. 89 – Karen Platt**

Karen said that there is “tons and tons” of historical property that is being destroyed each day in Southern Utah. She thought it would be a good idea to extend The Heritage Highway 89 down past Kanab, UT. The email address is [www.mormonpioneerheritage.org](http://www.mormonpioneerheritage.org) if you want further information.

Karen talked about the fact that on the I-15 Fwy as it goes through New Harmony; there is not an access road off from one end of town to the other end of town. She stated, “it makes it hard to get around town”. She thinks UDOT is in violation because of the ingress and egress situation. Karen thinks that along the freeway – Taylor Creek (20 acres) belongs to the BLM.

Milt Hokanson stated that there is a process in place for identifying property. A rough survey has to be done on the property and then it would need legislation.

Susan suggested that Karen have:

- A succession plan in place
- Some earmarks are a good thing when used properly
- Policy land transfer
- Make your case
- Show a lot of support

## **JUANITA BROOKS LECTURE – Doug Alder**

Doug invited everyone to the Juanita Brooks Lecture to be held at the Tabernacle on March 28, 2012, at 7PM. Dr. Charles Peterson will discuss the life of Nels Anderson, author of the well known book “Desert Saints”. This lecture is open to the public and free admission.

## **WCHS BOOK CLUB – Doug Alder**

It was suggested that WCHS form a Book Club. Everyone at the meeting liked the idea. There was some discussion on the Club. Where would it be held, when (once a month), and what books to read.

Doug said there are two new books out – one is on “Trials of John D. Lee” and the other on Parley P. Pratt. He also said he would e-mail everyone a list of the best books in Washington County to read.

There is also a new book out about Maureen Whipple –“Swell Suffering” by Veda Tebbs Hale and Greg Kofford.

## **WEBSITE – GEORGE CANNON**

There was discussion on the idea of having a large gathering for a “during the week activity” showcasing the WCHS Website. The event would be free. Could it be done at the Dixie State College? Would it cost to rent a space – Ian said no, if it were reserved by DocUtah. What are some of the larger rooms – the Nursing school – Doug said he would check with Daphne at the Dixie State College Library.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS – FIELD TRIPS**

- March 2012 – Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month  
Activities planned at Pipe Springs – for list go to [nps.gov/pisp](http://nps.gov/pisp)
- David Van Elfin & Wife – D/ASIA Brown Bag – Study at Pipe Springs
- **WCHS Field Trip** -March 24 – 10AM at the Washington City Museum  
**Washington Fields Dam/Pile Dam**
- **WCHS Field Trip** – April 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> – Bar 10 Ranch – Arizona Strip  
**Milt Hokanson – BLM**
- **WCHS Field Trip** – May 19<sup>th</sup> – 9 or 10 AM – meet at the Hurricane Museum  
**Hurricane Canal built 1906** – suggestions for help Victor Hall, Tom Hirschi  
Lynne Clark’s photo collection, Paul Reed, and \_\_\_\_\_Stratton have both  
written books about Hurricane; LaVerkin and Washington could not use the canal  
because the water rights weren’t settled/confusion of water rights still go on today

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FIELD TRIPS**

- Old oil field remnants in Virgin
- Oil well site in Bloomington – where 13 people were killed
- 1952 Orville Hafen home – purchased recently by Ernie Deuce  
Ernie purchased the original house drawings
- Children's Art Education Center
- Swiss Days in September – Susan was going to check on actual date

The next meeting will be March 28, 2012 at the City Library at 10 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted  
Lynne Johnston