

# Southeast Idaho High Country Tourism March 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The Southeast Idaho High Country Tourism Council of Region 5 met on March 17,2021 at the Lava Hot Springs Foundation 430 E. Main Street in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho or by Zoom Meeting.

#### Present

In attendance were officers: President Devanee Morrison, Secretary Bridget Losee and Grant Administrator-Treasurer Destiny Egley. Council members: Sherril Tillotson. Zoom: Tami Leonhardt, Darleen Downs, Kristen Jensen, Tish Dahmen, Matt Hunter. Guests: Gesia Seamons, Birgitta Bright, Ann Yearsley ITC Rep. Jeff Glissendorf and Tourism Rep. Andrea Rayburn.

#### Welcome and Introductions

High Country Tourism President Devanee Morrison called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

#### Minutes

The February 17, 2021 meeting minutes were emailed to council members. Sherril Tillotson made a motion to approve the February 17, 2021 minutes, Matt Hunter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Financial Status Report

Grant Administrator-Treasurer Destiny Egley reported on the financial status.

SOUTHEAST IDAHO HIGH COUNTRY		03/16/21
MONTHLY EXPENSE REPORT		
BANK BALANCE FORWARD		\$ 13,559.24
DEPOSITS/REIMBURSEMENTS		
DEPOSIT - Membership Dues City of Malad		\$ 200.00
DEPOSIT - Membership Dues City of Lava Hot Springs		\$ 200.00
DEPOSIT - Billboard co-op Butterfly Haven		\$ 1,250.00
DEPOSIT - Billboard co-op Bear Lake CVB		\$ 1,250.00
DEPOSIT - Membership Dues Visit Pocatello		\$ 200.00
DEPOSIT -		\$ -
DEPOSIT -		\$ -
Total Deposits		\$ 3,100.00
Advertising - Forrest Design Group	\$ 1,250.00	
Century Link - Telephone & Long Distance	\$ 55.79	
Website - Homeland Web	\$ 616.08	
Postage & Delivery - Fulfillment & Stamps.com fees	\$ 557.49	
Meeting - LHSF monthly meeting	\$ 8.71	
Ron Gardner - Social Media Management	\$ 400.00	
Christopher Olsen CPA - 2019 Grant Taxes	\$ 210.00	
Cobblestone Inn - FAM Tour Western Pleasure Tours 1 overnight stay	\$ 106.92	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	

	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,204.99					
BA	NK ENDING BALANCE		\$ 13,454.25				
	Account Details As of 3/16/2021						
	IRELAND BANK						
	E\$\$ENTIAL CHECKING ACCOUNT						
	*****2529						
	\$15,986.12						
	NOTE - 2019 GRANT REVERTED \$52,522.15 for the 2021 GRANT						

Register: IRI	ELAND BAN	K CHECKING						
_		gh 03/16/2021						
Sorted by: D								
•	Number		Associat	Marra	Payment	С	Donosit	Doloneo
Date		Payee	Account	Memo			Deposit	Balance
2/17/2021	DB	Mike's Market	Meeting Meals	February meeting	8.71	Χ		13,550.53
2/18/2021	DB	Stamps.com	Fulfillment- Direct Mail & Email:USPS & Stamps.com	postage on account for fulfillment	100	х		13,450.53
			Fulfillment- Direct Mail &					
2/18/2021	DB	USPS-Postmaster	Email:Postage	3oz stamps for fulfillment	95	Х		13,355.53
		Malad City						
2/23/2021		Oneida County	Accounts receivabl	e I		Х	200	13,555.53
- / /			Fulfillment- Direct Mail &	Postage for fulfillment and				
2/23/2021	DB	USPS-Postmaster	Email:Postage	taxes	4.68	Х		13,550.85
2/24/2021	DB	Stamps.com	Fulfillment- Direct Mail & Email:USPS & Stamps.com Fulfillment-	Postage on account for fulfillment	100	х		13,450.85
2/24/2021	DB	USPS-Postmaster	Direct Mail & Email:Postage	Stamps for fulfillment	79.82	x		13,371.03
2/24/2021	DB	O3F3-FOStillastel	Accounts	Stamps for furniment	75.02	^		13,371.03
3/1/2021	2744	Lumen	Payable	208-776-5155 903B	54.83			13,316.20
3/1/2021	2745	Christopher Olsen C.P.A.	Accounts Payable	2019 Grant year taxes filed Admin - 2020 Grant RFF #2	210			13,106.20
3/1/2021	2743	City of Lava Hot	Tayabic	Admin 2020 Grant NIT #2	210			15,100.20
3/2/2021		Springs	Accounts receivabl	e			200	13,306.20
			Fulfillment-					·
			Direct Mail &					
3/2/2021	DB	USPS-Postmaster	Email:Postage	stamps for fulfilllment	60			13,246.20
		Cobblestone Inn	FAM Tours/Site	Owner Western Pleasure Tours				
3/6/2021	DB	& Suites	Visits	Fam trip for buses	106.92			13,139.28
3/10/2021		Butterfly Haven	Accounts receivabl	e			1,250.00	14,389.28
3/10/2021		Bear Lake CVB	Accounts receivabl	e			1,250.00	15,639.28
		Visit						
3/10/2021		Pocatello/PCVB	Accounts receivabl	e			200	15,839.28
			Fulfillment- Direct Mail & Email:USPS &	monthly service fee fulfillment				
3/10/2021	DB	Stamps.com	Stamps.com	stamps.com	17.99			15,821.29
3/15/2021	2746	Lumen	Accounts Payable	208-776-5155 903B	0.96			15,820.33
- /			Accounts	Social Media Management				
3/15/2021	2747	Ron Gardner	Payable	2020 Grant RFF #3	400			15,420.33
3/15/2021	2748	Forrest Design Group	Accounts Payable	NPT yellowstone campaign December 2020 Grant RFF #3	625			14,795.33
				February website maint.,				
3/15/2021	2749	Homeland Web	Accounts Payable	management and newsletter 2020 Grant RFF #3	616.08			14,179.25
		Forrest Design	Accounts	March billboard costs 2020				
3/15/2021	2750	Group	Payable	Grant RFF #3	625			13,554.25

			Fulfillment-				
			Direct Mail &				
			Email:USPS &	Postage on account for			
3/16/2021	DB	Stamps.com	Stamps.com	fulfillment	100		13,454.25

19-V-1 2019 GRANT			Grant 8/1/19 -12/30/20			2/16/2021
<u>ELEMENTS</u>	AWARDED	AMENDED	RCVD YTD	FINAL RFF	OBLIGATED	AVAILABLE
Administration	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,718.16	\$ -		\$ 281.84
Advertising-Co-ops-Collateral	\$ 101,674.00	\$ 99,000.00	\$ 53,992.74	\$ -		\$ 45,007.26
Fulfillment	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 15,378.00	\$ 15,176.44	\$ -		\$ 201.56
Website	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 6,710.26	\$ -		\$ 5,289.74
Fam Tours & Site Visits	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Trade and Travel Shows	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,258.25	\$ -		\$ 1,741.75
Training - Esto & ICORT	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 796.00	\$ 796.00	\$ -		\$ -
TOTALS	<u>\$ 137,174.00</u>	\$ 137,174.00	\$ 84,651.8 <u>5</u>	\$ -	\$	\$ 52,522.15
*Match requirement for year is -	\$ 17,146.75					REVERTING
YTD Match received for year is -	\$ 18,007.70		GRANT IS NOW CLOSE	<u>D</u>		FOR 2021 Grant
Balance of Match still needed	\$ (860.70)					
20-V-1 2020 GRANT			Grant 8/1/20 - 9/30/21			2/16/2021
ELEMENTS	AWARDED	RCVD YTD	NEXT RFF	OBLIGATED	AVAILABLE	
Administration	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 109.66		\$ 2,890.34	
Advertising-Co-ops-Collateral	\$ 79,689.00	\$ 3,395.00	\$ 15,989.42		\$ 60,304.58	
Fulfillment	\$ 14,800.00	\$ 7,000.98	\$ 264.74		\$ 7,534.28	
Website	\$ 10,600.00	\$ 222.54	\$ 508.25		\$ 9,869.21	
Fam Tours & Site Visits	\$ 1,000.00				\$ 1,000.00	
Trade and Travel Shows	\$ 11,500.00		\$ 1,070.00		\$ 10,430.00	
Training Esto & ICORT & Influencer	\$ 5,400.00				\$ 5,400.00	
TOTALS	\$ 125,989.00	\$ 10,618.52	\$ 17,942.07		\$ 97,428.41	
*Match requirement for year is -	\$ 15,750.00				, , ,	
YTD Match received for year is -	\$ 4,223.89					
Balance of Match still needed	\$ 11,526.11					
	,					
SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT						
Top Posts for January 2021						
495 - 1/01 - Iconic Idaho photo album						
380 - 1/25 - coming up: fire & ice winterfest						
319 - 1/27 - photos from bear lake winterfest						
240 - 1/02 - look what a season pass g	ets ya at Pebble Creek					
268 - 1/28 - coming up: fire & ice and	sched, of events					

Matt Hunter made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, Darlene Downs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Proposed 2021 Grant Budget:

Grant Administrator Destiny Egley emailed the proposed 2021 HCT Grant Budget application to all council members. The application is due in April. She asked the council for any suggested changes. It was suggested that we add the reverted amount from 2020 Grant to the 2021 Grant.

Sherril Tillotson notified the council that the Lava Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce is submitting a 2021 Grant request of \$20,000.00 for a wellness campaign to promote the four seasons, emphasizing hot water, clean air, open space, digital and print campaigns. Chamber has expanded the Greater Lava Hot Springs area to Downata, Swan Lake, Harkness, etc.

The council discussed a regional Wellness campaign with HCT and Lava Chamber. Then promote a different campaign per year.

Schedule: Phone conference call to discuss the regional wellness campaign with Devanee Morrison, Birgitta Bright, Destiny Egley, Matt Hunter, Jeff Glissendorf and Sherril Tillotson.

## Small Community Brochure and Advertising Programs Co-op Requests-Discussion of funding Limitations

- Brochure Program Budget \$5,000.00
- Advertising Program Budget \$5,000.00

#### Brochure Requests:

- 1.Bear Lake-Montpelier requesting \$1,000.00 2270 total request brochure.
- 2.Idaho Museum of Natural History-Rack Card #4000 Request-\$159.60
- 3.Lava Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce 2021 Brochure #35,000 copies and distribution. requesting \$1000.00

#### Requests total \$2,159.60

Matt Hunter made a motion to award the above brochure requests amounts, Tami Leonhardt seconded the motion. Sherril Tillotson opposed the motion. The motion carried.

#### Advertising Program Requests:

- Malad Welsh Festival-requesting \$1,000.00
- Lava Hot Springs Chamber- requesting \$2,000.00 marketing total \$4,400.00 marketing total \$4440. Independent articles blog digitally.

Total \$3,000.00

Sherril Tillotson made a motion to approve the advertising request amounts listed above for the advertising program. Tami Leonhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjust grant line item-Advertising Program to \$7,500.00 with each request limit of \$1,500 max.

The council discussed what amount limit to set per advertising request.

Sherril Tillotson made a motion to set a limit of \$1,500.00 maximum per request and add clear instruction on the advertising application that goes out to members pertaining to requests, Destiny Egley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Social Media Posts-Instagram and Facebook

Ron Gardner does the social media post for HCT. He has been posting events and activities of each community from their websites. What do we want him to do.

- Family Reunions
- Regional business information
- Group vacation rentals- link to our website
- Restaurant choices in SE ID
- Plan your trip
- Recreational activities

Council members need to get information to Ron on what they would like him to post. He could then put together posts from each community and activities to add into the calendar. In the past he has tried to avoid specific restaurants, hotels and centered on events. It is nice to have fresh materials each day.

You can check out Visitsouthernidaho to see the blogs by blogger-Sarah and her husband-drone photographer.

Website Blog: Hire writer(s) to post blogs on our website. Suggested topics to blog:

- top ten things to do in individual communities.
- new Businesses

- events-activities
- social media posts
- influencers content
- target community features and actual happenings
- direct people to website for events

#### HCT Magazine Status

We are so close to completion of the magazine. Closing out-Deadline this Friday. The magazine will go to press next week. It should take approximately nine days to print. If there is anything that you feel is missing please let Birgitta know. There is a blank page for this information.

Birgitta will send out a final proof of the magazine to council for approval. Suggestions to add in magazine;

- Lava Go Carts
- Historic Buildings
- Country Store
- Osmond Homestead

#### Website Report

Unique Visits are up 37% from last year but 15% were from spam bots. There is no way to stop them. So real visits are up about 22%. Google visits were up 43%. Direct visits were way up maybe from Ads. Popular pages - Recreation, Snowmobiling and Hot Springs.

Website Blog section-Identify-hire three different writers to post on the website. Five to seven blogs per writer per week. Ron Gardner can then link the blog to social media posts.

Webmaster Ann Yearsley mentioned that the Website could use a facelift so we need to add funding into the 2021 grant for website. Ann Yearsley will give us a quote for the update to the website.

### Advertising Budget Status

HIGH COUNTRY TOURISM ADVERTISING PLAN 2020-2021 (20-v-1)								
3/17/2021	нст	DESCRIPTIO N	СО-ОР	CIRCULATIO N	RUN DATE	ART DUE	STATUS	
International/	Canada							
\$ 6,875.00	Herrmann Global	Branded story pkg & pd digital	N/A	1.1 mil+ imp and 5700 leads	spring			
	Miles Media*	Canada West 2020 Spring	<del>ITC INTL</del>	-	Mar 21	-	-	
\$ 6,250.0 0	Miles Media	VisitTheUSA Trips Page	ITC INTL		all year		in progress	
\$ 3,750.0 0	MyYellowstonePark.co m	Targeted Leads & road trip promo	N/A		Jan-21		running now	
\$ 2,500.0 0	MyYellowstonePark.co m	1/2 pg ad in trip planner	VP Co-op	45k prnt/12k lds	Jan-21	10/1/202	complet e	
\$ 812.50	Facebook/instagram	CANADA	n/a		all year			
\$ 20,187.50	subtotal Intl/Canada							
National								

\$ 1,006.2 5	RV Idaho 2021	1/2 page full color	n/a		annual	10/1/202 1	
\$ 10,000.00	Programmatic Digital	all year-multi campaign	n/a		All year		in progress
\$ 5,500.00	Idaho Travel Guide	Full page ad			Jan-21	9/24/202 0	complet e
\$ 6,150.00	American Road Magazine	2/3 pg ads, 9 mo online itinerary	co-op available	20k/70k unq vis	win/spr/sum/fa II		in progress
\$ 22,656.25	subtotal National						
Utah/Idaho							
\$ 7,943.44	Ogden & Tremonton Billboards	2 vinyls each spr/sum and fall/wtr	ID Potato Museum/ Butterfly Haven/IMNH/Downata/BLCV B		annual 13x conbtract		in progress
\$ 7,031.25	KSL Targeted Digital						
	Radio Proposal-KSFI	61 sec spots w co-op feb-mar	-	763,500 cume	feb-mar 2021	-	-
\$ 437.50	Facebook/instagram	SLC, BOI	n/a		all year		
	Soda Springs Fishing Derby co-op	Idaho State Journal adv	Soda Springs	-	Feb-21	-	<del>2</del>
\$ 875.00	Pocatello Chamber magazine	1/2 pg ad			Jan-21		complet e
\$ 16,287.19	subtotal Utah/Idaho						
Special Interest-Snowmobiles, Trails, Birding							
\$ 1,798.81	Living Bird/allaboutbirds.org	2 1/3 pg ads + digital	BLCVB		Summer		in progress
\$ 1,798.81	Subtotal Special Interest						
\$ 60,929.75	Total						

#### Other Business

- 1. Trade Shows- Jeff Glissendorf and Destiny Egley have spoken about different options for trade shows. Trade Show options: Northwest, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Brand USA, ABA, Morris Murdock, RV Travel Show etc. Waiting to see if the trade show will be live or virtual 2021-2022.
- 2. Cash Match Letters- Each letter from previous year can be revised then emailed to Destiny. Destiny needs the letters of support for the 2021 Grant application. If you don't have a cash match letter, Destiny can email a template of the cash match letter.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2021 @ 10am at the Lava Hot Springs Foundation's Board Room and Zoom.

#### Adjourn

Kristen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Destiny seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13pm.

Minutes by: Bridget Losee-HCT Secretary