2025.04.05 Monthly IAFI Board Meeting Summary

Members in attendance: Jim Shelden, Linda McCollum, Gary Kleinknecht, Ken Lacy, Dale Lehman, Gene Kiver, Lloyd Stoess, Lloyd DeKay, Denis Felton, Patty Hurd, Charles Hall, Gary Ford, **National Park Service:** Justin Radford

Quick recap

The meeting covered various administrative and operational matters, including communication issues, project updates, and event planning. Discussions focused on membership reports, financial updates, volunteer recognition, and preparations for upcoming events such as the 30th anniversary annual meeting and the Sandhill Crane Festival. The team also explored potential collaborations with museums and other organizations, as well as strategies for improving member engagement through newsletters and photo sharing.

Next steps

- All chapters to take inventory of remaining Institute brochures and report to Lloyd DeKay.
- Lloyd DeKay to order more Institute brochures if needed based on chapter inventory reports.
- All board members to submit officer nominations via email by April 20th.
- Board members to vote on officer nominations by April 28th.
- Lloyd Stoess to report on the effectiveness of using walkie-talkies for car caravan tours at the November meeting.
- Gary Kleinknecht to send Lloyd DeKay an article about the Reach Museum for the newsletter.
- Dennis to have David McWalter write up information about the Ice Age Floods Fest at Dry Falls Visitor Center on July 26th and send it to Lloyd DeKay for the July newsletter.
- Justin will write an article about the Institute's 30th anniversary and its meaning to the Park Service, and send it to Lloyd DeKay this week.
- Lloyd DeKay to include articles about local Ice Age Floods-related centers and organizations in future newsletters.
- Dale to send lanyards for name tags to Lloyd DeKay for the annual meeting.
- Gary Kleinknecht to ship the Institute's PA system to Lloyd DeKay within the next week for use at the annual meeting.

Summary

Email Address and Meeting Issues

James has been absent from some EdComm meetings due to not receiving new links and confusion about his correct email address Lloyd D re-sent the link to his newest email. James confirmed that he was now receiving all the necessary emails. Gary Ford thanked Patty for sending books, which were quickly received and are being used by the Cheney-Spokane Chapter for lectures at different library units.

Institute Brochures and Scholars Trek Project

The team discussed the need for more Institute brochures, with each chapter to take inventory of their current stock and let Lloyd Dekay know how many they have. They also reviewed the meeting summary from the previous month, focusing on the decision to approve $8,250 for the next phase of the Scholars Trek project. The Institute will cover $3,300, and chapters will each contribute $450 with the exception of the Lower Columbia which agreed to pay $900 for both their chapter and the Lower Grand Coulee, and the Wenatchee chapter which agreed to pay $900 for both their chapter and the Ellensburg Chapter. Lower Grand Coulee and Ellensburg chapters both have limited funds and appreciate the help from the more affluent ones. When we

receive the invoice from Rick Reynolds for his work we will forward it to the chapters and ask for them to send their payments to Monte Nail's office at that time.

Sandhill Crane Festival Success
In the meeting, Gary Ford led a discussion about the Sandhill Crane Festival, where Patty, Ken, and Lloyd Stoess were key participants. Patty reported a successful turnout with over 250 visitors and $613 worth of merchandise sold. Ken shared that the festival had a good turnout and his talk was well-received. Lloyd Stoess mentioned that the turnout was the highest he's ever had and he had a new talk for the year. Gary Kleinknecht also shared his experience of giving a talk about mammoths. The group also discussed the possibility of rotating the tour locations for future events. Denis, who was representing both the Ice Age Floods and the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway, confirmed that he had placed posters at Dry Falls. Justin then shared a video about bears helping with traffic control in national parks.

Partnership, Membership, and Flood Photos Update
Justin expressed his gratitude for the continued support of the Institute and the partnership with Gary. He shared his excitement about the animation contract and the challenges they are facing in understanding the environment of the past. He also mentioned the ongoing work on the comprehensive management plan and the upcoming opportunity to hear from stakeholders. Gary then discussed the quarterly membership report, highlighting the decrease in membership numbers but also the increase in new memberships. He emphasized the importance of keeping track of membership numbers and the work that goes into compiling the reports. Gary also mentioned the financial reports from Taylor, which will be sent out in the coming week when they are received. Lastly, Lloyd Stoess discussed the need for flood photos from each chapter to be sent out on a weekly basis, emphasizing the importance of keeping members engaged.

Recognizing Volunteers in Newsletters
The team discussed the idea of recognizing volunteers in their quarterly newsletters. The goal is to encourage more people to volunteer by showcasing the efforts of existing volunteers. The recognition could include a picture and a short description of the volunteer's role. The team agreed to focus on recognizing volunteers who are not on the board, as they often go unnoticed. They also discussed the importance of having designated photographers for field trips to capture volunteer activities. The next edition of the newsletter is planned for April 15th, and the team was encouraged to submit volunteer recognition information to Lloyd DeKay.

Lloyd's 30th Anniversary Event Preparations
Lloyd presents updates on preparations for the upcoming 30th anniversary annual meeting. He showed a custom pin he's ordering 600 of, featuring the anniversary emblem, to be given out at the event and to chapter members. Lloyd has also purchased 8 walkie-talkies to help coordinate the event, which he plans to share with future event organizers. Gary Kleinknecht offers to provide a portable PA system belonging to the Institute for use at the event.

Portable PA Unit and Field Trip Coordination
Gary Kleinknecht will provide a portable unit within a week. Lloyd is tracking sign-ups and has developed a system to track who's doing what and has links to their registrations and payments. Lloyd is also making name tags for attendees, which will include their name, chapter, and signed-up activities. Dale will send lanyards for the name tags. Lloyd is also looking for ways to show appreciation to the people leading the field trips. Patty has ordered 78 shirts and plans to set up a table at the Discovery Center for sales.

Annual Meeting and Officer Elections
Gary Ford reminded the board about the upcoming annual meeting and the election of institute officers. He suggested that nominations be submitted via email by April 20th, and the board vote by April 28th. Lloyd

Stoess shared that their chapter has purchased 12 walkie-talkies for their car caravan tours, which they plan to use for the first time in their caravan tour this fall. He also mentioned that they will provide a report on the effectiveness of the walkie-talkies by the November meeting.

Park Service and Reach Museum Collaboration
Justin discussed ongoing conversations between the Park Service and the Reach Museum in Richland about potential collaboration. The museum is considering a major remodel and expansion, which presents an opportunity for the Park Service to have a presence there and influence exhibit redesigns. Gary Kleinknecht confirms this could be a significant improvement over the current offerings. Justin also mentions the possibility of partnering with Lewis and Clark Trail to create hub locations for visitor information, emphasizing the importance of bringing all partners together to benefit the community. Lloyd suggests that such local centers related to Ice Age Floods could be featured in the newsletter to provide valuable information for visitors.

Newsletter Content and Upcoming Events
Lloyd D discussed the need for articles about local places to be included in the newsletter. Gary Kleinknecht agreed to send some. Denis announced the annual Ice Age floods Fest at the Dry Falls visitor center on July 26th, and Lloyd D requested a write-up for the July newsletter. Justin proposed compiling a video about the 30 years of the Institute and its collaboration with the Park Service. Charles asked for the date of the 30th anniversary of the Ice Age floods Institute, which was confirmed as August 1995. Gene suggested documenting the annual meeting for future advertising, and Justin suggested articles about the annual meetings. Patty suggested asking people on field trips to share their photos for potential use in newsletters.