

Inland Northwest Trails Coalition

The purpose of Inland Northwest Trails Coalition is to promote the Inland Northwest as a premium non-motorized recreation destination while creating a viable active transportation system for our residents.

General Meeting

October 16, 2008 6:00 PM ~ REI Spokane

Inland Northwest Trails Coalition Board Members

x Lunell Haught, President

Derrick Knowles

x Barbee Scheibner, VP

Kerry Brooks

x Margaret Robinson, Treasurer

x Jerry Krause

Eileen Hyatt, Secretary

x Karen Jurasin, Web/Email

Louise McGrody, BAW

x Dan Schaffer, Fish Lake Trail

x Bryan Bussard, Americorp Staff

X = present,

See list of others present at end of minutes.

Meeting called to order at 6:02PM

I. Introduction by Sally Lodato, REI manager.

Sally presented the [REI grant](#) INTC primarily for the Fish Lake Trail for \$5,000. REI is committed to giving grants to organizations in areas by or near REI stores. (3-5 per year). REI wants attention given to FLT, likes having a listing of 501©3 organizations. Start thinking about 2009! Groups with projects have gotten larger, and more projects are being undertaken.

Dan Schaffer explained the grant process for FLT. He plans another Fish Lake trailhead event, Spring 2009 (tentative).

(INTC can be a fiscal agent for member groups and can help with grant applications)

II. INTC Organization Items:

Introduction of INTC board members and **Bryan Bussard**, Americorp staff person.

INTC Board meets monthly, and each member organization is welcome to have a member on the board, elections will be held in Winter. Let an INTC Board member know if you/your organization would like to serve.

INTC members meet two or three times a year to talk about projects, trail and conservation activities in the area.

As a way to increase funding Lunell is leading a group to work on a commercial 'fest' public event focused on trails/conservation. Interested groups/individuals should contact her.

III. Introduction of groups present and their summaries of activities/trails:

A. [Friends of the Falls](#), [Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club](#) - Travis Nichols

-Mailed newsletters going to 200 homes include all events related to the river and human powered watercraft.

-Barker Road closure has affected sporting on the river, and a bridge at state line is scheduled to be closed. People use the south bank near the bridge for river access, but this is not a formal entry. [River Access and the Bridge Project](#)

- High water levels resulted in the river being closed in 2008.
- Idaho has legislation pending for the registration of ALL watercraft, clear down to inner-tubes.
- Shorelines Master Plan update is close to being presented to the City Council for adoption. This is the culmination of two years of work.
- Spokane River Cleanup was a great success this year. Over 800 people helped, and 12 THOUSAND pounds of garbage was cleaned up.
- Peaceful Valley planning Charrette was a success. There is a strong demand for a river access point on Water St. Perhaps the INTC can help get this organized? Grant opportunity?
- Whitewater Park in permitting process after their last public meeting on 8/11/08.
- Travis mentioned a trail going from Browne's Addition down to Latah area is getting the focus of some organizing efforts. .

B. [Inland Empire Backcountry Horsemen](#) - Barbee Scheibner

- Has gear for trail maintenance. They would be willing to assist other groups if needed. They have been doing work in the backcountry mostly the Colville National Forest.
- Extensive trail work done at Slavin Ranch.
- Dream Trail - Proposed from Dishman Hills to Big Rocks at Iller Creek, still working with residents to secure rights of way. Possibilities for the Dream Trail to get funding in the next year if they work on grant applications. (USPS, Conservation Futures)
- Wildfire damage (Dishman) from the summer was hit and miss. They are watching for pests getting into the remaining trees in burn areas. They wish to do rehabilitation of the burn areas, reintroducing native plant and tree species.

C. [Fat Tire Trail Riders](#) - Beacon Hill- Penny Schwyn

- Beacon Hill/Camp Sekani started as a small project, then mushroomed to something much larger.
- Work primarily with trail maintenance and terrain management.
- INTC could help them grow as an organization, also help them find new funding opportunities. They would also like assistance in steering people to their group.
- They like the idea of an outdoor expo.
- They have a member working in the [Palisades Park](#) area, to make sure trails do not run onto private property.
- Beacon Hill open house and charrette on Friday and Saturday, 24th and 25th of October. Invited all to come on Saturday if interested with ideas.
- Mike Aho** ([Spokane Parks and Recreation](#)) added: the goal is to make a sustainable system in Beacon Hill. It needs to be decided which trails are staying, and which ones are going to go "wild" again.

D. [Fish Lake Trail](#) - Dan Shaffer

- Not much happening getting the FLT linked up with the Centennial Trail. Once the design is finalized for the connection, a public meeting must be held.
- Friends of Fish Lake Trail are doing trail maintenance when they can.
- They are requesting signage to keep motorized vehicles off the trail. It was noted that there are signs present, but they are either stolen, or not very visible.
- The proposed overpass at Marshall is seen as being very expensive and not the best option when it comes to crossing the railroad tracks.

E. **Ben Burr Trail – Lois Irwin – East Central Neighborhood**

- East Central Neighborhood Council is interested in supporting the expansion of the trail. Wants to get it connected with the Centennial Trail ASAP.
- The neighborhood is willing to put funds towards trail improvements.
- Would like to work on the Underhill Park side of the trail, where private property is blocking part of the trail's right of way.
- Lunell explained the [SmartRoutes](#) plans, and how [Ben Burr trail](#) is near the top in terms of priority.

F. [Iller Creek - Conservation Futures](#) - Ranger Bryant Robinson Spokane County

-Iller creek has had really good successes with the grants received. Grants are used towards education and enforcement in the area. Also for patrolling the new Antoine Peaks acquisition.

-There are issues with hunting and with people using motorized vehicles. Rangers are now using a variety of methods to cite people breaking laws in the area. Ranger Robinson encourages citizen participation in enforcement, as citizens are the eyes and ears. The County does have an [ORV Park](#) and so does [Riverside State Park](#) and he points them in that direction. Good progress has been made on trail building in October 2008 with [Washington Trails Association](#) volunteers. More work scheduled for Spring. If you want to help you can watch for trail work on the website.

-[Ashland Estates](#) (8 acres) overlooking Latah Creek was acquired, and will become a Conservation Futures site.

-Parking is an issue in the area.

-Barbie expressed concern about the situation of water flooding sections of trail and hurting trees at certain times of the year.

G. City of Spokane Valley – Inga Note

-Anticipating [SmartRoutes](#) funds, the planners have created two trails projects in the valley. One of them roughly parallels the Centennial trail.

-Cross I-90 ability is also a must.

-Valley wants citizen input in the process, and they need SmartRoutes support.

H. [Washington Trails Association](#) – Ken Mondal

-Oldest trails association in the nation, (relatively) recently started doing advocacy

-Historically west-side focused, but wanting to become more active in the east.

-Iller creek project is underway, a multi-year project. Pictures and descriptions of the trail building event are on [INTC website](#).

I. Friends of the Centennial Trail – Jon Rascoff

-Started out with a story about a couple from Austin using the trail systems around Spokane County for cycling and loving it. They said they would tell everybody they know about the bicycle trail system here.

-Trail on the West end is going to be expanded three additional miles, going all the way from Sontag Park to Long Lake. Friends of the Centennial Trail, Washington State Parks and Avista are working on this project.

-In downtown the trail gets confusing. The solution would be to have it run through Kendall Yards, going under the Monroe Street Bridge. Right now the future of Kendall Yards is uncertain, so nobody knows when this is going to occur.

-Mission street crossing looks to be the most dangerous part of the trail. They would like to make an underpass that goes underneath Mission Street, bypassing the crosswalk. There are also dangerous crossings at Argonne Road, as well as at Gateway park. Looking at using some old cement road near the park to bypass crossing.

J. Washington State parks – Jerry Johnson

-Newman lake is in planning stages. Work has been done on Trail 115 on Mt. Spokane, which has been closed for several years because of damage. Most of the work this year has been repairing roads and trails from last Winter's damage. The state wants to purchase a trail builder machine, which would cost 25-30k, but would make trail maintenance much easier. Mount Spokane State Park is open again, but only until the end of this month.

-Master Plan can be viewed through the [State Parks website](#).

K. Trolley Trail

-Conservation Futures trail that could have connected to Fish Lake Trail but part of the trail was not Conservation property and there are now homes being built there. No one at the meeting knew if there was any chance of connecting the two trails.

The meeting ended at 7:40.

Sign-In Roster

Barbee Scheibner INTC
Bryant Robinson Spokane Co. Parks
Elnora Wildermuth Hobnailers
Inga Note City of Spokane Valley
Janet Anderson
Jerry Johnson Washington State Parks
Jerry Krause INTC j
Ken Mondal WTA
Jon Rascoff Friends of the C Trail
Jon Snyder OutThere Monthly
Joy Peterson
Joy Stocking Hobnailers
Gardner Bailey Hobnailers
Karen Jurasin INTC/Inland NWOutdoors
Lois Irwin East Central N C
Loren Dudley Little Spokane River Valley
Margaret Robinson INTC
Mike Aho Spokane Parks and Recreation
Mike Brixley FTTRC
Penny Schwyn Fat Tire Trail Riders Club
Robin Redman SNSEF
Steve Bieri Inland NW Outdoors
Travis Nichols Friends of the Falls