



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION for Wash. Co. & City of Weiser

Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Washington County Court House Commissioner's
Chambers in Weiser, Idaho

County HP Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Brenda Aldrich, Thel Pearson, Alan Picket

City HP Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Lynda Lance, Josh Dawson, Cheri Clausen

Members of the public in attendance: Nina Hawkins, Betty Miller (Payette Preservation Commission Chairman),
Julie Chandler. Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Tony Edmondson, Chairman. Betty Miller, Chairman of the Payette Preservation Commission, was welcomed to our meeting.

Minutes: The minutes from May 7th, 2025 needed to be approved at this meeting. Dennis moved to approve the minutes and Brenda moved to second. Motion carried.

Report Items:

Preservation Camp Training in Payette June 14th: Confirmation is just now arriving for those who registered to attend the Preservation Camp on June 14th. Several members of our local CLG's are signed up to attend. The registration is full with 50 participants. The reception guests will be folks from Indian Creek.

Payette Historic Preservation Commission report: Tony asked Betty to fill our commission in on what's been happening with Payette's Commission. Their group has been using the State's ICRIS System. It was because of the loss of the Payette Train Depot that our commission was alerted to the possible loss of our own many years ago. Payette is just now revitalizing their CLG. They received a CLG Grant to host the workshop being held on June 14th. It was a 50/50 grant. They were told that their in-kind labor was worth \$35.00 per hour on the 2024 rates. This is much higher than we were quoted for our last grant. Alexis (State SHPO) said that our rate was based on the 2023 grant cycle at \$26.11 per hourly rate. Any amount of time used toward the grant, emails written/read/responded to, travel time & meeting times for Commission meetings, time working on grant business, all count toward in-kind labor. Betty said Payette has a non-profit organization that is not part of their CLG. It was established in 2005 and then re-established in 2018. It has just recently been revitalized in 2025. Their CLG has a president, vice president, and secretary, and would like to add a public relations representative.

They are losing a local bridge and have received a \$50,000.00 mitigation settlement. This will include establishing an Historic Preservation Plan and placing signage about the bridge at a kiosk in the park. It will contain an inventory for the route along the bridge route.

Alexis (SHPO) said access to ICRIS requires training that needs to be done to have use of this program. Cheri and Alan have both looked at the site and found it quite confusing. Betty shared that she went on and played with it – learned a lot, but found that access to the files, downloading and printing does require the training. Josh shared that Payette has a lot of survey work already done by Mr. Marlow and that there is a wealth of information there. Betty added that it is there, but it is all on line and they would love to have hard copies of that information.

Alan offered to serve as the contact person to set up an ICRIS Training for our CLG's.

Community Demolition ordinance findings: Brenda reported that she looked into demolition ordinances for other counties and it was disappointing to find that no one seems to have any more than we do. There are no notifications or warnings required to demolish a building. If it is a one-story building, no permit is even required.

Sunnyside School National Register Grant Report: Our 2023 Sunnyside School National Register Grant is completed and we are just waiting for the final reimbursement of funds expended.

Weiser Middle School Gymnasium National Register Nomination application CLG Grant: We were notified that our 2025 Grant application was approved but are waiting to hear if the Federal funding will be released by Congress before we can proceed and contract with a consultant. We just found out yesterday that after being held up similarly by DOGE, the 2025 Federal funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities was released at only their minimum required. We're not certain what the fate of the Historic Preservation Fund will be. The Commissioners discussed if we were comfortable as local CLG's to provide letters to the Mayor and County Commissioners stating the importance of this funding for what we do to preserve our history at a local level? Absolutely agree.

Cambridge Historic Preservation Commission Report: Thel shared that she had nothing new to report from Cambridge and Alan added that he had nothing to report from the Midvale area at this time.

NAPC Membership/Training Opportunities: These opportunities are provided free to all of our CLG's through membership paid for by SHPO. Betty added that the benefit for hosting this upcoming training in Payette gives them a free membership for one year to the State/National Commissions. She believes that she heard there are 515 County CLG's in the United States.

Cove Road Bridge Report: The signage for Cove Road Bridge and the surveys done by the Tag Ladies is complete. Tony shared copies of the survey report with the county HPC members, and it was agreed that it would be an excellent idea to present a copy of the completed report to each of the Board of Washington County Commissioners at an upcoming meeting.

Dixie Creek Bridge Mitigation Report: Alan shared that he was able to preserve the original Dixie Creek Bridge, and it is on the same river, but up a ways on his property from its original site. The new bridge is completed and so is the new roof on the Cambridge Museum. The Weiser Historic Preservation Plan is nearing completion.

Unity Bridge Mitigation consult July 9th, 10th, & 11th: This upcoming mitigation process includes LTAC, LTD, and the Army Corp of Engineers. They are planning the mitigation date for July. Not sure of the actual times/dates as of yet. Any of us are welcome to join the mitigation meeting. We need to start thinking about what we want to request be done with the mitigation monies. Some ideas shared were:

- Develop a Weiser commercial or residential Historic District
- Fund a Museum in the Streets signage project WAPC initiated under an Idaho America 250 grant award by ISH\$ in December but defunded by the Legislature in the closing days of the current session.
- Josh suggested that with the large volume of traffic at Park & Highway 95 with the Park School crossing, could the Unity bridge be moved to become an overpass for the children or is there some place up at the SRHC where a part of it could be preserved?

Tony asked that we keep thinking of ideas to be shared at our July meeting so we attend the mitigation with some direction in mind. The last mitigation was for \$80,000.00. We don't know what our project will be worth this time.

Dave shared that the present Unity Bridge dates to 1910. There is a fishing pier in one section of the bridge, but he doubts that will be replaced in the new bridge design. The new design is a bare bones design with no extra additions

Tim Wightman at Lazy Bear and Curtis & Calvin Hickey have all shown interest in the past in having a section of the bridge when it was removed, but don't know if they are still interested. The cost to move the sections could be huge. Josh shared that if he understood correctly there is a removal cost that could be put toward moving those sections of bridge. Cheri shared that the mitigation monies were separate, but could be used toward helping to move the bridge sections. Alan added that with the Dixie Creek Bridge, he was contacted by them and there was no charge to move the bridge.

Action Items:

City Historic Preservation Plan: Dennis, Cheri, and Tony have turned the information into Sherri who has already worked on it. Cheri, Josh, and Dennis would like to take a closer look at what has been put together in the rough draft.

Meeting Adjourned about 5:02 p.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday**, July 2nd, 2025 at the Washington County Court House. Watch your emails for the meeting reminder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Chandler, Secretary