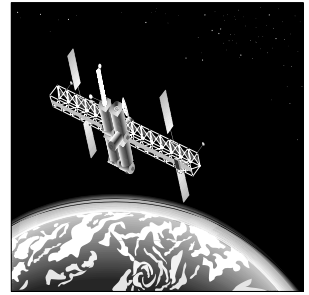




## STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO

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**"The Mission of the Idaho State Historical Records Advisory Board is to be an advocate for the creation, preservation, dissemination and use of information that accurately chronicles the people and institutions of Idaho, both public and private."**

March 26, 2004 Meeting Minutes of the Idaho State Historical Records Advisory Board at the Manwaring Center Conference Room 336, BYU-Idaho Rexburg, ID

Board members present at 9:00 am meeting: Blake, Bogstie, Johnson, Ghan Schreiber, Smylie, Virta, and Walker. Meeting chaired by Steve Walker. Visitors: Karen Kearns and Robin Wilson of Idaho State University

### **Report on NHPRC grant -Steve Walker**

A major portion of the current grant has been the Disaster Prevention/Business Continuity web-based training. I'm pleased to say that it is now up and running and that a number of people have already taken the training. I have been contacting people by e-mail concerning the training and that has been a lengthy process that is still continuing. Members of the Boise Chapter of ARMA have been contacted. All elected officials in county government (that have e-mail access) has received notification of the training and a site license. In all state agencies, I have contacted the director, human resources, IT managers, and legal council when I have been able to obtain correct e-mail addresses. I am now beginning to contact city officials, but I am finding that e-mail addresses are hard to find. I plan to make other types of contact with citizens of Idaho later, but wanted to make sure that any problems encountered were worked out first.

I have also been giving disaster prevention programs around the state. Most recently I have given a program at the Post Falls Historical Society and at Idaho State Historical. Being so short-staffed at the Archives it is difficult to get away and most always when I do I am also delivering or picking up records as well. I have done at least one presentation in every judicial district in the state, except judicial district 3 and I am trying to arrange a presentation in either Emmett or Caldwell. If you know of any organization that wishes a presentation, just let me know and I will make arrangements.

I am also writing an NHPRC grant for the State Historical Society as well, which the SHRAB will eventually review. The purpose of this grant, is the re-boxing, re-folding, encapsulation of fragile and oversize materials, describing, cataloging, identifying conservation issues, and selective microfilming of the Territory of Idaho records. This first grant will concentrate on Idaho Territorial records currently at the State Archives with the idea that subsequent grants will identify and microfilm Idaho Territorial records that are located elsewhere. Many of the territorial records are still tri-folded in their original boxes (now over 100 years old!). The materials will be flattened, placed in archival folders and boxes, that will be indexed and cataloged at folder level on our data base. Currently the contents are identified only a box level.

At the State Archives it is estimated that there are 820 cubic feet of paper materials and 582 books and ledgers to be rehoused along with 195 oversized maps, drawings, and blueprints. Selected materials will be identified and prepared for filming. Microfilm will be 35mm meeting ANSI preservation microfilming standards. It is estimated that at least 250,000 images will be filmed and inspected for quality and duplicated. Microfilm copies will be available for researchers.

A continuing problem that we have is coming up with an in-kind match for the grant. It often means that staff members must devote less time to their regular duties to work on the grant or do what most of us do and work extra. This has serious drawbacks as more and more everything we do tends to be grant-driven. Many staff have maxed out on comp time and vacation time and are forced to either take time off or lose compensation for time already worked. This creates additional problems as we are so short-staffed there is additional work load burdens for the person left in the office.

Another problem we have is that no grants will be awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) when there are vacant positions on the SHRAB. Right now we have several vacant positions even though nominations for those positions we first sent to the Governor last April. Another request to fill the positions was sent in December, but to date there is still no response. Five members had their terms expire in October 2003. Five more will have their terms expire in October 2004. Our by-laws allow members to serve expired terms until replaced or reappointed, but some members whose terms have expired do not attend meetings. Fifty percent attendance by SHRAB members constitute a quorum. At this meeting we have a quorum, but we did not at our last meeting in January. That is why it is so important for SHRAB members to make an effort to attend every meeting.

I will be re-contacting the Governor's Office asking him for appointment of nominees for last year and also submitting nominees for re-appointment whose terms expire this October.

**Steve Smylie:** I will contact the Governor's Office and see if the process can be moved along.

ISU Records Manager, Robin Wilson, desired to inform the SHRAB of an University Pre-mitigation Disaster Planning grant application submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and that ISU was in the process of submitting an institution specific retention schedule to the State Board of Education.

ISU Archivist, Karen Kearns, informed the SHRAB of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant the ISU Library was recently awarded. ISU will be facilitating the creation of standards for digital projects in Idaho. They are currently focusing on those digital projects created by cultural institutions throughout the state such as library special collections, museums and historical societies. State standards will be suggested by a committee on resolution, format, metadata standards, software and hardware platforms, so both quality projects and interoperability can be ensured. This is the first step of a multi-year project that we are hoping will continue to be funded by the LSTA towards a "Handbook of Idaho" that will allow materials to be posted on the web for easier access by the people of Idaho.

**Blaine Bake:** We are already seeing both public and private institutions throughout the state adopt their own digital standards. I hope this ISU committee will have broad membership across the state representing these diverse institutions.

**Steve Walker:** We appreciate hearing about these grants which brings us to the discussion of grants the SHRAB wishes to submit to the NHPRC for 2005. I know we talked about this at our last meeting in January, but as we have a quorum, we need to discuss it further here. If we want to do something special other than what we have been doing (meetings and presentations around the state), I need to write and submit an application by the end of May. Part of the problem we have had in doing the SHRAB grants is that the in-kind match is basically 50% of my salary and that is not a whole lot! It would help if we could establish a rate for the SHRAB member's expertise as an in-kind match as well. That would be another reason why full attendance at every SHRAB meeting is necessary.

**Byron Johnson:** Practically speaking, I administered a grant through the Humanities Commission and their guidelines from the federal level were that anybody who brought a degree of expertise valued their time at \$50.00 per hour.

#### **MOTION MADE AND PASSED**

**Blaine Bake: I would like to propose that we recommend to the State Historical Society Fiscal Officer that in-kind match compensation of SHRAB members expertise for grant purposes be figured at the rate of \$50.00 per hour.**

**Carol Schreiber seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by those present.**

**Steve Walker:** As you know from the information that I e-mailed you, the ISHPACE legislation or HR798 was pulled backed to committee and is in effect dead for this legislative session. ISHS Executive Director Steve Guerber proposes that in the coming year to break this legislation into three different bills. One bill would be for funding, another bill that would address State Historic Preservation Office issues through amendment to existing statutes, and yet in another bill would be issues addressed to records and archives. This final bill would be crafted in cooperation with and at the behest of cities and counties to deal with their concerns while incorporating the needs and concerns at the state agency level into the overall package.

**Larry Ghan:** The question I have concerning this latest legislation is why didn't Steve Guerber try to build a partnership with cities and counties with their shared interests. I would have thought that it would have been to the legislation's benefit to have participation with the Idaho Counties and cities and for them have some reason to support this legislation. I think that needs to be addressed in future legislation he proposes.

The policies that evolve need to have some insight and need to have some broad perspective without becoming too cumbersome. The one thing I thank the legislature for is that by law our county has to have two different mediums (electronic and paper or microfilm), unfortunately many clerks just ignore that. This is county specific, but I would hope where there are other statutes pertaining to other government agencies that there would be something similar.

**Steve Smylie:** I was really disappointed about the way things turned out at the legislature this year. In regards records management, Idaho code has one section to deal with cities, another with counties, and another with (state agencies such as) the State Historical Society. We have a three-headed monster and this is a very real problem. When (Boise City Clerk) Annette Mooney brought her bill forward, I was on the committee and alerted other people because apparently not enough people had talked. I think the general public, and I would have to classify the Legislature as part of the general public, just doesn't know anything about records and records management.

We (in the Legislature) had 1334 bills and resolutions before us since January 12<sup>th</sup>. I received 254 e-mails from just my our district constituents and about 500 e-mails from people outside my district, not counting phone calls and letters. For us to keep up on this huge volume, and this is why the wheels came off of ISHPACE, is that the people who are the real experts were not agreed.

I was deeply saddened. I realize that there were some problems with the legislation. I definitely know that if I had written that legislation, I would not have done it the way it was done. One of the problems we have is it isn't just the ethereal "What is the best way to manage records," there is the very practical political thing of how in the world are you going to get [funding]. My opinion has always been that you should let the payment come from the generation of the record. The expense of keeping records is part of the expense of creating them. If you try to fund this through the general fund revenue, you are up against the taxpayers of the State of Idaho. You also have the political reality that once you are agreed that you have to come up with some money to pay for all of this, how is it going to get through the House Revenue and Tax Committee. So then, we had to try and separate out the structural mechanism (of the bill) from the funding mechanism. So we ended up with this hue unfunded mandate which created problems of its own. The mandate wasn't unfunded originally, but when you take out the tax which was te key to the whole bill, the wheels come off.

The only way progress can be made is that everybody has to be on the same team, and when we are not on the same team, when there is dissension within the ranks, it is not going to get any better, it is only going to get worse.

[**To Steve Walker**] I was put in a terrible situation, Steve. Here I am on the [State Affairs] Committee and other Legislators came to me and said "What is with the dissention?"and t was hard for me to answer that.

**Byron Johnson:** I am listening to you, but there is a missing piece. I wasn't at the January meeting.

**Steve Smylie:** What happening is that the Historical Society put forward this ISHPACE proposal. There was a lot of backroom political deal-making going on. Originally the plan was to run this through the State Affairs Committee. I am on the State Affairs Committee along with Janet Miller, Clete Edmunson, and a number of educators on that committee who are very supportive of the Historical Society. The Chairman was also supportive. The Chair of Revenue and Taxation, Delores Crow, said that any revenue bill has to come through that Committee and convinced the Speaker [of the House of Representatives] that the bill needed to come through

Revenue and Tax. The bill came to that committee and was summarily placed in a drawer. It was not going to be heard. So then, plan "B" was to take the original proposal, split it up into its various components and at least have the non-funded part come to State Affairs. We then have the situation of the Boise City Clerk coming in with her own bill, not having run that past [Executive Director, Steve Guerber of] the Historical Society and that was finally withdrawn. Then the [plan "B"] bill came and Steve Walker testified against parts of it. Basically what happened then as it was late in the session anyway, the bill fell apart. Right now, I think as long as there is this disconnect, I suspect that anything being enacted at anytime that is positive is very slim.

**Byron Johnson:** [to Steve Walker] Steve, what did you testify against this bill?

**Steve Walker:** I testified as a private citizen and I testified specifically against the portion of the ISHPACE bill that dealt with the State Archives. [This bill was basically rewriting a lot of State Archives legislation. The idea behind archives is one of custody of records by an independent third party for reasons of security and authentication purposes. I saw this bill as saying that the Historical Society wouldn't not accept custody of the records and the total responsibility for the records went back to the creating agency. Fees would be created for what is now provided as a service to government agencies. We currently don't charge state and local government agencies for looking up information, faxing materials, picking up materials, or storage of materials as the records creators legally transfer custody of the records to the Historical Society and all of that becomes the responsibility of the Historical Society.]

In Idaho Code 67-4126, nearly half of the present duties of the State Historical Society Board of Trustees relates to State Archives functions. This comes almost word for word from the original 1947 legislation granting state archival authority to the Historical Society. This ISHPACE bill placed some of that original legislation as a subsection of Idaho Code and completely changed other parts of it. With the ability to create special fees and revoking custody of the records, I felt the ISHPACE legislation shifted fiscal and legal responsibility of government documents away from the Historical Society in contrast to the original 1947 bill. As a private citizen, having been trained as an archivist and having nearly 25 years experience as an archivist, I felt that this ISHPACE bill was fundamentally flawed and would end up costing taxpayers far more than if the current legislation remained intact.

The State Archivist, nor any of the archivists at the Historical Society working with government officials and records created by them had any input into this ISHPACE legislation. When we were made aware of the specifics of the legislation and the section relating to State Archives functions, I raised several objections and the Executive Director's response was cc'd to members of the SHRAB and ISHS Board of Trustees. It said in essence that as State Archivist, I was expected to support the ISHPACE legislation. I did not have a problem with the ISHPACE legislation as it related to historical preservation, but only that portion of it that fundamentally changed the intent of the original granting of state archival authority to the Historical Society by the legislature. As a private citizen, I felt that it was my duty to express my concerns with the ISHPACE bill to the State Affairs Committee.]

**Byron Johnson:** How did that go?

**Steve Walker:** About as well as you can imagine, but I felt an obligation to make the committee aware of my objections as a private citizen..

**Steve Smylie:** The trouble with that, Steve, is that you cannot. Your job is the State Archivist. Technically it is correct that you can testify as a private citizen, but when you have that dual role it created a very awkward situation. I feel at a crossroads because SHRAB and the archives is not going to move forward until this is resolved. In my opinion, it is putting this board and everything we are trying to do in jeopardy. Let's face it, this is not something that there is a great groundswell of support to do in the first place. Most people see records management as something very dull and very boring. Only when something is needed that is lost, or if you become involved in a multi-million dollar lawsuit, then all of a sudden it becomes important. That is just the reality of what this is. I am not much on nuts and bolts, all I know is that we were trying to help historic preservation in general. We can't even get the funds to get the Capitol building restored and there are projects all over state.

The archives is the classic "field of dreams." "If you build it, they will come." Here we had a building that we thought would be adequate for years and it is already overcrowded and we don't have the manpower to manage what we have. We are getting close to being in a crisis situation. All we need is a successful lawsuit or a disaster of some sort and then it will all come to an end.

**Byron Johnson:** Mary Reed says in her e-mail that this board [the SHRAB] approved the legislation at the January meeting. Is that true?

**Steve Smylie:** It was presented, but I came for only a portion of the meeting and I don't know what was [decided].

**Blaine Bake:** If you don't mind, I'll address a little of that myself. The presentation was essentially a de facto "here it is." I personally was very disappointed in the fact that Steve [Guerber, Executive Director of the Historical Society] did not pass this [proposed] legislation before us before the final verdict. The SHRAB didn't see the entire bill at all, we just saw pieces of it.

**Duane Bogstie:** The state archives part of the legislation was missing in the presentation by Linda Morton-Keithley, and I knew it was in there. The part about the State Archives was missing because Linda forgot to bring it. That was the part that I and Pam Babbitt questioned. Unfortunately, the tape recorder didn't work.

**Alan Virta:** There was a "gag order" essentially in place on the two State Historical Society employees at the meeting.

**Byron Johnson:** I'm still trying to figure out where this e-mail from Mary Reed came from. Was there action taken by this board at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting?

**Blaine Bake:** There was no action.

**Duane Bogstie:** We just listened to the presentation.

**Byron Johnson:** So in her e-mail, Mary misstates what happened.

**Duane Bogstie:** In my opinion, she wrote that on her own without anyone's input of whether they agreed or did not agree. We are in favor of more money to the archives, but not that specific legislation.

**Blaine Bake:** We were in agreement with what we heard, but we heard an abridged version.

**Alan Virta:** I thought we were on pretty safe ground in supporting the portions of the ISHPACE legislation we heard at that time, but later when I saw the whole bill...

**Duane Bogstie:** Then the ISHPACE legislation was latter changed and amended from what the original bill was. What was presented to the SHRAB and what was presented to the legislators was fundamentally different.

**Steve Smylie:** What was sent to the [State] House [of Representatives] was changed three times, but that is politics. Literally, bills can be changed as they are presented at the [final] print hearing.

**Byron Johnson:** So what you are saying, is that the environment which this legislation was presented had several cracks in it, for whatever reason. Having been an observer in the process of legislation for more than 40 years, if you are not together [on a piece of legislation] you are not going to get [it passed.]

**Steve Smylie:** What this legislation has done is created a crisis. It has created a crisis between Steve Walker and his superiors and frankly I don't think that is going to go away. It has also created a rift between cities and counties and the historical society, or at least, the potential of a rift. We don't want to get into a turf war. If we get in a turf war between one historical society, 44 counties and 200 cities, I'll give you one guess who is going to win that one. This is a top priority, I can't say this strongly enough, that needs to be addressed. I think that fence-mending is too mild a term, because this has the potential of a dam breaking.

This left a sour taste in my mouth, because I want to see us address the problem [preservation] of electronic records. There is a need for legislation and effective policy as current legislation was written in typewriter days

**Duane Bogstie:** The main thing that needs to be realized is that when these [types of] bills are created or thought about being created they need to go to a source that is knowledgeable. A person who is in charge of a department cannot create digital imaging if they don't have a technical knowledge of it. Those knowledgeable about records management know what is needed to manage records electronically. The problem is to convince upper management. Anything that may cost time and money there seems to be an automatic unwillingness to do.

**Larry Ghan:** The thing I keep thinking is how can good people with differing views come together. I think there are a lot of people here trying to do the right thing, but somehow in the rush to do it, knowledgeable folks are being left behind, defenses being thrown up and

antagonisms created. I am looking as to who can bring counties, cities, universities, state agencies, and the historical society together and look at all of their needs and begin to realize that we have a lot more in common together than we have differences I think we need to bring these parties together before there is legislation, so we can bring something together before the legislators that can be supported by all.

Everybody is key on this board as to what we are trying to do. I think there needs to be a legislative work/study committee with representatives from cities, counties, universities, etc. to sit at a table, identify problems and come up with a solution. Steve Guerber, Steve Walker, and some other critical players should be at that. Steve Guerber [ISHS Executive Director] should have never left the counties out of this legislation. We would have been a natural ally. I think what everybody at this table is trying to do is have legislation that just doesn't meet [record] needs now, but a hundred years from now.

**Steve Smylie:** I think this legislation was indeed premature, the alliances that needed to be made were not made, the people that were needed to be brought on board were not brought on board. Now, there is a problem at the Farm Bureau, and that's another hurdle to overcome in the future. Here is what the issue to me boils down to, at this meeting we are concerned with the nuts and bolts of records management. The irony is that is probably the least important issue when it comes to legislation. The attitude of most legislators is that they are not interested in the nuts and bolts, they just want it done as cheap as possible.

That brings to the second issue of how do we pay for it, because managing information is expensive. Financing is a problem so it was piggy-backed onto historical preservation in general and was part of a check-off on the permanent building fund. That meant everybody basically paid ten bucks whether you created zero records or a thousand records.

Then you have the next issue which is politics. It involves the dynamics of how you present a bill, how you advocate a bill, how you gain support of a majority of legislators to get the thing through. Steve Guerber has been watching the legislature for a long, long time and he knows who he needs to go talk to get people to sign on. He is good at that as anyone.

Then there is the issue of turf. Even those who agree in principle, will disagree in practice. Ten everybody become myopic at that point. We only see that which is directly in front of us. On historical records management and historical preservation, you are dealing with the whole idea of the Idaho State Historical Society. You are also dealing with what a major portion of clerks and recorders do and also in higher education what archives and libraries do. To get all these parties to come together is not an easy task. Between now and next January, in my view there needs to be some serious meeting of minds. I think there needs to be some serious reconciliation. If this turns into a turf war between these parties, I don't think the people around this table are set up to win that war.

**Larry Ghan:** All the rational in the world falls apart when someone like Steve Guerber didn't provide the courtesy or was running a hidden agenda in terms of not contacting certain key players. He was looking at strategy concerning legislators and not at others [affected.] It is just bull, when someone says, "this is how it is going to be, and you're going to support it." Nothing



get the hackles on my neck faster than that! These are the people that have to carry out the actions and make them succeed. They have to have buy-in. To me, I think, Steve [Guerber] either intentionally or unintentionally took a specific action. This bill was hardly even on the radar screen of clerks until it was presented [at the legislature.] I don't think enough ground work was done and now there has been terrific damage done. Perhaps it can't be done this year, perhaps the process is going to take a year or two to evolve.

The issue of records management is important to us, but you go to a Board of Commissioners or to a City Council, or the State Legislature and what's important to them is fixing the roads, balancing the state budget, holding down student fees. That is where the politics are.

**Byron Johnson;** What is the commonality that could bring these issues together?

**Larry Ghan:** I think we need somebody who has the authority to get the attention of all the parties.

**Steve Walker:** I think commonality that brings these issues together is that no matter what all government officials say they do when it comes to fixing roads, balancing the state budget, or holding down student fees, they have to accomplish that through information provided by records. Effective management of those records will bring down costs, will provide information to fix the roads for the least expense, will show ways of keeping student fees low. Managing records correctly saves money. It has been proven in private business as well as public. Records costs of 40% can be saved when records are managed effectively. I think that message has not gotten out to the government officials or the public. A commonality is that we all have records and records are important!

I think a commonality is that in a democracy people hold government agencies and their officials accountable and the way the people hold government accountable is through information provided by official records. The essence of our political system is that the people have the right and the responsibility to hold government accountable for actions conducted on their behalf. If the people do not have access to the records, they do not have the information they need on what the government is doing.

**Byron Johnson:** I couldn't agree with you more, Steve, but to be blunt with you, that isn't what is going to get a bill passed by legislators. That rhetoric is not going to pass a bill because it is not going to get you the votes. What we are talking about is that if we are going to get legislation passed we have to get together. And I mean the specialists are going to have to get together and if we can't do that we might as well bag it because it isn't going to happen

**Blaine Bake:** As far as I am concerned, Steve Guerber ignored us [the SHRAB] as a body.

**Byron Johnson:** That may be, but that's history. The question is what are we going to do now. We have to start from where we are now.

**Blaine Bake:** I believe in order for us to reach a quorum as a body to support [a bill, we need to review it]. This legislation was first presented to us as a fully formed bill with sponsors. It did

not allow us to provide input. We are the State Historical Records Advisory Board appointed by the Governor to provide advice on matters dealing with historical records. I have been very discouraged that Steve Walker, as State Archivist and an employee of the State Historical Society, is placed in a position to communicate to Executive Director Steve Guerber the position of the SHRAB, who represent the experts concerning historical records. He is third level bureaucracy communicating directly with his superiors on our behalf. Steve Guerber may have done a great job with the Legislature, but he came with a bill that was flawed.

**Steve Smylie:** It was not a perfect bill, that is for sure, and it fell apart.

**Blaine Bake:** He needs somebody to whisper in his ear that we would like to be part of the team, but you have not been utilizing us and letting us help overcome some of those challenges. I have not met Steve Guerber once in the 20 years that I have been on this Board. I think that we are two different entities that need to talk together and get some compromise, so when the Historical Society presents something to the legislature, it is something we can all get behind.

I have heard from colleagues in other states and from Washington D.C. concerning this bill. Bills that effect state archival authority attract national attention. To a person they were all suspect of this bill.

**Larry Ghan:** I believe Steve Guerber is trying to do the right thing, but he is doing it the wrong way. Why can't we as adults just get together and try to figure out how to save our records.

**Blaine Bake:** I think that three or four of us from the SHRAB need to have a heart to heart talk with Steve Guerber. I worry about Steve Walker's job. [To Steve Walker] I don't know whether you have a job much longer. I mean how many more bullet holes can you absorb... In my opinion you have done more good for the records of the State of Idaho than any single person in the past. Unfortunately, you are in the position of the poor messenger.

**Steve Smylie:** Well, the bottom line is that it is really bad to have the wheels come off a bill in the last few weeks of the legislature. This is not going to help for next year. I think we are definitely going to have to get on the same page. That's the bottom line, because what is going to end up happening, and I heard this from various agencies and people, is that as long as this squabbling is going on in the historical society nothing is going to happen.

**Steve Walker:** This squabbling as you call it between the archives and the historical society, predates my arrival as State Archivist. My predecessor had the same history of differing viewpoints with his Director over the role of the state archives.

**Duane Bogstie:** This brings up what I have said in the past. This Board needs a spokesperson who is not an employee of the Historical Society to speak for the Board. Steve is the State Historical Records Coordinator;-- he coordinates SHRAB meetings and presentations. We need a member in charge that will write a report to the Governor every time we meet, or if there is a piece of legislation concerning historical records, the SHRAB should voice its opinion in the form of a report.

**Larry Ghan:** I believe this report should also go to key members of legislative committees to also let them know of our position.

**Blaine Bake:** The constitution of this present {SHRAB} Board is probably the finest that I have seen. We have two members of the legislature, we have two current and former county clerks, a former Supreme Court justice and archivists and records managers across the state. We have a viable, healthy forum for these type of issues. We just need to have some form of communication between the historical society, Steve Guerber and us. Until we get more of that, we are very ineffectual.

**Duane Bogstie:** We are appointed by the Governor, but it has been stated by Steve Guerber [when we met in Stanley] that we are nothing. He is the one that is in charge and we are just a minor advisory board. Steve Guerber didn't appoint us to this board, the Governor did. Our duty is to advise the Governor on historical records, not Steve Guerber. When pending legislation concerning historical records comes up we should view that bill and express our opinion as a board.

**Larry Ghan:** I hope Steve Guerber is not antagonistic to this board and since he is not doing things we want I think we as a board need to have open communication with the historical society by attending their meetings and have them attend ours. Always have that olive branch out there and be proactive to issues.

**Steve Smylie:** This has got to be solved, because as it is, we have no statutory authority that we can order done. We are an advisory board, with a capital "A" on advisory. We can foam, and boil, and make suggestions all we want, but there is absolutely no force of power to carry through our suggestions in any way. The real power is with the Governor's Office, with the Legislature, and with the [Historical] Society. The way that bill was set up, the real power was in the promulgation of the rules. That bill was flexible and open enough where it could say just about anything. That is where the real authority and power will take place and that is centered with the Historical Society. As far as the statutes go, we have three different sections of code that don't necessarily agree with each other.

**Alan Virta:** One of the problems it seems to me is that our State Archives is not a department of state government. It is not even a major branch of a department of state government. It is a unit within the library of the Historical Society. As a result it gets the due recognition from that agency and the state government that such a sub, sub, subunit receives. I think that is a fundamental flaw with the State of Idaho's system. The Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission would have gone a little bit to correct that, but to expect the Governor and the Legislature to go that deep into the bureaucracy is probably unrealistic.

**Steve Smylie:** I think the focus of our discussion should be what should we do now.

**Duane Bogstie:** I believe we should bring different representatives from state agencies, the cities, the counties, and Steve Guerber to sit around a table for discussion about this bill, the meat of it, why it failed and what can be done to work things out.

**Byron Johnson:** Why is anyone going to talk to us. We are a creature of federal law. That's all we are. Our own by-laws say that. We have a function and that function is outlined, but the Farm Bureau is going to say that we are not a player. We may individually have some persuasion with some outside people, but this board [the SHRAB] as an entity, is not a player. We have no standing as part of federal law.

**Steve Smylie:** Byron has a point, and this is what I want to focus on. I feel very strongly that our bottom line is good records management and consistent policy statewide. Let's tie that in on how we get money to fund it, on how we soothe the ruffled feathers, and bandage the cuts and wounds that have been created with the fiasco we had with this bill. This is not going to go away. Let's look at the way we do things in this state. This is something that is going to have to be dealt with through the Historical Society, because by [Idaho] Code they are the ones that are the repository of government records. The SHRAB has interest in that and to me it is very important that between now and January there be some meeting of minds and it is going to have to start out with Steve [Guerber] and Steve [Walker]. We can probably do things, but only tangentially.

**Larry Ghan:** Could there be somebody to help facilitate that and I bet Steve Guerber would also be interested in hearing from some members of the legislature, of the counties, of the cities, and universities. We need to all sit down together and be mutually supportive.

**Steve Walker:** I think one of the problems between the SHRAB and the Historical Society is as an intermediary, I am also an employee of the Historical Society. Communication of the SHRAB's concerns needs to come from someone other than me. My designation on the SHRAB is Historical Records Coordinator and I coordinate the logistics of these meetings. I also perform other duties as State Archivist throughout the state. However, to meet with Steve Guerber and communicate SHRAB concerns has to be through somebody other than me, because I am in a subordinate position to the Executive Director.

**Blaine Bake:** Going back to Byron's comment about the role of the SHRAB. In virtually every other state, the State Archives/other state agency has integrated the SHRAB into the operations far more closely than we have experienced. I don't know if it goes back to the Sagebrush Rebellion or what, that federal affiliation seems to be a handy tool to create division. This board will not function to its capacity if the status quo is left as it is. From the fiasco I've seen here, we might as well tender our resignations to the Governor. Steve Guerber seems to think that the SHRAB is only a federal agency and he could care less about what we do. Unless we can be integrated into solutions for record problems in the State of Idaho, my resignation should be right there with all the rest of ours.

**Byron Johnson:** I think that the appropriate role for this board is its expertise. There are many people here that have been trained and manage records on a regular basis. That expertise is what we have to offer not only to the State Historical Society, to the Farm Bureau, to the Legislature and to all the other players. I think that is how we ought to pose ourselves. We have something to offer. The reservoir of experience and expertise we have is of use. Please let us help you. That is the entre' we should use to enter into the game.

Part of the dynamics as I understand it, is that they [Idaho State Historical Society] treat us [Idaho State Historical Records Advisory Board] as somehow being under them, when we are autonomous of them. Our whole purpose is to monitor and improve the maintenance of public records. We as a group should ask the State Historical Society Board to meet with us to discuss improvements in the handling of public records.

**Duane Bogstie:** The thing is that Steve Guerber has stated that we do not have any authority.

**Byron Johnson:** I don't care what Steve Guerber believes. We are a board chartered under federal law and we are appointed by the Governor.

**Robin Wilson:** One of the reasons why I was glad when I came to Idaho was discovering that we had an active SHRAB is that I had anticipated being able to submit grant proposals to this body to receive federal funds to help me with records projects that the State doesn't have available. I would think that there would be some kind of appeal to the Historical Society Board that this is an option for entities to actually get at some money that doesn't tap the State coffers.

#### **MOTION MADE AND PASSED**

**Carol Schreiber:** I move that the SHRAB request a slot at the State Historical Society for a slot at the next Historical Society Board meeting.

**Larry Ghan:** I'll second the motion.

**The motion to request an item agenda for the SHRAB at the next Board of Trustees meeting of the State Historical Society passed unanimously.**

**Duane Bogstie:** The last time we had any elections for the SHRAB was in the year 2000. We definitely need a secretary to put together the minutes.

**Steve Walker:** I believe what is needed is a Deputy State Historical Records Coordinator, which according to the By-Laws, I can appoint. If the SHRAB members wish to decide among themselves who they would wish to be Deputy, I will officially appoint that individual.

#### **MOTION MADE AND PASSED**

**Larry Ghan:** I move this should be a topic of discussion on the agenda for the next [SHRAB] meeting so all the members will know about it and can voice an opinion.

**Steve Smylie:** I second that

**The motion to discuss and decide on a Deputy State Historical Records Coordinator at the next SHRAB meeting passed unanimously.**

#### **MOTION MADE AND PASSED**

**Duane Bogstie:** I move that we send a regular update to the Governor our accomplishments, motions, and discussions of what we are trying to accomplish.

**Blaine Bake:** I second that with the understanding that a draft is passed by the board first. I would be happy to write a draft before the board gets together next time because there needs to be a consensus.

**Larry Ghan:** Are there key legislators that we [the SHRAB] also need to keep informed?

**Steve Smylie:** Here again, if you are talking about legislation, this is something the Historical Society will have to take the lead on because it is an historical society bill. But if you are talking about a records management merger, every state does things differently. In some states it [the State Archives and Records Center] is a separate department, and really the historical society model is a model in only four or so states. So, Idaho is in a minority the way we do it. Many states have it under the Secretary of State. This is a fundamental thing. Right now we need to make sure the Historical Society and the SHRAB are on the same page on where we want to go. Then we need to bring in the cities, counties, and state agencies and major pressure groups such as Farm Bureau and others.

The thing is historical records are boring and when you make them interesting people wonder what is going on and that is where opposition comes. So when you come [to the Legislature] and its [the legislation] is dull and boring and this is what the board recommended, we had all these meetings, and on and on. A motion is made to pass, you need to have a volunteer to carry it on the floor, and it passes. As soon as you get controversy, it is all over. The way to get a bill passed is to make it as boring as possible.

The Blue Ribbon recommendation to merge the archives, library, and record center is the Governor's call. The Blue Ribbon Commission was created to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. When we come up with recommendations it makes it more likely that the Governor will be more affirmative when he listens to it.

**[After discussion, the next SHRAB meeting will be on Friday, July 30 at the Nez Perce National Historical Center near Lapwai:]**

**The meeting adjourned for lunch and concluded with a tour of BYU-Idaho, and the Teton Dam Flood Museum.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Steve Walker  
State Historical Records Coordinator

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