



Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future

APRIL 16-17, 2026 OUTREACH MEETING MINUTES – POCATELLO-APPRV

ISHS: Janet Gallimore, Dax Chizum, Anthony Parry, Tricia Hoffman, Annette Polidori, George Myers, David Matte, HannaLore Hein, Seth Wheeler, Mark Breske
Board of Trustees: Dr. Cheryl O'Brien, Mary Ann Arnold, Justin Vipperman, Rick Phillips, Don Pischner
Invited Guests: Jared Garn, Okland Construction; Nicole Gallaher, DPW; Dr. Leif Tapinilla, Idaho Museum of Natural History/Idaho State University Justin Smith, Author, Craig Yadon, Owner, Purpose Center, Brooklynn Osborne, Gem Prep Pocatello

April 16-17, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Pocatello, Idaho

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Cheryl O'Brien called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 12, 2026 Special Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2026 Special Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

MOTION 2.0: Rick Phillips, Board of Trustees, moved and Mary Ann Arnold second. To approve ISHS Board of Trustees meeting minutes of February 12th, and March 25th, 2026. With the replacement of Yah with Aye. Motion passes unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2nd Quarterly Financial Report

Dax Chizum reported:

- Financials are for the second quarter ending December 31, noting 50% of our year and 50% of payroll
- 57.42% remaining in personnel for the year, 58.29% in our operating and 33% in our capital outlay
- Report again is broken up by our activities. So you have the administration and maintenance there at the top broken up by fund, general, federal, and miscellaneous revenue.
- On track across the board for our personnel costs, operating expenses, and trustee and benefit payments. Remember, these are our community enhancement grants and those will close out coming up soon in May. And that will go to zero at the end of the year.
- Federal item: Is the indirect cost recovery that pays people in the administration from the SHPO grant and the miscellaneous revenue pays for maintenance team. And those of course are covered through the leases, communication leases building leases.

Dax reported on the ISHS sites and personnel and operating expenses, which are all on track.

- SHPO, you'll see that general fund which pays for a match for the grant for personnel. On track there. Operating expenses are high.
- This is the investment in ICHRIS, with an ongoing maintenance fee. This is an investment in the product that is used by SHPO staff, their workflow, and also for the curation of the Archaeological Survey of Idaho.

Earned Income report for the second quarter:

- Currently marketing CWI building, Guard House, Bureau of Reclamation building

- -It was noted that leasing rental contracts does not go through a state agency, it goes through ISHS directly. ISHS does use a real estate firm to work on finding clients for ISHS properties.
- Memberships are cyclical. Development and membership staff are doing front desk trainings to encourage sales.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item: Approve the 2026 Esto Perpetua Awardees

Discussion on the theme for 2026 – Festivals and Community Traditions and its alignment with A250 and the United We Celebrate exhibit. This is a great opportunity to celebrate time-held festivals across the state that bring people together around history, around music, around humanities, around programming, around things that are very important to people across the state. It was agreed to choose one or two from each district.

- American Dog Derby, Ashton
- Paul Bunyan Days, St. Maries
- Chief Lookingglass Pow-Wow, Kamiah
- Grangeville Border Days, Grangeville
- Idaho Days-Franklin, ID
- Idaho Veterans Parade, Boise
- Jaialdi, Boise
- Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival, Fort Hall
- National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest and Festival, Weiser
- Wagon Days, Ketchum
- Wallace Fall for History Festival, Wallace

MOTION 5.0 Justin Vipperman, Board of Trustees, moved and Mary Ann Arnold second. To approve the following 11 organizations for the 2026 Esto Perpetua Award. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item: Approve the appointment of an ISHS Board of Trustee to the CEG committee.

CEG committee evaluates grant applications for the Community Enhancement grants and recommends those to be awarded. The total grant is \$30,000 with \$5,000 separated out for the Sister Alfreda Award. The grants fund: Education, tourism, public access, and exhibits.

The committee meets in July, and the recommended awardees are then presented to the ISHS Board for approval in August. Grant applications will open in May.

MOTION 6.0 Mary Ann Arnold Board of Trustees, moved and Justin Vipperman second. To approve Rick Phillips as appointment for the CEG committee. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item: Approve the following farm for century status

- Thiel Pioneer Farm, established 1914, Idaho Falls, Bonneville County
- Applicant: Anthony & Kathie Thiel, grandson of original owner, William Thiel
- Application fulfills requirement for Century status
- Allen Thiel, son of William, married Sara in 1916 and had 14 children
- Home, located on New Sweden-Shelley Road – one of the best-known historic landmarks of the area
- Allen, responsible for the 1974 renovation of the Old Swedish Land Company Hotel. The hotel is known for where Swedish settlers spent their first night in their new homeland.

- The new Sweden area first settled in 1894 by the Swedish Land Company of Chicago

Family & Farm lineage

1914-1945	William Thiel	Grandfather of applicant
1945-1988	Allen Thiel	Father of applicant
1988-present	Anthony (Tony) Thiel	Owner and applicant

MOTION 7.0 Justin Vipperman, Board of Trustees, moved and Mary Ann Arnold second. To approve the Thiel Pioneer Farm for Century Status. Motion passes unanimously.

Audio 01:41:04

Agency major initiatives presentations

Collections and Archives Stewardship Center - Janet Gallimore, ISHS and Jared Garn, Okland Construction

Janet Gallimore recapped the project:

- Project was approved a number of years ago to move offsite storage and records to one facility (presently two offsite facilities).
- Built for efficiency and purposely for collections & records, will contain compact mobile storage
- Adjacent to ISHS Archives building (Government records, manuscripts, archaeology, paintings, etc.)
- Contract being crafted for the packing, loading, transportation of artifacts to new facility and unloading, unpacking and placement in facility.

Jared Garn reported:

- Addition to archives building – walls constructed – moving into concrete – end of April crane will be on site
- Schedule – a small delay due to the rain this past week (start of skill date moved to the 29th)
- Plan to be finished at the end of year
- Partners and working with the city on ordinances have gone very smoothly
- Jordan Wilcomb, IBG project contractor, and Okland working together on any coordination needs
- Delay over Christmas holiday 2025 moved completion to November 2026 – Rain delay now has pushed completion to December 2026

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) – David Matte, ISA

Idaho residents exposed to nuclear fallout from 1951-1962 are now eligible for a lump-sum payment under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). RECA provides financial compensation to individuals, known as Downwinders, who were exposed to radioactive fallout from above-ground nuclear weapons testing, including those in Idaho. Claims will be taken until December 31, 2027.

The State Archives are receiving 30-40 requests a day for documentation on residency. Since January ISA has received over 450 requests. ISA has hired a part-time person to assist in requests. ISA staff have also provided educational sessions at ISM and local libraries. A form has been uploaded on the ISA website for those requesting information on residency for RECA claims.

America250 in Idaho and national update

- Reviewed events, initiatives of A250 - [Welcome to America250 in Idaho](#)
- Service Challenge - [America250 in Idaho Ambassadors' Service Challenge](#) - [JustServe](#)
- TheirStory – remote oral history platform – collecting stories across America

[Session Redirect - TheirStory](#)

- Sharing the Spirit of America – reading the Declaration – July 8, 2026

Old Idaho Penitentiary infrastructure improvements – Nicole Gallager, DPW

Reported on the infrastructure project of the Old Pen

- Close to starting construction – Alpine Construction Management, lowest bid
 - 180 days to complete work – start in visitor center the exhibit space will follow
 - Working around any events at the Old Pen
 - WEA event – Sept. 17th date – to be hold in the Shirt Factory
- Nicole will put date on the radar and bring it up at the next construction meeting

Exhibitions, schedule, and campaign – Anthony Parry and Mary Ann Arnold

- May 4th Start date for Phase 1
 - Aug. 20 Shop drawing complete
 - Dec. 4 Fabrication complete
- March 12, 2027 Substantial completion of

Creating wire figures that will be displayed throughout Old Pen – Placement includes On the perimeter walls, Cells, Shirt Factory, Admin building – Wardens Office

- Phase 2 June – August – Design Development

Campaign Update

- Total project goal \$2,200,000
- Silent phase of fundraising, a few donors include MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, Bates Family Foundation, Morrison Knudsen Foundation
- Silent Phase Submitted requests will be announced in July, August
- Next steps will be Public Phase, with a kickoff at Wine Eats Artifacts event in September.

Rick Phillips brought up a mobile exhibit presentation on the Old Penitentiary project. Mary Ann noted the fly through video of the project (with a flyer for presentation).

PRESENTATION Justin Smith, Guest Speaker: *The History of SE Idaho*

COMMUNITY EVENT

Purpose Center – 224 N Union Pacific Ave, Pocatello 208.681.6028

Welcome – Rick Phillips, ISHS Board of Trustees, District 6

Dr. Leif Tapanila of Idaho Natural History Museum - keynote

Pre-historic Southeast Idaho

Brooklyn Osborne – Gem Prep: Pocatello

National History Day Teacher & Students – 2026 Contest entries

Janet L. Gallimore, ISHS, Chair, A250 In Idaho Task Force

America250 in Idaho

Friday, April 17, 2026

Board Tour – Idaho Museum of Natural History and Museum of Clean

Adjourn