

**Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund  
February 11, 2011  
Plains Hotel, Cheyenne**

**Present:** Mike Shonsey, Acting Chair; Barbara Smith; Sara Needles; Nancy Schiffer

**Board Guest:** Dave Kathka

**Grantee Presenters and General Public:** Gene Gade, Vore Buffalo Jump; Mimi Hull, LCCC Foundation; Mary Ellen Tast and Kathleen Urban, LCCC; Emma Hanson, Buffalo Bill Historical Center; Hilery Walker and Mary Humstone, Alliance for Historic Wyoming; Amiee Reese, CFD Old West Museum; Paul Harrison, City of Laramie; Larry Ostresh, Laramie Railroad Heritage Park; Tom Rea and Rick Ewig, WY State Historical Society WYOHISTORY.org; Sue Castaneda, Wyoming State Archives; Mark Junge, oral historian; Laura Nowlan, Mary Hopkins, and Ashley Rooney, WY State Historic Preservation Office; and Toni Tomay.

**State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission Visitors:** President Ernie Over, Dudley Gardner, Carolyn Buff, Linda Fabian, Karen Haderly, Mary Hawkins, Barbara Vietti, Dan Barks and Milward Simpson, Director, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

Acting Chair Mike Shonsey convened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Chair Shonsey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked board members and invited guests to the meeting to introduce themselves.

**Minutes:**

Barbara Smith moved and Nancy Schiffer seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department and Legislative Update:** Sara Needles presented a general update on activities within the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources and pending legislative action. Needles noted that she, Milward Simpson and Domenic Bravo have not heard from the new administration on their appointments, therefore they are in a holding pattern and will continue to operate as “business as usual” until they hear otherwise. The new administration has created a few “bumps” as Governor Mead and his staff have been so busy dealing with their new positions and of course working with the Legislature immediately. She anticipates that things will smooth out once the Legislative session is concluded and she is looking forward to a time when she can sit down with the new administration to discuss the department and upcoming project. Needles noted that the nominations of Dave Kathka and Susan Stubson have been submitted to the Governor’s office and Senate approvals are required, so she expects that process to be completed prior to the end of the Legislative session.

Needles noted that pending legislation during this session involves several Parks bills, and her division has concentrated on bills focused on Wyoming State Archives. There were several bills which came out of Interim Topic studies, including a short-lived bill on a new building for Archives. This bill failed fairly quickly, which, in her opinion, was actually to our benefit as it has superseded a construction process

that normally goes through the State Building Commission (comprised of the five elected officials and representatives of A&I Construction Management), and could have led to conflicts in the building process. The other two Archive bills have focused on 1) supporting an assessment on how the state should handle electronic archives; and 2) supporting some new shelving and equipment for the existing storage facility. The shelving and equipment bill has been superseded by an appropriation included in the supplemental budget, thus the separate bill no longer exists. The bill requesting an assessment is still in process and would provide resources to better evaluate the needs of the state for electronic records storage, and establish the "baseline" for the electronic platforms (systems, software and hardware) and standard formats required for electronic records storage.

The Wyoming Arts Council had requested funding in support of meetings and workshops (convening) and those supplemental budget requests had failed early on. Former Governor Freudenthal had included a \$1 million increase for the Cultural Trust Fund corpus, and Governor Mead left that funding in place in the supplemental budget and the Joint Appropriation Committee also left it in place and it will be presented to Legislature for debate next week.

Needles also informed the Board on the recent retirement of Roger Joyce, who was the manager for both the Wyoming State Museum and Wyoming State Archives. This arrangement of joint management was a good experiment but the differences within the two programs are significant enough for the department to re-evaluate that arrangement, and Needles has now established two manager positions, one overseeing the State Museum and one overseeing the State Archives. The positions have been listed and the department is currently in the process of receiving applications and she will soon be establishing the review committees for those applications. Given the current "buyers" market, she anticipates receiving many good, highly qualified applicants.

Needles remarked on her ongoing efforts to establish a foundation board for the State Museum. She has conducted several conversations with others on this idea and has received significant input on possible board members and the responsibilities of the foundation board as a fund-raising board. She still has to find the opportunity to bring this idea to the attention of Governor Mead and the Attorney General's office, but she does anticipate this idea moving forward. Chair Shonsey inquired if there were other examples of such fundraising foundation boards in Wyoming. Needles noted that the most obvious example in Wyoming is the Wildlife Foundation, which is not exactly the same type of board, but noted that most state museums in the nation have such fundraising foundation boards involved. She noted that most like any foundation board of the Wyoming State Museum will be structured with the funds actually being held by the Wyoming Community Foundation, but that of course is yet to be finalized. She noted the importance of finding just the right board members who understand their role as fundraisers and also are aware of the balancing which must occur between foundation board directives and the State Museum policies. Schiffer inquired as to the number of State Museum staff members. Needles explained that there are currently 9 staff members, and that there is also a friends/volunteer group. Needles also noted that she is currently working on the idea of developing a stronger docent program for the State Museum, which can bring in younger volunteers to the museum. Needles also remarked on the new art curator for the museum, David Newell and his curatorial responsibilities for the art collection of the museum, along with the services he will be providing on many committees and activities around the state. Newell's immediate responsibilities of providing artwork for the leadership offices and new elected official offices has created a friendly introduction to these folks for the State Museum and our department overall.

Needles informed the WCTF Board on the pending cultural conference, Culture, Community, Creativity, which is scheduled for October 6-9 in Cody. This conference includes many of our state partners, including the State Library, Wyoming Humanities Council, U.W. Arts & Sciences and U.W. American Studies, Main Street, along with the Wyoming Arts Council, the Cultural Trust Fund, the State Museum, and the State Historic Preservation Office. This conference will address many of the current topics, including culture and heritage tourism and the development of a cultural coalition. The planning committee is seeking to bring an "all inclusive" conference together which will bring together the wide diversity of cultural entities in the state, along with reaching out to local governments and decision leaders. As we progress with the planning the committee will no doubt expand out to Tourism and other entities as necessary. She is going to seek Governor Mead's endorsement of this conference so it can be promoted as a "Governor's Conference". The conference will also incorporate advocacy training and a special "invitation only" group will be invited to participate in a day session at the end of the conference to, hopefully, create a cultural coalition, which can support any cultural issues or legislation that arise.

#### **Revenues to Date:**

Renée Bovée reviewed the ongoing revenue picture of the Cultural Trust Fund. This year, we have an improved revenue picture due to the rebounding of the stock market picture and a one-time capital gains deposit already received. With the figures to date, Bovée anticipates that we will easily have \$600,000 to possibly even \$700,000 in interest revenues available to award at the June 2011 grant round. If the Legislature does approve the supplemental budget increase of \$1 million to our corpus, without any other change in the investment picture, the \$14.4 million corpus will generate at least \$576,000 in investment earnings. Each \$1 million investment in the corpus brings us between \$40,000 and \$80,000 in interest earnings in a year. The 2011 grant round still has a maximum award ceiling of \$50,000, but after this year's grant round we should discuss raising the ceiling given the increased revenue earnings.

Dave Kathka inquired how the State manages this corpus. Bovée explained that there are basically two major investment pools the State manages, one is the Permanent Mineral Trust Fund, and the other is a combined pool of all other state trusts, trust in agency accounts, etc. The WCTF corpus is invested with the second pool. Kathka inquired if we can roll-over funds between bienniums. Bovée responded that "yes" everything just rolls, so as a granting agency we do not have to worry about year-end dates, and thus we are able to support multiple-year projects. If a grant is awarded across multiple years, the financial commitment is made with the existing year's dollars, but those dollars roll until they are used. While the WCTF Board can make a grant award that is several years out, we do not commit future years dollars, rather we commit only those dollars we already have in hand. Kathka inquired if we can ever reinvest in the corpus. Bovée explained that due to state process we are not allow to reinvest in the corpus, but any interest revenues which go unexpended do earn simple "bank" interest until such time as they are used. Corpus increases can only be made from legislative appropriation.

Kathka also inquired if the Cultural Trust Fund has administrative dollars apart from the corpus trust. Bovée noted that there is currently a \$10,000 per year administrative line (\$20,000 for the biennium) which helps cover the costs of board meetings, staff travel and minor administrative costs.

Bovée did note that one of the items Needles did not mention, is that we will be approaching the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources joint legislative committee, to sponsor future legislation to seek an increase in the number of board members serving on the Cultural Trust. At this point, by statute,

we have one member appointed by position (Administrator of the Division of Cultural Resources) and four members who are nominated by either the State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission or the board of the Wyoming Arts Council. It is hoped that we can expand the board size to at least 7 and possibly 9 to better obtain representation around the state and deepen levels of experience and knowledge of the variety of areas of service which the Cultural Trust represents (arts, history, archaeology, historic preservation, etc.). Bovée will need to do an evaluation of the costs associated with a larger board and we may need to seek a higher funding level for administrative costs when the board is increased.

Kathka asked what Bovée's staff position is. Bovée confirmed that she is now a state employee and her position is split between the Cultural Trust Fund and the State Historic Preservation Office, where she provides grant and event management support. The funding for the position is equally split between the two programs. Her salary does not impact the administrative line, as that is separately appropriated.

#### **WCTF Grant Application:**

This is just a reference copy for the board of the application which is currently available to the public and incorporates all the revisions approved during the December conference call.

#### **Other Updates:**

Bovée noted that it was originally planned for the board to have a discussion on possible new logo ideas at this meeting. She did send out a request for ideas on the e-newsletter, and did receive a few responses, but nothing that had any real strength, with several solicitations from graphic designers or from artists wanting to provide their artwork for use in a logo. The idea behind the e-newsletter call was actually more of a PR awareness campaign than a full-blown call for suggestions. She is now working with Laura Patridge, the department graphic designer, to develop some ideas based on the words of the WCTF, as images become very problematic as they often lead in a defined direction that may or may not be appropriate to the WCTF. Patridge has been a bit swamped lately, along with dealing with some family health issues. We are only now coming up on her schedule. Bovée will start routing those ideas via e-mail to the board as they become available.

Chair Shonsey asked Bovée if she has been aware of any "attacks" on the Cultural Trust Fund. She noted that at this time there are no directed attacks, but rather it is a case of informing people as to what the Cultural Trust Fund does. Under the previous administration there was a lot of support for culture overall, and with the new administration, there is an education process that needs to progress explaining who and what the Cultural Trust Fund is and does. The first step of this process involves the appointments of our nominated new board members, Katha and Susan Stubson, and Bovée has had to explain the unique nomination process to the transition team and the new staff members of the Governor's office involved with these new board appointments.

#### **Appreciation of Service:**

Bovée took a moment to express an appreciation of service to Mike Shonsey and Barbara Smith, whose terms will be expiring in late February and this is their last meeting. On behalf of Chair Dave Reetz, she expressed her appreciation of their commitment of service to this board and distributed a small plaque expressing that appreciation. Shonsey has served with the board since the beginning with the re-establishment of the Cultural Trust Fund in 2005. Smith has served with the board for three years. The

board gave a general round of applause for these two's involvement and quality of commitment! Smith expressed her pleasure about learning about the Cultural Trust Fund, and the excitement she has experienced in seeing the projects we have support progress and become successful. She also encouraged the board to continue with the progress exemplified by the October retreat. Chair Shonsey expressed his thanks to those serving on the board and the fun it has been to give away money! He always wanted to be on this board to provide the folk arts perspective; and he was amazed at the overall diversity represented in the programs and projects supported by the Cultural Trust Fund.

Needles expressed her appreciation to both Shonsey and Smith for their different perspectives and knowledge they have brought to this board, and indeed all board members who bring this diversity to our processes and our grant awards.

### **Grantee Recipient Reports:**

The following individuals presented brief reports on their project/activities supported by previous WCTF grants:

Gene Gade, Board Member, Vore Buffalo Jump

Gade presented a PowerPoint review of history of the Vore Buffalo Jump and its historic relationship to the Native American tribes throughout the Great Plains. This site focuses not only the archaeology of the site, but Vore Buffalo Jump Foundation is also dedicated to the culture and history of the Great Plains tribes. The site was discovered with the development of the interstate highway, and as the value of the site was determined, the highway was moved several hundred feet to avoid the natural sinkhole. However, that does make the site extremely accessible to the visitor. Being a natural sinkhole, the site is valuable as a material is not "washed down hill with erosion" but rather everything has been held in place with discrete layers of material and artifacts being retained "in situ". The WCTF supported covering building not only provides protection to the site but also includes walkways around the site, and will house interpretive signs and exhibits. The long-range plan for the Foundation is to develop a full interpretive site for the visitor, but this is the first step and crucial in protecting the site from weather related damage.

Amiee Reese, Executive Director, CFD Old West Museum

Reese remarked on the history of the museum and its dedication to interpreting the history of the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo, both historically and contemporary, ongoing cultural aspect of the world's largest outdoor rodeo and its cultural impact in the area. The vision of the museum is to become a premiere, accredited historical and cultural resource to not just the local community but to the national and international visitor. The focuses of the museum is on western art, their historic carriage collection, the history of CFD and the City of Cheyenne. The WCTF has supported two separate projects, the first is the architectural and conceptual planning for an expanded museum site; the second involves an endowment challenge grant. The conceptual planning process has involved multiple focus groups including the broader community users of the site. The conceptual plan includes the following priorities: 1) a carriage hall to better protect the 160 historic carriages, including both the historic carriages preserved and displayed to interpret our history, the 80 "rolling stock" carriages used during the Frontier Days parades, and a place to work on the remainder of the carriages under restoration; 2) collection storage for over 75,000 artifacts; 3) an event facility for community and education use; and 4) a combined administrative facility for both the museum and Frontier Days overall. This grant has been

extended as the original conceptual plans, when presented to building contractors, was coming in a too high a price tag. Revisions to the architectural plans will result in a significant construction savings and yet still address the majority of needs expressed during the planning stage. The endowment funds are being used to rejuvenate the \$1 million endowment fund, which has been ongoing for several years yet has stalled during recent years.

Mimi Hull, Laramie County Community College Foundation  
Mary Ellen Tast, LCCC, Dean, Center of Lifelong Learning  
Kathleen Urban, LCCC, Interim Dean, Arts and Humanities

Hull, Tast and Urban spoke on the project which brought Daniel Pink to Cheyenne for a community event. This was a cooperative project with the Trust Fund, the Arts Council, the College, Workforce Development Council and the U.W. Small Business Development Center. Howard Major, the former Dean of Arts and Humanities, started with a white paper and holding community conversations on the creative economy in the S.E. corner of Wyoming. Major brought together 99 people in the community in October 2009 to determine the gaps and opportunities in the area on the topic of a creative economy for this area. From those initial conversations, a group, New West Creative Economy, was formed to share and create awareness on S.E. Wyoming's creative economy and as part of that awareness campaign was the Daniel Pink event in Cheyenne. Almost 600 people attended the evening event. As this was a successful, but single event, the conversation is continuing with the New West Creative Economy holding regular bi-monthly meetings and supporting such projects as downtown's Lights On! project, the Ignite programs, City of Cheyenne's ongoing preservation conversations, and continuing to share and support economic development projects highlighting our creative economy. Over the past few years, Cheyenne has seen increased awareness of making Cheyenne a more livable community, capitalizing on such activities as the Cheyenne Arts Council being spawned from the Mayor's Arts Advisory committee, the community's involvement in the rehabilitation of the Hynds Building, the City's involvement in developing a solid preservation plan for its historic downtown resources, all are leading to an increased awareness and involvement and have indicated a lot of interest of these ideas within the community.

Hilary Walker, Executive Director, and Mary Humstone, Board Member, Alliance for Historic Wyoming

Humstone and Walker expressed their appreciation to the WCTF for supporting the Alliance's strategic planning process two years ago, and the support for a first-time Executive Director this year. They really appreciate the support of the WCTF in helping build the organization, as that type of support is very rare. The Alliance was founded in 2005 with five dedicated individuals. The founders realized that the state needed an ongoing, statewide presence to advocate for historic preservation and to encourage public participation in preserving our historical resources. The first WCTF grant supported the strategic planning process with a consultant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and to launch a public awareness campaign about the historic resource of the South Pass area and then, logically, lead to a follow-up grant for a first-time Executive Director. The strategic planning process began with a needs assessment including a public input process where leaders and decision makers were interviewed on their perceived needs within the state on historic preservation and the roles of a statewide organization. A daylong retreat with the National Trust lead to a mission statement, a new logo for the organization, and four new board members. They came up with three basic five-year goals for the group: 1) build a sustainable organizational capacity for the Alliance; 2) to create an effective communication strategy for communicating a preservation message to the residents of Wyoming; and 3)

to become Wyoming's recognized voice for historic preservation. Since then they have established new partnerships with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Colorado Preservation, Inc., which means that members to the Alliance now will also receive a complimentary membership to the National Trust and membership to Colorado Preservation. Members now receive the Colorado Preservation magazine, which includes a Wyoming spread, thus allowing the Alliance to avoid the costs of a regular publication at this time. Members also receive discounts to the CPI conference in Denver and regular information from the National Trust. Their policy work on public lands issues is usually behind the scenes, however a recent success involves the newly created Newport Crossing Historical Park, which is a visible "win" that, with the assistance of three energy companies, purchased and preserves 82 acres of land which contains an intact segment of the Lander Road, the first engineered road West of the Mississippi River, and is owned by the Green River Land Trust and will be open to the public this next summer. The Alliance has also been an active advocate for the preservation of the Natrona County High School in Casper, and has helped changed the mindset of the school board to preserve and rehabilitate versus replace this iconic building.

Emma Hanson, Curator, Plains Indian Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center

Hanson updated the WCTF on the "Arapaho Journeys" project involving the photos of Sara Wiles involving both a book and an exhibit. Wiles has spent 30 years on the Wind River Reservation working with the Arapaho people and documenting their contemporary life with her photographs. Hanson noted the social, geographic and economic distances between the people of the reservation and the rest of Wyoming. Wiles' photographs help bring to public attention the people who live on the reservation, with both their beautiful and colorful powwows and their everyday life. The book will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press, and is being supported by a grant from the Wind River Casino and the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. The Casino will utilize the book as a sales item on the life of the Arapaho on the reservation, and as a gift to their distinguished visitors. The book will be out in late April and available everywhere (already listed in the Press' catalogue). Each photograph in the book involves a short essay. The exhibit will involve 60 photographs, with short descriptive labels. The Plains Indian Museum at the BBHC will use the exhibit to launch the book, with the opening in late April and running through October.

Paul Harrison, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Laramie

Harrison provided an update on the Garfield Street Footbridge project. The Garfield Street Footbridge was built by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1929 and is the primary pedestrian overpass spanning the Union Pacific rail yards. The City of Laramie maintains the bridge. WCTF support has gone into new lighting in 2009, with fixtures that replicate the historic lighting for the bridge, and the second grant is now going into repainting the bridge. The City has now also received a \$200,000 TEAL grant for the repainting, and means there is now approximately \$300,000 available overall and will allow the entire bridge to be repainted. The City is currently seeking bids from contractors and is negotiating with the UP for the necessary access to the bridge from the railyard for the painting contractors. The City will be seeking bids as a "design/build" as there are areas which need old paint to be removed, and other areas where the paint is already gone and it needs to be cleaned and primed and then repainted. There is the potential for lead paint and asbestos to be present in the bridge, so the contractors must also find the necessary experts to handle those situations as necessary. It is anticipated that the bridge repainting will be completed in the Fall of 2011. Harrison also remarked on the WCTF process and expressed his appreciation for the Trust application being "spot on" with the focus on the priority for partnerships to achieve the variety of projects. Obviously, the need for additional funding to handle the escalating costs

of construction in rehabilitation and other capital construction projects mean that a \$50,000 grant award ceiling barely scratches the surface on these projects and he encouraged the WCTF to raise the ceiling for these types of construction projects. With that being said, Harrison was very appreciative of the support expressed by the WCTF and the collaborations such as the WCTF supported Laramie Railroad Heritage Park and the Laramie Depot and now the Footbridge, making a considerable impact to the community.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Acting Chair Shonsey reconvened the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

#### **Housekeeping:**

Bovée confirmed the invitation from the Arts Council for the board to attend the Governor's Arts Award Reception at Little America, which will precede the evening's Governor's Arts Award event. All activities will be at Little America. She also reminded the board to complete and return to her or Lisa Koenig their travel documents and hotel receipt.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The Board established their next meeting to occur June 9-10, 2011 in the Sundance area, and to include a site visit to the Vore Buffalo Jump if possible. Bovée will follow up with the details for the meeting and will be in contact with the board via e-mail.

Bovée also inquired if the board would like to schedule their fall meeting to coincide with the Culture, Community, Creativity conference scheduled for Cody, October 6-9, 2011. Not all board members would be available for those dates. Needles suggested it might be more appropriate to have the fall meeting scheduled after the October conference, to better discuss any ideas which come from the conference gathering. Bovée will work with the board via e-mail to establish a fall date.

#### **Grant Recipient Reports continued:**

Larry Ostresh, Laramie Railroad Heritage Park

Ostresh explained the concept of the park which brings together four pieces of railroad equipment in a single place which replicates a 1950s snow plow train. The train will be dedicated to the men and women of the Union Pacific and other railroads throughout the west, that kept the rails open during winter months. The project began just over two years ago when a historic bunk car was about to be scrapped. A citizen campaign raised the funds to purchase and thus preserve the bunk car, and lead to the concept of developing this snow train. The train would combine several historic train components that already exist in various locations in Laramie, including a separately donated wedge snow plow, a steam engine (which belonged to the City of Laramie), the rescued bunk car and a caboose (also belonging to the City). The train replicates the style of snow plow train in common use in the Laramie area during the 1950s. It was decided to bring this snow plow train to the park near the Laramie Depot. Funding was raised from the State Historic Preservation Office, the City of Laramie, Albany County Tourism Board, the Cultural Trust Fund and privately raised dollars to accomplish this re-assembly. The City and many volunteers prepared the bed and rails to hold the train last year. After several delays, and the need to wait until winter months when the ground freezes to protect the utilities under the city

roads during the move of these heavy train components (220,000 pounds for the steam engine), and re-contracting with movers, the various pieces of the train were moved just this week! Ostresh showed a YouTube video created by Chamois Anderson from the University of Wyoming, which documents the physical move of the train components through Laramie to the new park. The next steps will involve preparing the interpretation for the train for display at the park, doing some rehabilitation work on the various train components, establishing a cadre of volunteers to maintain the site, and putting the train itself on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tom Rea and Rick Ewig, Wyoming State Historical Society

Independent writer and historian Tom Rea explained the ongoing development of the new WyoHistory.org website, under the umbrella of the State Historical Society, which will act as an online encyclopedia of Wyoming's history. WCTF support has gone directly to the design of the website, which has dramatically impacted the overall design and the information design components of a site such as is being developed. Rea walked through the beta-site design for WyoHistory.org; he anticipates the full, "real" site complete with a www. designation occurring in late spring. A full blown launch will occur when there are at least 300 articles, simply so there is enough content to be rich, useful and encourage people to come back to the site regularly. The goal of the site is to be fully searchable and useful to students, teachers, tourists, scholars, history buffs, public officials and "Cowboy and Indian" enthusiasts. In addition to WCTF support, Rea has sought funding from a variety of public and private sources, both large and small. To that goal, they have received funding so far from the Wyoming Chapter of the Oregon Trail, Casper Antique and Collectors Club, Natrona County Recreation Joint Powers Board, and the Sublette County Historic Preservation Board. While Rea will not be "selling content" as county organizations provide resources, he will try to ensure content which is pertinent to the county be brought online early. All writers are contracted with and paid, to ensure quality, so the site will not be a "wiki-type" sight with unsolicited material. The ability to have a good designer onboard early, meant that good mock-ups are prepared and allows for better promotion of the site to other writers and funders. Collaborations have already occurred between the site and the State Historic Preservation Office, State Archives and the oral history audio work done by Sue Castaneda, etc. Eventually, with additional funding, the project will commission educators to develop lesson plans for the site which will tie to the articles and material on the site.

Sue Castaneda and Mark Junge, Wyoming State Archives

Castaneda provided an update on the current oral history project on the famous (or infamous) events of Wyoming, supported by the recent WCTF grant. Mark Junge and Castaneda have completed the base work on the Cokeville Elementary School bombing, and work is currently progressing on the Black 14 stories. Future oral histories will be collected on the Matthew Shepard story, Mark Hopkins execution and the boom and bust of Rock Springs. Junge and Castaneda spent three days in September in Cokeville interviewing participants who were the students, the teachers, and the first responders to this dramatic hostage taking. Castaneda provided the board members with a disc of the full podcast of these stories. There were 160 people involved in this event and they were only able to interview 12, but what amazing stories they were able to tell. The interviews involved 3 teachers, 4 former students, 2 parents who were EMTs, Kathy Davison (an EMT and literally the first responder on site), and the lead investigator and a bomb technician. Apart from the emotions which the interviewers themselves faced, the response from the community has been overwhelming and heart wrenching – and eventually cathartic and healing in the telling. Castaneda presented a brief five-minute segment of the compiled remarks of the participants in telling the story of the hostage taking and subsequent explosion. All of these interviews

will be online on our website (including all transcripts), and will be given to WyoHistory.org and to the American Heritage Center. Castaneda has also written to the Library of Congress to see if they are also interested in these histories. The lead investigator was gracious and she now has copies of the diaries of the lead perpetrator. The brief audio visual presentation includes photos from the crime scene and photos from the newscasts. This is not meant to illustrate how these histories will be handled on the website, but rather to give the WCTF board a visual follow-through with the oral stories compilation.

Chair Shonsey thanked all of the presenters.

#### **Visit from State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission:**

State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission members joined the WCTF Board during the oral history presentation. The Commission wished to visit with the WCTF Board to observe and learn a bit more about our processes. General introductions occurred. Milward Simpson noted that a joint issue which both the Commission and the Cultural Trust fund have focused on lately, and that is Cultural Heritage Tourism and in a recent October retreat the Trust Fund dealt with how better to address Cultural Heritage Tourism grant proposals, which is reflected in the new application (which was provided to both boards in their board books). Simpson also remarked on the proposed legislative supplemental budget increase of \$1 million to the Trust Fund corpus. Bovée updated the SPCR Commission members on the uniqueness of this particular meeting, whereby we get feedback and reports on WCTF supported projects from grant constituents in brief 20 minute updates, and reviewed the diversity of today's reports which illustrate the variety of projects areas which received WCTF support. Carolyn Buff remarked that as the Executive Secretary of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, she knows that many archaeologists are appreciative of the WCTF support in archaeology projects such as the High Altitude Native American camps research. Chair Shonsey noted the emphasis of the Cultural Trust Fund to support a wide variety of good projects and that we don't necessarily debate on the merits of whether the applications has all the Ts crossed and Is dotted, but whether the projects themselves have the merit. Smith noted the emphasis on partnerships within our processes.

Dudley Gardner inquired on the management of the Trust's corpus. Bovée reviewed the state investment process of the corpus and how we grant from only interest earnings, and how the corpus is only grown by legislative appropriation.

Chair Shonsey expressed the appreciation of the Trust board for the support and partnership of the SPCR Commission.

#### **Public Comment:**

No public comment was expressed.

Smith moved and Schiffer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.