

Meeting Notes: 5/2/08

Place: West Yellowstone

Attendees: Dick Hulla (NSC), Doug Houston (NSC), Walt Allen (USFS, GNF), Paul Shea (Yellowstone Historic Center), Jiggs Parker (NSC & Local WYS businessman)

Primary Objective: To find a mutual agreement between all parties involved to be able to move forward on the NSC proposal for operations, both in the short term and the long term, in West Yellowstone.

Key Communication Points:

Walt Allen stated that his objectives for the meeting was to carry the message from the Forest Supervisor, Mary Erickson, that her intention was to sell the property (Madison Guard Station site). The forest wants/needs to proceed from the sale for other obligations that they have. He said that there were options for movement of the building and that the forest would commit to assist with that once the NSC provided a plan of action to the Gallatin. If the plan of action provided for "potential" movement to an alternate site, the forest supervisor would, in good faith, be willing to offer an agreement for use of the Guard Station for 2008 and beyond until the site sold and the buildings could be moved to a new site. The costs of movement to a new site, including all infrastructure (water, power, septic, foundations, etc.) would be included in the sale of the property. Walt understands the need for historic preservation of these buildings and has talked with Shipo and his supervisor in the R1 RO. They all felt that while maintaining the present location would be the easiest way to apply for the historical register, moving the buildings on to a new site would still offer a very high probability for getting on the historical register. Walt has been working with the forest and city on alternate sites.

Paul Shea, Yellowstone Historic Center, said that he has been in contact with Barbara Paul, a representative for a National Historic Preservation "watchdog" group and that she is very interested in the Madison Guard Station at its present location. She was going to contact people within her group at the national level to make them aware of the present situation. Paul will follow up with her and see where the group stands. Walt said that the forest will work with this group, in good faith, although the forest still has the final say in what happens according to the regulations. Paul said that members of the city chamber & council want to see the guard station stay at its present location. He also feels this way as there are concerns that the site could be sold to an entity interested in putting up another motel, etc., and a learning center, NSC, would be a much better option. He did show us another potential site for the buildings to be moved to, as an option. The site is at the end of the Yellowstone Museum District, along the old Union Pacific railroad line. The museum district wants to eventually have a train run along those tracks so that tourists could ride the train and visit all of the

attractions in the district. He did say that the city is very supportive of the NSC and wants to work closely with us and we move forward.

Jiggs Parker stated that he really would like to see the guard station stay where it is. He feels that its historic value is at that location having been a big part of the city as it grew thru the 50's, 60's, and beyond. Jiggs said that he worked there in the 40's and 50's. He was speaking as a local businessman and long-time forest service employee from the WYS jump base. He also said that he knew people in Washington, D.C. and would be more than willing to fly back there to talk to them if would help maintain the present location.

Dick and Doug expressed the desire of the NSC to be operational in WYS this summer, in the short term, and in the long term to be integral learning center for WYS, operating out of the Madison Guard Station buildings. Our primary location would be at the present location downtown WYS across from the city park. This is the best location because of its historic value, easy access for tourists, and it works well with the city plans. At present, there are two alternate sites that the buildings could be moved to. The best alternate site is on forest service property at the old airport site. The site is wooded so that the buildings could be moved within the trees and give an old forest service feeling. It is also adjacent to a potential landing zone for the jump operations and jumpers could probably just walk over to the buildings after a jump. Walt felt that the Gallatin would work with both the city and the NSC to provide this site as an alternate. It currently is in a track of 80 acres that the city is trying to obtain from the forest service. The contingency site would be at the end of the museum district. This site is off the beaten path a little ways, although Paul said that once the railroad/trolley were implemented, the tourists would have easy access.

Two things to note with the alternate sites. The first is that all of the costs for movement of the buildings would be written into the contract of sale by the forest service. The buyer would be responsible for the infrastructure at the new site including power, water, sewer, foundations, road access, etc., and movement of the buildings. These stipulations would be drafted as a joint effort between the NSC and the forest. The second thing to note is the primary objective of the Gallatin is to sell the property at the present location of the Madison Guard Station. The importance of this sale will probably never be known to the NSC. They are, however, very interested in working with the NSC, both in the short term and long term. The message from the forest, presented by Walt, was that they are willing to grant the NSC a special use permit ( or some kind of agreement) to operate out of the present location and buildings this summer after the NSC presents the forest with a letter stating the long term plan of operation for the NSC. This needs to be done right away as time to be operational this summer, as we all know, is quickly coming upon us.

\*I'm sure I've missed a few things, although Dick can help me if I did. I have talked with Barry twice since our meeting and will be drafting a letter to the forest

supervisor so that Barry can send it either on May 5th or 6th, 2008. Again, our short term is to be operational in the guard station this summer with a long term goal of working out of the guard station buildings, #1 where they presently reside, #2 at a site next to the old airport, #3 at a site in the museum district. This does not rule out any other sites that might come along in the future.