



Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc.

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Board of Directors

President
Richard Burmeister

Vice-President
Lee Larsen

Secretary
Jim Palin

Treasurer
Rick Swenson

Director
John Handeland

Director
Sam Maxwell

Director
Mark Moderow

Director
Mike Owens

Director
Dan Seavey

Director Emeritus
Joe Redington, Sr.

Meeting of the Board of Directors Millennium Alaskan Hotel "The Official Hotel of the Iditarod" Anchorage, Alaska

9:00 a.m.
Friday, April 28, 2006

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment Period
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
 - 5.1. February 24, 2006
 - 5.2. March 24, 2006
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Executive Director
 - 7.1. Development Director
 - 7.2. Director of Public Relations
 - 7.3. Race Director, Trail Logistics & Competition
 - 7.4. Chief Veterinarian
 - 7.5. Race Director, Administration
8. Report of the IOFC & Mushers Representative
9. EXECUTIVE SESSION
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. Directors Comments
15. Adjournment

Executive Director
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AGENDA ITEM #5.1

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 24, 2006

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by President Richard Burmeister.

Members present: Richard Burmeister, John Handeland (via telephone), Lee Larson (via telephone), Mark Moderow, Michael Owens, Jim Palin (via telephone), Dan Seavey, Rick Swenson (via telephone)

Members absent: Sam Maxwell and Joe Redington, Sr.

The President noted that Joe Redington Sr.'s absence was excused, that he is on the trail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dan Seavey noted that there is not a spot for Musher Concerns on the agenda. He suggested that as item #8.

Mark Moderow noted that the Board had voted to have a written IOFC report for each Board meeting.

Seavey stated that there needs to be a place on the agenda for concerns of the mushers. He noted that he doesn't want to have to beg for a spot on the agenda.

Jim Palin noted the only musher comments that should come to the Board are those that are not resolved by the staff.

Mike Owens noted that as the Mushers' Rep, Seavey has an obligation to bring concerns to the Board of Directors.

Owens/Seavey moved to adopt the proposed agenda with the amendment to add an item for Musher Concerns. Motion passed.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2

Seavey/Owens moved to adopt the minutes of the December meeting of the Board of Directors. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Burmeister reported that he had appointed a Vet Committee composed of Jim Palin, Ramy Brooks, DeeDee Jonrowe, Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM, Bob Sept, DVM, and Susan Whiton, DVM. Jonrowe is the chair of the committee.

Nelson reported that this should be a positive committee.

Burmeister reported that he has appointed two people to the Nominating Committee, David Pike and Mike Owens. He still has one person to nominate.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hooley provided a written report.

Palin/Moderow moved to accept Hooley's report.

In response to a question about whether the chart is for net cash flow, Hooley noted it is reflective of the ongoing operation and how various levels will affect the cash flow target for June.

Hooley explained there needs to be between 40 and 45 thousand Iditarod Insider subscribers if we are to meet this projection. He noted that there are about 400 subscribers so far.

Hooley reported that the press conference at 3:00 p.m. will address a lot of different issues and encouraged Board members to stay around for it.

Hooley explained that a \$200,000 budget increase in sponsorships from the outside company had been budgeted but only \$40,000 was realized. He said the company had agreed to forego the monthly fee the rest of the year. He explained that they do have some leads and the relationship will continue to allow those leads to be followed for 2007.

Seavey asked if the Board could be provided with updates for each Board meeting and Hooley said that would happen.

Hooley noted that the OLN programming schedule is included in his report.

Palin/Moderow motion to accept Hooley's report was passed.

Palin/Seavey moved to accept the remaining staff reports unless there are additional comments or questions.

REPORT FROM THE DEVELOPEMENT DIRECTOR

Greg Bill stated he had nothing to report that wasn't in his written report.

REPORT FROM THE RACE DIRECTOR OF TRAIL LOGISTICS AND COMPETITION

Nordman reported the Anchorage start is acceptable for getting the teams safely to the BLM.

He explained the race will not be going to Eagle River. He asked whether we considered doing anything for the Eagle River VFW, noting that 60% of their annual revenue comes on the day when the race goes through.

Seavey suggested having concessions at the BLM.

Moderow noted that handlers will be needed at the BLM to assist the teams that beat their trucks there.

Nordman noted snow conditions in Wasilla are not suitable for the re-start to be in Wasilla. So the re-start will be in Willow. He said Terry Boyle left Thursday at noon and said the trail is good from Willow to Finger Lake.

He said Roger Ashcraft is headed to Pontilla with two groomers, which are doing a good job. He will call Nordman back to let him know whether we need to get the Iron Dog involved in the grooming.

He said that today Ashcraft will go through Rainy Pass and down through Dalzell Gorge where 29 McGrath people are working on recovery of Richard Strick Jr. He said blasting was done on the avalanche on Thursday. He explained that Ptarmigan is not an option for the Iditarod. He said when the trail leaves Rohn, it's patchy but still good all the way to McGrath.

Mike Owens asked about outhouses. Nordman noted that two are built. One is at Cripple and one will be flown to Ruby this week.

Seavey thanked Nordman for keeping the Board posted. Nordman noted that Andy Willis has been a big help too.

Nordman noted that he went to the memorial in McGrath for Richard Strick Jr.

Owens asked about going around Norton Bay. Nordman noted that he sent extra stakes to Unalakleet to mark that trail.

He said that from Safety to Nome, the mushers will use the back trail behind Cape Nome.

He said he is still trying to deal with the groomer issue with the BLM.

He noted that Rhodi Karella Davidson will not be a judge this race as planned.

Seavey asked if the Pass is safe. Nordman explained it is safe and Moderow added that it will always have objective danger. We can only make it as safe as possible.

Nordman introduced Andy Willis and welcomed him on board.

REPORT OF THE RACE LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

Andy Willis reported that 1510 bales of straw and 80 bales of hay (to Rainy Pass) had been sent out. He said the Heat is at NAC and 1290 boxes will be shipped out. He said the Air Force is now in McGrath flying out the food drops.

Seavey welcomed Andy Willis.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Chas St. George reported that a number of networks will be reporting on the Iditarod including a French production on the Iditarod Air Force, the Discovery Channel, USA (a program called The Dream Job), A & E and an Australian Production Group that will be doing a cool project on winter tourism.

REPORT OF THE RACE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Joanne Potts reported that we are having a problem with Nome housing for the mushers, as well as for others. She explained that many places have housed mushers before are taking in people for pay this year because so many of the places that have offered rooms to rent etc. are no longer doing so.

Owens noted this is an issue. He said the number of available rooms to rent in Nome is down by 100.

Swenson said he heard on the news that the Iditarod was thinking about starting the race in Fairbanks. Burmeister noted that the re-start will be in Willow.

Palin/Seavey motion to accept additional staff reports passed.

Owens/Moderow moved to have mushers carry a plumbers' candle to McGrath where they will be lit to honor Richard Strick Jr. Motion passed.

Owens asked what we can do for Strick's family. Nordman noted that everyone is asking that right now.

Moderow noted that to facilitate the avalanche work we essentially acquired a new sponsor. An explosive company, Alaska Pacific Powder, jumped through major hoops and waived the insurance at a major cost. He suggested they deserve sponsor recognition and the thanks from this Board.

Nordman noted that having Moderow with them when they flew out to Rainy was invaluable.

RE-START

Owens/Seavey moved to relocate the re-start to Willow.

Palin asked to amend the motion to include “for the safety of the dogs.”

Seavey suggested including “and the participants.”

Moderow noted that we’re going to keep on going through this but we have an obligation to do more than hope for weather. Over the next year, he suggested we should do some detailed planning on the re-start. He said the people of Wasilla and Knik deserve some idea of how this is going to be done.

Burmeister noted that the April meeting will be in the Wasilla area and we need to look at and review the re-start.

Seavey noted that it would be a courtesy to the mushers to announce the location of the re-start earlier. He stated it is difficult to plan food drops when the location is only announced 10 days ahead.

Swenson commented there are variables we can’t predict. He said the weather has as much impact on the planning for the location of the re-start.

Owens/Seavey motion as amended passed unanimously.

JR. IDITAROD

Potts reported that 23 mushers will be starting the Jr. Iditarod on Saturday, a record number of teams. She explained that because of weather conditions, the race will start in Willow. The teams will go from there to Eagle Song Lodge then to Yentna Station Roadhouse and after a 10 hour layover, will return by the same route.

Owens asked about the coverage of the Jr. Iditarod. Hooley noted that part of our production crew will be there.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Owens/Seavey moved to go into executive session to discuss a letter Dr. Nelson received from the Yukon Quest and questions brought up by board members Mike Owens and John Handeland regarding liability concerns. Motion passed.

DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

John Handeland: He noted that he is heading to Washington, D.C. and will return on Thursday.

Lee Larsen: He said he had no comment and was sorry he couldn't be present at the meeting.

Jim Palin: He said we need to discuss the cabin that Perrins wants to build at Pontilla.

Hooley noted that Steve Perrins has asked this Board to consider a letter of support for him to construct a new cabin in the area.

Moderow noted there used to be a wall tent used as a hunting camp and for the mushers. He noted that Perrins has said the people could use the cabin when it is built. It could be used for someone in trouble but we need to know it is being built for a commercial venture.

Seavey noted that he went on record as opposing the permit until the corridor is designated as a 1000-foot historic corridor.

Moderow/Owens moved to authorize the staff to file a conditional statement of support so long as it does not prejudice the establishment of a 1000-foot right away corridor. Motion passed. Seavey opposed.

Nordman suggested that Hooley run the letter by Mark Moderow.

BACK TO DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Jim Palin: He noted there is a lot of room for improvement with the teleconferences communications..

Rick Swenson: No longer on teleconference

Mark Moderow: Pray for snow!

Mike Owens: He expressed his gratitude for the time and energy put in by staff during this last week. He said he is eager to get into the Pay per View and wants information to give to the people to push this in Nome. He welcomed Andy Willis to the staff.

Dan Seavey: He asked if we are on track with Emmitt Peters' award presentation this spring.

Hooley noted that Burmeister will attend the ceremony with Peters and we will support him with a presentation piece.

Seavey thanked ITC for connecting to the Historic Inc. website. He thanked Nordman for the contacts to use to send out the historic signs to the communities. He noted that the Seppala grant has been paid out. He also noted that the rules committee is working on the

2007 race rules and is planning a weekend retreat in April. He stated that the staff needs to be commended for a job well done.

Richard Burmeister: He thanked everyone for the past couple of weeks and said keep the wind to our backs and the trails well marked!

ADJOURNMENT

Owens/Moderow moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #5.2

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (TELEPHONIC)

Friday, March 24, 2006

3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Richard Burmeister, President; Lee Larsen, Vice President; Rick Swenson, Treasurer; Sam Maxwell; Mark Moderow; John Handeland; Mike Owens and Dan Seavey. Joe Redington Sr. was excused, being on the trail

Also present were Stan Hooley, Executive Director and Don Patterson, Finance Director.

ABSENT: Jim Palin, Secretary. (Secretary Palin had indicated that he was going to try to join the teleconference but that he had a previous commitment that may prohibit him from doing so). Director Palin shall execute a waiver of notice of the meeting and consent which will be attached to these minutes.

The meeting was called by President Burmeister to discuss our financial experience thusfar in FY06 and in particular, recommended long-term financing options to mitigate this year's currently projected deficit.

The meeting was called to order by President Burmeister at 3:15 p.m.

Hooley indicated that staff had been in contact with our banker at Wells Fargo and that he is proposing that we secure a \$450,000 loan which would have us making interest payments for 10 months per year with larger principal and interest payments in February and March. The term of the loan would be 60 months and would work best with our seasonal cash flow. Hooley indicated that preliminary conversations centered around a rate of prime + 3% with no opening or annual fees. It was his understanding that there would be no pre-payment penalties.

Motion was made by Moderow, seconded by Handeland, to authorize the Executive Director, along with the Executive Committee, to finalize the proposed loan with Wells Fargo on the terms stated.

Discussion centered around the causes for the projected deficits and additional need to discuss other budget implications at the next regular meeting. Discussion of potential loan flexibility, i.e. paydown of principal with scaling of principal payments, also took place.

Motion passed unanimously (pending Palin consent)

Discussion was had and a consensus reached to reschedule the next regular Board meeting from April 21, 2006 to April 28, 2006. Staff was requested to have further budget and expense recommendations at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #6

AGENDA ITEM #7

AGENDA ITEM #7.1

AGENDA ITEM #7.1

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 28, 2006

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships funding held its own this year compared to last year, with a few slight increases, but it fell short of fulfilling the budgeted expectations. This definitely was a year of belt tightening for a lot of sponsors, but as I said, we were able to keep our share while some other non-profits weren't so lucky. Where we felt the impacts of today's economy was when we asked for an increase in their contribution for sponsorship, we were generally turned down (with the exception of a few sponsors) because their contributions, and advertising/marketing budgets were often times reduced or at best kept at the previous year's level. I can't speak for Sylvia Allen who's representing the ITC in the Lower 48, but I would guess that she experienced a lot of the same obstacles to securing new sponsors. My goal for 2007 is to continue working on new prospects, such as the ANSCA Education Consortium, as well as the Association of ANSCA Presidents, both of which represent the 13 Native Corporations around the state. I have already made the first contact in my attempt to get one or both involved as a sponsor. And despite the obstacles faced this year, I'm going to continue to place strong emphasis on getting our existing sponsors to increase their commitment. One goal is to get Chevron and Crowley Marine Services to partner together to fully underwrite our aviation fuel needs, which were at an all time price per gallon high this year, and will probably be worse next year.

We did lose two sponsors after the race this year. **Firstrax**, the new sponsor who produced and marketed a new concept of doghouse using the Iditarod as a marketing tool, failed miserably with the launch of this new product and have pulled it off the market. The feedback they received from their distributors was that most consumers viewed it as a doghouse built for extreme cold weather (the Iditarod theme in their marketing) and so it didn't appeal to the masses in the Lower 48. I doubt if we hear from them again, even when they do produce a new style doghouse. The other loss was the **University of Alaska College Savings Plan** which mostly sponsored the Jr. Iditarod but we also benefited directly. It's a shame that an entity like this, which was a real natural fit with the Jr. Iditarod, would discontinue their sponsorship, but I think we may actually be better off in the long run. If there was a fault with U of A College Savings Plan, they were not willing to embrace the long range goals of the Jr. Iditarod to steadily increase the amount of the scholarships. This is a shame, because we were just starting to see an increase of native village participation in the race, which was a direct result of

having scholarships that were meaningful. The goal here is multi-faceted, but ultimately I'd like to see this event sponsored by one or more entities that truly can envision and implement the long range goals of meaningful scholarships. You never want to lose a sponsor, regardless of the reason, but it does present a genuine opportunity to make lemonade out of lemons.

Speaking of lemons, I did have one very negative observation passed on to me by a business supporter. They were REALLY disappointed that the crowd at the Anchorage Banquet thinned out so rapidly. They suggested two measures to help alleviate the problem. To once again go back to awarding the Caribbean Cruise as a true "door prize" requiring the winner to be there in person to claim it. They feel the way it is now structured as a raffle incentive does nothing to keep the people in attendance because they do not need to be present to win. Secondly they were appalled that so many mushers left after they drew their starting position, taking with them everyone at their table(s). They suggested that it be mandatory that the mushers stay till the end, partly out of courtesy to their fellow competitors who have yet to draw. They suggested ITC hold back something required of the mushers that would normally be handed out at the mushers meeting, and instead not hand it out until after the last musher draws their starting position. I'll add a thought of my own. Maybe it's time to start the banquet earlier like we have done in Nome for years. Even moving it up by an hour would help.

By the way, the annual Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23rd at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage. I would appreciate as many board members as possible attending this event to show the sponsors how much their commitment means to the ITC, and it provides a great opportunity to formally introduce you, our board members, to the sponsors. Please let Joanne know by May 12th if you plan to attend so that we can give the Millennium an accurate headcount. Jeff King will be our featured speaker.

2006 WINTER RAFFLE

For the second year in a row we fell short of selling all of the raffle tickets, and unfortunately this year was the worst with over 500 tickets left unsold. We even increased our advertising exposure over previous years, but still came up short. It really comes down to the best method of selling ALL of these tickets is still the one on one solicitation, and having people with the ability to sell successfully face to face. Just having a truck on display at the restart with 15,000 fans walking by it will not sell tickets. TRUCKS don't sell tickets, PEOPLE sell tickets, and you need to convince the person you're talking to that the deal is too good to pass up, because it really IS. We

have to really work the crowds at OUR OWN venues, such as the Anchorage Banquet, The Start and the Restart. And that is going to require numerous people at each venue.

2007 SUMMER RAFFLE

The Summer Raffle is scheduled to launch May 1st, with \$100,000 in prizes to be awarded. Fortunately we always have the Alaska State Fair as a last minute venue for selling the remaining tickets, but our goal should be to have no more than 500 tickets to sell by the time the State Fair starts. Again that is going to require lots of effort by individuals or civic groups to help us reach that goal, but I can tell you that it's no fun selling 1,100+ tickets during the 11 days of the Fair. Just one stretch of bad weather can adversely affect the crowd turnout, which definitely has a ripple effect on ticket sales.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

After numerous changes to the Rasmuson Foundation grant that I originally submitted last July, we were approved to advance to the final round of the approval process by submitting a full blown Tier II Technology Grant request detailing our needs and qualifications. The final request totals \$225,000. This was designed to cover the costs of computer equipment and software for administrative and merchandising upgrades for Headquarters, as well as laptops, etc. for race checkpoint needs. The Rasmuson Foundation grant approval committee will meet in June to make a determination on our request, and I fully expect them to approve our grant, allowing us ample time to install all of the equipment and have any bugs worked out well in advance of the 2007 race.

AGENDA ITEM #7.2

To: Stan Hooley April 19, 2006
From: Chas St. George, Director of Public Relations

RE: IDITAROD XXXIV Race Overview

IDITAROD XXXIV was a test of endurance with Mother Nature providing a tremendous backdrop of drama. The field of 83 lived up to its reputation as one of the most competitive fields in race history. For the very first time in the 34 year history of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, the drama would unfold in homes, workplaces and classrooms around world through the Iditarod Insider. In addition, Iditarod Productions 2006 documented the race providing world video that was used by Outdoor Life Television Network, (OLN). The collaborative between OLN and Iditarod Productions allowed for the national cable network to post produce its first hour of documentary while the race was still happening. In all, OLN provided three hours of coverage. Other items of interest are as follows;

- Four months prior to the race, we began updating local and regional media on the development of our own production initiatives. We approached local television stations KTVA, KTUU and KAKM to see about the potential of collaboration to provide statewide coverage of the start and finish. KTUU would not discuss the possibility unless their personnel produced the product, and their talent fronted the production. KTVA was very interested but could not interrupt its coverage of the NCAA playoffs. Ultimately KAKM and its sister stations throughout Alaska became the choice for coverage of both the start and the finish of the race. The race was also covered by ARCS (Alaska Rural Communications). This coverage provided Alaskans throughout the state the opportunity to see both live productions. The transmission of the start and finish reached out to a much greater number of Alaskans through Public Broadcasting than any other Alaskan commercial station's ability
- The Iditarod Trail Committee began marketing the Iditarod Insider (our web subscription service) as soon as we had the model up and running during the first week of February. We knew that there would be a lot of questions about the value of the Insider to Iditarod Race fans, and there would be a number of solutions we would have to develop as the Insider became our focal point for providing updated coverage of the race from start to finish. We started at ground zero, and we finished our coverage with a product that we believe is marketable and has phenomenal outreach potential for years to come.
- The week prior to the race, most of the media and public relations activity centered on the field, the start, and the restart.

One of the major storylines prior to the race was the field; 83 mushers and the most competitive top 30 in race history.

The economic impact of the start of IDITAROD XXXIV on Anchorage was once again a big part of the media coverage. All three local TV stations, the Anchorage Daily News, and the Associated Press reported on that one topic. The AP also story lined the Iditarod Trail Committee's video production initiatives for worldwide use, as well as its use on the Iditarod Insider. Tens of thousands of race fans lined Fourth Avenue and beyond in order to get an up close look at the mushers and the dog teams.

The re-start (in Willow) was also a topic of a lot of local media coverage. Once again, the decision by the ITC to move the re-start to Willow proved to be a wise one. In order to neutralize the fallout by certain residents of Wasilla and Knik, the ITC collaborated with the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce to build a campaign around Iditarod 365, branding the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race as more than just a one day a year economic opportunity. The ITC invited Senator Lisa Murkowski to attend functions in Wasilla before and during the restart. The Senator was on hand for the first annual "Musher's Ball" in Wasilla, which sold out. Five Idita-riders made the trek to Wasilla from Anchorage to attend, along with a number of out of state volunteers. We heavily marketed shuttle bus service to the restart, and the venue on Willow Lake was opened up on the ice which allowed for a much more pleasing experience for the thousands of fans who attended.

- Throughout the race, we responded to TV, radio, and print media queries from local, national, and international news sources. We produced thirty-three press releases and media advisories on a variety of race related subjects.
- There were a number of Iditarod Insider queries concerning issues like access, and updates. Many of the issues that occurred during the first few days of the race were addressed and by the finish, we were receiving a very high number positive comments on our coverage and content.
- Our public domain also received a face lift right before the race. The navigability of the new look was somewhat different from the old one. It took some of our fans a while to get used to things, and it also took our developers a while to grasp just how important archived product was to the Iditarod Race fan. In the end, we realize that our new site's look

was an important step in the right direction. We are working with our developer to ensure that it continues to grow in content and quality.

- The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race is in direct competition with a number of media and marketing entities on the web. This was evidenced by the local collaborative of KTUU, Anchorage Daily News, and KMBQ Radio. The website did not match our product, but the competition to feed this initiative did affect our bottom line. Some of our sponsors were either part of the collaborative or helped fund the project through advertising. On a national level, Cabelas is definitely in direct competition. Every time we upgrade our online product Cabelas is there doing the same. In my opinion, the best possible outcome would be for us to collaborate, and combine resources; that is not the situation at present.
- We found that there are a number of sled dog related websites that are literally ripping and pasting our greatest value product; our race updates. Our intellectual property is at risk. All resources that cover this race, or market their product around this race, have to go to our race updates in order to provide concise information. This is a great concern. These entities take our product scrub and re-post on their own skin, touting they have the most up to the minute coverage. This kind of activity has tremendous ramifications for our ability to grow the value of this race in terms of sponsorships in future years.
- The production costs for this year's race coverage were much more extensive than the projected revenue that the Insider generated. Factors that are now under construction are as follows;
 1. Traveling up the trail with lighter digital equipment that has the capability to fire wire edited products directly from trail faster, with fewer personnel and a greatly reduced cost.
 2. Contracting with Greg Heister now to begin the planning, logistics, budget, and personnel for Iditarod 2007's coverage.
 3. Building a marketing campaign that pre sells our coverage of the race well in advance of the start.
 4. Building a comprehensive outreach campaign that will directly market to (lower 48) regions for subscription purchases.
 5. Developing an Alaska Tourism Campaign that specifically collaborates with the State Division of Tourism, Alaska Travel Industry Association, and other state of Alaska Convention & Visitors Bureau entities in order to build greater revenue potential through tourism sponsorship branding.
 6. Develop a stock video library that will be able to market our coverage of the 2006 Iditarod to other resources, i.e. Production companies, advertising agencies, sponsors.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this race in the capacity of Director of Public Relations. As I stated in my report last April, it is my opinion that our race fans deserve to receive continuous coverage up until the last musher arrives in Nome. This year we started some new traditions. We covered the Finisher's Banquet, we gathered our own news stories, and we are building our own 90 minute documentary for distribution in May. Much has been accomplished; much more needs to be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Chas St. George,
Director of Public Relations,
Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

AGENDA ITEM #7.3

Board Report 4/28/06

The race start in Anchorage was successful with the help of good spectator weather, Anchorage Public Works Department, and strong volunteer support. Once again due to unsafe conditions, we could not go to Eagle River. This is disappointing to me after seeing the amount of work the VFW members do to try to get us there safely. Throughout the winter contacts were made with the base and VFW volunteers, but conditions just didn't permit safe trails.

A decision had to be made dealing with the selection of the restart. My number one concern is - and will always be - finding a safe place for the dogs to run and clearly Willow was the choice.

The Willow restart was very successful. I've heard nothing but positive feedback from mushers, spectators and sponsors. Thanks goes to Deb Trosper and her volunteers.

I made multiple trips to villages in the fall as in previous years. This year it gave me the opportunity to discuss with locals trail concerns that may exist in their immediate areas and how preparations might be made early to improve trail conditions for the race. Dick Newton of Takotna was hired and - with a crew of four others - cleared a section of trail around Poorman. This was done with INHT grant money. Before the race began, our trailbreakers spent two weeks working on trail between Finger Lake and Rainy Pass. Long overdue brushing and cutting of trees was done. They took a lot of time, under Scott Duby and Roger Ashcroft's direction, revamping the groomers to get them to the point that they could actually use them to create a groomed trail over the Alaska Range. Very few people realize the amount of time and effort these men put into providing a trail. A post race meeting was held and they were the first to identify the need for brushing and clearing and marking of trail from Ophir through Shageluk. The main concern is Iditarod to Shageluk. They feel that we must send a crew in and get the work done early or they cannot provide a safe, well-marked trail during racetime. This year we tried a new trail lathe. For the most part they worked but there is a concern about the blue flagging that may have come off due to extreme cold temperatures. We will continue to try to improve trail marking and are looking into a different type of lathe altogether that may not break as easily should a sled hit it. At the IOFC meeting this summer just before signups I am going to formally ask for a few members to meet with our trailbreakers to address some continuing concerns of our racers. Drivers came to me with positive comments regarding improvements that were made on the trail.

A tremendous amount of time was spent just prior to the race on the accident that took the life of Richard Strick. Many generous volunteers were involved. I must thank Stan Hooley for taking the time to help to arrange for the work that needed to be done to help insure a safe passage over the Alaska Range, while still being sensitive to the tragedy that had just fallen on the community of McGrath. Some of you have asked how does ITC stand in light of the incident....I am including this communication I received from Richard Strick's partner on 3/6/06 by email.

Hi Mark,

I just want to let you know how much I appreciate everything that you did to help in the recent search and recovery of my partner of 20 years, Richard Strick, Jr. It's is a very sad and difficult time for me and Richard's family, but I am hoping that we will all adjust to living our lives without Richard, one day. Right now I just can't see how that will ever be, but am hoping that time and support from all you wonderful people in the area will help us all.

My most sincere thank you goes out to you and the entire Iditarod Trail Committee & Staff for all

of your support. I know that you are very busy now but am looking forward to seeing you in McGrath in the next few days.

Take care.

Sincerely,

Judy Vanderpool

We finally had a true old fashioned Iditarod...extreme snow, extreme temperatures, extreme winds. When it came to 40+ below zero in Cripple the prerace building projects of Jim Paulus and his crew paid off. Heated wall tents, outhouses, cook tent all made the conditions bearable. The strong winds created their own set of problems for logistics and in particular the Iditarod Air Force. From Rainy to Nome flying was an all time challenge. The potential was there for the movement of checkpoint staff to be slowed, but because of the extra efforts on the part of the pilots and logistics crew, we were able to stay ahead of the race. These volunteers take their positions very seriously. Both the Air Force and the logistics coordinators have had (and are going to continue to have throughout the year) meetings to better meet the needs of this huge and expanding event. This year moving the Iditarod production crew and their equipment in a timely fashion created a new challenge to the Air Force and logistics.

The BLM hosted a prerace meeting that included all the events that use the Iditarod Trail. It was informative and it was obvious that Iditarod followed by Iron Dog led the direction of the meeting. For the first time I have asked the BLM Iditarod Trail Coordinator to host a post race meeting to discuss all our concerns. This should be scheduled soon. There was a lot of communication between Iron Dog and ITC this year, some good and some bad, but I feel our relationship has improved overall because of it. Iron Dog has a new executive director in place and I found her good to work with. She even volunteered at our race headquarters at the Millenium. I think we've been able to bury some of the old negative feelings that have existed for years. I want to continue to improve on this.

Overall input from mushers and volunteers was favorable for this year's checkpoints. I am disappointed with Rainy Pass and Unalakleet for the way that they turned out. The owners of Rainy Pass Lodge were very good to work with and hoped that improvements had been made over years before. There was a problem with the heated room that was to be provided for mushers to sleep in. During the first night one of the exterior doors was accidentally broken by a musher and could not be closed/repared. The lodge put temporary insulation in, but the room unfortunately remained cold for the mushers. While visiting in the fall I arranged for a new building to house our checkpoint in Unalakleet, because the old one was bulldozed down. It provided a heated place for communications and a place for mushers to sleep. We had major problems in setting up the checkpoint due mostly to the 50-60 mph winds that prevailed. Prior to the first team's arrival there was no wind protection for the teams. The reason for this is that the city could not take equipment away from clearing city streets. I plan to restructure the local volunteer support system there and contacts have been made in this direction.

The race judges did an excellent job again this year. Without their continued involvement with the competition and the numbers we have, this race could not run as smoothly as it does. They are John "Andy" Anderson, Lavon Barve, Rich Bosela, Rudy Indermuhl, Mark Lindstrom, Al Marple and Scott Smith. Though Rhodi Karella-Davidson was unable to work on the trail this year due to health reasons, she did help out at the restart in Willow and I thank her for that. As a few of these judges have told me this may be their last year to work the race, we will need to find

replacements. I have some very strong feelings about the officiating aspects of Iditarod and I hope to be able to discuss them with you at the meeting.

Will Peterson has called for a Rules Committee meeting to be held at Sheep Mountain Lodge Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th. He has asked us to continue to re-evaluate each rule. The Rules Committee includes Will Peterson, Bernie Willis, Bob Chlupach, Vern Halter, Greg Parvin, Dan Seavey, Mark Moderow, Zack Steer, Stu Nelson and myself.

Post race continues to be a busy time with checkpoint followup, equipment returns, mushers gear returns. Post race reports from comms and other coordinators are being reviewed. Trail improvement grants are also being processed. I have been contacted by Jim Paulus with a list of checkpoint improvements that he is interested in doing. The most time sensitive one is the building of a cabin at Eagle Island. IOFC has shown interest in securing the land from Ken Chase for this project.

In its third year our program brought Raymond Hunt, a young man from Shaktoolik to Anchorage for Iditarod's pre-race events. Fourteen year old Raymond was selected at Palmer Sagoonik's recommendation. Not long before the race, Raymond's brother died of suicide and left him seriously depressed. Usually active in wrestling competition, basketball, hunting and fishing, Raymond had become very introverted with many around him concerned. Raymond came to Anchorage with his mother, Ellen, and gradually developed a smile which he took back to Shaktoolik and continued to carry into his previous lifestyle. Raymond ended up on live TV in Shaktoolik during his Iditarider experience with Bill Haines at the race start in Anchorage. Many in Shaktoolik during the race came forward in the checkpoint to thank ITC for what was done for Raymond. We should all take time to reflect on what a positive impact Iditarod can have, not only on individuals, but on whole communities.

I'd like to thank Danny Seybert of Pen Air and the staff at the Millenium Hotel for helping this trip to be a successful one for the Hunts. A special thanks to Bill Haines, who went "above and beyond" to make Raymond feel a part of his Anchorage starting crew.

This year a new January-March staff position was created and it was filled by Andy Willis. I think Andy would be the first to tell you that one has no clue of all that's involved to prepare and try to get 80+ dog teams to Nome. He was dropped into the middle of this giant logistical challenge and did well in sharing the responsibility. He was received well by office staff, mushers and volunteers from all groups. I personally thank him and hope we can continue improving many aspects of Iditarod.

Thanks. Hope to see you Friday.

Mark Nordman

AGENDA ITEM #7.4

April 20, 2006

Members of the Board:

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss issues relevant to the veterinary program for Iditarod 2006.

The following is a breakdown of the 2006 staff veterinarians by category:

Program Management (Nelson, Craig,)	2
Trail Veterinary Hospital Providers (Leedy-NOME)	1
Anchorage Dropped Dog Veterinarians (Brick, Bogstadt, Johnson, Rogge)	4
Pathologists (Basaraba, Dennis, Fleetwood)	3
Veteran Trail Veterinarians	26
Rookie Trail Veterinarians	11

Dr. Ken Hinchcliff (Ohio State University), Dr. Erica McKenzie (Oregon State University) and Washington State University veterinary student, Heidi Banse, were involved with research studies.

Mandatory pre-race screening (ECGs and blood testing) commenced during the first week in February. Head veterinary technician, Jan Bullock, and her team of eleven volunteer veterinary technicians and one veterinary student, performed the ECGs and collected blood samples. The number of dogs eligible for screening was twenty-four per team. The total numbers of dogs evaluated were 1865 versus 1816 for 2005. Two dogs were excluded this year because of ECG abnormalities, as analyzed by Ken Hinchcliff. In my review of the blood results, an average of one to two dogs/team demonstrated values that indicated a need for treatment and/or closer scrutiny for abnormal signs while racing. Typically, blood values of concern were manifested by lower hematocrits, and by elevated white blood counts, liver and muscle enzymes.

The large musher field this year, combined with the fact that many teams came from long distances, either within the state or outside, created an unusually high demand for ECG/blood testing during the last four days for scheduled screening. Normally, Tuesday is the last day to test teams, with retests only performed on Wednesday. This allows time for results to be obtained, evaluated and communicated to the mushers, who must submit their list of twenty dogs by 5:00 PM on Wednesday. In order to accommodate this group of mushers, we, for the first time, extended testing into Thursday. Although we made it work, this is not optimal.

We are currently limited to testing a maximum of eight teams daily, which is why the testing period had to be extended. There are two primary reasons for this. First, the

Providence Lab will process up to two hundred canine blood samples daily. Their staff has provided excellent support, but their primary role is as a human laboratory, and we must respect that. Eight teams with a maximum of 24 dogs would total 192 samples. Although teams being screened at those late dates historically have fewer dogs, the demand still exceeded our ability to complete screening in the appropriate time frame. If we were not limited by the numbers Providence could process daily, a second challenge exists. Presently we have two EKG machines, staffed by two groups of veterinary technicians, working during the last five days. It is a difficult challenge to test greater than four dogs teams per EKG unit, process the samples and get them to the laboratory in a timely fashion.

As the race average field size continues to grow, other options must be considered for future years. Option #1 would be to increase the number of test sites we provide. Presently, locations where testing is done include Soldotna, Healy, Fairbanks and Wasilla. By transporting personnel and equipment to other locations where a significant musher population exists, more teams could be screened well in advance of the deadline. Suggestions for other locations would include Kotzebue and Montana. This would necessitate providing transportation and lodging for a minimum staff of two to such locations. Additional costs would include shipping of blood samples and equipment.

Option #2 would require obtaining another EKG machine for the purpose of establishing a third functioning team of veterinary technicians during the last four or five days of the testing period. It is possible that a third machine could be acquired relatively inexpensively, if not outright donated. The obvious disadvantage to this is that we would still be limited by the laboratory's daily maximum. For this to happen, Providence Laboratory would have to be agreeable.

The eleventh annual Sled Dog Veterinarian Training Seminar (February 28-March 2) was attended by 25 veterinarians. All of our rookie veterinarians were required to enroll if they had not previously attended the seminar. I believe this program continues to be extremely valuable in bringing the new vets 'up to speed' prior to heading out on the trail. Each of those attending took part in the Iditarod pre-race examinations on Wednesday. I was very pleased with the enthusiasm of the group and the potential for recruiting future trail veterinarians.

Dropped dog statistics are also included for your review. Of the starting 1323 dogs (1264 in 2005), 443 (470 in 2005) were dropped. This figure represents 33.5% as dropped dogs, which is considerably less than last year (37.2%). For your information, dogs present in teams when they actually scratched were not considered as dropped dogs for statistical analyses. The number of finishing dogs in Nome was 737 (586 for 2005), with an average of 10.4 (9.3 for 2005) dogs per finishing team.

The top five specific reasons for dropping dogs in 2006 and 2005 are listed below for purposes of comparison.

YEAR/REASON	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL DROPPED DOGS
2006		
Shoulder Injury	97	21.9%
Tired (Fatigue)	84	18.9%
Carpal Injury	47	11.5%
Feet	20	4.3%
Diarrhea	16	3.6%
Pneumonia	16	3.6%
2005		
Shoulder Injury	106	22.6%
Tired (Fatigue)	58	12.3%
Carpal Injury	28	6.0%
Feet	27	5.7%
Diarrhea	19	4.0%

For purposes of analysis, dogs dropped for “Not Pulling” were categorized as “Tired (Fatigue)” if no other abnormalities were noted on the dropped dog forms. For the first time, pneumonia entered the top five reasons for dropping dogs. I suspect that high winds and colder temperatures were the primary reasons for this.

Our protocols for dropped dogs remained the same as last year. As in the past, extra veterinarians were stationed at McGrath and Unalakleet to provide care for the larger number of dropped dogs being transported through these hubs. Upon their return to Anchorage, each dog was re-examined by Iditarod veterinarians. After completion of these evaluations, dogs were either discharged to musher local contact persons, the correctional center or transferred to the appropriate veterinary hospital. For animals needing more aggressive treatment on an after hours basis, Bering Sea VCA Animal Hospital allowed our staff access on an as needed basis. Those requiring twenty four hour intensive care treatment were hospitalized for continuous monitoring at PET Emergency (four dogs) or Diamond (one dog).

Two research studies proceeded as planned for Iditarod 2006. In the first study, serum titer (antibody) levels are being evaluated to test for exposure to the new Canine Influenza virus. Serum that remained from samples obtained for the pre-race CBC/Chemistry panels, has been sent to Dr. Cynda Crawford (University of Florida) for testing. These expenses have been covered by her laboratory.

The second study was designed to evaluate pre- and post-race titers for distemper, hepatitis and parvo viruses. Two hundred finishing dogs were sampled in Nome. Since all pre-race serum samples were frozen and stored, pre- and post-race samples were matched for those dogs, then shipped to a Fort Dodge laboratory for titer testing. Dr. Erica McKenzie (Oregon State University) and veterinary student, Heidi Banse (Washington State University), coordinated the sample collection in Nome, and shipment of specimens. Funding for this research was provided by Fort Dodge and the ISDVMA.

Results of both studies are presently pending, but will be presented in a future board report.

There were four race related deaths this year. At the time of this writing, all necropsy reports have not been completed, but preliminary results are included for your review.

The death of Noah Burmeister's dog, "Yellowknife," occurred at PET Emergency approximately two days after being dropped. A veterinary exam at Rainy Pass had demonstrated no abnormalities. Unfortunately, Yellowknife collapsed enroute to Rohn and was presented to veterinarians with signs of severe pneumonia. The dog was quickly transported to Anchorage where treatment was initiated by Iditarod veterinarians at Bering Sea Animal Hospital. That evening, Yellowknife was transported to PET Emergency for after hours treatment, where he remained in intensive care until death. The necropsy was performed at PET by Dr. Michelle Dennis. Death resulted from pneumonia, but the cause of the pneumonia has not yet been determined. Tests are pending.

Dave Sawatski's dog, "Bear," died suddenly between Cripple and Ruby. Dave had stopped the team to check his lead dogs. While walking back to the sled, Bear collapsed. No abnormalities had previously been determined. The gross necropsy was performed by Dr. Michelle Dennis at Dr. Derrick Leedy's clinic in Nome. No abnormalities were found on the gross necropsy. Further test results are being pursued.

A third death occurred enroute to Nulato. Jim Lanier's dog, "Cupid," wobbled momentarily, then collapsed while running in harness. The veterinary exams at Galena demonstrated no abnormalities. Dr. Michelle Dennis performed the necropsy at the same location in Nome. Results of the gross necropsy indicated the cause of death to be aspiration, likely secondary to the presence of gastric ulcers. Although Cupid had been given Pepcid, it had not been administered on a daily basis.

Finally, Ron Cortte's dog, "Jack," died acutely at the White Mountain checkpoint. Jack had been examined by checkpoint veterinarians only thirty minutes previously. The musher had gone up to get water for feeding, and upon returning to the team, Jack suddenly howled out and died. Dr. Michelle Fleetwood performed the gross necropsy, also at Dr. Leedy's clinic. No abnormalities were found at that time. More tests are pending.

Although we did a good job of providing coverage at checkpoints, I would like to take this opportunity to express concerns that I have in regard to our present infrastructure limitations for larger fields of mushers. Obviously, there is a number beyond which our current capabilities to provide optimal dog care are compromised. I have excellent volunteers, but we are all aware of the fact that fatigue does affect judgment and efficiency. I can't state an exact number, but my gut feeling is that when team numbers exceed the mid-eighties, we are stretched to our maximum with current staffing and facilities. Larger fields necessitate increased needs for personnel (veterinarians,

checkers, handlers, etc.), with subsequently greater demands for accommodations and transportation, to name a few.

Consistent with this concern, it is interesting to note that the staff composition of veteran trail veterinarians has not been increasing from year to year, even though the total number of veterans in existence grows annually. I typically accept all veterans who apply, with only rare exceptions. Thus, it appears that any substantial increase in staff size would be represented by a higher proportion of rookie trail veterinarians.

Finally, in preparation for future Iditarod races, I believe that a formal review process should be established for entrants in advance of the food drop dates. Most specifically, all rookie mushers would be evaluated through contact with the Race Marshals/Chief Veterinarians of qualifying races and by input from other relevant sources. In addition, any veterans who have had situations develop that may be suggestive of inappropriate dog care, would be considered. I believe that this would be a very positive development for the race.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM

AGENDA ITEM #7.5

AGENDA ITEM #8

AGENDA ITEM #9

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MATERIALS

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION LAND OFFICE

550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3577

March 16, 2006

Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc.
Attn: Dan Seavey, President
PO Box 2323
Seward, AK 99664

Certified Mail 7004 1160 0003 6488 4691
Return Receipt Requested

Re: Proposed Land Use Permit in Rainy Pass, LAS 25544

Mr. Seavey,

Thank you for participating in the public review process regarding Steve Perrins' proposed cabin in Rainy Pass. Your comments along with those from other organizations have been very helpful in determining whether or not it is in the state's best interest to grant this authorization.

After reviewing the comments we received as well as the application materials, the Division of Mining, Land & Water (MLW) has decided to approve the application. Although the trail has not been surveyed in this area; available topographical maps, testimony from the applicant and topography of the area strongly suggest that the trail runs along the western shore of Rainy Pass Lake. The applicant's proposed site is on the east side of the lake, well away from the trail by approximately 1500 feet. Steve Perrins' involvement with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race as well as a strong letter of support from the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. indicates that the applicant's proposal will not jeopardize the trail or race in any way. A cabin in this area will not only support the applicant's commercial recreation use, but would benefit the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race as well as other trail users by providing an emergency shelter in this remote area prone to difficult weather conditions.

A land Use Permit from MLW is a temporary authorization for improvements that can be removed within 48 hours and is revocable at any time. A stipulation will be added to the permit requiring the cabin be re-sited or removed if it prejudices the establishment of or trail use in the designated corridor in any way.

In regards to your concern about a lack of work by this Department on the Iditarod trail, it is worth noting that in the early 1980's state of Alaska surveyors and land managers spent considerable time working with the Iditarod Trail Committee on identifying and

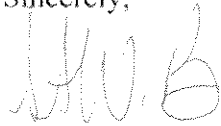
"Develop, Conserve and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans"

reserving the trail from Knik to Finger Lake. The location of the trail was identified by the committee members and was reserved by the Dept of Natural Resources. This effort included the completion of a survey at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars of a route that we've recently learned is now largely unused. Despite this setback the department is committed to continuing to work with the trail committee to identify and reserve the current/correct trail location. It's our hope this new effort will protect the trail from future encroachments. The Department hopes to have in place staff dedicated to Iditarod trail issues in place soon.

A person affected by this decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the "issuance" of this decision as defined in 11 AAC 02.040(c) and (d) and mailed or delivered to Michael Menge, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to (907) 269-8918; or sent by electronic mail to dnr_appeals@dnr.state.ak.us. If no appeal is filed by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on the 31st day after issuance.

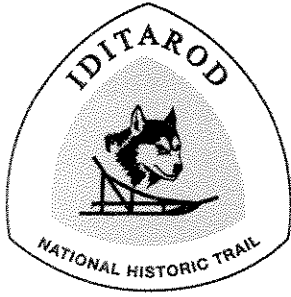
A person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to superior court. A copy of 11 AAC is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Stephen Bethune
Natural Resource Specialist

Cc: Steve Perrins, Rainy Pass Lodge
Kevin Keeler, BLM
Stan Hooley, Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc.



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, INC.
P.O. Box 2323 • Seward, Alaska 99664

April 4, 2006

Mr. Steve Bethune
Natural Resource Specialist
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 900C
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Dear Mr. Bethune:

I am writing representing the Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc. (INHTI) Board of Directors and in response to your March 16, 2006 letter regarding the state land use permit (private LH525544) in Rainy Pass.

Thank you for your personal attention to our concerns relative to the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) and specifically, the integrity of its corridor in that area. We appreciate your time in penning your reply, even though, from our perspective your reply was most unsatisfactory.

Issuance of the Rainy Pass permit without a legally established INHT corridor was both characteristic and predictable. Indicative to be sure of the low regard in which our state holds things Iditarod. Permit clauses considered, and rhetoric aside, the historic corridor in Rainy Pass goes undefined as it does elsewhere. Twenty-three hundred miles of historic trail in the system, 60 – 70 percent belonging to the State of Alaska, which "knows not where it is."

One glimmer of hope. You referenced your department's 1980's work with the Iditarod Trail Committee in surveying and reserving the trail from Knik to Finger Lake and that this route "in now largely unused." I suggest that if indeed you surveyed and reserved the historic route your work was not in vain nor funds squandered. Could not the 1,000 foot corridor be layed out along this survey? The state's duty in finding that to that section would be fulfilled greatly reducing opportunity for encroachment.

We are quite excited over this unknown (to us) survey and trail establishment. Please provide us with the necessary information to procure a copy of that survey for our review.

Your reference to your department's work with the Iditarod Trail Committee gives the impression that this organization has something definitive to do with the Iditarod National Historic Trail. It does not. True, ITC utilizes portions of the historic system in staging a sled dog race. Its chief role, however, was and remains that of a user.

Conversely, our organization's (INHTI) very reason for existence orbits around the Iditarod National Historic Trail System. All 2300 plus miles of it. We are private, non-profit an outgrowth of an advisory council appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Interior in 1981. We have a close and longtime working relationship with all trail partners; private landowners, cities, boroughs, user groups, BLM, USFS and USFWS. Most have signed cooperative management agreements with BLM, the overall coordinator of INHT.

The State of Alaska, likewise, is party to one of these cooperative management agreements, signed some 25 years ago. Over those same 25 years, unfortunately, its most conspicuous role has been mostly to absent itself from things Iditarod. Both in purse and person.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that INHTI recently allocated (gave) the state \$70,000.00 of our own funds plus are administrators of another \$70,000.00 of BLM money for state directed adjudication of rights of way on state lands. Yet, we are not disgruntled. We are, in fact, pleased to provide these funds because without knowing where the trail is on state lands our entire trail plan is rapidly bogging down. One hundred forty thousand dollars worth of renewed hope. That recurring hope that has fired many on our board for the past 25 years.

So, what is to be done? First, I preface my suggestions below to say we are truly encouraged when you say your "department is committed to continuing to work with the trail committee to identify and reserve the current correct trail location." Our hope is that the "trail committee" you refer to is, in fact, INHTI.

Seen from our perspective, I respectfully offer the following suggestions to assist in your "continuing work" for the State of Alaska's Iditarod National Historic Trail.

- 1) Recognize the significant and important role INHTI plays in the management of INHT and support it. We were provided for in the Comprehensive Management Plan for INHT and is the organization through which all government and private entities work. Our next meeting is May 10, 2006. We would be thrilled to have our state represented.
- 2) Honor the cooperative management agreement signed by the state some 25 years ago with BLM, the overall coordinator of INHTI. With so much of the trail system in state ownership, it logically follows that it should, it must, become one of key major participants in its management. Participation equals personel and money.
- 3) Assign full time personel to INHT now! Initially, perhaps, a lone coordinator. then others as the state's active role in trail matters evolves.
- 4) Tackle immediately the task of determining the historic corridor on state lands. Legalize it. Publish it. Protect it. As indicated, set persons to work spending INHT and BLM funds allocated for this purpose.

- 5) Streamline the state land permit procedure as it relates to INHT. For the past 2 plus years INHTI has a moldering pile of cabin logs stored at McGrath pending (and more pending) state cabin site permits. Two permits wanted, requested, needed. Both vital to the safety and comfort, not only of Iditarod racers, but local folks and other travelers over the historic route. Sites selected are along the known corridor.

To date no one in the state land bureaucracy has developed imagination enough to designate these sites. Two years plus and no permits for safety cabins (provided free of charge and maintained by local volunteers) for the state owned Iditarod National Historic Trail.

What a contrast to the issuance of the recent Rainy Pass private use permit where a hand drawn application is submitted one month and the permit issued practically the next.

In closing, I wish to assure you that INHTI stands ready to assist the State of Alaska with its management tasks in all ways possible. To this end, I invite you to visit our website at www.iditarodhistorictail.org, write us at P.O. Box 2323, Seward, AK 99664 or at my e-mail address, seavey@seward.net or call (907)224-3518.

Best personal regards,

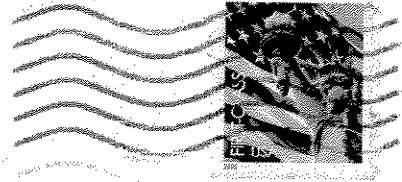


Dan Seavey,
President

Cc: Michael Menge, State Dept. of Natural Resources
Kevin Keeler, BLM
Stan Hooley, ITC

LISA MURKOWSKI

ANCHORAGE AK 995



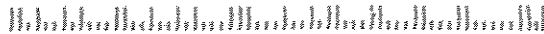
23 MAR 2006 PM 1 T

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Stan Hosley
VTC, Inc.
Box 870800
Wasilla
AK 99687

99687+0800



LISA MURKOWSKI
UNITED STATES SENATE
ALASKA



3/10/06

Stan,

Thank you for a terrific
morning out on the trail. Next
year - we're on to Nome!
My best,

Lisa

NOT PRINTED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE

Stan Hooley

From: Stan Hooley [shooley@iditarod.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 7:06 AM
To: stan.hooley@ak.net; Mark Nordman
Subject: FW: All Alaskan Malamute team

From: Tim Muldoon [mailto:tmtalaskanmalamutes@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 4:33 PM
To: boardofdirectors@iditarod.com
Cc: Barb Salvadore; BillMatott; Bob & Nancy Russell; Storm Kloud Kennels Bob & Nancy Russell
Subject: All Alaskan Malamute team

Dear board members,

We would like to run an all Alaskan Malamute team once again in the Iditarod. The last time they ran as you know was 1994 by Jamie Nelson and owned by Nancy Russell. As you know some say that 12 or more of the teams of the original serum run were Alaskan Malamute teams. Do you think it would be appropriate to let these dogs compete again? As you know they are slow. Unless you could bring back the conditions of the first run we certainly would not entertain the thought of winning and but that is not our goal. Our goal would be to let people recognize the effort the Malamute had in helping save the lives of the people of Nome, help conquer the Yukon and connect Alaska with itself.

With the new times expected from a dog team we would not be able to qualify.

We would expedition the team and ask to run possibly 4 days ahead of the other teams. We would also ask not to be obligated to qualify since this would be an expedition. If it was mandatory to qualify we would ask for a different time allotment for our dogs. We would have the support of the same people as 1994 before we would proceed. We will also have the support of the American Public. Before you make your decision please consider what this dog has done: It has been on all the Byrd expeditions, survived the Gold Rush, Helped save the people of Nome from an epidemic, Served faithfully in the second World War and then were blown up on an Ice flow which almost caused a mutiny on the ship that was suppose to take them home, Helped settle Alaska and open the Yukon. We are negotiable as we want safety first. This request has nothing to do with freight races as this is not what we are out to prove. Can you imagine the welcome they would receive in Nome once they crossed the finish line? A pipe dream? Give us a chance to try!

Sincerely,
Tim Muldoon
Member AMCA