

Members present: Sheronne Mulry, Ruth Hawkins, Joe St. Columbia, Frank Nickell, Faye Wilkinson, Dennis Donath, Martin Graber, and Jenna Pollock.

Joe has received a submission from Arkansas for IC network. Ruth reiterated that the procedure is that a letter from AR needs to go to National, and voting for those is done at annual meeting. Joe (AR) said he has a number of nominations /approvals for NatGeo program. He has been visiting ICs in AR. Terri (AR) reminded everyone that the interview form is on our member site. She said she stopped at St. Genevieve on way here and they have no sign. Frank (MO) said he has 2 places that want to be ICs: 1. River campus on SE Missouri State U Crossroads Museum and 2. Another place in Hannibal. Martin (IA) did site visits. Their MRPC intends to ask for more money from state as they are only getting \$40,000 from their state. He talked about data that Jane Regan compiled. Jenna from Motorhill Historic site, one of our newest interpretive centers in Iowa, said they are restoring 1800s Grist Mill on the Turkey River as a monument to agriculture heritage. She talked about what it means to be an IC on our network and it has been a good learning experience. They have an emergency phone and electrical there now. It was a challenge with the thick walls of the mill. Faye said she had NatGeo meetings all across state and has visited all ICs and they are all in compliance. She has met with legislators and the MS-MRPC is now under the Development Authority same as their Tourism Department. She has a meeting next week. They will have two new ICs applications for September. Dennis (WI) has to visit centers. He and Al Lorenz visited Genoa, WI Fish Hatchery that was funded with scenic byway dollars. They asked us for input on exhibits and they have made a sign already. Sheronne (MN) will give update after May meeting on where Minnesota is at on ICs compliance. Ruth (AR) reiterated procedure for submitting application for IC network. Approvals are made at annual meeting with an August 1 dead line for application to be considered at annual meeting. Dennis had question will new centers have to purchase their own signs? (Yes)

Suzanne will compile an estimate for costs of signs Ruth said maybe if we produce 5 or 6 in the future we might consider a grant or sponsor. Martin encouraged not waiting to put up the signs. In our annual visits we should make sure the signs have the new overlays and to see if they need any help getting them applied. I (Sheronne) mentioned making sure they are aware of the value the signage is to their center. Dennis asked if anyone personally had experience putting on an overlay? Martin added sot (?) of value of advertising as an international marketing tool. Ruth asked if everyone had a flash drive with the training sessions on it. Nat Geo nominations from each state. Terri (AR) made a motion that each state chair check and make sure the ICs for their state that are on the map report back how many are to Suzanne. Joe (AR) seconded. Suzanne said to verify which category they are under on site. Ruth said if you go to the site you can create your own ternary and then check if you want to make it public. Terri mentioned list of ICs. Martin said Edith had sent him a map of all Iowa ICs to each center in their state. Might be good for all states to do for networking. Suzanne will be collecting data from ICs as part of the strategic plan on visitor numbers. Jenna mentioned they use a penny for your thoughts at their site to get feedback from visitors. Terri talked about Kimberly Ray in Alton IL has education books. ~~in Alton, IL.~~

Suzanne talked about possible joint projects with marketing. We can submit events for promotion on web site on social media. Pages are broken down by state. 6-8 events that are signature events. Open it up to events. Submit your event and may put on web site and will include on social media. Encourage our members, Ics, chambers/CVBs. MRPC Event Submission should submit ANNUAL events. She showed an example from Minnesota. Ruth asked about state individual corridor management plans?

Terri talked about Pumping Plant Museum in Lake Village, AR that she discovered and was asking us for advice as they had asked how we can help them. Frank talked about Day on the River that the Conservation group does with free boar rides and a cook out with Asian Carp. Joe reported no new information from a year ago on The Viking Cruises. They are demanding their own piers in towns that they plan to dock. Ruth got letter back saying they appreciate our offer of support and will contact us if they need help with themed itineraries.

Respectfully submitted

Sheronne Mulry

Co-Chair