

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Spring Meeting
April 25, 2003
Sheridan, Wyoming

President Bill Current called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report

Ranel Capron gave a brief overview of the 2002 Fall Meeting minutes for those folks who did not read the minutes on the WAPA list-serve. Mary Lou Larson made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Larson provided the report. WAPA has \$16,789.59 in total assets. The checking account has \$6700+ in it, in part due to a good response on dues renewals. This amount is larger than what we normally carry in the checking, but Tom hasn't been putting money into the Putnam account. Tom discussed the C1A and C1B Putnam accounts and the losses incurred in the A. He asked for a motion to close the C1A account and to put the money into a CD and the rest into the C1B account. Julie Francis moved to close the C1A account and spread the money as Tom suggested. Seconded and approved.

John and Mavis Greer were recognized for their purchase of a WAPA lifetime membership.

Tom also asked everyone to look at his membership list and make any address or e-mail corrections needed. There are several members who are "missing in action," and we need to determine whether to keep them on the books or drop them.

Agency Reports

BLM Buffalo Field Office – Elizabeth Burghard mentioned that the Record of Decision for the Powder River Basin EIS has been signed. There is a new CBM (coal bed methane) guidebook/technical guide that contains information about the new cultural requirements. This guidebook is mostly for clients, but if consultants get a copy, it might help assure that BLM gets the type of document it needs.

USFS – Ian Ritchie told WAPA that Gary DeMarcay had accepted the position of Forest Archaeologist in Laramie and should be reporting the first week of May. For Thunder Basin National Grassland, Ian anticipates 4 to 6 upcoming data recovery excavations. These projects are associated with land exchanges. Also, Ian said that Thunder Basin does not allow any off-road travel. If you need to go off-road, you must ask in advance and the District Ranger will provide an authorization. Existing roads are open for traffic.

Deana Wood said that in the Medicine Bow/Routt forests, if the road does not have a number, then you can't drive on it. At Pole Mountain, you can only go 100' off the road to cut wood; in other areas it is 300'. Best to talk to Ranger as soon as you know you'll need to go off-road. She announced that Sarah Crump was the new archaeologist in the Brush Creek/Hayden office. She said that timber sales and mining were picking up. Also state land exchange will affect the boundaries of the forest.

Rick Laurent briefed the group that the Big Horn National Forest is experiencing a major emphasis on grazing permit renewals. Also Bill Matthews is the new archaeologist in Lovell. So Rick covers BBNF east of the Continental Divide and Bill covers the west portion. Rick also said that the USFS was reviewing jobs to determine whether the job can be outsourced/contracted for, thus eliminating positions. This is also happening to the NPS. Doing some forest planning – encourage WAPA members to comment on that.

WYSHPO – Richard Currit told the group that Nancy Hanks, the architectural historian, will be leaving their office. So that position will be advertised. Also, files search fees will be going up. This will help maintain the servers, etc. Fees will now be \$30. Congress has slashed the Historic Preservation Fund, which directly affects the services the SHPO, among other agencies and state organizations, can provide to the public. There is a new director, Phil Noble (replacing John Keck). They have hired a new historian, Stacy Harvey (graduating from UW), who starts in June.

WYDOT – Julie Francis indicated that the Highway Authorization Act is hung up in Congress due to environmental streamlining, but they may be getting more money. Engineers are moving schedules around, moving projects up, so she is not sure what arch projects will happen this summer. They do have a Paleoindian site, but won't work on it until next year. Finishing EIS now. Projectile points from site look Idaho-ish. Also may have to realign the highway around the Flying V National Register property (outside of Newcastle).

OLD BUSINESS

Awards – Mary will write the letter for Jim Stewart and Audrey Shalinsky, Judy Wolf will do the one for Elizabeth Rahel. Ranel is going to look at getting the plaques. Where might we award these? The Frison lecture in Laramie in September might be a good venue or even at a June Frison WAS Chapter meeting. Executive committee will work on this.

Newsletter – We really need an editor who will prod everyone on a regular basis to send in articles about work that's been done or future work. Russ has said that WAPH (Wyoming Association of Professional Historians) also has a newsletter problem, so maybe we could combine our newsletters. Julie said she thought it would be a good idea since we do have to deal with historic sites. Could be sticky with funding issues, how much space does each group get, etc. Will have Russ look into this further.

List Serve – consensus of group was that the list-serve was a benefit of WAPA membership. Asked Mary to check and see how difficult it would be to pool messages to an archive. She will

check with Eric. Also need to provide your name and address when you sign up for the list serve, so we have current info for sending out newsletters, etc.

Some folks haven't been getting the initial messages and it may be that your server is kicking it out as spam. We could go to a bulletin board service. Mary will ask Eric for a list of people on the list-serve.

We will have a drop dead date of the next meeting, so that anyone on the list serve not a WAPA member, can join before next time.

WAAM – new posters are in. Features the Hawken site. Dr. Frison wrote the brochure. WAPA members who've contributed are: Current Arch Research, TRC Mariah, SWCA, Western Arch Svcs, Dave Vlcek. Also if you didn't know, our 2002 poster won 2nd place at the SAAs earlier this month.

Cultural Properties Form and Handbook - Mary indicated the handbook was not finished, mostly because they were working on the Class III Report Standards. She also reported two minor editorial changes for folks to be aware of. First, under "Factors Affecting Integrity," you need to add in "bioturbation." And on Part 8 of the Site Matrix, the historic period dates do not match on 8a, 8b and 8c. She said that 8b and 8c are correct, not 8a. These items will be fixed and the forms will be re-posted to the Internet.

Regarding mapping, WYCRO has provided 5 opportunities for training. There is an on-line training handbook that will soon be posted on the list-serve. She expects to have formal training again in the fall.

BJ asked if the service was reliable, doesn't crash, etc.? Mary replied yes, they have had times when 15 people were on it at the same time. However, the cultural database is on an old server and it won't take more than 10 users at a time.

Tom Larson indicated it would be helpful to have a regular sign-in without bringing up the map server – just to get to the forms. Mary indicated the reason is for security – we have to have you come through IMS to get to the other information – you are "authenticated" through the map server. Suggestion made to have icons to go to GLO (etc) after the security clearance.

John Greer indicated that 99% of the time, he just wants a specific site form or a GLO map; he doesn't really want to go through the other information to get there. The Department of Revenue website also has GLO's; although they may be in tif format rather than pdf.

Question about material type and site updates – some field offices want information saying nothing has changed. Would need to have a discussion about that with the agency.

SHPO said they wouldn't put out formal format about this. Agency specific.

GPS datum points required – yes? You'll have to create a cadastral point. 5 m or less. Will not recommend units to buy. GPS site center point required.

New Members -- Bill Matthews was approved as a new member.

Testing Committee – Danny Walker and Bill Current have not done much on this. Apparently Tim Nowak was instructed not to release any testing information until the BLM handbook was completed. Judy Wolf seemed to think that Tim might be reconsidering that situation. Tabled until next meeting.

Trails – Ranel Capron read a statement from Russ Tanner, BLM Historian, regarding trails and the management plan to come. The membership asked if Tim Nowak could bring his Trails Power Point presentation to the next WAPA meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Report Standards – Ed Schneider asked if there had to be photographs of each site? Also do you bind the Isolated Finds into the Report (No); Tom Larson indicated that consultants are being asked to provide certain information that is not in the files search. Looking for a general idea of what has been previously inventoried – in the area of effect; site types and criteria of why they are important. Will view shed be important?

PUMP III Grant from Department of Energy – Mary Hopkins handed out a technical brief to the membership. There are full GIS data sets for 8 counties in Northeast Wyoming. There will be a geoarchaeology model for the Powder River Basin completed by Bill Eckerle. Wyoming and New Mexico face the same issues; need to improve the way data is tracked; make better decisions on oil and gas management. This is an outgrowth of a project done in Nevada – Pine Valley – on a smaller scale. It is a 2-year project. There will be a meeting about this at the RMAC.

Project will contain: GIS data set and Geoarchaeology; Project tracking prototype is on line and being tested soon. It is web-based, will automatically create the Survey Report Cover Page and is meant to produce the BLM annual report. Right now are assessing previous inventory in the Powder River Basin and how to quantify that. This will start in year 2. All site form information is being collected for scanning. Have 3 full time people hired for this project.

FALL MEETING – Planned for Thursday, September 18th, evening meeting @ the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference (RMAC) in Estes Park, Colorado. It was mentioned that we might want to ask the CCPA to attend our meeting as well.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – Russ Tanner is chair; Julie Francis and Ian Ritchie will also be on the committee. Would like to send out an announcement on the list-serve regarding nominations for officers.

Discussed possibility of a joint meeting with the Wyoming Association of Professional Historians in the Fall of 2004. We would have separate business meetings, but a joint sessions of papers. Will need to check with Russ Tanner, who might be a member of WAPH. Tabled until next meeting.

Discussed possibility of a grant for geophysical training with Fred Nials and Mike McFaul. Would need a federal sponsor; or even multiple agencies – in order to have infrastructure to administer the grant. Will need to look at requirements. The NPS has Preservation Technology and Training Grants for up to \$30,000, but there is quite a lot of competition for the grant monies. Find a webpage for grant monies and have some people look at it. Go through the list-serve and see if anyone volunteers.

Mary Lou Larson indicated she thought it was a good idea. Might want to start a committee for continuing education. Ian Ritchie, Tom Larson and Lisa Goss volunteered to be on it.

Ranel Capron reminded the membership to send in their calendar activities for Wyoming Archaeology Month.

Ed Schneider brought up the fact that files search fees were going up. Is there a sliding scale for small projects? There is a \$10 increase. As of July 1st, the fee will be \$30. The on-line data is there for you to check files search info in case you think the information is too old.

Richard Currit moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Approved.