

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 14, 2001
Holiday Inn, Sheridan, Wyoming

The meeting was called to order by president Craig Smith.

Report from the Secretary

The minutes from the spring 2001 meeting were passed out and reviewed by the attending members. Craig asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections or additions requested. Mark Miller moved to accept the spring meeting minutes. Richard Currit seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Report from the Treasurer

Julie Francis passed out the treasurer's report to the members for review. Julie reported new expenses including Project Archaeology, Wyoming Archaeology Month, and the Speaker's cost for the Fall 2001 meeting. In summary, the current checking balance is \$4,811.92 and the current value of the Putnam portfolio is \$11,336.80. Total current assets are \$16148.72. Bill Current moved to accept the treasures report. B.J. Earle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

At this time Craig announced that Julie Francis was ending her long tenure as treasurer for WAPA. Julie was presented with a plaque recognizing her fine service to the organization over the years as treasurer and as an active member in many other capacities. Thank you Julie!!

Agency Reports

B.J. Earle (BLM) - B.J. reported her office is very busy with coal bed methane projects

Richard Currit (SHPO) - Introduced Christy Hutchison, the new historian on staff in the SHPO Review and Compliance Office. Richard indicated that the Review and Compliance Office had undergone reorganization and was currently under-staffed. SHPO has requested additional funded positions from the State and asks for patience on current turnaround times for compliance review.

Rick Laurent (Big Horn N.F.) - Rick reported that they are busy with compliance work on grazing AMP's. Kolleen Bean is leaving the Big Horn to accept a position as Forest Archaeologist on the Mark Twain N.F. in Missouri. Comments on the Medicine Wheel National Register nomination have been received from the Keeper. Comments are on file in the Lovell District Office.

Ian Ritchie (Medicine Bow/Routt N.F.) - Announced that David Saunders is the new District Archaeologist in Saratoga, Wyoming. Ian is also very busy with compliance workloads. He is

having a difficult time finding seasonal crews and suggested looking for ways to develop partnerships with the University of Wyoming or other institutions to obtain seasonal crews.

Dave McKee (Black Hills N.F.) - The Black Hills is still working on the effects of the Elk Mountain wild fire incident (25,000 acres). The archaeologists from the Forest and Alice Tratebas from the BLM Newcastle office have worked as part of the Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Team and have requested emergency funds to document fire damage and conduct stabilization projects on cultural resources impacted by the fire.

Julie Francis (WY-DOT) - Julie announced that test excavations were being conducted on the Hulett-to-Aladdin road corridor. Work in Sybille Canyon was nearly complete and the report was in preparation. Data recovery efforts are also underway on the I-80 corridor. Last but not least, Julie announced that a cannon had been purchased for Fort Phil Kearney.

Mark Miller (Wyoming State Archaeologist) - Mark reported on the Dr. Danny Walker's project at Devil's Gate this summer. The multi-component site yielded valuable archaeological data. A large number of volunteers participated in this successful project under the direction of Dr. Walker.

Old Business

Wyoming History Day - Karen Kempton has been coordinating efforts for WAPA on Wyoming History Day. Karen sent out the criteria for archaeology entries to the School Districts. During a general discussion members voiced support for continued WAPA participation in this event. The History Day competition will be held in the spring at a yet to be determined location. When the date and location of the event have been set, WAPA will request a volunteer to judge any archaeology related entries.

Wyoming Archaeology Month - Judy Wolf provided an update on activities. Judy brought posters and T-shirts for sale and distribution. The sale of T-shirts helps pay for many other Wyoming Archaeology Month activities. A field trip is scheduled for Saturday morning with Dr. George Frison to visit a number of sites in the vicinity. Judy also announced the lecture by Dr. Frison scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Saturday evening. The Frison lecture has been advertised locally on radio and print media.

Digital Photo Standards - No new news or reports from the standing committee on this issue. Dr. Mark Miller suggested that staff from the State Archives could be asked to give a presentation on their response and advice regarding digital images at the next WAPA meeting. It was also suggested that Mary Hopkins and the standing WAPA committee on digital images make presentations at the spring business meeting.

State Site Form - Judy Wolf announced that final revisions have been completed for all portions of the form except the Architecture section. Target date for completion of revisions including the handbook is next spring in time for field season. Questions concerning the revision effort may be directed to Mary Hopkins.

New Business

Election of new members - Applications for new memberships were reviewed. The applications were approved and new members include: Christi Hutchison, Kierson Crume, Scott Phillips, Susan Chandler, Rand Greubel, Jon Horn, Alan Reed, Mike Peterson, Jacquelin St. Clair.

Election of new officers - new officers for the coming term are Bill Current, President; Sandy Meyers, Vice President; Ranel Capron, Secretary; Tom Larson, Treasurer; Judy Wolf and Dave McKee, Members At Large.

Bill Current took the Chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

University of Wyoming Curation Facility - Dr. Mark Miller presented an update on the curation facility. Collections manager Judy Brown is currently attending a curation workshop in Virginia. Mark has presented a request for an additional curation staff position. Mark has also submitted a grant proposal to the Humanities Council for funding to complete the "Backlog" of inventory work at the facility. Mark announced that there would be an increase in curation fees. The increase will be as a lump sum box fee and not as a separate processing fee. Fee increase will be announced in the near future. The current facility is filled to 80% capacity. Mark feels there is a chance that the University of Wyoming could decommission the building that currently houses the curation facility and the Cultural Records Office in the not to distant future. If, so new facilities for curation and the records office will be needed. Stay tuned for further developments.

Historic trails management - Judy Wolf was asked to provide an update on the latest guidance of National Historic trails. As background, Judy indicated that the BLM has issued interim guidance with regard to management of trails and potential adverse effects particularly with reference visual resource management. Judy handed out the draft BLM guidance for historic trails. Judy encouraged WAPA members to review the interim guidance. Comments and questions may be directed to Tim Nowak, BLM.

WAPA Newsletter - Craig Smith indicated that there has been difficulty in obtaining information for the newsletter. In the past two newsletters were produced each year but currently there is not enough information to warrant two publications a year. Craig asked for a discussion on the newsletter and he asked for help in soliciting information from the field for the newsletter. A general discussion ensued with support for continuation of the newsletter. There was also general support for continuing the newsletter in hard copy format rather than as an electronic form. It was suggested that one newsletter be produced each year. Julie Francis suggested that a call for information could be sent out in January with publication of the newsletter in early spring. An electronic list server could be used to gather information. Richard Currit suggested that abstracts from current or completed projects could be posted on the list server as well. Craig suggested that membership lists could be posted here as well.

The membership of WAPA would like to express thanks to Mary Hopkins and Eric Ingbar for their work on the list server.

Several decisions were made: (1) Craig Smith will continue to publish a newsletter once a year, in early spring as suggested; (2) Any further discussion regarding the newsletter can be conducted on the list server; (3) Craig will need a volunteer to solicit and provide information to him for the newsletter.

New web page addresses - Karen Kempton announced the new web page address for SHPO is <http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us> and for WAPA is <http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/wapa>. There will be a link to the WAPA web page on the SHPO page.

Tribal Consultation - Scott Burgen, a member of the Sheridan WAS chapter, expressed a concern about tribal consultation and asked about the status of that activity. Several members including Judy Wolf and Dave McKee provided brief overviews of state and federal efforts in regard to tribal consultation.

Spring Meeting - Julie Francis announced that WAPA has been invited to hold a joint spring meeting with the Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS). The Spring WAS meeting is scheduled for April 19-21 in Riverton at the Holiday Inn. It was mentioned that the Inn had recently been damaged by fire but was under repair and up and running for business. Following a discussion, the membership voted to accept the invitation and participate in a joint meeting. WAPA members will have an opportunity to present papers on current projects at the meeting. More information on the spring meeting including a call for papers will be available on the WAPA list server.

At this time there was no further business. Richard Currit moved that the meeting adjourn. Carol Agard seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting Adjourned.

Recorded by Dave McKee, Board Member At Large, 9/26/2001

Edited and submitted by Ranel Capron, Secretary