

**Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists  
Minutes of the Spring 1999 Meeting  
Sundance, Wyoming  
April 23, 1999**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

The agenda for the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists Business Meeting, scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, April 23, 1999 was discussed. Issues to be presented include the Secretary's Report, the Treasurer's Report, agency reports, old business including the outcome of the reorganization of the Wyoming Department of Commerce, nomination of officers, a discussion of the declining WAPA membership, any new business, and the location of the Fall 1999 WAPA business meeting which has already been scheduled for Friday, September 17, 1999 in Rock Springs in association with the events and activities for Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month.

**Business Meeting**

**PRESIDING:** Paul Sanders, President

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of the Fall 1998 WAPA meeting were distributed. No suggestions for changes were made. The group discussed the need to announce meetings earlier than has occurred recently. We have traditionally relied on the WAPA Newsletter to announce the time and location of the next meeting about a month in advance, but given the lateness of recent issues, this has not happened. Because of the early date of the next meeting, a meeting announcement will be prepared soon and e-mailed to everyone who has an e-mail address on file and send it via regular mail to those who don't. It was also noted that arrangements are being made for a special room rate for WAPA members at the Outlaw Inn in Rock Springs for the September meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Julie Francis distributed copies of the WAPA Financial Statement as of April 20, 1999. The money market account continues to grow. Annual membership dues are due. A discussion was held regarding the difference in cost for the Fall and Spring Newsletter copying as shown in the Treasurer's Report dated November 6, 1998. This occurred because of an error on the part of Kinkos during the duplication of the Spring issue which resulted in free printing. The only cost incurred for that issue was the mailing. In addition, 100 extra copies were made of the Fall issue for a WAPA membership drive. Thus, the cost of the Fall issue appeared significantly higher. Danny Walker raised the issue of the possibility of duplicating the newsletter electronically which would result in reduced copying costs. The University of Wyoming has duplicating services for electronic submissions and this is how the Wyoming Archaeologist was done recently. Craig Smith indicated TRC Mariah is receiving a discount now at Kinkos. After discussion it appeared that the general consensus was that everyone likes the current format and appreciates Craig's and Mariah's efforts to produce the WAPA Newsletter. It was noted that Gary DeMarcey will no longer be the news gatherer for the Newsletter and that we will need another volunteer to take over this job. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**State Historic Preservation Office:** Judy Wolf reported on recent meetings with the Forest Service regarding the Range Programmatic Agreement which have gone well. Some forests are still out of compliance but in general

things are greatly improved. The annual meeting to discuss the BLM PA and Protocol was held last week. Business is proceeding very well under the protocol. The BLM will be working on producing the guidance handbook to accompany the protocol very soon. SHPO has met with the National Park Service regarding issues at Devils Tower National Monument including overflights of the Tower as a result of the new Hulett Airport which has been approved for construction, and the climbing management issue. Regarding the Medicine Wheel, SHPO was informed about a lawsuit which is being filed by the Mountain States Legal Foundation on behalf of a timber company to challenge the management plan and boundaries of the Medicine Wheel landmark. The Advisory Council's new implementing regulations will be out in the Federal Register in the next couple of weeks and will be available on the Internet. The Council will offer federal agencies and SHPOs training in the changes to the 36 CFR 800 regulations soon. The SHPO will post a link to the new regulations on the SHPO web page. Dr. Ray Wood of the University of Missouri will be the keynote speaker for Wyoming Archaeology Month on September 18 in Rock Springs. Judy has already lined up David Hurst Thomas to be the keynote speaker for the 2000 Wyoming Archaeology Month. His talk will be presented at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, possibly on September 9, 2000. Archaeology Month 1999 tee shirts, posters, and the calendar of events are now available.

**National Park Service:** Paul Sanders reported on behalf of Ann Johnson, Yellowstone National Park, that copies of Les Davis's Obsidian Cliff report are currently available.

**Bureau of Land Management:** Ranel Capron reported there will be a Project Archaeology workshop in early June in Rock Springs at Western Wyoming Community College and will be held in association with a field school. This will be the first workshop in over a year. Ranel is willing to work with anyone interested in trying to arrange a workshop. The BLM, along with Western Wyoming College are sponsoring an antelope procurement symposium in September, the same weekend as the WAPA meeting and Archaeology Month keynote lecture. The schedule of presentations includes speakers from Game & Fish and other agencies. An attempt will be made to publish the papers, and the symposium may also be given at the Rocky Mountain Archaeological conference in Glenwood Springs, Colorado this year. The archaeologist position which was open in Lander has been tabled for a while. It may reopen again. Brian Culpepper, the new archaeologist in the Worland Field Office, was introduced to the membership.

**Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist:** Mark Miller informed the membership about the forthcoming WAS Fall Workshop at the University of Wyoming on Saturday, September 4, 1999. He also reported on upcoming field work which will be conducted this season at Miner's Delight, Fort Caspar, and possibly Fort Steele.

**U.S. Forest Service:** Dave McKee reported that he has recently moved from the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest in Saratoga to the Black Hills National Forest in Custer, South Dakota. He will be working on an integrated data base and GIS which will join archaeology with other resources. Other focuses for his attention will be the relationship of the Forest with contractors, consultation with Native American tribes, and increasing boosting public outreach and education efforts.

**Wyoming Department of Transportation:** Julie Francis reported that excavations by OWSA will continue this summer at the China Wall Site in Sybille Canyon and that visitors are welcome. Work by Mariah will continue on the Hulett to Aladdin highway project. There will be a data recovery project along I-80 near Fort Bridger focusing on two prehistoric sites. A TEAL Grant has been awarded for an archaeology project at Fort Phil Kearny. With appropriate input from several agencies, the Highway Department has decided to close the road through the Fetterman Battlefield site because of landslides. This will help ensure protection of the site. There are plans to improve visitor facilities at the location.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Wyoming Department of Commerce Reorganization:** Paul Sanders reported on the successful results of WAPA's involvement in the consortium of professional cultural organizations in the state which lobbied the state legislative committee to maintain the status quo for the Commerce Department reorganization. With the assistance of John Albanese and Rick Bryant, letters were written and meetings were attended in order to stress the preference to keep the current structure and rename the department to the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

**WAPA Anniversary:** Mark Miller noted that 1999 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists.

**Vote on Two New Members:** Robert Kelly and Mark Howe were accepted unanimously as new members of WAPA.

## **NOMINATION OF OFFICERS**

Paul Sanders opened the floor for nominations for the next election. A full slate of officers to serve a two year term is needed. In addition, a new editor responsible for gathering news for the WAPA Newsletter is needed, since Gary DeMarcay has stepped down from this job. **Nominations from the floor included:**

**Secretary:** Ranel Capron (who accepted with the caveat that she wants to ensure that there will be access to a computer hookup for taking meeting minutes)

**Treasurer:** Julie Francis

**Vice President:** John Albanese, B.J. Earle

**President:** Craig Smith

**Members-at-Large:** Judy Wolf, Dave McKee

Because of the small membership turnout at this meeting, it was decided to leave the nominations open and send out a notice to the membership that names would continue to be taken until the end of May. A motion was made to extend the nomination period until May 31. It was seconded, with all in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**WAPA at 20:** A discussion was led by Paul Sanders about the declining WAPA membership and interest in the Association. The membership discussed the role and goals of WAPA now, the fact that everyone is getting older and have different responsibilities, how electronic communication can bring us closer without actually having to meet, our relationship with the Wyoming Archaeological Society, our change in focus to public outreach rather than contentious Section 106 projects, and the difficulty in attracting new and younger members. Some suggestions were made as to how we could attract new members and encourage current members to attend the meetings: hold meetings in more convenient locations; try to avoid times of bad winter weather; solicit ideas from the membership way in advance of meetings for agenda items; meet in association with other activities and plan to have the business meeting in the middle of other scheduled events; develop a meeting theme to make the business meeting more inviting; offer professional paper presentations; contact contractors to come to the meetings to talk about their current projects; offer training opportunities, for example, a rock art recording in the Bighorn Basin or another geomorphology training session similar to one done in southwest Wyoming a few years ago; brainstorm at the fall meeting for activities to be planned for the following spring meeting. Paul stated that these were all good ideas to try and enhance the participation in WAPA, but that it still takes people to organize and make events happen and it also takes an effort on the part of the membership to attend.

**New Lobbying Effort:** Todd Thibodeau presented a discussion on the possibility of developing a professional lobby for the benefit of historic preservation and cultural resources in the state of Wyoming. This idea was the result of the successful coming together of several interested groups to express a unified voice for the reorganization of the Wyoming Department of Commerce. The same groups are now being approached to see if they would be willing to support the concept of hiring a professional lobbyist and to provide financial assistance. In addition to WAPA these groups are the Wyoming Archaeological Society, the Wyoming Association of Professional Historians, the Alliance for Arts Education, the Wyoming State Museum Volunteers, and the Wyoming State Historical Society. A lobbyist would provide a voice in the legislature when issues dealing with historic preservation and cultural resources arise. Todd is seeking support for the concept at this point and will approach the groups later for financial assistance. He foresees that it will take about \$4000 a year which would be approximately \$250 per year per organization if all participate. Ideally, a lobbyist would be hired and on board for the next legislative session. A monetary commitment is not required until probably the Fall of 1999. An extended discussion regarding this issue was held among the membership. The general consensus was that this is a good idea, and that WAPA should support the initiative.

Following a motion made by John Albanese to donate \$250 to the lobbying effort, Danny Walker voted no and called for further discussion regarding the need for additional information and more specific details before WAPA commits to financial assistance. It was decided to ask for a volunteer to be WAPA's representative and to work with Todd in this initiative. John Albanese volunteered to do this and said he would report to the membership at the Fall WAPA meeting with additional details about how things are progressing. If he reports favorably in the Fall, then the membership can consider and vote on the issue at that time. Todd also committed to writing an article for the WAPA Newsletter. A motion was made to wait until the Fall meeting to vote on the issue of financial support for the lobbyist initiative. The motion was seconded with no more discussion and passed by the membership present.

**Devils Tower Issues:** Chas Cartwright, Superintendent of Devils Tower National Monument, was introduced to the membership and discussed several high profile issues at the Park. He provided very interesting details about the continuing battle in the courts regarding the climbing management plan, the FAA approval of construction of an airport at Hulett and the effects air traffic from the airport might have on the Tower, and the controversy regarding a proposed name change of the National Monument. He also talked about the controversy currently being debated over the collection of natural resources in the Park such as plants and rocks by the general visiting public and Native Americans. And he discussed the results of a two year study of the archaeology of the Tower which found that there is a high density of prehistoric sites in the Park with most of the sites dating to the Archaic time period.

**Final Note:** Mary Lou Larson, via a written note, re-requested financial support from WAPA for the Rocky Mountain Archaeological Conference to be held at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs, Colorado September 30 through October 2, 1999. Paul Sanders made the motion to donate \$150 to help fund the RMAC conference. Mark Miller seconded the motion, no discussion was requested, and the membership approved the motion.

**ADJOURN:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to adjourn the meeting. Paul Sanders adjourned the meeting at 4:25 P.M.