

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Spring Meeting
April 19, 2002
Riverton, Wyoming

CALL TO ORDER -- President Bill Current called the meeting to order.

SECRETARY'S REPORT -- Ranel Capron read the minutes from the last meeting and thanked Dave McKee for taking them. Dave indicated that a change needed to be made. He forgot to mention that the WAPA membership voted to give \$100 to the Island in the Plains Conference.

Bob Kelly moved to accept the minutes as corrected and Russ Tanner seconded him. Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Tom Larson reported that we have \$15,806.73 in total assets. There is \$275.52 in the checking account and \$11,531.21 in the Putnam account. Tom received \$380 in dues and \$260 for the scholarship fund.

Bob Kelly asked about Putnam and whether it was doing well. Tom said he thought as well as could be expected. Bill Current asked for financial advisor volunteers who could advise WAPA on whether to switch, etc.

Julie Francis moved to accept the report and Mary Lou Larson seconded it. Passed.

AGENCY REPORTS

Casper BLM - Chris Arthur indicated that he received \$20,000 to do a survey around the base and periphery of the Cedar Ridge Traditional Property. This will be contracted out. He is still working on the Bairoil Hartzog Draw Pipeline.

Worland BLM - Mike Bies announced that the Rock Art Recording Weekend would again be held the weekend of Father's Day (June 14-16, 2002) in Tensleep. Call Mike for more information. Mike also introduced Mark Bollack, a new BLM archaeologist in Worland.

Buffalo BLM - BJ Earle said that they had a big year with Coal Bed Methane and also got a grant for \$4,000 to repair a petrified tree.

Kemmerer BLM - Lynn Harrell announced that Ed Jess was hired as a second archaeologist in Kemmerer, allowing them to keep up with projects and work on their backlog. They have lots of issues with historic trails.

Rock Springs BLM - Russ Tanner indicated that the Trails Management Interim Guidance issued last fall has been retracted this year. We are still left with the regulations to manage settings with trails. Andy Tenney was hired as the Trails Coordinator. He will deal with both historic and recreational trails issues. He is the former Recreation Planner in Rock Springs, but is now at the State Office. Russ has been detailed to the State Office as a Trails Historian to do additional work on the trails context, but he is still located in Rock Springs. BLM will start writing an updated trails management plan this fall.

Rock Springs BLM has hired Buck Damone as a 2 year term and Jo Foster as a 6 month term.

Several other projects going on: Mitigation at Maxon Ranch with Questar; Black Butte Coal expansion as well as some burn areas from last year.

Pinedale BLM - It was announced that Dave Vlcek has taken a job with the BLM in Gunnison, Colorado. We expect BLM to fill behind Dave when he leaves. There will be a going-away party on Friday, May 10th, in Pinedale. NOTE Dave decided to decline the offer and is remaining in Pinedale.

Kierson Crume was hired last year as a 2nd archaeologist for the office.

Also, they received funding to do a study on the Lander Trail.

State Archaeologist's Office - Mark Miller said that they are about 40% done on the backlog of collections management and they expect it will take 7-10 years to finish. They currently only have funding for 1 position. Just got some additional dollars from the Legislature for an 18-month detail. The grant to NEH was declined. NEH believes that the federal agencies should fund all their curation.

U.S. Forest Service - Dave McKee said the Big Horn National Forest is working on fire restoration - salvage of burned wood. There will be a lot of compliance work - substantial contracts. This summer they will do restoration work at an historic cabin. And they are working on rock art management plan in the southern Black Hills.

Merry Hayden said that the Bridger Teton NF had students from Washington & Lee last summer for a PIT project at the Wind River Sheep Massacre site. Dates to about 1904 according to photos, which is during the cattlemen/sheepmen wars. They were looking for deposition and to identify the photo location. For the Caribou-Targhee in Idaho, they discovered that artifacts from an excavation were recent human remains and the area was declared a crime scene. She also said that their site database is up and running with 1100 sites on the forest (in IMACS) and they have created a GIS layer.

SHPO - Richard Currit said he went to the Legislature and asked for more positions. The Governor said yes, but the Joint Appropriations Committee said no. (Russ suggested that we provide a list of archaeological consultants to the State Legislature, so they can see how much taxes we generate.)

SHPO has hired Sheila Powley to do Review & Compliance on a contract basis. A 2 year term position should come out shortly. It has been an exceedingly busy year.

National Park Service - Jackie St. Clair, Grand Teton National Park, said that they are trying to come into compliance. They have several prescribed burns coming up and have applied for dollars to do an historic stabilization. Want to digitize base maps. Planning to go to the Enclosure site with SHPO staff (helicopter up and walk down).

Wyoming DOT - Julie Francis said they will be doing surveys this summer and continue to plan for a 4-lane initiative, but do not expect it to be built. She discussed a rock art project conducted on a landslide area. They are very busy.

University of Wyoming - Bob Kelly - the Doctoral program will start in the fall of 2003. They have requested another archaeologist either in faunal or geoarchaeology. They have lots of projects this summer: Juniper Cave, Middle Park, Granger, Newcastle and a comparison of Moxa with Jonah. He announced that the Mulloy Lecture would be given by Kathy Stryer, a primatologist, on May 3rd. There will also be a symposium on the Ecological Indian at the American Heritage Center.

Danny Walker said that he got funding from the NPS at Fort Laramie and will be doing more remote sensing there. He hopes to have 2 years of testing after that.

Announced that Ft. Phil Kearny got a grant and will be offering magnetometer and metal detection training there the end of May. Call the Fort for more information. (Ranel said it is also in the Archaeology Calendar of Events.)

It was announced that Larry Loendorf is adjunct faculty at UW and is working on an ethnohistory of the Powder River Basin for BLM.

OLD BUSINESS

Wyoming History Day

Danny Walker explained that two or three years ago, the lead changed to the American Heritage Center. It appears that for both the WAS and WAPA awards, the folks at AHC are making the decision as to what comes to us for consideration of our award. Danny has heard several papers that could have been considered for our award but were not forwarded to us. So of late, there have not been any qualifying papers, thus no awards. Danny plans to go over to AHC several weeks ahead of the competition and ask to go through all the entries.

The question was asked whether the award could be given retroactively. The answer was no.

Carolyn Buff recommended that we go to the District competitions and talk to the District Chairperson. That helps get the word out at the lower level and then the chairperson can tell the teachers about the archaeology award.

Mary Lou said that the person who ran History Day was leaving, so there will be a new person in charge.

ACTION ITEM -- We need to get Karen's criteria for award over to the AHC people for inclusion in their Fall 2002 mailing.

Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month

Judy Wolf announced that our 2001 poster of Devils Tower won First Place at the SAA competition again this year. The 2002 poster is of Independence Rock. The NPS wrote the brochure.

Karen Kempton asked if someone would read the list of sponsors and Dave McKee did so. These are: Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service, Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists, Wyoming Archaeological Society, Oregon-California Trails Association, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming Army National Guard, Wyoming Business Council, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, University of Wyoming Department of Anthropology, Current Archaeological Research, TRC Mariah Associates, Inc., SWCA Inc. Environmental Consultants, Western Archaeological Services.

The Archaeology Calendar of Events was handed out to folks as well as T-shirt order forms.

Bob Kelly asked if we should recognize the graphic designer in some way. It was so moved and Danny Walker seconded that. Passed.

ACTION ITEM -- Ranel Capron will check on getting a plaque fixed up for her.

Judy also mentioned that WAPA would be partnering again with the Game & Fish Expo in Casper, the first weekend in September. If anyone would like to come and volunteer their time, we'd appreciate it.

Photo Standards

The information was handed out. Mary would like to make these final, so if you see anything glaring, let Mary know, otherwise these will be posted on the SHPO website as final.

Cultural Property Form

Judy and Mary are working on a handbook that should be completed in a few months. Several categories on the form have been cut back.

Newsletter

There was virtually no input from the membership with news to include in a newsletter. The announcement for the Spring meeting was put on the WAPA list-serve, so everyone needs to make sure they are on that mailing list. Discussion on the newsletter was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Position – Ranel Capron read Sandy Meyer's letter of resignation from the position of vice president. Due to her new position as Associate Field Manager for Resources in the Rawlins Field Office, she is not able to devote as much time to WAPA as she had intended.

The floor was then opened for nominations for a new vice president.

Jackie St. Clair nominated Russ Tanner. Chris Arthur seconded that. Russ agreed to serve. Motion passed.

Project Archaeology – Ranel Capron announced that there would be a Project Archaeology Workshop in the Newcastle area July 23-25 and one in Casper in August.

TERO – Ranel Capron read an e-mail from Carmel Kail regarding the Tribal Employment Rights Office at Fort Washakie. She indicated that some tribal members might be interested in doing crew member-type work for archaeological consultants. TERO could advertise the work description, collect applications and screen applicants. For more information, contact Leon Tillman, Stanford St. Clair or Francene Shakespeare at 332-7618 or 332-5705.

Membership levels -- Chris Arthur brought up the issue of having family memberships. Since the WAPA membership cost is \$20, then a family membership should be \$30.

Mavis Greer indicated seeing a benefit for lifetime membership. Since we are working now and can afford to pay a higher fee, so that we could keep up the benefits of membership even after we are retired. Bob Kelly indicated that SAA had determined that there was little benefit for a Lifetime membership. It was decided to do a bit more research into lifetime memberships and the issue was tabled until the fall meeting.

Lynn Harrell moved that we initiate a \$30 family membership level; Chris Arthur seconded it. Motion passed.

Island in the Plains – Dave McKee thanked WAPA for the funding it has provided in the past. The 10th Annual was held a few weekends ago with a wide variety of papers. There were close to 100 registered attendees. The poster featured Deadwood and the 1876 excavations of China town. Check out Dave's USFS website. The evening program was provided by Dana Valencourt, funded by Humanities Council.

Governmental Affairs Committee -- is there an interest in this? Basically you read the cultural resource sections of EAs, EISs, etc and comment for WAPA. Russ Tanner indicated this could be important, especially with all the fast-track planning effort going on in BLM right now. Dave McKee said there are a lot of Forest Plan Amendments coming up. Richard Currit said there were also going to be new RMPs. Chris Arthur suggested that those in private sector might have the most influence. Russ said we might want to work with WAS on this. Tom Larson is currently receiving these items. Chris said that lots of documents will be on the federal websites. We could post the addresses on the list serve. Julie can provide information on WYDOT.

Committee formed consisting of John Goss, Mavis Greer, Bill Current and Chris Arthur.

New Members

The following were introduced for membership to WAPA: Russell Richard, Sheila Powley, Larry Lahren, John Goss, Brent Slensker and Sharon Long.

John Albanese moved that we accept the nominations of the Executive Council. Mary Lou Larson seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Current asked that we encourage new folks to join. Danny Walker asked how many members there were and Tom Larson replied that there were about 120. John Greer asked how can we get more consultants to join WAPA? Chris Arthur moved that we send out a letter of interest to permittees and Russ Tanner seconded this. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM – Send a letter of interest to permittees to see if we can generate new memberships.

American Rock Art Research Association – Larry Loendorf mentioned that the American Rock Art Research Association was having their meeting in Dubois, May 24-27, 2002. David Love will be in attendance and the Castle Gardens turtle will be on display. There will be papers over the weekend and field trips on Monday. Registration is \$55. There is a \$10 charge for the Dinwoody field trip. Go to www.arara.org to download a registration form. If you can help lead a field trip, let him know.

Irrigation Ditches -- Brian Waitkus brought up the issue of recording irrigation ditches - not canals or irrigation systems, but isolated ditches. He indicated that there's a lot of info out there on these, so it seems redundant to be recording them. Would like to know what others think?

Bill Current thought that ditches with less than 7CFS were not to be recorded. Brian Waitkus asked: what are we gaining? Richard Currit indicated that not recording them would make you out of compliance with Section 106. John Greer wondered if that class of site could be added to the exclusions list? Russ Tanner said that if there was a well developed context on agriculture then we probably could do exclusions, but not now. Chris Arthur said that recording current conditions is good for future info. Julie Francis said there are other issues as well, such as the fact that some of them are still being used. Tom Larson said that he didn't believe that they aren't worth recording just because the info could be found in an engineer's office. John Goss said that Bob Rosenberg has been dealing with irrigation ditches.

Russ Tanner said that the Wyoming Association of Professional Historians is meeting this month. Maybe we could ask them to do a context.

Scott said that both Idaho and Colorado have their engineer stuff on-line.

ACTION ITEM -- SHPO will check with Bob Rosenberg to see if he has something written up and will post the information to the list-serve.

Fall Meeting -- To be held Saturday, Sept. 28th, in Casper. Bill Current will check with Jude Carino about having the meeting at the new Trails Center.

NOTE: The meeting date has been changed to Friday, Sept. 20th, 1-5 p.m. at the National Historic Trails Center in Casper.

John Albanese moved to adjourn. Mary Lou Larson seconded. Passed.