

**Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Minutes of the Spring Meeting, April 26, 2018
Billings, Montana**

The meeting is called to order at 1:30 pm by President Naomi Ollie.

Minutes

On Matt Landt's motion, the Fall 2017 minutes are approved, as posted. All are in favor.

New Business

Treasurer and Membership Report (Jason Bogstie):

- The WAPA checking account has a balance of \$6994.96 as of 4/24/2018, minus pending checks. The Putnam account has a balance of \$15,660.85, as of 3/31/2018.
- Expenditures since the last meeting:

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| WAPA's share of website domain | 100.85 |
| Postage | 147.00 |
| WAAM 2018 regular contribution | 200.00 |
| Additional WAAM 2018 contribution, Archaeology Fair | 500.00 |
| Wyoming History Day (Pacon Zellar) | 100.00 |
| Brad Humphrey Travel Award | 500.00 |
| Jensen/Robson Doctoral Travel Award | 250.00 (pending) |
| WAS 2018 spring meeting contribution | 200.00 (pending) |
- WAPA currently has 139 members, including 6 pending membership applications. The Membership and Ethics Committee will review the six pending applications after this meeting and includes Mike Bies, Kelly Pool, Rachael Shimek, and Matt Landt. We lost roughly 30 members last year as a result of dues non-payment. Seventeen members had not yet paid their dues. Second notices will be sent out after the spring meeting.
- On Mike Bies' motion, we accept the treasurer's report. All are in favor.

Executive Board Report

Book Award Committee:

- A committee consisting of Patrick Walker, Richard Currit, and Mike Bies will decide which student papers will receive this award.
RESOLUTION: On Patrick Walker's motion, all student papers at the joint WAS/MAS meeting—whether Wyoming or Montana students—will be considered for the book award. All are in favor.

WAPA Advocacy:

- WAPA's Regulatory Committee (Richard Currit, Paul Burnett, Dave Vlcek, Mike Bies) continues to monitor legislative threats. They are encouraged to track local threats as well as federal. Mary Hopkins notes that SHPO receives weekly federal updates that could be posted to the listserv.
- To allow easier tracking of past listserv discussions, specific subject folders could be created, such as Legislative Updates, or labels such as "legislative update" or "job announcement" could be used for each post. For legislative alerts, labels should specify whether federal, state, or local. The possibility of reinstating the newsletter is discussed, but the listserv is timely and already works well. Send John Laughlin information to post, and put a clear subject line on each post.
- Wyoming Senate Bill SF101 did not pass during this legislative session. Mary Hopkins notes that lobbying by WAPA and other advocacy groups was very helpful. She points out that Senate and House leadership cosigned SF101, and a smarter version may return in the next session starting January 8, 2019. Arizona HB 2498, promoting the use of inadequately trained and unsupervised para-archaeologists on state land, is brought up as an example of the type of state-level threat that could be introduced in Wyoming as well.
- Wyoming's Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee will meet on May 30 in Gillette. Mary Hopkins and Sara Needles will attend. It is hoped ACHP feedback on SF101 will be received by that time. Other WAPA members will try to attend as well.
- National Monuments Legislation Review: Naomi will post it on the listserv.
- By the fall meeting, WAPA needs to be poised for action during the next legislative session, which will last 40 days. Bills and voting records can be tracked through the legislative website, and audio from some meetings is streamed online. It is recommended that members contact their representatives now to talk to

them about SF101, tell them that it might show up again, and thank them for voting against it, if they did. Legislators pay attention to emails, phone messages, and visits. They don't always know much about bills, so providing them background information is useful. Most assume there is more historic preservation protection in Wyoming than there is. Mary Hopkins suggests WAPA send a letter now to legislative heads telling them we were very concerned with SF101's introduction, we want to be engaged, and we can be used for expert testimony. Mary also offers to help pull together bullet points for members as talking points, to back up why this legislation is not needed.

- The WAPA Board has initially investigated the pros and cons of hiring a lobbyist, and Kelly presents a summary of findings. We received one recommendation, but his online profile does not seem supportive of historic preservation; it might be difficult to find the right person. One advantage is that they are available to testify when needed. Lobbyists are expensive, but Mary Hopkins points out Wyoming has a comparatively short legislative session and that one could be shared among several entities. The Board will talk to Mary about other Wyoming organizations who might be willing to share a lobbyist with us.
- Wyoming EISs: **Riley Ridge to Natrona:** Dave Vlcek and Mike Bies wrote a letter that we'll send, and they comment that the draft EIS cultural portion is good, and the PA is quite detailed. Two concerns: (1) the definitions of words in relation to NAGPRA are not in the PA; (2) rock art is handled under indirect effects in the EIS and PA, but a 3-mile APE would be better, similar to that for Trails. **Converse County:** We submitted comments, and BLM is now responding to comments received. This programmatic EIS is largely catching up the existing RMP to present; the ROD should be signed by next spring. **Moneta Divide:** No recent news. **South Jonah NPL:** The draft is out, but the ROD is not yet signed. If wanted, Dave Vlcek will draft a letter for WAPA to request consulting party status. **Coal Draw MOA:** WAPA asked for a MOA to resolve adverse effects to cultural resources resulting from the proposed Coal Draw West Bentonite Mine. There's a lot of rock art in that area.

SAA Updates:

- Kelly Pool attended the Council of State Councils meeting as the Wyoming representative and informed the group about SF101. Much of the meeting discussion focused on the AZ bill that would allow para-archaeologists to work unsupervised on state land and its ramifications.
- Dave Vlcek reports on the Repatriation Committee; his 4-year commitment has ended. A SAA Repatriation Interest Group is forming.

WAPA Project Funding Opportunities:

- The Board doesn't receive many applications; we encourage members to submit one. Members are asked to pass on funding opportunities to students, especially those who are not WAPA members and who are not on the listserve. Guidelines for proposals are not formal, but the project should benefit Wyoming archaeology and maximize research. Members should let the Board know about specific research that they don't want WAPA to fund. At a minimum, an application should include your research, the use of potential funds, and who you are.
- Greg Pierce requests \$550 for OWSA to date mammoth remains from Cody.
RESOLUTION: On Mike Bies' motion, WAPA will provide OWSA \$550 to date mammoth bone. All are in favor.
- Marieka Arksey provides an update on the status of the WAPA-funded date on the Sheep Mountain net. Beta Analytic has provided a quote, and Rick Weathermon can tease out a few fibers from inside the net. Marieka is waiting to hear from Danny Walker.

WAPA Archives at UWAR:

- Six boxes of general files, including the Bairoil project, are stored at UWAR. We don't have a UWAR curation agreement; we will sort through these records and decide where to store what is worth saving at the fall meeting.

Next Meeting:

- Our fall meeting has been in Laramie the last three years in conjunction with the annual Archaeology Fair, to be held on September 8 this year. Delinking the Fair and the fall meeting is discussed, to allow other regions to host it. About 1,300 people attend the fair, with 100 volunteers, and its location can't be moved. No decision about the meeting location is made, and the subject will be revisited later.

Contractor and Agency Reports

Contractor reports are presented by Matt Landt for Alpine Archaeological Consultants; John Greer for Greer Services; Bill Eckerle for Western GeoArch Research; Becca Mashak for Grouse Mountain; Spencer Pelton for Transcon Environmental; Kelly Pool for Metcalf Archaeological Consultants; and Naomi Ollie for SWCA. For agencies, reports are presented by Patrick Walker and Kierson Crume for BLM; Cher Burgess for USFS; Denise Tugman for BOR; Mary Hopkins for SHPO; Jason Bogstie for WYDOT; and Marieka Arksey for OWSA.

Announcements

- SHPO will be updating state guidance for monitoring and OTI this year. Richard Currit requests input.
- WAPA elections will be held this fall. Please send nominations four weeks prior to the fall meeting. Nominating Committee volunteers are Rachael Shimek and Dave Vlcek. An announcement will be posted on the listserve.
- Ruthann Knudson has passed away, and her contributions to archaeology—and ways to honor those contributions-- are discussed.

On John Greer's motion, the meeting is adjourned at 4:10.

Meeting Attendees (from the sign-in sheet)

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| Judy Wolf | Bill Eckerle | Paul Sanders | Spencer Pelton | Mary Hopkins |
| Marieka Arksey | John Scott | Kierson Crume | Mike Bies | Naomi Ollie |
| Rachael Shimek | Becca Mashak | Denise Tugman | Richard Currit | Christine Varah |
| Matt Landt | Larry Todd | Heather Rockwell | Kelly Pool | Greg Pierce |
| Patrick Walker | John Laughlin | Jason Bogstie | Dave Vlcek | Brigid Grund |
| Adam Guinard | Carolyn Buff | Mavis Greer | John Greer | |

Post-meeting note:

Congratulations to winners of the Brad Humphrey Travel award: Sara Bales, Mara Gans, Ashley Harris, Bailey Lewis, and Morgan Robins.