

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Spring Meeting, Riverton, Wyoming
May 1, 2015, 1 pm

Old Business

- New Executive Committee (EC) members are introduced, including Marcia Peterson (president); Greg Pierce (vice president); Kelly Pool (secretary); Jody Clauter (treasurer); Matthew Landt and Dave Vlcek (members-at-large). Mike Bies (past president) is absent. Records were transferred to the new officers.
- The minutes of the last meeting (September 12, 2014) are approved.
- The current version of the by-laws, as updated May 2, 2014, is available on the WAPA/WAS website.

New Business

- Treasurer's Report: Jody reminds the membership to pay their dues; 25 people have still not renewed. At meeting time, the US bank account balance is \$3937.21, and the Putnam account balance is \$12,973.47.
- Reinstatement of Membership and Ethics Committee: The committee's main purpose is to vote on whether applicants will be admitted to membership. Greg, as vice president, is chair, and Marcia Peterson, Jody Clauter, Casey Dukeman, and Chris Arthur volunteer to serve on the committee.
- Donations: The membership discusses what types of causes to support with WAPA funds, such as donations to infrastructure, education, research, and/or community service. Infrastructure seems to be the least popular option, but it is recommended that we decide donations on a case-by-case basis rather than remove an entire class of donation from the realm of possibilities. Individual donation opportunities can be posted on the listserv for membership comment, with responses sent directly to the EC. Currently, we annually donate to the Jensen/Robson Doctoral Travel Fund, the Brad Humphrey Travel Award, Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month, and to WAS for the spring meeting.
- Archaeology Fair Donation: The EC asks the membership for opinions on a \$500 WAPA donation to the SPCR/OWSA-sponsored Archaeology Fair in September. The EC already unanimously approves but is passing it by membership because four of the six EC members present are directly involved with the fair. **RESOLUTION: On Elaine Skinner Hale's motion, WAPA will donate \$500 for the Archaeology Fair. All are in favor, with no abstentions.**
- Programmatic Agreements: Marcia, as president, represents WAPA on PAs for which we are a consulting party and asks for feedback on how best to represent the membership. After some discussion, it is suggested that Marcia post a notice on the listserv when a conference call is upcoming for a specific PA. People can contact her directly with their concerns.
- Moneta Divide PA and Green River Drift PA Updates: Marcia reports there is currently little activity on the Moneta Divide PA. The Green River Drift PA is complete, and SHPO has copies of it.
- SAA Repatriation Committee Report: Dave Vlcek, one of eight committee members, reports good response (20% of SAA membership) to the SAA poll on NAGPRA and repatriation. Results will be released in June. As a member of the subcommittee tasked to look at Notices of Inventory Completion (NICS), he reports a key issue is management of unaffiliated remains. Dave offers to share any WAPA member concerns with the subcommittee, and he'd like to add the NICS issue to the fall meeting agenda.
- Archaeological Conservancy: There are no AC sites in Wyoming, and they would like to establish a presence in the state. They buy sites to preserve them and would especially like to be proactive with older Wyoming landowners whose ranches might soon be broken up. Matthew Landt will speak with Chaz Evans about getting an AC representative to speak at our fall business meeting.
- By-laws and Voting: The effort to change the requirement of a 60% affirmation by the voting membership to modify the by-laws did not pass due to an insufficient number of votes cast. Because voting method now includes email, it is suggested that the proposed change be put to an email vote. Members are asked to watch for requests to vote by email. Currently we have 149 members, so we need 89 people (60%) to vote in order to pass any change to the by-laws.

- RPA Affiliated Societies Program: Following their attendance as WAPA representatives to the Council of State Councils meeting at SAA, Jody and Kelly report on RPA's new program (created Jan 2015) to increase their registrants. WAPA could become an affiliated society for \$100/year, with the required adoption of RPA's Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance. Affiliation advantages: WAPA members who don't belong to one of RPA's supporting societies are eligible for a registrant fee of \$75 (savings of \$50), and WAPA members who are already unaffiliated registrants can take advantage of \$75 annual fee in 2016; we could use their grievance process when needed, but it would only apply to those who are RPA members; RPA membership for all WAPA members is not required. The EC sees this program as a way to offer reduced RPA rates to otherwise unaffiliated WAPA members who wish to join. RPA's handling of any potential grievance issue as a disinterested third party is seen as both an advantage and disadvantage. The pros and cons of affiliation will be further investigated and added to the fall agenda. It would only provide cost savings for a few, and there would be no ethics benefit.
- Reviving the Newsletter: Following a brief discussion, there is no move to revive the newsletter. The general feeling is that it is a lot of work for little return. The listserv and the Facebook page now do what the newsletter once did.
- Book Award Committee: Three people are needed to choose a winner from among the student presentations, and the student winner receives a book. Danny Walker, Naomi Ollie, and Kayla Bradshaw volunteer to be the committee, and the president presents the book.
- Contractor Reports: Reports are given by Naomi Ollie, SWCA; Kelly Pool, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants; and Bill Eckerle, Western GeoArch Research. The reports provided by contractors are included at the end of these minutes.

Announcements

- Fall WAPA meeting will be held Friday, September 11, at the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie.
- SPCR/OWSA-sponsored Archaeology Fair, Laramie, will be Saturday, September 12, 10 am to 3 pm.
- Wyoming Historical Society and Wyoming SHPO are sponsoring a unique celebration and conference June 11-13, 2015, in Laramie at the Marion H. Rochelle Gateway Center in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of Wyoming's statehood.
- WAPA/Frison Institute Research Grant in the amount of \$400.00 was awarded to Connor Johnen, who will be doing high altitude work in the Wind River Range.
- Brad Humphrey Travel Award winners are Morgan Dieesbach and Jennifer Gregory, Metropolitan State University, Denver; and Chelsea Cheney, D. Eli Mrak, and Morgan Robins, Central Wyoming College, Riverton. The Jensen/Robson Doctoral Travel Fund was not awarded.
- The Geological Society of America Rocky Mountain Section meeting, Casper, Wyoming, Thursday, May 21, 2015, will host a symposium titled, *Quaternary Geoarchaeology: Honoring the Work of John Albanese*. Submit the registration form with badge info but no money through the WAS/WAPA website.
- Bill Eckerle announces a post-RMAC (September, Steamboat Springs) field trip. Beginning Sunday, September 27, at Farson and ending that evening at Jackson, the trip will visit Early Archaic house pits in the Jonah field, New Fork House Pit, Trappers Point, Game Creek, Crescent H and Teton Pass obsidian sources, Goetz site, and high elevation sites in Grand Teton National Park.
- Dave Vlcek encourages investigation of holding joint meetings with surrounding state societies and putting ideas out on the listserv.
- For her MA thesis, Kayla Bradshaw is conducting an online and USPS mail survey to assess archaeological knowledge among the public. She encourages all who are asked to participate.

Upon John Laughlin's motion, the meeting is adjourned.

WAPA Meeting Attendees

Marcia Peterson	Greg Pierce	Kelly Pool
Jody Clauter	Matthew Landt	Dave Vlcek
Paul Sanders	Elaine Skinner Hale	Denise Tugman
Chris Arthur	Paul Burnett	Casey Dukeman
Naomi Ollie	Kayla Bradshaw	Steve Sutter
Brian Waitkus	Todd Surovell	Scott McKern
Lynn Harrell	Ronald Rood	Jason Bogstie
John Laughlin	Carolyn Buff	Richard Currit
Judy Wolf	Ross Hilman	Spencer Pelton
Sean Carroll	Damian Kirkwood	Cassidee Thornhill
David Eckles	Marit Bovee	Kierson Crume
Patrick Walker	Karina Bryan	Craig Bromley
Danny Walker	Sylvia Huber	Dorothy Frey
Mavis Greer	John Greer	

Contractor Reports

- SWCA, Naomi Ollie: SWCA Sheridan is working on a variety of projects in Wyoming and Montana. Some broader-scale issues include on-going consultation with BLM and tribes on Pumpkin Buttes viewshed and addressing new proposed developments related to oil and gas. The PA between SHPO and BLM is outdated and specific to CBM development so does not apply to the new proposed development. Private development occurring surrounding the buttes has impacted the viewshed over the years. Other items of concern are many pipeline projects with no federal involvement aside from Nationwide Permits related to the Clean Water Act. These crossings are under USACE jurisdiction but currently there is little oversight in how and when Section 106 is initiated. Coordination with SHPO is currently the system used for these projects. The most significant find this year for our office was a Triceratops skull (not an archaeological find!) in Niobrara County this year during paleontological monitoring.
- Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Kelly Pool: The final report series CD of Metcalf's Ruby Pipeline mitigation in Lincoln and Uinta counties will be released in the next few months. Each of the five data recovery sites has contributed significant information to the regional database. Evidence of antelope mass kills during the Late Archaic (48LN3997), Late Prehistoric (48LN3997), and Protohistoric (48LN2041) periods was preserved. At least one of the butchered antelope bones from site 48LN2041 exhibits a metal cutmark, although no European goods were identified. A multicomponent campsite (48LN4114) with time depth in excess of 7,000 years was preserved in deep aeolian deposits at the northern edge of the Hams Fork valley; a Uinta Phase lithic reduction use episode was preserved at site 48LN2043 near Dry Muddy Creek; and an Opal Phase component with a house pit was found at multicomponent site 48LN1301 in the Little Muddy Creek drainage. House pits dating to the Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods were also associated with site 48LN3997. Let Kelly know if you'd like a CD.
- Western GeoArch Research, Bill Eckerle: William Eckerle¹, owner of Western GeoArch Research LLC (WGR) conducted geoarchaeological field investigations at Camp Guernsey during 2013-2014 in conjunction with archaeological investigations undertaken by Ken and Molly Cannon of Utah State University Archaeological Services. The goal of this investigation is to design, implement, and evaluate a suite of minimally invasive site testing methods including gridded, small diameter coring and geophysical survey. Experimental coring methodologies being tested at Camp Guernsey are assessed by their efficacy to document subsurface cultural content and site formation processes. The project incorporates theoretical and methodological recommendations from Eckerle, Finley, and Hanna 2011, *Data Collection Strategies for Assessing Artifact Zone Spatial and Associational Integrity on Sandy Occupational Substrates*, SAA Press². These recommendations utilize knowledge of site formation processes to assess whether site data categories recovered from subsurface settings can address activity area research themes that require feature and artifact spatial context and association. A parallel study undertaken by WGR at

Camp Guernsey is the creation of a GIS-based site, burial-suitability model utilizing a multiple criteria, weighted average methodology. Also, optically stimulated luminescence dating was undertaken to support the burial modeling effort and make it more useful as a CRM planning tool. Initial results of OSL dating suggest that upland loess to a depth of 1 meter below surface is of cultural age.

WGR conducted field investigations at site 48SU2326 in the Jonah Natural Gas Field which was being excavated by Western Archaeological Services. The goal of the investigation is to determine the age-range of surficial sandy sediment in the Sand Draw area. The area is acknowledged to contain a surface soil, previously mapped as the San Arcacio series that contains a B horizon enriched with pedogenic clay. The upper meter of sediment, which is engulfed by the B horizon, is the sedimentary context for many previously discovered Early Archaic occupations in the Jonah field, including house pits dating as early as 7900 RCYBP. However, the distribution and age of the soil has not been documented in a way that allows its presence or absence to inform cultural resource management and research goals. WGR is working with Paul Goldberg, Boston University, to better understand the micromorphology of the soil to determine its utility as a chronostratigraphic marker. An unresolved question is whether the sand below 1 meter might contain Paleoindian occupations. OSL dates are helping to clarify the age of the sediment underlying the Early Archaic cultural levels to determine if potential Paleoindian-age sediment occurs.

WGR submitted a report to the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist finalizing geoarchaeological investigations undertaken during the 2010-2012 field seasons at the Game Creek site in Teton County, Wyoming. James Mayer assisted William Eckerle in jointly writing a chapter for Areas A and B with Mayer preparing the descriptive portion based on Eckerle's field notes, and Eckerle authored the Areas A and B assessment and conclusions for geology, soil development, and site formation. With the assistance of WGR's GIS specialist and illustrator, Sasha Taddie, Eckerle wrote a chapter utilizing 3D visualization to help assess visible cultural zonation in Area A where point-provenienced artifacts formed a visually identifiable Paleoindian cultural zone as they were rotated and tilted into various orientations within 3-D space. Sasha Taddie also assisted with GIS implementation and illustration of a chapter which Eckerle conceptualized and authored describing distributions of edible plant and big game forage within the site catchment under present day, wetter than present, and drier than present climate conditions, as well as a parallel chapter modeling variation in winter snowpack duration for the last 13,000 years as a tool to estimate potential intervals of winter range use by big game, and by extension, possible winter hunting opportunities by prehistoric hunters and gatherers.

¹William Eckerle, RPA, LPG, Adjunct Professor, Montana State University

²http://anthropology.usu.edu/files/uploads/Faculty/Faculty_Pubs/Finley/Eckerle_et_al._2011_Eolian_Settings.pdf