

**Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists  
Minutes of the Fall 1998 Meeting  
Laramie, Wyoming  
November 6, 1998**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

The agenda for the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists Business Meeting, scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, November 6, 1998 was discussed. Issues to be presented include the Secretary's Report, the Treasurer's Report, agency reports, the reorganization of the Wyoming Department of Commerce, Brad Humphrey scholarship update, Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month, the WAPA donation policy, further discussion and vote on the change in the WAPA by-laws, election of officers, Moxa, any new business, and the location of the Spring 1999 WAPA business meeting.

**Business Meeting**

**PRESIDING:** Gary DeMarcaay, President

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of the Spring 1998 WAPA meeting were distributed. Reading of the minutes was waived. The Secretary discussed the invitation to join WAPA that was sent out to around one hundred individuals identified as past members, people who work in the field of archaeology in the state of Wyoming, and others who might be interested in joining the organization. The association is hoping for a good response in order to bolster the membership numbers and gain new ideas and input.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Julie Francis distributed copies of the WAPA Financial Statement as of November 6, 1998. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded and passed by the membership.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**Wyoming Department of Commerce:** Mark Miller discussed the recent legislative action involving the reorganization of the Department of Commerce following the creation of the Wyoming Business Council. Three options have been set forth by Tucker Fagan, the Director of the Department of Commerce: the formation of a new Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources; that same department with the addition of the State Library; the formation of two new departments: the Department of Information and Technology and the Department of Parks and Service. There will be a meeting of the Travel, Recreation and Wildlife Committee of the legislature in Cheyenne December 8-9 to discuss the options.

**Bureau of Land Management:** Ranel Capron discussed the BLM's budget and the cultural resource management activities for fiscal year 1998 in Wyoming. Among the different states with BLM land, Wyoming was number one in number of acres surveyed at 93,184 and number one in the number of properties recorded at 1,594. It is hoped that Washington will note the amount of activity in Wyoming when it comes time to allocate funds for cultural resources.

Gary DeMarcaay announced that the BLM Lander Field Office has an opening for a cultural resource specialist at a GS-7/9/11 grade. The position will most likely be filled by an affirmative action new hire.

**Wyoming Department of Transportation:** Julie Francis stated that it was a busy year with several excavations taking place. WYDOT is seeking public comment about the plan to close a portion of Highway 87 at the Fetterman Battlefield National Historic Landmark due to a landslide. There has been a change in philosophy among WYDOT management noted in their acknowledgment of the damage that could occur to the significant historic site if attempts were made to repair the slide. A discussion was held about the need for WAPA to write a letter in support of the road closure. A motion was made to write the letter; it was seconded and passed.

**FE Warren Air Force Base:** Rick Bryant announced that there will be a one year GS-9 position open on the Base. The position is for an archaeologist who will be responsible for testing sites and updating site forms.

**U.S. Forest Service:** Ian Ritchie commented that there were several successful Passport in Time projects on the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest this year and that there are three or four more proposed for next year. There will also be a large (280 miles) railroad construction project overseen by the Surface Transportation Board taking place in northeastern Wyoming soon.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Brad Humphrey Memorial Scholarship:** Julie Francis updated the membership on the Brad Humphrey Memorial Scholarship. The WAPA Putnam mutual fund has been earmarked to support the scholarship in Brad's name. Given the good performance of the fund, WAPA should be able to start awarding money in a few more years. The WAPA Executive Committee discussed potential guidelines for the scholarship awards during a special meeting of the Board in September. Member input is needed on the guidelines which were provided in the last issue of the WAPA Newsletter.

**Wyoming Archaeology Month:** Judy Wolf discussed this year's activities. Tom Dillehay presented a well-attended lecture in Casper on the peopling of the America's. The Fall Workshop of the Wyoming Archaeological Society this weekend at the University of Wyoming is the final event for the 1998 Wyoming Archaeology Month. Judy also presented some preliminary plans for the 1999 Wyoming Archaeology Month celebration which include highlighting historical archaeology.

**WAPA Donation Policy:** Gary DeMarcey discussed the findings of the Executive Committee at its special meeting in September. As an organization WAPA traditionally has donated funding to several worthwhile causes. These causes include Wyoming Archaeology Month (\$200), the Island in the Plains Conference (\$150), the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference (\$150), occasionally the Plains Conference when it is held nearby, and most recently Wyoming History Day (\$100). After considering the amount of fixed income that comes into the association from annual dues and the cost of publishing the WAPA Newsletter (approximately \$500 for two issues, which amounts to about half of WAPA's annual income), it was decided that the association should look at a quarter of its income as the guideline for what WAPA can contribute to worthy causes. Priorities will be given to educational efforts and causes that will benefit members and Wyoming archaeology. It was felt that donations to Wyoming Archaeology Month at \$200 and to Wyoming History Day at \$100 should be considered as fixed donations that will continue yearly. The remainder of the 25% will be at the discretion of the membership, but preference should be given to local or close regional events. At least \$100 should also be allocated for WAPA Business Meeting expenses such as the cost of meeting facilities. If other educational efforts such as special seminars or lectures are proposed, money could be withdrawn from WAPA's money market account and/or members could contribute a minimal amount to fund the special event.

John Albanese requested \$200 from WAPA for this year's Island in the Plains conference. Mark Miller made a motion to approve \$200 but Mary Lou Larson requested discussion of this motion. She suggested that the amount of money to be donated should be set at what the membership recommends and according to established parameters in the interest of fairness. A motion was made to donate \$150 to Island in the Plains. The motion was seconded and passed. A check will be sent to Cher Burgess.

**WAPA By-Law Changes:** Gary DeMarcey discussed the finding of the Executive Committee's special meeting in September. During recent business meetings, discussions have taken place among the Executive Committee

members and the general membership regarding the possibility of lengthening the terms of office for officers from one to two years. It is felt that one year terms do not allow for continuity of ideas, prohibit new concepts and strategies from being carried out, and take inordinate time and effort during every Business Meeting either asking for nominations for officers or electing new officers. The Committee reviewed the pertinent sections of the current by-laws and made appropriate changes. The last WAPA Newsletter presented the proposed changes and a ballot about the issue was provided with the ballot for the election of new officers. Chuck Reher stated that this issue had also come up with the Plains Anthropological Society and the problem was also discussed in Canada. In both cases, the need for continuity and the time it takes to generate and accomplish ideas was brought up. He is in favor of the change.

A yes vote of two-thirds of dues paying members and thirty days notice of the proposed changes are required to pass the issue. There are a total of 46 members in good standing, therefore, 31 favorable votes are required for passage. A discussion followed on the fact that thirty days was not provided to consider the issue because of the lateness of the last issue of the Newsletter. Finally, it was decided that if the issue was approved by enough of the ballots available at this meeting, the changes in the by-laws will go into effect. If there is not enough votes to approve, then another thirty days will be allowed to decide the issue.

**MOXA:** Mary Hopkins provided an update on the Moxa project. Around 1900 sites and 1300 projects have been digitized for the Moxa project with about 3000 sites and 2000 projects to go. They have targeted the end of December for completion. Bill Eckerle will be preparing the soil layers for the GIS. Mary will prepare a summary of the project for the next issue of the WAPA Newsletter. The Cultural Records Office web page now has site and project data available via the Internet with a password account. They are getting 12 visits a day for their web site. Radiocarbon dates are also now online in different formats, as are 7.5 minute USGS quads. An Internet map service is available through the University of Wyoming's Spatial Data and Visualization Center.

**Result of Ballot for Changes to the WAPA By-Laws:** Thirty-two favorable votes were obtained. The changes to the WAPA By-laws passed. It was decided that thirty days will be allowed until the changes go into effect.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Further discussion was held regarding the pending reorganization of the Wyoming Department of Commerce. Todd Thibodeau of the SHPO staff is spearheading a movement by the professional cultural resource community in Wyoming to meet and come to consensus on the option that would be most preferable, and to express their preferred option verbally and in writing to the Travel, Recreation and Wildlife Committee of the legislature. Judy Wolf indicated that it is possible the State Historic Preservation Office and the services the office provides might be lost in the shuffle and not be funded adequately under certain reorganization proposals. John Albanese indicated he felt that this is a good opportunity to have WAPA get involved and offer an opinion on an action of government that might have negative implications for the protection of cultural resources, and that WAPA should take a pro-active stance. John Albanese, Rick Bryant, and Ranel Capron volunteered to represent WAPA in a meeting of the professional cultural resource organizations. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have WAPA take an active interest in this issue.

A brief discussion was held regarding the need to get the WAPA Newsletter out to the membership earlier. It was noted that the last issue was late due to a health problem of the Mariah staff person who formats the Newsletter. Everyone recognizes the quality of *WAPA NEWS* and hopes that Mariah will continue to offer this valuable service to the organization.

Chuck Reher invited everyone to visit the UW Anthropology Department following the WAPA meeting as part of the activities associated with WAS Fall Workshop.

Bill Current led a brief discussion on the Wyoming Cultural Properties Form. Comments on the site form format will be taken until the end of December 1998. Eric Ingbar, Mary Hopkins, and Mary Lou Larson will be reviewing the comments and making appropriate revisions based on the comments.

**SPRING 1999 MEETING:** Cher Burgess indicated that the Spring meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society will be held in Sundance, Wyoming April 23-25, 1999 and invited WAPA to join the activities and hold its Spring meeting at the same time. Tentative plans include a social get-together on Friday night, papers on Saturday, tours to the Vore Site and the Sand Creek Site, and a hog roast Saturday night. It is also hoped that some members of the Montana and South Dakota societies will attend. A short discussion about the location was held. A motion was made to have the WAPA Spring meeting with WAS in Sundance. The motion was seconded and approved. Cher will arrange for a meeting facility. John Albanese will invite the South Dakota organization to participate.

**ADJOURN:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to adjourn the meeting. Paul Sanders adjourned the meeting at 3:10 P.M.