

Revised Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists

Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2005

Rawlins, Wyoming

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Bill Current.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Chris Arthur, seconded by Ed Schneider. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented and approved on a motion by Marty Rodgers, seconded by Gary DeMarcay. Motion carried.

Agency Reports:

United States Forest Service:

Ian Ritchie, Douglas Ranger District reported that the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest staff is being downsized and three out of seven positions are being cut. Ian reported that a contract is being let for inventory of the Dull Center land exchange. The Dorr Homestead National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination has been submitted to the Keeper of the National Register for consideration.

Gary DeMarcay, Laramie Ranger District reported that he is now acting as Laramie Ranger District archaeologist at this time.

Wyoming Army National Guard:

Karen Kempton reported that several ethnohistory studies are ongoing involving 17 Native American tribes relative to Camp Guernsey. A 5,000 acre inventory is being done. An historic buildings inventory has been undertaken concerning National Guard armories statewide, and the Camp Guernsey building inventory is being updated.

Bureau of Land Management:

Rawlins Field Office

Nina Trapp reported that inventory is underway on the Entegra Pipeline between Wamsutter and points in the Craig Field Office in Colorado.

Patrick Walker reported that a record number of inventories have been done in the Rawlins FO.

Pam Murdock reported that funding has been acquired to assess the historic JO Ranch, and to fence some features at the ranch.

Casper Field Office

Chris Arthur that they have been very busy writing their Resource Management Plan (RMP) and with other activities not all of which are energy development related. The old Exxon CO2 pipeline project is again active and data recovery mitigation excavations have begun on the first of eight sites. The carbon

dioxide will be used for oil well re-injection at the Salt Creek Oil Field. Overall CFO numbers are about the same as last year.

Wyoming State Office

Russ Tanner reports that comments on the National Historic Trails Context are being reviewed and integrated into a forthcoming version of that study. A Transportation Historic Context for the Powder River Basin has been contracted to Clayton Fraser of Fraser Design. The scope of work for a Powder River Basin stock raising context is being prepared and will go to bid soon. The Jack Morrow Hills coordinated activity plan (CAP) is being finalized following extensive public comment.

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

Judy Wolf said the BLM has been partnering with SHPO in developing contexts by funding the two Powder River contexts named by Russ.

Judy reported that she is working on the poster for Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month. She asked members to give her any ideas they might have for the poster and for the t-shirt. She also reported the 2004 Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month Poster again won FIRST PLACE in the Society for American Archaeology poster context.

Mary Hopkins reported that the Pump III project archaeology deposition model will soon be completed.

State Archaeologist Mark Miller reported that he is working on a NRHP nomination for the Trapper's Point Site in Sublette County.

Assistant State Archaeologist Danny Walker reported that he is working on the Fort Laramie Folsom site (?). ***At the Fall meeting, Walker confirmed that there was indeed a Folsom site found during his work at Fort Laramie. Walker also reported having done geophysical work at the Barger Gulch Site in Colorado.***

Several representatives reported that there is a new organizational structure at the SHPO office, and a number of changes have been undertaken and more are expected.

Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist

Marty Rodgers said architects are busy working on drawings for the new Anthropology Department building at the University of Wyoming. The new building will be "a nice space, and facility" for the entire anthropology program including the curation facility. The building is estimated to cost \$16 Million dollars. It will allow all staff, including the Cultural Records Office, curatorial facility and Anthropology faculty to be in one building.

Marty added that the new curation database has been completed and verification is underway now. This system will allow online access to information related to material curated at the facility. Marty is also working to facilitate quick response to materials loan requests. And a contract is being initiated with the Bureau of Reclamation to catalog their curated material. Finally, curation agreements with other agencies are being updated.

Archaeology Consulting Firms

TRC

Ed Schneider, reports that they are doing several large inventories for energy industry projects including some geophysical projects, in addition to Wyoming Department of Transportation work on State Highway 187. They are also finalizing the Lost Creek Excavations and are anticipating doing mitigation work at Arch Minerals coal mine near Hanna which may include a Traditional Cultural Landscape study.

Current Archaeological Research

Bill Current reports ongoing inventory and some data recovery mitigation excavations including work at a possible area used for heat treating lithic material.

Bill also mentioned that the Wardell Buffalo Trap site in Sublette County was recently heavily vandalized and three bison skulls were removed and stolen. Sam Drucker, BLM Pinedale Field Office will be undertaking salvage and stabilization efforts. Bill said Sam desperately needs help with this work. Law enforcement investigation of the vandalism is ongoing.

Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist

Brian Waitkus said OWSA is busy doing several highway projects including work on the road between Norris and Mammoth in Yellowstone National Park. OWSA is also working on inventory at Camp Guernsey for the Wyoming Army National Guard.

Old Business

On September 22, 2005 in Laramie, the Frison Institute at the University of Wyoming Department of Anthropology will be presenting guest speaker Margaret Conkey from the University of California at Berkeley speaking about the importance of rock art in studying prehistoric behavior. The speaker is partly sponsored by WAPA as a Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month event.

WAPA will present Service Awards to John Albanese and Wilfred Husted at the event in Laramie.

Wyoming Review Board for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

Russ Tanner said the Powars II ochre quarry portion of the Sunrise Mine will be added to the nomination of the Mine to the National Register. The Mine proper was recommended by the board to be eligible under NR Criteria A. The Board, on the advice of Professor Mary Lou Larson, State Archaeologist Miller and WAPA representative Tanner, recommended that the nomination eventually be amended to include the ochre quarry as a contributing element under Criteria D.

National Register eligibility of the Western Railroad Terminal in Buffalo was discussed by the Board. Archaeologists on the review board argued for the need of the

site to be tested to determine whether or not it might qualify for Register status as an historic archaeological site under Criteria D, because of the historic information that

might be able to be retrieved if it were to be excavated or otherwise studied archaeologically.

The need for a list of known archaeological sites that should be nominated for listing in the National Register was discussed. WAPA President Bill Current volunteered to assist in compiling such a list.

The possibility of WAPA helping to get archaeological sites nominated to the NRHP was discussed. Ideas mentioned included the possibility of WAPA offering a grant to assist in such efforts. Gary DeMarcay said he would ask Bridget Roth who writes nominations for the USFS for suggestions concerning costs of preparing a nomination. Tanner advised that sites for which there is extensive existing information might be good candidates for a start. Members agreed to think about this topic and bring ideas to the next meeting. No further action was taken on this topic.

Staff of the SHPO have been assigned to write nominations. State Archaeologist Mark Miller will be working on the Trapper's Point Site. Review and Compliance Officer Richard Curritt will be working on the Lookingbill Site, and Historian Nancy Weidel will be working a nomination for the Dayton Community Hall.

WAPA List Server

A motion was made by Chris Arthur and seconded by Ian Ritchie that WAPA remove all persons who have not paid dues from the list server as of September 30, 2005. This issue has been discussed at several past meetings. The motion carried.

Dues

Judy Wolf has a list from Treasurer Tom Larson of members who need to pay dues.

Website

Sam Trautman of the Cultural Records Office has agreed to continue doing the website for WAPA.

Newsletter

Dave Reiss, of OWSA, has agreed to compile the newsletter but is in need of information to include in it. The Newsletter, when compiled, will be posted on the Website and not printed in hardcopy.

Travel Scholarship

The WAPA scholarship to assist students with travel to present research papers at professional meetings was presented this year to Shauna Cox and Jack Fenner. The award is made by WAPA in conjunction with the Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS) and the student's also present their papers at the WAS annual meeting.

New Business

New Members

Three new members were proposed for WAPA membership: Patrick Walker, Russell Kaldenberg and Jennifer Ralston. A motion was made Russ Tanner, seconded by Ed Schneider to approve these three for membership. The motion carried.

Meetings

Several upcoming professional meetings were identified including the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference in Park City, Utah in September.

Several members remarked that turnout of Wyoming archaeologists at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Salt Lake City in April was quite disappointing.

The fall WAPA meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2005 in Laramie.

The Plains Anthropological Society conference will be in Edmondton, Alberta, Canada in October.

The Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting will be in Sacramento, California in January, 2006

The Islands in the Plains meeting will be April, 20006. The location was not mentioned.

Monetary Contributions by WAPA

The Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month (WAAM) project chair Judy Wolf requested a \$500 donation from WAPA. A motion was made by Ian Ritchie, seconded by Marty Rodgers to fund the WAAM request. The motion carried.

A request for a donation toward a headstone for deceased Arapaho Elder Francis Brown was tabled following extensive discussion. The following motion was made by Ian Ritchie, "WAPA will take under consideration how to appropriately recognize the contributions of Native American elders, whether that be by a plaque, scholarship or some other means. WAPA will discuss the issue with several Native elders we work with. WAPA members are asked to think about making personal contributions to recognition several Native elders, as individuals personally determine. Russ Tanner seconded the motion. The motion carried. WAPA President Bill Current agreed to approach various elders for their thoughts concerning this issue.

Wardell Site Volunteers Needed

Several members again mentioned that volunteers are badly needed to assist in salvage and stabilization at the very important Wardell Site in Sublette County.

Site Definition

Several members raised the issue of the Bureau of Land Management and the Wyoming SHPO developing a new definition for sites requiring recording during inventory projects in Wyoming for purposes of Section 106 compliance. It was mentioned that several other agencies are likely to follow the lead of BLM and SHPO. President Bill Current stated that we all know data comparability in site records will be a significant problem under the new definition. Gary DeMarcay asked whether or not the new definition is a 'regulatory change' which would necessitate public comment. No one had an answer to his question. Following some discussion no motion was made relative to this issue and no action was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Gary DeMarcay to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris Arthur. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at about 2:30 pm.

Signed: _____

Bill Current, President

Attest: _____

Russ Tanner, Vice President
Acting Secretary.

April, 7, 2006