

WAPA Meeting, Pinedale, WY
Friday, September 15, 2006

Call to order – Bill Current, President

A sign up sheet was passed around, as was Tom's membership list. Attendees were encouraged to update addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Bill thanked Dave Vlcek for reserving the meeting room.

Secretary's Report – Ranel Capron

The minutes from the last meeting were sent out with the ballots for new officers. Attendees were asked whether they had any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes. No one responded. Lynn Harrell moved to accept the minutes as posted; Scott McKern seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – Tom Larson

Dues payments brought in \$695. Total Putnam accounts are at \$13,086.33. Total assets are \$19,018.96. Project Archaeology account has \$1644.

The Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month funds were dispersed to another account. \$200 was provided to WAAM as WAPA sponsorship; \$500 to the Frison Institute lecturer; \$5000 to the Wyoming Archaeology Foundation, which will get a \$5000 match; \$7520.60 was given back to the State Budget.

Other expenses of \$350.05 were incurred.

Julie Francis moved to accept the report. It was seconded and approved by the membership.

Agency Reports

Bureau of Land Management

Pinedale – Dave Vlcek reported that the 3 volume synthesis for the RMP was completed by TRC Mariah. It will be extremely useful. They have filled the vacancy in the PFO cultural program with Dave Crowley who starts 10/16/06.

Kemmerer – Lynn Harrell mentioned that there seems to be no end in sight for wind power and energy corridors. She thinks this will be their biggest workload for the next 10 years. In mid-August, the Ezra Meeker Society took a tour of Sublette Cutoff (the section that Tom's group studied); Whiteville to Dempsey Ridge. This group of people is from Meeker's hometown in Washington State and they did a tour / re-enactments of his trip. They were very impressed by the trail in Wyoming and the gravesites.

They would like to organize something next September to record the trail at the rock slide. They want to help look for and record it. Dempsey Ridge is highly threatened, so it would be good to have them do this.

Our National Public Lands Day project was spearheaded by our recreation person who tore down and rebuilt the fence around the Alfred Corum gravesite. A lot of public came out to help work on it.

Rock Springs – Russ Tanner announced he had resigned from BLM. Before he left he labeled all the aerial photos from his Oregon Trail study. He also mentioned that BLM had contracted with Bob Rosenberg to edit the study report.

UW Archaeological Repository

Marty Rogers reported they are anxiously awaiting the completion of the new building in April 2007. There will be fire-proof cabinets for the site files. She handed out a sheet about collection concerns and emphasized that consultants should be editing the work of the people handling the collections. Provenience appears to be different between the catalog and the form or the artifact bags.

Danny Walker mentioned that it was very important to double-check everyone's work because they can have duplicate catalog #s because sites are being double-recorded. Call in to get catalog numbers asap.

State Historic Preservation Office

Richard Currit reported that he and Danny Walker had been up in Buffalo doing some testing on a railroad site. He also mentioned that they were having issues with the Attorney General and MOAs, but hoped it would smooth out soon. Richard also said that BLM had begun work on a Programmatic EIS for oil shale/tar sands. He didn't believe that it was economically feasible in Wyoming, but it would be in Colorado and Utah.

In response to that Lynn Harrell (Kemmerer BLM) indicated that Argon Labs had the lead on that Programmatic EIS and was also the contractor for the 3500' wide energy corridor EIS being proposed to cross the western US.

Joe Daniele mentioned that he and Jeff Pappas are working on starting a site stewardship program in conjunction with the BLM.

Judy Wolf said that they'd had Charlie Hacker from the NPS National Register program out to look at the Wardell site. They want to designate it as a National Historic Landmark. Hacker said it looked good. She also mentioned that someone is building a house in front of the Wardell site. Think they will be willing to help as site stewards and to watch out for the site.

US Forest Service

Gary DeMarca said that they had finished negotiating a statewide PA with the SHPO. The next step would be public review. It will cover both regions in Wyoming.

Wyoming Cultural Records Office

Mary Hopkins mentioned that there were a lot of new consultants coming in to the state.

She also said the USFWS was looking to create a PA also which would include Game & Fish projects.

They are working with the seismic contractors on their concerns with the BLM protocol. Mary talked about the 2 pilot offices and how SHPO will work with those offices – there's no agreement yet.

Nancy Weidel is working on Centennial Ranches across the state and 29 were recognized at the Wyoming State Fair. They are looking for corporate support for signs. Ranchers are very happy about it and the Stockgrowers are partnering with the State on this.

Matt Bennett will be taking over the Monuments and Markers program. Joe Daniele will be handling the Site Stewardship program in conjunction with Judyth Reed at BLM.

They are also looking forward to moving into the new building at UW next spring.

National Park Service

Jacque St. Clair discussed the site management program that NPS is updating. The focus will be on sites with unknown condition. All sites need to be addressed within 3 years. She had a seasonal from NAU this summer, helped find 80 sites, did the cultural properties forms, GIS and photos. In YNP, there are 1500 sites and we have 5 years to reassess condition.

Elaine Hale worked on a 2300 year old Pelican Lake site with Paul Sanders. There were lots of domestic tools, hearth, knapping locales. Contained artifacts of gray obsidian; the source for those artifacts is the 2M year old Huckleberry explosion. Paul will be presenting the information at RMAC next year and she will do it at the Plains Conference.

Conducting survey with USFS – Smooth Creek Wagon Road up to Gallatin National Forest, this is still used. They have located a couple of sites and possibly it might be a TCP. Silver Tip would not be able to function as a town without the road.

Will soon submit the Beartooth Road National Register nomination.

Ann has been working on documenting the Nez Perce Trail through YNP. Lake survey has been completed and they found 250 new sites on the south end of the lake.

Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist

Additional land was recently acquired by the National Guard at Guernsey, so they've been working on that survey. Dan Eakin has been working on Boulder Ridge Sheep Traps and Rich Adams is working on a soapstone survey.

Danny Walker said they'd had a successful and final season at Sand Draw. They uncovered 15 structures, conducting magnetometer work and excavations.

As Richard Currit mentioned earlier, they both worked on the Buffalo Railway Terminus project.

Danny mentioned that Dr. George Frison has a draft of the Medicine Lodge Creek site report and they will be working on a mock-up soon. It will have color photographs, since they got money for underwriting from Arizona. Dr. Frison is also working on the 3rd edition of Prehistoric Hunters of the High Plains.

Wyoming Department of Transportation

Julie Francis reported that the WYDOT budget crisis rumors are true. FHWA funding was rescinded 3 times this year. Since WYDOT matches those funds and because of our low population, we have had problems. The State hasn't been as forthcoming with funds as we'd like. Construction costs have doubled, so we will only be doing maintenance in the near future.

Some of the projects she's been working on are: an EA for a 4-lane highway from Laramie to Colorado border; Casper to Muddy Gap road and Gillette to Reno Junction road. She's also discovered that there's a need for a 4-lane road from Rock Springs to Pinedale, as evidenced by the near accident she had coming up this morning. They will be conducting an excavation next year – where? And are also involved in an overview of Yellowstone Highway in Converse County and reconstruction of the bridge over the Wind River at Ethete (it was closed due to an accident; goal was to get detour done before school started).

Western Archaeological Services

Jana Pastor said they had been working on an Overland Trail Study and one on the Cherokee Trail also. Those documents are out. Two other projects include a Lincoln Highway study (45 miles along I-80) and the bed of the Union Pacific railroad. They are also working on some sites on the Casper River for Chris Arthur and the New Fork River in Dave's area.

Greer Services

John and Mavis Greer have been doing a lot of rock art recording. Mavis was recently at an international rock art conference in Portugal, which also included 3 others from Wyoming.

TRC Mariah

Ed Schneider said their company had been working on 4 seismic projects, the DM&E railroad survey with 120 miles of new track and last fall they did some Native American consultation for a coal mine in the Hanna Basin. As mentioned previously by Dave Vlcek, they have finished the overview for the Pinedale RMP and will be working on finishing the overview for Rawlins this winter. They have excavated 2 sites on the Pioneer Pipeline and done quite a bit of work in Colorado, Utah and South Dakota.

John Albanese

John said he was easing into retirement, but wanted to report on the Natrona County CLG. The CLG has come up with \$80K to work on a buried site on land owned by the county. John Goss has been working with him on this project. He also mentioned that John was safely back from his tour of duty in Iraq. We are glad to hear that.

Larson-Tibesar Associates

Tom indicated that for the last 10 years his company has been under contract with DEQ AML doing a variety of projects statewide. They now know a lot about mining and reclamation. Sites

are usually historic properties, but also hazardous to public safety. The mines vary from hard rock, uranium and phosphates. Over the last 5 years, AML has been collecting a database of abandoned mines for reclamation, so if you come across a mine, contact LTA or AML for information. Their database is a good starting point and is becoming more user friendly. The inventory is always ongoing and so far they have 50-75K mines and not just mining districts, some are just prospects.

Elaine Hale mentioned that they have 3 gravel mines in YNP.

Current Archaeological Research

Bill Current said that the Jonah field was just about blocked out. They have found several Paleo points on the surface.

Visitors

Russ Tanner introduced Jim Keyser from Oregon. He is in the area to do rock art recordation in the Powder Wash area. Volunteers are welcome to help. Keyser has some books for sale if anyone is interested. He indicated that the Powder Wash area was first described by Dirk Murcay (WAS) years ago in an article about the supposed antelope trap. Murcay also described 6 or so rock art sites and lots of wickiups. Unfortunately, the rock art is on a laminated sandstone, which is a friable surface. He will be photo documenting the rock art. He feels that the designs look less like antelope and more like horses, so he also believes the wood (wickiups) are really for a corral. The Utes and Shoshone were raiding railroad in the area, so could be from them. He's bringing a group of Oregon volunteers to do basic recordation of sites.

OLD BUSINESS

National Register nominations

We are trying to make a list of sites to be nominated. A nomination for Trappers Point is currently being written by Mark Miller. The Review Board liked the nomination so far. Mary Lou Larson was going to work on the ochre level at Guernsey Sunrise Mine. Shanna Cox is working on a Finley site nomination. Jeff Pappas at the SHPO Office is the National Register Coordinator. He can be reached at (307) 777-7828 or jpappa@state.wy.us.

Currently there are 10 archaeological sites on the National Register for Wyoming. Folks are encouraged to consider National Register nominations as part of a mitigation strategy. Russ explained that nominations are normally prepared by Certified Local Governments (CLGs) or the agencies and then put through appropriate channels. The National Register Board does not initiate nominations. It was discussed that WAPA might want to kick in dollars towards future nominations.

Newsletter

Members are encouraged to send information to Dave Reiss for the WAPA newsletter and to Danny Walker for the Wyoming Archaeologist. Newsletters and journals will not be published if there isn't anything to print. Information can be about what projects they've been working on, new sites found, excavations, interesting artifacts or rock art.

Contexts

The Governor appointed a steering committee to work on state contexts. Judy Wolf, Gary DeMarca, Russ Tanner, and Tim Nowak are all on the committee. They have recently completed a plan with 7 priority contexts that they want to develop. State Parks will now go to the Legislature to ask for funding of approximately \$2 million to accomplish this. The proposed contexts include: Southern Wyoming Transportation Corridor, Hunter/Gatherer Archaeological Sites in Wyoming, Mining in Wyoming (Hard Rock and Soft Rock), Wyoming Irrigation and Water Systems, Homesteading, Ranching and Stock Grazing in the Wyoming Basin, New Deal Projects in Wyoming and Wyoming's Historic Schools. These contexts will be contracted out and done in four years. Information is available on the SHPO webpage.

Judy also mentioned that it would be helpful if WAPA members contacted their legislators to let them know how important this is. The ultimate goal is consistency in eligibility determinations, but the contexts will also have management guidance. There will also be a peer review process.

She was unsure how the selection for the contract would be made. The money (from the Legislature) will go to SHPO. The committee created a MOU for the major land managing agencies to sign, so as to keep the ball rolling after the committee sunsets at the end of this year.

BLM has funded two contexts to date: 1) Stock Raising, Ranching and Homesteading in the Powder River Basin and 2) Transportation Routes and Sites in the Powder River Basin. Milward Simpson, head of State Parks and Cultural Resources, is making this the #1 priority for the office. The political support is meshing. They are also embedding money for completion of GIS for the areas. Judy mentioned that there is an outline on how to do a context on the website.

Election Results

Approximately 15-20 ballots could not be used due to lack of signature. Members are reminded that if they don't sign the ballot, they should at least sign the outer envelope the ballot is submitted in. Ballots are shredded after election results are counted.

Ed Schneider is the new President, Dale Wedel is the new Vice President, Marty Rogers is the new Secretary, John Laughlin is the new Treasurer, and the two Members at Large are Sam Drucker and Julie Francis.

List Serve

Tom Larson indicated that if people are having trouble accessing the list serve, they should go to the WAPA web site and subscribe through that venue. The treasurer can then check to see if they got on ok.

Bylaws Committee

The committee looking into updating the bylaws consists of Julie Francis, BJ Earle, John Albanese, Bill Current and Tom Larson. No meetings have been held to date and they expect to work on this in 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month

Posters, t-shirts and hats are available. Our Hell Gap poster took 1st place at the SAAs in Puerto Rico. The Frison Institute speaker is Gary Haines next week in Laramie. On the 21st, Jim and George will both be speaking at Western Wyoming Community College.

Doug Owsley will be receiving the distinguished alumni award from UW and he will be speaking there and at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne also. At LCCC he will be talking about the excavations at Colonial Jamestown in the afternoon and about the Hunley in the evening.

Upcoming Meetings

Regional History Conference at the Billings Sheraton next week.
URARA is the first weekend in October in Vernal, UT.
ARARA will be the last weekend in June 2007 in Billings, MT.
Plains Conference is November 8-11 in Topeka, KS.

The Spring WAS meeting will be held in Saratoga, date to be announced.

CRMtracker

Mary Hopkins brought a couple of the CRMtracker manuals to hand out if anyone is interested in reviewing it. She mentioned that there are regular conference calls every Friday morning at 8:30 to discuss issues about CRMtracker.

This week Eric Ingbar re-installed the e-mail side of the Fieldwork Notification. She indicated that BLM users of Lotus Notes would need to set up a filter if they did not want to receive these e-mails.

Please forward any issues to Mary and Eric. Mary is able to access every record and she can fix errors for you. Once an archaeologist sends the record to the agency, they have lost control over it until the agency returns the record to them.

Schedule for Rock Art Tour

Meet at the BLM office at 9 a.m. We want to try and car pool. Get your lunches ahead of time. Tour will go as follows: South Piney, Calpet Rockshelter, Big Chief Panel, Gateway, Names Hill, LaBarge Bluffs. If the weather is bad, they'll try and set up a PowerPoint.

John Greer motioned to adjourn. Lynn Harrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ranel Capron

Attendees:

Jana Pastor
Richard Currit

Gary DeMarcay
Dale Wedel

Marty Rogers
Danny Walker
Gene Smith
Edward Schneider
Lynn Harrell
John Greer
Jacquelin St. Clair
John Laughlin
Evelyn Albanese
Judy Wolf
Bill Current
Russ Tanner
Jim Keyser

Sam Drucker
Joseph Daniele
Julie Francis
Scott McKern
Mary Hopkins
Mavis Greer
Elaine Skinner Hale
Dave Vlcek
John Albanese
Ranel Capron
Tom Larson
Joseph Randolph
George Poetschat