

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists

Semi-annual Meeting
September 22, 2005
Student Senate Chambers, University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Current at 2:00 pm.

Minutes of the Spring Semi-annual Meeting in Rawlins were approved with some revisions, on a motion by Mark Miller, seconded by Ed Schneider. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tom Larson reported that WAPA has total assets of about \$28,000 (see Treasurers Report attached.) The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Mark Miller, seconded by Gary DeMarcay. Motion carried.

Agencies and Organizations Reports:

Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist—State Archaeologist Mark Miller reported that the Archaeological Survey Division is moving into new offices.

The NEW Department of Anthropology building-- is on track with bids expected in October, groundbreaking in November and occupancy sometime in mid-2007.

Curation Facility

Facility manager Marty Rogers reported that the inventory of Bureau of Reclamation materials in curation has been completed. She will be talking with representatives of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding their materials.

Assistant State Archaeologist Danny Walker reported that he has conducted geophysical test operations at 4-5 locations during the past year. He has also provided assistance to the Pinedale Field Office of the BLM relative to salvage work at the Wardell Site. Walker said he is also assisting Dr. George Frison with finishing the book on the Medicine Lodge Creek Site.

OWSA Survey Division

Paul Sanders reported that OWSA is involved in data recovery on a five mile stretch of highway south of Obsidian Cliff. A lithic reduction site is being studied as part of this project.

He also reports that a survey is underway in the Yellowstone Lake region and includes work by Lifeways of Canada, and by Donald Blakeslee of Wichita State University. A Cody knife was found in the Osprey Beach area during this inventory.

Dave Reiss reported that the Wyoming National Guard has retained OWSA to do inventory related to land acquisition for Camp Guernsey. The lands involved include several rockshelter sites, which have been fenced to keep cattle out.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Wyoming Cultural Records Office

Mary Hopkins reported that a budget request of \$220,000 has been made to Governor Freudenthal. This funding would allow her office to hire two additional positions, and make other improvements.

She also reported that the PUMP III Final report is due any day. The report will be available on CD.

BLM-SHPO Protocol—Mary reported that the protocol agreement guiding operations between the SHPO and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is being revised. She said the agreement will be out to the public after October 13, 2006.

SHPO Planning and Historic Context Development

Judy Wolf reported that the above mentioned BLM contracts are being paid for with BLM planning money and are conducted in connection with the Governor's Steering Committee for Context Development.

The Steering Committee is working on a plan for getting contexts written on a prioritized basis at the request of the Governor.

Judy reported that she is working on a context for Stone Circle Sites which is in the early draft stage at this time.

SHPO Review and Compliance (R&C)

Richard Curritt reported a number of additions to the SHPO staff: Jeff Pappas as architectural historian; Audrey York dealing with historic landscapes, review and compliance historian Matt Bennett, and review archaeologist Shanna Cox.

The R&C has received over 500 requests for consulting primarily concerning pipelines and coal mining projects. There is also a marked increase in interest by Native American groups and individuals in activities of the SHPO and Federal agencies.

Wyoming National Guard

Karen Kempton reported that the Guard had contracted a survey which resulted in the addition of about 100 sites to the Camp Guernsey base inventory. The Guard has also contracted a study of ethnohistory and traditional cultural properties (TCPs) concerning

Camp Guernsey. A partnership has been instituted with the Oglala Community College to make a DVD concerning ethnohistory. The information in the study is proprietary. The Guard is also working with tribal representatives to have a tribal monitor training project with Rosebud Sioux reservation participants monitor for burials in the Guernsey area.

United States Forest Service (USFS)

Gary Demarcay, Medicine Bow regional archaeologist, reported that Sara Crump at the Saratoga District is conducting an inventory of some areas where trees have been infested by beetles and some action may be needed. He also reported that Tom Larson has been contracted to conduct an inventory on the old Pole Mountain Army Ordinance Range.

Ian Ritchie, of the Douglas District is working on a rental program for the restored LaPrele Guard Station.

Gary is having meetings regarding a programmatic agreement (PA) with the SHPO.

A magnetometer survey and test excavation is underway in Weston County by GCM Consultants.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Russ Tanner reported that many offices, especially Buffalo, are busy with permitting wells to produce coal bed natural (aka coal bed methane).

Russ also reported that the Wyoming State Office has contracted two historic context studies for the Powder River Basin, one on Homesteading, Stock raising and Dry Farming, and the other on Transportation networks. These studies are being funded by BLM planning money.

Dave Vlcek, Pinedale Field Office, reported that their office remains very busy permitting traditional natural gas wells and associated facilities.

Wyoming Department of Transportation

Julie Francis reported that an Environmental Impact Statement has been released concerning the Jackson to Hoback Junction highway widening project. A data recovery excavation project is proposed for the Game Creek Site.

She also said the Highway Department is doing studies on additional lane construction on the highway south of Laramie to Ft. Collins, and in the Muddy Gap area on the highway between Rawlins and Casper.

Consultant Organization Reports

TRC

Ed Schneider reported that TRC is working on a survey at the Cordero Mine; an excavation for BP in the Red Desert along the Pioneer Pipeline route and that the Lost Creek excavation report is due to be published soon.

He also reported that during inventory for Arch of Wyoming a 14,000 acre traditional cultural property was recorded. Discussions are underway to manage the area as a cultural landscape. The area is near Hanna, Wyoming.

Current Archaeology Research

Bill Current reported that his company remains very busy with energy development related work mostly in the western part of the state.

Old Business

WAPA President Bill Current reported that there was excellent Wyoming representation at the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference in Park City, Utah, last week. At that meeting WAPA's Service Award was presented to Wil Husted, retired National Park Service archaeologist by WAPA Vice President Russ Tanner.

WAPA List Server

Current reported that the Executive Committee has determined that it is WAPA policy that the list serve is for members only—people two years in arrears in dues will be dropped from the list at the end of September.

Website

Sam Trautman will continue to work on re-deploying the WAPA webpage. Karen Kempton said she thought she'd given old website information to Mary Hopkins, but may have given it to WAPA secretary Ranel Capron. WAPA members indicated they'd like to see the webpage back up online.

Newsletter

Dave Reiss continues to be ready to compile the newsletter and put it on the website, but he is badly in need of information from members.

Native Elders Recognition

President Current was going to ask several of the elders what they thing would be an appropriate way for WAPA to recognize them and especially those who have died. Bill hasn't been able to make those contacts yet but hopes to over the winter.

New Business

Two new members have been approved by the Executive Committee: **Jim Lowe and Dan Bach.**

Upcoming Meetings

- +Plains in Edmondton, Alberta in October, 2005
- +Society for Historical Archaeology in Sacramento, CA in January, 2006
- +Islands in the Plains at Deadwood Gulch Resort, Deadwood, South Dakota, in April, 2006
- +Society for American Archaeology in San Juan, Puerto Rico in April, 2006

+Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS), Spring Meeting, April 7-9, 2006 in Cheyenne at the Plains Hotel.

+Rocky Mountain Anthropological conference in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, in 2007.

Next WAPA Meeting

Mary Hopkins reported that the WAS Meeting will be at the Plains Hotel in Cheyenne. They have \$65 rooms and a rate of about \$65/night is being negotiated. Friday, April 7, 2006 there will be an open house at the Cheyenne Depot Museum. Student papers will be presented on Saturday, and the dinner guest speaker will be Doug Owsley, forensic anthropologist from the Smithsonian Institution. Sunday there will be a tour of the State Museum, and Chuck Reher (UW Anthropology professor) will conduct a tour to the Pine Bluffs Archaeological research facility.

Mary Hopkins made a motion to hold the Spring, 2006 WAPA meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming Archaeological Society meeting April 7-9, 2006 in Cheyenne. The motion was seconded by Bill Current and Julie Francis offered a third. The motion carried.

Fall WAPA meeting

Dave Vlcek offered to hold the fall meeting in Pinedale. Vlcek said there could be tours to the Trappers Point Site, and /or to Rock Art sites in the area. Russ Tanner made a motion to hold the fall meeting in Pinedale, seconded by Marty Rogers. The motion carried.

Wyoming Cultural Resource Association (WCRA)

Tom Larson announced the formation of a new organization (WCRA) consisting of several of the consulting archaeology organizations and personnel including Jana Pastor, Mike Metcalf, Eric Ingbar in addition to Tom, himself. The group has about 20 members at this time. The organization has met with the BLM and SHPO with favorable results.

Western Regulatory Office of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

It was announced that the western office of the ACHP will officially close on October 28, 2005. After that date all issues will go to the Washington, D.C. office.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Russ Tanner, seconded by Marty Rogers.

Respectfully submitted:

Russel L. Tanner
Vice President
Ad hoc Secretary