

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Fall Meeting
18 September 2003
Estes Park, Colorado

President Bill Current called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report – Bill asked if the membership had read the minutes from the Sheridan meeting as presented on the list-serve? Copies of the minutes were made available to those in attendance. Most replied that they had read the minutes. Ranel Capron asked if anyone wanted her to read the minutes out loud and the reply was no. Lynn Harrell made a motion to accept the minutes as sent out on the list-serve. Richard Currit seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Since Tom Larson was unable to attend the meeting, Bill read the report provided by Tom. Copies were made available to those in attendance. There is currently \$7,207.57 in the checking account. The CIA account has not yet been closed, nor has the large amount of money from the checking been moved into an account with those funds. We have a total amount of just over \$18,000. Jana Pastor made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Scott McKern seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Agency Reports

Bureau of Land Management

Tim Nowak indicated that Washington had recently sent out a final draft of their minimum GPS standards. These will go into effect by April 1, 2004; however, Wyoming will have a bit higher requirement and the effect date for those will be January 2005.

Tim identified some incidents in the Powder River Basin, where landowners were not notified prior to consultants working on their private surface. All consultants were reminded that they need to gain permission from private landowners before proceeding onto private lands. Lynn indicated that it is the responsibility of the client (project proponent) to get all permissions cleared, not necessarily that of the consulting archaeologist. This was echoed by several people. However, checking with the private landowner is still a good idea, especially to let them know exactly what date you will be on their land.

BLM testing guidelines will be sent out in October. Julie Francis asked to receive a copy as well.

Russ Tanner has finished revising the Historic Trails context and Tim is currently reviewing the document. Tim indicated that there is no trails management plan at the moment. It appears to be tied up in politics. If BLM is unable to do a statewide trails plan, then each field office will have to address it in their separate Resource Management Plans. Pinedale would be used as a template if that happens.

Dave Vlcek reported that they are writing an RMP on an accelerated schedule. The Class I overview for their RMP is expected to be a comprehensive document, complete with gray literature as an appendix. He hopes to use the WAPA list serve for some discussions.

Tim indicated there were four BLM Field Offices updating their RMPs – Pinedale, Casper, Kemmerer, and Rawlins.

Lynn Harrell said that Kemmerer had begun their RMP update with a due date of 9/30/05. Please feed any information you think is important to her. The update will be written through contracts – BLM will have a role in the review of the document. There is no new field manager in KFO to date.

Chris Arthur, Casper BLM, said that the Exxon CO2 pipeline was currently going into the ground. There have been a lot of discoveries. Doing some Section 110 work on the interior of the Cedar Ridge site. Please let him know if you would like to be on the mailing list to receive information about the Casper RMP work for public participation, etc. There will be scoping meetings held and it would be a good idea for WAPA to be represented.

Bureau of Reclamation

Dale Austin reported doing a lot of 106 surveys and also some 110 surveys this past summer at several reservoirs – Glendo, Pathfinder, etc. Accomplished an historical recordation at Pilot Butte Dam embankment. Expect to inventory at Buffalo Bill Reservoir due to some bison bone finds. Dale indicated that this next year (2004) is their final year to do their museum property inventory. The Great Plains Region has accepted standards that permittees will have to adhere to when sending in collections to repository. He does not think they are more strenuous requirements than what UW already asks for.

US Forest Service

Gary DeMarcey, out of the Laramie Ranger District, indicated there was an indefinite delivery contract coming out soon. The Medicine Bow Plan will be coming out in December.

State Historic Preservation Office

Richard Currit said their office had been quite busy. Their quarterly report showed they had done close to 1000 reviews in a 3 month period. They have hired a new architectural historian – Patrice Howland, formerly preservation officer at West Point. The new state administration appears to be pretty supportive of cultural resources. Kent Floyd is a name to remember – he is the federal agency liaison between State Parks and Cultural Resources and the federal agencies.

Mary Hopkins will be talking about the Pump III initiative tomorrow.

The Legislative Budget year is coming up and they have been trying to put in for permanent positions. Whatever help you can give towards this effort would be appreciated. The Governor has asked Art Reese to look at the needs in the SHPO office.

Trails are an ongoing issue – lots of review issues around this topic.

Wyoming Department of Transportation

Julie Francis indicated that not a lot had changed from the last report she gave. There is still no Federal Aid Highway Bill. FHWA will close its doors on 9/30/03 if Congress does not pass the bill.

There is quite a lot of “virtual letting” going on – where there are a lot of projects with no dollars tied to them yet being switched in the queue with those projects that have federal funding.

National Park Service

Elaine Hale, Yellowstone National Park, said they are in a holding pattern as well; just getting projects ready to go in case the money shows up. Writing data recovery plans in preparation for fieldwork, etc. They do have some volunteers working on erosion problems. They’ve also been wrapping cabins in front of the wild fire situations. Working on National Register nominations at Yellowstone River and Lake.

OLD BUSINESS

Still working on the awards and plaques and determining the best place/time for those announcements.

Meeting with WAPH (professional historians group) will be tabled until Russ Tanner can come to a meeting and report on the progress of setting something up.

Bill Current said that Dave Reiss was willing to take articles for a newsletter. Bill encouraged all the consultants and agency folks to send Dave a paragraph or two regarding the summer work accomplished. Would like to get a newsletter out before the spring WAPA meeting.

This meeting is the drop dead date for joining WAPA in order to stay on the List-serve. Please pay your 2003 dues, so you can remain on this e-mail list. We will send an official letter to all members who have not paid 2003 dues. This letter will indicate that they will lose list-serve privileges if dues are not returned by the end of the calendar year.

New Members

The following new members were accepted into WAPA: Kay Hammer, Elaine Hale, Susan Chandler, Mike McFaul and Susan Murray.

Testing Committee

Will look at the new BLM testing guidelines when they come out next month. Expect to give a report at the Spring WAPA meeting.

Consulting Committee

Russ Tanner emphasized to Bill Current that there are not a lot of archaeological sites that have been recommended to the National Register. There are now four archaeologists on the committee, so folks should nominate sites, as they will have an easier time becoming approved and forwarded on to Washington.

Elections Committee

There were no new nominations from the committee. Those who are officers have agreed to serve again. We do need to replace one Member-at-Large. Chris Arthur volunteered to do it. Julie Francis nominated Chris and Gary DeMarcey seconded the motion. Motion passed. Julie then nominated all officers to remain in office for another term. Lynn Harrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Archaeology Month

Judy Wolf announced that there were posters in the back in case any of the membership would like to have some.

NEW BUSINESS

Geoarchaeology training

Mike McFaul addressed the members regarding a geoarchaeology training that he and Fred Nials would like to do. He is currently collecting ideas on the training. Thinking about a lecture in the morning and fieldwork in the afternoon. Might have one class for government archaeologists and one for consultants. Would like to focus on different depositional environments, assist in building models on site prediction; possibly use the list-serve to send out an abstract. Hope to have the class in the spring of 04. Please let him know if you have any ideas. E-mail: geomorph@laramiesoils.com

Spring Meeting

Typically this meeting is held in conjunction with the Wyoming Archaeology Society. Their spring meeting will be in Jackson, Wyoming. We do not know the exact date right now. Julie Francis indicated she would be in favor of continuing the joint meeting. Chris Arthur moved to approve the joint meeting. Scott McKern seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Wil Husted

Dave Vlcek told the members that Wil Husted was ailing. Julie Francis moved to make Wil Husted an honorary WAPA member. Chris Arthur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chris Arthur then moved to close the meeting. Gary DeMarcey seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Those in attendance:

Susan Murray, Western Archaeological Services
Jana Pastor, Western Archaeological Services
Julie Francis, Wyoming Department of Transportation
Paul Sanders, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist
Lynn Harrell, Bureau of Land Management, Kemmerer Field Office
Scott McKern, Current Archaeological Research
Dale Austin, Bureau of Reclamation, Mills Office
Dave Vlcek, archaeologist
Tim Nowak, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office
Sara Sheen, State Historic Preservation Office
Richard Currit, State Historic Preservation Office
Mike Metcalf, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants
Susan Chandler, Alpine Archaeological Consultants
Gary DeMarcey, US Forest Service
Rhoda Lewis, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Chris Arthur, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office
Brian Waitkus, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist
Mike McFaul, La Ramie Soils

Galen Burgett, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Judy Wolf, State Historic Preservation Office
Ranel Capron, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office
Bill Current, Current Archaeological Research