



Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 24, 2021

The meeting is officially called to order at 1:09 pm by President John Laughlin.

Roll Call.

RESOLUTION: On Bonnie Lawrence-Smith's motion (seconded by Paul Sanders) the Fall 2021 Agenda was approved. All in favor.

RESOLUTION: On Mike Bies's motion (seconded by Judy Wolf) the Spring 2021 Meeting Minutes were approved. All in Favor.

Executive Committee/Treasurer and Membership Report (Michael Page):

- As of September 24, 2021, the balance of the WAPA checking account is \$8,979.00 and the balance of the Putnam account is \$23,674.58 for a TOTAL of \$32,653.58.
- Expenditures since the Spring 2021 meeting consist of:
 - \$658.26 to Rocky Mountain Shirtworks for WAPA t-shirts and stickers
 - \$6.85 to John Laughlin for an award frame
 - \$100.00 to GBAC for donation
 - \$100 to History Day for student scholarship awards

Membership & Ethics Committee Report

Because the Vice President is not present, we do not have a Membership and Ethics Committee report at this time.

RESOLUTION: On *Member's* motion (seconded by *Member*) the Fall 2021 Treasurer's Report was approved. All in Favor.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES)

- **Listserve/Website (John Laughlin):** There is nothing new to discuss on the website or listserv; both John and Leanna are monitoring the listserv.
- **Memorial Fund for Doc (Spencer Pelton):** We have just over \$30,000 in the fund right now. The goal is to reach \$100,000 – we need another 60-70k to get the fund endowed. Once that happens we will be able to fund about \$4,000 each year for PhD research, fellowships, etc.



Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 24, 2021

- **Wyotrack Committee (Michael Page):** There isn't anything new to report. We passed on a lot of requests from contractors already – all suggestions offered have been communicated.
- **Jonah PA (Paul Burnett):** The Jonah PA is not moving forward because they weren't able to secure funding. The Pinedale BLM is going to try and fund some of the items that were included in the PA.
- **Honorary Lifetime Voting Membership Award for Charles A. Reher:** This award was voted on by the membership back in the spring of 2021. Award is presented to Charles A. Reher by Michael Page.
- **Student Awards:** WAPA is purchasing two boxes of Medicine Lodge Creek Volume 1 to give as awards for the best student paper at the spring meeting. Funding has not been secured yet for Volume 2. No one is currently taking the lead on that project.

NEW BUSINESS

New WAPA Shirts and Stickers (Leanna Flaherty): The WAPA EC recently had shirts, stickers, and hats made with the new WAPA Logo. The hats are backordered, but we have shirts and stickers here if you are interested. Shirts are \$17 each and stickers are \$1 each. They are available for purchase anytime – just email John for now.

OWSA Donation Request (Michael Page): OWSA is requesting funding for radiocarbon dating, focusing on the late prehistoric Crow Component at Medicine Lodge Creek (4 dates – 3 on bone and 1 on charcoal. **RESOLUTION:** On Mike Bies's motion (seconded by Bonnie Lawrence-Smith) \$1500.00 of funding was approved. All in Favor.

WAPA Speaker Series (Leanna Flaherty): We have one more event coming up in October – date is TBD, but the speaker will be Dr. Dave Meltzer. If you are interested in doing a presentation in November – or know someone who would be great to hear from – please let us know. If we continue the speaker series next year we will be cutting down the number of speakers.

Spring 2022 WAPA Meeting (John Laughlin): The Spring 2022 WAPA Meeting is currently scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2022. It will be in Sheridan, in conjunction with the WAS meeting.

PA/MOA Updates (Richard Currit): The only big project coming up is the GBSD ground based surface defense system. It is just getting started and is quite extensive – probably 3,000 miles of



Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 24, 2021

buried utility lines through several states. The agreement document will be fairly complicated. It is related to national security so it will get pushed through pretty quickly.

Comments for New Business:

- **Paul Burnett** – Can WAPA help organize an update to BLM’s subsurface testing guidance at all? The guidance is from 2003.
 - Richard – We haven’t been able to meet in person for our annual meeting with BLM, which is one issue. Buck Damone is the new BLM/SHPO Liaison so we might be able to talk with him about this – and getting some consistency between offices.
- **Larry Todd** – We got the money to do stable isotope analysis on 23 bison skulls from the Frison Institute (Meeteetse Bison Project).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doc Frison’s Celebration of Life – The memorial is today from 3-5pm at the Hilton Garden Inn.

NRHP Listings (Judy Wolf): The most recent listing was the Wold Rock Art Site. Amanda Castaneda, Larry Loendorf, and Julie Francis did a great job on the nomination. We have two more nominations coming up.

Archaeology Awareness Month/Archaeology Fair (Judy Wolf): The new posters are honoring George Frison. Last year’s poster received 2nd place. The Archaeology Fair is tomorrow from 10 to 3!

RESOLUTION: On Bonnie Lawrence-Smith’s motion (seconded by Paul Burnett), the Fall 2021 WAPA Meeting is adjourned at 2:00pm. All in favor.



Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 24, 2021

CONTRACTOR/AGENCY REPORTS

Fall 2021 State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails Update (Dan Bach): State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails (SPHST) has been very busy over the last year. SPHST wrote over 40 Cultural Compliance Letters to Wyoming SHPO and BOR. Of those, three projects are worth noting: 1) WAS conducted limited testing at Legend Rock. This project accomplished two goals: the first goal was the relocation and excavation of red soil stains observed when the trench was profiled. Analysis of the stain is in progress. The second goal was to insert sandbag barriers in the trench to reduce piping recently observed on the surface of the trench; without action, the piping will undercut the Americans with Disabilities Act Trail and emergency vehicle access to the west end of the site. 2) Medicine Lodge State Historic Site (MLC) requested to expand campsites into the Dry Fork area of the site. The OWSA was contracted for this project. The final report titled “Test Results for the Expansion of the Dry Fork Campground at Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site” was submitted earlier this year. All parties (SHPO, OWSA, and the SPHST) were able to develop a plan moving forward to develop new campsites without impacting any contributing areas of Site 48BH499. 3) A new trail segment at Hot Springs State Park was surveyed. The results of the survey and the construction of the trail had no effects on any historic properties.

Medicine Lodge State Historic Site is in the process of building a new addition thanks to a Helmsley Foundation grant for a new Cultural and Outdoor Education Center. This center will be a space for learning through dynamic programming and interpretation that creates an engaging and memorable experience while developing stewards who want to preserve and protect the past for the sake of future generations. A strong emphasis will be placed on Native American culture and natural history by using visual interpretation, interactive exhibits, sensory integration, and thoughtful place-based learning that blends with the surrounding landscape and existing headquarters building.

In addition, SPHST is working with OWSA to host a small public excavation (3 to 7 test units) around the barn at the MLC from July 14, 2021, to July 28, 2021. The primary goal of the project is to provide an opportunity for the public to participate in and learn about Wyoming archaeology. In addition, the goal of the research is to locate and date the “postulated Crow Component” that was partially excavated in 1976. In addition to excavation, OWSA plans to have an onsite laboratory where participants can learn proper curation procedures and artifact identification and assist in the cataloging and curation of the artifacts recovered from the excavations.

Currently State Parks is in the process of adding upwards of 300 campsites at our State Parks with CARES ACT Funds. The majority of those will be on Bureau of Reclamation properties. The Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist spent a good portion of their summer surveying and clearing our parks for these new campsites and campgrounds.



Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 24, 2021

Outside of the cultural component of SPHST, the Monuments and Markers Program has been given new life (i.e., a small budget)! Last year the program worked with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to create and install an interpretive sign in Southeastern Wyoming. The program also worked with the Converse County Tourism Board to update the language and replace the wooden sign with a metal Sewah sign at the Ayres Natural Bridge turnoff from I-80. The Hell's Half Acre Sign, located between Casper and Shoshoni was severely dilapidated. It was replaced with a new wooden sign which was subsequently stolen two weeks later. It has since been replaced. Currently, the Planning Section of SPHST finished uploading a searchable and interactive GIS-based map. One of the goals for 2021 is to build strong partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the National Park Service (NPS), the United States Forest Service (USFS), Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS), and the Wyoming State Historical Society (WSHS).

GRSLE, Inc (Larry Todd): During July and August 2021, a volunteer crew assembled by GRSLE conducted inventory and artifact documentation (Park County Wyoming). The project (20th field season of the GRSLE NW Wyoming research) was conducted in a remote area of the Washakie Wilderness, Shoshone National Forest. The research was conducted in collaboration with Kyle Wright (Shoshone National Forest) as a Section 110 inventory. The team was led by Larry Todd and Daniel Dalmas (PhD Program, University of Utah) completed one 30-day backcountry field session included: Bill Dooley (Buffalo, Wyoming; 15th field season working with GRSLE), Tewabe Negash (PhD Program, Colorado State University; 2021 Leakey Foundation Baldwin Fellow), Larkin Chapman (PhD Program, University of New Mexico), Sierra Melton (PhD Program, Penn State University) and Alejandra May (B.A. Purdue). Livingston Outfitters again got us there and back easily and efficiently. Systematic inventory at transect spacings of 5-10m (<2km/hour walking pace) was completed in nine survey block areas with a total area of 231ha (572ac) at elevations ranging from 2600-3300m (~8600-11,000 ft). Locational and descriptive data were collected on 17,445 pieces of chipped stone by up to three 2-person teams; 17,369 pieces within the inventory block areas and 76 pieces encountered outside block inventory areas. Within the block inventory areas, the mean artifact density is 75.2 artifacts/ha investigated. Diagnostic artifact ages (based primarily on projectile point morphology) range from Paleoindian at greater than 10,000 years to Contact Period (glass trade beads). A total of 33 newly identified artifact clusters meeting SHPO definition of sites were documented and four clusters that had been initially identified in 2006, but not completely documented due to the Little Venus Fire were revisited and recorded. Selection of project area was based on research questions related to relationships between surface artifact density/prehistoric use intensity and landscape attributes presumed to relate to human access and regional connectivity networks (e.g., trails, migration corridors, mountain passes). Project results suggest that the modeled concept of "orphan drainages," is not supported by the 2021 Anderson Creek data, which may reflect either that the model is inappropriate or that criteria used to select 2021 project area were not suitable and will be considered when developing future research area selection to investigation landscape connectedness.



Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 24, 2021

Meeting Attendees – 18 attendees:

1. Paul Burnett
2. Judy Wolf
3. Spencer Pelton
4. Larry Todd
5. Marcia Peterson
6. Richard Currit
7. John Laughlin
8. Leanna Flaherty
9. Rachael Shimek
10. Paul Sanders
11. Nathan Fleming
12. Michael Page
13. Bonnie Lawrence-Smith
14. Mike Bies
15. Elaine Hale
16. Brian Waitkus
17. Dan Bach
18. Chuck Reher