

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Fall Meeting
Friday, September 20, 2002
Casper, Wyoming

Everyone signed in so we could take a count of attendance (22 people on list).

CALL TO ORDER

President Bill Current called the meeting to order.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ranel Capron asked if everyone saw the minutes on the list-serve? She asked if she needed to read them out loud. Majority said no. John Greer moved to accept the minutes as posted on the list-serve. Julie Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Larson said that there were \$15,225.93 in assets. The checking account has \$4,354 in it and the three Putnam Accounts have a total of \$10,871 in them. The Executive Council discussed the possibility of changing from the Putnam. He hasn't received a statement yet for September, but we have taken a \$600 hit in the last quarter. Tom advised that we think about putting some of the Putnam money into the Money Market or purchasing a CD. He also said he thought we were carrying too much in the checking account. We might be better served putting the extra money into a low interest account. He asked how much should we carry? Julie replied that she kept about \$1200 in the checking account. Maybe \$1000 and the Project Archaeology money would be enough.

The Executive Council will study what to do with the money and make a recommendation at the Spring meeting. Russ Tanner moved to accept the report. Julie Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

AGENCY REPORTS

BOR - Dale Austin reported that it was a pretty routine summer. Due to the low levels at the Pathfinder Reservoir, some human remains were discovered. The finder told his neighbor, a deputy sheriff, who thought it might be a crime scene and bagged the bones. The deputy took them to the coroner. They sent the remains to George Gill who thought it was probably a female juvenile, race undetermined. They finally called in BOR and BOR got the bones back. Had Rick Weathermon come out and look at the location. Found some lithics and FCR. A couple of weeks later they found some more remains. Dale said they were going to have Dr. Gill look at the remains again to see if the bones come from the same individual. The discovery site is in the vicinity of the Cattle Kate site.

BLM

Ranel reported that the two Project Archaeology workshops scheduled for the summer did not happen due to lack of interest.

Russ Tanner reported that the National Historic Trails context study will be finished at the end of the month. He is transitioning into rewriting the management plan next. It will probably take a year to finalize. There will be opportunities to comment.

Dave Vlcek reported that Pinedale had two trail-related contracts go out for RFPs. They are for two Class III Block surveys. Using Section 110 proactive money. Their office was shut down for a week, so they are playing catch-up.

Julie Francis asked about the 5 mile trail corridor issue. Russ said that the policy issued last November had been rescinded. This past week, most of the BLM archaeologists were taking training in Visual Resource Management, which will allow them to do assessment of historical values of the trail as it relates to each project. They will be able to determine whether the undertaking will contrast with the VRM rating level.

John Greer asked about the training and whether VRM would be applied everywhere or just in Southwest Wyoming? Russ said that 1/3 of the people at the training this week were archaeologists, others were planners, recreation specialists - VRM classifications are supposed to be in every plan, so yes, VRM occurs statewide. There will be another statewide training here in May.

Dave Vlcek said that the training was broader than just trails. The application that we will see is how to screen tanks, color schemes for painting, to do digital superimposition of projects to the trail. The VRM people enjoined us to do VRM at a large scale/broad sense – to make all the land-disturbing projects look good on the land.

Julie talked about how they had done VRM on scenic byways with the USFS. The NEPA document's visual analysis section talks about what the rock cut looks like and how you can blend it in, will the drill holes be visual, etc. A lot of VRM is handled outside of cultural resources. She'd like to see some WYDOT people take the training.

Dave offered to send anyone a copy of the training info. Let him know.

WYDOT

Julie reported that there may be a Paleo-Indian site on the Snake River to Hoback Canyon road. Doing a big EIS on that. Expect to do data recovery in a few years.

They put signage up on Highway 287 about the Chief Washakie Trail, because the tribes told them it was important. There was a ground-breaking with the Native Americans in May.

The Joy family requested that WYDOT relocate the monument to Henry Joy (Lincoln Highway Assoc.), so they put it up at the Lincoln Monument.

WYCRO/SHPO

Mary Hopkins reported that they are all moved and have very nice offices now. Lots of room and desk space and a computer for people who want to come in and do their own files searches. Thanks to Audrey Shalinsky because she went the extra mile to get the space for them.

Note: WAPA should send a letter of thanks to Audrey.

There is a new architect coming in to the SHPO office next week. Her name is Nancy Hanks. There is also a new Review and Compliance person, Sara Sheen. And Karen Kempton has been working diligently on the web pages. They have a new look.

UW

Chuck Reher reported that one of their field schools worked in cooperation with the Shoshone Business Council to do some testing at the 1870 Block House to the east of Fort Washakie. It was a 20 x 20 building with gun ports that was in bad shape architecturally. Then the field school moved down to Pine Bluffs and worked in the bluffs south of there. Expect to report on this work at the Plains Conference.

The Department is busy establishing the PhD program. And they are advertising for either a faunal analyst or a geomorphologist for the staff.

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Several WAPA members participated in the Wyoming Game & Fish Heritage Expo this month: Rich Adams, Dave Vlcek, Alan Wimer, Paul Sanders, Rick Laurent, Steve Sutter, Karen Kempton, Judy Wolf, Sara Sheen, Ranel Capron, Danny Walker, Galen Burgett, and Sharon Long. (Sorry if I forgot anyone.)

Julie Francis reported that she would be speaking at the Washakie County Museum and touring Legend Rock with Larry Loendorf. Julie also has a book signing event at the State Museum on October 4th, 2002.

Ranel Capron reported that she would be speaking at the State Museum the next day.

Bill indicated that we are working on getting a plaque done for Elizabeth Ono Rahel, who is the WAAM poster designer out of Laramie. Would like to present the poster to her at the UW Spring lecture and have Bob Kelly do it. Not sure yet who the speaker for that event will be. Julie said she would check with Audrey Shalinsky to see if they'd lined anyone up yet. It would be nice if Richard Collier, SHPO photographer, could be there to take a photo of this.

WAPA NEWSLETTER

If anyone has anything to report, please send items to Ranel, or we won't be able to have a newsletter in January.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

This item was tabled from our last meeting. The Executive Committee came up with the idea of \$500 for this type of membership, which would include family. Bill asked if there was any discussion on this? Most people probably won't avail themselves of this opportunity, expect there to be a small response. Dave thought the cost was too high. Julie said that most of us won't get 25 years out of it. Mavis indicated that Montana charges \$500 for a family. Mary said she thought it was high also. Mavis said the good thing was that when membership rates went up, as they are wont to do, you won't have to worry about it.

John Albanese made a motion to accept the Lifetime Membership rate as \$500. Passed.

DATA MANAGEMENT INFO

Mary Hopkins discussed the new SHPO web page. All the pages are rolled together, including the Colby entrance to the data management system. If you aren't a registered user yet, please get an application to set up your account. This will allow tabular access to the online WYCRIS database, which is password protected. There are also radiocarbon dates for download to Microsoft Access and USGS quad map names available. Have also added NHLs with pages about the landmarks.

Karen Kempton deserves a big thanks for working on this, getting the photos and writing descriptions. Karen says the big counties aren't done, but the rest are. Also, working on imaging most of the site forms to show on a clickable map. About 1/3 are done so far.

We have hosted training regarding the online map service and security. Expect to have two more in November. It is a half-day training (walk-through) of how to use and search and it is free. Encourages the contractors to take this.

PROPERTY FORM

Mary presented the revised form, which incorporates a majority of the comments received. The manual should be finished by November. Julie asked when would we start using this? Mary said she didn't know, but if you want to start using it now, and need it electronically, let her know and she'll send it to you.

Some of the changes include: one GPS point for each site has been added; discovery method has been modified; removed number and dimensions of shovel tests; citations removed; setting will include all the named geological formations (a map will be hosted on the web, provided by the WGS and is based on the Wyoming Geological Highway Map) and will not require the environmental section for historic buildings. Also, subsurface potential was changed; stone circle section is going away; bridges will go on the historic feature form.

The form still needs to be checked out by SHPO and BLM.

Bill asked why are we doing a new form when all you have to do is delete certain sections?

John mentioned that it seemed all we were doing was pulling some stuff off the larger form. The minimal form will not work if compliance checks find that there are more flakes out there than was originally recorded.

Mary asked that people send in comments about the definitions and the MSF – multiple sites form? Mary said we have added another round of numbers for our database. Everyone agreed they didn't want another set of numbers.

Mavis asked what is wrong with giving everything a Smithsonian number?

Mary replied that when you have a number, then there is overhead to go with that.

John asked why are we assigning numbers in the first place? It isn't for the action, it's for the research on down the line.

Russ asked whether Mary foresaw a time when the IFs will be put on the maps? SHPO does not do this, but some BLM field offices do.

Mary replied that it is not a priority to SHPO, but she could foresee pulling diagnostic isolates in the future – they are in the database.

Survey Report Cover Page (2nd page) – categorically not eligible. We have property exclusion guidelines, but it isn't on the web. Ranel thinks it is in one of the protocol appendices.

Everyone had heartburn with not giving site numbers to minimal properties. Need to track the properties the same way. Mary thought it would be better to determine a bunch of categorically not eligible sites.

Prehistoric site with 10 or few chipped stone or ground stone artifacts, 2 or less hearth features, for concentrations with no likelihood of dating; no deposition or likelihood of deposition will be pretty darn not eligible. A tool doesn't make the site eligible.

Comments should be sent to Richard Currit, with cc to Judy Wolf and also Mary Hopkins.

NEW MEMBERS

The executive committee looked at the resumes for the following people: Sara Sheen, Jan Yerkovich, Jo Foster and Ed Schneider. Russ made a motion that we accept the nominated people. Mary seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PROJECT TRACKING

Permittee initiates fieldwork notification record, logging on with a password. The request goes to the lead agency and is passed on to SHPO and last to WYCRO. The system will not let you go on until you fill in certain items. The ability is there to check on status, review process, where it might be stuck, etc. Apparently it has taken a long time to create due to security measures within the agencies.

The system will recognize who you are and how much you are allowed to do, meaning there will be reading rights and editing rights, etc. The format is software independent and can be used in multiple states. Can also communicate with back end databases – Microsoft products, Oracle products, etc.

Comment made that it would be good for the fieldwork notification to be sent also to the SHPO to do a files search right then. Could we have a drop down menu of the e-mail addresses to be sent to? That way you can send it to BLM and WYCRO too.

MAP DATA INFORMATION

Mary next showed the Map Data information. It allows you to have Arcview capabilities on

your computer without the software. BLM has imaged all the GLOs and SHPO has put them into pdf files.

TESTING DISCUSSION

Bill Current said that Danny Walker has agreed to mediate a discussion, but we are not going to get into it today. There needs to be a boundary of ideas. We will ask the membership to send in individual comments to the committee by January, so that we can get to it at the Spring meeting. Committee consists of: Bill Current, Ed Schneider, Julie Francis, Danny Walker, Dan Eakin, Lynn Harrell. Dave Vlcek suggested that someone from the BLM testing plan committee also be on the team.

GENERAL INFORMATION/QUESTIONS

Mary Hopkins asked whether you had to be a WAPA member to be on the list-serve? That seemed to be what was understood. Ranel said that we could talk about the list-serve in the letter that we want to send out to solicit new members. We can also bring it up at the Spring meeting. Some people may see the list-serve as only for information dissemination. May have to charge non-WAPA members a small fee to be on the list.

Mary asked everyone how they would feel about subscriptions to the internet map service? She said it costs \$40,000 to keep it up. WYCRO could attach a cost to the current fees, either by a per section files search cost or a per person cost. It might be an additional \$5 to \$10 fee if added on, so that everyone is paying the same across the board.

John Albanese said he would rather pay for access to the maps as an extra cost, not added to the files search fee. That way, only those who use it pay for it.

There were only 16 people here at end of the meeting.

SPRING MEETING

The Spring 2003 meeting will be in Sheridan in conjunction with the WAS for that chapter's 50th anniversary. The Executive Committee will send out the dates on the list-serve along with the location in Sheridan. If you have an interesting site, please consider putting together a 15-minute talk. WAPA will be on Friday afternoon with WAS on Saturday.

Tom moved to adjourn. Julie seconded. Everyone said aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranel Capron
Secretary