

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Minutes of the Spring Meeting, May 5, 2017
Holiday Inn, Cody, Wyoming

The meeting is called to order at 1:00 pm by President Naomi Ollie.

Minutes

On Bonnie Smith's motion and seconded by Paul Burnett, the Fall 2016 minutes are approved, as posted.

New Business

Executive Board Reports

Treasurer and Membership (Jason Bogstie):

- The WAPA checking account has a balance of \$5746.50, as of 4/4/2017.
- Expenditures since the last meeting are WAAM (\$200.00); postage and printing for 2017 1st dues notices (\$162.54); High Elevation Symposium donation (\$250.00); withdrawal for Travel Award winners (\$500.00).
- The Putnam account has a balance of \$14,146.15, as of 3/31/2017.
- WAPA currently has 162 members, and six people have submitted CVs to become members. Fifty-eight members had not yet paid their dues at the time of this meeting.
- Several dues notices bounced back, so please verify your address on file with Jason.

President's Report (Naomi Ollie):

- In March, WAPA submitted a letter to the WY Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide feedback on the Proposed Rules for the DEQ Land Quality Division's Uranium Recovery Program. The primary concern expressed was the lack of clarity on how compliance with the NHPA, which formerly fell to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), will be incorporated into Wyoming's management of the Uranium Recovery Program under the Proposed Rules. WAPA noted "we believe that it is incumbent on the Wyoming DEQ to ensure that the implementing rules contain language that addresses the effects that actions taken by the State under this delegation could have on historic properties. Unless this issue is addressed, historic properties, including those of religious and cultural significance to Indian Tribes, run the risk of being destroyed with no consideration." The public comment period closed May 1st, and the public meeting is on May 24th in Sheridan; Naomi will attend as WAPA president.
- The Board would like to see greater WAPA advocacy on issues such as the above. Due to such tight turnaround times for comments, we could use the help of additional members to keep track of these issues and so propose formation of a committee on cultural resource regulations. Richard Currit, Paul Burnett, and Dave Vlcek volunteer to serve on this committee that can draft letters and pass them on to the Board.
- With recent executive orders and the direction of the new administration, the Board asks if federal employees feel the ability to do their work and to communicate is being affected. They generally believe they are not directly affected, but upper management may not be as supportive as in the past. Members note that BLM phone numbers are now harder to find (attributed to new security following the Malheur incident), for instance, and that NEPA documents are no longer on the BLM website (look on BLM's e-planning website). It is suggested that links to hard-to-find websites could be placed on the WAPA webpage.
- The executive order concerning the Antiquities Act, with review of all National Monument designations since 1996, is discussed. Regional archaeology is directly affected, with Canyon of the Ancients and Bears Ears under consideration. It is suggested that we send a letter to Secretary Zinke to express WAPA's interest in the administration's actions and copy the letter to the WY Congress. The importance of not sending a form letter is emphasized, with detailed letters gaining more attention and more likely to elicit a response.
- Wyoming EISs are discussed.
 - The Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project was on hold for over a year because Aethon wanted to redevelop Encana's previous plan. A revised plan has just been submitted. The number of wells is the same; the difference is what will be done with the produced water. An in-person kickoff meeting will probably be held; Karina Bryan will send invites when the date is set.
 - The Riley Ridge to Natrona Project has moved to the final draft EIS stage. Denbury, the proponent, has been very amenable to doing what they've been asked.
 - The Normally Pressured Lance Project EIS was started six years ago and has dragged on. Considering the current administration, however, there is some thought that the EIS may be pushed out more quickly.

- Will EISs will be on a faster track with the new administration? Agency personnel report no schedule changes or acceleration yet. In fact, for an EIS to be posted in the Federal Register, it now first has to go through the White House. Their intention is to speed things up, but they have slowed the process instead.
- The first Wyoming solar farm is planned along US 189 south of Kemmerer and consists of an entire legal section of cells that will move with the sun; infrastructure is belowground. It is on BLM land.
- We have six membership applications to be reviewed by the Membership and Ethics Committee after the meeting. Mike Bies, Danny Walker, Paul Burnett, Jason Bogstie, and Carolyn Buff will be the committee members.
- Montana Archaeological Society has proposed a joint meeting with WAS in Billings next spring. The possibility will be further discussed at the WAS Business Meeting tomorrow.
- Laramie is proposed as the WAPA Fall meeting location, due to the Archaeology Fair and OWSA's 50th anniversary. The fair is September 9 at the Territorial Prison, and WAPA's meeting could be the 8th at the same venue. On Paul Burnett's motion and seconded by John Laughlin (with two opposed), the fall meeting will be held in Laramie on September 8 at the Territorial Prison.
- RPA has again solicited WAPA to become a RPA-affiliated society. We declined to join the last time we were asked, in 2015. The membership asks to be reminded of our earlier discussion; Kelly will post the summary from the May 2015 meeting minutes. The subject will be revisited at the fall meeting. From the May 2015 minutes: [Following their attendance as WAPA representatives to the Council of State Councils meeting at SAA, Jody and Kelly report on RPA's new program \(created Jan 2015\) to increase their registrants. WAPA could become an affiliated society for \\$100/year, with the required adoption of RPA's Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance. Affiliation advantages: WAPA members who don't belong to one of RPA's supporting societies are eligible for a registrant fee of \\$75 \(savings of \\$50\), and WAPA members who are already unaffiliated registrants can take advantage of \\$75 annual fee in 2016; we could use their grievance process when needed, but it would only apply to those who are RPA members; RPA membership for all WAPA members is not required. The EC sees this program as a way to offer reduced RPA rates to otherwise unaffiliated WAPA members who wish to join. RPA's handling of any potential grievance issue as a disinterested third party is seen as both an advantage and disadvantage. It would only provide cost savings for a few, and there would be no ethics benefit.](#)
- Kelly Pool and Dave Vlcek represented WAPA at the State Council of Councils (CofC) meeting during the SAA meeting. The most relevant discussions were, first, how to gauge the success of public archaeology efforts. Project Archaeology, for example, is working to develop tools to measure the effectiveness of public education, and along the same lines, AIA has just formed The Heritage Education Network (THEN) (<http://theheritageeducationnetwork.org/>). Stay tuned for results of their investigations. Second, with so much threatening legislation under discussion, the CofC has reinvigorated their listserv to provide a contact network among states. They hope to facilitate communication on how states are dealing with various legislative attacks, and, most importantly, to alert other states to these challenges so that they can help as possible. Kelly will forward such calls for help to the WAPA listserv.
- Our ongoing effort to change the by-laws remains unsuccessful due to an insufficient percentage of votes; we need a 60% affirmation by the voting membership to modify the by-laws. We've recently tried voting by mail, voting by email, and dropping members with unpaid dues. We will continue to clean up the voter rolls. The current suggestion is that the initial dues notice of the year should state that membership will be revoked if payment is not received by the spring meeting.
- Danny Walker gives a progress report on potential AMS dating of interior fibers from the Sheep Mountain net, found by Bob Edgar in the 1980s and originally dated to ca. 9000 years old using associated sticks. More recently, loose fibers were dated to ca. 2000 years old. A third date is planned using WAPA funding. The Edgar family has given permission, but sampling needs to avoid further damaging the deteriorating net. Following cancellations forced by snow this winter, a visit to UWAR (who takes care of the net for Old Trail Town) by an archaeological conservator will be newly pursued, with dating to potentially follow.
- The Book Award Committee for this meeting is Matt Landt, Allison Parrish, and Marcia Peterson (to be replaced by Ed McCausland if he is available.) Only paper presentations and not posters will be judged, since poster presentations are not considered public speaking. A poster award could be separately considered, however.
- Two state staffing changes are announced. Marieka Arksey is the new UWAR collections manager, and Jason Bogstie is now WYDOT senior cultural resources specialist, following Julie Francis' retirement on May 1st. Congratulations to both in their new positions.

Contractor and Agency Reports

Reports are presented by Danny Walker for WAS on the Battle of Red Buttes; Matt Landt for Alpine Archaeological Consultants; Paul Burnett for SWCA; Bill Eckerle for Western GeoArch Research; Nathan Fleming for TRC; Kierson Crume, Patrick Walker, Karina Bryan, and Marit Bovee for BLM field offices; Allison Parrish for USFWS; and Jason Bogstie for WYDOT.

Announcements

- Carolyn Buff passes along an invite to WAS and WAPA from Peter Wold of Kaycee to a barbeque at Hole-in-the-Wall Ranch in mid-July. Details will be posted on the listserv.
- A free paleontology and archaeology symposium will be held at the Washakie Museum and Cultural Center in Worland on Saturday, July 15.
- Jon Horn, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, is SHA's new coordinator for current research in our region. Let him know about your historical archaeological research in the Rockies and Northern Plains.
- OWSA introduces Advanced Archaeological Training, a program similar to Colorado's PAAC classes. Marcia Peterson is coordinator, and they would like to partner with WAPA and WAS. They ask if professionals would like to help, specifically through teaching classes. The program will offer three topical areas for certification, as well as a "scholar" option for those unable to do fieldwork but who attend all the classes. Site stewardship will be part of all classes, and one goal is to connect Wyoming residents interested in archaeology with archaeologists.
- Judy Wolf announces Hell Gap became a National Historic Landmark in December 2016 and will be dedicated July 22. WAPA has been asked to donate toward a stone monument to be erected at the site and one of two bronze plaques it will hold. One plaque is paid for by the NPS, and the second will honor those who made purchase and preservation of the site possible. To fund this monument, WAF (site owner and manager) has applied for a \$9400 grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund. In March, the WAPA Board wrote a letter in support of the grant request and agreed to contribute \$450 as a match for the grant. Discussion during this meeting, however, suggests that a greater amount should be given. On Marcia Peterson's motion and seconded by Paul Burnett (with two opposing votes), WAPA will donate \$1000 toward the monument and a commemorative plaque for the Hell Gap NHL.
- Dave Vlcek, SAA Repatriation Committee member, reports that Kennewick Man was repatriated and buried in February. One of Kennewick's claimants is also on this committee, and she presented an explanation of why the body belonged to tribal groups. Dave will post this information on the listserv.
- For National Historic Preservation Month, SHPO is holding a photo contest for our favorite historic places. Entry is through taking your photo with a "This Place Matters" poster in front of that place.
- The Casper WAS chapter is fundraising through sales of metallic decals advertising archaeology. For \$5, you can buy a decal and support chapter speakers and monthly meetings.
- The RMAC conference is in Canmore, Alberta in September this year.
- Numerous volunteer opportunities are available in Wyoming this summer, including the Berry Fire Survey and at least six projects with OWSA beginning on May 15th; contact Greg Pierce or Marcia Peterson regarding the latter. These opportunities will be posted on the website.

The meeting is adjourned, following a motion by Danny Walker that is seconded by Marcia Peterson.

Meeting Attendees (from the sign-in sheet)

Judy Wolf	Marcia Peterson	Paul Sanders	Denise Tugman	Bill Eckerle
Nathan Fleming	Nick Freeland	Brigid Grund	Becca Mashak	Jane Currit
Cody Newton	Danny Walker	Carolyn Buff	Andrew McElroy	John Laughlin
Matt Landt	Patrick Walker	Karina Bryan	Marit Bovee	Melissa Benner
Jenny Aiello	Bonnie Smith	Elaine Skinner Hale	Paul Burnett	B. J. Earle
Dave Vlcek	Mike Bies	Naomi Ollie	Jason Bogstie	John Scott
Kelly Pool	Richard Currit	Mary Lou Larson	Kierson Crume	Allison Parrish

Post-meeting note: Congratulations to our six new members, approved after this meeting. They are: Bonnie Smith, Louis Redmond, Jennifer Nagra, Kyle Wright, Michael Burney, Beth Horton, Andrew McElroy (Life Member)