



Minutes of the Spring Meeting, May 7, 2021

The meeting is officially called to order at 1:06 pm by President John Laughlin.

Roll Call.

RESOLUTION: On Michael Page's motion (seconded by Judy Wolf) the Spring 2021 Agenda was approved. All in favor.

RESOLUTION: On Member's motion (seconded by Rachael Shimek) the Fall 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved. All in Favor.

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

- As of May 7, 2021, the balance of the WAPA checking account is \$9,044.97 and the balance of the Putnam account is \$23,260.75 for a TOTAL of \$32,305.72.
- Expenditures since the Fall 2020 meeting consist of:
 - \$47.00 to Star Awards for an award made for Mary Hopkins
 - \$357.50 to Zoom for Zoom Pro Subscription
 - \$88.58 to Fiverr designer for new WAPA logo
 - \$500 to WAAM

Membership & Ethics Committee Report

As of May 7, 2021, WAPA has a total of 125 members (pending applications = 4).

In March the Membership and Ethics Committee reviewed and approved 4 new members and we now have 4 more pending applications so the committee will get together soon on those. The members of the Membership & Ethics Committee consist of: Ken Cannon (WAPA VP & Committee Chair), Leanna Flaherty (WAPA Secretary), Richard Currit (WAPA Member-at-Large), Jenny Aiello (Voting member), and Christine Varah (Voting member). Newly approved members are:

- Rob Schweitzer
- Carlie Ideker
- Nikki Poulson
- Sandra Zarzycka

A total of 40 members are currently unpaid. 111 have paid

- **RESOLUTION:** On Marcia Peterson's motion (seconded by Naomi Ollie) the Spring 2021 Treasurer's Report was approved. All in Favor.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES)

- **Listserve/Website (John Laughlin):** The website was updated to reflect the new executive board members and new logo. There is nothing new to discuss on the listserv; both John and Leanna are monitoring it.



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- **Memorial Fund for Doc (Spencer Pelton):** We are setting up a fund through the Frison Institute in honor of Doc – not much has developed but we are in the process of putting together an MOA to sell Medicine Lodge Creek 1 and having the portion of the proceeds that normally go to the Frison Institute be put towards that fund instead. They will be sold for \$30-50 per book.
- **WAPA Student Representative (John Laughlin):** The last EC had a student representative in place – Morgan Robbins – the current EC has not filled that position yet. Should we fill the position? Should we put it out there to the students? There haven't been many conferences or other events for the student position to attend on behalf of WAPA lately. Leanna suggests throwing it out on social media to gauge interest. John asks what role would the student play? Becca responds that she will have to check back with Morgan to confirm, but generally the student would attend meetings, try to get the younger folks to join, etc. John suggests that perhaps we need to advertise a reduced rate for student membership to encourage the younger folks to join. Leanna says let's just add a column to the spreadsheet for student fees. John says we need to think about this and pass some ideas around about it and asks that Paul or Becca reach out to Morgan to see what she thinks.
- **Wyotrack Committee (Michael Page):** There hasn't been any movement on the committee. I really need more information from the agencies to do anything with the committee. That being said, a lot of the issues have been worked out.
- **Jonah PA (Paul Burnett):** I've been representing WAPA at the meetings. We had 3 meetings last year to discuss the former PA and new PA. A lot of ideas were passed back and forth. The application was submitted and then the JIO decided not to fund the project at this time. Right now, Pinedale and the State Office are discussing how they want to proceed and then when they figure it out, they will reach out to us again. They will likely submit another application after that. David Vlcek says that they found the application confusing and that he is happy to help. Paul replies that he's happy to chat about it in terms of how WAPA can help and then relate that to the group. Mary asks are they still going to do a synthesis of the housepits? Paul responds that he is not aware of those details and whether or not that influenced why it was turned down. They did indicate that they preferred offsite mitigation. Dave suggests the PA include the paleoenvironmental reconstruction that was done. That document is 95% complete and would be a useful document to have. Paul states that they did bring that up and mentioned that it would be a priority. The Tribal members commented as well.
- **Rail Tie Wind Farm (Leanna Flaherty):** I attended the meeting held around the beginning of the year on behalf of WAPA. The project is located 15 miles south of Laramie near Tie siding and is bisected by Hwy 287. These are N/S turbine corridors. There will be 120 turbines total and they will be about 590 feet high. They are expecting to publish the final EIS in Fall and the ROD in December 2021. The Ames Monument is 1.2 miles NE of the APE. I asked what mitigation measures have been considered and if any alternatives analyzed in the EIS avoid visual impacts to the site. They responded



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that there will be no direct, noise, or shadow flicker impacts but the viewshed will be impacted and that it is unavoidable. They are consulting with the SHPO, ACHP, Tribes, and NGOs to discuss potential effects and how best to mitigate them.

- **Irrigation PA (Richard Currit):** The PA has been executed as of early January; numerous entities signed it. There are some streamlined mitigation options that people can choose from in there. There is also a context for irrigation in the state in it which will help with evaluating and mitigating irrigation features. They are piping a lot of ditches now to minimize evaporation which was one of the driving factors. Mary adds that the PA sets up a menu of options for those irrigators that they can choose from. There will be a Wiki set up to store all the information about irrigation. Now they will know up front what they will have to do to pipe a canal. Judy states that the context is due August 2022 and Alpine is doing it.
- **Secretarial Order #3389 (Richard Currit):** Good news – it was rescinded on 4/16/2021. Federal agencies have 60 days to rewrite the rules based on that.

NEW BUSINESS

New WAPA Logo (Leanna Flaherty): The WAPA EC decided that it was time for us to update the WAPA logo. We hired a graphic designer from the Fiverr platform and she did a great job. We hope you like it. We plan to make some cool shwag soon with the new logo. Stay tuned.

WAPA Partnership with WAS Chapters on Zoom (John Laughlin): Zoom is here to stay, at least as an option for folks who can't attend in person. I got an email from Zoom offering a discount on Zoom Pro and partnered with WAS on 3 licenses. The Pinedale chapter doesn't need access but are going to donate anyway. We got a year subscription for \$357.50. The chapters are putting in \$150. So WAPA will be paying the rest. We are hoping WAS will contribute next year when we have to renew. Even if they don't, I still think it will be worth it even without the discount. Spencer asks how it compares to other platforms like Microsoft Teams, etc. Leanna responds that we will look into it. John states that one nice thing about Zoom is we can do things through Facebook Live. Spencer agrees, saying the recording functionality is great and relevant.

WAPA Speaker Series (Leanna): Our speaker series is going well so far. We have had 4 speakers since January and have another scheduled for May 21st. We will be taking a break over the summer (field season) but plan to pick it up again in the fall and already have one or two folks interested in speaking.

Digital Platform for WAS Dues (John Laughlin): I am the president of WAS now as well. One challenge has been each chapter collecting dues then passing those on to the state, so what I would like to do is set up a digital platform. If anyone has any ideas for this please let me know.



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Student Awards (John Laughlin): WAPA has agreed to buy 2 cases of books (16 books for \$480) that will be used for future student paper awards. We will have them by next year's meeting. That will be WAPA's next big purchase.

Honorary Lifetime Voting Membership for Dr. Charles Reher): The WAPA EC has unanimously agreed to give Charles Reher honorary lifetime voting membership status but we need 60% of membership to vote on it. Chuck was the driving force behind WAPA and he deserves this. I will set up an online vote and send it out.

Opening up for Comments for New Business

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike McFaul's Passing – I don't know of any kind of memorial that is taking place or anywhere to send donations. Paul responds that Mike's wife will be coming to Laramie sometime; hopefully, they will do an obituary up here at some point. He also states that he will post on the listserve if he hears anything.

Fieldwork Opportunities (Spencer Pelton): I appreciate everyone who has responded to volunteer at Willow Springs, but most can only stay a couple days. It will be fun. We are also doing a public excavation at Medicine Lodge Creek; It'll be small scale and we will show visitors how archaeology is done. We are going to take out our curation stuff and set up out there. We have had a couple people volunteer to give talks and give a guided tour. The dates will be July 14th-28th. Reserve a spot at the campground soon if you want to join.

Wyoming History Month (John Laughlin): The Alliance for Historic Wyoming is doing a bunch of stuff and we will be posting about them on the social media site. Danny adds that Wyoming History Day judging is happening right now, but the number of entries is drastically down. There were less than 100 entries but there were 3-4 related to anthropology, so a WAS award was given to a student at Cody High School who did a paper on Native American newspapers and a WAPA award was given to students at Meeteetse High School who did a paper on ledger paintings.

Archaeology Awareness Month/Archaeology Fair (Judy Wolf): The new posters were delivered a couple weeks ago and they are honoring George Frison. If you are traveling and want to help us distribute them, let me know. The Archaeology Fair will take place on September 25th at the Wyoming Territorial Prison. Let us know if you want to volunteer.

NRHP Student Internship (Judy Wolf): About 10 years ago I started this program in an effort to get more nominations done. Since then, we have had 17 nominations accepted and have 2 pending, which were done by Natalie Sanford.



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CONTRACTOR/AGENCY REPORTS

- **2020-2021 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 OSWA 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 OSWA 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. Fort Bridger State Historic Site (FBSHS) is in the process of verifying a cabin located on private property to be the original Officers Quarters building. The landowner would like to donate it to FBSHS but we will be required to disassemble the building, transport it back to FBSHS and find the necessary funding for this undertaking. 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



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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).

- **Bill Eckerle:** Completed a geoarchaeological report for Central Wyoming College on a Late Prehistoric bison kill site (48FR7470) situated on the Wiggins Fork of the Wind River and investigated in 2020. The report describes stratigraphically distinct layers of bison bone encased in overbank deposits exposed in a terrace cutbank abutting the modern Wiggins Fork channel. In addition, converging drive lines situated ~20 m above the river on a Pleistocene cobble terrace terminate in a precipice and slope sufficiently steep to kill or cripple bison forced down it. This slope descends to footslope and alluvial fan deposits abutting the valley floor margin. This geomorphological relationship allows speculation that other buried bison bone beds may exist within these valley-margin deposits. The alluvial fan and footslope sediments extend riverward and abut the overbank terrace bone layers. At least some of the footslope and alluvial fan deposits are likely of pre-Late Prehistoric age and may contain additional cultural material, which could expand the communal bison kill history of the site. Backhoe trenching coinciding with the Central Wyoming Community College archaeological field school will investigate these valley marginal landforms during the 2021 field season. Geoarchaeological investigations will be undertaken in these backhoe trenches by Bill Eckerle, Dan Eakin, and field school staff and students. Planned geoarchaeological activities include profiling trench walls, sediment and soil descriptions, collecting bone and OSL date samples, and documenting the context and association of buried cultural material.
- **SWCA Sheridan (Naomi Ollie):** Sheridan SWCA is ramping up for fieldwork in full force. We have some larger projects in Montana this summer that we are working to staff up on. We are excited to be working on a StoryMap project for the Alkali Creek Reservoir project and continue to look for ways to diversify on projects and staff experience. We just completed a solar field survey also in Montana and our office continues to focus on its NEPA project work.

FALL 2021 MEETING

The Fall meeting will be on September 24th and will be held at The Depot in Laramie. We are going to hold the Fall 2021 WAPA Meeting at the Depot in Laramie, which is where Doc's memorial will be that same day. We will likely schedule the meeting for 1-3pm or 12-2pm, since the memorial is 3-5pm. Stay tuned. Mary Hopkins asks if there is a fund - has the department asked for donations? Madeline Mackie responds that there is a link on the announcement that goes to the memorial fund through the UW foundations.

RESOLUTION: On Beth Sennitt Porter motion (seconded by Judy Wolf), the Spring 2021 WAPA Meeting is adjourned at 3:20pm. All in favor.



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Meeting Attendees – 36 attendees:

1. Paul Burnett
2. Brigid Grund
3. Beth Sennett Porter
4. Judy Wolf
5. Katie Goidich
6. Lance McNees
7. Danny Walker
8. Mary Hopkins
9. Patrick Walker
10. Unknown Member
11. Madeline Mackie
12. Shane McCreary
13. Natasha Keierliber
14. Spencer Pelton
15. Larry Todd
16. Marcia Peterson
17. Kierson Crume
18. Gene Smith
19. Richard Currit
20. John Laughlin
21. Kelly Pool
22. Leanna Flaherty
23. Stephanie Lowe
24. Sam Rachael Shimek
25. Christy Smith
26. Paul Sanders
27. Nathan Fleming
28. Mathew Landt
29. Samuel Levin
30. Becca Mashak
31. Unknown Member
32. Michael Page
33. Ken Cannon
34. Steve Sutter
35. Unknown Member
36. Stacey Goodrick