

Oct 94

MINUTES, SPRING MEETING, 1994

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter and the Treasurer's report distributed. The balance, as of 30 April 1994, was \$4449.52.

The cost of being chair-person of the Governmental Affairs committee was discussed. It is an expensive, nearly full-time position. Several suggestions concerning the function and makeup of the committee were made. These included that the committee be larger with a rotating chair; could meet via conference calls; have a breakdown of one Federal employee, one private contractor, and one state employee; merely writing letters is not enough; must be very active and willing to lobby legislators. In the past this committee has been too passive. Individuals who are precluded by law from lobbying may have difficulty serving on the committee. At best, money for a paid lobbyist would be great. Having a set of topics due for review by the legislature available at the Fall meeting or in a legislative newsletter was also suggested. Finally a motion was made and seconded to have the Executive Committee study the problem and come to the membership in the fall with concrete ideas on how to handle governmental affairs and legislative responses. This was approved unanimously.

Investment possibilities were discussed by Julie Francis. She pointed out that the \$1000.00 donation received in the past year had been kept separate from the budget for investment. Several options were discussed in view of how risky the membership wants the investment. A motion was made and seconded to invest the \$1000.00 in a long term mutual fund and two thirds of the remainder in a short-term CD. Amendments to the motion were as follows: 1) negotiate the amount of the remainder for the CD, and 2) look into short-term investments without penalties for early withdrawal. The final motion was to invest the \$1000.00 as seed money for a long term moderate risk mutual fund and use a portion of the checking account assets for investing in short to moderate term low risk funds. This was passed unanimously. A second motion was made and seconded to allow the Executive Committee to have the authority to invest the surplus in checking account in short to moderate term fund. This was passed unanimously.

Carolyn Buff brought to the attention of the membership a donation made several years ago by WAPA to fund the cost of a computer printer. This is not needed now and she inquired of the membership if WAS could redirect that money to another account to be used in some other manner. A motion was made and seconded to allow WAS to use the donation into their general fund to be used at their discretion. This was passed unanimously.

Old Business

Jerry Clark discussed the BLM/SHPO PA. The intent of the task force is to set up a data base in order to create area contexts which will aid in NRHP eligibility determinations. The PA was signed last November. The guidance documents for BLM use are in draft form. A second manual for Permittees is in the works and will include training sessions. Money is

needed to develop the contexts. WYDOT and the USFS will assist in developing the prehistoric context. It was pointed out that the idea was to sponsor a "think tank" with those in SW Wyoming to assist in developing a context. Someone not closely associated with the SW Wyoming area will coordinate the development and write the prehistoric context.

Jerry also discussed NAGPRA inventories, the repositories, and repatriation. The larger issue is getting a handle on the collections as a whole. Both repositories are trying to work together to pool Federal monies for NAGPRA inventories. The BLM, BUREC, Fish and Wildlife, and WYDOT will also pool dollars to get the inventories accomplished.

It was also noted that geophysical operations are not in the larger PA. A separate agreement is being worked out for seismic projects.

Beth Porter provided some basic information on various aspects of artifact collections management and the need for increasing costs of long term storage. Handouts included cost analysis from out-of-state repositories, parts of the CFR 36 which deal with what is to be repositied, and general guidelines for repositories on the care and cataloging of archaeological collections. The Department of Interior DM 411 manual explains in great detail how Federal collections are to be handled, but it was pointed out that the BLM is in charge of enforcing these regulations. Until that happens, we should try to educate ourselves on how to care for artifacts and archival records from the field to the repository.

New Business

Bill Current was accepted as a new member.

The following nominations were taken for officers:

VP - Bill Current, Rick Bryant

Sec - Beth Porter, Rick Adams

Treas - Julie Francis, Jana Pastor

Member at Large - Kevin Thompson, Scotty McKern

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations.

Mary Hopkins discussed the Data Share program to be presented on Saturday. This will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Buffalo Bill Historic Center. There will be four presentations in the morning and a demonstration of the system in the afternoon.

Mary also noted that a list of all CRM projects completed through 1989, with some up to 1993, will be available for copy cost. All SHPO data is presently being input to the BLM network. This will be a read-only system on screen for file searches, etc. The cooperative agreement for the data share is available.

The Cheyenne SHPO office is working on the first draft of a cooperative agreement with USFS concerning the summer visit of the 'Rainbow Family' and a cooperative agreement for handling the historic structures on F.E. Warren air base.

During the recent state legislative session a bill was considered in committee concerning the management of state lands and archaeology. The bill would have stripped several statutes from existing legislation which would have opened the door for selling artifacts. Chris Arthur wrote to all legislators concerning this problem. The bill did not make it out of committee.

It was pointed out that we all need to be actively involved on the local level in making our professional concerns known to our local legislators. After the upcoming election Julie Francis will get a copy of the legislative directory for our use. We need to address these issues with those running for office; make contacts and get more involved in the protection of archaeological artifacts on state lands.

Jamie Schoen noted that the USFS and the SCS have a cooperative arrangement for 'sharing' archaeologists for SCS projects. Brad Humphrey was not present to discuss the details. It was noted that the SCS is willing to pay a half-time person in the SHPO cultural records office. If any of us have an opportunity to assist SCS professionally we should do it. Mary Hopkins and Jay Byers will be attending the SCS meeting in Denver the first week of May, 1994.

The need for SHPO guidance on recording irrigation ditches and canals was discussed at length. In general, the attitude was 'Why are we doing this?' Dale Austin commented that the BUREC handles this issue as non-contributing segments of historic linear features within a district. These are not just individual ditches, but are part of a larger system or district. The original major water development project is the real focus, not just the linear feature. The ditch itself is non-contributing. It was suggested that analysis of these features be handled within an historical context. SHPO has all the necessary data to develop this type of context. A motion was made and seconded to create an ad hoc committee to deal with ditches and an historical context from SHPO. The committee includes Julie Francis, Mike Bies, Jana Pastor (not present-volunteered by Kevin Thompson), and Rick Bryant. They will draft a position paper on historic ditches. This passed unanimously.

Mike Bies discussed the Nature Conservancy Rock Art project to take place at Meadow Lark Lake. The date is tentatively set for the last weekend in July. Approximately 7 panels need to be recorded. It is hoped that one panel could be completely recorded that weekend. Volunteers are needed and are asked to contact Mike Bies by the first of July. This is an important outreach project.

It was suggested that early mailings via postcards would be helpful to get information for the newsletter. Any type of news would be appreciated. We might want to think about a brief comment or editorial column.

Future meeting locations were discussed. A motion was made and seconded to hold the Fall 1994, meeting in Thermopolis;

Spring 1995, in Saratoga, and Fall 1995, meeting in Laramie in conjunction with the Plains Conference. This passed unanimously. Arrangements for the Thermopolis meeting will be made by Mike Bies.

The following announcements were made:

We need to officially let the SHPO and OWSA know of the meetings and that we really want them to attend.

Russ Tanner thought that a moment of silence would be appropriate in memory of Richard Nixon - he signed the 1972 executive order which brought CRM into existence.

Mary Hopkins commented on Archaeology Week. When should it be held? Spring and Fall are very busy for all of us. February was suggested. We should consider focusing on a specific period; that seems to get public attention. Volunteers are needed for a poster committee; Julie Francis will assist. More are needed on the committee.

Dale Austin noted that there have been some significant changes in the BUREC. After Oct.1, the Mills office will be the Wyoming Area Office. Cody and Riverton will be field offices under the Casper office.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. This passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Beth S. Porter

!!!! ATTENTION !!!!

Anyone wishing to present a paper, slides, etc. at the Saturday afternoon session, please contact a member of the executive board. We will make arrangements and see that it is announced at the meeting. Feel free to call Beth Porter, 307-382-8967, if you are interested in presenting something. Leave a message if no answer.

ALSO, if you would like your phone number included on the WAPA mailing list let Beth know. You can put it on the back of your ballot or call Beth at 307-382-8967. It is doubtful that we will print out the mailing list for each member because it has a tendency to become outdated rather quickly for some members! Addresses can be obtained from the secretary/editor or treasurer.

REMEMBER --- SEND ANY ITEM OF INTEREST FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO:

BETH PORTER
407 C ST
ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901

The newsletter is published twice a year in the Fall and Spring, one month prior to the meeting. Deadline for Fall edition is September 15 and for Spring edition, April 1 (no fooling!!) If you want more in the newsletter send it!!

RAMBLINGS FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT.....

Once again it's that time of year--hunting season's open, oil companies discover the, Yes Virginia, there IS a winter and it's coming as soon (as evidenced by yesterday's minor meteorological perturbation...). There are a lot of issues going about and it's sometimes hard to figure which is best to comment on. BLM is busy working on finalizing the handbook and guidance manual which will support the new Programmatic Agreement with SHPO. This will have more impact on how the agency works than it will on the consultants (bet you're glad to hear that!), but the whole package does set the tone for the future. Vice President Gore, with his National Performance Review, is trying to streamline government; BLM is trying to streamline its operations and that also applies to the Sec, 106 process. What the BLM State Office has tried to do is empower the field types to a greater extent, to let us make some of the decisions on the disposition of cultural resources without ALWAYS having to consult with SHPO. Granted, the occasions where we can actually do that are limited to the usual 'no effect' situations, but ultimately this will speed things up a little bit. This should all be in place, guidance out to BLM field offices in the near future, and some training for all of us before next field season begins.

Tim Nowak has been helping put together a guidance manual for Native American consultation. The requirement for this extend clear back to NEPA are emphasized in the 1992 amendments to NHPA, and will be reflected in the new regulations in 43CFR800, which no one has seen yet. The concept is great, the actualization presently is uneven and unclear, and the future may look really interesting for dealing with another culture group. People that write the rules and regs tend to see things as black and white (in this case you do this, in that case, something else....), while dealing with cultural matters in general, and Native Americans in particular, is NEVER s straight forward process. The actualization of this process is going to have us all tied in knots for years to come since the real world is not like that, and dealing with tribal people is REALLY not very clear cut.

One thing I did want to touch on, at the risk of making any number of people really angry for bringing it up, is the subject of peer review. As WAPA President, I was among several called upon to review a research design and data recovery plan for mitigative excavation work. There was a lot of heat involved, as it turned out, because any number of people ended up feeling like their toes had been severely trampled on. After listening to several sides, it was clear that the biggest problem was with communications among the players. A thought B meant one thing while B thought A was going to do something else, and it was kink of interesting for the bystander. If this kind of review comes up in the future, I would like to suggest the following:

--If your report/research design/proposal comes up for peer review, do NOT automatically fell that you are being blasted;

there may well be some things in the work that are unclear to others when they make perfect sense to you. Sometimes an outside party can see things in a different light and maybe even help.

--If you need to request outside review, advise the proponent up front right away. Talk it over, explain what's going on and discuss together how things will proceed. Then, and only then, request reviewers.

--If you need to change the program, let all the important parties know, whether it's a change in the agreed-upon procedure, timing, decision making, or whatever.

--Have a debriefing when it's all over. Discuss how it went and how to improve it for next time.

Above all, I think the peer review approach can be effective when there are questions about a project. It need not be threatening and you should not feel defensive, f it's good, the reviewers will be able to tell. If there are some holes in it, Why not solve the problems before it's too late. We are in this together, We have different roles, but the end product should be good solid preservation tactics, quality reporting, and good science.

Chris

AGENCY UPDATES

This is a little thin this fall. I apologize for not contacting people sooner. Things seem a bit hectic for all of us this time of year!!!!

BLM-Green River R.A.-Russ Tanner

This year has been yet another very busy year with over 400 actions of various kinds having been handled during the Fiscal Year 1994. The highlight of the year has been completion of the Resource Management Plan which had been an ongoing project for the past 4 years. The plan will go to the BLM State Director in October. I appreciate comments received from WAPA officially and from various WAPA members individually. The plan has several special management areas, including the South Pass Historic Landscape Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and the Monument Valley ACEC which borders the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area. The plans also proposed special treatment of five rock art sites, four plays lake/high site density areas, a steatite quarry, the Dry Sandy Swales on the Oregon Trail, management of some 15 expansion era roads, and proposed willing seller/willing buyer acquisition of two stagecoach stations that are on private land. The existing Pine Springs ACEC, around the Pine Springs site, will be expanded from 90 acres to 6030 acres to include several clusters of stone circles. The plan will go into effect by the first of 1995, unless there is an official protest of some kind, and is intended to last for about 20 years.

BLM -Kemmerer R.A. Lynn Harrell

The Kemmerer Resource Area is developing an EIS for the Moxa Arch Gas Field. Western Wyoming College was contracted to complete the work. They are developing an overview of the cultural resources in the Moxa Arch area. This will be a Class I synthesis and interpretation.

The BLM is also beginning to work on an overview of the cultural resources in southwest Wyoming. Though the effort is just beginning, the object is to develop a management plan specific to southwest Wyoming. In November, a group will be meeting to start defining the study areas and various parameters for the project. This group will be comprised of BLM folks, contractors, and other interested parties. Mary Lou Larson has been contracted by several Federal agencies to "crunch" all the data. If interested in this effort contact Lynn Harrell at the Kemmerer R.A. Office or Mary Lou Larson. On Saturday morning, 1 October 1994, there will be an open forum for those attending the WAPA meeting to comment on either of these projects. Written comments are also welcome at the Kemmerer Resource Area Office.

!!!! FYI !!!!

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HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Introduction

Since hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) was first recognized in the western United State in 11003, 80 cases with 54% mortality have been reported in 19 states (information to July 1). Hantaviruses are transmitted by inhalation of rodent urine or contaminated dust from dried excreta deposits. Transmission from rodent bites and scratches has also been reported. Archaeologists and related professionals may be at risk for HPS due to frequent exposure to potentially contaminated dust and rodents (including nests and excreta) (CDC 1993a).

Presented here are important facts about HPS, some possible job-related risks, and suggested guidelines for archaeologists for reducing the risk of HPS. The guidelines are preliminary and subject to change as new information on hantavirus transmission becomes available. They are based on the author's interpretation of current Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations (CDC 1993a). Readers are encouraged to consider other ways they may come into contact with the virus and adopt the suggested guidelines to these situations.

Important HPS facts

Symptoms: Incubation period is 1-5 weeks, with an average of 12-16 days. Illness is characterized by fever (greater than 100.5° F), chills, muscle aches, headache, dry cough, malaise, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, and progressing shortness of breath. Symptoms may begin from 12 hours to 3 days before sever respiratory distress develops (CDC 1993b).

Hantavirus Reservoir: Rodents are the natural reservoir for hantaviruses. Several distinct strains have been identified world-side, and the strain responsible for the documented cases of infection in the U.S. is one hantavirus currently known to be circulating in rodent populations in North America. The deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) is the primary reservoir of the hantavirus in the western U.S. (CDC 1993b). Other rodents have also tested positive for the virus, although their ability to transmit disease to humans has not been determined. Therefore, all mice and rats should be regarded as potential hantavirus sources until further notice.

Treatment: Patients with suspected HPS should be immediately evaluated by their physician. Travel, work, and rodent-exposure histories may be helpful in a diagnosis.

Rodent trapping and Clean-Up: Guidelines for rodent trapping and clean-up are provided in Tables 1 and 2. Disinfectants recommended by the CDC for rodent clean-up include Lysol(R), a 10% solution containing chlorine bleach, or any product containing biphenyl compounds. However, Lysol(R) will contaminate C14 and carbon isotope bone samples (it contains carbon elements), and its use should be guided accordingly.

High Efficiency Particulate Airfilter (HEPA) respirators may lower the risk of inhaling the hantavirus in areas with heavy rodent infestations and dust accretion. Although they provide greater protection than dust masks and bandannas, HEPA-filtered respirators do not afford complete protection against the hantavirus.

Potential Occupational-related risks and suggested guidelines
No archaeologists have been reported with HPS to date. The scenarios presented below illustrate that some archaeological activities could potentially expose archaeologists to the disease. Readers are encouraged to assess the level of rodent activity at sites and apply the following provisional guidelines as they determine them to be appropriate.

Excavation: Survey crews can provide data on rodent activity at sites by noting on maps the location of droppings, nests, and burrows. If major rodent infestations are noted at sites, control programs can be initiated. Snap traps are recommended over poison baits, as the former kill rodents immediately. If baits are employed, be sure to use as directed on the label.

Disinfectants can be applied to excavation surfaces if rodent contaminations is suspected. Allow 10-15 minutes for decontamination. Repeat until soils are free of rodent deposits. If screening these soils, place sateens downwind and/or away from work areas. Keep backdirt moist; disinfectants can be added tot he water if desired.

Because power blowers pick up more dust and distribute it greater distances than conventional tools, these may add to the level of rick. Power blower use in caves, rockshelters, or other poorly ventilated areas should probably be limited.

Risk for hantavirus exposure probably exists in caves and rockshelters, as they are often infested with rodents.

While the deer mouse is the main reservoir for the hantavirus, there may be risk associated with excavating and analyzing woodrat middens. Woodrats have tested positive for the hantavirus, and they can reoccupy abandoned nests and contaminate middens. Midden specialists should exercise caution and be especially careful to keep labs clean and disinfected. If possible, examine midden samples under a ventilated hood.

Field Accommodations: Placing offices, laboratories, or living quarters near projects may attract rodents, as they often nest between walls, floors and ceilings, and closed spaces created by stored items. Rodents may also seek refuge in structures after nests and burrows have been disturbed by excavation activity. Proper storage of food and trash is an important factor in preventing rodents from entering structures.

Rodent infestations often increase when buildings are unoccupied for parts of the year. If rodent control measures cannot remain in place year round, trapping and baiting should commence prior to the arrival of excavation crews.

If camping near sites, use tents with floors, ground mats, or some other means to keep from coming into direct contact with the ground. Do not leave food open; store in rodent-proof containers. Use bottles or disinfected (boiled, filtered, iodized, or chlorinated) water for drinking, cooking, washing dishes, and brushing teeth. Promptly dispose of trash.

Museums/Labs: Museum personnel may be exposed to rodents and their excreta when examining artifacts and materials stored in facilities accessible to rodents. If rodents or their feces or nests are observed on the premises, rodent control should begin immediately. The long-term answer for rodent infestations is rodent stoppage and periodic inspection for openings and burrows that allow rodents to gain entry to structures.

Labs where potentially contaminated specimens are handled should be properly ventilated and disinfected immediately after use. Avoid sweeping or vacuuming feces or potentially contaminated dust, as these activities will cause particles to become air-borne and possibly be inhaled.

Conclusion

The preliminary information presented here is intended to help prevent cases of HPS among archaeologists and related field specialists and generate thought on health problem these professionals may face. For further information contact Vector-borne and Zoonotic Disease Section, Arizona Department of Health Services, Phoenix 85015, at 602-230-5866.

References

- 1993a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Hantavirus infection-Southwestern United States: Interim Recommendations for Risk Reduction. MMWR 42(RR-11).
- 1993b Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Update: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome-United States, 1993. MMWR 42(42):816-820.

T. Michael Fink

THIS SPACE

COULD BE

FILLED WITH

INTERESTING

INFORMATION,

NEWSY TIDBITS,

COMPLAINTS,

EDITORIALS,

ADVERTISEMENTS,

CREATIVE CARTOONS,

OR WHATEVER

YOU MIGHT LIKE.

ALL WE ASK

IS THAT YOU

DO NOT SLANDER OR LIBAL

ANYONE!!!

**WAPA FALL 1994
HOLIDAY INN OF THE WATERS
THERMOPOLIS, WY**

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, 28/29 OCTOBER 1994

BUSINESS MEETING	FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER	1:00 PM
SW WY OVERVIEW**	SATURDAY, 29 OCTOBER	9:00 AM - NOON
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS	SATURDAY, 29 OCTOBER	1:30 PM - TILL ????

Business Meeting and Saturday morning discussion will be at the Holiday Inn. The Saturday after noon slide presentations will be at the Washakie County Museum in Worland.

The Holiday Inn has set aside a 15 room block for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the rate of \$45 for one adult and \$51 for two adults in a room. They also have the Hot Water Holiday Package for three days and two nights per couple for \$119.95. This includes lodging, complimentary bottle of champagne, prime rib dinner for two, free use of mineral steam room, hot mineral outdoor pool, late Sunday checkout, and kids under 19 free in your room. Not a bad deal!! Make your reservation by 17 October for the special conference rate and tell them you are with WAPA!!!

SEE YOU IN THERMOP!!!!

**See Kemmerer R.A. Update for details.

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P.O. Box 3431, Laramie, WY 82071

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Vice President - Dave Vlcek
Secretary - Beth S. Porter
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A
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3:30