

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Minutes of the Spring Meeting, April 27, 2001
Washakie Center, Rendezvous Room
Laramie, WY

Secretary's report - Ranel Capron

Report was in the last newsletter. Are there any comments or changes? No, it was moved to accept the minutes as printed. Seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's report - Craig Smith

Julie Francis was not able to be here, so Craig read the report to everyone.

The checking account balance in September 2000 was \$2,104.42. Then we had income of \$1600.00 and expenditures of \$815.20. The expenditures were for Cody Holiday Inn, Project Archaeology money transferred to Putnam investments, Island in the Plains conference, TRC Mariah for the newsletter and the June Frison WAS chapter donation. So balance as of mid-April 2001 is \$3,389.22. However, there is \$1800 of Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month (WAAM) money in the checking account. Judy Wolf had asked if WAPA would serve as the bank for WAAM and the President and Treasurer agreed that this should not be a problem.

The Putnam Money Market balance as of 4/11/01 was \$5,521.91. The Putnam Growth and Income was \$2,208.63 and \$3,316.52 for a portfolio total of \$11,047.06.

There is \$24.81 in petty cash.

We have a total of \$14,461.09 in total assets.

There was a motion made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report as shown. Motion passed.

Agency and Consultant Reports

There will not be any agency or consultant reports this meeting. We will publish reports in the next WAPA News. This should come out in August. Everyone needs to send their reports to Ranel. Also send photos of work !!

Old Business

Wyoming History Day was postponed from last Monday (4/23) until next Monday (4/30) due to weather. We have several folks judging and if anyone else is interested, please let us know. WAPA usually gives \$100 to the student whose presentation best exemplifies archaeology. John Albanese judged the last two years and indicated that the quality has not been what he expected. Karen Kempton stressed that the point was not to be too stringent, but to encourage students to investigate the theme using archaeology.

Tim Nowak asked if there were written criteria. Apparently no, it is usually the judge's choice. Karen suggested that we put written criteria in the teacher's packet that goes out early in the school year.

Mary Hopkins suggested that WAPA might want to just give \$100 to overall fund so that a needy student could use it to go to the national competition in Washington.

Terri Liestman suggested that WAPA may want to mentor students via email. We could put names of archaeologists willing to do that, along with their e-mail addresses in with the criteria.

Dave McKee suggested that if there aren't any papers on archaeology, we would just put the \$100 into the general fund of History Day. He modified his suggestion into a motion which was seconded and voted on. Majority voted yes. A check was written to give to Victoria at the History Day competition next Monday.

It was suggested that a committee be placed in charge of developing criteria. Karen will find what she put together before and run it by the Executive Committee.

Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month -- Judy Wolf

Judy announced that the new poster should be out mid-June. It is a 1903 photo of Devils Tower by Stimson. There will also be a brochure/pamphlet on the Tower like there was of Obsidian Cliff.

Our Obsidian Cliff poster won 1st place at the Society for American Archaeology conference in April. We have a new T-shirt design, bear on black shirt. Please support us by buying T-shirts!

WAAM Committee needs to meet after the Binford lecture to discuss who should be the keynote speaker and where the lecture should be.

WAPA members are encouraged to attend and participate with us in the Game & Fish Expo to be held September 7-9, 2001; at the Casper Events Center. Please call Judy Wolf or Ranel Capron if you can help out. Several folks have already volunteered their time to assist and this is much appreciated.

Digital Photo Standards -- Mary Hopkins

Mary passed out some handouts. If there aren't enough, please stop by WYCRO and pick up a copy. She introduced Sam Trautman who is in charge of the Web trails project. He indicated that digital cameras are still a huge moving target changing every day. He has information about how to pick a camera with some websites to check out.

National Archives has a standard for scanned documents.

Sam said that if you are thinking about buying a digital camera, look for mega-pixel resolution (the higher the better). Also look at zoom capabilities of the camera (more powerful is better). Also consider what you will be downloading the pictures to -- is it a small printer or what? You will need software to print off photos. There is a website where you can fill out info on how much you want to spend, what you are looking for, etc. and the site will recommend a list of cameras for you to look at. He doesn't have any suggestions as to which camera is better and suggested going with the brand you have had good luck with in the past.

Question raised on what is a minimum mega-pixel resolution? It has to be 1 million x 1 million or it won't be called a mega-pixel camera. The specs of the camera will also tell you. Mary's handout goes into resolution.

What is the quality difference between a standard 35mm film vs digital images? Right now film has a better resolution than digital, so it is still best.

Question raised on what should we be requiring? The BLM stipulations, as well as most states, still require an original photo. Some still require a black and white photo. Mary asked, what do people want for regular field inventory? We should continue to require black and white photos for excavations. But for surveys, the photos are rarely used to find the site again. She said that she realized that there is a problem getting black and white processing done easily.

Craig Smith asked if it was possible to get archival quality from a regular printer vs color printer. This will vary on the resolution of the camera. If you have a good photo printer, it should do a good job. Also it depends on what type of paper and ink are used to determine how long the photo will last or be archival quality.

What is the life of a color photograph ? It degrades in 5 years due to exposure to light and elements. So black and white are always best. If you are archiving your digital photos, you will always be able to reproduce the photo. And as technology changes, we will continue to have to move our images over to the new format.

Believe that for Class III inventory, if you get good resolution digital and an original color copy, that will be sufficient for what we need. For mitigation, we will go back to black and white.

Other comments:

Tom Larson asked why we would use black and white on excavations and Mary said that it was the most stable and lasted the longest, which is what you want your records to do for those types of projects.

Tom believes that color photography is also there. There is an advantage to having color profile shots rather than going back to black and white.

Jana Pastor -- For Class III inventory reports it should be ok for digital, backed up by original color print.

Question -- What's the purpose of having a digital camera then. Crew chiefs don't carry 2 cameras. Many consultants have invested in digital cameras and don't want to mix - having color 35mms and digitals.

Small towns have a problem getting color film processed. Digital is much easier to process and put in a report right away.

Dave Reiss -- We should use common sense on Class III's. If a site or feature is really unusual, then take a color photo, otherwise take a digital photo. Digital photos can be manipulated to add dates, etc. and that is handy. There are real advantages to digital.

Bill Current -- I like the fact that you can get digital fast, but I hate the quality. My preference is still 35mm, but expediency of digital is good. It is a double-edged sword. And I do use photos to find sites.

Question to Mary -- Are you receiving digital photos on CD? No and she doesn't want to handle the photos that way. She wants it via the Internet and wants to set up an FTP folder for the photos. This also makes them available to others. But she doesn't know what kind of drive space this will take. Will need to investigate whether we can compress them, etc.

Sam Trautman -- We will be experimenting this summer to document section corners with a digital camera tied to GPS that prints the lat/long right on the photo. Will report back to the group about cost, etc.

We need to come to some conclusion on this issue so that we can make recommendations to federal agencies. Mary will take a stab at writing something up and e-mail it out to everyone.

Question about size and quality of digital photos. Sam said that 1million mega-pixel will provide a good 3x5 and 2 million will give good 8x10. Good thing is that quality is only going up and prices are coming down.

Tim Nowak -- would like to see digital data on CDS not on a system that can crash.

Mary -- But CDS have a varying shelf-life. Also you should know that NARA (National Assoc of Records Admin.) has no digital standards. Basically microfilm is still the standard and this is true for State Archives also.

North American Archaeologist -- Ranel handed around information about subscribing to the North American Archaeologist.

New Business

Membership -- Executive Committee reviewed resumes for the following people: Wendy Stokes, Sarah Farley,

Aaron Fergusson, Christina Kelly, Clint Helton, Matthew Seddon, Dewey Baars. A motion was made to accept them as members into WAPA, seconded and unanimous yes vote.

Election Nominations

President -- Bill Current

VP -- Sandy Meyers

Members at Large -- Judy Wolf, Dave McKee

Secretary -- Ranel Capron

Treasurer -- Tom Larson

A motion was made to close the nominations; seconded, approved. The membership will receive a ballot in August with these names, as well as write-in space. Results should be sent in to the President of WAPA or brought to the next WAPA meeting.

SAA President

WAPA congratulates Bob Kelly on becoming SAA President. A letter to this effect will be sent to him.

Site Form Discussion – Judy Wolf

This past week we had our annual protocol meeting with the BLM and discussed the new site form. We discussed whether or not to resurrect the short form and call it the EZ form. Suggested use for a site of 10 flakes or less on bedrock with no associated features. Please let Judy know if you have any comments about this. There would be restrictions placed on the use of an EZ form. It would not just be for use on seismic, but only for sites that are not eligible. Another possible use would be to note locations of new sites that you can't stop and fully record because you are on the way to another project, site, etc.

Sandy expressed concern that we were not changing the site definition?

Judy answered no.

Mary -- we are also working on the automated form. We will not have 2 databases, one for short forms and one for long forms.

Tom Larson -- Wants to keep one consolidated form and just don't use those parts of the long form that you don't need.

Mary -- Yes, that is what we are talking about and the long form will also be streamlined.

Jana -- Something that would really help those contractors who follow-up the seismic surveys would be to have sites GPS'ed. Often we can't find the sites again. If we require GPS handheld units and get a reading, then we could really know where we are.

Judy -- Hope that will be a part of the BLM handbook.

Bill Current -- thinks people use the stakes too much. What happens when they get moved?

Wyoming Archaeologist

Mark Miller asked that people send in papers to the Wyoming Archaeologist, in care of Danny Walker. The WAS Meeting is next weekend. There will be a Friday night get together, arranged by Marcel Kornfeld. The business meeting will be Saturday morning and student papers will begin mid-morning. There is a banquet on Saturday evening with Payson Sheets speaking on remote sensing. A field trip will be held on Sunday to the Territorial Prison.

WAPA Field Trip

Our field trip tomorrow will go to the Willow Springs buffalo kill site, then on to Sherman and Ames Monument

and ending up at the Pole Mountain military grounds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the Anthropology Building. Bring your lunch and water.

A show of hands was asked for to see how many were going to go.....10 people.

Members mentioned that they think the field trip is a great idea.

Additional discussions

Would like to see a more concerted effort for State and Agencies to talk with the consultants. Seems like sometimes information is processed and decisions are made that consultants don't know about. There are big differences in the way BLM handles things in the different field offices. It would be helpful for consultants to hear someone say "this is the way we handle the Overland Trail in our RA." But is WAPA the place to have these discussions ?

The newsletter has evolved and there's usually lots of info about what we are doing. That is good, rather than the agency reports taking up all the space. If we could take back useful information for our jobs, then many would feel more inclined to come.

Suggestion was made to have a permittee meeting after the BLM/SHPO meeting. Or could put this stuff on the website.

Tom Larson -- would like to see handouts that people can take back and read.

Terri Liestman -- some of that information is topical -- and the timing of our meetings are off.

Mary -- a list serve would be a good idea. But people have to behave. She will check on it.
Craig Smith -- Would it be for WAPA members only ??

Next Meeting

Fall WAPA meeting -- Sept 14-15 in Sheridan.

Meeting adjourned.

WYOMING HISTORY DAY

Criteria of Eligibility for
Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists (WAPA)
Special Award at Wyoming History Day

History and archaeology are closely allied fields of study. Archaeology is the study of past historic and prehistoric people and their culture. Archaeologists analyze the physical remains of past human activities, called artifacts, and the locations where humans lived, called archaeological sites. Prehistoric archaeology focuses on people who existed before there were written records of their culture, and interprets the lives of these early people through the study of their tools, their food remains, and remnants of their dwellings. Historical archaeology studies the material evidence of a society that has a written documentary record, and uses those historic records to more fully interpret archaeological remains. Archaeology should not be confused with the field of paleontology, which is the scientific study of fossil plants and animals that existed millions of years before humans. Archaeologists don't do dinosaurs!

In order to qualify for the special archaeology awards sponsored by WAPA, a History Day entry must present a subject that incorporates information gathered through archaeological study or consist of a subject that deals with archaeological theories or methods. An example of a subject incorporating archaeological information would be the

topic of Pompeii, its destruction by a volcano, and what is known about the people who lived there based on the excavations of the remains of the city. An example of an archaeological theory would be the migration of the first humans into North America across the Bering Strait Land Bridge. An example of a topic dealing with an archaeological method would be the discovery, use, and significance of Carbon 14 dating.

Each of the four categories of History Day entries (Media, Historical Papers, Performances, and Projects) can qualify for the archaeology awards. For example, a performance of a re-enactment of Howard Carter's discovery of King Tut's tomb in Egypt, a media presentation of the locations of early pioneer camp sites along the Oregon Trail, a project exhibiting casts of prehistoric tools and archaeological maps of early man sites in Africa, or a paper describing what has been learned about the Battle of the Little Bighorn through the study of the artifacts left behind on the battlefield, would all be qualifying entries, depending on the History Day theme.