

**Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists  
Minutes of the Fall Meeting, September 8, 2017  
Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Laramie, Wyoming**

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

**Minutes**

On Judy Wolf's motion and seconded by Julie Francis, the Spring 2017 minutes are approved, as posted.

**New Business**

Treasurer and Membership Report (Jason Bogstie):

- The WAPA checking account has a balance of \$5470.43 as of 9/7/2017, minus a pending transfer of \$115.32 from Paypal.
- Expenditures since the last meeting are WAF for Hell Gap NHL Monument (\$1000.00); postage for dues mailing (\$4.90); Brad Humphrey Travel Award (\$500.00); WAF for Jensen/Robson Doctoral Award (\$250.00); Absaroka Chapter, WAS, for Spring Meeting support (\$250.00).
- The Putnam account has a balance of \$14,623.83, as of 9/6/2017.
- WAPA currently has 165 members. Thirty-five members had not yet paid their dues at the time of this meeting and have been sent two notices. If they remain unpaid through October, they will be dropped from membership. Membership would then be 130, a loss of 21 percent.
- Dues notices for next year will be sent in November and December. Please update membership contact information with Jason.
- We have one membership application to be reviewed by the Membership and Ethics Committee after the meeting. Danny Walker, Paul Burnett, and three from the Executive Committee will be the committee members.
- WAPA has funding available to use for archaeological projects on a non-competitive basis. Contact the WAPA Board if you are interested.

**RESOLUTION:** On Rachael Shimek's motion, WAPA will donate \$500 to the Archaeology Fair. The motion passes.

**Executive Board (EB) Report**

WAPA Advocacy:

- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Uranium Legislation Update: In May, Naomi represented WAPA at a WY DEQ meeting to provide feedback on the Proposed Rules for the DEQ Land Quality Division's Uranium Recovery Program. We then drafted a second letter to them, and when a response is received, she will post the letter on the listserv. The EB comments that the NRC moves slowly, so it will take changes a long time to be implemented. As long as there is no public land or split estate, there will be no involvement from the BLM. This is a big deal--something that was taken into account will no longer be.
- National Monuments Legislation Review: The Regulatory Committee (Richard Currit, Paul Burnett, Dave Vlcek, Mike Bies) provided a comment letter for this review. Naomi will post it on the listserv.
- Wyoming EISs: **Moneta Divide** is asleep, but BLM is discussing starting movement on it again. The injection well was denied; there was no disposal location for their water. **Riley Ridge to Natrona project:** no one is present to speak to this one. **South Jonah NPL:** NPL is on a very fast track. Rock Springs Field Office was the lead, but it has now switched to Pinedale. The comment period closed a month ago; Dave Vlcek submitted personal comments. He notes only 45 days were allotted to comment on a six volume EIS; it deals "somewhat adequately" with historic trails; many mistakes made with Jonah and the Anticline are being fixed in this EIS. Other comments are made that the EIS began a long time ago and so the files search is old; many sites have been newly recorded since that files search and are thus not in the writeup. Further, Bill Eckerle did a depositional study in the NPL which is largely unmentioned. Any comments that were submitted regarding such issues will have to be addressed in the final. The ROD is expected within a few months, and one more meeting will occur at that time. Many Pinedale residents are against this project due to air quality issues. **Converse County:** It has not yet been released to the public. Naomi asks it be forwarded to her when our invitation to comment is received. **Antelope Mine Expansion:** We were asked to comment on this "pretty beat up area" near Gillette. Finally, the **Veritas Wind project** is not even to the scoping phase yet, but is mentioned by Richard Currit. It is 671 wind towers in the Shirley Basin and sits on the Muddy Creek site. It will tie in to Gateway West; the Class III inventory is not complete. Richard will keep us informed.

### Public/Industry Perceptions of Cultural Resource Regulations:

- On August 30, Marcia Peterson attended the WY legislature's Natural Resources Management Committee meeting in Converse County as a WAPA representative. The discussion began with questions on size and application of indirect APE, with regard to wells on private land that nick federal minerals, and ended with lambasting Section 106. Most of the speakers were landowners who were confused and getting conflicting information. Industry reps and SHPO were also present. When Marcia spoke, she related that WAPA has similar concerns with many of the discussed issues, but she pointed out that in fine-tuning, we don't want to lose the entire process. Senator Hicks responded that WAPA should police our own membership, with regard to all our agency members. In the end, there *is* inconsistent application of indirect APE among BLM field offices. It can be discussed at the next Protocol meeting, but can we talk about it among ourselves or write BLM regarding inconsistencies and ask how it could be done better. Kathy Boden, WY BLM, says BLM tries to be consistent, but some field offices are "upping their game" to be better. BLM has had several recent phone calls with state legislators who thought the Protocol was new but were surprised to find it's been in place for years. Marcia points out that landowners are getting conflicting information, and much of the information at this NRMC meeting was incorrect. Further, legislators seemed focused on collecting negative anecdotal evidence to send to the federal government for attacks on Section 106. We will draft a letter and also work among our membership to address inconsistencies. The next NRMC meeting is October 25 in Casper. The BLM State Director will attend.
- With regard to the former NRMC meeting, the Board asks for action items. Should we write an editorial for the paper? Several members suggest it's not a good idea, as editorials get people fired up but don't do any good; editorials give those who disagree another chance to attack us; and the situation is much too complex for a short editorial. Instead, it is suggested that WAPA encourage WAS, many of whom are respected community members known to legislators, to talk to their local representatives on an individual basis about this issue.

### BLM/SHPO Protocol Revisions:

- Kathy Boden reports that she met with Richard Currit and Mary Hopkins at SHPO and went over all the comments. She will finalize responses next week. Next, she'll meet the BLM state director; then SHPO; then commenters. She says it is fine for WAPA to put our comments on the listserve.

### Future Meeting:

- The next meeting of WAPA/WAS is in Billings April 26 to 29 with Montana Archaeological Society. We will have a silent auction and two days of presentations. Michael Blackwolf will speak on cultural sensitivity. Organization of papers has not yet been determined.

### Contractor and Agency Reports

Reports are presented by Ken Humphrey for WY National Guard; Jason Bogstie for WYDOT; Kathy Boden for state BLM; Danny Walker; Kelly Pool for Metcalf Archaeological Consultants; Paul Burnett, Scott Phillips, and Naomi Ollie for SWCA.

### Announcements

- Chuck Reher has an exhibit at this meeting on fieldwork he conducted at the Territorial Prison. Run as a field school, the work resulted in discovery of cell block foundations, wooden stockade foundations, and a blacksmith shop.
- The Archaeology Fair is tomorrow; exhibits are discussed.
- Carmel Kail has donated a number of books to WAPA that Dave Vlcek has for sale at this meeting.
- Rachael Shimek introduces Marieka Arksey as the new UWAR Collections Manager.
- Judy Wolf reports on the two NHL dedications this summer, and she thanks WAPA for their donation. Over 200 people attended the celebrations.
- Sheridan WAS needs speakers for their fall session. Contact Christine Varah.
- Related to the above, Judy Wolf asks if WAPA could compile and distribute a list of potential speakers.

The meeting is adjourned at 2:30 pm, following a motion by Julie Francis.

**Meeting Attendees (from the sign-in sheet)**

Judy Wolf

Marcia Peterson

Paul Sanders

Kathy Boden

Bill Scoggins

Marieka Arksey

Julie Francis

Charles Reher

Paul Burnett

Naomi Ollie

Rachael Shimek

Danny Walker

Norma Crumbley

Richard Currit

Ken Humphrey

Larry Todd

Scott Phillips

Kelly Pool

Ross Hilman

Bonnie Smith

Jason Bogstie

Dave Vlcek