

National Association of State Archaeologists

NASA News



Volume XVI, Number 1

Spring 2008

**NASA
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND
DISCUSSIONS**

Wednesday, March 26th, 2008

Vancouver, BC

1:30 to 5:00 pm at the Hyatt.

Room number unknown at the moment, but Nick or Tobi in the SAA office will get it to us on the Listserve when it is decided.

NASA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND DISCUSSIONS

Wednesday, March 26, 2008
1:30pm – 5pm
Hyatt Regency Vancouver Hotel

Draft Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Officers' Report
 - A. President (Nick Bellantoni, Connecticut)
 - B. Vice-President (Ann Early, Arkansas)
 - C. Secretary-Treasurer (Arthur Spiess, Maine)
 - i. Discussion of NASA Dues, CD Income
 - ii Discussion of Amendment to NASA By-laws to separate positionsof Secretary and Treasurer
 - D. Newsletter Editor (Hester Davis, Arkansas)
 - i Discussion of utility of the newsletter
- III. IV. Approval of the Treasurer's Report
- IV. Hawaii State Archaeologist Termination
- V. Kentucky Site File Litigation
- VI. Setting 2008-09 NASA Agendas
- VII. Old Business
 - i. NCSHPO Update
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Joint Session Open Discussion with NASA and CAPTA members:
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Review of Legislative Mandates (Federal/State/Provincial/Territorial)
 - C. Mutual Issues:
 - i. Economic Development
 - ii. Vandalism and Commercialization
 - iii. Native American Consultation, Repatriation and Graves Protection
 - iv. Archaeological Survey Guidelines – Quality of Fieldwork Reports
 - v. Curation Procedures and Long-Term Care of Archaeological Collections
- X Other Business??
- XI. Adjournment

Ceremonial Photograph

NASA – MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you can see from the agenda, our upcoming NASA meeting in Vancouver should be a very important and interesting session. Nationally, there are litigations in Kentucky and Hawaii involving the state archaeologist's offices that can have profound implications nationwide. We will report on the termination of the state archaeologist in Hawaii and the Circuit Court suit pending over fees for GIS state file reviews in Kentucky. Both are serious legal cases that all SAs should be aware of. In addition, Art Spiess, NASA Secretary-Treasurer, will report on the association's finances and poll the membership for ideas on spending this year.

We are excited to report that some of our Canadian counterparts will be attending our annual meeting for an open forum on issues that pertain to all government archaeologists. Based on responses thus far, we expect around ten representatives from the Canadian Association of Provincial and Territorial Archaeologists (CAPTA) to jointly meet with NASA members in an informal roundtable discussion. This is a wonderful opportunity for both our organizations to better understand our respective governmental roles and responsibilities, to share ideas and, of course, become acquainted with each other.

Finally, as the newly appointed NASA president, I seek your input in setting the agenda for the next two years. Both myself and Ann Early, NASA Vice-President, serve as non-SHPO state archaeologists, and, we may/may not always be aware of issues confronting our SHPO colleagues. So, it is important that we hear from you and set courses for the association that reflects your needs. I look forward to serving you over our two-year term and please never hesitate to contact Ann or myself should you have any issues, concerns, or comments that we can assist you with. I look forward to seeing you in Vancouver.

Nick Bellantino
State Archeologist, Connecticut



Standards and Guidelines

In 1980, the Arkansas Archeological Survey staff formulated a State Plan for the Conservation of Archeological Resources in Arkansas. The Plan includes Study Units that identify key sites, themes, and research needs appropriate for framing investigations statewide. Among the appendices in the Plan are Guidelines for Fieldwork and Report Production. In the years since 1980, the SHPO archeologists now reside in the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Our State Plan is an appendix of the state's Preservation Plan, and the Guidelines are cited, along with Department of Interior Guidelines, in commenting on and evaluating 106-related projects in the state.

Arkansas Code 13-7-105 and 106 tasks the Survey with archeological functions within the overall Historic Preservation program. The Survey maintains the statewide database of archeological sites and projects, and archives records and artifacts in central and regional repositories.

The Guidelines for Fieldwork and Reports were last amended in 1994. Since then, numerous laws and regulations, particularly those dealing with human remains and Descendant Constituents, have affected how archeological work is carried out in the state. Numerous large scale synthetic studies, and newly accessible historic archives, are now essential background materials for evaluating archeological sites. In addition, more archeologists unfamiliar with archeology in the Trans-Mississippi South are working in the State.

In 2007, in partnership with the SHPO archeologists, we drafted updates for the Guidelines that are now under review. As part of this effort I queried NASA members about their own Standards or Guidelines. To date I've received information and documents from 24 states. Most have detailed, web-accessible guidelines or standards similar to those we have produced. I hope to complete this nationwide survey and craft a point by point comparison of standards in the near future.

Ann Early, State Archeologist, Arkansas

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGISTS
TREASURER'S REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR 2007 TO DATE**

**Arthur Spiess, Secretary-Treasurer
January 27, 2008**

Narrative

This year we (again) made an executive decision not to mail dues notices to the membership, giving all members a free year. This decision was made, in part, based on inactivity of the organization. (Total assets of NASA on January 1, 2000, were \$8340.57.)

Our last major expense, which occurred in August, 2006, was a \$500.00 payment to The Archaeological Conservancy Thomas Eubanks Memorial Fund.

The membership will be asked to set an annual dues rate at the meeting in March, 2008, in Vancouver. Please note that **checks only** will be acceptable as membership payments. We can not handle purchase orders, state vendor paperwork, and other such items. If your agency can not send a check without this paperwork, please send a personal check.

Assets as of September 30, 2006

Checking account balance	\$ 1,069.29
CD, approximate balance	<u>\$10,125.00</u>
Total	\$11,194.29

Assets as of December 31, 2007

Checking account balance	\$ 1,034.99
CD, approximate balance	<u>\$10,762.00</u>
Total	\$11,797.99

Notes

The sole income for 2007 was interest deposited into the certificate of deposit. The CD matures on 12/23/2008. Annual interest income is approximately \$480.00, so the anticipated balance at maturity will be about \$11,240.00.

The checking account does not earn interest.

The sole expense for 2007 was web site and email list serve maintenance. The Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa has agreed to provide those services for a payment of \$300.00 per year. A check for \$600.00 was paid to Iowa OSA in January, 2008 for the 2007 and 2008 calendar years. This payment will lower the checking account balance to approximately \$430.00.

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National Association of State Archaeologists

Meeting, April 25, 2007, 72nd Society for American Archaeology Meeting
Austin, Texas

Attendees:

Scott Anfinson, Minnesota
Patricia Mercado-Allinger, Texas
Christina Rieth, New York
Paul Picha, North Dakota
Richard Boisvert, New Hampshire
Giovanna Peeples, Vermont
Steve Lensink, Iowa
Susan Collins, Colorado
David Snyder, Ohio

The meeting lasted from a little after 2:00 pm to a little after 5:00 pm. Without formal motions or discussion, the business meeting was soon abandoned and transformed into a long, free-flowing discussion that generally moved through a series of specific topics along a loose thread of connecting the work of State Archaeologists to the public. In these notes I try to capture the highlights, but there was much discussion at each point that I wasn't able to record. There were many times when I wasn't sure who was commenting, and times when many people were talking at the same time. I attempted to capture the meaning of comments and apologize if I have misunderstood or misrepresented the meaning or the words spoken.

1. Introductions

Brief discussion of how and where to start

We agree without formal motions that officers' reports will be tabled

There is agreement to accept the Secretary-Treasurer's report from the previous year

2. Public Education

Preaching to the choir, but it is good to reinforce the importance of public education

More emphasis is needed to support outreach

Some states are finding more support for public education than other states from Section 106 mitigation, and, in particular, from the Departments of Transportation

Iowa expressed concern that more support was needed

New Hampshire DOT provides support for public education

New York: Is doing more under new administration

3. Quality Control

Several people expressed concern that it is important to carefully consider content of materials used for public outreach and education

4. Developing Web Pages and Making Better Use of Other Media

'Texas Beyond History' illustrates an integrated approach to a wide range of applications

Several people commented on the good quality of the 'Texas Beyond History' program

We need to take advantage of the Web, also TV, and other media

In Texas: agencies pay for web design with projects and provide opportunistic clips showing ongoing work (but it is a challenge to maintain the level of quality)

In New Hampshire: Boisvert notes that it takes a lot of hard work to put together good quality material for TV or Web pages or other media. It is the same idea that it takes more than just putting artifacts on a shelf to create a worthwhile exhibit

In New Hampshire they find it is helpful to clearly differentiate goals from the outset: Recovery, Results of Analysis, Preservation.

What is the primary message?

Who is the best person to present this message in the selected media?

What is the best approach?

Texas is finding that most CRM professionals are very poor at writing for the public. For the 'Texas Beyond History' web page additions they consistently get the best results when the writing is overseen by professionals

Several people agree with Giovanna that too often web pages are boring to the public. It takes more than a great idea to create an exciting and educational web page. Anfinson adds that one way to improve writing and to bring more excitement to our web pages is to draw on and make use of our colleagues. Several people note examples including the work by Lynne Allison in summarizing Iowa archaeology, the work by Halsey in Michigan, and the recently SAA awarded book on Ohio archaeology by Bradley Lepper.

Giovanna emphasized that for us to effectively use education we need to acquire skills, including web page design, and we need to think creatively.

Summarizing the use of web page design as a tool to promote education; State Archaeologists serve as portals conveying information to the public and receiving information from the public, State Archaeologists should recognize that they need money and other support from agencies to maintain web pages, and, State Archaeologists should look for opportunities to use ongoing archaeological projects, especially Phase III investigations conducted under provisions of Memoranda of Agreement to provide content. Dick Boisvert observed that NASA should look into contacting the SAA Public Education Committee, perhaps as a session in an upcoming NASA meeting.

5. Curriculum

Scott Anfinson (Minnesota) reports that he is working with the curriculum committee (Society for American Archaeology, Government Archaeologists) in developing a program for an MA level to make sure that archaeology students are trained for government jobs.

The curriculum is interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary

They strive to base the program in Anthropology and Departments of Anthropology

This is especially useful in teaching concepts about working with diverse groups, for example understanding and using concepts like Traditional Cultural Property (TCPs)

Internships are emphasized

Too often CRM emphasizes vocational technical training, many government agencies see management as technical applications

Instead the committee is giving emphasis to concepts from Applied Archaeology and Heritage Studies

The kind of curriculum that is envisioned requires a good department with sufficient staffing.

Dick Boisvert notes that he views Heritage Studies as an example of how one might develop a curriculum from a core theory. Archaeology needs to be at the core of curricula for training archaeologists for CRM and government jobs.

Scott Anfinson replies that he views the focus of the Government Archaeology curriculum committee is to emphasize integration of archaeology with other disciplines. For State Archaeologists, the advantages of working to develop a new curriculum isn't to train archaeologists but rather to make sure that the new curriculum effectively integrates archaeology with other disciplines such as education (editor's note: education was especially emphasized).

Patricia Mercado-Allinger (Texas) asked: Are other states having difficulties getting universities to teach archaeology of the state? Several states replied yes (New Hampshire, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio)

Dick Boisvert observed, comparing what reviewers are expected to know to what the average graduate is taught, that as state reviewers "our floor is their ceiling" and "we need to speak up about curriculum."

Patricia Mercado-Allinger asked: Do other states recognize quality work? (Editor's note: there was quite a bit of discussion throughout the room stemming from this question.)

Several states indicated that they would like to recognize quality work

Most states agreed that recognizing one person or one CRM firm would create problems such as being seen as playing favorites.

Susan Collins (Colorado) suggested that including, or emphasizing, agencies in efforts to recognize quality work.

6. Future Meetings

Giovanna asked: Should NASA have formal programs?

Several participants thought that it would be helpful. It was noted that because we control our own time slot that NASA wasn't tied to the early (end of August) deadlines.

One of the suggestions that most participants supported was to look into the possibility of a session in Vancouver, B.C. (next year's SAA) that involves Canadian Provincial archaeologists.

7. List Serve

Steve Linsink (Iowa) asked about the current status of the list serve, and, volunteered to talk with Jim Miller (Florida) and John Doershuk (Iowa) about having an expanded role for Iowa in maintaining and keeping up-to-date the list serve. Snyder (Ohio) agreed to provide Linsink with the current contact information that he has and to contact Arthur Speiss (Maine) to help facilitate getting current contact information to Linsink.

8. Access to Databases

Ohio: Access isn't monitored, we are not compiling information that would help determine if access increased or decreased threat to sites.

New Hampshire: As an example of the extent of the problem, sites whose location and description were presented in a journal article were looted.

Vermont: One of the ways we are working to address this problem is through developing active relationships with landowners and use these relationships to convey information about stewardship and ethics.

Texas: Historic atlas is widely available. Archaeology is separate and access is restricted to users who meet strict criteria.

Minnesota: County and local government planners check on-line to determine if there is anything important listed in the ¼ section. If there are sites shown, then they are encouraged to come to the Office of the State Archaeologist for the review of that project.

9. General discussion: We are losing sites to ignorance and accident more than to looting. Or, is the issue indifference?

Many states disagreed with this statement. Looting is a problem

New Hampshire: It is important to keep specific site information confidential.

Iowa: Because of ongoing threats to and looting of burial sites, Iowa recently passed a law making it a misdemeanor to not report knowing about disturbance to a burial.

Other states tended to be more in agreement than disagreement with this statement

Vermont: Access to databases is needed to ensure transparency in making decisions during reviews of projects. Politicians want more predictability. Sometimes it is helpful to provide more information to more people, justifying the need for surveys or archaeological investigations and justifying the need to preserve or protect sites.

With several attendees noting that they would have to leave to make meetings, events, or commitments that evening, the NASA meeting ended

Respectfully submitted by David Snyder.