



UPAC NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE UTAH PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

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UPAC 1995 FALL MEETING

at College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric
Museum, Price UT. Business meeting
begins at 1:30 PM on Friday, Nov. 17.
Nominations will be accepted for President,
Treasurer, Membership & Ethics. Research
session 9 a.m.-Noon on Saturday, Nov. 18.
If you want to Contribute a research
presentation contact Bill Davis (801/672-
2271, FAX -2274).

UPAC Election Results Summer 1995

18 out of 64 ballot returned:

Secretary- Dianna Christensen (17 votes).

VP for Governmental Affairs & Research-
David Madsen (12 votes).

Native American Remains Committee Meeting, 1 June 1995.

Dennis Weder and Kevin Jones were UPAC
members in attendance. Although there were
not enough committee members present to
constitute a quorum, there was a discussion
of the proposed ruled by the committee
members and the audience. Kevin raised
questions concerning some aspects of
section R191-1-5: Duties upon discovery of
remains, which state: "2. If it is unclear
whether the remains are of Native American
origin upon a cursory examination, the state
agency having management authority over
the land where the remains were found must
take reasonable steps to determine the ethnic
origin of the remains. a. Such steps may
include: 1. examination of the remains by a
certified archaeologist; ii. limited excavation
by a certified archaeologist to search for
associated funerary objects; or iii. limited

scientific testing, if approved by the majority vote of the Committee." Kevin noted that the term "certified" is not accurate and should be revised. He will assist with more appropriate terminology. The NARRC committee approval process elicited considerable discussion primarily among Kevin, Dennis and the State attorneys present. The way this paragraph is written, the NARRC would be able to veto scientific testing on any skeletal remains not easily identifiable. Dennis described a scenario where a solitary skeletal element of a child might be found. If you were the parent of a missing child, you would be likely to demand scientific testing to determine the relationship of this child so that you could finally know your child's fate. A disapproval of scientific testing by NARRC in this type of scenario would certainly result in very adverse legal and public response which might ultimately weaken the true intent and spirit of this legislation. It was also noted that the state lands exemption covers most of the state land; this law will therefore only apply to very little property. Of special concern is the fact that school sections will also be excepted. Kevin will monitor the rule writing process to be sure that Native American burial issues on state lands are adequately addressed.

REPOSITORY DEDICATION 1 JUNE 1995.

Dennis Weder attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new repository at the mouth of Emigration Canyon. About 12 persons were present including Native Americans, representatives of the construction company, the Hill AFB CRM manager, and a reporter from the Salt Lake Tribune. The dedication was hosted by Wil

Numkena and the site was blessed by Lacey Harris.

Utah Tribal Leaders' Meeting

Dennis Weder attended the meeting at Southern Utah University and gave a brief presentation. Dennis explained that UPAC has recognized that inadequate communication among professional archaeologists and the Native American community has created and maintained a feeling of mistrust. In order to begin to alleviate this situation, UPAC has formed the Native American Affairs Committee (NAAC) to open a channel for communication when questions arise. Dennis pointed out that the UPAC Newsletter is being sent to each tribe and should be available to interested tribal members. NAAC members are: Dennis G. Weder (00- ALC/EME, 7274 Wardleigh d, Hill AFB UT 84056-5137801/777-0288), Bill Fawcett (Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-0730, 801/797-1496, FAX - 1240), and Jim Dykman (Dir. of State History, 300 Rio Grande, Salt Lake city UT 84101801/533-3555). In a discussion after the meeting, Barry Frank suggested that 1 or more Native Americans need to be appointed as points of contact in order to further communication. Dennis will follow up on this suggestion.

F.Y.I.

Southwestern Archaeology on the World-Wide Web:
<http://seamonkey.ed.asu.edu/~mathias/swa/>
Contact Brian W. Kenny:
kenny@getnet.com

GRANTS

The Utah pioneer sesquicentennial Celebration Coordinating Council (300 Rio

Grande, Salt Lake City UT 84101-1182.
801/533-3597 FAX -3503) is offering grants
to non-profits to make historic pioneer trails
or conduct other activities which reflect the
pioneer spirit. Contact Rhonda B.
Greenwood (Council Coordinator).

UTAH HERITAGE WEEK 1996 POSTER CONTEST

Help promote Utah's exciting past by
entering the Utah Heritage Week Poster
Contest. Cash prizes will be offered in 3
categories: Grant contest winner \$250,
Secondary school winner \$100, and
Elementary school winner \$100. This
contest is open to professional, starving &
student artists, or any other creative citizen.
Artists choose the material and design. The
principal elements should depict aspects of
Utah archaeology, paleontology, Native
American cultures, and/or historic settlers.
Poster must measure 16" x 24". This contest
is sponsored by the Division of State
History, Parks & Recreation, BLM, Utah
Statewide Archaeological Society, Forest
Service & National Park Service. Posters
must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 15, 1995
to Antiquities section, Division of State
History, 300 Rio Grande, Salt Lake City UT
84101. Contact David Schmitt (801/533-
3577) or Renae Weder (801/533-3529) for
more information.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Items for the next newsletter should be sent
no later than Nov. 25, 1995. All submission
of greater than 100 words should be
accompanied by a computer disk with text
saved on it either in IBM- readable ASCII or
Wordperfect.

1995 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you want to join UPAC or have not paid
your 1995 dues send:

Professional \$25.00

Student \$12.50

Associate \$12.50

Affiliate \$12.50

to Nancy Shearin. Professional and student
members vote and receive the newsletter and
journal (*Utah Archaeology*). Associate and
affiliate members only receive the
newsletter. Send address corrections to
Nancy Shearin. You must be a current
member to vote!

An Open Letter from the State Archaeologist to All Archaeologists Practicing in New Mexico

Dear Colleagues:

As I am sure you all are aware, the archaeological record of this country and the practice of archaeology itself are at greater risk today than at any time since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. There is, for example, language in the current House budget report describing Section 106 as redundant with state and local laws and concluding "Therefore, this mandate can be waived." There is language in the Senate balanced budget resolution eliminating the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation which, if implemented, would open up the Section 106 process to a complete revamping. In the current anti-regulatory, pro-business political climate, Section 106 compliance, especially as it concerns archaeology, is coming under intense scrutiny and pressure for change. I am including with this letter some of the information that we have received about proposed and possible Congressional actions that will affect archaeology.

Every place that I have gone in the past 6 months, I have found individuals and organizations, such as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), and the Society for American Archaeology, talking about the threats to preservation in this country and what to do. Frankly, much of this discussion has amounted to hand-wringing and discussions about what we can do or stop doing in order to get ourselves "off the radar screen" of Congressional budget cutting and program elimination. The NCSHPO, for example, has formed a task force on "rethinking archaeological

mitigation" with a subtext of "how can we make archaeology a lot cheaper?"

First of all, I want to say that the archaeological sky is not falling just yet. On the other hand there are some clearly visible cracks in the firmament. What I would like to propose is the somewhat Pollyannaish view that we all view this as an opportunity rather than as impending doom. There are things that we can do to improve the way that we do archaeology, and now is a very good time to make those improvements. There almost certainly are going to be important changes in how we do public archaeology in the future. We can wait to have these changes imposed on us-- by the ACHP if they continue to exist, by the NCSHPO or the National Park Service, or worst of all, by Congress. Or we can try to get ahead of this wave of change and make our own, carefully thought-out changes before change is imposed from outside.

I am proposing that we work together as a professional community (and I will describe how I envision that happening below) to look not just at the costs of archaeology, per se, but at the cost/benefit ratio. The question that I would like us to address is "How can we improve the cost/benefit ratio of publicly funded archaeology?" By publicly funded archaeology I mean archaeology paid for by the public, either directly in tax dollars spent by federal agencies or in Section 106 compliance costs incurred by industry and passed on to consumers. By costs I mean both monetary costs and costs in time delays, which we all know are sometimes more of a concern for industry than the monetary costs. And by benefits I mean both the current benefits to the public and the long-term

benefits to our society of increased knowledge about the past.

Specifically, I plan to convene a task force that will begin meeting in September to address a set of critical questions. What are the costs of archaeology in New Mexico both in federal dollars and private sector dollars spent? What proportion of cost of doing business on federal land or with federal approvals is archaeological expenses? What are the public benefits of archaeology in increased knowledge, enjoyment, educational opportunities, recreation? What is the impact of heritage tourism on the state's economy? How has public archaeology contributed to our knowledge of the past? How good a job are we doing at preserving the prehistoric heritage of this State? How many jobs, how much money in taxes, and how much money in purchased goods and services (including per diem) are generated by archaeology in New Mexico? And most important, what steps can we take to improve the cost/benefit ratio by minimizing the costs in money and time and maximizing the public benefits?

I have no interest in figuring out how to do cheaper archaeology. But I and every archaeologist in this State have a critical interest in figuring out how to ensure that every dollar spent on public archaeology is necessary and is yielding the greatest possible gain in preservation, research excellence, and public benefits. We owe it to the public that is paying for this; we owe it to the resources that we are professionally committed to preserving and conserving; and our jobs may well depend on it.

The results of the process that I am envisioning here will potentially affect

every single archaeologist in the State, and I would like to see everyone get involved. I propose that all of you form regional groups--let's say Southeast (including ENMU), Southwest (including Alamogordo and El Paso), West Central (Socorro to Zuni to Grants, including Window Rock if they wish to participate), Northwest (Farmington and folk from Colorado who work NW New Mexico), and North Central (Taos to Santa Fe to Albuquerque). These groups should include contractors, federal and state agency archaeologists, and academics--all professional archaeologists.

I need one or two volunteer organizers for each regional group to coordinate with my office, and me groups need to begin discussions NOW--face to face, phone, fax, e-mail, small task groups, however you want to do it. But you need to be ready with information, ideas, and two elected representatives for the September task force meeting. I know everyone is desperately busy; we are too. But please believe that nothing that any of us is doing is more important than this or has a greater potential to affect all of our professional lives more fundamentally than this. Most of us could find ourselves thoroughly not busy very soon if we do not address this issue seriously. We are going to be asked very difficult questions, and we must be ready with answers. By mid-July we will be sending out a set of questions requesting information on financial costs and benefits and suggesting possible discussion topics about ways to improve the cost/benefit ratio for the use of the regional groups.

This task force will be making recommendations about the fundamental issues of public archaeology-- site eligibility, effect, preservation, and mitigation. These are not things that the SHPO's office can or should decide alone; these are decisions that should be made by and must be supported by the profession as a whole. Once the task force comes up with a plan, we will work through the regional groups to give everyone in the profession an opportunity to comment on the plan; we are even discussing the possibility of convening a Statewide congress to discuss the plan. Next we

will begin working with other interested groups--tribes, industry, government agencies, avocational societies, etc.- to consider their issues for inclusion in the plan and to attempt to gain their support.

Where we go from there will depend on what has happened in Congress in the mean time. If the Advisory Council Still exists NMSHPO will propose to amend our State substitution agreement with them to incorporate the procedural changes identified by the task force so that Section 106 can be carried out according to the plan. If me Council is eliminated, who knows? We will deal with it as best we can. Whatever happens, we will be better off for having a plan in place and an organization set up for disseminating information and ideas through-out the professional community.

I very much need your help to ensure that New Mexico can meet and weather the challenges to public archaeology posed by the current political climate. I am sending this to every agency, consulting firm, and department on our mailing list. Because we are facing a 5% recision in our State budget and a federal funding cut of unknown magnitude as well, we are crying to save money, so I am just sending one copy of this letter to each organization. Please xerox it and distribute it to everyone in your organization, including the field crews, and pass it on to other archaeologists that you know; I want to reach absolutely everybody that I possibly can. And then please begin discussions immediately among yourselves about how to organize your local participation in this effort--find, draft, or impress into service a regional coordinator or two and have them contact me as soon as possible, and by mid- July at the latest. This process is going to move forward fairly quickly and it may affect you profoundly; please get involved and please take responsibility for getting your regional group organized.

In the meantime, the New Mexico Archeological Council is keeping an eye on what is happening in Congress and issuing legislative alerts to its members and letting them know when

letters and phone calls to senators and representatives are critically needed.

These congressional contacts work and the more contacts that are made, the better they work. Organizing this type of lobbying effort is not something that my office can do because of our Status as a government agency. This would be a good time to join NMAC, or at least be sure that you are in contact with a NMAC member so that you can participate in these congressional contact efforts; the preservation community must be as organized and as activist as the opposition if we want to retain federal protection for the prehistoric heritage of this country.

Sincerely,
Lynne Sebastian, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist

NMAC Publications Alert



Soil, Water, Biology, and Belief in Prehistoric and Traditional Southwestern Agriculture, NMAC's second Special Publication, will be available late this summer. Edited by H. Wolcott Toll, this volume contains 23 papers from the 1992 NMAC Agriculture Symposium. The book is currently at the printer (Wolky has done a masterful job of editing, creating camera-ready copy, and finding a printer who will give us handsome books at a reasonable price) and Wolky thinks it might be ready for sale at the Pecos Conference in Mimbres, New Mexico in mid-August. Look for it there!