

Minutes
Burial Preservation Board
May 18, 2018
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Working Lunch
State Capitol Building
Room 317
Helena, MT 59601

Members Present: William Big Day, Morris Belgard, Richard Parenteau, Rosemary Caye, Marilyn Silva, Conrad Fisher, Carl Davis, and Skye Gilham.

Staff Present: Stan Wilmoth, Mike Manion, and Monica Abbott.

1. Call meeting to order: *Marilyn Silva, Chair*
Marilyn called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m.
2. Introductions and opening prayer
Those present introduced themselves. William Big Day gave the opening prayer.
3. ***Action Item*:** Approve October 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Marilyn asked the members to review the minutes. There were some corrections to minutes. Richard Parenteau offered a motion which Rosemary Caye seconded of the corrected minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Elections – *Mike Manion*
Mike explained how elections could run. The members could choose to have a voice vote or use a secret ballot. Richard nominated Rosemary for chair, but she declined. Rosemary nominated Richard for chair, but Richard declined. Mike gave a description of the duties of the chair.
***Action Item*:** Morris Belgard nominated William for chair, which Richard seconded. There were no other nominees and William was elected unanimously.

***Action Item*:** Rosemary nominated Skye Gilham for vice-chair, which Morris seconded. There were no other nominees and Skye was elected unanimously.

The gavel moved to William for the remainder of the meeting.

5. Old business
 - a. Old cases – *Stan Wilmoth*
Stan reported that he has no new cases at this time. In his secure locker are five old cases.

Stan's notes showed the Ashland remains and Rosebud county remains that Conrad Fisher of the Northern Cheyenne would handle those. Conrad will take ownership. He will speak with his people and report back to Stan.

The state crime lab had a middle age native male plus 47 with a gunshot wound in the rear back of head. The crime lab thought the remains came south of Billings.

The remains have been in crime lab evidence locker for a long time. There were no objects with the remains. Willie Kemp was listed on the one-page report. The remains were sent to Stan without any notification. William offered to repatriate them.

***Action Item*:** Morris offered a motion to send the remains to Terry Bullis at his mortuary, which was seconded by Rosemary. Rosemary asked if it would be handled this year, and William replied yes. The motion passed unanimously.

A small box of artifacts was sent to Stan by a private citizen. The box contained glass beads and non-human teeth. The items were found by friends of the family in 1960's and divided up. The family farm is in Treasure County. There are three known burial sites located in Treasure County. Stan thinks these remains came from one of these burial sites. The Smithsonian determined them to be Crow by the beadwork. Morris added that burials could be Cheyenne. Conrad asked about more identification to determine which group could be the remains.

William shared an oral history about Major Reynolds who demanded deeded land, or he would shoot the kids. The leader Chief Plenty Coups didn't give anything to Major Reynolds. The major would manipulate the people.

Elders that couldn't travel any more would set up their four-post for themselves and prepare to remain there until the end. There are many remains by the Yellowstone River.

Conrad would like more identification to ensure they are correctly identified.

Stan said University of Idaho (U of I) identified the beads as Crow. Conrad asked if tribes were consulted. He would like it validated.

Morris asked if they were with human remains. Stan thinks they are related.

Rosemary mentioned her tribe has oral history in the same area to hunt buffalo.

She recommended to get more information and produce a report on the beads,

Carl Davis offered to produce a report.

***Action Item*:** Rosemary offered a motion to contact family and the University of Idaho for more information and have Carl assist with the report. Carl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The meeting stopped for a lunch break at noon. The meeting resumed at 1:09 p.m.

Stan has a case that dates from 1929. Neighbors found a burial location from a cave along Yellowstone 15 miles from Livingston. Two individuals and some tools. Went to Museum of the Rockies. 1988 was sent to U of I. Artifacts stayed at Museum of the Rockies and skeletal remains went to U of I. The humerus is from probably male and pelvic from a female with an odd collection of artifacts. U of I asked to find a burial location of remains.

Rosemary said this is a federal case a culturally unaffiliated identification.

They have contacted her. She thinks U of I should do more research for cultural identification. She asked Stan if the land was state or federal land. Stan said it is now private land. Rosemary wants to know how many tribes have responded.

Conrad says this brings up a procedural law. He questions why the remains went to U of I with MSU there. He thinks they are cutting out consultation with the tribes. Rosemary said U of I had pictures. She thinks U of I should bring tribes

together to consult and decide where to rebury them. She thinks it's a consulting issue. She wants to know if funerary objects will be reunited for burial.

Carl suggested Mike contact U of I with a letter

Action Item: Rosemary offered a motion to have Mike write a letter, which Skye seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Rudy Victor update – *Mike Manion*

Mike followed up with Tammi Littleman. The records were released to Victor's family. The Victor family has contacted the land owners and arranged for the family to be able to go back on the land in July. Mike is working to send the pamphlets to coroners.

6. New business

Richard was approached by two elders (Mr. Glen Gopher and Duncan Standing Rock) from the Chippewa Cree regarding Chief Rocky Boy's grave and how it is not being maintained. In 1908 there were many added to the roles of the Chippewa Cree tribe. Mike is willing to call Mr. Gopher. Conrad mentioned that Alvin Windy Boy is the CEO in the historical office. Conrad will contact Alvin Windy Boy. Richard is not sure if these elders have gone through their THPO office. Richard said the elders couldn't find anyone to contact.

7. Public Comment

None at this time.

8. ***Action Item***: Set next meeting date

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12 in Helena.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.