

Burial Preservation Board Minutes
October 9, 2015
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Working Lunch
Little Shell Chippewa Tribe Cultural Center
1529 Stuckey Road – Great Falls, MT 59401

1. Call meeting to order: *Dr. Ruthann Knudson, Chair*
Dr. Ruthann Knudson called the meeting to order at 10:17. Ruthann asked Richard Parenteau to tell about the meeting location.

Richard told the members about the history of the building where the meeting was being held. It was purchased in 2010 for a tobacco program. Henry Anderson, former member of the Burial Preservation Board, did blessings for building. In 2012, the tribe added the 30'x60' events center to the building. In 2013, they held a round dance. The building was built on sacred ground near Hill 57. A man working for Heinz who named the hill to promote Heinz 57 sauce named the hill in the 1940's.

Ruthann explained that the State of Montana recognizes the Little Shell. In Congress, HB 286 relates to acknowledgement of the Little Shell as a federally recognized tribe: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/286>. If the tribe were federally acknowledged, it would be authorized to acquire 200 acres of land. The tribe would like to purchase Hill 57 as they view it a sacred ground. The Ursuline Centre Historical Foundation has purchased the Ursuline collection including records of support for the Hill 57 Little Shell community.

2. Introductions and opening prayer
George Reed gave the opening prayer. His prayer was about diversity.
3. ***Action Item***: Approve May 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes: *Dr. Ruthann Knudson, Chair*

Morris Belgard asked about the remains at UM and why they were not inventoried yet. Ruthann Knudson mentioned UM has had NAGPRA problems. There are remains that are unclaimed. Ruthann Knudson added that everything west the continental divide was completed and she suggested asking Riley Augé to come to the next meeting in late April or early May for an update. Ruthann will contact Riley Augé about attending the next meeting.

On Page 3 of the minutes, it read the Chevalier remains still at SHPO will be buried with the Nesbit remains. It is planned to have them reburied with the other Chevalier remains on the DesRosier property. Rosemary thought they would be buried with Nesbit. The minutes will be corrected to read that the Chevalier remains will be reburied on the DesRosier property with the other Chevalier remains.

John Murray offered a motion to approve the corrected minutes from May 8, which Morris Belgard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Noxon Remains: *Stan Wilmoth*

There is no information coming back from the medical examiner's office. Justin Moshelle, Archaeologist for the Kootenai forest in Montana is working on these remains. Montana does not have a resident state medical examiner to help with these cases, which is causing a large amount of problems for county coroners. FERC authority determined after using GPS over Noxon Dam and Reservoir on remains found there was no determination. Rosemary Caye asked Justin Moshelle to continue to track them so they are not lost. FERC have a process to follow. Rosemary Caye will stay in contact with Justin Moshelle about the remains to ensure he will manage it.

5. Western Energy Rosebud Remains – *Dr. Ruthann Knudson, Chair*

Dicki Peterson sent a letter with an attached timeline but Ruthann Knudson never received timeline. The remains are not on any reservation so they come to the board. Ruthann Knudson suggested burying it at First Peoples. Ruthann Knudson wants to accept the responsibility. Morris Belgard offered to rebury it. George Reed suggested having Conrad Fisher rebury it. Ruthann Knudson suggested having Morris rebury it since Morris is at meeting.

Rosemary offered a motion for the board to accept responsibility for the remains and Morris Belgrade will rebury them. Marilyn seconded

6. Old business – *Stan Wilmoth*

There are more Chevalier remains at SHPO. John Murray suggested reburying them on the DesRosier land. John Murray will arrange for the reburial. Stan Wilmoth stated the fragments are from the same person that is already buried on the DesRosier land.

Dave Schwab is still working with family members about Clubfoot George.

Pat Roth has one more set of remains that were shipped to Idaho. She will work with Leah Evans-Jahnke to get them back to Museum of the Rockies.

7. New business – *Stan Wilmoth*

Stan Wilmoth received a phone call from a family member in Harlowton area. In 1969 a farmer discovered a skull. The skull was given to a dentist. After the dentist died, the skull was sent to SHPO. John Murray offered to have the skull buried on the DesRosier land.

George Reed moved that John Murray would bury the skull with the Chevalier ranch remains on the DesRosier land. Rosemary Caye suggested to try to find out more information about the skull. Rosemary said if there is not any other information then rebury it. Marilyn Silva wants it buried closer to its home but would prefer to have it buried. John Murray seconded the original motion and it passed unanimously.

A note came with a package that was removed from the Crow reservation in 1980's. Dick Arstad during the 40's and 50's lived in Wyola and came across three bodies. Items that were with the bodies in Pass Creek included a porcelain doll head, venetian beads, 1700's

chevron beads, and 1830's pair pipe style beads also. George Reed suggested either having Terry Bullis bury it or put it back in Pass Creek just put it back. It was also suggested to contact Emerson Bull Chief at Crow to have them reburied.

On September 18, 2013, there was a discovery without paperwork, of a box from a medical examiner's office. Willie Kemp called Stan Wilmoth regarding a new discovery probably from the south end part of the Little Big Horn Battlefield. The remains were of a 47-year-old with a bullet hole and battle trauma. The battle wounds suggest it was near Little Big Horn. There is no one to ask at crime lab; 60 % of skeleton is there. Marilyn Silva suggested not waiting for crime lab. The teeth showed no modern dental work. Rosemary Caye suggested calling for more information. John Murray said that Steve Platt offered to do carbon dating for a previous set of remains. He thought maybe for these remains. Marilyn Silva suggested asking the National Park Service. Marilyn Silva also suggested burying at First Peoples. Discussion led to asking Terry Bullis to bury the packet of beads and skeleton on a Crow site.

John Murray offered a motion to asking Terry Bullis bury the packet of beads and skeleton on a Crow site. Morris Belgard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Stan Wilmoth will contact Terry Bullis.

Larry Lahren gave some teeth to Stan Wilmoth. They are associated with homesteading in Park and Sheridan counties. All of the teeth were found on the surface. Stan has the teeth in his office. Marilyn Silva suggested giving them to Terry Bullis to rebury the teeth when he buries the beads and skeleton. John Murray told how the Blackfeet discard bodies when die and move on.

Marilyn Silva offered a motion to have Terry Bullis to bury the teeth with the other items. Rosemary Caye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Comment

No comments.

9. Set next meeting date – *Dr. Ruthann Knudson, Chair*

There was suggestion to meet in Helena on April 22, 2016.

10. Adjourn – *Dr. Ruthann Knudson, Chair*

Ruthann Knudson offered a motion to adjourn, which John Murray seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.