

Burial Preservation Board
June 21, 2013
Great Falls College MSU
Ground Level, Room B139
2100 16th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59401

Present: Reuben Mathias, Monica Abbott, Mike Manion, Steve Platt, Stan Wilmoth, Marilyn Silva, Ruthann Knudson, Skye Gillam, Morris Belgard, Videl Stump, and Robert Four Star.

Reuben called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

- 1. Call meeting to order:** *Reuben Mathias, Chair*
- 2. Introductions and opening prayer:** Robert Four Star.
- 3. *Action Item*:** Approve September 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Morris Belgard motion and Robert Four Star seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Election of Officers:** There was discussion of when to hold the election of officers. It was decided to wait until the appointments due in August are made.
- 5. New Case:** Reuben reported about a cemetery on the land of Patricia Smith. She owns the 40 acres where the Sunny Slope Cemetery is located. It is not being maintained and she would like to resurrect it, although she did not know there was a cemetery when she purchased the land. Currently, it is located in a hay field and covers two counties, Lake and Flathead, right inside the reservation line. Remains have been located. She mentioned that earlier there were wooden crosses but they are now gone and believes it was last maintained in 1916. Mike asked what the board would like to do about the land. Reuben suggested sending a letter to the landowner to ask what her interest is for the land. He would then like to send a letter to the county about the land. There was discussion about cemeteries and records. Steve and Ruthann suggested writing the county about the unmaintained cemetery. Reuben will send Mike Pat Smith's phone number and address. Mike can contact her and talk to her about the cemetery. There was a motion by Ruthann to have Reuben give Patricia Smith's contact information to Mike for him to contact her about the cemetery and after determining the situation and conferring with Reuben, Mike will send a letter to the Lake County. Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6. Old case remains:** Stan Wilmoth
 - a. A fragment from Sidney turned into Sheriff. It was Native in shape found in a creek bottom. Stan received it from the State Crime Lab. Robert Four Star will rebury it.

- b. A skull was found at Dodson School and the Sheriff sent it to crime lab. The skull was determined as native. Morris will rebury the remains.
- c. Comingled remains of two or more persons from Gary Owen (Crow had accepted). The board decided to rebury it at First Peoples Buffalo State Park. Stan will contact Don Fish.
- d. Selkirk Fas Wheatland County (Crow had accepted). The board decided to rebury it at First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. Stan will contact Don Fish.
- e. National Park Service NAGPRA seizure in Washington state (originally from near Fort Benton Buffalo Jump-includes many trade goods). The board decided to rebury at First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. Stan will contact Don Fish. Robert will attend.
- f. UM Anthropology has 13-14 sets of remains from the State Park at Pictograph Cave. No progress from UM. Ashley returned the remains to board. She suggested the board give a NAGPRA notice.
 - i. One lot in Sheridan county parts of 5 people.
 - ii. One lot almost complete skeleton of adult male in /Richland County
 - iii. Very young child from Yellowstone County.
 - iv. Two or three othersSteve suggested reburial at First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. Mike, Reuben, and Ruthann indicated they would attend.

7. Other Business: Mike Manion

- a. Mike asked about the skull at MSU Northern. Morris said when he went there, no one knew about the skull. Mike will give his contact at MSU Northern Morris' number so he can go back to get the skull.
- b. Mike contacted Bozeman Gem and Mineral Society. County does not own remains. The gem society is doing research on it.
- c. Mike contacted Kate McCourt at Virginia City but she is no longer there. Stan will try to get a new contact. This is regarding pictures of the remains of Clubfoot George.

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

Morris moved to hold the next meeting September 13 in Helena from 10-2, Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Marilyn suggested starting each meeting with a ceremony.

Ruthann offered a motion to adjourn with Marilyn seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.