

Burial Preservation Board Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Remote – Zoom

Members Present: Alvin Windy Boy, Richard Parenteau, Erika Scheuring, Thomas Livoti, Conrad Fisher, Michael Blackwolf, Carl Davis, Andy LeBrun, and Skye Gilham

Members Excused: Chair William Big Day, Kevin Askan, John Murray, and Justin Grayhawk

Staff Present: Jessica Bush, Terri Hogan, Julie James

1. Call to Order

- a. In the absence of Chair William Big Day, Skye Gilham accepted the roll of Acting Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions

- a. Conrad opened the meeting with a prayer.
- b. The members introduced themselves to the group.
- c. A moment of silence was held in honor of Tom Escarcega, Sr.

3. Action Items

- a. Approve November 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
 - i. **MOTION:** Alvin moved to approve the minutes. Erika seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

- a. Update on brochure (Terri Hogan): It was decided to table this discussion for another date. Julie will send the brochure out to the members.
- b. Burial Board Protocol (Carl Davis) Report on board member feedback to Carl's proposed procedures (Erika). Next steps? It was decided to hold a separate meeting to only discuss the proposed protocols. Julie will send out Carl's previous email to the members and set Zoom only meeting for June 24, 2022. Members shall review the proposed protocol and send comments to Carl and Erika no later than June 1.
- c. Outstanding caseload (Jessica Bush)
 - i. CR-01: At the November meeting, it was decided that Jessica would draft a letter for Chairman Big Day's signature for Conrad to present to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council (also includes PR-01, PR-02). Chairman Big Day has not signed the letter. The board approved revising the letter for Sky Gilham's signature as Vice Chair. Skye signed the letter and it was given to Conrad.
 - ii. CR-02: Is the skull and mandible at the lab for testing? Discussion on this case was tabled.
 - iii. FA-01 (Update from Skye): Skye's report from Trenton Harbaugh, Fallon County sheriff. Landowner prefers that remains are not reburied on property. Remains are at SHPO. Next steps? Skye reported that Sheriff Harbaugh told her he has no other artifacts regarding these

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remains. Board members wanted to reach out to him one more time to confirm. Andy called him and he still maintains that the board has everything that was gathered. Board discussion about contacting the landowner to allow the board to search the property for the rest of the skeletal remains with an archaeologist present.

- iv. LT-01 (Update from John) Status on reinterment of remains at Tibor Reservoir - John was not in attendance to give a report. Jessica did confirm she has the remains and that NAGPRA may possibly take over this case. Case can be closed after remains are transferred.
- v. MO-01 (Update from Kevin) Kevin was not in attendance to give a report. Kevin was to contact Missoula County to get more information. Not much information on this case. Skye might try to find out more information about this case while she is in Missoula.
- vi. MO-02 (Update from Kevin) Kevin was not in attendance to give a report. Kevin will update Jessica with any new information.
- vii. MO-03 (Update from Michael and Kevin). Status on plans to work with CSKT to identify a place to reinter the remains. Kevin was not in attendance to give a report.
- vii. PR-01 & 02 Status on letter for Chairman Big Day's signature for Conrad to present to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council (also includes CR-01). See notes for CR-01 above for additional detail.
- ix. TE-01: Status report. Were remains and report retrieved from the Lab? Yes. Jessica has the remains. Board determined that William or Conrad should assume responsibility for reinterment of the remains. Terri will research civil remedies for people taking artifacts from burial plots. Conrad would like to know where the remains were found and if there is anything else to go along with this case. Andy moved to send the remains with Conrad for reinterment. Alvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Julie will prepare a letter for Conrad to present to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council for Skye's signature. Case can close out after Conrad reports back that this has been done.
- x. TL-01/TL-02: Status update? Toole County Sheriff's office has no information on these two cases. Alvin and Skye were previously assigned to research these cases. Skye talked to Toole County Sheriff's office. Jessica has the remains and the board needs to decide what to do with them as there is no more information to be found. Alvin moved to send the remains to John for reinterment. Richard seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Skye will contact John and have him contact Jessica.

5. New Business

a. Board Member Appointments, reappointments

- i. Justin Grayhawk, Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes: Application submitted to the Governor's office on April 21, 2022. Application was approved May 5, 2022.
- ii. Current terms for Michael Blackwolf, William Big Day, Conrad Fisher, Alvin Windy Boy, Carl Davis, Andy LaBrun, and Richard Parenteau end September 1, 2022. Richard Parenteau reported that terming board members should obtain a letter from each board member's respective tribal council or other organization (e.g., Montana Archaeological Society) to support

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reappointment to the board. Terming board members who do not want to be reappointed should work with their respective tribes or organizations to identify a replacement. The letter will be attached to the application that will be presented to the Governor's office. Carl Davis will not continue as a board member, but the Montana Archaeological Society is looking for his replacement. Richard Parenteau advised Julie to contact Aaron Brien, the Crow THPO, for Crow Tribal Council's recommendation to represent the tribe on the board and gave two other contacts. Julie will email all terming board members, request a letter from each, and assist with applications to submit to the Governor's office.

- b. New cases (Jessica) – Jessica was contacted by Historical Society who came across 17 items that were given to the Burial Board in 2007, who made an agreement with the Historical Society to took responsibility for the items. Recently she has secured all 17 items and the Board now needs to decide what to do with them. Alvin suggested having a special meeting to discuss these new cases. Carl suggested a few could be taken care of quickly (a skull from Helena and one from Big Horn Battlefield). The board determined that three cases could be transferred because the identity of the remains was known: 1) UN-02 (Nez Perce case - corn husk bag) to Robert Taylor (208) 553-9908, RobertT@nezperce.org; 2) LC-02 John Keene's remains to the Lewis & Clark County coroner/sheriff; 3) BH-01 Skull to Little Big Horn Battlefield; 4) UN-10 Contact Minnesota SHPO to return that item. Jessica was asked to make these calls. Alvin will assist with UN-10. Carl suggested to give more thought to the scalp locks and other burial materials and agreed with Alvin to have another meeting later. Jessica can report back to the Board on June 24 with what she found. A special meeting for the end of the summer will be discussed then too. Skye will contact John regarding UN-05 and UN-09.

It was discussed to have a special meeting on July 22 from 10:00 - 2:00

- c. Remains found in Great Falls Residence (Andy LeBrun) Julie updated the board on the remains discovered in Great Falls. Andy LeBrun helped Julie with a call to the Cascade County coroner, who will work with Washington state law enforcement to send the remains to them.
- d. Governor's Tribal Relations Report (Julie James) Julie advised the board that she has been asked to be the contact for this report for the DOA. Jessica will write up a brief paragraph for the report.

6. Public Comment - None

Alvin asked Erika about the skull belonging to Rocky Boy found in Lolo National Forest. Erica believes it was repatriated already. Carl remembers the forest being told to get it done. Skye mentioned that we should do votes on Chair and Vice Chair positions.

7. ACTION ITEM: Set next meeting date

- 8. Adjourned: Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Alvin seconded and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned after 2 pm.