

Burial Preservation Board
September 21, 2012

Present: John Murray, Mike Manion, Steve Platt, Stan Wilmoth, Marilyn Silva via conference call, Ruthann Knudson, Henry Anderson, Betsy Anderson, Skye Gilham, Morris Belgard, Terry Bullis, Robert Four Star, Lesa Evers, Christopher Comer, Sally Thompson, Gilbert Quintero, and Monica Abbott

1. Call meeting to order: *John Murray, Vice Chair*

John Murray called the meeting to order. He asked Robert Four Star to open the meeting with a prayer. Members and attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

2. *Action Item*: Approve June 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Terry Bullis offered a motion to approve the minutes and Ruthann Knudson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John asked for a report on the \$5,000 donated from Kail Consulting Archaeology in Wyoming to the Burial Board. A report about the donation will be sent to John.

3. Discussion of letter received from the University of Montana regarding human remains: *Mike Manion*

Dean Comer of the College of Arts & Sciences welcomed the members to the university campus. He thanked the board and introduced Gilbert Quintero, Department Chair. Gilbert Quintero spoke of his role with Department of Anthropology and thanked the board for the invitation to come to the meeting. Sally Thompson, Associate Director of Collections & NAGPRA Specialist, gave an update on the inventory of the University of Montana Collections. (The NAGPRA Inventory Update, the UM NAGPRA Grant Summary for the Anthropology Collections Project, and the Memo for an extension on the Montana Burial Preservation Board Human Remains Documentation are attached to the minutes).

The meeting stopped for a tour of archaeological collections and lunch following the tour.

The meeting restarted at 1:03 p.m.

4. Review of photographs: *Mike Manion*

- Photos from MSU Northern and Gallatin County

The remains are not scientific models. Ruthann suggested sending a letter to the President of MSU Northern from the board to send the remains to the board for reburial. Mike suggested a phone call first to both locations to express the boards concerns.

- Virginia City

Mike is trying to contact Kate McCourt at the museum. Steve suggested a motion to have Mike to call MSU Northern and Gallatin County to

ask if they are willing to do the right thing and to remove from public or to send to the board for reburial. Morris Belgard offered a motion, which Robert seconded to have Mike call MSU Northern and Gallatin County to see if they will send the remains to the board for reburial. The motion passed unanimously.

5. New case remains – Stan Wilmoth

- No new case remains
- Steve Platt – Jon Axline with the Montana Department of Transportation found letters in Centerline newsletter about a burial that was found on the Terry to Brockway road. The remains of one individual with artifacts are in Glendive. Steve will research to see where the remains came from. Steve will notify the board if he uncovers where it came from originally. Steve believes the remains were found in 1964.

6. Other business

- Mike reported there was an audit from the Legislative auditor. Nothing was found out of order.
- Action item about reburial. John would like a message to go out for all reburials. Morris suggested sending a copying all board members.
- Mike said soon we will send out the rules to interested parties. A hearing will be set and then adopt the rules. Mike gave the history on the rules. Ruthann added how the rules line up with NAGPRA. Monica will send the rules out to the board members.
- Lesa spoke about the appointment process.

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

Lewistown or Great Falls were mentioned as locations for the next board meeting. A motion to hold the next meeting in Lewiston on January 11 was offered by Terry Bullis, and Skye Gilham seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

The Burial Preservation Board Adjourned at 2:05 p.m.
Ruthann offered a motion to adjourn, and Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NAGPRA Inventory Update

University of Montana

September 21, 2012

The University of Montana (UM) has made significant progress on our NAGPRA responsibilities, following the hiring of a NAGPRA Specialist in May 2011. Initial efforts focused on reconnecting accession records and reports with human remains and associated funerary objects for the Inventory (43 CFR 10.9 and 10.11), and with compiling and reviewing all records from the ethnographic collection for the Summary process (43 CFR 10.10).

UM repatriated twenty-one cases in 2003 (all of which had been transferred to the Montana State Burial Preservation Board in 1994), and another two in 2010. More recently, UM published a Notice of Inventory Completion for human remains from West of the Continental Divide (7/19/12) and corrected errors in the Federal Register (7/23/12) regarding minimum numbers of individuals by reconciling the Forensic Collection (UMFC) numbers with associated records, catalog numbers and site numbers. On September 18, 2012, we concluded our efforts for cases from West of the Continental Divide with the repatriation of three new cases (Federal Register 7/19/23), and additional remains from three individuals already repatriated in 2003 and 2010. UM is now in full compliance with the Inventory Process, although not finished with the work required to complete our responsibilities.

Locating associated records for human remains acquired in the past by UM anthropologists resulted in the identification of 23 additional cases in the osteological collection that are Native American or need to be assessed to determine ancestry; these individuals were discovered during a sweep of the osteological collections for the purposes of NAGPRA compliance by the Curator, Dr. Ashley McKeown. These remains came to UM through highway salvage work, coroners' cases, and many through donations from individuals. Many have little or no information regarding the location or context from which they were removed. Significant effort has been directed toward gleaning whatever can be learned from the extant records.

Our current focus is on remains from East of the Continental Divide and from unknown locations. Twenty-three cases are being reviewed by McKeown, to determine biological affiliation and, where possible, cultural affiliation. Associated records have been provided to Dr. McKeown for her analysis. Only a small number of these cases are affiliated with known archaeological excavations. Those that include Anderson's Blue Hill Stock Farm (24RL11), Overby's Headless Burial (24SH615), and Sappington Cave (24MA36). The first two were turned over to the Burial Preservation Board in 1994 and listed in the National NAGPRA Inventory for Culturally-Unidentified Individuals (CUI) submitted by the Montana Historical Society (7/13/06). The Richland County site is listed by site number in this online database, but the Sheridan County site, "Overby's Headless Burial" is only listed by UMFC52.

The State Burial Preservation Board agreed to transfer temporary custody of the remains to UM in late July 2012, so that Dr. McKeown could reconcile these cases with human remains from the same individuals found in the collection during the NAGPRA sweep. These remains are being transferred back to the State Historical Society/Burial Preservation Board at the meeting on 21 September 2012.

Dr. Sally Thompson worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to locate human remains from Pictograph Cave (24YL1) and to work with them on a plan to repatriate these remains at Pictograph Cave State Park.

In conclusion, all essential NAGPRA-related work at UM is expected to be completed by July 2013, while continuing to manage our collections in accordance with the law.

UM NAGPRA GRANT SUMMARY

Anthropology Collections Project

2012-2013

UM's *Anthropology Collections Project* seeks to build on work already accomplished, leading to repatriation of our NAGPRA-eligible human remains and objects during the next two years. Funding from a Consultation Grant expands our capacity to fulfill our NAGPRA responsibilities.

Current collections at UM contain the remains of 23 individuals known or likely to be Native American, in addition to an ethnographic collection of some 650 items, many of which (50-100) are likely to fall under NAGPRA regulations for repatriation. The goals of this grant are to document and consult on potential NAGPRA-eligible objects in our ethnographic collection (Summary Process); to document Native American human remains and associated funerary objects from our teaching collection, followed by consultations; and to consult about disposition of culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains (Inventory Process).

We propose to achieve these goals by completing four objectives:

Objective 1 Activities. Documentation of Ethnographic Collection

Our initial focus is to document the ethnographic collection. We have contacted regional tribes in writing to inform them that the University has begun this process, and Summaries were mailed to Tribal representatives this spring. We will follow up with phone calls and requests for information for different categories of objects and appropriate methods of contact; temporal and geographic criteria for associations; other groups for consultation; and scheduling and process particulars.

Recent work with the collection allows us to provide preliminary information about the numbers and types of objects in the collection; along with information about some of the objects regarding the means, date(s), and location(s) of acquisition. For these objects and those lacking accession records, we will conduct research to refine documentation of our holdings. These results will be added to the database.

This grant will allow us to bring in Emma Hansen, Senior Curator, Plains Indian Museum, to acquire provenance for at least some of the objects lacking reliable documentation. Objects in our ethnographic collection come from a large region, and many are poorly documented. The Lewis collection of some 200 Native American objects contains the highest likelihood for NAGPRA designation, so it will be our first priority.

These efforts will improve results toward cultural affiliation determination and repatriation/disposition claims, as specified in 43 CFR 10.5, 10.8 (a). With our consultant's assistance, we will prioritize objects most likely to be eligible for repatriation.

Objective 2 Activities. Development of a Searchable Database

We have purchased the PastPerfect database management system in order to document the acquisition history of each object, and to photograph objects in 3-D (except where we have been requested to use culturally sensitive techniques such as hand illustration), and to record formal attributes including dimensions, material(s), design patterns and techniques of manufacture, along with all results of academic research. An access-controlled website system with sortable/searchable fields, will allow us to make records available for a phase of virtual consultation.

Objective 3 Activities. Consultation on Unassociated Funerary Objects and Other Objects Potentially Eligible for NAGPRA

Our first round of consultation following the development of the searchable database will be through this “virtual” approach. Through this effort we hope to be able to confirm cultural affiliation for the objects and preclude unnecessary travel. Because we cannot realistically travel to consult with all potentially affiliated tribes in the region, we will work first with those tribes most represented in the collection, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Blackfeet and Crow, and will accept any claims from the other tribes. Additionally, once these three main tribes are finished, we’ll focus on the remaining tribes. As we move ahead in consultation, we will attempt to conduct at least some of the meetings through video-conferencing. Tribes may request that UM personnel participate in offsite meetings, and Elders may wish to travel to the University to view fragile items. As needed, the grant will allow us to support on-site visits for face-to-face consultations, during which time we will invite tribal representatives to educate staff and Anthropology Department faculty and students regarding NAGPRA-eligible objects and issues of cultural sensitivity. Object documentation will be completed with these consultations and determinations will be made, wherever possible, regarding cultural-affiliation and disposition.

Objective 4 Activities. Documentation and Consultation on Human Remains

Our second NAGPRA focus is to complete analysis of Native American human remains and to engage regional tribes in consultation. Our recent efforts have identified a minimum of 23 individuals from East of the Continental Divide, along with associated funerary objects, in the collection. Through documentation and consultations, we will determine which remains can be identified by cultural affiliation, and will agree on plans for repatriation. Documentation and consultation on culturally-unidentifiable individuals (CUIs) will fulfill the requirements of section 43 CFR 10.11.

To: Sally Thompson, Assoc. Director of Collections, Dept of Anthropology

From: Ashley McKeown, Curator of Osteological Collections, Dept of Anthropology

Date: 20 September 2012

RE: Rationale for Extension Request on MT Burial Preservation Board Human Remains Documentation

The documentation process for the human remains on loan from the MT Burial Preservation Board (BPB) is taking longer than initially anticipated. This is due to a number of issues.

First, the human remains from 24SH615 (Overby's Headless site) represent at least 5 individuals. Most of the bones are labeled as belonging to one of the 5 individuals, but this numbering system is not consistent with the descriptions of the burials/sets of remains in the Joyes et al. (1984) Archaeology in Montana article, nor is it consistent with morphological (size and shape) and biological (age and sex) indicators. This has resulted in the need for extensive sorting of this complex, commingled assemblage in order to determine which bones are associated with which individual and properly document the number of individuals present. We also had to re-associate the human remains that we found in our collection as part of our NAGPRA sweep. Overall, this has been a time consuming process.

Secondly, the human remains labeled UMFC14 from Yellowstone County were repatriated as an adult. However, upon evaluating these remains it is apparent that these are cranial elements from a subadult and the identification number MA21013183 is written on the bones. This jogged my memory about some unassociated subadult postcranial elements in the collection and indeed, several postcranial elements are labeled MA21013183. Given that the cranial remains are subadult and the postcranial remains in our collection are also subadult, they need to be re-associated prior to return to the BPB. To complicate matters, there are several unassociated and unmarked postcranial bones from a subadult that appear to be about the same size as those labeled MA21013183, and I need time to determine which belong to UMFC14 based on morphology and age.

In addition to these matters, my work over the past couple of weeks had been focused on getting everything ready for the 18 September 2012 repatriation meeting you had with the CSKT.

Given everything described above, I have not completed the documentation process for the human remains on loan from the BPB and need to request an

extension of a few weeks. I had originally thought 1 to 2 weeks would be adequate, but I forgot about some upcoming travel. On Sept 26, I will be traveling to Washington, DC, for a UM sponsored event and then heading to Delaware to work on a research project for the week of Oct 1-5. I should be back to UM by Monday, Oct 8. An extension through Oct 19 would be optimal, allowing adequate time to properly document and rebox (in the archival burial boxes) the human remains from UMFC51&52/24SH615 (at least 5 individuals), UMFC14/MA21013183 (at least 1 individual), and UMFC27/24RL11 (at least 1 individual).

I hope the BPB is amenable to this request. I am happy to provide further explanations of (a) why it is necessary to properly document all individuals and (b) why it takes so much time to sort the commingled assemblage from 24SH615 and find all possible matching remains for UMFC14/ MA21013183.

cc: Gilbert Quintero, Chair and Director of Collections, Department of Anthropology