

NCSHPO

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting

March 2, 2005

The Renaissance Washington, Washington, DC

Call to Order

President Edward Sanderson called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. EST.

Roll Call of the States

Secretary Britta Bloomberg read the Roll Call of the States. The following members-in-good standing were present: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Members-in-good standing not present: Connecticut, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, and Wyoming.

Minutes

Wilson Martin moved, Kak Slick seconded, and the membership unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2004 Annual Membership Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jay D. Vogt noted that, in 2004, the Board of Directors adopted two resolutions - one authorizing the use of Investment Account for operations, and a second limiting the amount of money that can be used from the Investment Account for operations. The Board of Directors also developed a policy to limit the amount of cash the NCSHPO has on hand.

The NCSHPO stayed within their 2004 budget as income and expenses were close to projections.

Jay D. Vogt reported that the NCSHPO had a clean audit with no errors and complimented Anita Zepp, Office Manager for the NCSHPO, on her great work.

Jay D. Vogt explained that the 2005 budget is tight because income from the National Park Service Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) will be declining as NCSHPO employees are converted to federal status and funds available for projects decline. However, membership dues are expected to meet the 2005 budget projections.

President's Report

President Edward Sanderson reflected on the issues the NCSHPO has handled over the past few years. It is essential for SHPOs to continue to conduct timely reviews of Section 106 projects. The Administration will continue to expect this from the SHPOs.

In addition, he stated that the NCHSPO developed an Administrative strategy for Historic Preservation Fund appropriations. It involves focusing our efforts on members of the Administration, in addition to Members of Congress. This strategy resulted in the hiring of BKSH, a prominent lobbying firm, to represent the SHPOs. Edward Sanderson also noted that John Nau, the chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has been integral in our efforts to get to the Administration. He has been helpful in setting up several important meetings with senior policy officials in the Administration. The success of this strategy is demonstrated in the Administration's recommendation of level funding from the HPF for fiscal year 2006 at a time when many programs experienced deep cuts.

NCSHPO Task Force Reports

Congressional Task Force

Jay D. Vogt reported that the NCSHPO worked in conjunction with Preservation Action and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop a Congressional strategy that culminated in Lobby Day 2005. He noted that SHPOs in key states were contacted in the fall of 2004 and asked to develop a relationship with their Members of Congress. The goal is to have each state work towards achieving this.

Rehabilitation Tax Credit Task Force

Jim Garrison noted that the Historic Preservation Development Council and the NCSHPO issued a report to the National Park Service (NPS) in July 2003 and in August 2004, the NPS responded. Jim Garrison indicated that the report grouped the recommendations into three areas: application of standards; education and training; and the review process. He indicated the NCSHPO-NPS task force to review the tax credit application process committee will be working in the coming months on ways to streamline the process. He is still looking for examples of problematic tax credit review projects from SHPOs.

Janet Snyder Matthews, the NPS Associate Director for Cultural Resources, reported that the NPS is working on the appointment of a subcommittee of the National Park System Advisory Committee to review the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. She expects they will complete their work in about 7 months.

National Park Service (NPS) Programmatic Agreement (PA) Task Force

Caroline Hall of the NPS reported that the NPS has initiated the process for renegotiating the nationwide programmatic agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference. The National Park Service has established an internal task force which includes representatives from all of the NPS regions, 4 SHPOs, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. She expects the first meeting to take place in April 2005.

Homeland Security Task Force

Allyson Brooks indicated that the goal of the task force is to work with the Department of Homeland Security to make them aware of their historic preservation responsibilities as well as to establish procedures for emergency management and data transfer. Kathleen Kilpatrick, Wayne Donaldson, Lisa Burcham and Susan Pierce volunteered to serve on the task force.

Wildlands Fire Task Force

Suzi Neitzel submitted the following written report:

Several years ago, the NCSHPO appointed a task force to work with the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), and its various federal agencies to develop a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the federal fire program. Because of the many agencies involved, the vast amount of territory covered, and the variety of activities associated with the federal fire program, the agencies decided not to pursue a PA.

As an alternative, the federal agencies and their partners have developed four workbooks. They address the following: Cultural Resource Component for Fire Management Plans; Fuels Management; Fire Suppression; and Burned Area Rehabilitation. These workbooks should be posted to the web by spring of 2005 for an extended review period.

Heritage Tourism Task Force

Elizabeth Hughes reported that as a result of a session at the 2004 Annual Meeting, four needs were identified: access to more information about what states are doing in heritage tourism; conduct research to advocate for heritage tourism; promote better professional training; and institutionalize heritage tourism within SHPOffices. The Heritage Tourism Task Force will look more broadly at what SHPOs are doing and determine if there are additional ways for the NCSHPO to partner with tourism organizations. Elizabeth Hughes concluded by requesting that the SHPOs review the report she handed out and get back to her with any further recommendations.

Cultural and Heritage Tourism Summit

Jon Smith noted that the Cultural and Heritage Tourism Summit is slated for October 2005 in Washington, DC.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Programmatic Agreement (PA) Task Force

Kak Slick reported that 10 western SHPOs met on February 27, 2005 to discuss the BLM PA. She noted that a wide variety of opinions exist regarding the PA and that there are individual State protocols due to the differing relationships each state has with BLM. The BLM PA Task Force plans to create a document detailing what aspects of the PA are working as well as those that are not and then collaborate with the BLM to address these issues.

Easements Task Force

Kathleen Kilpatrick noted that she has recently been involved in conference calls with Preservation Action (PA) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Trust) regarding our collective response to the threats now facing easements. She indicated that SHPOs will have to work hard to educate their Members of Congress about the benefits of easements. The NCSHPO will be working with PA and the Trust to determine what can be done – i.e. appraiser certification, certification of easement holders – and what role the SHPOs will have in this.

NCSHPO Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

In 2005, the NCSHPO inaugurated the awards program to recognize SHPOffices and staff for outstanding programs and service. The awards were presented to the following.

- The Arizona Site Steward Program of the **Arizona State Historic Preservation Office** (SHPO) in the category of **Stewardship** for their exemplary stewardship efforts on behalf of a significant historic resource.
- Preservation Partnership) in the category of **Partnerships With a Public Entity** in recognition of their partnership with a public entity on behalf of a significant historic resource, preservation project, or program.
- The **South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's** (SHPO) Education Programs and Projects as Components of Archaeological Mitigation in the category of **Educational Program or Project** for their innovative and exceptional preservation educational program, curricula, publication, website or other informational tool.
- The Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, a program of the **Texas Historical Commission** (the Texas State Historic Preservation Office) in the category of **New Initiatives** for their exemplary role in the creation and successful implementation of a new statewide project or program benefiting historic preservation and in the category of **Public Policy** for their efforts to secure legislative or administrative support for a historic resource, preservation project or program
- Dr. Stan Wilmoth of the **Montana State Historic Preservation Office** (SHPO) in the category of **Staff** in recognition of his outstanding performance in his job duties.
- In the category of **Lifetime Achievement** in recognition of a current SHPO, Deputy SHPO, or SHPOffice staff person who has made a significant, long-term (20 years or more) contribution to historic preservation.
 - Judith Bittner, Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
 - J. Rodney Little, Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
 - Elbert Hilliard, former Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

Update on Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) FY2006 and Lobbying Strategy

Paul Brown of BKSH provided an overview of the budgetary situation. The Administration's FY2006 budget funded historic preservation at the FY2005 level. He noted that it will be very difficult to get and increase in FY2006 due to the Administration's intent to cut the budget deficit in half. The House of Representatives has reorganized their subcommittee structures. The former Interior Appropriations Subcommittee now includes additional agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency. This reorganization may prove difficult as the Senate reorganization does not mirror what occurred in the House.

Gabe Rosza of BKSH reviewed their actions in FY2005. BKSH focused their efforts on the Administration and Congress and they secured meetings with several key members of Congress, including Charles Taylor and Conrad Burns. BKSH believes this resulted in an increase for the HPF in FY2005 despite the fact that it was a very tough budgetary year.

For FY2006, Gabe Rosza suggested increased contact between SHPOs and members of Congress, especially members of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee - when Members of Congress see the beneficial effects of historic preservation in their districts, they are much more likely to support the HPF. BKSH would also like to work to sustain contact with members of Congress, not simply asking them to sign a support letter periodically. Finally, BKSH would like to work more with the House Historic Preservation Caucus by scheduling events and demonstrating how historic preservation programs work.

In addition to HPF FY2006 appropriations, BKSH will be working on the reauthorization of the HPF.

Update of Section 106 Study

Tom Moriarty of Economics Research Associates provided a brief background of the study to analyze costs to the federal government of reducing the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) appropriation to the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) (the Board of Directors approved the study at their July 14, 2004 meeting). The intent of the study is to document the costs to federal agencies of under-funding the HPF, quantify these costs, and use the results as a basis to get full funding. ERA has identified the federal agencies - Federal Highway Administration, Forest Service, General Services Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, Economic Development Administration - that will be included in the study. They have completed all but one of the agency interviews. ERA is now refining the five SHPOffices they will interview.

After the federal agency and state interviews are completed, the data will be analyzed and reviewed, and then presented to NCSHPO.

Nominating Committee Report

Edward Sanderson reported that F. Lawrence Oaks, Britta Bloomberg, Jay D. Vogt, Jon Smith, and he have served their maximum of two two-year terms. The NCSHPO acknowledged their service with certificates of appreciation.

Edward Sanderson, the chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate.

Officers

To serve a first two-year term, term expiring in 2007

- President: Jay D. Vogt, South Dakota SHPO
- Vice President: Cathie Matthews, Arkansas SHPO
- Secretary: Lisa Burcham, District of Columbia SHPO
- Treasurer: James McConaha, New Hampshire SHPO

Directors

To serve a first two-year term, term expiring in 2007

- Christy Davis, Kansas Deputy SHPO, first two-year term
- Kathleen Kilpatrick, Virginia SHPO, first two-year term
- Franco Ruffini, Ohio Deputy SHPO, first two-year term
- Elizabeth Hughes, Maryland Deputy SHPO, first two-year term*
- Katherine Slick, New Mexico SHPO, first two-year term*

* = Elected in 2004 to fill unexpired terms

To serve a second two-year term, term expiring in 2007

- Ray Luce, Georgia Deputy SHPO, second two-year term

To serve a one-year term, expiring in 2006

- Larry Oaks, Texas SHPO, completing one year of the vacancy created by the nomination of Lisa Burcham as Secretary
- Dorothy Guzzo, New Jersey Deputy SHPO, completing one year of the vacancy created by the nomination of James McConaha as Treasurer
- David Morgan, Kentucky SHPO, completing one year of the vacancy created by the resignation of Lee Warner, former Alabama SHPO

Robert Collins moved, Kak Slick seconded, and the membership unanimously voted to accept the report of the Nominating Committee.

Adjournment

Edward Sanderson adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m. EST.

Elizabeth A. Szufnar, Director of Communications and State Services
for Britta Bloomberg, Secretary