

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
Executive Committee Meeting
January 10 & 11, 2003

Participants: Edward Sanderson, President; F. Lawrence Oaks, Vice President; Jay D. Vogt, Treasurer; Judith Bittner, Immediate Past President; Ruth Pierpont, Executive Committee member; Terry Colley, Texas; John Nau, ACHP; John Fowler, ACHP; Don Klima, ACHP; Susan West Montgomery, Preservation Action; Elizabeth Ann Gates, Preservation Texas; Nancy Schamu, Executive Director; Shannon Papin, Director of Communications and State Services.

Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 8:15 am CST and welcomed Chairman John L. Nau, III from the Advisory Council along with Executive Director John Fowler and Director of Federal Agency Programs Don Klima.

ACHP

Chairman Nau addressed the Executive Committee members about his thoughts on the changing role of the Advisory Council and his hope for a better understanding of the relationship between the ACHP and SHPOs. While they have no plans to abandon the 106 process, he is attempting to broaden the focus of the ACHP. He felt there were two main issues that are crucial to the redefinition of these relationships: 1) the federal government is expected to be the chief decision maker and this will not always be the case anymore and 2) the special challenge of the role of tribes. It was agreed by all that in the majority of Section 106 cases, there are model working relationships between the ACHP and the States and that trouble only arises during “special ops” mode. In these rare but difficult cases, it is important for the SHPOs to have the Advisory Council involved as the “big stick” that can be waved at federal agencies. The ACHP is hoping to get more senior level policy involved from every agency as well as employing more agency “liaisons” as a more targeted focus. Discussion ended with an agreement that the Advisory Council will present a session at the NCSHPO Annual meeting in March.

4(f)

Chairman Nau informed the committee that he had been appointed to the President's Transportation Infrastructure Streamlining Task Force. While there is great concern in the Preservation community that this Task Force is just an opportunity to gut 4(f), it was agreed that some sort of change was inevitable and it was advantageous for the two organizations to become part of the solution rather than the problem. It was also agreed that more enhancement money would hopefully become available if we are partners with the transportation community. The President agreed that while streamlining was a good thing, it is only truly possible with increased funding and staff.

Preserve America

Chairman Nau reported on Preserve America and the accompanying Executive order that are meant to be a statement from the Bush administration that they take Preservation seriously. Chairman Nau sees this as an opportunity to expand the base of preservation to include heritage tourism and promote Preservation as a tool of economic development. There will hopefully be some seed money available for communities and an opportunity for the states to be involved. It was noted that the National Conference has set aside a small amount of money for a “heritage tourism summit” later in the year.

Break

The meeting was adjourned at noon CST on Friday, January 10 and reconvened at 8:05 am CST on Saturday, January 11, 2003.

Minutes

Jay D. Vogt moved, Larry Oaks seconded and the minutes from the December 2, 2002 and December 16, 2002 Executive Committee Conference Calls were approved.

Report from Preservation Action

Susan West Montgomery from Preservation Action reported that the House passed a bill with the HPF at \$76.5 million but still needed to cut \$800 million from their total package. The Senate amount matched the President’s budget at \$67 million but there seemed to be very positive feedback from committee members that this would be upped. Conrad Burns is now Chairman of the Interior subcommittee while Charles Taylor from North Carolina will be the Chairman of the House Interior subcommittee. Richard Pombo has been named Head of the Resources Committee in the House. Susan reported that while there is still great support for the Historic Homeowner’s Initiative in Congress, it appears to be going nowhere. The Trust has decided to make affordable housing a priority and has drafted a three-part bill that tweaks the rehab tax credit to make it more workable. Unfortunately, this will really only help developers rather than individual homeowners.

AASHTO

Janet Oakley from the American Association State and Highway Transportation Officials and their legal counsel, Bill Malley from Akin Gump, joined the meeting at approximately 10 am CST. Ms. Oakley conveyed that AASHTO and its’ President shared a strong commitment to the environmental ethic in the transportation planning process and are very willing to spend the time and resources necessary with their partners to advance a mutually beneficial agenda. With the upcoming reauthorization of T-3, there are many pieces on the table, the most important of which is financing. Unfortunately it appears as if domestic spending will remain flat, if not lowered, and growing the program will be difficult under these circumstances. Policy decisions are

based on numbers but they will look for opportunities to make sure historic preservation is a key piece. On the subject of 4(f), the initial idea to eliminate historic properties from Section 4(f) entirely has been abandoned and they are now looking at some sort of 106 substitution. While they don't know the specifics of the administration bill yet, they have met with the Advisory Council to discuss 4(f) and would like to meet with the Conference to come up with some ideas that could be a win/win situation for all involved. From their perspective, there are four main discussion issues pertaining to 4(f): the concept of prudence, the relation between 4(f) and Section 106, the application of 4(f) to privately owned properties and Interstate eligibility. After a lengthy discussion of these issues, the President thanked Ms. Oakley and Mr. Malley for attending and promised this was just the beginning of further cooperation between the organizations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm CST.

Shannon L. Papin, Director of Communications and State Services
for Britta Bloomberg, Secretary.