

NCSHPO

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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Minutes Executive Committee Teleconference May 19, 2008

Attendees: Jay D. Vogt, President; Cathie Matthews, Vice President; Ruth Pierpont, Secretary; Elizabeth Hughes, Treasurer; M. Wayne Donaldson, Committee members; Katherine Slick, Merlan Paaverud, Michael Stevens, James Glass, and Robert Puschendorf, Directors; staff: Nancy Schamu, Executive Director, Elizabeth Belleville, Government Relations Director. Members not present: F. Lawrence Oaks, and Edward Sanderson, Immediate Past President.

Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:35 p. m.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the income statement, balance sheet and the four month report on the investment account which shows a slight increase. Wayne Donaldson moved, Cathie Matthews seconded, and the Executive Committee unanimously voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Blue Ribbon Panel

The President reported on the May 8, 2008, meeting of the panel charged with looking at the structure of the national preservation program and make recommendations as recommended by the Preserve America Summit Report. Working with a professional facilitator, the 10-member panel will meet face-to-face two more times. Each member is not to represent an organization but to contribute their personal expertise. The panel will issue a plan by November 1, 2008, so as to be used during the transition to the next administration.

Future Meetings

In the absence of Kristen Harbeson, Elizabeth Belleville reported on future meetings. The registration materials for the July 2008 Board Meeting are available. Agenda suggestions should go to Kristen. The National Conference has signed a contract for the

2009 annual meeting with the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel. Finally, the staff is looking for suggestions for speakers for two panels (1. low income housing and 2. NPSAB report on the operation of the credit) at the IPED rehabilitation tax credit conference in Chicago in September 2008.

Legislative Update

The Government Relations Director provided the following report.

1. **Appropriations:** Congress working on a budget resolution for 2009 which should be voted on this week. If that happens, the House should have an Interior appropriations bill the first week after the Memorial Day recess. Mike Stephens, the Interior Subcommittee Clerk, is positive about historic preservation funding.
2. **Preserve America/Save America's Treasures bill:** The Senate Energy Committee passed the bill on May 7, 2008. It is likely that it will be included the next package of bills that goes to the floor. In the House, the bill should be included in the Natural Resources Committee mark up after Memorial Day recess.

Wayne Donaldson thanked Ruth Pierpont for her testimony before the House Subcommittee on National Parks.

Representative Brad Miller's office, after talking to the National Conference, has proposed some changes in the bill. The National Conference and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers will be added to the agencies consulting on Save America's Treasures grants. Mr. Miller changed the matching requirement timing for Preserve America grants to give successful applicants two years to raise the match. He also added language to streamline Certified Local Governments' application to become Preserve America Communities.

3. **Farm Bill:** The conference report has passed both the House and the Senate. The preservation provisions (preservation easements within the farm and grasslands protection program, historic barns, and addition of historic preservation as a criteria for the Rural Collaborative Investment program). While the President is likely to veto the bill, both passed Congress with majorities sufficient to over ride a veto.

The staff will prepare a briefing sheet on the preservation provision for SHPOs.

4. **Hill Visits:** On May 9, 2008, Jay D. Vogt visited Senators Durbin and Snowe to thank them for the Historic Preservation Fund letter they circulated. He also visited Representative Herseth-Sandlin and Representative Ben Chandler's office. Mr. Chan-

Chandler's Legislative Director indicated Mr. Chandler would, if necessary, offer an amendment for Historic Preservation Fund grants to the States. Former SHPO, David Morgan, also came on the Chandler visit. On May 13, 2008, Arizona SHPO Jim Garrison visited some of the members of his delegation, as no Arizona visits had occurred during the Annual Meeting.

National Academy of Public Administration Performance Measures Effort

Bob Puschendorf expressed concern about the potential of the creation of burdensome requirements as a part of drafting performance measures. The President indicated that SHPOs would serve on the group doing the drafting.

U. S. Green Building Council

Wayne Donaldson and Kak Slick are leading the effort to coordinate comments from SHPOs as the USGBC amends the LEED standards.

National Register Photography Standards

Ruth Pierpont indicated that New York is concerned about the draft standards for National Register photographs (finalized in January 2009). Michael Stevens echoed her concern, indicating that the costs to meet the standards may be as high as \$300 per set of photographs. This may be a good topic for the Board of Directors meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p. m.

Nancy Schamu, Executive Director, for
Ruth Pierpont, Secretary

