

WISCONSIN ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2013 Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2013

UW-Baraboo/Sauk County

Board Members Present: Kurt Sampson, Jake Pfaffenroth, Sara Pfannkuche, Richard Mason, John Broihahn

Total Present: 24

Call to order by Kurt Sampson 10:05am

Kurt thanked Seth Taft and Dr. Tom Pleger and for hosting the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary's Report:

By Jake Pfaffenroth

Nothing new to report.

Motion to accept by Kurt Sampson. Seconded, Approved

Treasurer's Report:

Jake Rieb was not present.

Committee Reports:

Editorial Committee:

By Kent Dickerson (not present), read by Kathy Stevenson.

The editorial team is currently working on the layout of Volume 94 (2013), a double volume on the Fred Edwards site and the Sterling Horizon in the Upper Mississippi Valley by Fred Finney. In addition they have received 10 individual paper submissions for future volumes, and another 9 papers part of a volume in honor of Jim Theler.

The transition to the new editorial team has gone well, and everything is on time. She encouraged everyone to keep submitting papers. Kathy explained how some articles are peer-reviewed and others are not (depending on how appropriate it is for a peer-review process). The editorial team will consider adding a note to peer-reviewed articles marking them as such. Backissue storage at MVAC has worked well. The system of fulfilling backorder issues seems to be efficient.

Norm Meinholz is the new Newsletter editor and will begin the role in January 2014.

Motion to approve by Jake Pfaffenroth. Seconded, approved.

Web and Media Committee
Report by Jake Pfaffenroth

The Facebook and Website both receive a healthy amount of traffic. The Facebook is “followed” by many young people, and the website sees a steady stream of brand new visitors each month. These are two groups of people to be targeted with new content.

Tom Pleger suggested cross-posting and communicating with other organizations in the state. To tailor to students, we should demonstrate the value of taking courses in archaeology and anthropology, and especially Wisconsin prehistory. We should emphasize the value of the discipline and get students excited. We should connect with anthropologists throughout the state, and anthropology clubs at the various campuses.

Tom Pleger suggested contacting BAM! through the UW System about University Place - a lecture series/communication resource. They record video of lectures, and allow videos to be embedded online. We should try to work with BAM!, to cover the lectures and videotape them.

The suggestion was made to make sure fresh content is being posted to the Facebook and the website. People want things to read, and they want to see recent posts when they visit the website and Facebook. That way, the website and Facebook will look active instead of stagnant and dead.

Mitch Johnson suggested that to reach young people, we should reach out to high schools and get students interested even before they get to college.

It was suggested to create a presence on Wikipedia.

Another idea beyond a website is to set up more tours at popular parks like Devil’s Lake where the public can take tours.

The e-commerce function of the website was recently activated and is successful so far. physical backissues are available for sale, and digital backissue copies are being added.

An upcoming project will be to create more educational resources on the website, starting with a page about Heim Mound. John Broihahn and Amy Rosebrough offered to create content for that page.

Tom Pleger suggested compiling a list of all Wisconsin state parks with archaeological sites, and post a list/resource on the webpage. The Society can be a central, credible source of information on the web.

Motion to approve by Mitch Johnson. Seconded, Approved.

Awards Committee:

Report by Robert Boszhardt (not present), read by Kurt Sampson.

Lapham recipients are Drs. Robert Jeske, John Richards and Patricia Richards. They will receive their awards at the annual Winter dinner, being held January 16th.

Kurt added that nominations for the Lapham and Ritzenthaler awards can be done at any time.

Note for official record: A single Increase Lapham Medal is on temporary, indefinite loan to Robert Nurre for use in educational events.

Motion the approve by Jake Pfaffenroth. Seconded, approved.

Preservation of Sites:

Report by Vicki Twinde-Javner (not present), read by Kurt Sampson

The Orbis Corporation is interested in us cleaning up the mounds on their property. The group consists of 3 mounds - 2 linear and 1 panther-type mound. Some excavation was apparently done in the 1960s by Joan Freeman. The cleanup was originally scheduled for October 12, but the corporation has asked to reschedule for the spring.

Vicki Twinde-Javner announced in her report that she is happy to hold the chair position for the time being, but welcomes another volunteer to take the position at any time.

Amy Rosebrough reported that Heim Mound could use a cleanup day, as the buckthorn is getting tall.

Motion by Seth Taft to approve, seconded, approved.

Liability Insurance Policy:

Jake Rieb researched general liability insurance covering members, board members, events we hold, mound cleanups, etc.

Rieb recommends a policy, but clarification is needed. The board will discuss it further and get clarification via email before voting on it.

John Broihahn suggested that the board should discuss it and make a recommendation to the membership for input.

Kurt Sampson has set a deadline for Monday Oct 15 for discussion, with a vote to begin on Oct. 15 to select a policy.

NEW BUSINESS

John Broihahn relayed that WHS would like to know if the Society will continue its \$500 donation for Wisconsin Archaeology Month in May 2014.

*Motion by Kurt Sampson to continue the \$500 annual donation for 2014.
Seconded, approved.*

This will be added to the 2014 Budget when it is created.

Bill Green reminded everyone that the NPS Geophysics workshop is being held at Aztalan this spring.

Kathy Stevenson announced that there will be an informal lithic workshop (“Lithics Exchange”) being held at MVAC and UW-L, Feb 28 - March 1. Previous years have had over 100 people attending.

Elections:

By John Broihahn, chair of elections committee.

Up for election are secretary, treasurer, and president-elect.

The Nominations and Election committee has nominated Jake Pfaffenroth and Jake Rieb to continue their positions (secretary and treasurer, respectively) for another 3 years, and go unopposed.

Motion to vote as a slate ballot by John Broihahn. Seconded, approved.

Jake Pfaffenroth and Jake Rieb were voted in as a slate ballot.

Despite contacting many potential candidates, the elections committee has been continually unable to find a nominee for the position of president-elect. The president-elect is a 2-year term immediately followed by a 2-year presidential term. Normally, the president-elect would begin his/her presidential term in the spring of 2014.

Considering the circumstances, the elections committee motioned for a resolution that the current president Kurt Sampson be elected for a second term to immediately follow his current term. His second term will begin spring 2014, and will end spring 2016.

The motion was seconded, approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.

The meeting was followed by a presentation:

Sauk County Burial Mounds - Location and Site Choice: A Practical Application of the Sauk County Regional Archaeology Program (SCRAP)

University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County 2013 Honors Project

By: Taylor Roessler, Harley Soerfass, and Madison Hardman

Abstract: Sauk County is one of the richest and most diverse locations for burial mounds in Wisconsin. The mounds provide various insights into the lifestyle and culture of the people whom constructed these elaborate burials. The purpose of this project is to synthesize 150 years of archaeological research pertaining to the burial mounds located within Sauk County. The research was broken down to analyze key points of burials mounds: their location in regard to their surrounding environment and elevation, as well as the use of the different types of soil. Basic statistics are used in order to show the association of mound groups to their surrounding environment. This should result in drawing a reasonable conclusion on why certain locales are chosen or not chosen to establish burial sites.