

**Wisconsin Archeological Society**

Fall 2015 Meeting

October 24, 2015, 10:00 am

Lakeview Park, Middleton

Total members present: 18

Board members present: 7

*Quorum Met*

Meeting called to order 10:06am by President Kurt Sampson

**OLD BUSINESS**

Secretary report - read by Jake Pfaffenroth

Since the Spring 2015 meeting, the board has voted once: they voted in favor of purchasing an advertisement in the 2015 Midwest Archaeology Conference program for \$500.

The list of officers, directors, chapter presidents, and other key positions was updated.

Motion to accept Spring 2015 meeting minutes by Monarski; Second by Schneider; approved by the board

Treasurers report - read by Jake Rieb

The treasury holds \$50,060 divided among three \$10,000 CD accounts and one checking account.

Rieb opened a third \$10,000 CD account and will let the first two \$10,000 CD accounts renew. These and the checking account all generate small amounts of interest.

2015 expenses to date (day of meeting) total \$8478; 2015 income to date totals \$10,499.

The Society is down significantly in memberships compared to last year (250 compared to 376) - probably because of a decrease in associate memberships contributed by the chapters.

Seth Schneider asked that Rieb send information to the board about which chapters are contributing associate memberships.

Kurt Sampson commented that we've gotten away from using physical mail but there may be value in using physical mail again.

Rieb said that some people renew several times a year not realizing they are already caught up and even paid a year or more in advance.

Monarski suggested we could publish an opt-out list on the website with names and membership status.

Further discussion on the issue was postponed until the Website committee report.

\$500 was dispersed to the 2015 WASRA recipients - \$200 to Jake Pfaffenroth and \$300 to Rachel McTavish.

Motion by Broihahn to accept the Treasurer's report; Seconded by Cobble; approved by the board

#### Nominations committee - read by John Broihahn

Broihahn recruited candidates for directors at large with an attempt to maintain geographic diversity. Some have agreed to serve one year, others longer so the positions are staggered.

Those candidates are:

- Rob Nurre- 2 years
- Tom Sutter-2 years
- Jennifer L. Picard-2 years
- Jaremy Cobble-2 years
- Vicki Twinde-Javner-1 year
- John Broihahn-1 year

Sampson nominated Chris Voight from the floor for a one-year directorship term.

Kent Dickerson motioned to vote all candidates in as a slate ballot. Second by Monarski. Approved by the board and voted in as directors at large.

#### Planning for spring and fall business meetings for 2016 - Sampson and Nurre

Tentative plan to hold Fall 2016 meeting at the bird mound at Devil's Lake State Park

Nurre: DNR cleared the vegetation off the mounds and planted tall-grass prairie mix and since then they have received no management. Nurre's concern is that if we're going to celebrate the preservation of the mound it would be nice to clean it up better... but we can't make the Park staff do the work to clean it.

Sampson suggested it could still be a good venue for a meeting even if the mounds don't look pristine.

Nurre pointed out that the fall meeting will have inauguration of new president. Combining a business meeting with extra logistics, with a public event, will be more difficult than normal.

Sampson: We'll continue to pursue the matter and plan to hold it at Devil's Lake if it is feasible

Spring Meeting: Seth Schneider commented on the benefits of a rotational meeting location, possibly going to La Crosse in the spring 2016. John Broihahn suggested we ask Jeff Behm to host. Pfaffenroth suggested that we should have a meeting further north. Broihahn pointed out that an event needs a local partner who can promote locally, so if we're going to hold a meeting and event somewhere, we need to make sure that people will come.

Jeremy Cobble will take the lead trying to arrange a meeting location in Stevens point, with La Crosse as a backup.

#### Midwest Archaeology Conference table

Jake Rieb has paid for and reserved a table. Connie Arzigian is planning to help staff the table. Seth Schneider will ask some UW-Milwaukee students to help and become members. There was discussion about selling the new "complete sets" of the Wisconsin Archeologist at a discount. We will have some USB drives available on site but will also allow online purchasing using a coupon code.

#### WAS Winter Dinner - read by Seth Schneider

The dinner will be at North Star Bistro in Milwaukee. Patricia Richards is featured speaker, possibly about the Milwaukee County Grounds cemetery project. January 20, 2016. Also note that the program position will be vacant after the Spring 2016 meeting.

#### **Chapter reports:**

##### Charles E. Brown chapter - Joe Monarski

Steady attendance, but not high numbers. CEB will again be hosting a joint lecture with the AIA in the spring.

No other chapters represented at the meeting.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### Awards Committee - Heather Walder, read by Kurt Sampson

WASRA funding was awarded to two applicants - Jake Pfaffenroth (UW-Madison) and Rachel McTavish (UW-Milwaukee). Pfaffenroth was awarded \$200 for soil micromorphology. McTavish was awarded \$300 for bone collagen isotope analysis. As of October 20, McTavish was awaiting the results of the isotope analysis. Pfaffenroth reported that he had collected eight soil samples from structure basin fill and will be submitting them for lab preparation in November. Further updates will be requested at the end of the fall semester and will be encouraged to prepare reports for the WisArch News or the Wisconsin Archeologist.

Amy Rosebrough moved to approve the report. Second by Rieb; Approved by the board.

##### Editorial Committee - Kent Dickerson

The journal is back on track. The fall/winter issue will be at printers by early December. The spring/summer issue is on schedule. The fall WisArch News newsletter should be out soon.

Motion to approve by Pfaffenroth; Seconded by Broihahn; approved by the board.

#### Outreach Committee - Jeremy Cobble

The Society was represented at several successful events over the summer.

Cobble will be requesting \$200-\$300 for advertising in 2016 to promote events.

Motion by Tom Sutter to approve the report; Second by Broihahn; approved by the board.

#### Website and Media Committee - Jake Pfaffenroth

Discussion about membership continued, especially over how best to inform membership of meetings. Rob Nurre suggested maybe create a calendar in advance and mail the calendar out. Pfaffenroth suggested to use a post card service to automate printing and mailing. Rieb reminded everyone that he experimented with renewal postcards last year - he hand-wrote addresses and mailed them, and only about 10 out of 80-90 actually renewed. Monarski suggested that maybe people aren't renewing because we're not providing services to them that they want. Broihahn said that people like getting reminders, but nationally organization memberships are decreasing. Also, if we're going to the trouble of mailing something, it should have meeting information and renewal reminder together. Pfaffenroth briefly described a solution he is working on, but it still will not be an end-all solution.

Motion to approve by Monarski; seconded by Rob Nurre; approved by the board.

#### Preservation of sites - Rob Nurre

Ongoing process with educating people about mound site preservation. Wood from the Heim mound tree remove is being hand carved into Heim Mound model plaques being sold for fundraising. the first was sold for \$500: \$250 of which goes to the artists, \$250 goes to the society. This is the 100th anniversary of Charles E Brown measuring the mound. The mound property is nearly free of buckthorn thanks to some hard-working volunteers.

Nurre stressed that the Society needs to really take care of Heim mound to demonstrate how to properly take care of a mound, so others can learn. Another tree has died and it would cost about \$1500 to remove it, but that is a decision for later.

Motion to approve by Jaremy Cobble; seconded by Tom Sutter; approved by the board

#### Bylaws revisions - Rob Nurre

First task is to clean up the bylaws because the language is not always consistent. No committees are listed in the bylaws, and maybe they should be. The big issue is avoiding changing the bylaws too much. The big picture issues are: very few members come to meetings, so while all members have the right to come to meetings and participate, most decisions are made by only a few people. Another big issue is the role of chapters and their relationship to the society. Chapters tend to not follow the bylaws, and the incentives to do so

are ineffective. Rob Nurre wants everyone to think about the benefits of chapters to the society, and what the benefit to chapters is of having a relationship with the society.

John Broihahn motioned to table the discussion until the future to allow the committee to discuss among themselves. Seconded by Seth Schneider, approved by the board (one nay vote by Kurt Sampson, against the motion to table the discussion)

#### Letter of support for Nomination of Man Mound to the National Register of Historic Landmarks

Rob Nurre has prepared a letter of support on behalf of the Society. This is a review process at the national level. John Broihahn noted that individuals can also submit personal letters of support, and he can provide an address to send them to. Amy Rosebrough noted that personal letters are best when they have an emotional component.

Motion to approve the letter by Jake Pfaffenroth; Seconded by John Broihahn; Approved by the board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Broihahn - Obama announced that the section of Lake Michigan shoreline is under review as a National Marine Sanctuary focused on shipwrecks. This would preserve shipwrecks on the shores of Lake Michigan. The Society wrote a letter of support for the nomination, and moving forward the Society should think about offering another letter of support for the designation, but this is a process that will take several years.

John Broihan - 2016 will be the 50th year of the National Historic Preservation Act, which will be a focus of Wisconsin Archaeology Month. Formal request for a \$500 donation for Archaeology Month.

Motion to approve \$500 by Seth Schneider, seconded by Jaremy Cobble, approved by the board.

Jake Pfaffenroth announced he won't be seeking re-election as secretary when his second term ends after the Spring 2016 Meeting. He is expecting to be moving away from Wisconsin. He may be able to continue in his role as Website and Media Committee Chairperson.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kurt Sampson; seconded by Chris Voight; Approved by the board

Adjourned at 12:15

Lunch was held following the meeting. Afterwards there was a tour of Heim Mound down the street from the meeting place.