

North Carolina Archaeological Council

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: 04-29-2012

In attendance:

Brett Riggs (Vice Chair)

Thomas Beaman (Editor)

Susan Bamann (Executive Committee Member)

Randy Daniel (Executive Committee Member)

Paul Webb (Executive Committee Member)

After it was determined that the Executive Committee members in attendance constituted a workable forum, the meeting was called to order, and a number of outstanding and new business items were introduced and discussed.

As per previous email communications, we briefly discussed Committee member terms and the prospect of Daniel's end of term, but in the absence of the secretary/treasurer, we were unable to confirm the date of his entry into service. This discussion was suspended until reference to the pertinent records.

The central theme of the meeting was discussion of the development of initiatives to reinvigorate the NCAC and render the organization more relevant to the practice of archaeology in the state.

Agenda Items:

- a) Spring meeting (2013) with am "flash presentations" and pm hands-on topical symposium;
- b) meeting with OSA to discuss relationship between NCAC & OSA (and NCDOT);
- c) publishing an on-line gray literature series.

A. Spring Meeting (2013) plans were discussed with suggestions that it have substantive content to attract attendance and participation of council members. Susan Bamann suggested that the meeting incorporate a topical symposium (similar to the Uwharries Lithics Conference) with a focused working session. The Committee received this suggestion positively and responded that we should solicit topics from the membership. Paul Webb suggested that the meeting also incorporate the accustomed research reports component, perhaps as very brief 5-7 min "flash" presentations on on-going work.

Consequently, a stand-alone meeting was proposed to include “flash presentations” or short presentations of recent research in the forenoon, with a more focused, in-depth symposium possibly including a hands-on practica in the afternoon.

A business meeting was suggested for the Fall (2012) that might be scheduled to coincide with some other archaeological event or conference. This meeting would be designed to put the ideas discussed in this committee meeting, and any new ones, before the Council membership for consideration. Also necessary at a Fall meeting is some discussion of the procedures for nominating and electing officers, and of their terms of service. Of particular interest are issues concerning the terms of tenure specified in the Constitution, the election cycle, and procedures for soliciting candidates for office.

B. Discussion concerning the NCAC’s advisory role with the NC-OSA is predicated on the NCAC Constitution, Article IV (Duties of Committees), Section 2, which reads:

The Executive Committee will aid in policy stands to promote comprehensive and effective legislation pertaining to all aspects of archaeology in North Carolina. The Executive Committee shall serve as an advisory group to the Office of Archives and History. a. The Executive Committee will review and evaluate disputed archaeological contract reports when asked by any of the parties involved. The disputed project will be reviewed by all members of the Executive Committee with the exception of the State Archaeologist and any members of the Executive Committee who are principals. In the event of an impasse, the Executive Committee will seek review by someone with expertise in the particular situation or area under question. The Executive Committee shall advise the principals of the dispute of their evaluation in writing. b. At the request of any member of the North Carolina Archaeological Council, the Executive Committee shall render an opinion regarding specific National Register Nominations.

Discussion considered the original intent and possible interpretations of the advisory and participatory duties of the NCAC in informing and shaping policy in partnership with the OSA and NC-DOT. The Committee discussed modes of re-engagement with the Office of State Archaeology as a way to introduce the voice of the Council membership in the conduct of archaeology and management of archaeological resources in the state. Committee members agreed to initiate discussion with the NC-OSA through a meeting with Steve Claggett to discuss the role of the NCAC as an advocacy group and professional organization, and to investigate the original mission of the NCAC as support group for state archaeology. Brett Riggs indicated that he would arrange a meeting of officers on the NCAC Executive Committee with Claggett. Susan Bamann suggested as one item for NCAC-OSA interface might be that the NCAC draft statements of guidelines for archaeological best practice for contractors (e.g., defining situations for implementation of deep testing protocols and appropriate methodologies) for use by the OSA.

C. Publication of grey literature in the NCAC Research Report series was also discussed. This discussion referenced a conversation from the spring meeting of 2008, which is summarized in the minutes (<http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncac/Minutes/Index.html>).

Tom Beaman reintroduced the topic at the current meeting and, with some discussion, the Committee agreed that a separate on-line digital series of existing reports (without peer review) would be a valuable contribution by the NCAC, and it was proposed to start the series with Coe's elusive Keyauwee report, possibly followed by the Wilson Bypass report.

The suggestion that grey-lit reports be "reproduced in their original format (not subject to NCAC publication series format guidelines)" indicates that these publications are to be considered separate to the Research Report series, and not subject to independent NCAC editorial formatting. The recent on-line publication of regional symposia papers serves as an example of NCAC on-line publishing of peer-reviewed research series volumes. Future discussion of NCAC publications should consider the overall goal of on-line publishing, the question of style formatting guidelines, peer review, and the best means of implementation.

The meeting concluded with unanimous agreement to move forward on all three items of business.