

**North Carolina Archaeological Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 29, 2006, 1:00 p.m.  
Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Chapel Hill, NC**

Attendance: Linda Carnes-McNaughton, Tom Beaman, Tom Oakes, Steve Davis, Jeff Irwin, Archie Smith, Bill Conen, Brian Overton, and Paul Mohler. No word from Dee Nelms, Terri Russ, or Ruth Wetmore. Matt Jorgenson sent his regrets.

President Oakes called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and the secretary distributed extra copies of the minutes from the Sept. 24, 2005 meeting for review.

He then welcomed new board member Jeff Irwin and past president Tom Beaman to the meeting.

**Old Business:**

A motion was made by Davis to accept the minutes as presented. Conen seconded the motion and after a call for votes, it carried.

Conen then presented his treasurer's report for the BOD to review. His tallies indicated that we had 12 more members this year than last year for a total of 387 members. Mohler asked about the cost of the brochures and why it was included under Archaeology Month expenses since it was a regular commodity of the society and will be used throughout the next few years. Conen agreed to shift the \$570 cost to general operating expenses. This would then allow the expense and profit balances to almost match. Mohler noted that Archaeology Month (activities, etc.) would then "come out ahead." Davis asked about cost of publication for the journal, which actually represents last year's costs. He noted that this year's cost would be about the same, so no change was necessary. Oakes pointed out that the t-shirt and hat sales from the state fair booth were more this year than in previous years. Conen agreed it was as represented, higher sales than last year. He also stated that the merchandise inventory shows we brought in more than went out. He also commented that this was the first time since 1997 the NCAS has had Archaeology Month donations. Smith motioned to accept the treasurer's report and after Davis' second the motion carried unanimously.

Davis presented the editor's report for Volume 54. He stated that it was returned late from the printer because of a backlog, so there was a delay in the mail-out to the membership. He reported that the content was slightly different than anticipated but length was about the same as previous issues. He liked the diversity of the content, though it was "heavy on historical archaeology." He said it represented what was submitted. In Nelms absence, he stated that the newsletter received positive feedback. It was noted that Linda Stine was asked to continue her coordination for the "profiles" section. The printing cost for the most recent journal was about \$2400, though the invoice has not yet been received by the treasurer.

Davis then gave a brief update on the webpage which includes the current issue of the newsletter and the EAC announcement for RFP. He asked that any changes be emailed to him for corrections on the web page. He also noted that the OSA webpage has now been updated and linked to the current NCAS site.

LCM reported on the new membership of the NCAS to the CoAS (SAA's Council of Affiliated Societies) and passed out copies of two newsletters received from this group. She will check to see if digital copies of these newsletters can be obtained to include for dissemination to the membership via the NCAS webpage. Local events will be also be posted on the web and should be sent to Steve for inclusion.

### **New Business:**

Oakes recognized board member Mohler to discuss the follow up on Archaeology Month. He has received evaluation data from the participants and hosts, and is assessing that now. He has been on leave, so he is behind on the data assessment. He said that in total there were 60 events in held 48 counties. It was a statewide endeavor and involved many folks. He has not yet received any feedback from the schools and did not know if a general distribution announcement made it out to them via NCLEARN. LCM mentioned the Pots of the Past Workshop that was hosted at the NC Pottery Center and how many attended (about 100). Mohler agreed to coordinate the evaluation with the Archaeology Month committee and put some follow up in the next newsletter. Overton offered to help get information from each event leader and incorporate their feedback. Beaman commended Mohler on his efforts for a very successful Archaeology Month. The board acknowledged this and offered congratulations as well.

Oakes reported on the Twiddy site work. He noted that several local people donated time, food and lodgings to the crew. He recommended that the NCAS send a thank you letter to Joe Herbert for his work on this. LCM stated it had already been done. Oakes said the local press covered the public dig and several school groups took advantage of the opportunity to participate in some way. Herbert also gave a public lecture to the local historical society and volunteers. In all, there were about 150 visitor/volunteers during the three-day dig. Beaman asked about the status of the artifact materials; where they are located and being processed. Oakes reported the materials are not yet at ECU but will be taken there by Herbert at some point. He remarked that the site is being developed and he and Herbert had contacted the Archaeological Conservancy to see if they were interested in site protection. Davis asked what the plan for further work is. Oakes replied that Herbert has three boxes of artifacts and Clay Swindell (another archaeologist) has one box of material. He was not sure of the schedule for processing. He mentioned Herbert's recommendation for scientific testing of some materials and Beaman asked how this could/would be paid for.

Irwin then asked how many other events sponsored during Archaeology Month were specifically NCAS events and was there more follow up to report. Oakes replied that he signed up 12 to 15 new members as a result of the public dig event. Irwin suggested that the EAC grant fund could be a source of funding for the scientific tests recommended by

Herbert. LCM pointed out that the local historical society or a professional could apply for the grant and should review the EAC guidelines for such. Irwin suggested that the local historical group in Currituck County could form a new chapter and support this type of project for generating local support for archaeological resource protection. Mohler commented that several new members were also signed up at the NCAS meeting when Warren Wilson College hosted the event. Davis pointed out that wherever a public dig of this type occurs, there should be local support and follow up, and that the coordination of volunteers for the follow through should be a priority. LCM concurred that the follow up is as important for a successful conclusion to any project. Oakes stated that the Archaeological Conservancy was contacted for the Twiddy site but the owners wanted too much money.

Irwin reiterated that local chapters should take the lead on situations like this and do the follow up. Irwin further stated that the OSA has numerous threatened sites on their watch list but can do nothing to protect them and thinks it is the role of the NCAS to take this on “to collect diagnostic artifacts, do site forms and volunteer time.” Conen said he had recorded sites for OSA to help them out when short-staffed and agreed the NCAS could assume this role. Mohler suggested that OSA could add NCAS to their webpage as the appropriate contact (or POC) to call if they find a site that is being threatened, perhaps have contacts listed by regions. Davis noted that NCAS members once played a key role in reporting sites and could reassume this role to assist OSA with their oversight responsibility.

Beaman asked the BOD if the NCAS should host a dig like this again and what did we learn from this endeavor. Davis said he thinks it was a good thing to do and we learned what we will need to do better or differently for the next time. He gave an historical note of how it was done by Coe in 1930s. He also noted that several of the key collections currently curated at the RLA came from serious amateur archaeologists of the past.

Smith then asked if the NCAS would be interested in sponsoring another public dig next year at Town Creek Indian Mound with the RLA being the repository for materials to curate and process. The RLA would also provide the professional archaeological oversight of the excavations. Smith pointed out that the site has suffered from economic cutbacks and visitation is at an all time low and that such an event could generate new educational opportunities for the local school groups and public. He stated that several areas still need to have the features exposed and mapped to complete the overall site map within the stockaded area. Smith had already pitched the idea to the Historic Sites supervisor and received verbal approval. He would like to know if the RLA would agree to serve as the partner institution along with the NCAS membership. Finalizing the feature mapping could be a goal, as well as partnership with an institution. LCM pointed out that the RLA would be the appropriate curation facility according to the 1991 MOU signed by the NCDCCR, Friends of Town Creek, and the RLA at UNC. The Friends of Town Creek would provide the publicity and the NCAS would coordinate schedules and volunteers. Oakes suggested that Davis and LCM prepare a proposal to present to the FOTC and the NCDCCR to gain formal approval. Smith suggested that James Shuman,

president of FOTC also be included in the committee. Davis suggested Vin Steponaitis, Director of the RLA, also participate.

LCM suggested that given this opportunity for a large fall event, that we let the Calendar of Events for Archaeology Month be a biannual event. Mohler suggested that we trim down the calendar.

The BOD agreed to host a single large fall meeting at Town Creek with the public dig and suspend plans for a spring meeting.

Irwin asked how the BOD feels about the “threatened sites” POC approach and how we coordinate this with OSA. Oakes asked about how OSA would link a POC for a region to check on a particular site. Irwin offered to ask OSA and find out how they feel about the proposal and report back to the BOD. Davis suggested a network of other archaeologists or NCAS members to add to the POC list.

LCM then brought up the topic of the state fair booth and if the NCAS wanted to pay for this opportunity again. Nelms had reported a rental booth fee was due soon. General discussion followed about the pros and cons of the booth as a public outreach venue. Petersen declined, via Nelms, to be the volunteer coordinator again. Overton agreed to help Nelms with this aspect of the booth. The general consensus was to host the booth again and find a sponsor. LCM pointed out that by not having a spring meeting, for which \$500 to \$750 is typically budgeted, and just having a fall meeting, we could afford to pay the rental cost (\$840) outright and try to find a corporate sponsor later on.

Mohler introduced the use of an email list for membership contact and how this could be an effective tool for future events, etc. There was some discussion about previous concerns with creating the list and where the list would reside and who would maintain it. Davis suggested that we send out a targeted postcard mailing to solicit email addresses and explain briefly how such a list would be used. A reply would then be sent to Dee Nelms by email to establish initial contact and address. Overton agreed to assist Nelms with this endeavor to begin compilation of the email addresses for NCAS membership.

Davis was recognized by Oakes to explain the request from the RLA for the NCAS mailing list which occurred in December 2005. He explained that the use of this list was to send out a letter from the RLA to announce the relocation of the RLA’s North Carolina Archaeological Collection to a new curation facility and to seek donations for the renovation of that facility. He noted that this is the premier archaeological collection in North Carolina, started by Coe and others, and contains over seven million artifacts. He explained that founding members of the NCAS were instrumental in the creation of the RLA in the 1930s and that a significant part of the collection came from NCAS members. The RLA offices will remain in Alumni Building. New exhibits and education programs, in partnership with Morehead Planetarium, are also planned for the future. Grants from the National Park Service’s Save America’s Treasures program and the Alcoa Foundation were instrumental in getting this relocation project underway. Oakes mentioned that

Tommy Gibson, with Alcoa, had also invited the NCAS to meet at their facility anytime in the future if desired.

LCM mentioned NCDCCR grants opportunities are provided through the Certified Local Government programs. It is something the NCAS may wish to pursue in the future for a single event or public outreach program.

As there was no further new business to discuss Conen motioned to adjourn. Overton seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Linda Carnes-McNaughton, RPA  
Secretary, NCAS