

MACPRA
June 9th, 2006
Meeting Minutes
Host: Bay Mills Indian Community
Bay Mills Community College Campus

Present:

Cecil Pavlat, Chairman MACPRA
Bonnie Ekdahl, Saginaw Chippewa
Wanda Perron, BMIC
Paula Carrick, BMIC
Winnay Wemmigase, LTBB
Joe Mitchell, LTBB
Kay Toui, Burt Lake
Summer Cohen, KBIC
Veronica Pasfield, U of M
George Francis, Whitefish River
Angela Sherigan, Attorney
Ester Osche, Whitefish River
Glenn Lamberg, American Indian Liaison, NRCS
Jack Bricker, NRCS State Conservationist
Mike LaPointe, NRCS Area Conservationist for U.P.
Mike Doyle, Professor, BMCC

Cecil has complete list of attendees!

Meeting began with smudge, welcome and prayer by Cecil.

Cecil thanked Bay Mills Indian Community for hosting the meeting and introduced Wanda and Paula. Wanda welcomed MACPRA to their Community!

Cecil explained that the MACPRA Secretary, Sharron Detz would not be able to make the meeting, due to her new position at the LRB.

Changes in agenda:

U of M repatriation of museum human remains
Whitefish River's Journey to repatriate ancestral remains at U of M
Bonnie Ekdahl – NAGPRA grant details
Winnay- Heavy Metal Detector Machine-XRF

Minutes from last meeting were not available for approval?

Treasurer's Report: from Giwee

Expenses:

\$104.41 - Expense for Website Update

Income:

\$50.00- Native American Historic Preservation organization
\$200.00- Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Community
\$2.68 – Interest earned

Balance in treasury as of June 9th, 2006: \$2654.10

Cecil asked for discussion on treasurer's report

Old Business:

1. Non Profit 501C3 Status: Angela Sherigan

- a. It was explained that the paperwork is completed and a final decision needs to be made by MACPRA to send in the materials.
- b. The 501 C3 Status will facilitate MACPRA receiving funds from private, foundation and governmental sources.
- c. These additional funds would be used by MACPRA so that all tribes can attend meetings, especially smaller tribes with fewer funds available.
- d. Discussion: Angela explained the benefits of the 501 C3 Non Profit status.
- e. Question: Are there any downsides. Angela replied- note keeping is very important and MACPRA does a good job of note taking now; so this is good. The other item mentioned was political lobbying is not allowed. Angela stated that having educational sessions open to all is a good way to provide for politically oriented subjects; as long as both sides have a time on the program. This method of information/educational programs is good since it allows for the audience to make informed decisions.
- f. Wanda asked why the approval of the 501 C3 applications was not already done in the past since MACPRA has been working on this for some time. Cecil: There were concerned by the State Historic Tribes that MACPRA would be competing with these tribes for funding! Cecil said that MACPRA has overcome this situation by agreeing to let all member tribes have input on applications that would eventually be submitted to insure there was limited competition.
- g. The motion was made by Bonnie Ekdahl and seconded by Summer Cohen to go forward and file the 501 C3 application.
 - Role Call Vote:
 - BMCC- yes
 - Sag Chips- yes
 - Burt Lake-yes
 - KBIC- yes
 - LTBB- yes
 - SSMTCI- yes
 - Cecil will do phone calls with remaining tribes to get their vote.

The goal is to get the application filed prior to the increase in application fee from \$500 to \$750 on July 1st.

There was discussion on the great advantage that MACPRA provides to many organizations in their unified program to protect all burials and TCP's in Michigan. It is felt that the 501 C3 Status will allow for expanded programming by MACPRA.

New Business:

1. Jack Bricker, State Conservationist for NRCS

Jack expressed his thanks to MACPRA & BMIC for the invitation to be a meeting today.

Jack explained his background and family history.

Jack stated he was convinced that conservation programs directed by local persons were much better than a national program that was passed down from the top. He explained that from 1935 to 1948 NRCS assisted tribes with natural resource programs. From 1948-1988-BIA determined they could do all the things in natural resource management that USDA NRCS could do. This was a period where NRCS had to get special permission from the BIA to come on the reservation. From 1988 to the present

USDA NRCS has been trying to play catch up to help the tribes with their natural resource issues and interests.

Jack discussed the farm bill process and how they were re developed approximately every 5 years. 2002 farm bill is done this year and 2007 farm bill starts next year.

Jack felt that MACPRA was a great thing for the natural resources and cultural resources in Michigan. Tribes working together is the best way.

Jack provided an invitation for all MI Tribes to be present to give their views on natural resources at the MI Technical Committee Meetings that he sponsors throughout each year.

Mr. Bricker explained conservation programs that NRCS has completed with tribes and how he would encourage tribes to work directly with him on a government to government basis to list their natural resource concerns and needs.

Bonnie Ekdahl asked Glenn to have Jim Marshall contact her regarding protecting historic Traditional Cultural places, specifically the Sanilac petroglyphs.

Jack and Glenn explained how fortunate NRCS was to have an Memo of agreement with MACPRA on cultural protection. MACPRA was also thanked for the training assistance and onsite field assistance they provide to NRCS field people in Michigan.

Cecil felt that more private landowners have been reached about protecting ancestral remains because of NRCS and MACPRA working together.

Cecil explained that MACPRA was interested in serving as a sounding board committee for NRCS programs in Michigan much like the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council that MACPRA visited in the past.

2. Veronica Pasfield, University of Michigan, grad student- Native Caucus member

Veronica explained her efforts at U of M through the graduate student Native American Studies program identified as the Native Caucus.

Details:

- U of M has approximately 1400 unaffiliated remains. These remains should be repatriated
- The President of UM, Mary Sue Coleman seems supportive of the repatriation efforts.
- The repatriation of remains taken from the Whitefish Community in Canada and stored at UM have been repatriated, even though John O'Shay, Archeologist at UM was reluctant to do this.
- John O'Shay, UM Archeologist makes decisions regarding whether repatriation takes place. Mr. O'Shay states he is in favor of repatriation, but really does not!
- Veronica will complete a report that will be a part of the minutes for this meeting.
- Veronica contact information:
Veronica Pasfield
Graduate Student
Program in American Culture, Native American Studies Concentration
734-327-3705
veroniq@umich.edu
- Veronica and the members of the native caucus will assist MACPRA in getting the letters off to tribes that have had historic presence in Michigan, but are now in other states.

If approval from out of state tribes that have had historical presence in Michigan were received this would greatly reduce the determination by State and Universities that human remains are unaffiliated, since MACPRA will have authority of all tribes.

Veronica stated that letters could be worked on in August 2006.

3. Ester Osche, Whitefish River, Ontario, Canada

Ester presented what the Whitefish repatriation meant to her community and the Elders.

She explained that working with the UM was a long and complicated process.

Ester explained: The legal help, the total support by MI and Canadian tribes.

Ester feels that they worked with UM to end up with a win-win solution.

Ester provided a written report that can be obtained from Cecil by those not present at the meeting.

4. Bonnie Ekdahl, Saginaw Chippewa Cultural Activity

Bonnie explained that the Sag Chips received a NAGPRA Grant. There were many priorities established in the program that was being carried out through the grant. Several priorities are already in the process of activity. One of the final activities is to write down position descriptions for cultural historians.

Bonnie proposed to have the Fall MACPRA meeting at Mt. Pleasant to have historians present to discuss information that would be used to document materials as a portion of the Grant.

The fall meeting will be held at Mt. Pleasant the 4th Wednesday of October- October 25th, 2006.

The **next meeting** will be August 7, 2006 at Watersmeet. LVD is to host and the program will be the day prior to the Wild Rice conference. Details of the conference, plus registration can be found at:

<http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteId=358&eventDisp=7%2D77%2D05>

The meeting adjourned at 1 pm and lunch was provided by the Bay Mills Indian Community at the Iroquois Lodge- now called the BMCC West Campus.

Minutes recorded by: Glenn Lamberg and reviewed by Cecil Pavlat