

**MACPRA Quarterly Meeting
September 21, 2010
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Ziibiwing Center**

Notes of Jay Sam

Opening Ceremony - Sema and prayer handed out by Willie Johnson.
Charmaine Benz SCIT Council welcomed everyone. Smudge performed by Willie Johnson who offered a prayer in Anishinaabemowin.
Roll Call via sign in sheet passed around. BMIC, LRBOI, LTBB, SSM, PBP, GL, KBIC, SCIT representatives present for quorum.
Summer called the meeting to Order at 9:19AM

Agenda

Summer asked for review of the agenda. No new business on the agenda.
{Self Introductions made. (Sign in sheet has the names.)}
Agenda Addition - All Nations Veterans speaking about Fort Wayne, Spencer Mounds and MACPRA elections added.
Western Michigan Item, Wes Andrews, removed from the agenda.
Motion to approve agenda as modified by Kevin D., second by Cecil P. Motion carried with no abstentions or no votes.

Minutes

Minutes Approval – Jay asked to have the date changed to the 26th. Motion by Dan to accept the minutes as modified, second by Sydney Martin; motion carried.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurers report was submitted with a letter from G. Martin to correct the May report, reducing the balance to \$10685.80. It was also noted she did not wish to be re-elected to the treasurer's position. Motion to approve the May report as amended by Kevin D, second by Eric. Motion was carried. The September report (\$9,085.80) was reviewed, motion to accept by Veronica P., second by Kevin D, motion was carried

Peace Flag

Willie J. spoke about the Bald Eagle Clan from Montana bringing a Peace flag from 1803 and stated he would like other Tribal flags to display at the same time, around or near Veteran's Day. Called for Tribe's to provide a flag.

Art Brandt and Wayne Hardwick - Presentation re: Fort Wayne Mounds

There were four mounds along the river, but some were destroyed for various reasons. Medicine Bear School and the mound(s) have been neglected. The mounds are fenced in, but no one cares for them. The All Nations Veterans have been asked to care for the mounds. They have put in a gate, and two weeks ago began cleaning the mounds. The Mounds were excavated in 1946 and the remains taken to U o M. The 23 Remains can now be re-buried in the mounds area. They were seeking to provide information about the situation. The Mound is said to be Potawatomie, so they are seeking advice about what to do with dead

wood and other things from Mike Zimmerman Jr. (Pokagon Band). Mike is working with them. Once the mound is cared for, they hope to reopen the museum and display the materials in storage. This is for information. "Control" was given, but no legal release or lease or transfer of property was made to the Veterans. The Veterans want to make the control legal and permanent. Cecil P. mentioned SSM use of a lease to gain control. He also discussed natural as opposed to groomed for care taking. The current agreement is verbal, and the Veterans seek written agreement. Historic Fort Wayne is owned by the City of Detroit, the US and run by the Historical Society. The Veterans asked if the MACPRA attorney be available if needed in the future.

Veronica asked if the Fort in SSM was the best model to follow. Cecil thought it could be easy to follow that model.

Sydney thanked the Veteran's for taking on the responsibility for the stepping forward as Warriors are supposed to do. She commended them for their example.

Willie Johnson asked about the City of Detroit reaching out, is it due to lack of funds or genuine? Art replied the Historical Society reached out when they took over. They felt it was wrong for them to go in the site, sought Natives to do it as it was right. The Historical Society raises their own money for the site's maintenance.

Mike noted there was also 30 years of trash on the site, and the Vets have taken heat for their actions.

Veronica thanked them as a BMIC citizen and for their efforts to protect the U M Pow Wow. She also wants to move the control to more administrative as the City may have to close the site, which would prevent access. The Veterans have a long legacy of maintaining the site.

Angela recommended a lease as pointed out by Cecil. Lease protects access in case the Fort got shut down, and it is easier than a transfer. Angela S. said she would be available for the Veteran's except when her schedule for Little River Band of Ottawa Indians court interferes. Provided contact information as she could also refer them to another attorney.

Mary Finch (Federal Hwy Admn.) said the (*not heard*) bridge affects the Fort and the entire area. She would like to provide information in future discussions about the Bridge.

Cecil had a thought that the lease be passed to MACPRA as a group should Pokagon not wish to accept a lease.

Kevin said the issue of who would take the lead on the lease; Pokagon would not act without the support of MACPRA.

The Veterans do not want infighting over the site; they only wish to guard the land.

Closed Session -

Sydney motioned that the U M item be moved to the current agenda and table/postpone all the other items and go into closed session. Dan seconded, motion carried. Joe and Mike were asked to come back and attend the session. [Notes takes are confidential and not for publication.]

Jay moved to go to open session and then break for lunch. Many seconds, carried.

Lunch break

University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Research - (See sign in sheet)

Judy: Emailed about not having a presentation, but would like to talk about the process. Want the process to be as open as possible. Much of the process is in development.

Toni : Chairs the advisory committee for the OVPR and has worked with these issues for over a year. Worked with George Martin. Has recommended that the completed report on these issues be posted on the website. Would like a person for referral with issues that may arise as they move forward.

Ben: Letters coming out and going back a coordinated with Ben, he is the contact point.

Toni: Asked that any information be passed through the OVPR.

Laura: Working with the ancestors and taking care of them until they are repatriated. Cecil asked if she was the only one to work with the remains. She replied yes. Cecil asked if access is documented. Laura replied yes, a log in sheet is in the room. Once sealed access would be recorded. Log started yesterday.

Kevin asked if the boxes have been taped yet. Laura said no, the boxes need to be re-inventoried. Kevin felt it would be better to tape and record opening for re-inventory.

Judy: Coordinates the information between Ben and Toni, reports and the like. Each site would have a compilation of documents that would be available to anyone who is involved.

Cure Committee - created to review the current, or then existing, situation with respect to the communication issues with Native Americans and the situation within the museums. In the middle of the effort, the new regulations came down. This maybe some change, but not a lot of what the committee was thinking. Everything wasn't in one place, and everyone's story wasn't the same. It was hard to evaluate accuracy of the stories. The committee makes recommendations but not the decision. Make the case with as much information as is possible, documents etc. The expectation is that Steve (the VPR) will follow the recommendations.

Judy: The VP wanted to bring people together to think about disposition, consultations and recommendations forward.

Angela asked the committee make up and how they are seated. Toni replied that all were faculty with fields that seemed related to the issues - ethics, bioethics, social sciences, historians, lawyer, et al. A broad array and they are appointed. Breadth was sought for this committee. Appointments are made by the VP of Research (Steve Forrest). Cecil asked if there were Tribal representation. Toni said no as it is a university faculty committee, she does not see that changing. Veronica stated that there were other museums/universities that have Tribal

involvement. She said there could be some expertise missing among the faculty.

Toni: The committee doesn't think of itself as expert, but seeks the expertise elsewhere using the varied disciplines and their different thinking.

Willie: Emphasized the tribes as sovereign nations and not cities to the VP.

Judy: The kinds of questions brought before the committee will not be secret, they will be open.

Toni: in reply to the question of staff size - one third is present.

Laura: Only two persons (Karen & Carla) on staff that are the collections curator, and Laura. Each Faculty 'curates' their own areas materials, but not really their main job.

Staff is underfunded, the museum is under staffed.

Cecil asked about John O'Shea's access to the collection. No answer given and that is not the committee's role. Judy said he is not a decision maker. He was asked to speak to the committee.

Eric: Thanked SCIT for the site and UM for attending. He then commented on the visits to museums and their voluntary repatriation and the putting off of UM repatriation. Then the new regulations came in and changed everything. As long as we operate under the law, we can have many successes.

Judy: She would have expected the CC to come forward with disposition even without the new regulations.

Toni: Steve is aware of the report's content and many of the things recommended have already been done.

Judy: Procedures will be developed as things move forward at each step of the way. The conversations with tribal people will lead to a good process. Reach an understanding.

Sydney said we understand, and all we ask is that you comply with the law. Judy & Toni both said they are waiting for a request. Sydney said if there were a request from Gun Lake would they publish within 30 days. Judy then said other tribes would be consulted. Sydney stated tribes don't rob other tribes graves.

Ben discussed the process, with a request arriving. Lead Tribe and supporting letters will speed the process. If one Tribe doesn't send support letter, how long should the time frame be for response should they not reply. Contact lists from National NAGPRA and the requestor will help in this area. Eric discussed the networking that has taken place with other tribes (Sauk and Fox example.) and the success. Veronica talked to many tribes as well and there is no competing claim. Toni: It would be better if you do this, and record it for the request. Judy agreed.

Veronica asked about the CC's role once a claim is made.

Toni: Role is to get as much information as we feel we need, the experts as we see necessary and then make our recommendation. Judy: Some will be slam dunks, with other tribes involved. Toni then said the committee will turn to Ben, and then make the recommendation to Steve and he makes the decision.

Veronica asked about new regs and land base makes MI easy. Eric said that the aboriginal tribal lands are more proven due to treaty signing and other documentation. The Royce maps make it even easier and they are color coordinated. Once the inventories are reviewed affiliation will require the use of

archeologists, Ben will be collecting the information about affiliation should the request arrive. Response to question of widening the experts in affiliation the answer was yes.

Ben: UM has a collection from Old Fort Wayne that may belong to a federal agency, and perhaps the collection from Selfridge AFB.

Cecil asked about remains that may have been on loan. Laura: There are no outstanding loans of human remains, except the DNA from Binghamton. AFO's? None known. Veronica asked if the research was from their own records, and Laura says there has been none without documentation.

Willie: Responsibility to our community and the collection. Clear and legal title of the materials in the collections. Do you have clear and legal title to all objects in your collection? Laura: It is my understanding of the history of materials arriving; long held items are accessioned to the collection. For materials from government there is an issue involving ownership, the government entity retains ownership. Kevin asked about how the OVPR come about. Judy replied it was a Regent-al request a long time ago when NAGPRA was first passed. Deemed that was where the issue belonged.

Judy in reply to Veronica's question about DNA and invasive research was that the policy is in time out except for two cases. An MSU student and pot shards and a guy in New Mexico. Toni said the time out requires compliance. Veronica asked about other remains, and the reply was that all remains are included. Ben mentioned that there are some in Flint, as part of the SCIT situation. Willie explained the situation.

Kevin asked about a camera placed over the shelves, any progress made? Has not happened and the information will be forwarded when the camera is placed. Veronica brought up the idea that the locked cabinet be placed. Laura said space and the issue of budget may prevent the issue.

Willie asked if the museum has any plans to computerize their records. Laura said all NAGPRA eligible materials are on access database. Everything that is not nagpra eligible is not on computer, but that is the goal. Willie said they use Past Perfect 3.0. Ben said it was a headache, as spelling typos cause conflicts. Judy: We do see this as a historical moment and will be archived in the Bentley. Ben asked for comments on the website to make it work better.

Access to the most current information will be on the UM website.

Ben has information on 150 sites that he can make available to Tribal representatives, he provided his contact information.

Break (15 min)

Toni: It is our attention that meeting notices will be placed on the internet and that there will be a process for scheduling visits and activities.

Cecil asked about the smudging and why it was not allowed and who said no.

Toni said it was understood that there could be no smudging, and Judy said it was a misunderstanding on whether there was a yes or not. Email stated no smudging within the room they are in. Ben said they could once accessioned in the laboratory and Great Lakes room. There can be no singing in the lab as it is

too close to the 911 center. Cecil made a personal comment about his visits to several other places and the leaving of offerings and smudging has never been denied. He said they were dumbfounded that they would be treated that way at the University. Ben's email was for the purpose of setting up the process of setting up smudging. It will be set up and the Martins can smudge and sing. Toni talked about there being no documentation about Cecil's experiences, and frankly its about how to make it happen and not if it would happen. She sees that it should be moving forward and turn the page. Toni said the sentiment has changed. Cecil replied Miigwech.

Summer said to use her as chair for contact, until a letter can be sent.

Toni hopes better consultation develops and issues become smaller in the future. UM staff left with our thanks.

Kevin asked for 5 minutes:

Wanted to throw out there to have someone, Eric, has a request letter he could share with the Tribes and we could each copy it and send it out Thursday as each Tribe knows what they are responsible for and identified. Every minute we delay it leaves more time for things to happen. If John O'Shea is caught after that he would be in violation of Federal law.

Veronica asked about the Southeastern Michigan and the reply was to do what we have done before. Dan thought one lead and support was the way to go.

Willie said we need to decide who will be responsible for what based on ability.

Eric support moving quickly and yet surely.

Willie handed out the information about the sites as organized by area and Tribe(s).

Discussion followed.

Eric felt following the way we did it in the past, covering all the remains and making a joint request.

Motion by Kevin - *MACPRA directs Eric H to draft a request letter under 43CFR10.11 to request all the Michigan remain and funerary objects from the University of Michigan as a template for the individual Tribes to use for their letter of request. Motion failed due to lack of second.*

Discussion continued that the two methods - one Tribe and MACPRA support or each tribe and support. Eric also wants to have all tribes request all the materials. Kevin felt each Tribe should go over the list and identify those areas each Tribe has interest in.

Motion by Veronica to *have Eric call National NAGPRA and have Angela make a template of the two options and have a conference call to discuss what to do in two weeks facilitated by Kevin on October 6 at 1pm. Cecil second. Carried.*

Grand Rapids Public Museum / CMU

Grand Rapids Public Museum remains will be picked up Thursday, the 23 of September by Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The Saginaw Chippewa will be recovering the remains from GRPM and plans reburial on November 5 with the CMU remains. Reported by Jay and Willie respectively. This is the last reburial of those that we have worked on for last two years.

Stone Street Flint

A report from Willie was provided. The Reburial date for these individuals remains is the 12th of November.

Detroit Institute of Arts

Cecil reported they were reburied on August ** and the remains have been cared for.

Bio ethanol Plant

Cecil P. report that the plant was portrayed as switch grass using, but will use forest products hardwood and use 200 gallons of water per minute. Asked the Tribes to be aware and review the project.

Nottawessipi

Angela discussed the known mounds site and the Battle Creek Gravel Company using the mounds for gravel. The Tribe and family knew the mounds were there. There was a mound was removed, Angela was contacted and prepared a preliminary injunction. The injunction was signed on Monday, on the site and equipment. Angela met with the company and noted that the mound was there, and is still intact. The Tribe agreed to pay half for a fence to enclose the mound with staggered cedar posts, working for an easement.

MACPRA Election

Summer, G. Martin, Cecil, Sydney, and Alina have all backed down and will not seek office. Offices are the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Summer will send an email asking those who do not wish to be nominated, and the list will be prepared for the conference call.

Motion to adjourn by Cecil P., seconded by Eric H, the motion was carried by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48PM