

Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument
Cultural Resource Committee (CRC) Meeting
Tuesday, May17, 2016
Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve. 3711 W. Deer Valley Road, Glendale, AZ

MINUTES

Attendees: Larry Kraft, Member/Acting Chair Mike Hoogendyk, Member
Chris Reed, Member Pete Reilly, Member
Trudy Mertens, Member Marie Davis, Member
Mike Nushawg, Member Shelley Rasmussen, Member
Peter Huegel, Member Barbara Gronemann, Member
Jim Gibson, BLM-Acting Monument Mgr. Paul Sitzmann, BLM

Call to Order: Larry Kraft called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of April 19, 2016 were approved as amended.

BLM Update: Both Paul Gibson, Acting Monument Manager, and Paul Sitzmann, Wildlife Biologist, were present representing BLM.

Paul indicated that the CRMP document had been completed earlier, but that the hang-up at moment was the NEPA portion of the process. BLM and the FS had agreed to separate the NEPA into two different documents rather than completing one jointly. That may be done by yearend. Currently, plans are for another stakeholder meeting to be held with Andi Rogers from Southwest Data Resources as facilitator.

On the subject of insurance and volunteer agreements, Jim Gibson indicated he would check into the status of insurance coverage for volunteers to see if there are any outstanding issues. As for the volunteer agreements, Paul Sitzmann has copies of the new BLM Volunteer with attached job descriptions. Each member has to complete and sign the agreements to be properly authorized and covered by insurance as a volunteer.

Casey Addy is the lead on redoing interpretive signs. That project is underway.

Paul indicated that the “Bio Blitz” is scheduled for this coming Saturday. There are 12-15 team leaders, each specializing in a different aspect of wildlife on the monument. Volunteers will be assigned, based on their interests, to a specific leader who will notify them of the time and place to meet. There is a phone app that can be downloaded to allow you to take and post photographs and relevant data to Internet and allow others to follow along on the progress of the various teams.

Jim mentioned that they are currently looking at funding for Fiscal 2017, which will determine if they have enough money to replace the Monument Ranger during that year. He did not sound too optimistic. Members in the meeting stressed on him the importance of BLM having more of a presence on the monument. At the same time, the issue of volunteers using “BLM Volunteer” magnetics on the side of their vehicles was discussed. Currently, volunteers are not allowed to do so out of an abundance of caution following the Bundy problems in Nevada. Jim will check out feelings in BLM regarding allowing the volunteers to resume the practice – which should result in a bigger “presence” on the monument.

FAFNM Board Update: Pete Reilly gave the FAFNM Board Update. Major items are as follows:

1. Agua Fria Day: There were over forty people present – mostly volunteers, but some members and a few from the public. It was discovered during the event that Horseshoe Ranch requires the use

of Port a Potties anytime there are more than twenty people present. The Horseshoe septic fields are not made to process larger groups. The possibility exists that FAFNM could use “myradioplacement.com” for additional advertising of such events in the future.

2. 2016 Wet/Dry Mapping is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2016. Training will be held on June 4th from 9:00am until Noon at BLM.
3. The Friends need a new Natural Resources Committee chair.
4. The BCC Heritage Center interpretive panels are done and now need to be installed.

Perry Mesa Area Archaeological Happenings:

1. Shelley Rasmussen did Site Stewards training for about 30 people two weeks ago. She’s planning on doing another training session on the 18th.
2. Mike Nushawg took a group out to Pueblo Pato and discovered that the BLM & Site Steward archaeological signs posted a year or so ago were gone. In their place were some “Ancient Pathways” signs. He’s going to report that to BLM as vandalism since neither BLM, the Site Stewards or volunteers from the Friends appear to have been responsible for changing the signs. The posts for the old signs were just tossed aside. There need to be pictures taken of the new signs and it needs to be determined who was responsible.

Old Business:

1. **Project Archaeology:** Trudy Mertens reported that she had met Marsha Simmonis at the Agua Fria Day event. Marsha, a long-time player in Project Archaeology, is going to check with her sources to figure out how to address our local problems concerning applying the program here.
2. **Recording Volunteer Hours on the New FAFNM Website:** Most members are now able to log their volunteer hours on the new website since Chris Caseldine, FAFNM Vice President, has fixed the major problems. There are a few people who still are experiencing problems accessing their hours, which may or may not be Internet Explorer related.
3. **Review of Joint FAFNM/FTNF Meeting in April:** Everyone agreed that continued coordination and cooperation between the two groups would be beneficial. They all thought it was a productive meeting and would like to continue holding sporadic joint meetings. It would probably be better to hold them at the Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve since FTNF doesn’t have a large enough meeting space available.
4. **Site Steward Signs for Baby Canyon and Pato:** Pete Reilly still has two signs left to be “planted” somewhere. The discussion seemed to indicate that Pueblo Pato, which has an invasion of foreign signs, might be the best place to plant them.
5. **Possible New Rock Art Recording Locations:** Mike Hoogendyk passed out an updated list of possible sites with a first blush attempt at prioritizing them. It was agreed that we would make several trips out to evaluate the acceptability and priority of the first five or six sites on the list. Afterwards we could make a more informed recommendation to the BLM Monument Archaeologist regarding which sites be recorded first. Actual recording work wouldn’t begin until cool weather next fall. It was also agreed that it would be beneficial to periodically obtain copies of rock art recording information on file with BLM and check it against the current status of the same rock art in the field.
6. **Geocaching Links for AFNM:** Mike Hoogendyk indicated he had obtained an app from the Apple Store on his iPhone which allows him to see all the geocaches on the monument. Surprisingly, although there were over 185 geocaches on the monument, very few of them appeared to be anywhere near major prehistoric sites. Most of them were near I-17 and the few roads into the monument.

New Business:

1. **Fergoliths:** Shelley Rasmussen and Mike Hoogendyk reported on an artifact they observed at Horseshoe Ranch while Shelley was conducting a petroglyph walk by the ranch house. It is a worked piece of basalt approximately 10” X 12” and 2” thick referred to humorously by Arizona archaeologists as a “Fergolith”, after Alan Ferg. Mike brought in an article written by Alan in August, 1991, which describes them, their possible uses, and the locations where they have been found (mostly in the Tucson area). Members were asked to report any additional findings – eventually to Alan Ferg in Tucson who still collects data on them.
2. **Possible Fall NLCS Laws & Regs Workshop:** One of the archaeology related companies is in preliminary planning stages of a workshop in the Phoenix area next fall which is being designed to help Friends groups state-wide. It would teach participants about the laws and regulations applicable to the management of NLCS units and help them make more informed decisions when working with the applicable land managers. The vast majority of members of the committee would like to attend such a workshop (8 out of 10 of the members present today).
3. **Possible Fall Outreach with High Desert Heritage Museum (HDHM):** Mike Hoogendyk has been in touch with one of the Directors of the Museum regarding doing an outreach event at their location during the early cool weather next fall. Initial thoughts are that it would include BLM, FAFNM, Arizona Game & Fish and HDHM. BLM could provide tent and chairs, there would be speakers for about two hours, and then those who were interested could break up for tour on the monument to Teskey, 1891 School House, Badger Springs Petroglyphs and Pueblo LaPlata. To the extent that there are NEEF funds available (less than \$500.00) they would be used in some fashion for the activities on the monument (snacks, bottled water and handouts?). BLM, FAFNM and AZG&F could all have booth space by the speakers’ tent. HDHM is going to discuss this at their Board meeting and get back with Mike. If they are a “go”, then the two groups will get together at HDHM for an initial planning meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Future Activities

2 nd Thursdays	6:30pm – 8:30pm	FAFNM Board Meetings at BLM Office
3 rd Tuesdays	12:00pm – 2:00pm	Cultural Resources Committee at Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve
5/21/2016		BioBlitz 2016, on the Monument
6/4/2016	9:00am – 12:00pm	Training for Wet Dry Mapping
6/7-8/2016		Site Steward’s 30 Year Anniversary Celebration, Plaza Hotel, Phoenix, AZ
6/9-11/2016		Historic Preservation Conference, Plaza Hotel, Phoenix, AZ
6/18/2016		Wet Dry Mapping

Bryan’s Planned Field Dates for Archaeological Surveys

(None scheduled at the moment.)

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 2016, Noon to 2:00 pm, at the Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve, 3711 W. Deer Valley Road, Glendale.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Hoogendyk