

Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument  
**Cultural Resource Committee (CRC) Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 15, 2017  
BLM Phoenix District Office

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Connie Stone, Chairperson  
Pete Reilly, Member  
Mike Hoogendyk, Member  
Trudy Mertens, Member  
Barbara Gronemann, Member  
Mike Nushawg, Member  
Chris Reed, Member  
Peter Huegel, Member  
Shelley Rasmussen, Member  
Marie Davis, Member  
Scott Wood, Guest  
Ron Tipton, BLM AFNM Manager  
Chris McLaughlin, BLM Archaeologist

**Call to Order:** Connie Stone called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes of July 18, 2017 were approved.

**BLM Update:** Ron Tipton, Monument Manager, gave the BLM Update.

1. **Brooklyn Fire:** There will be a review of the fire activity at the FAFNM Annual Meeting. The BAER team brought multiple skills to the post fire analysis: Cultural, biological, soils, hydrology, etc. Ron explained everything using a large screen projection of a Landsat Map with the burn area on it. The big worry now is with heavy rains and the potential for flooding. APS is now replacing burned poles on the BCC to Dugas line and will be removing all downed poles. They are working with a CRM company to make sure no cultural features are disturbed.
2. **Staffing:** AJ Whiteman is back from firefighting and as soon as he can start will begin working on monument signs, trash removal and road work. An offer has been made for a new monument archaeologist. Ron is waiting for resolution.
3. **Home Schooled Students' Program:** BLM, the Friends and the Black Canyon City Heritage Center are partnering to put on a special program, possibly in the Badger Springs trail area, for a group of 75 students. Ann Hutchinson is working with the Audubon organization to coordinate it.
4. **CRMP Related Activity:** The Tonto NF has a bid out for a class 3 cultural survey contract on Perry Mesa. This is required in order for grazing improvements to be made.
5. **Other Tasks:** Members mentioned that new "Sign In" sheets were needed at the Badger Springs trail head. Pete Reilly has them and will take them up. The Silver Creek restroom needs cleaning and the plastic cover, along with the informational materials, are missing from the kiosk at that location. Ron will send Mike Hoogendyk a copy of the Brooklyn Fire Hydro map for distribution to the Committee.

**FAFNM Board Update:** Pete Reilly gave the FAFNM Board Update.

1. **Financials:** Pete passed around a set of financials for July. The major activities were an expenditure of \$700 for the Administrative Assistant, who will be working through September 30<sup>th</sup>, and a receipt for \$4,500 which was from BLM and originally was to be used for the trail between Teskey Home Site and the 1891 School House. Now it may be used for interpretive material at Pueblo La Plata and/or partially at Horseshoe Ranch.

2. **Annual Meeting:** This has been scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve – assuming the renovation work there is complete and it is open. It will run from 9:00am to 11:00am and will include food.
3. **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is working hard to replace outgoing officers. The current President and Vice President are both leaving. If you know of anyone who you would like to nominate, please get in touch with either Chris Caseldine or Sarah Striker.
4. **Conservation Lands Foundation:** The Friends' President, Sarah Striker, met with Angel Pena last week to discuss the monument review. In today's Committee meeting it was mentioned that Senator McCain had sent a letter to those commenting on the monument review stating that the four monuments under review in Arizona wouldn't be touched.

#### **Perry Mesa Area Archaeological Happenings:**

1. **Perry Mesa Ceramics Project:** Scott Wood indicated that he and Dave Abbott had received the permit from BLM to operate on the monument side of Perry Mesa. As a result, they will be starting work in October on weekends and the work will run into December. There are probably two to three years of work necessary to complete the project.

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Geocaching:** A discussion was held regarding the handout Chris Reed provided at last month's meeting. There are probably 180+ geocaches already on the monument, mainly concentrated along the I-17 corridor and those entrances to the monument. The problem is keeping them away from cultural sites. They are hard to police because geocaching isn't properly organized or self-monitored. Geocaching practitioners come and go constantly without any rules or regulations. Shelley pointed out some of the problems the State Lands department had with them in the past. BLM (Ron Tipton or Chris McLaughlin) will check the RMP and elsewhere to see if there are any rules or regulations regarding geocaching on the monument and report back to the Committee.
2. **Updated Strategic Plan Appendices:** Connie provided a new, updated version of the Committee's Strategic Plan with appendices added. Appendix A was for potential projects for the 2017-2019 time period. The major categories of work included Monitoring and Protection, Inventory and Site Documentation, and Public Outreach - amongst others. Work will continue to further flesh out schedules and work assignments in the future.
3. **Planning for Post Brooklyn Fire Activities:** Mike Hoogendyk passed out a list of thirty newly fire-exposed sites that Committee Members had found on four trips just driving along roads on Perry Mesa. Eleven of the sites were on monument land and four of those were touched by or bisected by the roads. Trudy, Shelley, Mike Nushawg and Larry Kraft worked with Mike Hoogendyk to locate the newly exposed sites. Starting later this week, that work will proceed to sites that are out in the open between roads.
4. **Firefighter Reported Site:** The firefighters provided a report to the Monument Manager on one site they located while fighting fire. The site turned out to be the Sleepy Hollow site at which the Committee recorded the rock art several years ago.
5. **Horseshoe Ranch Rock Art Interpretive Sign:** Discussions have continued on this subject. The AZGFD Archaeologist, Jon Shumaker, has been looking into the complexities of planting this sign into the ground in an 18" deep hole at its present location. There is a prehistoric site (the petroglyphs) located very close by and an historic site (the ranch house location) on which it sits. Both SHPO and ASM have rules about what can happen on those sites. If Jon can convince ASM that it isn't actually a site, a monitoring fee of \$3,000 for digging the hole could be avoided. However, if human remains were encountered (which did occur in a lower area on the other side of the house) then a much more expensive excavation would be required. Today it was suggested

that we just build a cement foundation on the surface of the ground and plant the sign in it. Currently the sign is affixed to a boulder at knee level and is slightly wobbly. The sign was designed to be on a post that came with it and read at chest level. The discussion seemed to indicate that we should investigate the cement foundation idea before proceeding.

**New Business:**

1. **Teskey Homestead Site:** Trudy Mertens showed pictures of some deterioration of the top of the interpretive sign at that location. Trudy and Shelley are going to check with the Gauthiers to see if they can figure out who made the sign and what it would take to repair and protect it. Trudy and Shelley, along with Mike Nushawg, also had pictures of the fence damage at the site from recent flooding. They provided this information to BLM during the meeting with the thought that they might know how to handle the situation, either from bulwarks against future flooding and/or repairs to the fence line where multiple poles had been washed out.
2. **Identifying Hazards on our Risk Assessment Sheets:** Trudy provided pictures of a stick and barbed wire gate at the BLM9610 entrance to the monument. It was falling to pieces and posed a risk to those trying to open and close it. BLM was asked to determine if they or the Grazing Permittee were responsible for fixing it and then to get it fixed before someone gets hurt.
3. **The Importance of Visual Quality and Public Safety on the Monument:** Trudy also provided pictures of loose barbed wire and other metal objects strewn about around the new solar water pump just inside the monument entrance on BLM9599. She felt that BLM and/or the Friends should conduct a cleanup in the area so that it was more pleasant to the eye and less of a danger.
4. **1891 School House Site:** Shelley Rasmussen indicated that this site was once again in need of a cleanup. The plants cut out during the last cleanup have regrown and are now once again covering up most of the school house foundation.
5. **Pecos Conference:** Shelley, Trudy and Mike Hoogendyk attended the August 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Pecos Conference on Rowe Mesa in New Mexico. The daytime weather was great except for a late afternoon thunderstorm on the first day of reports. There were 425 attendees, 40 presenters and 22 posters. David Doyle got an AHHS award. There were a number of young archaeologists who gave presentations as part of a Cordell/Powers contest, an activity that is breathing new, young life into the annual conference. Next year’s meeting will be held in Flagstaff, AZ.
6. **Site Stewards Foundation, Inc.:** Trudy mentioned that this organization was a sponsor of the Pecos Conference and claimed to be representing Site Stewards in all four “Four Corner” states. She asked Scott Wood if he was aware of this. Scott indicated that they were looking into it and as far as he was aware this group from New Mexico had no connections to Arizona State Parks Department.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

**Future Activities**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursdays	6:30pm – 8:30pm	FAFNM <b>Board Meetings</b> at BLM Office
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays	12:00pm – 2:00pm	<b>Cultural Resources</b> Committee at BLM Office
9/23/2017	9:00am – 11:00pm	FAFNM Annual Meeting, Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve
10/6-8/2017		URARA, Green River, UT
10/21/2017	9:00am	Three Corners Conference, UNLV, Nevada
12/2/2017	1:00pm – 3:30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Canon Arizona History BookFest in BCC
1/27/2018	9:00am – 3:00pm	WinterFest at BCC Heritage Park

**Planned Field Dates for BLM Archaeological Surveys**

(None scheduled at the moment)

**The next meeting will be at 12:00pm, Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at the BLM Offices on N 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Phoenix.**

*Michael J. Hoogendyk*

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael J. Hoogendyk