



Preserving America's Heritage

HIGHLIGHTS
ACHP BUSINESS MEETING
March 1, 2013
Washington, D.C.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar presented the 2012 Secretary's Awards for Historic Preservation to Dr. Robin Hawks, Bureau of Land Management (Federal Preservation Officer); Dan Elswick, South Carolina Historic Preservation Office (State Historic Preservation Officer); Bill Helmer, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, California (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer); and Michelle L. Pierce, Lake City, Colorado (Certified Local Government.). He also swore in the two new ACHP members: Dr. Lynne Sebastian and Teresa Isabel Leger, both of New Mexico. The Secretary commended the council members on their commitment and good work. He spoke about the need to keep focused on job creation, heritage tourism, telling the story of all Americans, and continuing the mission of historic preservation throughout the country.

As part of membership changes, Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson introduced Elizabeth Hughes, Maryland Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer as the new president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), succeeding Ruth Pierpont of New York. He also acknowledged Nancy Schamu on her retirement as executive director of NCSHPO.

ACHP Alumni Foundation President Katherine Slick announced the initiation of a diversity internship program at the ACHP.

Tribal issues were a prominent part of the meeting agenda. ACHP members passed a motion to adopt the ACHP's plan to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The ACHP is the first federal agency to approve such a document. Jodi Gillette of the White House Domestic Policy Council discussed Administration initiatives in Indian Country and invited further partnerships. Finally, members were briefed on a recent Memorandum of Understanding among the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Energy, and Defense and the ACHP to improve tribal consultation on Indian sacred sites.

Rightsizing Task Force Chairman Brad White told members that the report was being drafted and that the task force had met on February 28 to discuss implementation strategies.

Members adopted a resolution for the chairman and executive director to work with the Administration on a package of amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The amendments would add the general chairman of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) to the ACHP's membership, permanently authorize deposits into the Historic Preservation Fund, and make the chairman of the ACHP a full-time position.

Chairman Donaldson appointed a new committee to coordinate ACHP efforts for building a more inclusive preservation program, consisting of himself, Clement Price, Ms. Leger, Terry Guen, John

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Berrey, Department of the Interior, and National Trust for Historic Preservation. NATHPO and NCSHPO asked to be part of the committee as well. Chairman Donaldson reported to the members that he would be reorganizing the membership of the ACHP's three standing committees and invited members to indicate their preferences to him.

Ms. Guen reported on Preservation Initiatives Committee discussions on future ACHP action in the area of sustainability. It was agreed that the ACHP had an important role to play and priority topics were discussed, working with the Department of Defense on promoting their recent study on life cycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions in new versus rehabilitated buildings taking center stage.

The members discussed ways to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the NHPA in 2016, following up on a planning session on February 27. A presentation from Dr. James Glass and Dr. Amos Loveday focused on the prospect of developing a history of the NHPA. Members were invited to contribute their ideas on the history project and other activities after the meeting.

Federal Agency Programs Committee Chairman Stephen Ayers reported the committee's recommendation in response to the recently-issued Government Accountability Office report on federal historic building management. The committee asked that Chairman Donaldson contact the Federal Real Property Council to establish a collaborative working relationship. A brief presentation was made to the members on the soon-to-be-released handbook on NEPA and Section 106 jointly drafted by the Council on Environmental Quality and the ACHP. Mr. Ayers advised the members of a program comment on the Department of Energy weatherization program that would be sent to them for approval shortly. Members also heard about the recent ACHP comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the Pawtucket Dam at Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts.

The next meetings will be July 17-18 and November 13-14 in Washington, D.C.