



COMMITTEE VIDEOCONFERENCE SUMMARIES

May 2022

FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee Chairman Jay Vogt convened the meeting on May 16. Chris Koepfel announced the selection of Vanessa Hanvey as the new Department of Veterans Affairs liaison. She has experience as a liaison in her current role at the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), where she serves as the state transportation liaison. She will start at the ACHP in early June.

Update on Proposed Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Exemption

Chairman Vogt asked Jaime Loichinger to update the committee on the current consultation and public outreach effort for the exemption. Ms. Loichinger said consultation invitations had been sent to SHPOs, tribes, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), Native Hawaiian organizations, and other consulting parties on April 29. Consultation meetings are scheduled for the last week of May and the first week of June. The ACHP has a dedicated webpage for this proposal

(https://www.achp.gov/program_alternatives/exempted_categories/EVSE_proposal), which also links to the *Federal Register* notice with the draft exemption language. Staff have already received and are tracking comments and questions. Nancy Boone (HUD) asked whether the exemption could be used by HUD Responsible Entities for work covered by the exemption. Ms. Loichinger said she would look into the issue and follow up shortly.

Proposed GSA Routine Maintenance Exemption

Chairman Vogt noted the strong interest in program alternatives by a wide range of federal agencies. A series of updates on other program alternative development efforts were provided in the recent Members' Report. Recently, the General Services Administration (GSA) has expressed interest in developing an exempted category for certain routine maintenance undertakings.

Mr. Koepfel explained that this exemption would alleviate GSA's workload caused by regular maintenance activities, which do not typically cause adverse effects. He acknowledged GSA's strong preservation program, which relies upon qualified professionals to ensure adverse effects are avoided. Beth Savage (GSA) noted that the original proposal was to increase the coverage for existing regional programmatic agreements. However, as a result of an analysis conducted by the GSA liaison, the idea of an exemption for recurring activities that have no or minimal effects was born. GSA's regional staff members are subject matter experts in these kinds of minor repairs and maintenance activities.

Caroline Henry (DOI) asked how this current proposal differs from GSA's existing program comment, and what specific sorts of activities it would cover. Ms. Savage noted that the program comment covers four categories of repairs and reduces review time as well as specifies submission requirements for review. The activities often comprise a combination of the four categories. The exemption, however, expands that to include spaces such as courtrooms and office space, and activities such as cleaning the exterior of a building and completing minor masonry repairs.

Mr. Koepfel then noted that this effort was being staggered with the EVSE exemption to ensure the

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ACHP members and preservation partners are not overwhelmed with consultation meetings. Reid Nelson said his hope is that other agencies will eventually be able to use this exemption for similar activities, if and when they are able to demonstrate adequate preservation oversight like GSA is able to provide. He added that the ACHP has not yet worked out the criteria and wording that would allow other agencies to utilize this exemption.

Response Plan for Addressing Nationwide Staff Shortages

Chairman Vogt reminded the committee of several earlier discussions regarding the results of increased infrastructure investment and the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In March, members brought up concerns about recruiting and maintaining a qualified workforce for cultural resources and preservation positions. It was clear that the topic of training a qualified preservation workforce and successfully recruiting young professionals into federal agency positions is a broad one. The staff took comments from committee members in March and explored how the ACHP might gather information about the current state of preservation and cultural resources employment in the federal sector. They have also been considering how the ACHP could facilitate improvements in this area.

Chairman Vogt asked Mr. Nelson to talk about potential actions the ACHP could take on this issue. Mr. Nelson acknowledged that these efforts are being led by Blythe Semmer and that this topic has broad interest and impact to all and is a multifaceted challenge. He outlined a four-part plan, which is based on using the ACHP's convening power to sort out the issues and determine where efforts are best spent.

The four steps include the following: (1) gathering information from agency partners, preservation partners and tribes, among others; (2) take stock of what the ACHP is already doing (e.g., working with Salish Kootenai College and other student development efforts); (3) bring these partners together to further hone the discussion of recruitment challenges and opportunities to train and educate young professionals, which is anticipated mid-summer; and (4) consider whether it would benefit colleges/universities and other training organizations to have the ACHP suggest core competencies for preservation work done in federal agencies. Mr. Nelson asked for feedback from the committee.

Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum questioned what has changed, and whether students are choosing to go into other fields. He recommended that staff also reach out to National Park Service (NPS)-affiliated organizations for informational and financial support. Mayor Robert Simison noted that it would be worth keeping in mind that societal expectations may be affecting some of this, and to consider what are the jobs that are not being filled. Mr. Nelson observed that the shortage of students in academic programs may lead to some agencies reducing or eliminating the requirement for higher education in field tech jobs. There is the potential for having a broader discussion about looking outside colleges and universities for training programs for students.

Katherine Slick (ACHP Foundation) said this issue has been ongoing for many years; it has been compounded by the limited budgets of SHPOs and THPOs that cannot compete with the salaries provided by consulting firms. She questioned how the committee can consider the roles of contractors in addition to staffing opportunities with federal and state agencies. Also, she asked how the training program can be made even more dynamic and interesting, and whether ACHP courses can be offered for free. Ms. Henry reminded the committee that the Department of the Interior (DOI) has been working on updates to the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Internal conversations within DOI have considered whether standardization of position descriptions may be useful, although such an effort would be challenging.

Mr. Koepfel observed that the Secretary's Professional Qualifications Standards require a master's degree, which can be prohibitive from a cost perspective, when entry-level salaries do not support the ability to pay back student loans. Chairman Vogt asked whether there may be an opportunity for technical schools to create a certificate program for historic preservation professionals. Mr. Nelson agreed, noting

that the solution should not be limited to how colleges/universities can produce more advanced degrees, as SHPO/THPO work often involves work that is never taught at the college level. Colleen Vaughn (DOT) observed the need to give realistic, hands-on knowledge to students, as courses tend to be focused on the technical aspects. It is important to be clear about what people have to learn to be in this field. Julia Chlarson (VA) wrote in the chat that summer students or interns are also a way for introducing more people to the field and bringing them in early. Building on that point, Vice Chairman Tannenbaum wondered what opportunities may exist even earlier, such as in high school AP history classes.

Performance Goals for the Updated ACHP Strategic Plan

Chairman Vogt reminded members that revisions to the ACHP's Strategic Plan were finalized at the spring business meeting. As the strategic objectives are in place, the staff is preparing to carry out the plan through performance goals in coordination with ACHP members. Chairman Vogt asked that Mr. Nelson review the performance goals, and identify opportunities for members to offer comments. Mr. Nelson said a version of the plan annotated with the performance goals developed by staff would be circulated to members by email following the committee meeting, and that members would have time to share any comments. He also reminded members that a vote is not necessary to approve the performance goals.

Updates

First was an update on how the staff is continuing to communicate with SHPOs and THPOs on infrastructure matters. Mr. Nelson reminded members of the ACHP's meeting in late winter with Federal Preservation Officers (FPOs) on this topic and the need to have a similar discussion with SHPOs and THPOs. ACHP staff is looking at the month of June to host a revised version of a webinar on program alternatives for SHPOs and THPOs. A follow-up conversation to these complementary trainings would allow ACHP staff to discuss SHPO and THPO interests and concerns about program alternatives and other issues relating to infrastructure. The webinars will be offered several times to ensure they reach as many partners as possible.

Chairman Vogt also reported that a series of guidance updates called for in the Program Comment Review Panel's recommendations are nearly complete. Mr. Nelson said Dr. Semmer has been working on updating guidance to external partners and reviewing the way staff interacts with members on program comments. A new flowchart and revised guidance should be updated on the ACHP's website by the end of May.

COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee Chairman Luke Nichter and Susan Glimcher opened the meeting on May 16.

Podcasts

Lynne Richmond gave an overview of outreach and her plans to get ACHP members onto the Preservation Perspectives podcast, as well as podcasts of other organizations. She asked members to think about topics that could be pitched and what ACHP members could talk about.

Kristopher King said a lot of people are coming up through historic preservation and do not know where to go for information or how to further their career. Podcasts could be used to get information out about historic preservation careers. Angela McArdle (VA) suggested highlighting historic preservation educators on Preservation Perspectives to talk about historic preservation careers and the steps students can take to get jobs in this industry. The committee is awaiting more feedback from members at the June committee meeting.

Curriculum Development

Ms. Glimcher reminded members that it has been suggested that the ACHP consider developing historic preservation curricula for educational outlets. She noted that developing curricula is a broad and wide

ranging endeavor, and that there may be value in awaiting the arrival of Chairman-Nominee Sara Bronin before completing such an effort. She added that there will likely be an opportunity to convene a panel of experts who could address the national staffing shortage and the potential need or value of such curricula. Such an effort could also include lesson plans for high school or college students in a “historic preservation 101” style of topics.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum suggested doing a scan of who has done curricula, what is already out there, and if they are preparing items for teachers or for students. Mr. Nelson added that it would be good to look for what sort of core competencies are important for historic preservation professionals as part of their studies. Dr. Nichter noted in the chat that the ACHP could provide a tool kit for educators. Ann Walker (Preserve America Youth Summits) suggested the ACHP could promote it to teachers and as mini lectures. Ms. Slick suggested looking at what certification programs are out there and what are the skills they want students to have. Ms. Henry (DOI) said the NPS has a lot of lesson plans through its Teaching With Historic Places program. Stephanie Paul (NAPC) suggested providing a survey ahead of a meeting with educators to ask what students are interested in. The Office of Communications, Education, and Outreach plans to work with the Office of Federal Agency Programs to begin formulating a plan about how the ACHP can best make an impact based on resources that are already available elsewhere.

HBCU Programs

Ms. Glimcher said the ACHP will participate in the September 20-23 annual conference of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities in two sessions: one on grants and one on careers in historic preservation. She offered for members who would be interested in participating in the conference to contact her.

Ms. Richmond said Preservation in Practice is ready to go with 20 students participating from Morgan State, Tuskegee, and Hampton universities. Students will be in Grand Teton National Park and then in Washington, D.C. for their training. Ms. Glimcher said Cultural Heritage in the Forest is also ready to begin on June 7 with seven students from Lincoln University. The Forest Service is doing an exceptional job, and they are hoping to grow the program.

Social Media

Ms. Richmond announced the kickoff of the ACHP’s #HistoricSummerVacation social media campaign hoping to get photo submissions from members. Ms. Paul said she could share the call for submissions on the National Alliance of Preservation Commission’s social media channels.

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee Chairman Reno Franklin was unable to attend due to a conflict, so Vice Chairman Tannenbaum convened the meeting on May 17.

White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) Activities

Ira Matt provided an update on two of the initiatives the ACHP is involved in through its participation on the WHCNAA.

Sacred Sites

Mr. Matt shared that the Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) working group has completed a key requirement of the 2021 MOU, an interim report to the WHCNAA executive director. This report identifies existing practices the signatories have taken to implement the original version of this MOU, signed in 2012, and an analysis of which areas should be revisited to further implement the MOU. The report also identified additional actions that could be taken by signatories to the 2021 MOU that would improve protection of and access to sacred sites.

He said the Department of Energy (DOE) invited him to participate in the annual State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG) meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, earlier in May. The STGWG discussed DOE's responsibility and opportunities as it pertains to the protection of and sustained access to sacred sites by Indian tribes and their members. Mr. Matt also addressed the intersection of sacred sites management with Section 106 and offered to further assist DOE in their efforts to align Section 106 with sacred sites management in future meetings.

Mr. Matt also noted that the WHCNAA-led sacred sites working group is convening the week of May 22 to further implement the 2021 MOU. The United States Department of Agriculture and DOI are co-leading the working group; the Office of the Solicitor within the DOI will lead the legal subgroup.

Climate Adaptation Subcommittee

Mr. Matt noted that the group is active in developing content to advance consideration of cultural resources and Traditional Knowledge (TK) in federal decision making. In April, Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) staff briefed the Subcommittee to share the concerns and perspectives Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians have regarding climate change and federal decision making. The Subcommittee is actively coordinating to advance several of ONAA's recommendations.

The ACHP was recently invited to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs' *Lower 48 Community-Led Relocation* pilot project. ONAA will provide reviewer expertise regarding climate change impacts on infrastructure and cultural resources.

ONAA has also actively worked to advance a Tribal Science Series that addresses the intersection of climate change with federal decision making. This initiative will seek to have tribal and other Indigenous Peoples educate federal staff through webinars and/or podcasts and will be announced more formally in late August at the 2022 National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota.

ACHP Policy Statement on Traditional Knowledge in the Section 106 Process

Mr. Matt proposed development of a policy statement on TK in the Section 106 process. He noted that such a policy is needed but does not currently exist, and urged the Native American Affairs Committee to discuss the potential value of such a policy and how it might be developed.

Mr. Nelson discussed the ACHP's history of issuing policy statements. In this circumstance, he said a policy statement that spoke to the important role that TK can and should play in the Section 106 review process is best achieved through the Native American Affairs (NAA) Committee, with appropriate intersection and collaboration with the Federal Agency Programs (FAP) Committee. Jamie Lee Marks discussed the reasons why the ACHP is exploring a policy on TK including that the agency has heard from stakeholders during listening sessions and consultations that TK is not consistently or effectively integrated into the Section 106 process. Chairman Franklin communicated with ONAA staff that the Biden-Harris Administration wants TK to be further integrated into federal decision making as it represents an element of the "best available science."

Mr. Matt gave an overview of existing policies that discuss Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs). He said while the ACHP is part of an interagency working group developing federal-wide guidance on the incorporation of TK into federal decision making, each agency will still be expected to develop guidance and policy specific to missions and authorities. Ms. Marks then discussed what a policy statement on TK policy could include.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum voiced support for the development of the TK policy noting it made sense and requested to be involved. He asked members to share any barriers, issues, or challenges that members have faced in their agencies about incorporating TK. Ms. Slick (ACHP Foundation) said a broad description of TK was important in establishing how this policy statement works. She noted the

challenges associated with consulting firms not recognizing TK and the need for federal agencies to step up in advancing that consideration. She also requested the ACHP pursue incorporation of TK into existing training modules as a part of this effort.

Mr. Vogt supported the policy development and suggested that a policy statement should be encompassing and asked to be involved in its development and asked that other FAP Committee members be involved. Valerie Grussing (NATHPO) asked to participate and noted that this policy is an important product to have moving forward and that it was an appropriate time to develop it. Dr. Grussing noted that an ACHP-led policy aids THPOs and begins to bridge the gap between the cultural and the natural. It would be incredibly beneficial for Indian tribes. Mr. Nelson supported development of the policy including making it as encompassing as possible. He noted that many FAP Committee members are also part of the NAA Committee and that would help facilitate their participation.

Ms. Henry (DOI) also requested to participate in the development and noted that she is working to update the Secretary's Professional Qualification Standards and wants to coordinate their consideration of TK with the language the ACHP is developing. She noted the importance of this policy coming from the ACHP.

Alicia Sylvester (DoD) wrote in the chat that the Department of Defense is interested in participating, and the agency is planning to incorporate TK into their consultation policy but are waiting to align that effort with the forthcoming federal-wide guidance.

ACHP Policy Statement on the Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects

Mr. Matt said there is interest in updating the ACHP's Policy Statement on the Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects, last updated in 2007. Mr. Matt noted that one reason for the update is the interagency effort to protect and return the remains of Indian children who died while forcibly made to attend boarding schools. On May 11, DOI released its report regarding the Federal Indian Boarding School initiative which confirmed that the United States directly targeted American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children in the pursuit of a policy of cultural assimilation that coincided with territorial dispossession. The report also identifies 408 federal Indian boarding schools across 37 states that operated between 1819 and 1969, with burial sites identified at 53 of them. Mr. Matt reminded the committee that the ACHP committed to supporting the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative through a letter sent to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland in December 2021.

Mr. Matt said the ACHP had been meeting with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) to determine how the ACHP could advance this effort. The meetings with NABS have been informative, and the ACHP feels that revising the existing policy so it speaks more directly to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians and their history could be a beneficial tool for federal agencies and other parties working to advance the Federal Indian Boarding School initiative.

Mr. Nelson noted that the original policy was written principally by people who were on the Archaeology Subcommittee who primarily spoke from the perspective of federal officials who were required to remove human remains, largely as a part of a Section 106 review. Mr. Nelson said the policy would benefit a great amount if expanded to consider different scenarios, including the requested removal/return of ancestors by Indian tribes or Native Hawaiians.

Ms. Sylvester shared in the chat that the Army has successfully disinterred and returned several children to families from Carlisle under its own regulations and funding and offered to set up a call with the Army General Counsel to discuss their process. Dr. Grussing asked to discuss Carlisle further. She was glad to see the involvement of NABS and has wondered how their expertise intersects with THPOs in terms of history, ethnography, and archaeology. THPOs have been doing the work of boarding school investigations and repatriations for many years. NATHPO has done an informal survey about Ground

Penetrating Radar to gauge what the capacity is and was pleasantly surprised by certifications and willingness to help. Dr. Grussing asked to participate and stressed the importance of elevating THPOs in this effort.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Nelson said performance goals were developed under each of the strategic plan elements, and he plans to share those with members soon and welcomes any comments by next week.

PRESERVATION INITIATIVES COMMITTEE VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee Chairman Rick Gonzalez was unable to participate, so Ramona Bartos convened the meeting on May 24.

Legislation

Dru Null led the group through a discussion of three legislative issues that might merit further exploration at the June committee meeting to consider possible motions of support before the full membership at the business meeting. The first topic was [FY 2023 Historic Preservation Fund \(HPF\) Appropriations](#). Preservation advocates are proposing an appropriation of \$200 million in funding from the HPF in FY 2023. The current appropriation for FY 2022 is \$173 million. Past support letters from the ACHP for HPF funding have tended to be sent in response to specific numbers proposed by Congress, which have not yet been developed. However, the ACHP recently contacted Congress in support of the Historic Preservation Enhancement Act, which calls for raising the authorized funding for the HPF to \$300 million.

Erik Hein (NCSHPO) pointed out that the Administration's request is for \$150 million, and that both it and the proposed \$200 figure were set before there were actual numbers for FY 2022. Mr. Hein shared a link to a fact sheet with [details on the FY 2023 funding request](#), including \$65 million for SHPOs and \$34 million for THPOs. Ms. Bartos asked if it would be helpful to advocate for additional resources for the NPS to assist in managing the HPF grant programs. Serena Bellew (NPS) responded that NPS has human resource challenges, but that the extent of the need would depend upon the specific HPF appropriations language. Ms. Null noted that ACHP support for enhanced HPF funding would be an opportunity to advocate for much needed additional funding for THPOs. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked if there was tribal input on the \$34 million request level, and Mr. Hein said NATHPO identified that number and was involved in making sure tribal needs were considered.

The [Japanese American World War II History Network Act](#) was discussed next. Ms. Null explained that this bill mirrors the legislation that created the existing African American Civil Rights Network, the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network, and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The bill would create a network of relevant sites, federal and nonfederal, which could receive interpretive, promotional, and other technical assistance from NPS. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked if these sites would go through special resource studies as do proposed National Parks. Corey Kegerise (NPS) said sites in existing NPS networks must verify pertinence to the network's purpose, but a special resource study is not needed. Ms. Null noted the bill passed the House of Representatives in March. NPS testified in support of the bill but proposed amending it to address stakeholder engagement and to enhance the bill's references to coordinating with existing NPS units and grant programs. These suggested changes were not included in the bill as passed by the House.

Next, Ms. Null explained that the [African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act](#) would establish the United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program, which would include a \$3 million grants program and a technical assistance program. Administered by NPS, the program would coordinate and facilitate efforts to identify, record, preserve, and interpret these often forgotten and neglected burial grounds. Ms. Bartos shared a link to a [related Pro Publica article](#) published this week. Ms. Null noted that ACHP support for the bill would comport with the Administration's focus on equity. Subcommittee

hearings have taken place on the bill in the House and Senate, and NPS testified in support. Ms. Paul said the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) has noted local expressions of support for the bill. John Finley noted that the bill has broad bipartisan support.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum moved that the committee propose that the ACHP support all three legislative items without reservation, and, since there was no objection, the consensus of the committee was to recommend support to the full membership at the summer business meeting.

Climate Change

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum gave an update on the May 23 meeting of the Climate Change and Historic Preservation Task Force, which was successful and well attended. The Task Force discussed a staff-proposed strategy for expanding ACHP outreach and training on climate issues. Federal agency representatives were asked to share what they are doing in this space, including training for federal employees and webinars available to broader audiences. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are developing related training for their staff, providing an opportunity for ACHP-developed content and input. DHS mentioned the possibility of the ACHP acting as a reviewer of their training. Ms. Null will be following up on these opportunities and also will contact the Association of Climate Change Officers. This organization has a suite of training courses that are developed through the work of expert panels. The ACHP will offer to assemble such a panel to work on a course dealing with historic preservation and climate change. Ms. Null noted the staff also will be pursuing enhanced social media outreach to call attention to guidance and other resources on climate impact available on the ACHP website.

Ms. Walker shared that this summer's youth summit participants will be doing risk assessments and documentation exercises related to climate change impacts. She suggested working with Geneva White and Marty Hylton of NPS, who will be coming to the summit, and also recommended inviting them to speak to the Preservation Initiatives Committee. Ms. Bartos noted that she had attended the latest [Keeping History Above Water](#) conference and shared a link to their website. Ms. Paul shared that NAPC is offering disaster planning and recovery [related courses](#) for local communities, funded by NPS, and is finalizing a story map. Mr. Kegerise said the National Main Street Center is working on disaster preparedness response guidance.

Brian Goeken (NPS) said NPS is working with the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology and seeking more partners for research and will be issuing more guidance. NPS is partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers on studies of how traditional building materials hold up to climate impacts. NPS also is doing training and workshops based on the NPS flooding guidelines and has recorded an introductory webinar. The goal is to institutionalize park inventory monitoring and facilities planning related to these guidelines. The focus is on internal training and parks regional training, and getting the cultural resources directorate to more closely work with facilities planning.

Mr. Matt updated the committee on work developing a [draft ACHP tribal climate action plan](#), with ongoing consultation with tribes and NHOs. Ms. Slick asked about tribal Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) being woven into ACHP guidance. Mr. Nelson noted that TEK is addressed in the draft climate action plan; the ACHP is considering developing a policy statement on incorporating TEK into Section 106 review.

Strategic Plan Performance Goals

Ms. Bartos asked for feedback on Strategic Plan performance goals created by the staff to advance the approved strategic goals adopted at the March ACHP meeting. Mr. Nelson noted these are measurable, discrete action items that will be undertaken by staff. He asked that any feedback be provided in writing by the end of the week. Mr. Finley said the goals were thorough and clear. He offered to assist in efforts under the plan to communicate with Congress on matters of concern to the ACHP.