



MINUTES

SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JUNE 29, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MEETING
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Zoom
June 29, 2022

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Call to Order 1:30 p.m. EDT

- I. Vice Chairman's Welcome and Report
- II. Acting Executive Director's Report
- III. Climate Change and Historic Preservation Task Force
- IV. Cultural Resources Workforce Development
- V. Native American Affairs
 - A. Establishing ACHP Policy Statement on Traditional Knowledge in Section 106 Reviews
 - B. Updating ACHP Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects
 - C. Other Reports
- VI. Section 106
 - A. Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Exemption
 - B. Program Alternatives Update
 - C. Other Reports
- VII. Historic Preservation Policy and Programs
 - A. Legislation
 - B. Other Reports
- VIII. Communications, Education, and Outreach
 - A. Core Competencies and Youth Engagement
 - B. Other Reports
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjourn

IN ATTENDANCE

Jordan Tannenbaum, Vice Chairman
John Finley
Rick Gonzalez
Luke Nichter
Jay Vogt

Architect of the Capitol

Administrator, General Services Administration

J. Brett Blanton

Represented by:

Beth Savage
Director, Center for
Historic Buildings,
Public Buildings
Service

Secretary of Defense

Represented by:

Richard Kidd
Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense
for Environment and
Energy Resilience

Secretary of Homeland Security

Represented by:

Teresa Pohlman
Director, Sustainability
and Environmental
Programs

Secretary of the Interior

Represented by:

Caroline Henry
Federal Preservation
Officer

Secretary of Transportation

Represented by:

Colleen Vaughn
Federal Preservation
Officer

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Represented by:

Michael Brennan
Executive Director,
Office of Construction
and Facilities
Management

Mayor Member

Hon. Robert Simison
Meridian, Idaho

Indian Tribe Member

Hon. Reno Keoni Franklin
Chairman, Kashia Band of
Pomo Indians

President, National Conference of State Historic
Preservation Officers

Ramona Bartos
North Carolina Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer

General Chairman, National Association of Tribal Historic
Preservation Officers

Represented by:
Valerie Grussing
Executive Director

Chair, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Represented by:
Paul Edmondson
President

OBSERVERS

Chair, National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

Paula Mohr
Principal, Bentonsport
Preservation, LLC (Iowa)

Preserve America Youth Summits

Ann Alexander Walker
Program Director

President, ACHP Foundation

Katherine Slick
Historic Preservation Consultant

In attendance and participating in the meeting were ACHP Acting Executive Director Reid Nelson; ACHP Office Directors Druscilla Null, Javier Marques; Office of Federal Agency Programs Assistant Directors Jaime Loichinger, Chris Koeppe; and, Shawn Patch, vice president of government relations for the American Cultural Resources Association.

PROCEEDINGS

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum called the summer business meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. June 29, 2022. He appointed Shayla Shrieves recorder for the meeting, and she called the roll of members present. The agenda was adopted with a motion by Kristopher King and second by Reno Franklin. The minutes from the March business meeting were adopted with a motion by John Finley and second by Ramona Bartos.

Vice Chairman's Welcome

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum gave an overview of the work he has been doing since the last business meeting. At the top of the list was the Climate Change Task Force, which he chairs. The group had a meeting on May 23, and he appreciated the high level of engagement and the topics discussed. The next meeting is July 21.

The second area that he has been involved in, in terms of listening sessions, was the electric vehicle supply equipment exemption. He led one of the sessions with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs). They learned a great deal from those consultations. Chairman Franklin added that he thought Vice Chairman Tannenbaum's presence at the meetings sets the tone and elevates to tribes that the ACHP is taking this seriously when the head of the agency is there to talk with tribes and interact. He commended the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) staff who did a good job of getting this prepared.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum continued that he has been involved with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC). The group's recent meeting gave the chance to talk about the progress being made in achieving the goals of the President's recently released permitting action plan. That plan sets important goals for improving the timeliness and effectiveness of environmental reviews for infrastructure projects. All of the members of FPISC, including the ACHP, are required to write

reports on how they are going to achieve their goals. He said there was a lot of time spent on offshore wind energy as an important part of the Administration's plans for clean energy. Then they talked about infrastructure goals and jobs. He said he pointed out to the group that in terms of Section 106 reviews, he mentioned ACHP support for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) activities, that BOEM is using a section of the regs, 36 CFR 800.8(c), which allows the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to substitute for the Section 106 reviews and the information and documentation that is required. That has enabled the ACHP to move forward in a timely and effective way.

He said he pointed out that the topic of offshore wind energy has put a huge burden on the Indian tribes and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs). He requested the FPISC members think of ways that they can help, particularly tribes, deal with the volume of material they have to review and the consultations and many meetings they have to participate in. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said the FPISC members said they appreciated the capacity, the need to deal with this capacity and find ways to assist the tribes, and that they would take that under consideration and do what they could.

He then updated members on the status of the executive director position which has been vacant, as has the chairman's position, since January 2021. He said he is fortunate to have Reid Nelson in the acting executive director position. Since it has been more than a year that he has been in the acting chairman's position, Vice Chairman Tannenbaum thinks it is time to address this vacancy and put a permanent executive director in place. He noted members agreed that they had wanted to hold off, to allow Chairman-Nominee Sara Bronin a chance to choose the executive director. But since her nomination is still pending a full Senate vote with no schedule on the horizon, he thought the time to move forward is now.

He asked Javier Marques to talk about the recruitment process. Mr. Marques gave an overview noting the position is in the Senior Executive Service, and the plan is to have the job announcement run for 30 days. After that, candidates will have multiple screenings and interviews, and the final decision will be made by Vice Chairman Tannenbaum with concurrence by ACHP members. The process may take four to six months.

Mr. Marques said he spoke with Professor Bronin to let her know they are going to proceed with the process and told her they need to ensure there is no real or perceived influence in the process from people like her who do not yet have a formal role or authority regarding the recruitment. He said she understands. He asked members to not reach out to her to discuss the recruitment or applicants.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Mr. Nelson said he is also looking forward to the executive director position being filled permanently and said it has been an honor and a pleasure to continue acting in the position and to support ACHP members in the important work the agency does.

He introduced new staff members including Vanessa Hanvey, who joined the ACHP as the liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs; and summer interns Jonathan Angulo, Jordyn Bush, Charlotte Hevly, Siena Hinshelwood, Emily Stood, and Megan Beech. He thanked the ACHP Foundation for their great support of interns.

He also gave an update on navigating the pandemic and slowly developing plans to reopen the office. He has a phased reopening plan in place which will likely be implemented within the next two months. He will share more information with ACHP members as the plan progresses.

Climate Change and Historic Preservation Task Force

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said the next meeting will be July 21. He asked Chairman Franklin to give more information about the listening session on climate change he led. Chairman Franklin said there was great participation discussing impacts, not just from American Indian tribes, but from some Native Hawaiian traditional practitioners who also joined. The feedback received was really broad in scope and helps him to better identify and understand what cultural resources are to tribes and how they see effects from climate change.

He has also been working with the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA) and looking for partner agencies to assist with the implementation of the ACHP's tribal and NHO Action Plan. A few of the projects they are working on include the ACHP supporting the Bureau of Indian Affairs' lower 48 community-led relocation pilot review process. ONAA's staff and intern have also conducted an inventory of agency climate plans to determine how effectively sacred sites, historic properties, and traditional knowledge (TK) have been incorporated; the results of this inventory will inform development of template language meant to advance further consideration of those topics when agency climate plans are revisited.

He said there is another project where the ACHP, Department of the Interior (DOI), and Environmental Protection Agency are launching a WHCNA Indigenous Climate Adaptation Speaker Series designed to have tribal, Native Hawaiian, and other Indigenous professionals educate federal agency personnel regarding their responsibility to consult and coordinate in an effort to combat climate change.

Teresa Pohlman said at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), they have a climate professionals program and are bringing 12 into the first cadre. One of the special emphasis areas they are trying to help implement is DHS's Climate Action Plan. They are also working on the annual update to the Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and she would like to make the Native American emphasis a special emphasis area for the climate professionals. Chairman Franklin said he would be happy to help her.

The vice chairman asked Druscilla Null to summarize the rest of the recent climate task force meeting. She said a key focus was looking at a strategy for training and outreach. The task force members are concerned about not only building capacity of understanding about climate change and historic properties within federal agencies, but also broadly within the public sphere. The group reviewed an outreach strategy that would involve the ACHP continuing to produce webinars on the issue. The ACHP also will seek to work with federal agencies that are doing climate change training to see to what extent the ACHP might be able to contribute content that would specifically deal with historic properties.

The ACHP will make sure that climate change is part of the case studies and other parts of its Section 106 training courses. Also, the idea was floated that the ACHP might want to seek a partnership with the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO). That organization offers a suite of training courses on cultural resources. Ms. Null reached out to the executive director of ACCO who is interested in exploring a partnership.

Ms. Null said the task force supported this overall outreach strategy, and focused on the idea of using the ACHP's website and its social media to start getting the word out more generally to the general public.

Cultural Resources Workforce Development

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said this is an area that is important for the ACHP, for the federal government, and the entire preservation community. He said when you add in the many projects that are being worked on now and that are being contemplated, coupled with the fact that the federal workforce

has seen a reduction in the number of staff who carry out and oversee environmental reviews in recent years, we are challenged to build back the staffing levels.

It has become a real problem inside and outside of the government. He introduced Shawn Patch, vice president of government relations for the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) to talk about this issue playing out in the private sector as well as the government, and particularly among cultural resource management firms.

Mr. Patch said he was asked to provide a few comments on how ACRA is approaching the current staffing shortage in cultural resources management (CRM). He began with a brief discussion on some of the challenges currently facing the industry, including seeing a significant shift to an emphasis on the importance of meeting schedules. That emphasis on schedules and project delivery will only increase as new work emerges from the infrastructure bill. Typically, the default response to increased scheduled demand is to hire more staff. However, like many organizations, ACRA members are struggling with labor market challenges and a shortage of qualified candidates.

He said they can no longer rely on academia to produce the labor force that CRM needs, because many universities are scaling back programs. Graduates may be seeking employment in other sectors. He said he hears regularly from ACRA members that job ads often receive few, if any, responses.

There is intense competition for a small pool of applicants. This applies to state and federal agencies and private firms. He sees a lot of folks jumping from one job to another; it is a job seeker's market. With no new staff to fill those vacancies, firms and agencies are obviously left short-handed. The cost of college, both for undergraduates and those seeking advanced degrees, has increased significantly. That creates barriers in CRM.

In terms of potential solutions, one approach is to change the working conditions, and this largely applies to archaeology. Thinking about archaeology, much of the work is physically demanding, and it requires extensive travel. Mr. Patch said although the private sector cannot change where the projects are located or how much work is needed for a given project, it is possible to implement small steps, such as clean and safe hotels or providing weekend lodging, higher rates for meals, and paid travel time. Those are around the margin, but it can help to attract good people and to make sure they know their efforts are appreciated for the working conditions.

A second possible solution is higher wages. He said private firms can highlight the benefits of working in a particular area. For a private firm, it might be the pay or the company culture and ethics. There is an opportunity to conduct some research and present that at professional conferences or in publications. Another potential solution is to enhance university outreach. Later this year, ACRA will be debuting its university partnership program, which seeks to recognize institutions that prepare students well for a career in CRM and work with those that want to adjust their curriculum to better do so.

That might include recruitment at career fairs and offering paid internships. Another area where the private sector can step up is to provide better career opportunities and well-defined career paths for advancement within the private sector. They can create more permanent positions for those with BA degrees. He said hopefully this will help with retention and job security and recruitment.

They can also financially support staff who have an interest or have the aptitude to seek an advanced degree. This requires an investment and commitment on behalf of a private firm, but that is where industry can step up.

Mr. Patch said a topic they have discussed is consideration of adjusting the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualifications Standards. One approach is to consider adding an exception for experience. Another area is to look at certification and apprenticeship programs, especially for

archaeology, although that may apply for other areas as well. It could be an alternative to a BA degree. It could allow firms to recruit directly from high school students, possibly even certified through the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked about loan forgiveness for students who work for a certain amount of time in a certain profession; might we try to include this area as one of those professions? Mr. Patch said he would look into that. Luke Nichter added that the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program is a really interesting idea. It is not based on a choice of profession. It is based on an Approved Employer, which is determined typically by the tax status of the employer. He thinks there is an approved list of employer ID numbers, a tax filing. He suggested taking a look at who is on the list of Approved Employers and find creative ways to expand that list.

Katherine Slick asked about the Veterans Curation Project and if the SOI Standards were posing a barrier for job candidates. Mr. Patch said everyone recognizes there are many people out there who have been practicing for a number of years who, through experience, are probably as qualified, if not more so, than many people who have the formal training. Maybe it is time to have that discussion on a broad level and whether there is some merit to reconsider those SOI qualifications, and what it might look like if there was an alternative. He said understood that there is a difference between SOI qualifications and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) standards. What he has heard in ACRA for several years has been about trying to bring the OPM standards up to the SOI qualifications.

Dr. Pohlman said she agreed with Mr. Patch about the SOI qualifications and the alignment with OPM. There is also the matter of there not being a job classification for cultural resources manager, historic preservationists, or architectural historians. She suggested the ACHP work with FPISC to work with OPM regarding classification, because the federal government, in addition to private industry, needs the ability to hire these people.

Ms. Bartos wrote in the chat that state and local government employment for 10 years qualifies a student for loan forgiveness, but the question of what type of student loan qualifies (public vs. private) might be another matter. Dr. Nichter added in the chat that typically only federal student loans are included, but it may be possible to revisit the rules with the Department of Education.

Caroline Henry said the SOI standards are under revision at DOI. They are hoping it is going to come together in the next 12 months or less. She said they are well aware of the disconnect with the OPM standards or classifications. OPM was approached about that many years ago and was unwilling to tackle the issue. It is on DOI's agenda to revisit that issue with OPM.

Chairman Franklin said he hopes that any changes to the SOI standards consider Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) who are working for their own tribes, and how TK is not recognized in the way that it should be in the SOI standards.

Mr. Nelson said at the last meeting of the FPISC, they discussed how staff shortages and workforce challenges are being felt in almost all of the natural and cultural resource environment spheres. He said the important opportunity in front of the ACHP is that an awareness of these staff shortages potentially affecting the ability of agencies to advance environmental reviews, on, among other things, infrastructure projects, has caught the attention of OPM. At that last FPISC meeting, an OPM representative was there, and they are already thinking of a variety of possible options, from designating interagency teams to adjusting hiring authorities.

Ms. Henry said she wanted to assure everyone that DOI will not be moving any revision of the Standards forward without addressing the issue of indigenous knowledge and other TK.

Mayor Robert Simison said this is a nationwide problem for all sectors. There are not enough workers in the pipeline to fill all the jobs there were in the past. Everyone needs to figure out where their biggest needs are, and prioritize those needs. There are not enough people to fill what we need as a country throughout the system. There are going to be jobs that are going to go away because we just do not have the people, he said. In the preservation community, which ones are the most relevant? His advice is to put the efforts there, whether they can attract a new generation of workers, or they are just the highest necessity within the organization to have the highest skill level.

Ms. Bartos mentioned the public service aspect, continuing to emphasize the importance of public service to support civil society. There is a generation of very socially minded students who are coming up through the ranks. This is a career path they would embrace if they understood it is very much a sincere thought amongst their cohort who is already working professionally.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked the two committees who discussed this topic the most to comment. Jay Vogt said the Federal Agency Programs (FAP) Committee had a wide-ranging discussion about cultural resource workforce development. The committee focused on a few central concerns.

Federal personnel practices and recruiting can be limiting and difficult to navigate for both agencies and applicants. More flexibility is needed to help agencies connect with the kinds of skills needed for their cultural resources work. He said potential applicants could benefit from better information about how to match their qualifications to federal hiring requirements. Those requirements should be right sized to the job responsibilities and better tailored to a wide range of disciplinary skills that are used in federal preservation jobs.

Revisions to the SOI Standards and the OPM job classifications could help. Compensation is another stumbling block to recruiting and retaining staff. Mr. Vogt said training was also discussed. Members noted the potential for the ACHP's training programs to help people in other federal positions transition into doing Section 106 work as well as to introduce students and new professionals to those preservation jobs.

For next steps, the committee recommended reaching out to professional organizations and university training programs, such as members of the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE), to generate interest in the field, demystify the federal employment process, and begin a dialogue about what skills are needed to successfully apply for federal cultural resource positions.

One outgrowth of that dialogue could be defining core competencies for federal preservation work, which the Communications, Education, and Outreach (CEO) Committee also discussed. Dr. Nichter said the CEO Committee had a guest speaker, Rachel Klein, a historian for the Forest Service, who spoke both as a trained educator and a federal hiring manager, and who gave the committee ideas to consider. She suggested reaching earlier in the pipeline down to high school and college-aged students to make sure they have key concepts in history and historic preservation, so that by the time they get to considering careers in historic preservation, we have already "got them," and they are more likely to be inclined to apply and pursue such careers.

She said from her experience, it is important to connect history with a place in the first stage, rather than talking to them right upfront using jargon and details about Section 106. She suggested working with faculty to connect with students. Provide them with a list of internships, opportunities, where they can seek practical experience. She said these students need help navigating the federal hiring system, in particular finding their way through USAJOBS. She talked about reaching out to colleges to make sure students have proper electives, college courses that prepare them with real world skills.

She gave an example of how often educational programs lack the empirical-based courses, hands-on learning that is often needed. Then new hires find a disconnect between what they learned in the classroom and the skill sets they need out in the real world.

Dr. Nichter noted committee members suggested working with teachers to connect with them through their professional associations as well as social media and teacher/student online portals. Another suggestion was an enhanced public awareness campaign about the ACHP, and its work and mission, utilizing trade associations to get the word out. As well, reaching out to directors of graduate programs at universities to help with recruitment and university career centers and those who specialize in communicating opportunities with students.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked the questions posed in the meeting book. First, how should the ACHP prioritize its response actions? Mr. Vogt said federal agencies are saying they need experienced professionals. In terms of working through developing a workforce, right now, because of the infrastructure bill, the experience is really important. Being able to identify those people in the field and bring them back, so to speak.

Ms. Bartos suggested having some dialogue, delegation, listening sessions with the NCPE. Also, there is a need to right size some of these job descriptions. She does not think someone needs a PhD to do Section 106 review. It is complex work, but she does not know that it requires that level of education. That might help gather in more potential candidates.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said the next question was “How should the ACHP collaborate with federal agencies and partners to identify specific challenges and opportunities surrounding workforce development and recruitment for federal preservation jobs?” Ann Walker suggested to the federal agencies that they follow the ACHP model with offering internships at various levels. The challenge about people entering the workforce or moving up in it is they say, “What experience have you had doing this?”

She suggested encouraging colleagues at the federal agencies to do what the ACHP has done, which is multiple interns, in in-depth layers, so they have that experience. They have to have something to get their foot in the door. They may be immensely talented and qualified and do not quite have the experience yet.

Ms. Slick suggested the 24 members of the ACHP personally come together to figure out how to solve some of these problems, rather than rely only on the staff to address the issues.

Mr. Nelson said the ACHP alone cannot solve and address this issue. It is going to take partnerships with many others. He said he is happy to hear the ideas about what specifically the ACHP can and should do, probably principally within the federal family at first, and perhaps expanding beyond that to prioritize things right now that will help agencies advance their infrastructure projects.

Chairman Franklin pointed out that when talking about CRM, tribes have been doing this for a very long time with a limited amount of success since other people came here, including other tribes. With 209 THPOs, they are very much a part of CRM in the workforce. He said when considering problems and solutions, also consider the issues that tribes have in contracting with federal agencies. With some of the recovery work that happens, there are millions of dollars at stake and hundreds, if not thousands, of sacred sites both on and off trust land.

When talking about the workforce, he said to look at the barriers to tribes to have a larger impact in the field of CRM when it comes to workforce development, recruitment, retention in Indian Country of wanting to have CRM professionals come in to work for us.

Native American Affairs

Chairman Franklin said the Native American Affairs Committee had a good discussion on TK. They have been talking about doing a policy statement on TK in the Section 106 process. The ACHP did an informational paper in 2021. Now more is needed. He said they have previously collaborated with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to host a side event. They are working with the WHCNAA to develop federal-wide guidance.

TK has not consistently or effectively been integrated into the Section 106 process. It can be. They are looking to go deeper and a more meaningful inclusion of TK into it. A member-approved policy sets clear expectations for ACHP staff, and probably some federal staff. The current Administration has been clear that TK is a valid form of information and part of the best available tribal science.

Mr. Vogt said the FAP Committee heard from Ira Matt about the timeline for this effort, and what a policy statement could accomplish for the ACHP in relationship to forthcoming federal-wide agency guidance on TK. They decided that both the Native American Affairs Committee and the FAP Committee cannot work in silos on this particular topic. The committee looks forward to collaborating closely on framing how TK should be integrated into the Section 106 review process.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum moved on to a discussion about updating the ACHP policy statement on burial sites, human remains, and funerary objects. Chairman Franklin said anytime he discusses human remains, as Chairman of his tribe, he apologizes in advance. If anybody later is listening to this, and he inadvertently discusses their tribes' human remains, he asked forgiveness.

He said the ACHP had previously developed a policy statement that is not bad. With all policy statements, as our understanding of the subject matter gains and the voices come to the table, it is time to take a review and possibly update. That is the case here. In particular, this policy greatly benefits from a more direct conversation pertaining to American Indian tribes, Alaskan natives, and Native Hawaiians. The intent of the original burial policy targeted all people. That will not change in proposed updates. He said the reality is that Native American and Native Hawaiian burials are impacted at a greater rate than other groups, which should make complete sense.

One of the big things that would be different is the inclusion of the boarding school initiative. Native American boarding school groups are working on how to consider and create a policy statement that is reflective of the thousands of Indian children that are buried at these boarding schools, regarding the access, removal, and return.

Trying to find those individuals and where they are at, and look for ways to bring those children home to their parents and reunite them in the places that they were meant to be. That is something that certainly should have a statement of policy in how the ACHP can collaborate and work to effectively assist in that happening.

Overall, the committee had a good discussion. They talked about interacting more with Indian tribes, Native Hawaiians, and the African American community in updating this policy to ensure it addressed topics of concern to them. The committee recognizes the need to maintain consistency with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act's proposal rulemaking. Further, the policy update should recognize TK and the expertise of tribes and Native Hawaiians in the identification, documentation, and treatment of burial sites, human remains, and funerary items.

Chairman Franklin said we stand to learn a lot from our partners in the National Park Service on how to negotiate these protections for cemeteries, and recognizing it based on TK and incorporating that traditional aspect. Similar to the policy and TK, development of this policy will include collaboration

with Indian tribes, Native Hawaiians, and the ACHP committees, federal agencies, THPOs, and SHPOs. ONAA staff will be sharing the resources with members in the coming weeks.

Section 106

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum commended Jaime Loichinger for the excellent work she and her team are doing in consulting the states and working with Indian tribes and NHOs and other preservation partners as they continue to craft an exemption for electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE).

Mr. Vogt said Ms. Loichinger explained to the committee how the comments received in the recent consultation efforts were being integrated into the draft exemption. The staff's plans for a second round of consultation opportunities are based on these revisions.

Ms. Loichinger gave a presentation to the members and showed graphics and information on the screen. She said the presentation is regarding the electrical hardware and equipment that is used to supply electricity to a plug-in electric vehicle.

There are three different levels of EVSE. Level one requires the lowest amount of electrical capacity. It is what is in someone's home garage most of the time. Level two is often seen in public places, as it utilizes a larger electrical capacity. It can be wall-mounted or pole-mounted or freestanding. Level three, also known as direct current or fast charge, provides the fastest charge to vehicles, using the highest level of electrical capacity. It can be installed in a variety of methods, like level two.

The draft exemption, as it is currently worded, does require co-location on existing electric infrastructure or within existing parking structures. In consultation meetings that wrapped up just a couple of weeks ago, the EVSE level that seemed to cause the most concern was level three, mostly because of the perceived size of it and the amount of electrical infrastructure that is needed to support it. Ms. Loichinger said it can look similar to a gas pump. Something that size can reasonably fit into an existing streetscape or mimic existing bus station stops, as well as existing signage.

Regarding the physical size of level three, the technology is constantly evolving, and general trends indicate it will have a smaller physical footprint, and be more similar to levels one and two in size. Two types of EVSE charging stations that are not subject to the proposed exemption are those that would include construction of canopies or photovoltaic arrays, solar arrays.

As was discussed in the FAP Committee, in addition to the comments received during the consultation meetings, 23 written comments were received. Ms. Loichinger is putting together a response to comments document right now. Then the ACHP will carry out a second round of consultation with the revised exemption and the response to comments document. The ACHP will also host another series of meetings to discuss that, and can hopefully submit a final version of the exemption to the members in late August or early September.

Mr. Vogt said he wanted to remind members that this exemption does not attempt to cover all EVSE charging equipment, but rather, a subset of EVSE that can reasonably result in no adverse effects to historic properties. Members will receive more detailed information and be invited to participate in a video conference once the exemption is ready for ACHP action.

Richard Kidd said the EVSE issue is extremely important to the Department of Defense (DoD). They have 180,000 nontactical vehicles and a requirement to electrify that entire fleet by 2030. He continued that he knows members are aware that the Army, on behalf of DoD, is working on a program comment for Vietnam War-era housing. He said it is the most appropriate, most cost effective, and most beneficial approach to managing what is a large and growing portfolio. For this case, this is 7,500-plus buildings for the Army.

Mr. Vogt said he expects to see the program comment submitted by August. Members will be provided with the ACHP staff's assessment of it at that time.

He said the FAP Committee also heard about the General Services Administration's (GSA) effort to develop an exemption for the agency's routine maintenance and preservation activities. Invitations to consultation opportunities for this exemption will be sent out soon, and will include further details about the exemption, including an appendix of proposed activities to be subject to the exemption, and a list of the historic buildings GSA owns or manages where it could apply.

Chris Koepfel said the consultation for the Army Program Comment for Vietnam War-Era Family Housing began in January 2022. The Army has concluded its eight-month public participation process. A number of interested parties involved in these consultation meetings included 10 THPOs, 13 SHPOs, four non-governmental organizations, and the ACHP, totaling 47 individuals.

The Army considered all the comments and implemented a number of actions to inform and update the draft program comment. It is important that this consultation is ongoing, and those comments were seriously considered. He said the Army is now moving into the next phase: preparation and submission of the program comment to the ACHP and expects to submit the program comment in August for ACHP action.

He continued that GSA is pursuing an exempted category for routine maintenance and preservation activities performed on historic buildings that are in GSA's custody and control nationwide. There really is just a small potential for any of these actions to have any impact to a historic property. The GSA exemption is predicated on the agency's preservation infrastructure policy, personnel, and practices. He and GSA will be sending out invitations to SHPOs and Indian tribes in the next week for meetings to discuss the draft exemption text.

Mr. Vogt added that the FAP Committee was pleased to meet Charlotte Hevly, the summer intern for the Office of Federal Agency programs, who is researching examples of successful Section 106 agreement stipulations. They also heard updates on the Section 106 training program, which is preparing a new and improved platform for the e-learning portal, and offering Section 106 training opportunities for summer interns and students participating in the Preservation in Practice and Cultural Heritage in the Forest programs this summer.

Preservation Initiatives

Rick Gonzalez said the committee had a good discussion and considered three legislative issues. He then moved, that the ACHP supports an increase in Historic Preservation Fund appropriations in FY 2023 to at least the \$200 million proposed by preservation advocates; recommends that funding for THPOs be commensurate with their growth in numbers; and directs the chairman to so advise the Congress.

Mr. Vogt seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with 12 ayes.

Mr. Gonzalez then moved, that the ACHP supports the Japanese American World War II History Network Act (H.R. 6434), and directs the chairman to so advise the Congress.

Mr. Finley seconded it. After a roll call vote, the motion passed with 12 ayes.

Mr. Gonzalez then moved, that the ACHP supports the African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act (S. 3667/H.R.6805), and directs the chairman to so advise the Congress.

Paul Edmondson seconded it. After a roll call vote, the motion passed with 12 ayes.

Mr. Gonzalez continued on with his report noting that the Preservation Initiatives Committee discussed the White House's recently released housing supply action plan. At their meeting, Sarah Brundage, a senior advisor for housing and infrastructure for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), was in attendance. There was an excellent exchange of ideas about the untapped potential for rehabilitation of historic buildings to help address the housing shortage and possible opportunities for HUD to promote rehabilitation projects. ACHP staff will be following up with Ms. Brundage to discuss the possible next steps and fulfill her requests for recent studies and case examples regarding historic buildings and affordable housing. She also encouraged committee members to contact her to explore the issues.

The committee also discussed hard-rock mining reform. The ACHP is a member of an interagency working group led by DOI, that is looking at possible reforms for hard-rock mining laws and regulations. One idea under discussion is requiring for the first time, payment of royalties to the federal government for mining on federal lands.

The committee considered the idea of a portion of any new hard-rock mining royalties being allocated to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Current funding of the HPF is from offshore oil and gas lease revenues, which are down these days, and may not be sustainable in the long-term. Hard-rock mining royalties might provide an additional revenue stream. The committee discussed the pros and cons but did not reach consensus on the merits of the idea.

The interagency working group will be having listening sessions for SHPOs and THPOs in the coming months, which provides an opportunity to further explore the issue. Participants could be asked for their views on how royalties potentially could assist in the preservation of cultural resources, either through the HPF or in other ways. ACHP staff will continue to explore this option with a working group.

Mr. Finley noted that the briefing materials say, "Some argue that the impact of fossil fuel use on climate change is simply too damaging to continue supporting the current funding arrangement." He rejects that view, since it would be needlessly destructive to historic preservation. He supports the idea of exploring a variety of current and potential funding sources for the HPF.

Communications, Education, and Outreach

Dr. Nichter said one thing that kept coming up in the CEO Committee's discussion of core competencies is how the ACHP makes excellent use of interns. What he extrapolated from that discussion is that it could be possible, in terms of the current and past interns, to make them aware of job openings, perhaps helping them to navigate what could be a complicated application process. He said internships are something the students want, employers like them, and certainly, they help them to develop the direct applicable skill set that they need to pursue careers in historic preservation. Academic programs want them.

He said there were two other key discussions: one was on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) engagement, which has been a long-term project. He asked members to think about how they can engage with HBCUs and build networking opportunities with students of those institutions. Committee members discussed having events and in-person meetings that are important for the personal touch.

The other is an emerging partnership with the Library of Congress. Both Vice Chairman Tannenbaum and Susan Glimcher met with the Library of Congress leadership. The ACHP might be able to do some work with them and their collections connected to HBCUs, as well as with tribes. The committee discussed possibly a joint intern between the ACHP and the Library of Congress, funded by grant money. The substantial Mellon funding that they are getting was mentioned as a possibility.

Another idea was suggested that the ACHP poll members about any relationships they already have with the Library of Congress, and utilizing those to the fullest in terms of how to grow this partnership in the future.

New Business

Ms. Slick reported that the ACHP Foundation and the ACHP have come up with a new program. They are looking to cultivate a new and fully representational generation of preservation leaders. The new program is the 21st Century Leaders Fellowship.

She is asking for member assistance right now in helping put this together, but also, in finding qualified candidates. The idea is that the fellowship will provide early career preservation professionals with a comprehensive understanding of historic preservation policy formulation and implementation at the national level. Through an immersive hands-on experience, she sees these fellows interacting with policymakers in the governmental and private sectors, both nonprofit and for-profit. They would like the fellowship to last for six to nine months in Washington, D.C.

The application process is open through September 15. She hopes to have someone on board next January, working with the ACHP leadership as well as other organizations.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum thanked the committee chairmen Dr. Nichter, Mr. Vogt, Mr. Gonzalez, and Chairman Franklin. He said it is a privilege and a pleasure to work with them.

The next business meeting is scheduled for October 26. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said he hoped it would be in-person and with a permanent chairman in place. The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.