



Board meeting minutes
October 25, 2024
10:00 AM to 12:00PM

Remote (Zoom Meeting)

Board members present: Erika Scheuring, Duane Reid, Andy LeBrun, Weber Griser, Skye Gilham, Thomas Livoti, and at 11:00am, Aaron Brien.

Agency Staff: Terri Hogan, Jessica Bush, Janna Williams

Present, but not able to vote, Gheri Hall from 10:00 to 10:45am.

Not present: Michael Blackwolf, John Murray, Dyan Youpee, Wallace Bearchum, Kevin Askan, Jonathan Windy Boy.

During the hour waiting for Aaron, Erika asked the group if there is a day or time that is known to be better or worse than other times for meetings. Everyone juggles scheduling, a few preferred not Monday, and Skye always has a meeting on Friday from 12 to 1pm.

Gheri Hall said John Murray asked her to fill in for him on the Burial Board. Gheri will replace John as the Blackfeet representative on the board. Terri will send Gheri the online application. Gheri will need written support, either a letter or email, from the Tribe delegating her to the Burial Board as the Tribe's representative, plus an email from John Murray sent to Erika stating that he is resigning from the Burial Board so Gheri can be appointed to the Board.

Jessica stated that if there is no quorum to start the meeting, she would like to present some information on some of the cases for the notes.

At 10:30am, Aaron informed Erika that he would be able to attend at 11:00am. Erika asked the board members present if they would be willing to come back at 11. They said yes, but Skye had a conflict at 12:00pm, so the board meeting would end at noon.

Erika stated her concern that if there was no quorum, it would be a year between decisions. Erika asked if the members present would be willing to have a meeting in December or January. The proposed date is January 10, 2025 for the board's next meeting and they'd try for more tribal representation for some of the decisions. Erika will send out an email to get that set up.

Jessica's updates:

- PR-04: Powder River (PR) museum, Jessica contacted them, and the museum will work with MT BPB to reinter the remains. The closest board representative would be the Northern Cheyenne representative, Wallace Bearchum, so the board will wait until he is appointed to ask him if he would be willing to take on that case.
 - o Weber asked if the board knew the ethnicity:
 - Jessica said possibly Native American, but the remains were found by a farmer in the 1960s and donated to the museum.
- PR-03: Remains discovered by a hunter on private property. The property owner is open for reburial in place. The board needs a board representative to take the lead, once again, this may be suggested for Wallace, as the closest board member.
 - o Weber asked if Jessica knew the ethnicity:
 - Jessica said they are Native American.

Break until 11:00

Attendance at 11:05: Aaron, Erika, Thomas, Skye, Weber, Andy, and Duane, plus Terri, Jessica and Janna.

1. Call to order at 11:05 am.
2. Duane gave the opening prayer.
3. Motion to approve May 2024 minutes passed unanimously.
4. The board tabled elections for Chair and Vice Chair until January when more members can be present.
5. Terri said that Conrad signed the MOA with the University of Montana, Department of Anthropology, for the board to work with Dr. Meredith Snow.
6. New Cases
 - a. PR-04: Jessica confirmed PR museum has remains, looking for board member to take on the case. See notes from Jessica's update above. Located in Broadus, MT, the most likely person to assist will be Wallace from Northern Cheyenne Tribe.
 - b. MO-04: Erika – human remains were found and reburied in place at the same location they were discovered. Worked with Kevin Askan and Jessica Bush during the time. Case was opened and closed the same day.
 - c. FR-01: Weber – two teeth were identified by a graduate student as human teeth in a faunal analysis. He would like to submit the teeth to Dr. Meredith Snow for analysis. Cost for analysis would be covered by Central Montana Historical Association to get DNA analysis. The Central Montana Historical Association would like to have Dr. Snow do the testing and reinter appropriately.
7. Board declined to take a break.
8. Cases requiring Board Action
 - a. FA-01, Jessica, a letter mailed in March 2024 and a call from Conrad to the sheriff's office, with no response. Andy said he would take on the case and call the sheriff's office. Case assigned to Andy
 - b. FH-01/UN-08 – Jessica – two skulls that were with the large case load from the Montana Historical Museum. The board in 2023 wanted to wait for the MOA to be signed with the UM Department of Anthropology to conduct the analysis. Now that the MOA is signed, need Board approval.
 - i. Motion passed unanimously to have the skull DNA analysis.

- ii. Jessica will contact Dr. Snow to conduct analysis
 - c. PR-03: Jessica contacted the landowner to reinter at original location. Remains are located close to Powderville in Powder River County.
 - i. The board will wait for Wallace’s appointment and then ask that he take on the case.
 - d. RB-01: A former ranch worker called Jessica and let the MT BPB know that when he worked for a ranch near Colstrip MT in 1976, in the ranch house library, there was a human skull. The ranch was sold, and everything was boxed up and put into storage about 8 to 10 years ago (2014-2016). Unfortunately, the report said that as of September 2024, the former ranch hand can no longer locate the skull.
 - i. Duane asked if there was a police report on the skull. Jessica did not know
 - ii. Andy will contact the sheriff’s office to find out if that office has any information on the remains.
 - e. TL-01 / TL-02 – Neither Gheri nor John Murray were on the call – no update.
 - f. Scalp locks – need more tribal representation to discuss these cases – no update.
 - g. UN-09 – Assigned board member unavailable – no update.
9. Case Updates
- a. BH-01 / TE-01: Aaron waiting for assistance with reburial.
 - b. BH-02: Aaron, waiting for assistance with reburial.
 - c. CR-02: Jesscia – This is the case with the human skull attached to a board located under a single wide trailer in Great Falls. Originally thought Native American female, case was reopened to identify ethnicity. UM conducted non-destructive analysis but had a hard time getting enough DNA to sequence. UM will run a second attempt using non-destructive methods but may need to conduct more invasive DNA analysis. Jessica will report in January if a board decision is necessary to allow additional DNA analysis.
 - d. LC-01: Assigned board member not present for update
 - e. MO-01: Assigned board member not present for update
 - f. MO-02: Assigned board member not present for update
 - g. ML-02/UN-01: Assigned board member not present for update
 - h. TL-03 / UN-12: Duane worked with his tribe and reinterred remains at First People’s Buffalo Jump on October 23, 2024. He said they were able to provide a traditional burial ceremony with bundles.
 - i. UN-10: Duane will reach out to Leech Lake Reservation for consent to reinter remains as the Leech Lake tribe are similar tribal cousins to the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe.
10. Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Scheuring at 12:00

NOTE: Due to a public notice issue, the two noted Board decisions will be confirmed in the next board meeting proposed for January 10, 2025.