



**Minutes of the Public Meeting of the
Board of Directors of the Florida Public Archaeology Network,
Conference Call – August 25, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), University of West Florida, held a public meeting via conference call on Wednesday, August 25, 2010. The meeting convened at 9:00 A.M. CDT and lasted approximately 1 hour. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Southwest Region.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Bense at 9:04 a.m. CDT.

Roll was taken and the following directors were in attendance: Dr. Judy Bense, Chair; Ms. Patty Flynn; Mr. Paul Jones; Dr. Lynne Goldstein; Mr. Robin Moore; Dr. Ryan Wheeler; Ms. Norma Harris; and Ms. Lee Hutchinson. Absent board members were: Mr. Greg Cook and Mr. Terry Klein.

Other in attendance were Dr. William B. Lees, Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board; Dr. Elizabeth Benchley, staff advisor to the Board; Cheryl Phelps, FPAN Coordinating Center Office Administrator; Theresa Schober, Town of Fort Myers Beach.

Dr. Bense called for the approval of the minutes from the May 7, 2010 meeting in Fort Myers Beach. Dr. Goldstein made the motion to approve the minutes and Robin Moore seconded. All members approved.

Dr. Lees gave a brief update of the FPAN operations. The FPAN 2009-10 Annual Report is completed and found on the FPAN web page. Overall, it was a good year with great staffing and creative ideas... The revised MOA was signed and in effect for the next five years and is also found on the FPAN web page. We are still awaiting the sublease on the Carriage House office space. Dr. Wheeler says it is in the works and will follow up the status. Until then, the North Central Region is operating from desk space offered by DHR at the Martin House until the office space can be renovated. The Strategic Plan has been finalized and is approved and will guide us for the next five years.

Dr. Bense called for the next item – discussion of the issues at the Southwest Region. Dr. Lees presented an overview of his findings of the issues and outlined his approach to getting some resolution that would result in the smooth and efficient operation of the Southwest Region center. He expressed that he was dealing with conflicting information rather than first hand observation, but that it was clear there were problems that were preventing the smooth operation of the Center. Part of this may be incumbent in the nature of municipal government and may have been aggravated by frequent changes in administration. After several phone conversations, Dr. Lees traveled to Fort Myers Beach to further discuss the situation with the host P.I. Theresa Schober and with FPAN Director Steve Archer and Outreach Coordinator Matt Schuld. Town Manager Terry Stewart was also in attendance. The outcome of the meeting produced no solutions. At this point, Dr. Lees expressed his hesitancy with hiring a new Director because he lacks confidence

that operations with the current host will be different due to the lack of any consensus on what the problems are and how they might be resolved.

At this time, the Board members pursued detailed discussion of the issue. Theresa Schober offered her perspective on the situation. After a question and answer period, Board member Robin Moore, who works for a local government agency, shared his views of how acting on a state level would be difficult for his employer. He further elaborated on how in many regards it is hard for town administrators to share the benefits of the work of their employees with other jurisdictions, and made a motion to terminate the contract with the Town of Fort Myers Beach and seek a new host. Board member Norma Harris seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Discussion of possible new hosts followed. Dr. Lees suggested that since Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) had originally applied to be a host in 2008, and since their proposal was favorably reviewed at that time, they should be considered a viable candidate. Dr. Lees proposed to approach (FGCU) to see if they are still interested in serving as a host of the Southwest Region.

New Business

Lee Hutchinson asked if it was intended for the Board to travel to Tallahassee in September for the FPAN/DHR meeting. Dr. Lees advised Board members are welcomed but not required.

Dr. Bense inquired about the FAS meeting in May, which FPAN will still attend and hold the annual FPAN meeting. The meeting will start on Thursday afternoon and carry-over to Friday morning.

The mid-term meeting will be in late November or early December and held in Tampa.

Old Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.