

Plains Anthropological Society
Business Meeting - 2021
Friday, **November 12, 2021**, 5:00 pm MT
78th Annual Plains Conference, Boulder, CO
MINUTES

1. Welcome and call to order (Kelly Pool) – The 2021 PAS Business Meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm with approximately 48 persons in attendance.
2. Approval of the agenda – Cherie Haury-Artz moved to approve the planned agenda, seconded by Kacy Hollenback, and passed without objection.
3. Waiver of the reading and approval of the 2020 Business Meeting Minutes, as posted on the website - Mike Fosha moved to waive the reading of the minutes of the 2020 Business meeting, seconded by Brandi Bethke, and passed without objection.
4. President's report (Kelly Pool) –

2021 will be remembered as the year we could meet in-person again.

Kelly thanked the Embassy Suites by Hilton Boulder for working with us to make this conference possible in uncertain times by eliminating the minimum number of room reservations required.

Given the continuation of COVID-19, we expected registration to be low, but it is higher than expected.

Kelly reminded the membership of the Plains Conference code of conduct developed this year. Work continues with related policies including feedback from Thursday's forum on 'Inclusivity and Opportunity: Introducing the Plains Conference Code of Conduct' (attended by about 40). PAS leadership encourages additional feedback from the membership.

Kelly reported that delivery of the *Plains Anthropologist* has become regular again. Taylor & Francis continues to be our publisher. PAS leadership is working on finalizing the 5-year contract that started this year. Thank you to Bob and Mary Hoard for their service as Editor and Editorial Assistant over the past three years. Bill Billeck has assumed the role as our new Editor with Matt E. Hill, Jr., continuing as Book Review Editor. Bob's step-by-step instructions are available for how to get through electronic manuscript submission using T&F's Editorial Manager.

In addition to change of the *PA* Editor is the addition of John Hedden to the PAS Board of Directors following the resignation of former board member Dave Posthumus.

The board met last summer (2020) via Zoom and again this year. We expect this will continue in the future with the minutes of formal board meetings posted on the PAS website. Additionally, a pre-conference board meeting was held Nov. 3 via Zoom for 2 ½ hours so the First Board Meeting at the Plains Conference would be shorter.

If you went to the code of conduct forum yesterday, you learned about Teresa Wroe from University of Colorado's Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC). The staff of that office graciously provided training for board members this past spring. The CU office has been wonderful in helping throughout the process of developing

statements and procedures for encouraging equity in our organization. This started with Doug Bamforth (conference organizer) and Mary Adair (past president) last year prior to conference postponement, and they continued to work with us this year. That aided with the development of our code of conduct and our starting to work on policies.

Mike Fosha moved to accept the president's report; Mark Mitchell seconded, the motion passed.

5. Treasurer's report (Chris Johnston) –

Chris presented a summary noting that the PAS checking account presently holds \$118,000+ including some funds from the Roper Award account. The PAS endowments are strong.

Revenue is generated in large part by membership and the conference, so with no conference last year and membership numbers down, the result has been a loss of almost \$10,000. Despite this, we are doing fine overall.

Over the past year, there were no meeting or other major expenses. We are doing okay for 2021, but various payments still need to be made before the end of the year.

In summary, the PAS is in strong financial standing, with hopes that additional income may be generated by this year's conference.

Investment funds:

Chris reported that the PAS Endowment was established in 2017 with \$100,000+ and some small donations since then, resulting in a present investment between \$136,000 and \$137,000. The original decision was to sit on those funds for five years, which is now nearly past. Thus, it is time for the PAS Endowment committee to explore what to do with this fund.

The Donna C. Roper Research Award endowment was initiated in 2017/2018 with \$122,000. It has now grown to \$166,000. Both funds dropped below our investment level in 2018, but 2020/2021 have produced good returns and they are now more stable. About \$40,000 has been dispersed so far. Thanks to Donna for willing these funds to PAS for this purpose and to Nancy Arendt for her extensive work and dedication to obtain and move these funds to PAS.

In response to an inquiry about how the endowment funds are invested, Chris reported that they are invested in ETFs with Wells Fargo. Chris has requested the board consider another advisor for non-profits and will be following up on this.

Mike Fosha asked what percentage gain will be utilized from the PAS Endowment. Chris reported that is to be determined. There is a lot of money in the account, so he suggested we use only part of this for something like student travel funds or other needs. Mike volunteered to be on the PAS Endowment committee.

A motion was made by Mark Mitchell and Marcel Kornfeld and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Approved without objection

6. Plains Anthropologist Editor's report (Bill Billeck) –

The Zoom connection did not work so Bill could not be here, so Chris reviewed some of the highlights of Bill's report. Bill is happy to send a copy of his report to anyone.

Bill extended sincere gratitude to Bob Hoard for help during the transition with thanks also to Matt Hill as book review editor. We are allowed 448 pages annually for the journal and are presently in need of manuscripts. Two have been sent to press with 12 others approved as of October 25 this year (14 total submissions).

Mark Mitchell asked the status of reviewers and if profiles of members can be updated for this purpose. Chris and webmaster Courtney Ziska can work on this and perhaps add this to the next membership renewal round. Chris also reported on behalf of Bill that 48 reviews were requested this past year; fourteen declined, and five did not respond.

Mike Fosha moved to accept the Editor's report, seconded by Kacy Hollenback. Approved without objection.

7. Membership Committee (Alison Hadley Hilburn) –

Alison reported that membership currently stands at 454 (for 2021) as of 11:00 pm last night. (At least 20 renewals have been received at the conference.) These consist of 77% individual, 7% joint, and 11% students (up from 9% last year due to the conference). The largest number of members at this time reside in Colorado (location of conference) with Wyoming having the second largest number of active members.

(The PAS wished Alison happy birthday and sang happy birthday to her.)

8. Nominations Committee report (Brendon Asher) –

Brendon noted the great slate of candidates and thanked all candidates for their willingness to serve. Similar to last year, 109 members cast ballots. He welcomed the newly elected board members, as well as newly appointed board member John Hedden. Thanks to Courtney Ziska for assisting in the counting of the ballots. Thanks also to outgoing members, as well as Past President Mary Adair.

9. Recognition of new board members and outgoing board members (Kelly Pool)

Pool seconded the welcome to the new board members, Shawn Bubel, Spencer Pelton, Adam Wiewel, and John Hedden and extended thanks to leaving members Brendon Asher, Lauren Ritterbush, Courtney Ziska, and Mary Adair. Also, she welcomed new PA Editor Bill Billeck.

10. Resolutions (Brandi Bethke)

Be it resolved, the Plains Anthropological Society expresses its sincere thanks to the organizers of the 78th Plains Anthropological Conference, in particular to our conference host, the Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder. We thank conference organizer Douglas Bamforth. Thanks to Chris Johnston and Courtney Ziska for providing logistical support to the conference organizer. Thank you to the Embassy Suites and Hilton Garden Inn in Boulder for their planning assistance during the last year and for their hospitality during the conference. Thank you to the Henderson Museum at the University of Colorado Boulder for hosting the Thursday night reception. Thanks to all the tour leaders and facilitators, Steve Nash (Denver Museum of Nature and Science tour), Mark Mitchell (Magic Mountain site tour), and Jason LaBelle (Lindenmeier site tour). We extend our gratitude and thank you to banquet keynote speaker Robert Kelly

(University of Wyoming). We are also grateful to all our session and symposia chairs and to those organizers and recipients of our annual awards.

Thanks to all conference donors and sponsors. Your donations and support are most appreciated. The following individuals provided support for the conference:

Diana Wilson, Anthropology Department Office Manager, University of Colorado Boulder
Casey Lounsberry and Katie Hammond, Sage Hospitality Group/Hiltons on Canyon
Xavier Eliopoulos, Image Audiovisuals
Teresa Wroe and Llen Pomeroy, Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance,
University of Colorado Boulder

Finally, thanks to all those members who have renewed their membership this year; we are grateful for your support of the Society.

We remember friends and colleagues who passed away in the two years since our last meeting, including:

- John Brumley
- George Carr Frison
- Kent "Skeet" Good
- Eric Grimm
- Larry Grantham
- Alden Naranjo
- Jacquelin St. Clair
- Solveig Turpin
- James Warnica
- Leland Waugh
- W. Raymond Wood

11. **Old Business** (Kelly Pool)

a. Bylaws changes for presidential election and term length

Kelly reported that the PAS board has been discussing this since 2019, but the conversation was postponed last year because our only meeting with the membership in 2020 was virtual. It was also postponed this year because of anticipated low attendance at the 2021 conference. This will be addressed next year with proposed bylaw changes to be prepared and circulated to the membership in advance of a vote at next year's conference.

b. Inclusivity and Opportunity Forum with CU OIEC

Kelly solicited comments from membership over the past year. She indicated, based on what has been learned over the past year, that harassment or discrimination reporting is a complex issue. Infractions can be reported to the home institution of the harassed or the alleged harasser or to local law enforcement. Additional feedback is welcomed.

Kelly expressed special thanks to Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair Brandi Bethke, who played a leading role in the PAS anti-harassment and equity movement to date.

- c. Finalization of 5-year contract with T&F for journal

This issue was previously discussed. Kelly and others are working with Taylor & Francis on some tweaks to the contract, which we hope to have completed soon.

12. New Business

- a. SAA Booth

The board decided to not sponsor a booth at the 2022 annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Chicago but will consider this possibility when that meeting is held in Denver in 2025.

- b. Kelly reported that the board has decided to make the position of webmaster a board-appointed position with a stipend for a one-year trial.
 - o Courtney has been webmaster as a board member, but she is leaving the board.
 - o Kelly thanked Courtney for doing a 'hell of a job!'
 - o Courtney is willing to continue for the one-year trial as a non-board member, appointed by the board with an allocated stipend. Courtney graciously accepted for one year.
 - o A reminder to the membership that the webmaster and PAS officers are volunteer positions that are in addition to their regular jobs and family responsibilities. We try to respond as quickly as possible, but if it takes a while, please be patient.

13. Forthcoming Conferences

- a. 2022, The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Archeological Survey
Sarah Trabert and Brandi Bethke, chairs

The conference is scheduled for downtown Oklahoma City, Oct. 12-15th at 21c Museum Hotel Conference Center, which is located close to the airport.

Room rates will be \$160/night with different size rooms. Please leave the large suites for students sharing a room; try to take a small room if there are only a couple staying in the room.

A Thursday night reception will be held at the Oklahoma History Center with OKPAN covering the cost of this. The organizers hope to make this a networking opportunity for public education and encourage CRM firms to attend and recruit. There will be tables for firms and others for a fee.

The museum and speaker for the banquet are fantastic. Food at the banquet is going to be amazing (farm-to-table, organic). Rates have been good because the organizers signed contracts before the COVID-19 pandemic.

- b. 2023, South Dakota State Historical Society, to be held in Rapid City, S.D.

Nobody was present to talk about it. (David Williams made the original offer but has recently accepted a job offer in another state.) Mike Fosha noted that he and others will step up to organize the conference if a contract has already been signed with a venue, which would result in loss of money if the conference were canceled in Rapid City.

- c. 2024, University of Lethbridge, Alberta (proposal and presentation)
Shawn Bubel and Bob Dawe (with assistance from Kevin McGeough)

Shawn and Kevin apologize that they were not able to be at this year's conference. Bob Dawe presented on their behalf and noted that it was time to be back in Canada. Lethbridge is great for field trips and has a very active archaeology program. Lethbridge is an hour drive north of the Montana border and has about 100,000 people. The university is located in a beautiful valley, and the old part of town is very pleasant to walk around. Good beer parties are guaranteed. The U.S. dollar goes further in Canada (another incentive to attend).

There are many options for field trips, including two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Head-Smashed-In and Writing-on-Stone. There is ongoing archaeological work at Head-Smashed-On (1 hour from Lethbridge), so new data are forthcoming and being integrated into the interpretive center. Other nearby sites include Wally's Beach (mammoth & animal trackways, as well as Late Pleistocene-Early Holocene faunal materials with artifacts), the Fincastle site, Sundial Hill (largest concentration of medicine wheels in southern Alberta), and Writing-on-Stone (a hoodoo landscape near Sweetgrass, MT, and mostly petroglyphs). Other regional attractions include Cluny earthlodge village, industrial archaeology, North West Company trading posts, and the Rocky Mountains.

Jack Brink noted that we might have multiple trips Tuesday through Sunday. Note that non-Canadians will need a passport to enter Canada.

Mary Adair moved to accept the offer by the University of Lethbridge to host the 2024 Plains Conference; Matt Hill seconded. The motion was approved without opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm MT.

The 2nd board meeting with the new board members is scheduled to follow immediately.

Minutes respectfully submitted by PAS Secretary, Lauren W. Ritterbush.