Plains Anthropological Society Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Pre-Conference Meeting
82nd Plains Anthropological Conference
Thursday, October 23, 2025, 10 am – 12 pm CT (9 am – 11 am MT); Microsoft Teams

Present: Chris Johnston, Timothy Reed, Matthew Hill, Stephen Perkins, Gary Wowchuk, Veronica Mraz, Brooke Morgan, Cody Newton, Allison Grunwald, Adam Wiewel, Warren Davis, Andrew Clark, Jennifer Harty, Tyrel Iron Eyes, Abigail Fisher, Marcel Kornfeld

Absent: Carlton Shield Chief Gover; Bill Billeck

1. Welcome and Call to Order
   Call to order and begin at 10:04 am

2. Approval of 2024 BOD Meeting Minutes and 2024 Business Meeting Minutes
   Gary 1st, Veronica 2nd; Unanimous approval

3. Approval of the Agenda
   Abigail 1st, Veronica 2nd; Unanimous approval

4. Introduction to New Board Members
   Brooke Morgan, President-elect, Illinois State Museum
   Warren Davis, Iowa OSA
   Matt Hill, Jr., University of Iowa; Happy to be back!
   Jennifer Harty, U.S. Navy, background in the Plains
   Marcel Kornfeld, incoming co-editor
   Allison Grunwald, incoming co-editor

5. Brief Conference Update (Hill/Doershuk)
   a. Matt Hill: Set for 4 fun and exciting days for joint PAC-MAC! Focus on student and tribal participation, as well as public engagement. Series of field trips and tours (Wed. is Eastern Iowa Heritage; Sat. is to Effigy Mounds—no interpretation due to federal shutdowns); self-guided tours as well in Iowa City and U of Iowa campus (Google Map tour of 100+ properties); local museum with archeology exhibit. Thursday Happy Hour in conference area from 4-6pm, corresponding to student poster presentations (ca. 39 of them); followed by reception at Reunion Brewery (consolidated at one location from two planned). Friday banquet with talk by U of Iowa Historian Steve Warren.
      i. 409 total participants (172 regular PAS and MAC members; 50 retiree members; 144 students; 10 tribal representatives; handful of others); haven't broken down total across PAS and MAC. Only about 42% of attendees have paid full price, due to covering students, tribal representatives, and retiree discounts
      ii. 169 presentations (papers and posters); 19 sessions; 2 forums (Sensitive Images; SHPO/THPO); 3 workshops (drone use; public engagement; NAGPRA). General sessions are fairly mixed between Plains and Midwest
      iii. $10,000+ cash donations; 15 vendors; awarded "Meet in Iowa" grant by Iowa Economic Authority (reflects variety of associated costs; hope for ca. $10,000)

    iv. Expecting costs around $75,000. Believe revenue sufficient to break even.
    v. Need to acknowledge Chris's expertise and assistance through the whole process; also, Angela Collins at Iowa OSA has helped in a big way
  b. Andy: Need to discuss having emergency contacts in place. Have discussed with Matt and Chris to include access to safety email (safety@plainsanthropologicalsociety.org). Andy and Gary have access; Abbi and Veronica also volunteered.
    i. Adam: I have the password to access the email address. There is 2-factor authentication, so let Adam know if you need access.
      1. Matt: Send info to John D. and him
    ii. Chris will look into setting up a forwarding rule to Matt, John, Andy, Adam, Abbi, Veronica, and Gary
  c. Andy: will bring a web cam, tripod, and microphones to facilitate virtual participation during meetings

6. Officers' Reports
  a. President's Report (Clark, to be given at the October 29 meeting)
    i. Andy: Working on full report. Depending on committee reports to help with that.
      1. Couple big things this year: Editor change and upcoming discussions about the future of the journal; also, the political climate, how we react as a regional society, and how we interact with other societies
  b. Treasurer's Report (Johnston, to be given at the October 29 meeting)
    i. Chris: Working on full report for Wednesday meeting. Will have handouts to present to us. Also waiting on Accountant to plug in a few last-minute things. 2024 is looking good, but 2025 is going to look a little off due to website upgrades, etc.
  c. Editor's Report (Billeck)
    i. Marcel: Waiting to get some info from Bill to figure out where things are at.
    ii. Allison: Waiting to be re-onboarded. Did have a pre-meeting with Bill to start discussions.
    iii. Andy: North Dakota journal moving to magazine. Folks in South Dakota are visiting lots of conferences to recruit authors and papers for submission to their journal.
    iv. Marcel: Have some ideas about getting things into social media.
    v. Andy: Noting issues arriving out of order, some folks getting multiple copies, or not getting copies at all. Appears that Taylor and Francis has been using a different shipping company.
      1. Chris: Through August of 2024 should have been sent out. There was an issue with the list to send out for No. 268—publisher didn't send it. But that has been resolved. Nov. 2024 has been published, so now 2025 are being put together.
    vi. Allison: Does T&F ship from UK? Would tariffs affect that?
      1. Chris: Mailed from Pennsylvania, but probably printed in UK.

7. Standing Committee Reports (noting issues/business to discuss at the October 29 meeting)
  a. Archives (Williams)
    i. Spencer provided 2022 and 2023 materials in early 2025. Have a stack of materials to submit after this conference.
    ii. Need to review Archives requirements in BOD handbook and coordinate with Archivist at USD to ensure we're submitting the proper and necessary materials.

iii. List of other potential submissions given by Doris, such as photographs, memorabilia, etc.
iv. Doris also mentioned the USD Archives now has better digital capacity, though not in large amounts yet. Will follow-up to get more details on this after the conference.
v. Marcel: Will be providing 6 banker's boxes with Editor's and conference materials.
vi. Andy: Any word or concern if Doris will be retiring soon?

b. Bylaws (Mraz)
   i. No requests for bylaws changes, so committee didn't meet.

c. Conference and Conference Handbook (Johnston)
   i. Chris: Matt gave conference report. No real updates for handbook because of the uniqueness of this year's conference. Will plan to work with Dave to update handbook with the more traditional format in Lincoln next year.
   ii. Re: registrations: retiree rates is a MAC thing that we should consider adding. Free student registration is starting to become a problem due to the number of students attending. To resolve, we may need to consider increasing fees for regular members, cutting parts of the conference to reduce costs, or ask students to pay something. Maybe give free registration to student presenters? Registration rates go to snacks, drinks, etc., then backfill other conference costs (such as banquet). Conference organizers have felt obligated to continue the student free registration since others before them have done it.
   iii. Stephen: Echo what Chris says. Believe students should have to pay something. Like idea of free registration for participating students since that's a commitment.
   iv. Andy: Future conferences—Wichita State University offer in 2028 or 2029, after construction; NDSHS in 2028 or 2029 after construction complete. Still need to figure out 2027. Suggested Wyoming, and Spencer was going to talk with folks. Andy also suggesting SMU in 2027 or 2030.
      1. Marcel: Has strongly suggested that it's Wyoming's turn.
      2. Chris: Would be nice to vote on this at the business meeting in Iowa City. Can't formally do anything until it's voted on and approved. And would give 2 full years for planning.
   v. Chris: Most awards will be presented at business meeting. Distinguished Service Award is the exception that will be presented at the banquet.

d. Distinguished Service Award (Mraz)
   i. Had 3 fantastic options to review and select from
   ii. Comm: Karl Kibler, Matt Hill, Alison Hadley; voted to award 2 and encouraged the 3rd to re-submit next year.

e. Ethics and Inclusion (Wowchuk)
   i. Safety email contact is most pressing issue, and that's been addressed already today.
   ii. Code of Conduct: Will send it out so Board can discuss at the next meeting and move on it fairly quickly. There are some items that we need to establish regarding our policy when issues do arise.

f. Native American Student Award (Iron Eyes)
   i. Working with Carlton and Chris. Two applicants, both graduate students. One is a repeat who received as an undergraduate. Precedent dictates someone can receive as both an undergrad and a grad student. One student will be in-person to receive award. Will probably plan on splitting available funding between the two students.

ii. Chris: We have received a couple of small donations, so there is $1500 available (typically $1000).

g. Sensitive Image Policy (Gover)
   i. Andy: Chris added the policy and comment form to the website.
   ii. Chris: 14 comments received online (behind membership wall). By and large, comments are supportive with no or small revisions; a couple of major revisions suggested; and a couple of responses that are very against the policy. Will compile all the comments before the meeting and provide to Carlton.
   iii. Andy: There will be a forum at the conference (Thursday afternoon, 1-3pm), with Andy, Carlton, and Tyrel participating. Would Adam mind being on the forum? (Adam: Sure). Also thinking of members of the Sensitive Image Policy committee—Matt Hill (Matt: Will try to be there, but don't want to pin self down too much), Cody Newton (Cody: Will be there).
   iv. Tyrel: Ask anyone from MAC?
      1. Andy: Would John D. be interested?
      2. Matt: Will check with John and figure out if someone involved in theirs will be around.

h. Nominations (Reed)
   i. April and May, call for nominations went out.
   ii. Andrew Robinson, Andrew Clark, and Timothy Reed made up nominations committee.
   iii. Ballot finalized late July. Biographical info received in August.
   iv. Voting began August 18 and closed Sept. 22. Votes from 111 members; about average response.
   v. Total of 25 nominations received; Top 3 recipients for BOD: Warren, Jennifer, Matt; Top recipient for President-elect: Brooke
   vi. Public announcement will be made at business meeting on Oct. 31.
   vii. Ask of BOD members: Take note of potential nominees for next year's election, ask if they have interest, and share that with Timothy.

i. Resolutions (Newton)
   i. Working on it up until last minute to solicit names from the membership, BOD, and other communities. Fewer names than typical.
   ii. Who are outgoing BOD members? Veronica, Cody, Carlton, Adam
   iii. Andy: If Cody has report to read at the Wednesday meeting, share and we can read it without Cody there.
   iv. Adam: Can Cody send list of names he already has to compare with names we know?
   v. Chris: We'll read this at the business meeting this year, not at the banquet?
      1. Matt: It could be squeezed in if needed.
      2. Andy: Does MAC have a similar list?
      3. Matt: Not sure, but will ask and plan on combining.
      4. Adam: Nice to share this at the banquet, like with sponsors.

j. Student Engagement (Perkins)
   i. Great lunch workshop for students on drone use in archeology.
   ii. Student travel award: spent $4,998.49 (of $5,000) on 10 students: 4 from Wichita State University, 4 from University of Kansas, 1 sponsored by Larry Todd, 1 coming from Washington State University

        1. Chris: Add a New Business item, as this is a permanent fund, how to execute it in a more streamlined, equitable fashion
        2. Stephen: One consideration relates to early conference rates ending before travel award is issued

k. Student Paper Award (Trabert, to be given at the October 29 meeting)
    i. Stephen: 5 papers will be given at a session

l. Student Poster Competition (Perkins)
    i. 17 student posters (4 in Larry Todd's session and 13 in the Student Happy Hour session)
    ii. Adam volunteered to be a judge.
    iii. Continuing to tweak the judging sheet ahead of the conference.

m. Webmaster/Website (Williams)
    i. Social media stats—slight decline in followers. Slight majority female followers. Geographic distribution. Content numbers, highlighting May advocacy post received the most interactions.
    ii. Website updates (via Chris): website upgrade to Drupel 10 is complete, continuing to work with CodeLift. Recommend keeping contract with them for standard maintenance and hosting ($660/quarter) since they have the expertise to manage any problems that may arise. Notes on page and content updates. Also, looking for a replacement Webmaster.
    iii. BOD Handbook and Packet need updates with new URL links
    iv. Expand to Instagram to broaden reach and engagement? Perennial problem that followers do not equal members.
    v. Andy: Something to add to social media: Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing on Section 106. Will be Wednesday Morning of the PAC.
    vi. Andy: Second call for new webmaster
        1. Jennifer: 100% interested in helping with social media
        2. Allison: Was a webmaster in a previous role, and could help with things on social media. Bluesky is a younger, more science-friendly group. Instagram's algorithm has made things difficult to be seen.
        3. Brooke: Does webmaster need to be a board member? Chris: can be someone off the Board.

n. Membership (Fisher)
    i. Will plan on giving this on Wednesday.
    ii. 9-10 emails for passwords, paying to be members to access the sensitive image policy. Would recommend having content shared more regularly that forces them to log in so they remember to renew, etc.

8. Ad Hoc Committee Reports (noting issues/business to discuss at the October 29 meeting)
    a. Donna C. Roper Research Fund (Billeck)
        i. Andy: With Bill stepping down as Editor, will he stay on as this?
            1. Chris: Charter says that a current Board member has to chair that committee.
        ii. Chris: One application this year for a relatively small amount.
        iii. Chris: Also issue with previous applicant and U of Iowa wanting to take overhead. Bill wants to make revisions to the fund language/announcement stating that

overhead can't be taken out. Committee will need to meet to work on and establish the change.

b. Financial Review (Johnston for Mitchell, will be given at the October 29 meeting)
    i. Chris: Will check with Mark to see if he has anything to add or review.

c. Editorial Committee (Clark)
    i. Had 3 viable applicants for a new editor. The committee unanimously decided that the combination of Allison and Marcel was the best choice.
    ii. Allison applied for editorship and me (Marcel) as Associate editor, but for various reasons, how to handle ex-officio membership, Allison being in Europe and at a very different time, etc., the committee suggested that co-editorship would serve the PA better. Allison and Marcel agreed and among themselves plan to split duties as suggested in Allison's application.
    iii. Do we want to close the committee going now that the search is done? Or keep it open to assist with finding contributors, the upcoming Taylor and Francis contract renewal coming up, and other issues related to the Journal. Andy's suggestion is to keep the committee together.
        1. Marcel: Going into this, want to see if submissions can be enhanced so the journal can catch up. Still need to figure out those details. Could always call the committee back together if needed.
        2. Andy: Active recruiting is an important piece of getting submissions. So whether that process is formal as part of a committee or informal and done regardless, it should be at the forefront of our thoughts.
        3. Marcel: Most potential submissions coming from PAC. When relevant papers are given at other (local or regional) conferences, we'd love to hear about them.
        4. Chris: One reason to keep the committee together is the Taylor and Francis contract. It's tied to the issue, not the calendar—current contract expires end of 2025, but we don't have an issue for the end of 2025 yet. Contract will auto-renew if no one reviews and cancels.
        5. Marcel: Then yes, let's keep the committee together and get on the contract talk quickly.

d. Endowment Committee (Johnston, to be given at the October 29 meeting)
    i. Financials and other info will be presented on Wednesday.
    ii. Running strong: made about $60K since initial investment. Last year undergrad student travel award was approved to come out of this fund. The approved $5,000 was sufficient.

9. Announcements
    a. Andy: Working with SAA (Chris Dore) to have more interaction with regional societies. The SAA's COAS group is more for avocational groups. They've started a new council for professional societies. Costs about $100/year for the whole society. Gives access to *Archaeological Record* that can be distributed to members. President of society invited to breakfast to discuss the state of archeology across the globe. Will send information out for everyone to look at.
    b. Andy: Going to be posting a shareable document of the Board members on the Google Shared Drive. Please fill out with contact information to include in the Board packet by Monday (Oct. 27).

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Veronica 1st, Abigail 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Adjourning at 12:12 pm.