

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund
October 24, 2007 Conference Call

Board Members Present: David Reetz, Chair; Tom Empey; Sara Needles; and Mike Shonsey.

Staff Members Present: Renée Bovée

Chair David Reetz convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 24, 2007.

The agenda was modified to include an update on the budget submission to the Governor and an update on grant constituent activities. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes

Moved by Mike Shonsey and seconded by Tom Empey to approve the minutes as written. Approved unanimously.

Request for WCTF Board Support Letter on Historic Contexts

Sara Needles provided background information on Historic Contexts and the budget request State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has made for this next legislative session. Historic Contexts provide background to help determine what should be preserved and what can be let go. A historic context is a synthesis of information about patterns or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within history or prehistory is made clear. Historic contexts are established by theme, time period, and geographic limits and provide guidance for assessing sites associated with the context.

Historic contexts provide a consistent framework for determining the significance of a site. Historic contexts allow researchers, property managers, and other interested parties to understand a property as a product of its time and as an illustration of unique, representative, or pivotal aspects of Wyoming's heritage. A historic context can provide a quicker identification of important sites so management and protection decisions can be made more quickly and efficiently.

In the 2009-2010 budget request, SHPO is requesting funding to develop four of the planned seven historic contexts: Homesteading, Irrigation, New Deal, and Schools. The total budget request for these contexts is \$876,000 to support the historical research and writing up of these contexts. (A Trails context has already been researched and written and is currently under revision and will soon be made available.)

Additionally, SHPO is asking support for half of the costs of an Historic Architect, an at-will contract position, to be shared with the Main Street program. A historic architect would enable local communities to assess and preserve important local historic resources, provide assistance to property owners in emergency situations, address code issues such as electrical, fire suppression and ADA compliance, and aid communities in making historic structures economically viable.

Needles requested the WCTF Board's support in these two budget requests and asked for a letter of support.

Shonsey expressed concern about how much the WCTF should support and does it dilute our needs. Empey responded that supporting Historic Contexts is valuable to the WCTF Board, as we often have to look at whether something should or should not be saved in our own granting process.

Shonsey also inquired about the responsibility of the WCTF Board in setting precedent in asking for funds for positions with other departments. The WCTF Board is already supporting its own budget request for a position, and Shonsey wondered if was appropriate to give support to other agencies for staff positions or contract dollars. Empey and Reetz spoke on the need to have staff to accomplish the programs and that there are times when we should support such endeavors. Empey and Reetz both acknowledged that this is something that needs to be carefully evaluated and the WCTF Board should balance requests for staffing dollars in relation to services which can be rendered in support of WCTF grantees.

Shonsey moved and Empey seconded to support the SHPO budget request for the Historic Contexts and the Historical Architect through a letter of support to the Governor. A letter will be drafted and sent to the Board for their approval as soon as possible.

Update on WCTF Budget/Expenses:

No update was provided. At this time the department's accounting staff are in the process of revamping all reports as the State of Wyoming changed its accounting system as of July 1. As soon as reports are made available, an update on WCTF Budget and Expenses will be provided.

Schedule for Updating WCTF Grant Applications

Renée Bovée reminded that WCTF Board that the grant applications will be going through some revisions prior to the next deadline. She will be providing the Board with drafts of the revisions for comment and review in December/January. The new

applications will need to be posted on the website by March 1, so she will have final drafts for the Board's approval at the next meeting, February 22, 2008.

Additional Grant Reviewer

Bové asked the Board to approve the expansion of the grant review panel to include a representative from the State Museum. The area of museum curation and exhibition development is an area that the current review panel members do not have a strong depth of knowledge in. She suggested that Jim Allison, the State Museum's Collection Supervisor would be a good candidate as he already provides technical assistance to local museums in these areas and has served on grant review panels of the Wyoming Humanities Council in the past. The WCTF Board agreed that such an addition would be very helpful and to go ahead and ask for Allison's participation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund Board will be in Cheyenne on February 22, 2008, prior to the Governor's Arts Awards ceremony. Bovée will make the arrangements. This meeting will be non-grant related and Bovée will ask Mary Humstone, Research Scientist in the University of Wyoming's American Studies Program, to speak on historic preservation and Wyoming's historic schools; or another appropriate person yet to be determined; to participate in the meeting.

Update on WCTF Budget Request/Grantee Projects

Due to limited time, the update on the WCTF Budget request was deferred to direct conversations or e-mail updates to the board members individually. Bovée will provide another update to WCTF board members on grantee projects and constituent activities via e-mail.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.