The March 22, 2019 meeting of the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists was held at the River Alliance Building located at 300 Candi Lane in Columbia. The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m by President Josh Fletcher. The following individuals were in attendance:

| Name | Affiliation | Status |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Josh Fletcher, President | HDR | Member |
| Keith Stephenson, Treasurer | SRARP | Member |
| Tracy Martin, Vice President | SCDOT | Member |
| Sean Norris | TRC | Member |
| Eric Poplin | Brockington | Member |
| Nena Powell Rice | SCIAA | Member |
| Robert Morgan | USFS | Member |
| Leslie Drucker | AFC | Member |
| Chris Judge | USC-Lancaster | Member |
| Stacey Young | SCIAA | Member |
| Jon Leader | SCIAA | Member |
| Elizabeth Toney | USFS | Guest |
| Pete Mayers | TRC | Guest |
| Kelly Higgins | Terracon | Guest |

Guests/Visitors: Elizabeth Toney, Pete Mayers, Kelly Higgins

**Secretary’s Report:** Josh Fletcher forRebecca Shepherd

Rebecca could not attend because she was presenting at the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference. There were a few comments on the December minutes, which were addressed. The updated minutes were sent out last week. Nena noted an additional correction during the secretary’s report, which was made by Rebecca following the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Keith Stephenson

As of our last meeting on December 17th, 2018, our account balance was $3,915.12. Quarterly expenditures consisted of $39.86 reimbursement to Tracy Martin for the meeting refreshments, two annual fee payments to Net Firms in the amount of $38.75 and $14.99 to renew the COSCAPA domain as well as the dot org domain label. We have received three donations in support of the upcoming ceramics workshop, $100 from Brockington and Associates, $130 from TRC, and $150 from New South, and we are expecting additional donations from DOT and HDR. HDR has arranged to pay for a portion of the accommodations for Lindsay Bloch. Quarterly income consisted of $370 in annual dues payments. The amounts bring our account balance to $4,571.52.

Of the 51 paid COSCAPA members for 2018 (44 full and 7 associate), 25 have paid 2019 dues for a total of $460.00, leaving 26 members with a collective outstanding balance of $500.00. Payments received during the meeting have not been counted yet.

It was clarified that there are three tiers of membership: active members who have paid their dues and attended at least one meeting in the past two years; inactive members who have paid dues, but not attended a meeting in the past two years; and former members who have not paid dues or attended a meeting in the past two years.

Leslie Drucker proposed investigating using PayPal as a way to pay for membership dues. Sean mentioned that we had looked into it previously but ran into some issues with putting the PayPal button on the website and determining whether the organization would be charged fees to use it.

There was also a discussion of whether or not we needed to continue to maintain the COSCAPA website, which did not reach any conclusions.

**PUBLIC USE SITE FORM UPDATE:** Jon Leader

The public use site form is now up and running and Joe has already received a few submissions. The form is not yet up on the SCIAA website, but will be soon. The dedicated email address for submissions is active and word of mouth about the form has gotten out in various places.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership Committee:** Eric Poplin

We have one application for membership since the last meeting, Kelly Higgins, who is here today. Her application was circulated through email earlier in the week. Kelly received her BA from North Carolina State University, her MA from the University of Sheffield, and is currently employed at Terracon. The committee recommended unanimously to accept Kelly as a full member. A vote was held and all present were in favor of accepting Kelly as full member of COSCAPA without any further discussion.

**Native American Liaison Committee:** Jon Leader and Chris Judge

The Catawba are considering putting together their own tribal archaeology office again, that is in the early stages. There are some issues going on with the state recognized tribes in terms repatriation. Fort Jackson is off the board as a location for reburial. Chief Hatcher of the Waccamaw Tribe has ramped up his push for federal recognition, he’s looking for more visibility and input from the congressional delegations.

Chris Judge added that the Commission of Minority Affairs has a new director and new website and there have been other changes in the organization. From this point on the Commission will no longer recognize Native American organizations at the group level. All currently recognized groups will remain. Senator Graham and Representative Tillis of North Carolina introduced a bill last week reminding people that the Catawba have ancestral tribal lands in North Carolina in Cleveland County North Carolina where they are trying to get their bingo license for a casino, which is being fought by lobbyists of the Eastern Band. The Catawba’s festival will be on May 18th.

**Political Action Committee:** Jon Leader

The University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Anthropology, following an audit of the program, has decommissioned the Kentucky Archaeological Survey. Employees were given 90 days notice. There has been no change to the Office of State Archaeology, but to the portion of the department focused on cultural resource management. Jon says the process leading to this situation has been building steam since 2012. As it stands now, the survey may be totally gone or there may be a couple positions retained, it is currently unclear. People are putting together a petition but it is unclear if it will make a difference.

Keith stated that the KAS is asking for statements of support from other organizations. The ASSC is providing one, as is SEAC and SAA. He proposed that COSCAPA also send a letter of support, which will be written and circulated to the board before being sent.

Jon has also brought copies of the African American Burial Grounds Act HR1179 which would put together a voluntary network of organizations that would share databases on the locations and other information dealing with African American burial grounds and provide funding for restoration, preservation, and educational actives for communities. This bill still has to get through the House and Senate and be signed into law. Jon suggests that we support this bill.

There is currently an attack on the visitation of a cemetery law. The Rutland Cemetery has come under attack by the current landowner, who is preventing visitation and protection and may have destroyed at least 5 of the graves. There is currently a major court case involving this issue. The concern is the initial court judge said the visitation law does not apply, therefore this could be an attack on all access to burial grounds. Jon is keeping track of this case for these reasons.

**Metal Detector Liaison Committee:**

No report.

**ArchSite Committee:** Sean Norris

ArchSite was looking into creating a separate cemetery layer and recording them as both structures and archaeological sites. Sean is not sure how quickly anyone will be able to get to this.

**Workshop Committee:** Josh Fletcher

COSCAPA is co-sponsoring a Historic Ceramics Identification Workshop on April 19th that will take place at the Parker Annex Archaeology Center. It will be led by Dr. Lindsey Bloch, collections manager of the Ceramics Technology Laboratory at the Florida Museum of Natural History. This workshop will be free and open to all archaeologists. The cost is covered by COSCAPA and various CRM firms who have donated. People are encouraged to bring their own collections to the workshop.

**ASSC Liaison Committee:** Keith Stephenson

We had a successful conference, with one of the highest numbers of attendees in recent years. The next event will be Fall Field Day on October 26th at the 12,000 Year History Park. Tomorrow there is a March to Fort Congaree Event at the 12,000 Year History Park and ASSC will have a presence there. The 50th Anniversary Journal is running at little late, but will be complete hopefully by next month. Joe Wilkinson will be the next Journal Editor.

**COSCAPA Bylaws/Constitution:** Eric Poplin, Sean Norris

This is regarding the proposed changes to the by-law’s membership requirements to allow people without an advanced degree, but having equivalent experience to apply to full membership. We voted for this at the last meeting, but did not have 2/3rds majority of the 26 active members present. There have since been some votes by email and we have said we would allow additional votes to be counted during this meeting. We currently have 20 votes for and one vote against the changes, and the bylaws will be revised. Current associate members can now start applying for full membership. To apply, current associate members would need to submit proof of their qualifications as stated in the bylaws as well as a letter of intent. Josh and Eric will draft something to send to the email list to notify current associate members that they can now apply for full status.

**Standards and Guidelines Committee:** Sean Norris

The new survey manual has been released.They are still working on the archaeology standards and guidelines.

**STATE AGENCIES:**

**SCDNR:**

No report, all are out at White Pond. They will be at Pockoy Shell Ring for two weeks in May.

**SCIAA:** Nena Powell Rice and Stacey Young

Steve will be at Ninety-Six for a field school in May, to continue work at the star fort. There will be a tour on May 23rd. Stacey has crews out at Fort Bragg working on a testing project right now. John Fisher will be working on project with College of Economics London to excavate at Castle Pinckney and has applied for an ART grant.

**SRARP:** Keith Stephenson

We are mostly doing forest service surveys. We are continuing our documentary series with George “Buddy” Wingard. He is now focusing on Edmund Ruffin, who claimed to fire the first shot at Fort Sumter. BJ has found a copy of his diary in which he discusses his travels through the area that is now on the SRS property. They have recently completed some filming for this project at Redcliffe Foundation.

**SCDOT:** Tracy Martin

Bill has been promoted to NEPA manager and Tracy has moved into Bill’s position of Chief Archaeologist. Soon they will be advertising for a replacement for Tracy’s position. Work-wise they are doing usual road widening and bridge replacements.

**SCDAH:**

No report.

**USC Department of Anthropology:** Keith Stephenson

Keith announced for Adam King that starting in the Fall of 2019 the Anthropology Department will begin accepting students into a new archaeology MA track called The Professional MA Track in Archaeology. It features an abbreviated course of study focused on archaeological practice and a practice based thesis tailored to the students’ interests and career path. SCIAA faculty will take the primary role in mentoring students and courses will be taught by the anthropology department as well as SCIAA faculty. It is his intent to have thesis projects operate as internships with private firms, state and federal agencies, and other entities. Keith will be contacting COSCAPA members in the future to discuss potential participation in the program. The goal is to train a student, give you a product and create an employable professional.

**USC Lancaster:** Chris Judge

They just finished Native American Studies week. They just installed four new exhibits. In the upcoming months they will be having art sales with the Native folks for the Red Rose Festival in May, Ag and Art in June, and the first Saturday in December. In terms of research they are working with a bunch of Pee Dee groups to write a historic narrative that they might use for federal recognition. Chris is a working on a triangular point decline model for SC Antiquity. Chris will be joining Gail at Mulberry May 13th through June 21st.

**Winthrop University:**

No Report.

**FEDERAL AGENCIES:**

**NRCS:**

No report.

**USFS:** Bob Morgan

There are three new district zone archaeologists. We are in process of getting new scope of work together for a new IDIQ contract. The solicitation will be out in the fall. There is a big multi-state and multi-agency ARPA case ongoing, that unfortunately Bob does not know much about. The USFS is just one of many agencies involved and both South Carolina and Georgia are involved. The case is against an organization of individuals that would pay to go out and loot sites on only federal lands. As more develops and he finds out more information from law enforcement he will share it. They are currently working on a region-wide history of fire lookouts, which is close to coming out. They are also trying to go back and identify historic trails across the forests throughout the state.

**USACE:**

No report.

**PRIVATE AGENCIES:**

**AF Consultants:** Leslie Drucker

They have had a plate full of small projects. The most interesting one was a wetlands mitigation bank off of Corley Mill Road in Lexington County where there is a dam and mill ruins. There is not much written about the mill. It was a complex of mills built by Walter Luther Corley in the early 1900s. The dam is concrete and was modified by Walter’s son Wilbur and turned it into an impoundment for water fowl hunting in the mid-20th century. Wilbur’s granddaughters currently own the land and insist that the mill was always a grist mill. AF is suggesting that the mill was more likely a saw mill given the complexity of the dam and strap and pulley system that crossed the road between the mill and dam. AFC originally intended to recommend the site as eligible and in need of protection, but that recommendation would have led to an extended bout of wrangling among US-ACOE, the client, and landowners, so they pulled back to recommending the site as eligible and requiring a MOA for conservation treatment

**Brockington:** Eric Poplin

They have mostly been doing small surveys. They also have three projects that OCRM is driving in the City of Charleston downtown, which is a big change. The City of Charleston is also raising the low Battery sea wall, which is an adverse effect to the sea wall. Another potential portion of the old city wall was recently discovered during construction and Martha Zierden and folks with Historic Charleston Foundation were given one day to take a look at it. Brockington did some GPR work on the sidewalk and did find something potentially there. A portion of that sidewalk will be removed to plant a palmetto tree and Brockington is hoping to get a chance to look at what is beneath it then.

**Diachronic Research Foundation:**

No report.

**HDR**: Josh Fletcher

Josh went out on Monday with Keely from SHPO and Michelle Zulauf from the Corps to a proposed stream restoration/mitigation bank in Newberry County in the area of Chappells, to determine if there would be impact to any archaeological resources. They are waiting to see what SHPO and the Corps advise on that.

**New South Associates:**

No report. All members are attending the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference.

**TRC:** Sean Norris

They have mostly been working on smaller surveys around the state, including solar farm sites in Orangeburg and Bamberg. Mona is still monitoring around the Catawba Village Site in Rock Hill. We did an interesting metal detector survey in north Georgia at the Battle of Rocky Face, and 1864 battle field site. Jim Legg assisted them and interestingly, they found a military button that post-dated the battle. There are a lot Civil War sites around there and they are constructing a mountain bike trail with a small parking lot and interpretive kiosk.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

COSCAPA donated $130 to cosponsor the historic ceramics workshop, which will occur on April 19th.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

From Nena Powell Rice: The Arkhaios Film Festival will be October 4, 5, 6, 2019 but the location is yet to be determined.

On May 4th from 11:00 to 3:00, the people excavated from the Gaillard Center by Brockington will be reburied at the Gaillard.

President Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 12:04 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for June, 14, 2019, at the River Alliance Building located at 300 Candi Lane in Columbia.