

State of Wisconsin

BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD

Minutes of the State of Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Board January 30, 2025

I. Welcome and Call to Order (*Interim Board Chair, George W. Christiansen II*)

Mr. Christiansen called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

II. Roll Call, for Determination of Quorum (*Board Secretary, Paul Reckner*)

Board Members Present, Virtual: Mr. George Christiansen, Dr. Katherine Stevenson, Mr. Lawrence Plucinski, Dr. Paul Reckner, Dr. Amy Rosebrough, Ms. Amy Wyatt, Ms. Sarah Thompson, Mr. Zachary Stencil

Board Members Absent: Mr. Dave Grignon

WHS Staff Present, Virtual: Daina Penkiunas, Tyler Howe, Taylor Lambrigger, Kay Romanin

Members of the Public Present, Virtual: Chris Allswede, Eileen Thompson, Jay Frost, Judy Klimt Houston, Mark Houston, Larry Johns, Mark Geronime, Sally Lehner, Christopher Veit, Chloris Lowe, Bobby Tanzilo. CJ Ryan, Lisa Laschinger

III. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Stevenson motioned to approve the agenda. Dr. Reckner seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Plucinski motioned to approve the agenda. Dr. Stevenson seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

V. Public Comment (Note: A total of 15 speakers will be allowed a maximum of two minutes each on a first come, first served basis. All comments must pertain to a specific item on the agenda).

1. Judy Klimt Houston
2. Chris Allswede
3. Mark Houston
4. Sally Lehner
5. Larry Johns
6. Eileen Thompson
7. Chloris Lowe

VI. Review of Unauthorized Disturbances to Burial Sites per Wis. Stat. §157.70

1. East Side Potters Field (MI-0531/BMI-0086)

Discussion occurred on including more explicit wording in burial contracts about financial responsibilities of the disturbing entity, the pattern of continued disturbance even with WHS outreach, and the apparent lack of proactive plan to preserve the site.

Dr. Stevenson motioned that the case be referred to board counsel with the intention to forward this to DOJ for action under 157.70(10). Mr. Plucinski seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

2. Payne's Point (WN-0069/BWN-0116)

Discussion on the information provided in report is vague and inadequate to allow for the board to determine appropriate action.

Dr. Reckner moved to have WHS to gather more information on this event for future board consideration at a regular quarterly meeting. Dr. Stevenson seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

3. Baskerville Park Mound Group (DA-0116/BDA-0259)

Mr. Stencil moved to have WHS gather more information on this event for future board consideration at a regular quarterly meeting. Mr. Plucinski seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

4. Vilas Park Mound Group (DA-0149/BDA-0395)

Discussion on the vague nature of the authorization and project plans, timing of larger conversations about cultural resource management with the Office of the State Archaeologist, and apparent missteps by both WHS and the City of Madison Parks Division.

Mr. Stencil moved that the case be referred to board counsel for evaluation on if it is an actionable case under 157.70(10). Mr. Plucinski seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Board went for a break, back at 12:35pm

5. Elm Grove Cemetery (BSW-0100)

Mr. Plucinski moved to have WHS to gather more information on this event for future board consideration at a regular quarterly meeting. Dr. Stevenson seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

6. Muske Mound Group (MQ-0046/BMQ-0093)

Discussion surrounding the emails between archaeological consulting firm and the client, the repeated reminders of legal protections of the site and legal process, and the post-disturbance report.

Dr. Reckner motioned that the case be referred to board counsel with the intention to forward this to DOJ for action under 157.70(10). Dr. Stevenson seconded. Discussion clarifying the phrasing of the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

7. Picnic Point Mound Group (DA-0121/BDA-0381)

Discussion surrounding the time between the disturbance and follow up, as well as the submitted policy in response to the disturbance.

Dr. Reckner moved to postpone this item until the next quarterly meeting pending a report from WHS staff after meeting with the University of Wisconsin, Madison liaison. Dr. Stevenson seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

8. Milwaukee Cemetery (MI-0538/BMI-0029)

Dr. Stevenson moved to have WHS to gather more information on this event for future board consideration at a regular quarterly meeting. Mr. Plucinski seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

9. Muscoda Mound Group (GT-0056/BGT-0380)

Dr. Stevenson moved to have WHS to gather more information on this event for future board consideration at a regular quarterly meeting. Mr. Stencil seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

10. Orton Park Cemetery (DA-1222/BDA-0175)

Discussion surrounding the differences between this incident and the incident in Vilas Park and the specificity of the response document.

Dr. Recker moved to table the issue. Mr. Christiansen requested an amendment to postpone the issue. Dr. Reckner accepted the amendment. Ms. Thompsen seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Christiansen adjourned the meeting at 1:52pm