

Meeting Minutes
State of Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Board
September 4, 2025
10:30 am to 1:00 pm

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

Mr. Christiansen called meeting to order at 10:31am.

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

Present, In Person: Paul Reckner, Larry Plucinski, Sarah Thompson, Amy Rosebrough, Amy Wyatt, George Christiansen, Rick Edwards

Present, Virtual: Zachary Stencil

Absent: David Grignon

WHS Staff, In Person: Tyler Howe, Taylor Lambrigger, Walker Good

WHS Staff, Virtual: Leah Penzkofer, Elizabeth Hilton, Madeline Norton

Guests, In Person: Judy Houston, Mark Houston, Rick Moser, Devan Zammuto, Susan Lovern

Guests, Virtual: James Davies, Michael LaRonge, Ryan Duffy, Mark Geronime, B.B., CJ Ryan, Christina Zweig, William Balco, Lisa Laschinger

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Dr. Edwards moved to approve the September 2025 agenda.

Second: Mr. Plucinski

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes from 5 June 2025 meeting

Motion: Mr. Plucinski moved to approve the June 2025 meeting minutes.

Second: Dr. Edwards.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

V. Introduction (*Board Chair, George W. Christiansen III*)

VI. 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 Houston
2. Judy Houston, on behalf of the Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, Inc.
3. Mark Houston
4. James Davies
5. Froedtert Hospital

VII. Chair Report

- a. **Introduction of new Board member Dr. Richard Edwards**

BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD

VIII. New Business

a. Consideration of Applications for Completion and Entry to and/or Removal from the Registry of Interested Persons

i. Reid D. Van Sluys; Grave of the Unknown Gandy (CO-0455/BCO-0377)

Motion: Mr. Reckner moved to accept the application for the Registry.

Second: Mr. Stencil

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

ii. The Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, Inc.; St. Peters Immanuel Cemetery (BMI-0015), Brazelton Cemetery (BMI-0084), East Side Potters Field (MI-0531/BMI-0086), Milwaukee Cemetery (MI-0538/BMI-0029), Second Ward Cemetery (MI-0523/BMI-0088), Old Catholic Cemetery (MI-0524/BMI-0073),

Discussion to approve all together in a group as the applications were identical beyond the site name.

Motion: Dr. Edwards moved to accept the application for the Registry.

Second: Mr. Plucinski.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

iii. Milwaukee County Office of Corporation Counsel; All of the Milwaukee Poor Farm Cemeteries

Motion: Mr. Stencil moved to reconsider priority of interest for the applicant.

Second: Ms. Thompson.

Discussion: Discussion on how to define “cultural” priority of interest, past precedent regarding priority of interest of other municipal governments and state agencies on the Registry, and who owns the land these burial sites are on.

Vote: None in favor, all opposed, none abstained.

Motion failed.

Motion: Dr. Edwards moved to postpone the agenda item for December meeting.

Second: Mr. Plucinski.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

iv. Green Lake County Highway; Quimby Graves (BGL-0175)

Motion: Dr. Reckner moved to accept the application for the Registry.

Second: Ms. Thompson.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

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b. Approval of New Wisconsin Historical Society Wisconsin Burial Site Preservation Forms

i. Request for Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Board Review Form

Motion: Mr. Plucinski moved to accept the updated application for Board Review.

Second: Ms. Thompson.

Discussion: Minor form edits, nothing verbiage/content related. No further approval from board required after formatting edits are made.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

ii. Registry of Interested Persons Application Form

Motion: Mr. Edwards moved to accept the updated application for the Registry.

Second: Dr. Reckner.

Discussion: Making sure that there is information, in the letter for individuals/organizations accepted to the registry, to add in a disclaimer regarding updates to contact information.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

c. Proposal to change location of 4th Quarter Board meeting (Dec. 4th) to Oshkosh to coordinate with Dec. 3rd WITRC meeting

Motion: Mr. Edwards moved to accept the application for the Registry.

Second: Mr. Plucinski.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

Motion: Mr. Stencil moved to move the meeting to December 11th in Oshkosh pending location availability.

Second: Mr. Plucinski.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

Board Chair Mr. Christiansen began a break at 11:35am.

Board meeting resumed at 11:48am.

Mr. Plucinski was absent for resumption of the meeting, quorum still present.

IX. Unfinished Business**a. Noncompliance Letters**

Motion: Ms. Thompson moved to accept noncompliance letters from We Energies and WPS.

Second: Mr. Edwards.

Discussion: Discussion surrounding weight of cultural resources on KPI scores, communication between those consultants who apply for permits and those on the ground doing the work, short term and long term changes to process, verification processes for if grounds crews have seen compliance notes on plans, and training of grounds crews.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.

Note Mr. Plucinski re-entered the meeting during IX(a) discussion.

Discussion to re-arrange the agenda to move closed session next.

X. Closed Session***a. Litigation Update. The Board may entertain a motion to go into closed session in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of conferring with the Board's legal counsel about current litigation in which the Board is involved.**

Motion: Ms. Thompson moved to enter closed session for a litigation update.

Second: Mr. Plucinski.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Motion passed.



b. Reconvene in open session if closed deliberations have occurred.

Motion: Dr. Edwards moved to reconvene in open session.

Second: Mr. Plucinski.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

**The Board will convene in open session but may move to closed session under Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g), and then reconvene into open session prior to adjournment of this meeting. This notice is intended to inform the public that this meeting will convene in open session, may moved to closed session, and then may reconvene in open session. Wis. Stat. § 19.85(2).*

XI. Wisconsin Historical Society Report on Wis. Stat. 157.70 Actions (WHS Liaison, Taylor Lambrigger)

a. Eligible for Board Action

- i. Catalogued Burial Site Permit Request Decisions (no actionable items)
- ii. Report on Certain Determinations Pertaining to the Disposition of Human Remains and Associated Burial Objects (no actionable items)
- iii. Unauthorized/Unpermitted Burial Site Disturbances
 1. Schuette Mound Group (BMQ-0094) (WHS #24-1216)

Motion: Dr. Reckner moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Mr. Stencil.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

2. Blume Burial (OZ-0050/BOZ-0064) (WHS #24-1227)

WHS will follow up at the next meeting.

3. Beloit College Mound Group (RO-0015/BRO-0114)

Motion: Dr. Edwards moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Ms. Thompson.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

4. Eighmy Group (DA-0045)

WHS will follow up at the next meeting.

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5. Columbia-Ottman Lake (WP-0018/BWP-0124)

WHS updated their recommendation to no further action recommended.

Motion: Dr. Edwards moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Dr. Reckner.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

6. Second Ward Cemetery (MI-0523/BMI-0088) (WHS #25-1386)

Motion: Mr. Plucinski moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Dr. Edwards.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

7. Grane Burials (DA-0793/BDA-0523) (WHS #25-0055)

Motion: Mr. Plucinski moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Dr. Reckner.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

8. Lagoon Burial (MI-0501/BMI-0186), Milwaukee County Grounds – Froedtert Tract (MI-0527/BMI-0076), Wisconsin Avenue Ponds (MI-0583/BMI-0200), Doyne Avenue (MI-0606/BMI-0076) (WHS #23-2542)

Motion: Mr. Stencil moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Mr. Plucinski.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

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9. Onalaska Village and Cemetery (LC-0288/BLC-0104)

Motion: Dr. Edwards moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Ms. Thompson.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

10. Wampum's Grave (MN-0249/BMN-0143) (WHS #25-1209)

WHS will follow up at the next meeting.

11. St. Jerome Cemetery (BWK-0057) (WHS #24-0916)

WHS will follow up at the next meeting.

12. Storytown Cemetery (BDA-0105)

Motion: Ms. Thompson moved to accept WHS recommendation for no further action.

Second: Dr. Edwards.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstain.

Motion passed.

13. Maney/Weeks Site (LG-0003/BLG-0045)

WHS will follow up at the next meeting.

b. Not Subject to Board Action

Report was given.

XII. Other Reporting

a. WI State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (*Amy Wyatt*)

Report was given.

b. WI Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) (*Amy Rosebrough*)

Report was given.

c. Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Repatriation Committee (WITRC) (*WITRC President, Bill Quackenbush*)

No report.

XIII. Announcements

Reminder to complete Conflict of Interest Forms and return to WHS. These forms are reviewed and signed annually.

State Ethics Training is also an annual requirement, and DOA will be reaching out to all board members to complete.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Christiansen adjourned the meeting at 1:35pm.