

Collect. Preserve. Educate.
The Campbell County Rockpile Museum tells the story of the Powder River Basin.

**Minutes for the CCRM Board Meeting
Regular Monthly Meeting--May 15, 2018
Rockpile Museum, 6:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order and Introductions

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Board President John Daly, presiding officer. Secretary Sherry Lowell took the minutes.

Present: Museum Board Members: John Daly, Tami Bishop, Sherry Lowell, Rita Cossitt Mueller, and Kelcie Hughes.

Museum Staff: Director Robert Henning

Guests: Nello Williams and Charlene Busk

- II. Roll Call-During the roll call of the Rockpile Museum Board each member and guest presented a brief historical story, object, or memory for the group. Tami Bishop taught for three days in our museum's Oriva-Morrish School for this year's Pioneer School program. The school building dates back to 1913 as Beck School on Beck Homestead south of Gillette. It was moved NW of Gillette in 1918 where it became the Oriva School. After 1962, the Morrish family moved it to their property and in 2010 donated it to the museum. Charlene Busk recently visited Clearmont, WY, which celebrated its 125th year anniversary last year. She was impressed by the artifacts their museum have on display. Their historical group alternates meeting there and in Sheridan. Clearmont Days are held the 3rd weekend in June. Sherry Lowell talked about coal trains or "unit trains" from May 2, 1977, News Record. Each car in the train was designed to haul 100 tons and each train made up of 100 cars to transport Western coal to Eastern & Southern power plants. Today, there is an 134 car average per coal train according to Kelcie Hughes. John Daly spoke of Campbell County's first County Commissioners' meeting on January 7, 1913, with a total of three members serving varying terms of 2-4 years. The county attorney had a \$30,000 annual budget from which it paid among other expenses for animal hide bounties. Director Henning pointed out the NZ Shoe Store sign on the museum's wall which was discovered by Norton Construction during a 2017 remodel of the Breanna Bakery façade on Gillette Ave. Norton donated it to museum. A photo with the NZ sign on the building in its day hung on the wall beside it. Nello Williams related the history of 27 substantially built homes all alike that were moved from a SAC base, Glasgow Air Force Base, in NE Montana near the Canadian border to Stanley & Church Streets in Gillette near the Hillcrest Elementary School. As an educator, he owned one of these homes. In 1976, Bill Dorr purchased all of them when the educators had moved out of them. Kelcie Hughes presented the history

of Gillette's 1935 colonial style Post Office at the corner of Gillette Ave and 3rd St. Its architect, Lewis A. Simon, designed 108 post offices across the United States but only one was in Wyoming. John Daly added that the building had a secret entrance which the Postal Inspector accessed to monitor mail sorting. Rita Cossitt Mueller visited four museums over a four-day trip recently and was impressed by the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT, as well as, Carbon County Museum in Rawlins, WY. She saw horse snow shoes which look like knotted rope and showed her orange "That's WY" flag.

B. Approval of Agenda

Board reviewed agenda and John Daly called for changes or corrections. John Daly requested moving Nello Williams' presentation to the beginning of the meeting. Tami Bishop moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as amended, Kelcie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Elderhostel / Road Scholar – Guest Nello Williams

In the early 2000's, two week-long Elderhostel Programs operated during the summer for approximately five years. The one in Gillette, "Back In Time", and one in Newcastle, "More Than Gold In The Black Hills", attracted grandparents and their grandchildren from USA and the world. Nello Williams suggested this type of venue for a possible museum fund-raiser in the future. He admitted that the program is intense for five days. The cost per person for five days would include housing, all meals, transportation and tours. He believed that Gillette has the best offering of unglaciated science and off-the-beaten-path tourist offerings. The Road Scholar Magazine could be used to advertise this travel opportunity. Tami Bishop asked whether insurance was purchased during his time with the program. Nello did not think so. Erma Kaufman who was on the Rockpile Museum's staff handled the bulk of planning for this program at the time. The current board discussed that logistics would be very great for this type of venue and would a 2-day program be more feasible. Charlene Busk talked about the possibility of museum, RMA and CCHS coordinating to do this. Tami Bishop asked Director Henning to present the topic to the RMA.

D. Approval of Minutes

The April 17, 2018, regular board meeting minutes were presented for review and approval.

A motion was made by Tami Bishop to approve the April 2018 board meeting minutes; seconded by Rita Cossitt Mueller. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Expense Report

As of May 12th, there were 12 purchase orders from the regular budget to be approved and paid totaling \$5,971.27. There were at least four outstanding invoices from the general museum accounts totaling \$877.96 and one outstanding invoice from 1% funds totaling \$194.95.

For the month of April, there were 21 vouchers from our regular accounts totaling \$5,906.66 and 9 vouchers from the 1% accounts totaling \$1,170.79. Director Henning signed the following vouchers after the regular April meeting:

First National Bank Visa	\$422.34
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A motion was made by Rita Cossitt Mueller, to approve the April 2018 purchase orders signed by Director Henning and the May 2018 purchase orders as presented; seconded by Tami Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Collections Report

I. Grizzly Bear from April – Donation Withdrawn by Owner

DISCUSSION: John Daly commented that touchable hides could be provided with a mounted bear exhibit.

II. May Collections Report

There were 4 donations for the board to evaluate this month. Donors included: Beverly Whipple, Lynn Stodola, Charlie Messenheimer, and Staff Collected. A full report with objects and recommendations was in each board member's packet.

A motion was made by Rita Cossitt Mueller, to approve the staff recommendations regarding the donations; seconded by Tami Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Education Report

I. Visitation Report – The total number of patrons served in April was down from 1,045 last year to 796 this year for a decrease of 249 or 24%. The big decrease was in regular visitors which were down 169. For the year, we were down 384 visitors or 9.5% over last year at 3,670 total residents and visitors served.

DISCUSSION: Rita Cossitt Mueller commented that the Little Powder School 3rd grade of 6-8 students could not be fit into the four-week 2018 Pioneer School. Tami Bishop would like to see an Online Calendar scheduling be used for ease of teachers signing up. Also, improve length of program available and fairer way to schedule.

II. *The Way We Worked* Exhibition and Program Update

DISCUSSION: Director Henning said that part of *The Way We Worked* Exhibit was assembled by May 15th so that the News Record could get photos for the article they will be publishing. The coordinating "Back to Business" exhibit was developed by Angela Beenken and Cara Reeves.

H. Schedule

- May 16 – GALI visits Rockpile Museum – 8:00 a.m.
- May 17 – RMA Board Meeting – 2:30 p.m.
- May 19 – Smithsonian exhibit *The Way We Worked* opening – 2:00 to 4:00
- May 23 – Admin Caucus Lunch at the Museum – 11:30 a.m.
- May 23 – Artist Roundtable Event (TWWW) – 5:30 p.m.
- May 24 – Lodging Association lunch at the Museum – 12:00 noon
- May 28 – Museum OPEN on Memorial Day
- June 1 – Intern Begins
- June 1 – Wyoming Humanities Reception and Presentation by Sam Western titled “For the Good of Society at Large” – 5:00 p.m.
- June 2 – Dance Through the Decades – Senior Center – 6:00 p.m.
- June 7 – Coal Mining Industry (TWWW) – CC Public Library – 7:00 p.m.
- June 12 – Wyoming Game Warden History (TWWW) – 6:30 p.m.
- June 13 – GALI Graduation
- June 19 – CCRM Board Meeting and Quarterly Meeting with Commissioners
- June 21 – RMA Board Meeting – 2:30 p.m.

I. Old Business

I. Strategic Planning

a. Second Survey Questions

DISCUSSION: Rita Cossitt Mueller felt that open-ended questions are not useful.

A motion was made by Tami Bishop to accept the 10-question Second Survey as redone at this meeting; seconded by Kelcie Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Schedule/Plan Moving Forward

DISCUSSION: The upcoming May 19th board committee meeting would not be necessary.

II. Highway Crossing Safety Letter

DISCUSSION: Consider adding to draft of letter—how dark the street is at night & that there are 5-lanes of traffic in front of the museum.

A motion was made by Kelcie Hughes to approve the letter draft with changes and send it; seconded by Rita Cossitt Mueller. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Board Goals

DISCUSSION: Kelcie Hughes mentioned that John’s idea about traveling as a board was a great idea but she was unable to attend such functions with her schedule. Hughes suggested that if we attend any museum we should collect information and then bring it to our board. Tami Bishop thought that research of current trends of successful museums was important, i.e., visiting with other boards with our operational questions.

John Daly would like to see our board members attend museum functions, review the budget annually and review mission annually. Rita Cossitt Mueller would like to see a list of questions developed which we would ask other museum's board members. Charlene Busk would like to know how often museums change their exhibits. Sherry Lowell would like board members to actively advocate for increased visitor attendance of museum programs and exhibits.

J. New Business

I. Summer Internship Update

DISCUSSION: Director Henning mentioned that the RMA funded this. Elizabeth Niles was chosen to be the first intern and will work with Registrar Beenken. When Henning was asked about having two interns, he said that they would start with one and make evaluations from there.

K. General Discussion: Rita Cossitt Mueller would like the board to go to the Broadus Museum, MT, which features local history and is staffed by volunteers. It opens after Memorial Day. The tour would be an all-day trip and could include Morse Ranch and Reynolds Battlefield; she will work on scheduling it. Kelcie Hughes thought it was important to have our own logo and not be combined into one entity, since Robert Henning had mentioned the Commissioners were looking at changing the logo. Charlene Busk mentioned that some Buffalo and Sheridan folks asked if Gillette had a museum and wasn't the Rockpile just rocks.

L. Adjourn

There being no further business President John Daly adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

The next regular board meeting and quarterly meeting with the Campbell County Commissioners is scheduled for June 19th with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m.

May 2018 Board Minutes submitted by Board Secretary Sherry Lowell.



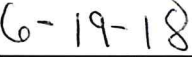
CCRM Board Member



Date



CCRM Board Member



Date