

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

**Minutes for the CCRM Board Meeting and  
Quarterly Meeting with the Campbell County Commissioners  
September 18, 2018  
Rockpile Museum, 6:00 p.m.**

**A. Call to Order, Introductions, and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Vice President Tami Bishop.

I. Introductions:

Present: Museum Board Members: Tami Bishop, Sherry Lowell, Rita Cossitt Mueller, and Kelcie Hughes. County Commissioners: Matt Avery, Micky Shober, Clark Kissack, and Rusty Bell. County Staff: Administrative Director Robert Palmer and County Clerk Susan Saunders. Museum Staff: Director Robert Henning.

Absent: Museum Board Member: President John Daly. Campbell County Commissioner: Chairman Mark Christiansen

Guests: DG Reardon and News Record reporter Jonathan Gallardo

II. Roll Call: Each person present gave a brief historical story from their family and or local history. Highlights included:

Kelcie Hughes shared her family history from Potter's Valley and Ukiah, CA. Rita Cossitt Mueller shared a three-barrel gun from a kit from the Mueller family. Tami Bishop shared history from Margaret Bowden's book about the blizzard of '49. Ms. Bowden spent six weeks in the house; her husband had to dig steps in the snowdrift to get out of the house. County commissioners put together an emergency help plan. There were no trains in or out of the county for six weeks. By February 24<sup>th</sup> the county had cleared 1,700 miles of road, mostly hauling it away as it was too heavy to push aside. Clark Kissack spoke of his grandparents, the Earl Bowers, homesteaded on the Highlight Road. 1972 was the last year they herded sheep to the sale yard in Gillette. The drive took three days and they moved 12 to 15 miles per day; camping at Cordero Creek and where the Lix Apple ranch is now. Sherry Lowell shared her recent vacation camping in the Colorado mountains and having no cell service. She related how not having phone service has changed over the

years. Jonathan Gallardo told of his grandfather serving in the Philippines during WWII. He was part of the Bataan Death March. His great grandfather was abducted by the Japanese. Also, Jonathan's father was Irish. DG Reardon's ancestors came through Ellis Island and homesteaded on Bower's Route next to the WY/MT line in 1942. Rusty Bell related that his family is not from here. His Grandmother was from Redding, SD and his Grandfather from Pennsylvania. They owned a café in Spearfish, SD. Some of the fish they served came from local fishermen—some from boys fishing with a line down their trouser leg at the fish hatchery. Micky Shober remembered knowing Tuffy Reardon, related to DG. Micky had a cousin here married to Johnny Herld. His family moved to Upton during the oil days and one winter day it snowed so much the snow had to be removed with a CAT scrapper. This was Micky's mom's first winter in Wyoming. Robert Henning showed pictures of the construction of the old Westside/Westwood school, soon to be taken down. It was built in 1963 for \$129,000. Tami Bishop taught there. Susan Saunders passed but Robert Palmer related that her cousin is married to his sister. Matt Avery discussed Lorna Whisler's articles from 1935 or 36 about the Texas trails. They came up the Cheyenne River to the Belle Fourche, on to Dry Creek and Miller Creek and passed through the Jones ranch near his property.

## **B. Approval of Agenda**

Board reviewed agenda and Tami Bishop called for changes or corrections. No changes or additional items were presented, and the board approved the Motion passed unanimously.

## **C. Quarterly Meeting of the Campbell County Commissioners and Rockpile Museum Board**

### **I. Museum Strategic Plan Survey #2 Results**

Rita Cossitt Mueller called attention to the bar graphs for each question. They visually illustrate each question. Tami Bishop felt #2 was especially telling—Local history was ranked first by a large margin. Sherry Lowell stated that there were 71 responses and almost all had visited the museum so they were informed responses. Mickey Shober stated that #3 showed no change so there was no monetary advantage. Robert Palmer noted that on #8 “what you see is what you get”. Rusty Bell thought #4 was interesting—the variety of funding, Robert Palmer noted that Robert Henning and his staff received a favorable report. Robert Henning mentioned some good ideas noted in #7 and #8 to get more students involved. Rusty Bell had the following ideas on that topic: use the library “bus” to bring students to the museum; have high school groups host

meetings at the museum. Matt Avery suggested that the American History classes at the High Schools should come tour. Clark Kissack suggested that the museum present history of the 70s, 80s, and/or 90s to local history classes. Micky Shober wondered if 4<sup>th</sup> grades, who study WY history, come to the museum and whether their instruction includes mining and natural resources history. Rusty Bell followed that thought by including the history of mining and oil industries and the Dry Fork technical developments. Possibly could get local sponsors for this.

## II. Dixie Reece Painting Donation

Robert Henning introduced the matter to all and stated that there are between 45 and 50 paintings being offered to the museum. Robert Palmer asked about the cost of the collection. No cost for the paintings but there would be costs for cleaning and storage. Rusty Bell asked for the cost of making a current storage adequate for the paintings. Robert Henning said that depended on which space was used. Robert Palmer suggested the courthouse space. It was suggested that the paintings be rotated through the Halls of Art program and that two of the courtrooms are asking for artwork. DG Reardon suggested taking a print off the original artwork and displaying that. Robert Palmer stated that for true art appreciation the actual painting would need to be displayed. Oil painting hold up pretty well to public display. DG Reardon thought maybe prints could be taken for traveling exhibits and/or sale. Tami Bishop suggested we solicit ideas from other artists.

## III. WYDOT Study Results

Tami Bishop introduced the topic and pointed out the WYDOT response letter. Their suggestion is to have pedestrian signs erected and possibly have a flagger for special events. Rusty Bell noted that the museum should call with a 60-day notice required to cover unforeseeable issues. Micky Shober reported that Keyhole Technology has flaggers available as does S&S, and Simons. Robert Henning asked if the commissioners request the signs but the consensus was that the museum does that and copies to the others. Micky Shober wondered if the city was to make the sign but it was decided that WYDOT probably had their own regulations for signs. Sherry Lowell noted that signs would be needed both east and west as the museum is out of view because of trees. Micky Shober added that it's important to clean up after special events and that the solid waste division can train on how to pick up trash.

IV. Other

Robert Henning gave an overview of upcoming events. Micky Shober asked for the number of events that require the extra insurance coverage. Matt Avery stated that we lose speakers because of the insurance requirement.

V. Adjourn Commissioners Meeting

Hearing no further business, the Quarterly Meeting between the Campbell County Commissioners and the Rockpile Museum Board was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The Next Quarterly Museum Meeting is set for December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

**D. Regular Monthly Meeting of the Rockpile Museum Board of Directors**

**I. Consent Agenda**

The following consent agenda was presented:

**Approval of Minutes**

1. July 24, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes
2. August 21, 2018 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
3. September 4, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes
4. September 13, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes

**Expense Report**

As of September 18<sup>th</sup>, there are 11 purchase orders from the regular budget to be approved and paid totaling \$3,444.84. There are 3 outstanding invoices from the general museum accounts including First National Bank Visa, Walmart, and CDW-G LLC totaling \$3,665.13. There are also 3 one-percent funds requests from Herman's Antique (2) and the Rockpile Museum Gift Shop totaling \$130.14.

For the month of August, there were 12 vouchers from our regular accounts totaling \$3,291.95 and two vouchers from the 1% accounts totaling \$116.99. Board Secretary Kelcie Hughes signed the following vouchers after the regular July meeting:

Sue Collins	\$45.00
Arcadia Publishing	\$209.52
Mary Fichtner	\$82.25
First National Bank Visa	\$627.05
First National Bank Visa - 1%	\$79.01

Tami Bishop asked the board if they wish for any items to be removed from the consent agenda. Robert Henning asked that #2 and #3 of the minutes be removed. Sherry Lowell moved to do so; Rita Cossitt Mueller seconded. Motion passed. Rita Cossitt Mueller moved to approve the remaining consent agenda. Sherry Lowell seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Robert Henning passed around vouchers and minutes for signatures.

## **II. Collections Report**

### September Collections Report

There were six donations for the board to evaluate this month. Donors included: Ken Geer, Pete Bertoncej family (Nancy Dirks of Omaha, NE), Marlene Riggle, and Linda Friedland of Lawndale, NC, Don Edwards, Sandy Holyoak, and Eda Reno. A full report with objects and recommendations is in each board members packet.

Discussion: Robert Henning moved the railroad books from education collection to staff collection. DG Reardon asked if the Campbell County Library also has these books in their collection. Robert Henning stated that the library discards books if they are not used; the museum would keep theirs.

A motion was made by Sherry Lowell to approve the staff recommendations regarding the donations, including the above move from education to staff collection. Rita Cossitt Mueller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by three votes.

## **III. Education Report**

### a. Submitted Education Report from Rockpile Museum Education Coordinator Penny Schroder

Discussion: All agreed the online calendar for sign up for Pioneer school is excellent. That said, only two have signed up. Rita Cossitt Mueller suggested publicity of the November firearms workshops be made through Wyoming Game and Fish and at the American Legion dinner for hunters. Also, possibly at the library. Robert Henning thinks the 30 slots will fill easily as Ashley Hlebinsky is very well known. Robert Henning reported

that the museum has a new volunteer. Brian Cloud has a lot of experience and will help revamp displays. His background will be considered. Robert Henning added that the advisers being recruited are mostly teachers.

Discussion followed on the improvement of communication the board is seeing: This report, the letter from Angela, etc. Robert Henning is encouraging Penny Schroder to be a department chair and delegate. Tami Bishop will communicate to Penny Schroder how much the whole board appreciated her report.

- b. Visitation Report – Unfortunately August was down from last year. We served 1,263 guests in August which was down by 422 over last August for a decrease of 25%. Some of this may be due to the eclipse last August. For the year we are now up to 457 or 4.5% over this time last year at 10,537 total residents and visitors served.

Discussion: Robert Henning is to extend to the staff that all their hard work has paid off. We thank you all.

- c. RMA Event Report: Blizzard of '49 Author James Fuller

Discussion: It was a great program. 74 attended, the biggest crowd in the state. He sold a full box of his books. Robert Henning reports that Thursday nights work best for these types of programs.

- d. *Hold On To Your Hats, Ladies!* Exhibit

Discussion: There was good attendance by the Red Hat Ladies. It is noted that the museum has a great relationship with the NR and gets lots of great PR. This display has shown Angela that an easy to assemble and interesting to the public exhibit can be successful.

- e. *Home Front Posters of the Great War* exhibition opens Sep. 24

Discussion: It comes to us from Ft. Caspar and originally from the National WWI Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. We will add more local WWI stories and exhibits to extend the display once the traveling exhibit portion is returned to Casper in early November.

f. Enzi Carousel

Discussion: No date yet as the museum staff wants Sen. and Mrs. Enzi to attend. Kids will be able to ride on the carousel on special occasions with museum supervision. The opening date may be short notice depending on the Senator's schedule.

#### IV. Schedule

Sep. 20 – RMA Dance Through the Decades Committee Meeting – 1:30 p.m.

Sep. 20 – RMA Board Meeting, 2:30 p.m.

Sep. 20 – Hap Stuart *Cowboy Poetry* book reading and signing – 6:30 p.m.

Sep. 24 – *Home Front Posters of the Great War, 1917-1918* exhibit opens

Sep. 25 – CC Historical Soc. – “Warriors in Khaki” by Doug Cubbison – 7:00 p.m.

Discussion: Robert Henning pointed out the differences in the CC Historical Society and the RMA for Rita Cossitt Mueller. Doug Cubbison is a military historian. This program deals with the Native American soldiers and sailors in WWI and some WWI history from the Wind River Indian Reservation.

#### V. Old Business

a. Strategic Planning

Sherry Lowell provided a framework to help us with this process. She is willing to start formulating something for us to work with. She is in the process of researching how it's done. For us it will need to include the information gleaned from both surveys, the public forum, the MAP report, the 2016 draft and notes from other meetings. Robert Henning stated that it needs to include a new building. Rita Cossitt Mueller commented that the economy is up enough to have a new bldg. accepted. Tami Bishop replied that if we don't get moving on a new building we will be run over. She was referring to Jeff Wandler and his automotive museum down the street. He has doubled his original space and will also expand into the old Domino's bldg. The new building needs to be on the agenda for the March quarterly meeting with the commissioners.

b. Staff Task Schedules: Tami Bishop tabled due to late hour.

- c. Proposed Change to Roll Call – Kelcie Hughes. Rita Cossitt Mueller gave an overview of what this is about for Sherry Lowell. Tami Bishop tabled as Kelcie Hughes had to leave the meeting.
- d. Proposed Change to Collections Report – Director Henning

Discussion: This refers to listing the square footage of every item accepted. Sometimes linear, sometimes square. Robert Henning wants to take this off-Angela's plate. Tami Bishop tabled.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. November and December Meeting Dates

Discussion: November date is Nov. 20th, two days before Thanksgiving. Rita Cossitt Mueller and Tami Bishop will be gone. Kelcie Hughes and John Daly will need to be contacted. December 18th John Daly will be gone. It was agreed that the commissioners would be excused from the Dec. meeting.

- b. Dates to visit Jim Gatchell Museum in Buffalo

Discussion: Three dates were given: Friday, Sept 28, Monday, Oct 1, and Friday, Oct 5. The 28th was chosen if it works with the Buffalo Museum people. We will meet with their board at 10:00 a.m., have lunch, then tour the museum. We will meet at the Rockpile Museum at 8:45 a.m. and travel together.

**VII. General Discussion:** There was none.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Rita Cossitt Mueller moved to adjourn the meeting; Sherry Lowell seconded the motion, meeting was adjourned by Board Vice President Tami Bishop at 8:51 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on October 16th with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. Should Director Henning be absent, Angela Beenken and Penny Schroder will attend for the museum staff.



September 2018 Board Minutes submitted by Board Member Rita Cossitt Mueller.



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CCRM Board Member

16 Oct 18

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Date



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CCRM Board Member

16 Oct '18

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Date