



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY  
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.



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SCAAS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
10 August 2018, 6:00pm MDT  
Teleconference

Present: Bryan Bates, President; Ray Williamson, Secretary, in person at Pecos Conference; Greg Munson and Chris Dombroski by phone; Ric Alling out of cell phone range. Meeting called to order, 7:30 pm.

**Old Business:**

1. Pecos Conference Update: Bryan—We sold a couple of books from the 2011 conference; a good number of people came by and took brochures for the April conference (40-50); we also discussed what we focus on with them. Bryan gave a talk in which he pointed out that SCAAS would like to work with archaeologists when possible and suggested that archaeologists get in touch when they see a site that they think might have some relationship to celestial bodies; announced the April conference; he also talked with the director of Museum of Northern Arizona and she was quite receptive about having a part in the conference.  
Ray—Bryan's talk went well and raised consciousness about SCAAS; Lots of folks coming by the table; encountered several folks Ray hadn't seen for a while, including Phil Tuwaletstewa.  
Greg—Let's bring Phil to the conference. Bryan agreed that it was a good idea.
2. The April conference:
  - a. Inviting Native peoples. What parameters do we need to consider, remembering that we might need to pay for their travel? Should be a larger effort than we did for 2016. But, we also need to be cautious. What do we mean by Native science in this context? Certainly astronomy, especially ethnoastronomy. Ethnobotany would certainly be a good one. Jim Enote at Zuni might be good. He's working on maps about cultural resources. Ray—we also need to keep attention on the cultural landscape issues. Bryan and Greg agreed. What about pottery making, which depends on close knowledge of the materials and how they work? Ray pointed out that the University folks could help with ideas along these lines, particularly the director, Karen Snyder. Even though she doesn't want to be involved directly in the planning,

she would a good source of names and approaches. Chris suggested that we need to make some overtures to Native people to get ideas as well.

- b. Bryan needs guidance on how much money he can commit to spend in different areas. It's hard to determine costs until we know better who we'd invite. Chris: if we want to have a large group, which implies one amount of money. If we want fewer, then that is a lower amount, so we need to have a ballpark range of folks whom we'd like to invite. Also need to think whether we start slowly to invite folks or go for the larger one.
- c. How to raise funds for the conference? Greg: it is never too early to begin to raise money. Ray—What about Ballantine? If we have one or two thousand, we would have a good start. Greg: We can also approach History Colorado, but that is complicated and might not work for a conference in Arizona. If we approach them about funding for including Native science in school curricula, that might be good. We might also use our new sponsorship categories to raise sufficient funding for a start.
- d. Bryan needs permission to commit funds for the conference. We decided to defer this discussion till we get closer to the conference.
- e. Greg mentioned that a reporter from High Country News is interested in doing an article on cultural astronomy. Greg will get back to her about it.
- f. Bryan will be pulling together an operational plan for the conference over the next week. Chris and Greg would like to put a website together for the conference.

### **New Business:**

1. Board Vacancies/Vice President: Tony Hull resigned from the Board of Directors due to increasing personal and professional commitments. We all agreed to send Tony a note thanking him for his valuable service to SCAAS. Bryan nominated Chris Dombrowski to be Vice-President. Ray seconded. All agreed.
2. Membership committee: Bryan nominated Greg Munson as Chair of the committee. Chris seconded. All agreed.
3. Survey: not many folks responded.

Bryan Bates adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm. Next Board Meeting - Oct 1, 6pm MDT

Minutes submitted by:

Ray Williamson  
SCAAS Secretary  
August 16, 2018

Minutes certified by:

Bryan Bates  
SCAAS President  
August 18, 2018