



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY  
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.



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February 29, 2016

**SCAAS 2016 Conference Planning Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday February 25, 2016 5:00pm MST

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM with Greg Munson, Tony Hull, Ray Williamson, Andy Munro, and Bryan Bates participating via teleconference.

**1. Local and Scientific Organizing Committee composition and leadership**

Membership of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) was determined to be Tony Hull, Ray Williamson, Andy Munro, Greg Munson, Bryan Bates, Ric Alling, and Grant Coffey. A **motion** was made to nominate Ray Williamson to Chair the SOC. The motion was **approved**. We discussed inviting Michael Graves of UNM to be invited to the SOC. Tony is to contact him, determine his interest, and extend an invitation. Inviting Susan Milbrath was also discussed.

**2. Conference title and themes**

We have been using *Visualizing the Cultural Landscape: Traditional Knowledge from the Americas* as a working thematic title for this conference. We discussed changing this to *Visualizing the Cultural Landscape: Transport of Ideas and Culture Across the Americas*. It was agreed that this was a good change although the second half needed some minor adjustment. Ray was to take the lead in refining the conference thematic title. Previously suggested conference session themes include the Mesoamerican connection to the Southwest, increasing Native American participation, landscape archaeology, and public architecture. These themes and their phrasing need to be refined. We can also add to the list. We need to determine who does the vetting of presentation abstracts.

**3. Call for papers**

Discussion of composing a call for papers was tabled pending refining the conference thematic title, composing a conference description, and refining session themes. This should be done within a week. The call for papers can then be composed in the week following.

**4. Conference co-sponsors**

A list of potential conference co-sponsors was suggested including University of New Mexico/Maxwell Museum, Archaeological Society of New Mexico, University of Virginia, Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, various state archaeological societies, and possibly reaching out to Johanna Broda in Mexico City. Contributions of co-sponsors can include, but not be limited to, providing volunteers, assist in providing conference speakers, and assistance with the conference publication. Tony will take the lead in composing a more comprehensive co-sponsor list.

**5. Conference publication**

The costs incurred by the UNM Maxwell Museum in publishing our 2011 conference proceedings was discussed. We should consider asking them to publish our proceedings again. Further discussions on the conference publication was tabled.

**6. Conference dates, capacity, and costs**

There was a discussion of moving the conference to a later date to facilitate the attendance of key SCAAS members. Crow Canyon previously offered the first and last weeks of October and the first week of November 2016. A conference beginning October 25 or 26, 2016 was discussed. The first week of November 2016 may run into weather complications. There was also discussion of moving the conference to March/April 2017 to facilitate fundraising and increasing participation of archaeologists. Feelings were mixed. The capacity of the Mesa Verde Room at Crow Canyon is a maximum of 100 with that being pretty crowded. The Hovenweep Room has a large screen TV and may be able to accommodate more by video link. Crow Canyon will be consulted to determine if this is possible and any other limitations on the number of participants. Greg distributed cost estimates for facilities and competitive bids for a conference hotel, banquet, and catering. Discussion of costs and fees was tabled until our next planning meeting.

**7. Additional subjects**

Greg and Ray will meet with Crow Canyon representatives next week to update them on conference planning, the SOC, get additional information about any concerns they may have about conference co-sponsors, and enlist the help of their Native American Advisory Committee in increasing Native American participation in the conference. Tony indicated that he may be able to bring indigenous scholars from Mesoamerica.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM

All meetings of the SCAAS Conference Planning Committee are recorded and the recording represents the full record of meeting activities and discussions. The recording will be made available upon request. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the SCAAS website ([www.scaas.org](http://www.scaas.org)).

Minutes submitted by:

Bryan Bates  
SCAAS Secretary  
February 27, 2016

Minutes certified by:

Gregory E. Munson  
SCAAS President  
February 29, 2016