



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY  
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.



PO BOX 2313  
DOLORES, CO 81323  
WWW.SCAAS.ORG

TAX ID: 45-3412899

Board of Directors Meeting

Teleconference 9:00 to 11:00 am MDT  
Sunday, January 11, 2015

Present: President Gregory Munson; Vice-President Tony Hull (at 9:30am); Secretary Coni McCall; Kim Malville, Bryan Bates, Andy Munro, and Ric Alling. Absent: Todd Bostwick and Ken Zoll.

The Meeting was called to order by the President at 9:05 am.

*Action Items:*

**1. Approve minutes from last board meeting.**

Andy suggested a sentence be added that would indicate he was not there at the meeting, but his contributions were via emails sent prior to the meeting. Kim Malville made a motion to accept the minutes; Bryan Bates seconded. Roll was called for all other members who unanimously agreed.

**2. Reimbursement request- Laptop \$585.00**

Greg made a request for reimbursement of a Society business expense for a laptop he bought in 2013 to edit the CAASW 2011 manuscript and conduct SCAAS business. The laptop is a Lenovo ThinkPad, i7 core processor, 12GB RAM, 500 GB memory, with a three year onsite warranty. The total cost was \$585.00. It was needed to operate the organization, for desktop publishing, CAASW 2011 and beyond, and is capable of multimedia productions (films), GIS, and database applications. The laptop was acquired at a significant discount from a brother who is Lenovo dealer. The retail cost is about \$1,200.00. Greg estimated the laptop is used about 95% for SCAAS purposes. He requested full reimbursement.

**Discussion:** Ric asked if the laptop would transfer with a change in leadership or is this a working expense for the Society. Greg responded that it is a working expense. Bryan felt that it is a working expense of the organization but that the laptop should remain property of the organization. Greg commented that the retail cost of the laptop should be considered in making this reimbursement if it would become property of SCAAS. He would be willing to accept less if the laptop remained his property. Ric supported this reimbursement as a working expense for Greg by virtue of the work he has to do. Coni asked about the files on the laptop as opposed to the instrument itself. Laptops do go out of date within two years but the files should remain a permanent part of the Society. Andy said that under general accounting principles the laptop

and the contents should stay with the organization. He also reminded us that the Bylaws said any purchases over \$200 should be pre-approved before purchase. Greg commented that at the time of the purchase we were still in organizing and we had not yet received our 501(c)(3) status.

Greg said he withdrew the request, but informed us that 95% of the time on the computer is for the Society purposes so a laptop is needed for the Society. The Society could purchase a dedicated laptop but that it would be much more expensive. Kim concurred with Andy regarding the pre-approval. He said he would vote against approval. Kim said we all have personal computers we use for work, for record-keeping. He suggested Coni also uses her personal laptop for the Society. Kim then made a motion to deny full reimbursement and Andy seconded the motion. The vote follows: Bryan Bates, abstain. Ric, no. Greg, no. Coni, yes. The motion passed with three yes, two no, and one abstain.

Tony Hull joined the board teleconference at this time.

Regarding a printer, Greg commented that the board had previously authorized a 50% contribution (\$50.00) for a printer to be used by Greg for SCAAS and personal purposes. Andy reminded us that the Bylaws has a miscellaneous expenditure authorization that could be used for office supplies. Kim said that Ken Zoll and the Board deserves accountability. Greg commented that copies of all receipts within limit were sent to Ken Zoll for preparation of income/expense reports.

### **3. Full membership applications – Ninnemann, Krupp**

Greg recommend accepting both applications. Ninnemann sent in a resume. Andy made a motion to accept them; Kim seconded. A poll indicated Bryan, Ric, Greg, Tony, and Coni all said yes in agreement. Greg asked how to work with such applications immediately rather than encumbering the applicant to wait until the next board meeting. Andy suggested that included in the Bylaws is the provision that we can use emails to communicate between meetings, instead of waiting, even though it would be out of cycle. All concurred.

Ric advised the board that Todd Bostwick submitted his resignation from the board via email effective today at 9:26 am. No reason was given. Greg commented that it was likely due to overwhelming personal work commitments. Bryan expressed his disappointment and suggested sending a thank you letter to Todd for all the work he has contribute to the Society. All concurred. At this point Kim Malville said that John Ninnemann would be a good candidate for the Board to replace Todd. Bryan Bates said this is not the time. Ric Alling said this should be addressed under New Business with a nominating committee and all concurred.

### **4. Next conference organization**

Greg provided a recap of prior board meetings and actions taken. In June 2014 it was agreed the next conference should be in 2016 not 2015. The next conference focus should be expanded to include more than just archaeoastronomy – general anthropology/ archaeology as it relates to cultural astronomy studies. The conference should be more reliant on solicited papers like CAASW 2011. Attendance by professors/academics will draw their students. Greg Munson should head the next conference with Tony Hull, the location should be Albuquerque or Colorado. In October 2014, it was agreed by all that there was insufficient credible work being

done in Southwestern cultural astronomy to warrant another traditional "archaeoastronomy" conference. CAASW 2014 clearly demonstrated this fact. Comments indicated the following:

1. The next conference should be broadly appealing to the archaeological community and be "user friendly" to archaeologists and anthropologists. Most of the papers should be solicited from significant figures in the field and do not necessarily have to be about cultural astronomy. Changing the name of the conference series, either on this one occasion or permanently, would aid in the goal of reducing self-marginalization.
2. The next conference should be done in collaboration with major archaeological institutions, public and private, as the main headliner.
3. The next conference should be broader in scope to include presentations from areas outside the American Southwest (Cahokia, Newark, and particularly Mesoamerica) that would inform our studies in the Southwest and relate to larger subjects of ideas and ceremonies beyond material culture.
4. Of those who expressed an opinion, holding the next conference in southwest Colorado was favored by most.

Based on the above, Greg Munson compiled a conference proposal for use in soliciting Society partners and conference sponsors. Greg met with Mark Varien of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (CCAC) to solicit the new Crow Canyon Research Institute (CCRI) and CCAC in general as a Society partner. He provided Mark with a presentation packet with general information about SCAAS and the draft conference proposal. Mark was pleased with the presentation and will advise the CCAC staff of our Society. They will host us for a "Brown Bag" lunch presentation to the staff, time and date to be determined. Mark was gifted a copy of our CAASW 2011 publication and a copy of our Archaeoastronomy... Vol. XXIII for his review and information.

In response, Mark Varien, Executive Vice-President of CCRI, indicated that one of the main purposes of CCRI is to sponsor well-organized conferences with high standards. Our proposal fit that description. We were offered the facilities at Crow Canyon to host their first conference in the summer of 2016, late August being best for CCRI. The theme, speaker list, and proposed subjects were well-received but could use refining with CCRI and SCAAS staff. Additional sponsors could be considered. He will get CCAC board approval and Greg will get SCAAS approval. There are no formal commitments until boards approve. The benefits to accepting the CCRI invitation would include:

1. Crow Canyon is a world renowned nonprofit research institution with research interests reaching into Africa, Mesoamerica and Eastern North America. Their current interests are in Public Architecture and the Neolithic Transition (development of agriculture). Both of which are relevant to Cultural Astronomy.

2. Mark Varien has a deep “Rolodex” with access to prominent North American archaeologists who would attend their first sponsored conference (Steve Lekson, Winston Hurst, Wes Bernardini, etc.)
3. CCAC has a 170 acre campus with the Gates Archaeological Laboratory (classrooms, education, and research laboratory). There is an on-campus lodge featuring dormitory housing for 70 people and a small lounge, 10 rustic cabins in the form of Hogans, and a dining hall with a world renowned Chef. Air travel is available into Durango or Cortez. CCAC provides free airport pick-up into Durango for participants. A 45 passenger bus and smaller vehicles are available for transportation of participants to events.
4. CCAC has a strong Native American Advisory group representing the Ute Tribe, Alaskan Natives, and 11+ Pueblos.
5. Dark night sky suitable for star parties and programs on Native American starlore.
6. CCAC was recently featured on an episode PBS Time Team America. Associating SCAAS with CCAC and CCRI would significantly raise our profile with the Southwestern archaeological and anthropological communities.

Tony said that the information provided exceeded his expectations about CCAC but we need to consider cost to us. Greg indicated that with such an invitation they would provide the facilities but he did not have specific numbers at this time; that he needed to get more details then were available now. Kim said he has conducted several week-long programs at CCAC and the amenities sounded delightful but the programs were very costly such that he could not afford them. Greg contributed that the Cultural Explorations programs now run by CCAC are expensive, running several thousand dollars, but that they are the organizations principal fundraising mechanism. Our conference would not be such a program. Bryan suggested we need to clarify the costs. Greg said the next meeting with CCRI would work on budget issues and fundraising to cover the costs of the conference. Another consideration is that CCAC and CCRI hold high limit general liability insurance that would cover conference attendees. Bryan indicated that this was an important consideration because of his involvement in organizing the Oxford VII conference in 2007. Bryan also felt that a conference at CCAC would fit the regional conference model developed at Oxford VII. Tony further stated he does not feel we should have a regional conference at this time. Greg said we should consider the interests of our membership as we serve at their pleasure. Our membership is principally an avocational group, with some professionals, with strong interests in Southwestern archaeology and anthropology. Tony contributed that our purpose is to grow the field of archaeoastronomy in the greater field of archaeology and anthropology. Kim said we need to reach a broader group of professional archaeologists and our members would be interested in a broader scope. He said Crow Canyon is terribly isolated.

Kim commented that he put together a conference proposal that would be of greater interest to archaeologists from out of the country and that the University of New Mexico (UNM) would be a more attractive venue to them. Albuquerque is a major airline hub and this should make it more interesting to others, particularly attendees who live out of the country. Kim provided

an extensive speaker list and potential themes. Tony said the speakers sound marvelous, but is the list appropriate for Kim to contact? Kim replied yes. Kim added he felt Albuquerque is more attractive; we all are busy and don't want to take the time to travel to out of the way places. Bryan said that all the archaeoastronomers enjoy being out in the field, that most people would welcome coming to Crow Canyon. Andy said that we should check out the costs and that the differential between Durango and Albuquerque was not as pronounced as expected. Crow Canyon might be as much as 20-40% higher than a hub destination. We need to consider the cost for attendees who might be students. Andy said we should build upon the proposals by including archaeologists on the scientific and local organizing committee. Tony confirmed that he went to an astronomy conference with \$800 registration fee. He also commented that the organization for the conference should focus more on archaeology instead of archaeoastronomy.

Greg said we should also note where the attendees are coming from, the conference in 2011 had mostly local people, 2014 had Tempe people with some coming from out of town, and that Colorado might have 100 to 200 people, including prospective new members.

Tony said we need to represent Pan America. He was impressed with Crow Canyon and offered to help bring speakers. Bryan agreed that this was an excellent point.

Tony said the Hibben was a good venue, but offered limited seating. To which Greg responded that there are classrooms available at Crow Canyon, a new cultural arts center locally, and a high school to accommodate a large attendance.

Kim and Tony mentioned several possible speakers and that we should have Native American involvement. Allowing a feast on the first day would be one way to involve the Native Americans and to give them an opportunity to speak first. There is a major Navajo conference that we can engage. Greg feels the Native American involvement is critical to us and that Crow Canyon has a strong input on Native Americans. Tony suggested we could be equal partners with Washburn, University of Pennsylvania, UC Berkley, and UNM; get co-sponsors actively involved.

Andy recommended to get structured expenses listing the cost to us and attendees from Crow Canyon. Tony said that if the costs are good, Crow Canyon is viable; if not, no. Greg needs to get more details on costs, budgeting, and fundraising. Kim said that in Albuquerque there is the new Heritage Hotel with a theme of Chaco Canyon. Greg said that looked very upscale on their website. Ric feels that Crow Canyon is not too remote, that people will come. Bryan asked about field trips. Greg said that at Crow Canyon there are three National Parks and a strong access to field trips. Bryan asked if the registration monies should go through Crow Canyon or us. Greg said that we are on our own, and that SCAAS did its own registration in 2014.

Greg is to start the process of getting financial information together on the proposed venues so that a comparison can be made. After discussion, it was decided that we would not give out planning information, particularly finances, to the general membership via a newsletter. Greg said we need to be sensitive to the fifty or so members, that it is in our Bylaws to have a general

membership meeting once a year (but should be changed in the Bylaws to once every two years). Our membership is more avocational, not academic, that we are a “society of common people.” To which Tony replied that members can carry archaeoastronomy to a higher level. Discussion ensued on honorariums, providing money to attendees/speakers, and lodging.

***Discussion Items:***

**1. Website changes**

There was discussion about putting personal email addresses on the website and most did not want personal addresses revealed. Greg will establish email address for the officers and the rest of the board will not have personal emails listed. Greg said he added several pages, mostly administrative and fundraising. Many pages – conference abstracts, resources, links, etc. – will be moved into members only access. Tony said we could add tools in Excel, Todd’s spreadsheet; etc., but that we should include a disclaimer that the forms would be used “at own risk.” Kim said his abstracts should be included. Greg intends to include these in the member’s only section. Tony said we could include a list of relevant conferences too.

**2. Liability insurance**

Greg said this topic is important. Ric said that he had fallen behind in researching the Lodestar Foundation, a philanthropic foundation that assists nonprofits in getting organized, but would do so and give information to Greg. Greg will be obtaining insurance information from other local nonprofits.

As the meeting was getting long and others indicated they had other work to attend to, Greg suggested the rest of the discussion items be tabled.

A motion to end the meeting was made by Tony Hull; Kim Malville seconded. All indicated approval by “aye”. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Coni McCall  
Secretary, SCAAS

Greg Munson  
President, SCAAS