

STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Conference Call

Board members present: Sharon Davis, Lynn Gilliard, Erin Lawrimore, Jim Martin, Drew Reisinger, Monika Rhue, and Sarah Koonts

Staff present: Reid Wilson and Adrienne Berney

I. Welcome and introductions

Sarah Koonts welcomed and introduced the new Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Reid Wilson. Reid has served the Department for the past four years as Chief Deputy Secretary. Prior to that he was executive director of the Conservation Trust of N.C. for fourteen years and held an appointment at the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clinton administration. Reid discussed a vision for DNCR as helping to create a shared identity for citizens and providing space for common ground among them. DNCR partners include ninety nonprofit support groups and fifty boards and commissions, such as SHRAB.

Reid noted that Sarah has been appointed as Interim Director of the Office of Archives & History and congratulated her.

Reid enumerated five longer-term goals for the Department:

1. **education** for school-age kids. Because we cannot currently serve this population with field trips, the development of online content has become more important. Staff have created 1,500 pieces of educational content and posted them online resulting in 250 million web views and 230,000 hours of video views.
2. **health.** Efforts to expand trails and parks and offer grants for clean water.
3. **diversity, equity, and inclusion.** Focus on expanding outreach for employee recruitment and broadening representation within support groups. Efforts to tell diverse stories about N.C. and improve services to marginalized communities.
4. **economic development.** Re-grants to rural communities through the Arts Council, State Library, Science Museum network. Historic Preservation Office offers support and DNCR has worked to provide online access for rural areas.
5. **climate change resiliency.** Continue to strategize ways the Department can help local communities.

Drew asked whether Reid worries about losing any DNCR entities as a result of the pandemic's financial effects. Reid responded with cautious optimism for sustaining all entities, citing federal relief funds, as well as cuts to travel and supply expenses.

II. Approval of the minutes from October 28, 2020. Drew made a motion to approve; Monika seconded. Motion carried

III. Update on changes at the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Sarah announced Kevin Cherry's departure at the end of December. As Interim Director of OAH, the upcoming commemoration for America250 will be one of her focuses. DNCR hopes to have activities in all 100 counties and will need the help of partners to make that happen. The commemoration has two themes, "It's Revolutionary" and "When Are We US?," which can include a range of time periods and stories of communities striving to reach the ideals of the country's founding.

IV. Discussion of next grant application

Adrienne gave an update on the current grant project—"Preserving and Sharing Community Histories Online." Eight brief tutorial training videos have been produced, and are ready for viewing, thanks to the Department's video team. We have links to share them individually now, but staff are working to create descriptions for a YouTube playlist that will include time-marks for each key term to improve access. We expect these to be posted on the SHRAB projects webpage very soon. Sixteen institutions applied for TAP consultations, including six community college libraries, one university library, six history museums, two public libraries, and one nonprofit organization.

Sarah discussed the upcoming grant cycle and noted the option of pausing for a year to have the next project reflect our strategic planning process. She also noted that another grant application, due in the spring, would be feasible, since NHPRC applications are manageable. She then solicited ideas for field-wide needs to consider for a grant project.

Monika suggested two possibilities to consider: a conference or other initiative relating to the 250th commemoration or help for collecting organizations to preserve and share the covid-related oral histories they have been collecting.

Erin mentioned that community groups she has been working with express needs for guidance with free tools for digital storytelling, such as timelines, exhibits, and oral history management systems.

At Sarah's request Monika discussed the HBCU Library Alliance's current needs assessment project and explained that once reports are completed, there may be a way that SHRAB can help. A grant possibility could be a collaboration with several SHRABs regionally. Sarah suggested thinking about a TAP program that would involve HBCU students as a way to interest them in pursuing careers in archives and public history.

There was an agreement for staff to outline several ideas and share those with board members for comments via email in the coming weeks.

V. Strategic planning process and next steps (joined by Anne Ackerson)

Sarah introduced Anne as our current strategic planning consultant. Anne has been the executive director of CoSA and a member of the N.Y. SHRAB for many years. She has broad experience in cultural heritage leadership and guidance and has published *Leadership Matters*, among many other professional resources.

Anne discussed two activities for all board members to engage in before three facilitated strategic planning video conversations.

1. self-assessment of N.C. SHRAB's strengths and weaknesses. Anne has created an online survey to solicit feedback on the board's role and mission and it will include open-ended questions. She will send the link out to members by the end of February, collect and compile data anonymously, and share results with the group as a whole.
2. Bench-marking activities will look at other advisory boards' successes. This will include other SHRABs as well as additional boards that members believe are admirable.

The strategic planning process will involve three conversations beyond the usual SHRAB meeting schedule. The information Anne gathers through the survey and conversations will allow her to sketch a written framework for the plan.

Christine Botta will set up a doodle poll soon so that members can vote on the best days of the week and blocks of time to try to find three meetings in consecutive weeks that can work for most members, likely in April.

Sarah suggested that one strategic goal could be raising awareness of SHRAB among statewide records and collecting organizations, especially now that the Archives has consolidated some history outreach activities.

VI. Adjournment