

Joint Meeting of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council and the Star- Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Advisory Council

Summary of December 11, 2013 Meeting

This meeting is the rescheduled October 7, 2013 meeting that was cancelled due to the Government shut-down.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (CAJO) Advisory Council and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail (STSP) Advisory Council convened for a joint meeting at 10:00 A.M. on December 11, 2013 at the offices of Cultural Tourism DC in Washington, DC. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public.

CAJO Council members present:

- Wayne Adkins
- Shelly Baird
- Suzanne Baird
- Wade Blackwood
- Hedrick Belin
- Dennis Coker
- Joel Dunn
- Drew McMullen
- Susan Moerschel
- Bill Pencek*
- Mark Platts
- John Reynolds, Chair
- Kristin Saunders*
- Charlie Stek
- Bill Street
- Ann Swanson

STSP Council members present:

- Joyce Baki
- Carol Benson
- Jeffrey Buchheit
- Jay Doyle
- James Foster

- Lisa Hull
- Aaron Marcavitch
- Anthony Nolan
- Bill Pencek*, Chair
- Brigitte Peters
- Roz Racanello
- Alex Romero
- Sonal Sanghavi
- Kristin Saunders*
- Chris Shaheen
- Francis Taylor
- Cathy Thompson
- Kirsti Uunila

**denotes service on both councils*

Others present for all, or portions of the meeting were:

- Deanna Beacham, National Park Service
- Cheryl Branagan, National Park Service
- Don Briggs, National Park Service
- Suzanne Copping, National Park Service
- John Davy, National Park Service
- Jonathan Doherty, National Park Service
- Chuck Hunt, National Park Service
- Matt Jagunic, National Park Service
- Bruce Larson, Department of Defense, USN
- Jane Levy, Cultural Tourism DC
- Christine Lucero, National Park Service
- Kate Marks, National Park Service
- Terry Maxwell, Maryland SHA
- Steve Shulman, Cultural Tourism DC
- Gay Vietske, National Park Service
- Abbi Wicklein-Bayne, Chesapeake Conservancy

Welcome and Introductions

Steve Shulman, Executive Director of Cultural Tourism DC welcomed the members.

Chairs Bill Pencek and John Reynolds thanked Mr. Shulman for hosting the meeting and gave greetings to the Advisory Council members. Chuck Hunt, Superintendent of the Chesapeake Bay Office also offered welcome and reviewed the agenda and objectives for the meeting. (Members received a packet of information upon arrival at the meeting.)

Members introduced themselves.

John Reynolds instructed the members about the role of the Advisory Council for National Trails.

Jonathan Doherty and Suzanne Copping presented a PowerPoint on the State of the Trails. Members received pre-meeting materials that included State of the Trail reports for both trails.

The presentation provided a recap of existing and in-progress interpretive, education and outreach programs that CHBA is working on; a recap of access to the trails, including new water access sites and focus areas; and an update on resource conservation efforts, including LandScope, the LWCF Collaborative proposal, Connecting Trails and developing an integrated conservation strategy for both trails.

Cheryl Branagan and Matt Jagunic presented a PowerPoint on the Potomac River Segment Plan, which provides the members with a brief history of the planning process (including earlier segment planning success on the James River) and facilitated a discussion on Potomac River resources and topics.

Discussion:

- Both trails cover a vast area of land and water and have diverse interpretive themes, yet they are sharing much of the same geography as other National Trails, local trails and a myriad of historical sites and locations. Many organization/agencies/municipalities also struggle with the amount of history that overlaps under their respective purviews. When the natural resource/public access is layered upon the history and culture, it can cause visitor confusion and present a challenge when trying to unify our trails and stories.
- Archaeology can be a theme/program that ties together many of the stories along the trail.
- Integrate the towns and cities along the trails by developing a strategy to engage these communities in such a way that their history links to the trails. Include other types of business entities and other non-traditional groups (e.g. transportation) in this strategy.
- Enhanced public access is a key component and it is important to understand who the audiences are and what types of activities they want.
- Is it possible to fund interpretive design work beyond the scope of a contract? i.e. if funding is available through a CAJO funding source in an area where the STSP story overlaps-is it possible to design something that covers both?
- Identify the localities where the overlap of both trails occurs; look for ways to combine activities and funding sources/requests.

Break for lunch.

Reconvene at 12:45

Chesapeake Bay Office Strategic Goals

Suzanne Copping introduces the Strategic goals of the Chesapeake Bay Office.

Strategic goal: CONNECT people to Chesapeake experiences

Discussion topics:

- Existing and future opportunities for Watermen guide training/certification and the benefits of such a training.
- Develop a script that could be used by watermen, outfitters, etc.
- Combine the natural/historic/cultural elements into one, marketable tour for an area.
- The need for front-line staff training at hotels, restaurants, etc. to provide “trail ambassador” services to visitors.
- Training and certification would need to be administered by an NGO or a consortium of NGO’s.
- Bill Pencek suggested the development of a joint sub-committee to look further into the above.

Strategic goal: EXPAND

Jonathan shared information about continuing efforts to increase public access, provide financial assistance to partners with similar public access goals, and reviewed the segment planning process which divides CAJO into manageable segment areas.

Discussion:

Due to the Pittman-Robertson Act and other federal regulations regarding aid to the states, primitive camping is not allowed on wild lands and there is no room for exceptions to these rules for education groups. Is there any way both councils could pursue this topic with DOI to discuss alternatives? CAJO council member Suzanne Baird volunteered to facilitate a discussion between state agencies and the Government to find a possible solution to using wild lands for educational use.

NPS action item: Share the final James River Segment Plan report with the Councils.

Strategic goal: CONSERVE

Deanna Beacham presents a brief PowerPoint about the Indigenous Cultural Landscape initiative.

Discussion:

The ICL is useful in helping identify places to conserve and places to do interpretation.

The American Indian representatives on the CAJO council discussed the desire for the Indian community to provide heritage tours offered by the tribes, to provide a tribal perspective to the visitor about the landscape and natural history. However, tribes do not have the resources to

sustain such a program. In addition, there are very few Indian communities that are still living in the area they are descended from; many were absorbed into other tribes.

Member commitments:

Members participated in an exercise to name their personal commitments to enhance and further the progress of the trails.

See Attachment A.

Other topics:

Bill Pencek is working to create a friends group for STSP. He asked for members input; interested members should contact Bill if you want to participate in the start-up.

Public comment period

No public comment

Next steps

Set up a regular meeting schedule for 2014.

Meeting adjourned 3:00 p.m.