



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

Omaha District



Inventory



Testing and
Evaluation



Mitigation
Stabilization



Cultural Resource
Management

CRM Notes

Cultural Resource Management Notes from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Volume 1 • No. 1

September 2002

Corps hosts first Cultural Resources Task Force Meeting in Bismarck

Bismarck, N.D.—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, hosted an historic event in Bismarck in June, its first Cultural Resources Task Force meeting.

“On the heels of the mid-year meeting of the National Congress of American Indians, the timing was right to initiate a forum to openly share our Cultural Resources Program with the tribes within the district boundaries and provide early involvement in program activities,” says Omaha District Engineer Col. Kurt F. Ubbelohde.

More than 30 Tribes and Tribal agencies, along with state and federal agencies interested in the Omaha District Cultural Resources Program, were invited to participate in the June 20-21 meetings.

Former Oglala Sioux Tribal Chairman Harold Salway moderated the meeting and led the group through an organizational presentation by Ubbelohde and a presentation by Omaha District Cultural Resources Program Manager Larry Janis.

The afternoon session, facilitated by Larry Spears, Dave Pearce and Sharon Vogel of the Consensus Council, Inc., generated a lively discussion on the topic of what the Omaha District Cultural Resources Program should be focusing on. An extensive list of items was developed and shared.

Chairman Tex Hall of the Three Affiliated Tribes and President of the National Congress of American Indians visited the session to show support for the important work being done by the attendees.

“His vision of collaboration has been instrumental in helping us move forward on these challenging issues,” says Tribal liaison Pem Hall. “His presence is a great show of support and encouragement.”

The second day’s discussion centered on three topics pre-selected by the corps: Development of a cultural site monitoring and enforcement plan,



Pem Hall (left), Omaha District Tribal Liaison talks with Antoine Provost, a representative of the Omaha Tribe, during the meeting in Bismarck.

development of a programmatic agreement for the Missouri River main stem operation and management and input on the further development of cultural resources program activities. An inter-tribal working group was formed to continue the discussion on each of the topics.

“We are excited at the possibilities of early involvement of Tribal representatives in the development of a monitoring plan and programmatic agreement,” said Janis. “We understand that this is not consultation, but we hope that by having early involvement by Tribal members, the products that are produced will be better because of their input and will be better received during the consultation process.”

The next meeting of the Cultural Resources Task Force is scheduled for Feb. 11-12, 2003 in Rapid City, S.D. This will allow time for the Tribal members to meet and have a product to bring back to the task force.

“I feel good about what we’ve started in this two-day session,” says Ubbelohde. “We’re looking forward to the next meeting and will continue to seek out additional opportunities for the Tribes to be involved in the process.”

UPDATE: An inter-tribal work group meeting was held on August 6-7 in New Town, North Dakota. Minutes from the meeting were distributed during the middle of August. Recommendations for the Programmatic Agreement and Monitoring Plan were the main output of the meeting. Additional information and materials from the meeting are available on the Omaha District Cultural Resources Web site at www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/pd-e/CRWebsite/Index.html.

Native Americans and archeologists work together at reservoir near Parker, Colorado

Native Americans have worked with archeologists from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the city of Parker, Colorado, and their contractor, URS corporation, to identify and avoid impacting cultural and sacred sites at the proposed Rueter-Hess Reservoir, located three miles southeast of Parker. They successfully worked together to locate and protect cultural sites in the project area. This has allowed the project work to begin on schedule, but more importantly, without any impact to cultural and sacred sites.

Prior to the beginning of the project, the city of Parker and the corps recognized that the construction of the Rueter-Hess Reservoir had potential to disturb sites that may be important to Native American Tribes.

All work was coordinated with Tribes who were known to have lived and visited this eastern Colorado location. In particular, the Northern Cheyenne and the Northern Arapahoe Tribes chose to play an important role in this project. Tribal monitors from the two Tribes worked closely with the archeologists and observed all field work and construction activities.

The benefit of this partnership was seen when two burial sites were found and protected.

The first burial site consisted of a set of stone circles that historically were used for burials by the ancestors of the Cheyenne and the Arapahoe Tribes.

After consulting with the

Tribes, the city of Parker agreed to protect this site from fluctuating water levels of the proposed reservoir. The chosen protection method was a layer of geotextile cloth, overlain with soil and rock. This solution will protect the site from further disturbance, yet the site will be available to the Tribes for ceremonial activities.

Archeologists who were excavating a known site to determine its eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places discovered the second burial site. Human remains were found, removed and custody transferred to the Tribal monitor for burial. The Tribal monitors assisted the corps and the city of Parker in handling the discovery in a respectful manner. Success of this transfer was a result of the true partnership that was in place between the Tribes, the corps and the city.

The communication, teamwork, professionalism and cooperative effort insured that tribal concerns were heard, understood and respectfully dealt with for all the cultural resource issues that arose at the proposed Rueter-Hess Reservoir.



CRM Notes is prepared by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District . If you have any questions, please call Edward Brodnicki at (402) 221-4888 (email: edward.c.brodnicki@usace.army.mil), or write to:

CRM Notes

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
CENWO-PM-AE
106 South 15th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-1618

CRM STAFF

Col. Kurt Ubbelohde
District Engineer

Candace Gorton, Omaha, NE
Chief, PM-AE

Larry Janis, Omaha, NE
Cultural Resource Program Manager

Rebecca Otto, Omaha, NE
Staff Archeologist

Sandra Barnum, Omaha, NE
Staff Archeologist

Edward Brodnicki, Omaha, NE
Staff Archeologist

Rick Harnois, Pierre, SD
Area Archeologist

Steve Gilbert, Riverdale, ND
Area Archeologist



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

CRM Notes

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

CENWO-PM-AE

106 South 15th Street

Omaha, NE 68102-1618