



CBGN Working Group Minutes – March 8, 2006

CBPO Fish Shack Conference Room, Annapolis, MD

Participants: John Maounis, Robert Carter, Lee Epstein, Melanie Teems, Robert Pickett, Scott Beatty, Lisa Gutierrez, Janet Llewellyn, Rod Torrez, Cheryl Branagan, Mike Land, Robert Campbell, Marci Ross **Guests:** Bill Sharp and Sherry Peck representing the John Smith Water Trail Project Team, Robert McIntosh, National Park Service Northeast Region; Three auditors representing the Government Accountability Office.

Opening: John Maounis convened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The Minutes of the February 8, 2006, meeting were accepted as stated.

Update on Nominations for Gateways Designation:

- **Steamboat Era Museum:** Rod Torrez contacted the Executive Director of the Steamboat Era Museum, and she assures the Gateways Network that the site will be open to the public through the weekend as soon as the new exhibit is in place, which will meet the conditions we set for designation. Camille Bowman visited the site and provided a positive review. Confirmation of the hours was requested in writing.

Bob Carter recommended setting up a meeting with the new Governor of Virginia to introduce the new Gateways and the Gateways Network in general to his office. It would aid in raising awareness of the CBGN in the Richmond area, a recognized geographic gap.

De-designation Process: John Maounis presented the draft policy for de-designation of Gateways sites. There are two conditions which warrant de-designation. 1) The site no longer meets criteria for designation or 2) the site fails to fulfill the terms of the MOU. Discussion took place regarding instituting a review process. It was noted that the Strategic Plan calls for a rotating review process, including the possibility that reviews may be conducted by outside entities. It was decided that the new agreements would incorporate periodic reviews, and it was noted that instituting such a process into the old agreements would require a revision of all MOU's.

Specifically there are three sites of concern where the question of de-designation is immediate. At the next Working Group Meeting Gateways staff will report on those sites.



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The Working Group was asked to review the draft policy and provide any comments to John Maounis. It was recommended that a check off form for reviewing sites would aid in conducting objective reviews.

Rethinking 2006 Gateways Network Grants Approach: The three new Network-wide focused grant categories—Chesapeake Code Development, Captain John Smith Chesapeake Voyages Living History Program, and Interpreting Chesapeake Native American Culture and History—were reconsidered.

- **Chesapeake Code:** Rather than immediately advertising RFP's or grants, it was suggested that CBGN first bring together key stakeholders and key experts to consider appropriate approaches and goals for the initiatives. There needs to be a wider foundational conversation followed by a selection of natural partners to lead a cooperative team to accomplish the goals. We have therefore not posted the grant guidelines for this initiative, and are withholding all the network-wide grants.
- **John Smith Anniversary Living History initiative:** There has already been some effort invested with Colonial Williamsburg, as well as conversation with representatives of the State of Maryland and with Schooner Sultana. Here a group of interested partners seems to be developing on its own.
- **Interpretation of Native American Cultures initiative:** After conversations with Elizabeth Hughes and others, there seems to be reason for another approach. Currently, the College of William and Mary is working on a series of projects surrounding East Coast Native American cultures. The thought is to work with a number of Gateways and State Historic Preservation Offices to develop a handbook on Interpretation of Chesapeake region Native American cultures. Since there is already a considerable amount of other work already in progress, we would latch onto those projects. There may be other individuals and institutions in New York and Pennsylvania who could be brought into the process.

It was decided that by June, CBGN will have a budget and scope for each of the initiatives.

Friends of Gateways Status:

The next meeting will be at Adkins Arboretum on March 22. There is lots of interest.

Fundraising has been discussed and there may be some rethinking as to whether the Friends might become a membership organization.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake Bay National Historic Water Trail Study: Bill Sharp, Sherry Peck and Bob McIntosh attended on behalf of the study.

Since the last meeting, Bill Sharp and Sherry Peck have met with Lisa Gutierrez and John Davy regarding the involvement of Maryland and Virginia in the study and planning. Peer review with historic trails has taken place. At least 25 letters have been received responding to the call for public comment. There was a brief overview of National Trails and National Historic Trails.

Bob McIntosh presented a PowerPoint program outlining the management alternatives and identified the Preferred Alternative of federal designation with the water trail planned for and managed through joint partnership among federal agencies. Much discussion took place regarding provisions of the act and powers of the managing agencies if designated.

Next Meeting: The next Working Group meeting will be on **April 12, 2006**, and will continue the discussion of the John Smith National Historic Water Trail, the Network-wide projects, and a protocol for “de-designation” of Gateways when warranted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.