



USET

Nashville, TN Office
 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
 Nashville, TN 37214
 P: 615-872-7900 | F: 615-872-7417

Washington, DC Office
 1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Suite 210
 Washington, DC 20036

Culture and Heritage Committee Report

Met under the direction of: Cochairs Ryan Lopez & Michael Johnson

Tribal Nations Represented: 11

Committee members: 11

DAY ONE:

Topics Discussed

Outcomes

<p>Our presenters: Ira Matt & Valerie Grussing from the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation officers, (NATHPO)</p> <p>Melanie O’Brien, Manage, National NAGPRA program @ the National Park Service (NPS)</p> <p>NATHPO: Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Structure and the need for a reauthorization strategy to include a stronger THPO set-aside. A Heinrich / Leger Fernández bill) that would mandate at least a 20% THPO set-aside and require NPS to report annually to Congress on THPOs, in contrast to a more cautious “Turner bill.”</p> <p>Delays and bureaucracy in releasing THPO funds: More than a 100-day lag between budget enactments attributed partly to OMG & Whitehouse inserting itself into review NPS grants and compliance units have been split across DOI and NPS, further complicating processes.</p> <p>NPS: Melanie O’Brien shared updates on the National NAGPRA program Since the implementation of the federal new rules in 2024. Majority of the time was spent having open dialog and sharing areas that are working better and areas where federally recognized tribes are challenged such as advocacy with non-federally recognized tribal organizations and competing for funding with universities and museum institutions.</p>	<p>NATHPO will continue to collaborate with the C&H surrounding funding strategies and Section 106 concerns.</p> <p>See more of the discussion in attached supplemental report</p> <p>Individual USET member tribes will continue to consult with NPS and the committee will continue to monitor the NAGPRA rule changes.</p>
---	---



USET

Nashville, TN Office
 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
 Nashville, TN 37214
 P: 615-872-7900 | F: 615-872-7417

Washington, DC Office
 1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Suite 210
 Washington, DC 20036

Next Steps / Actionable Items / Responsible Party

DAY TWO:

Topics Discussed	Outcomes
<p>C&H co-chair presenters: Data Center proliferation discussion. The committee watched a video provided by the cochairs which focused on Data Center growth and increased costs to rate payers for the additional power needed for servers inside these datacenters. Tribes have increased concerns pertaining to environmental impacts such as water consumption, viewshed effects, and ground disturbing activities that can affect Cultural & Sacred Sites, & more.</p> <p>Committee heard from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) with a brief update on enforcement issues related to a Offshore wind incident in 2024 during the construction phase of the Vineyard Wind project.</p> <p>The committee also notified BSEE that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has begun consultation with our tribes on a new industry which develops critical mineral mining. Tribes have concerns regarding ocean floor impacts related to those extractive processes. Similarly, C&H would like ongoing consultation with BSEE and BOEM in regard to Oil and Gas drilling and extraction projects, to ensure consultation continues for these types of projects as well.</p>	<p>C&H will continue to monitor project growth and seek loophole exploits which force section 106 inclusion in the permit review process regardless of project locations.</p> <p>The Committee has offered opportunities to continue engagement at the C&H monthly mtgs for future updates.</p>

Next Steps / Actionable Items / Responsible Party



USET

Nashville, TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
P: 615-872-7900 | F: 615-872-7417

Washington, DC Office
1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036

OTHER Business:

N/A see documents attached on flash drive

At A Glance Topics for Next Meeting:

Discussion of Resolutions:

- Discreditation of higher education
- Data Center Summit
- Working Group ACHP
 - o Tribal only repatriation and consultation
 - o ACHP request for NATHPO

Election Results:

New Co-Chairs: Ryan Lopez and David Weeden

11 Yes 0 No



USET

Nashville, TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
P: 615-872-7900 | F: 615-872-7417

Washington, DC Office
1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036

Report Completed by: Michael E. Johnson, Co-chair, Cultural & Heritage Committee.