

December 15, 2004

TO: Colleagues, Advocates, and Friends of Florida Archaeology

FROM: Judy Bense, University of West Florida

SUBJECT: Draft Plan for Florida Public Archaeology Centers Network and Request for Input

This communication is to inform you about a developing entity in Florida archaeology, the *Florida Public Archaeology Centers Network* (FPACN), and I am seeking your suggestions about how to best carry it forward. Below, I share with you how the concept developed, how it was legislated, where the planning is thus far, and what needs to be done. The Network is still very much in the planning stage, and I would appreciate your input **by January 15, 2005** to some specific questions posed at the end of this document as well as your ideas and suggestions in general. Please send your comments and suggestions to me at [jbense@uwf.edu](mailto:jbense@uwf.edu) and I will post them on the new Florida public archaeology centers website <http://flpublicarchaeology.org>.

*History:* In 1999, I was asked by the Florida Secretary of State to identify some of the main problems in Florida archaeology and recommend solutions. One problem I identified was the lack of protection for archaeological sites at the local level. The solution I recommended was to establish regional public archaeology centers through the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) to increase public awareness and participation in local archaeology and to work with local governments to develop protective ordinances and policies. Although this plan was not implemented then, two important political changes have occurred since 1999: the Secretary of State is now appointed rather than elected and state universities are independent with local boards of trustees. These changes have generally improved the viability of the regional center concept through the university system.

Archaeology at the University of West Florida (UWF) has had high public visibility through the inclusion of volunteers in all of our activities, a focus on local archaeology, and consistent sharing of our discoveries through the local media. Archaeology is a popular and visible part of UWF and the region. Building on this popularity and taking advantage of the momentum, in 2003 I asked the new UWF President, John Cavanaugh, whether he could support the development of a Florida Network of Public Archaeology Centers through UWF and recommend it to the UWF Board of Trustees for legislative action and funding. President Cavanaugh and the UWF Board of Trustees agreed and they suggested I bring the key parties together to discuss details and strategy. In December 2003, representatives of UWF, the Department of State (Deputy Secretary of State JuDee Pettijohn and Division of Historical Resources Director Fred Gaske), key legislative staff, and UWF lobbyists met in Tallahassee to discuss this issue. Establishing a statewide network of public archaeology centers through UWF was supported by all parties, and it was recommended that a partnership between UWF and the Division of Historical Resources be detailed in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) after the legislation was passed. It was agreed that UWF would put forward the legislation and funding request. With this support and agreement, the UWF Board of Trustees placed the public archaeology centers legislation at the top of their 2004 session agenda. Language establishing the centers for public archaeology was placed in House Bill 1127 "Preserving Florida's History,"

which passed both chambers unanimously. It was signed by Governor Bush on May 21, 2004; it is now in Section 267.031(6) and Section 267.145 in the Florida Statutes. A copy of the legislation is at the end of this document.

Funding for the centers was not included in the 2004 legislative proposal, but it will be included in the 2005 UWF budget request. The UWF Board of Trustees has made funding the Network their top enhancement budget priority. This year, UWF President Cavanaugh has provided funds to support planning activities to design the network and develop an implementation plan to be activated when funding is secured. This fall, with the help of leadership in Florida archaeology and DHR, I put together a "Steering Committee" to begin the process of developing a plan for the Florida Public Archaeology Centers Network. The Steering Committee consists of the following individuals:

- Ms. Marion Almy, Archaeological Services, Inc., Sarasota
- Dr. Elizabeth Benchley, Archaeology Institute, UWF, Pensacola
- Dr. Judy Bense, Archaeology Institute, UWF, Pensacola
- Mr. Robert Carr, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Miami
- Mr. Greg Cook, Archaeology Institute UWF, Pensacola
- Mr. John Daniels, West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc, UWF, Pensacola
- Dr. Hester Davis, Arkansas Archaeological Survey
- Dr. Tom Eubanks, Louisiana Division of Archaeology
- Dr. Lynne Goldstein, Michigan State University
- Dr. William Marquardt, Florida Museum Natural History, Gainesville, and Randell Archaeology Research Center, Pineland
- Dr. Jim Miller, Florida Archaeological Council President, Tallahassee
- Ms. Sheila Stewart, Florida Anthropological Society, St. Petersburg
- Dr. Ryan Wheeler, Bureau of Archaeological Research, DHR, Tallahassee
- Dr. Brent Weisman, University of South Florida, Tampa

The Steering Committee met December 3- 4, 2004 at the University of West Florida in Pensacola to draft the first plan for the public archaeology center network. A summary and outline of this plan is presented below.

### ***Draft Design and Implementation Plan*** ***Florida Public Archaeology Centers Network***

**NAME:** Florida Public Archaeology Centers Network

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To promote and facilitate the conservation, study, and public understanding of Florida's archaeological heritage through regional centers.

**STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION:** The steering committee includes representatives from the Florida Archaeological Council (Miller), Florida Anthropological Society (Stewart), Division of Historical Resources (Wheeler), universities (Weisman, Bense, Benchley, Cook), Florida Museum of Natural History and Randell Research Center (Marquardt), private consultants (Almy), and non-profit organizations (Carr), as well as existing regional archaeology networks (Davis, Eubanks) and university administration (Goldstein) outside

Florida. The present steering committee members and advisors have agreed to serve for a limited period of time, and they have also agreed to contact the Seminole Tribe of Florida to invite one of their tribal archaeologists to be represented on the Steering Committee.

**ORGANIZATION:** The organization of the Network will consist of a Coordination Center and several Regional Centers for Public Archaeology. The UWF Coordination Center will be located in the downtown Historic Pensacola Village, and it will be the headquarters for administration and the Network Director. Regional Centers will be located throughout the state and will have a professional public archaeologist (MA or Ph.D. level) plus support staff. Eight centers are envisioned, but this number is flexible.

**REGIONAL CENTERS:** Regional Public Archaeology Centers can be hosted by state universities with a local archaeology program, non-profit organizations involved in the archaeology of the region, museums, and local governments. Hosts will provide space for the centers and cover a portion of the operating costs. Funding for the centers will be through grants from the Coordination Center. The regional center will become part of the host institution or organization, and will employ the public archaeologist and staff. *Flexibility* will be the key feature of the regional centers in terms of size, organization, and operation. However, the centers will:

- be located in a public-friendly, easy-access location and be well marked
- be the focal point of archaeology for the general public with handouts, displays, videos, etc. and people knowledgeable about archaeology in the region
- involve chapters of Florida Anthropological Society in the region
- facilitate archaeology volunteerism through sponsored activities
- work with local governments to develop preservation ordinances as appropriate
- include underwater and terrestrial archaeology as appropriate
- enhance existing strategies and programs of the host entity
- develop stewardship programs
- promote and develop sites and literature for heritage tourism in the region

Regional centers will not conduct compliance contracting, act as regulatory agents of the Division of Historical Resources, or regularly conduct large-scale excavations.

The public archaeologist at each proposed regional center will prepare and submit weekly and annual reports to the Network Director as well as a proposal detailing the work plan and budget for the operating grant for the coming year.

Three charter regional centers will be selected by the Steering Committee and set up along with the Coordination Center in the first year of funding. Additional regional centers will be selected based on grant proposals evaluated by a committee consisting of a representative of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), Florida Archaeological Council (FAC), UWF, DHR, and the FPACN Director. The selection of regional centers will be based on the following factors:

response to the Request for Proposals

- geographic balance
- commitment and viability of host organization
- feasibility of proposed program and plan

- potential for protection of cultural resources through site conservation, local ordinances, etc.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UWF AND DHR:** The Memorandum of Agreement between UWF and DHR will be drafted by Ryan Wheeler and Judy Bense, with input from the Steering Committee. This document will follow the enabling legislation and be based on the new statutes. The MOA will serve as the guide for the FPACN for the foreseeable future. The MOA is still being drafted, but the Steering Committee has identified the six primary elements and subdivisions of the MOA.

Promote and develop archaeology for the general public

- Public outreach
  - Visible public archaeology program
  - Facilitate archaeology volunteer opportunities
  - Partnership with FAS chapters and other local museums and heritage organizations
  - Provide archaeological information to the public
  - Promote regional heritage events and programs
2. Assist local governments in identifying, evaluating, and preserving archaeological sites
    - Prepare archaeology preservation ordinances, include archaeology in comprehensive and other preservation plans
    - Respond to local archaeological emergencies as appropriate
    - Provide advice on management of sites owned by local governments
  3. Assistance to DHR
    - Partnership relationship
    - Liaison to DHR
      - Inform and promote DHR grant programs
      - Distribute DHR public literature
    - Promote DHR programs
      - Referral to appropriate DHR staff
      - Information about programs to public
  4. Coordination Center Responsibilities
    - Establish, maintain, and coordinate activities of regional centers
    - Develop agreement with regional center hosts
    - Primary point of contact with DHR for the Network
    - Maintain regular and effective communication and oversight of regional centers
    - In cooperation with DHR, review and approve annual work plan
    - Prepare and execute grant agreements with centers
  5. DHR responsibilities
    - Assist in selecting Network Director, regional public archaeologists, and regional centers

- Coordinate with Network Director
  - Provide access to databases and public literature
6. Regional Center selection
- Three charter regional centers will be selected by the Steering Committee and established by the Coordination Center in the first year of funding.
    - critical aspects are geographical representation and potential for success
  - Based on grant requests, additional regional centers will be selected by a committee consisting of a representative of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), Florida Archaeological Council (FAC), UWF, DHR, and Network Director.
    - A Request for Proposals for regional centers will be developed by representatives of the Coordination Center and DHR representative
    - Recommendations will be made to the Network Director
  - Selection factors are
    - geographic balance
    - commitment and viability of host organization
    - feasibility of proposed program and plan
    - potential to protect cultural resources such as site conservation, local ordinances, etc.

## **TIMETABLE**

12/10/04 - 1/15/05 Review, comments, and suggestions of the Draft

February 2005: Second Steering Committee meeting

- Revise draft Design and Implementation Plan
- Develop selection criteria for Network Director for immediate release
- Revise draft DHR MOA

February-March: Search for Network Director (including interviews at the SAA meeting)

### If funds are appropriated in 2005 legislature

By June 1, 2005 select a Network Director

By July 2005 Establish UWF Coordination Center in Pensacola

By March 15, 2006: Three charter Regional Public Archaeology Centers established and in operation.

### **REQUEST FOR INPUT:**

1. Do you know of other organizations that should be involved in planning for the Network?
2. Can you identify local heritage tourism programs that could be supported by the Network?
3. Identify particular geographic areas of need for the Centers
4. Are there particular Center functions that need to be added, deleted, or clarified?
5. What should the Centers NOT be doing?
6. Comments on regional center selection criteria or procedures.
7. Do you know of an organization that would like to host a center?
8. Can you identify recent local archaeology crises or emergencies that could have benefited from the Network?
9. Do you know of any local governments that need but do not have archaeological protection ordinances?
10. Do you have any other questions or comments?

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **267.145 Florida network of public archaeology centers.--**

(1) The Department of State shall create, through a memorandum of agreement, a Florida network of public archaeology centers to help stem the rapid deterioration of this state's buried past and to expand public interest in archaeology. The network of public archaeology centers shall work in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the division through the cooperative memorandum of agreement.

(2) The network of public archaeology centers shall be administered through a public archaeology center at the University of West Florida. Additional centers shall be established throughout the state with each center located in an existing facility, free of charge, of a state university with a local archaeological program, a regional historic preservation office, the facility of a nonprofit organization that is involved in the archaeology of the region, or other locations as set forth in the memorandum of agreement.

### **267.031 Division of Historical Resources; powers and duties.--**

(6) The division may enter into a memorandum of agreement with the University of West Florida to coordinate the establishment and operation of a network of regional public archaeology centers to provide public outreach and assistance to local governments in identifying, evaluating, developing, and preserving the archaeology in their local areas and in assisting the division in its archaeological responsibilities as outlined in this chapter and the memorandum of agreement.