

National Historical Publications and Records Commission
Executive Summary Minutes
of January 30, 2015

The meeting was called to order by David S. Ferriero, chairman, at 9:00 am in the Archivist's Board Room of the National Archives in Washington, DC.

Commission Members present:

David S. Ferriero, Chairperson
W. Eric Emerson
Peter Gottlieb
Karen L. Jefferson
Kaye Lanning Minchew
Naomi Nelson
Stephen P. Randolph
Nicole Saylor
Raymond Smock
William G. Thomas, III

Via teleconference

George Miles

NHPRC staff present:

Kathleen Williams, Executive Director
Lucy Barber
Jeff de la Concepcion
Keith Donohue
Christine Dunham
Alexander Lorch
Darrell Meadows
Nancy Melley
Daniel A. Stokes

Guests and Attendees

Eric Bunning (for Representative Andy Barr)
Leslie Rowland, Freedmen and Southern History Project
Jim Corridan, Council of State Archivists
Charlene Bickford, First Federal Congress Project
John Hamilton, NARA Congressional Affairs Director

I: Welcome, Announcements, Agenda

Mr. Ferriero opened the meeting and greeted the Members, staff, and guests. He announced the appointment of Eric Emerson and Kaye Minchew. He welcomed Naomi Nelson, Presidential appointee, and administered the Oath of Office.

II: Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mr. Ferriero called for adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the May 2014 and November 2014 meetings. Both motions were passed by unanimous consent.

III. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Williams briefed the Commission on the budget and the recommendation to defer decisions on several applications at this meeting. She explained that deferring decisions would allow the Commission to make the best funding decisions across the entire year. Ms. Minchew asked if the deferred applications would be in a more favorable position for May. Mr. Stokes said that in the case of state boards, there were questions on a small number of projects that need to be addressed. Mr. Lorch said that while the quality was high for the pair of projects recommended for deferral, their request levels were high. He explained that in the case of the Brooklyn project, the head of the program had resigned, so the staff hesitated to recommend funding immediately until the staffing questions were answered. The other deferred decision—the New York Public Library—was due, in part, because the institution has submitted a second project for consideration in May.

A general discussion followed about the rationale behind deferrals, and Ms. Williams pointed out that limited funding means prioritizing investments. Grants made now bump up against request for Electronic Records, Digitization, and Literacy and Engagement projects. Mr. Miles suggested that another approach to consider spending across all programs would be to have a single application cycle, but Ms. Williams said that would be too difficult for staff to manage. Mr. Randolph observed that deferring these grants gives the Commission a ten percent float, allowing for greater flexibility in May. Funding priorities, he said, should be part of the Strategic Plan discussion.

Ms. Williams said that the Strategic Planning committee—Randolph, Saylor, and Jefferson—would soon meet and would seek advice from the National Archive's Strategic Planning Office and involve stakeholders in the process. She concluded her remarks by pointing to the continued success of Founders Online, adding that the Library of Congress uses it regularly when assisting researchers.

IV. Report from National Archives Congressional Affairs

John Hamilton, Director of Congressional Affairs, briefed the Commission on the current status of the Congressional Committees dealing with National Archives. His sense was that the NHPRC might be in a tough situation with its budget, and that the history and archives coalitions might need to press hard on educating the members of the House and find new champions in the Senate on the value of the Commission's work.

V. Freedman and Southern Society Project update

Leslie Rowland, director of the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, which is publishing *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867*, discussed the project's goals and editorial methods. The project is drawn largely from records held by the National Archives on the history of emancipation. The Commission raised questions about the possibility of outside funding and developing relationships with other institutions dealing with this chapter in African American history. Mr. Randolph inquired about online publishing, and Dr. Rowland said that while the project is putting a limited number of documents online, one of the major issues is the electronic rights and the contract with the publisher.

VI. Report from the Executive Committee

The major topics discussed in the Executive Committee meeting were addressed during the Executive Director's Report. *The Commission voted unanimously to accept the following resolutions:*

F. GERALD HANDFIELD joined the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in December 2009 and served with distinction for five years as representative for the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators. Mr. Handfield came to the Commission while serving as the State Archivist for the Washington State Archives, where he served for over 11 years, and during his tenure, he led the efforts to create the Washington State Digital Archives. From 1987 to 2001, he was the State Archivist for Indiana.

Mr. Handfield brought a deep and broad understanding of government records issues to his work on the Commission. He frequently challenged long-held assumptions and boldly called for innovative approaches to the needs of the field with warm collegiality and—often—with humor. When Jerry Handfield talked, people listened. He made sure they listened. Through his service on the Commission, he helped shape the direction of public policy in Federal support for access to historical records. Jerry will be very much missed, and the Commission thanks him for his dedicated service and contributions to its programs with our sincere respect and affection.

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RODGER STROUP joined the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in January 2011 and served with distinction for four years as representative for the American Association for State and Local History. Dr. Stroup came to the Commission with a long pedigree in American history and an abiding passion for South Carolina history. Among his achievements were stints on the Historic Columbia Foundation, the South Carolina State Museum, and, from 1997 to 2009, as director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. After his retirement, he went on to become Curator of the South Carolina Railroad Museum.

Dr. Stroup brought the perspectives of both an administrator and an historian to the deliberations of the Commission. With a certain Southern charm, he would wait patiently for the right moment to cut through the discussion to add clarity, insight, and wisdom, particularly on policy issues. Through his service on the Commission, he helped shape the direction of public policy in Federal support for access to historical records. Rodger will be very much missed, and the Commission thanks him for his dedicated service and contributions to its programs with our sincere respect and affection.

VII: Proposal Review

Among the topics raised during the discussion were the question of state historical records advisory board review practices; the need for “genre-based” understanding of records collections when determining funding priorities; and the issue of state boards on 1- and 2-year funding cycles.

The following individuals recused themselves from voting on the noted applications:

INNOVATION

The following projects were recommended for funding.

PUBLISHING HISTORICAL RECORDS –Colonial and Early National Period

- Yale University
New Haven, CT \$154,894
To support a project to edit *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, Vols. 42-44 (1784-1785).
- Trustees of Columbia University
New York, NY \$109,536
To support a project to edit *The Selected Papers of John Jay*, Vols. 4-6 (1784-1829).
- Massachusetts Historical Society
Boston, MA \$133,388
To support a project to edit *The Papers of John Adams*, Vols. 18-19 (1785-1788) and *The Adams Family Correspondence*, Vol. 13 (1798-1799).
- University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI \$136,114
To support a project to edit *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. 27 (South Carolina) and Vol. 28 (New Hampshire and Vermont).
- University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA \$105,231
To support a project to edit *The Papers of James Madison: Secretary of State Series*, Vol. 11 (1806); *Presidential Series*, Vols. 9-10 (1815-1817); and *Retirement Series*, Vols. 3-4 (1823-1829).
- University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA \$121,986
To support a project to edit *The Papers of George Washington: Revolutionary War Series*, Vols. 23-28 (1779-1780); *Presidential Series*, Vols. 18-21 (1791-1797); and *Digital Edition*.
- University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA \$45,183
To support a project to edit the *Dolley Madison Digital Edition*, Vols. 9-10 (1847-1848).
- George Washington University
Washington, DC \$152,582
To support a project to edit *The Documentary History of the First Federal Congress*, Vols. 21-22 (1790-1791, and Supplemental Materials).

STATE BOARD PROGRAMMING GRANTS

- Alaska Department of Education and
Early Development
Juneau, AK \$18,700

To support the state historical records advisory board and the development of a Journeyman Archivist Processing program.

Ohio Historical Society
Columbus, OH \$23,361

To support the state historical records advisory board and its electronic records training, History Day, and statewide regrant programs.

State Historical Society of Iowa
Des Moines, IA \$4,815

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, informational sessions about the preservation of historical records, and the creation of additional online technical resources.

State Historical Society of North Dakota
Bismarck, ND \$6,000

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including microfilming and indexing county marriage records.

Illinois Secretary of State-
Illinois State Archives
Springfield, IL \$65,000

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, a professional development scholarship program, student intern training, and a statewide regrant program.

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
Raleigh, NC \$60,768

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including the Teaching Digital North Carolina project to create online educational content to use primary source materials in history, civics, and government classes.

Montana Historical Records Advisory Board
Helena, MT \$10,045

To support basic funding, including a Traveling Student Archivist Program and training opportunities.

Utah State Historical Records Advisory Board
Salt Lake City, UT \$30,535

To support basic funding, including a statewide regrant program and training for the state's regional repository directors.

New Mexico Commission of Public Records
Santa Fe, NM \$50,000

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, a statewide regrant program, workshops on basic archival practices and preserving family histories, and the maintenance of an online database of the state's archival repositories.

Washington Office of the Secretary of State
Olympia, WA \$24,133

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including a statewide regrant program and a variety of workshops for archivists, researchers, and teachers.

Connecticut State Library
Hartford, CT \$55,000

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including a traveling archivist program, a roundtable program for sharing information about archival topics, and workshops and community events to help citizens digitize their records and objects related to Connecticut's role in World War I.

Tennessee State Library and Archives
Nashville, TN \$37,750

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, a statewide regrant program, an Archives Institute, and digitization training for local archivists, county officials, and the public.

Pennsylvania Heritage Society
Harrisburg, PA \$5,004

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including archival standards and genealogy workshops and an Archives Seminar for sharing information about records issues.

Virgin Islands Division of Libraries
Archives and Museums
St. Thomas, VI \$20,000

To support basic funding for the historical records advisory board, including workshops for public employees about essential government records and emergency preparedness, community workshops to promote the public's use of archives, and site visits to gather information about the condition of archival records., and .

Oregon Secretary of State, Archives Division
Salem, OR \$10,000

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including an on-site archival services program to address the needs of the state's small repositories.

Arizona State Library
Phoenix, AZ \$47,364

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including a statewide regrant program, an Arizona Archives Summit, and a statewide archival training program.

South Dakota Department of Tourism
Pierre, SD \$5,591

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including a workshop, and a statewide regrant program.

Nevada State Library and Archives
Reno, NV \$15,813

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including National History Day workshops for teachers, workshops on information governance and digital preservation, and other collaborative projects with state and local cultural institutions.

Alabama Department of Archives
and History
Birmingham, AL \$32,500

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including a statewide regrant program, a brochure containing basic information about the board, a revised strategic plan.

Maryland State Archives
Annapolis, MD \$4,317

To support basic funding for the state historical records advisory board, including a best practices and emergency preparedness workshop and a public Archives Month event that will offer workshops and lectures, presentations on family history research, and information on how to preserve documents and photographs.

ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS

History Colorado

Denver, CO \$48,044

To support a two-year project to arrange and describe four large photograph collections documenting the development of modern Colorado and the American West in the mid-20th century. The applicant also will digitize and post online 800 photographs that staff will select for their research value and potential research use.

Jewish Theological Seminary

New York, NY \$74,880

To support a project to complete a retrospective conversion initiative that will expand access to 418 archival collections (approximately 3,000 linear feet), rich in their documentation of a broad spectrum of Jewish-American history.

New York City Department of Records

New York, NY \$92,771

To support a project to process the Almshouse ledger collection that records patient information and administrative information from 1759 to 1936 (most dating after 1832).

Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI \$18,719

To support processing and digitization of two audio recording collections of the Women's Overseas Service League oral histories, including a partnership with the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Boston, MA \$117,000

To support an 18-month project to process the records of the Tanglewood Festival of Contemporary Music from 1940 to the present, including online access to yearbooks, concert programs, and audio recordings.

San Diego Air and Space Museum

San Diego, CA \$99,000

To support a project to process approximately 165,000 images from the Convair/General Dynamics collection of the Atlas rocket program from its inception in the 1950s through the mid-1980s. Approximately 50,000 images will be digitized and available online.

Minnesota Public Radio

Minneapolis, MN \$100,000

To support a two-year project to digitize 2,200 audio recordings from the American Public Media Archive, featuring writers and writing in the mid-late 20th century, and making those recordings open to the public via the Internet.

DEFERRED DECISIONS

Decisions on the following applications were deferred until the May 2015 meeting:

State Board Programs

RC-10243 Mississippi Department of Archives and History

RC-10240 Indiana Commission on Public Records

RC-10244 Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Access to Historical Records

RH-50161 New York Public Library

RH-50175 Brooklyn Historical Society

[The Commission went into Executive Session at 1:25 PM and adjourned at 2:45 PM]